

CHAPTER 6

COMMUNITY FACILITIES



COMMUNITY FACILITIES

6.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an inventory of public facilities and services available to residents of the City of Griffin, and an assessment of the present and future adequacy of such services. Determining whether to maintain or enhance the quality and availability of these community facilities and how to tailor them to city growth patterns is an important part of the comprehensive planning process. The facilities described below, such as law enforcement, fire protection, sanitary sewerage, and education, are integral to a smoothly functioning community and an enjoyable standard of living. The following sections provide a description of existing community facilities in the City of Griffin:

- Public Safety
 - Law Enforcement
 - Fire Protection
 - Emergency Medical Services
- Public Water Supply and Treatment Systems
- Public Sanitary Sewerage and Solid Waste Management
- Storm Water Management
- Electric Power Supply
- Health Care Services
- Parks and Recreational Facilities
- General Government Facilities
- Education
- Libraries and Cultural Facilities

A discussion of transportation facilities is separate and can be found in the Transportation chapter. Following the analysis of current and future needs, a list of community facilities goals is provided along with an implementation program.

6.2 Public Safety

Following is a discussion of law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services. **Figure 6-1** on the following page shows the location of these public safety facilities

6.2.1 Law Enforcement

Griffin is served by two law enforcement agencies: the City of Griffin Police Department and the Spalding County Sheriff's Department. The City of Griffin Police Department is primarily responsible for the day to day law enforcement services in the city, while the Sheriff's Department primarily serves the court system.

Figure 6-1: Public Safety Facilities



City of Griffin Police Department

The City of Griffin Police Department, headquartered at 868 West Poplar Street, provides general law enforcement for all of the City of Griffin. The Police Department recently consolidated its offices, a headquarters building on East Solomon Street and two decentralized facilities, to an old school site on West Poplar. Though the new centralized facility is more efficient, there are still some needed improvements to complete the transition from an old school to police station.

The Police Department is organized into five divisions: Investigative Services, Animal Control, Code Enforcement, Uniformed Patrol, and Records. The Department includes 92 sworn positions, 24 non-sworn positions and 12 non-sworn part-time positions (crossing guards).

The Police Department is involved in a number of other community policing initiatives. Walking patrols have increased the Department's presence in the downtown area. Certain neighborhoods have been designated community policing neighborhoods. Efforts have been made to focus on specific areas with approximately four watch and prey zones established. Based on police intelligence, resources are deployed in these areas. The officers organize community groups and phone contacts are provided to call their community policing officers.

In cases where violent crimes occur, the Department follows the “swarm” technique to investigate crimes. An intensive team of investigative personnel is assigned to the crime during the first hour, with the first investigator arriving typically within 20 minutes. This technique has proven to be highly successful because of the involvement of the community.

The Department also has six school resource officers assigned to the local schools: four at the Middle Schools, one at the High School and one at the alternative school. In 1991, Griffin was the first community in the state to place officers at each school. The officer serves as a resource officer to students and teachers on issues of drugs, crime deterrence, gangs, etc. This officer has the ability to make an arrest without prior approval. Likewise, the Department is proactive in the area of domestic abuse.

A typical standard used by police departments to measure level of service is the number of officers serving the population. The Griffin Police Department currently has 5.5 officers for every 1,000 population or 182 residents for every sworn officer. In order to maintain this current level of service, it is estimated the county would need to hire an additional 19 officers by 2025.

Future plans for the police department include:

- Emergency dispatch radio, 800 megahertz radio system county-wide.
- Indoor firing range.
- Seven new positions over five years paid with LBDG grant and a Homeland Security Grant
- Improve headquarters building – add a gabled roof to match the character of the neighborhood and improve restrooms
- Equipment upgrades – cameras, radar, in-car computers

Spalding County Sheriff's Department

The Spalding County Sheriff's Department's primary responsibilities involve law enforcement services to the court system (Superior Court, State Court, Probate Court, Magistrate Court and Juvenile Court) and supervising the County Jail. The Office also acts as server of court processes for civil papers, subpoenas, evictions, felony and misdemeanor arrest warrants, as well as being responsible for transporting prisoners in and out of the county. Other responsibilities of the Sheriff's Department include handling licenses for raffles and bonding, background checks for gun permits, and maintaining a rapid response team for disasters, jail unrest, drug raids, crowd control, etc.

The Sheriff's Office has six divisions: Administration, Warrants, Uniform, Criminal Investigations, Detention and Joint-Narcotics Task Force (with the City). The Sheriff's Office has 127 sworn officers and 21 non-sworn personnel. The County Jail is a pre-trial facility and houses inmates who have been sentenced for relatively short periods of time (30-90 days). The Spalding County Correctional Institution has approximately 384 beds with an average of 380 prisoners housed daily.

The Sheriff's Office currently has 3.6 officers for every 1,000 population or 275 residents for every sworn officer. This figure is for the unincorporated portion of Spalding County only, and projections as to future needs to maintain this level of service are included in the Spalding County Comprehensive Plan.

6.2.2 Fire Protection

Adequate fire protection is a vital factor impacting insurance costs and the willingness of people and industries to locate in an area. The adequacy of fire protection is measured by not only fire station location and quality, but is directly affected by the quality of the water system and the ability to provide emergency communications.

The Griffin Fire Department serves the City through a network of three stations. The Department is comprised of 66 personnel, 6 administrative and 60 fire suppression. All fire stations are staffed with one company working a 24-hour shift. The ISO rating for the incorporated area of the City is a 3. In addition to fire response, the Fire Department's Fire Marshall and Fire Inspector review compliance with the fire code for all new construction and conduct annual inspections of public use buildings and establishments that serve alcohol in the City.

The strategy of the Fire Department is to dispatch two trucks to a fire. Depending on the situation, one of the trucks may be sent back.

The Fire Department is not only a fire prevention and suppression department but also provides emergency medical response. The Department is the first response for wrecks along with ambulance service. All of the staff providing this service are First Responder certified using a defibrillator and in CPR.

Fire Station No. 1

Fire Station No. 1 is located at 310 North Hill Street. Constructed in 1996, the building has 10,000 square feet and is in good condition. The station employs 21 persons divided into three 24-hour shifts. The three-bay station is equipped with three engines and one rescue vehicle.

Fire Station No. 2

Fire Station No. 2 is located at 401 North Expressway and also is the Department's Headquarters. Constructed in 1958, the building has 11,700 square feet and is in fair condition. The station will need a new roof and the drive resurfaced in the near future. While the structure could be painted, it is structurally in good shape. Rehabilitating the building could extend the life of the structure for 20-30 years.

The station employs 30 persons with six administrative personnel and 24 suppression personnel. For the suppression staff, there are three 24-hour shifts. The two-bay station is equipped with two engines and one rescue vehicle.

Fire Station No. 3

Fire Station No. 3 is located at 101 Crescent West. Constructed in 1972, the building has 6,000 square feet and is in fair condition. Station No. 3 has a need for a new roof and needs painting. It is structurally in good shape and rehabilitation could extend the life of the structure for 20-30 years.

The station employs 15 persons divided into three 24-hour shifts. The two-bay station is equipped with two engines and one ladder truck (Snorkel).

Maintaining a Class 3 ISO rating with expanding city limits will be a challenge to the current status of the Fire Department. However, proper strategic planning will ensure City residents that their fire rating will be retained as these limits are expanded. In addition to the opening of Station #4, the Department will require the replacement of three fire engines and one squad car over the next five years. Also, the Snorkel apparatus that is currently staged at Fire Station #3, and a critical part of the ISO review, is over 25 years old and experiencing ongoing mechanical problems. This vehicle will need to be replaced with a ladder truck that has an elevation capability of 100 feet. This is a 25-foot increase over the current Snorkel's capability. The ladder truck should be a funding priority within the next three years.



Fire Station No. 3

6.2.3 Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Emergency medical services (EMS) in Griffin are provided by Spalding Regional Hospital. Staff with the EMS includes 29 Emergency Medical Technicians and 3 administrative personnel. There are nine emergency vehicles comprising one rescue unit and eight critical-care life support units. Emergency medical calls average approximately 500 per month and the maximum response time is about 10 minutes (i.e., to the furthest point away within the service area).

In order to provide the fastest and best emergency service possible, the EMS plans within a 45-year horizon. Current improvements include the purchase of one ambulance and one rescue unit. These new additions are in response to an increase in calls and long-range planning.

All public safety operations in the City of Griffin and Spalding County utilize the 24-hour computer aided dispatch (CAD) system that serves both Spalding County and the City of Griffin. Unlike the emergency medical service that is owned by the Spalding Regional Hospital, the CAD system is owned by Spalding County and supervised by the county manager. The system is located in Suite B at 1438 Meriwether Street. The facility receives all citizen 911 calls and administrative calls relating to the CAD system. Additionally, the police departments turn over their phone operations to the system after 5:00 p.m.

There are currently 24 full-time employees working for this facility that dispatch calls to two law enforcement agencies, two fire departments and one emergency medical service. The system is set up with streets and block numbers and all call takers are dispatchers. The current level of emergency response in the City of Griffin seems to be sufficient for the level of urbanization in the City. Considering the present level of emergency coverage and the close proximity to the primary health facilities in the region, the City of Griffin and Spalding County have a high level of service. The turnover rate for employment in this facility is high and there is a need for retaining staff.

The Spalding County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is an all-risk agency that serves as the coordinating agency for all emergency/rescue services in Spalding County. EMA works together with other emergency service providers to provide mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for any natural or man made disaster that may occur in the county. Coordinating efforts between these services provides public education, hazard analysis, planning, resource management, training, and exercises to ensure efficient response.

6.3 Public Water Supply and Treatment Systems

Public water service in the City is the responsibility of the City of Griffin Water and Wastewater Department. The current water service provides water to about 99% of the City's residents. Two sources, the Flint River and the impoundment on Heads Creek, supply raw water for the water system. Water withdrawal permits allow a total monthly average of 12 million gallons per day (MGD) to be withdrawn from both sources.

Griffin's existing water supply system serves the City of Griffin and Spalding County. Additionally, the city has two wholesale customers in Pike County - the Cities of Zebulon and Williamson. The system currently serves a total of approximately 19,000 customers, with 9,287 of these being within the city limits of Griffin.

**Figure 6-2
Griffin/Spalding County Water Customers*
1996-2003**

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
17,490	17,725	17,962	18,204	18,448	19,297	19,580	19,976

Source: Water Supply Study 2000-2050
*Number of customers in Griffin and Spalding County only.

Water is treated at the plant located at 229 North Expressway. This facility was built in 1929 and has had expansions throughout its history. The total City of Griffin water system consists of approximately 675 miles of water lines (155 in the city and 520 in the county). The system has an average per capita water usage rate for residential customers of 7,000 gallons. Unaccounted for water that is used for fire fighting, public works, broken mains and a flushing program averages approximately 21.3% of all water pumped.

Since the 1980s, there have been efforts to initiate a water supply system that would supply water to local governments in the Spalding and Pike County areas. In 1994, city officials made commitments to fund a multi-jurisdictional water supply system. In December of 1995, Griffin and Spalding County executed a long-term agreement that calls for Griffin to finance and construct a regional water supply and treatment facility. In turn, Spalding County agrees to purchase all its water from Griffin under a cost-plus formula. In 1996, resolutions were signed with Pike, Meriwether, and Coweta Counties and the cities of Concord, Meansville and Molena.¹ In 1999, another water agreement was signed with Coweta County to provide service starting in 2005.



According to the *Water Supply Study: 2000-2050*, there is an obvious and pressing need for increased water capacity to serve the present population and

¹ Water Supply Study 2000-2050, June, 1998.

the expected growth in the region. The demand for water is dependent upon a number of factors including population growth, average per capita usage, extension of water service to existing residents, demands for additional water by existing and new industries, the cost of water and water conservation efforts. The *Water Supply Study* estimated that in 2050 the multi-jurisdictional demand for water will be 23.56 MGD. Also, as part of this study, several alternatives for water supply were considered. The study recommended a surface water supply site be selected for the proposed project. A reservoir site was selected for implementation that is located in Pike County. This site will ultimately have an average annual yield of 33.5 MGD.

Figure 6-3
Projected Water Demand (MGD)
2005-2025

2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
10.19	11.34	12.63	13.93	15.30
<i>Source: Water Supply Study 2000-2050</i>				

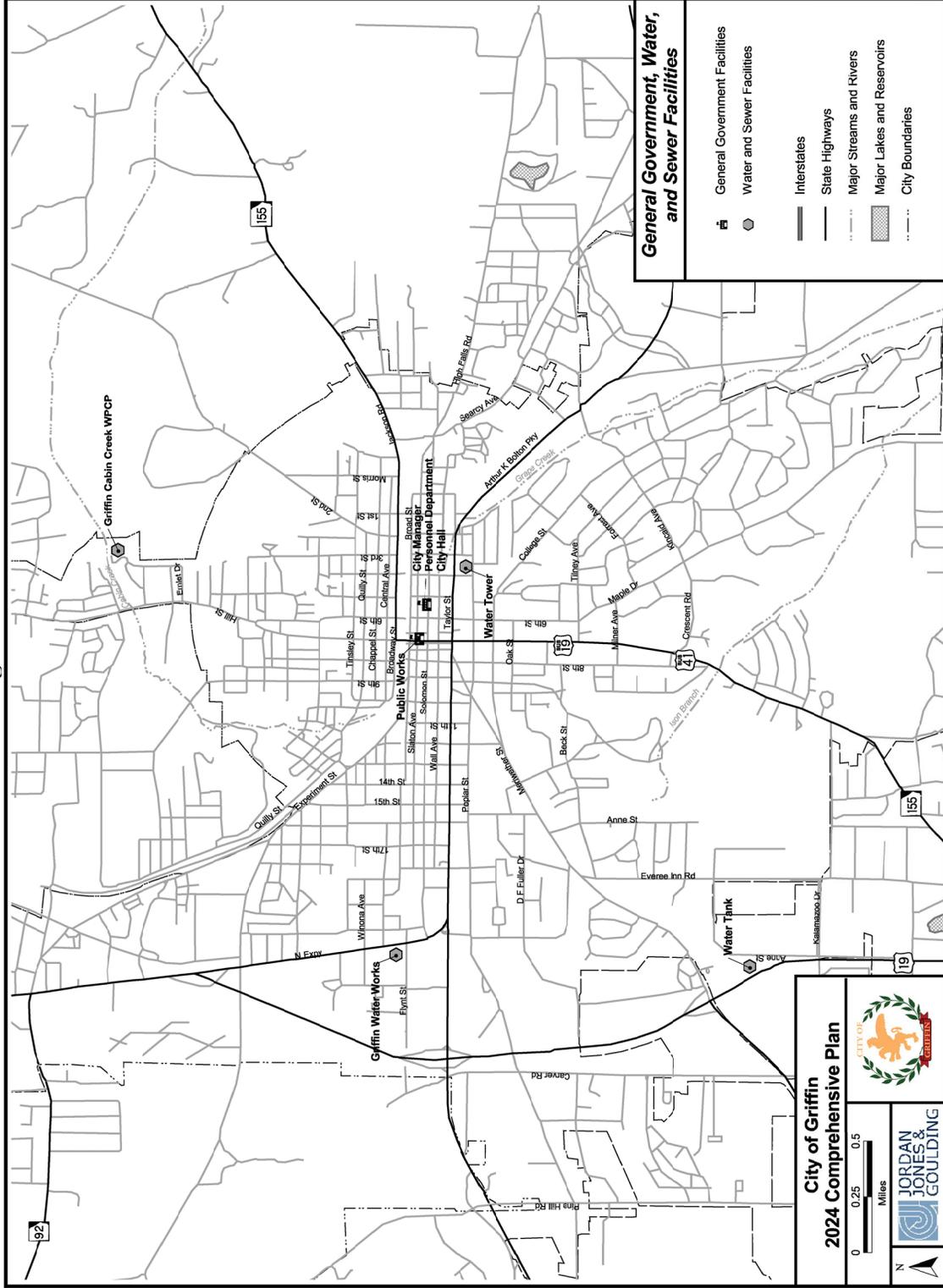
Groundbreaking for the new reservoir, named the Still Branch Reservoir, was held on October 21, 2002, and work on the dam and distribution system should be complete by January 2006. The regional reservoir is being constructed at a cost of \$43 Million.

Besides the Still Branch Reservoir, the Public Works Department is currently working on or overseeing a number of other projects, including:

- Mapping of water system
- Vulnerability Assessment Study (Homeland Security requirement) – Reviews assets and risks to terrorist acts over next 5-years.
- Emergency Response Plan
- Meter replacements, 2500 meters a year.
- Water main replacement program
- Automatic meter reading system
- Dewatering sludge facility

Figure 6-4 shows the location of several water, sewer and general government facilities within the City.

Figure 6-4



6.4 Public Sanitary Sewerage and Solid Waste Management

6.4.1 Public Sanitary Sewerage

Like public water service, the provision of sanitary sewerage and wastewater treatment is the responsibility of the City of Griffin Water and Wastewater Department. The Department serves 10,000 customers (about 97% of the City's population) with 170 miles of gravity sewers, ranging in size from 4 inches to 24 inches in diameter. The remainder of the City is served by septic tanks or by small private systems. These private systems include Jackson Road School, Beaverbrook School, Moose Lodge, Springs Industries and Pomona Mobile Home Park. The system has no known combined sewers that carry both wastewater and stormwater. Three wastewater treatment facilities serve the City and are located on Shoal Creek, Potato Creek and Cabin Creek.

All three of these wastewater treatment facilities are located on water quality limited streams - Potato Creek and Cabin Creek are point discharge facilities, while Shoal Creek utilizes a land application system.

The Shoal Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) was built in 1986 with a design flow of 1.5 MGD. The plant is located off West Ellis Road on Shoal Creek about six miles west of the City.

In 1998, this plant underwent a major upgrade to a permitted capacity of 2.25 MGD. The expansion involved pumping the treated effluent from the existing treatment facility on West Ellis Road to a new land application site located five miles away on Blanton Mill Road. The existing land application site at West Ellis Road, rated for 1.5 MGD, is currently idle. All treatment prior to land application continues to be at the facility on West Ellis Road, which has a treatment capacity of 2.25 MGD. The existing treatment facilities at West Ellis Road will be upgraded in the future to fully utilize the capacity of both land application sites. Consequently, the total treatment capacity of the Shoal Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment System will be approximately 3.75 MGD.

The Shoal Creek plant's average flow is 1.55 MGD with a peak month flow of 2.55 MGD. The Shoal Creek plant is also experiencing some odor problems in its operations as well as infiltration/inflow (I/I) in the wastewater collection system.

The Potato Creek WWTP was built in 1976 and is located near the Spalding/Lamar County line about four miles southeast of Griffin. A major upgrade of the facility was completed in 1988 to comply with more stringent discharge limits.

Current flow into the plant averages 1.48 MGD with a permitted capacity of 2.0 MGD. The plant's peak month flow is 2.86 MGD. In general, the Potato Creek plant has maintained compliance within its permit limits. However, as is the case with all three plants in Griffin, this

facility is well operated and is expected to maintain permit compliance as the strength of the influent wastewater continues to decline.²

The Potato Creek plant is experiencing some odor problems in its operations. Also, Potato Creek is experiencing infiltration/inflow (I/I) in the wastewater collection system. This is the result of extraneous water entering the sewer system through defective pipes and manholes or through a direct discharge from residential, commercial or industrial operations. Once collected, it must be treated prior to discharge.

The Cabin Creek WWTP was built in 1936 and has been modified several times. Permitted capacity at the plant is 1.5 MGD. The plant discharges into Cabin Creek near North Hill Street. The treatment plant collects wastewater from about two-thirds of the northern part of the city. Digested sludge from this plant is disposed through land application.

Current flow into the plant averages 1.15 MGD, with the plant's peak month flow of 2.09 MGD. The Cabin Creek plant is experiencing some odor problems in its operations as well as infiltration/inflow (I/I) in the wastewater collection system. Wastewater solids from the plant are disposed of by land application.

In 1999 and 2000, the City of Griffin and Spalding County joined together in planning for the future of wastewater management in both the city and county. The Wastewater Management Master Plan: 2000-2015 was prepared in order to estimate future needs and provide general guidance in the development of the county-wide wastewater management system.

It was determined during this study that all three WWTPs will require expansion in the future. Sufficient land has been purchased for the Shoal Creek facility to expand the plant up to 3.5 MGD and a cost allocation has been included in this plan for the expansion from 2.25 MGD to the estimated flow of 3.5 MGD.

One of the primary recommendations of the Plan was the development of the new East Spalding WWTP. The continued development of the proposed industrial park along SR 16 and the residential growth south of Griffin is placing a strain on the Potato Creek WWTP. In the east and southeast portions of Spalding County, there are no existing treatment plants capable of supporting additional growth. According to the Plan, two significant driving forces support the construction of a plant at this location. One force is the continuing residential development in this part of the county. Second, the amount of industrial development anticipated to occur in this area will require more treatment capacity than the Potato Creek WWTP could reasonably provide. The construction of the East Spalding WWTP would address both of these issues.

The Plan found that the Potato Creek plant is performing at a satisfactory level with only occasional permit violations. It is anticipated that the plant will be adequate to handle the projected flows for the study period with nominal up-grades to the existing facility. Additional sewer flows generated by industrial development along SR 16 will be directed to the new East Spalding WWTP once it is opened.

²Griffin/Spalding County Wastewater Management Plan, April, 2000.

The Cabin Creek plant has been found to be operating satisfactorily and a minimal increase in service area is anticipated. As a result, only minor upgrades are planned over the next 15 years. It was determined in the Wastewater Management Master Plan that the schedule for implementation of the individual sections of the sewer system will be dictated by the joint efforts of Spalding County and the City of Griffin. A complete review of issues surrounding the provision of sewer service to the various areas will be the sole responsibility of the county and City representatives.

The Water and Wastewater Department is currently working on a number of sanitary sewer projects, including:

- Ison Branch – new sewer lines \$1.7 Million, work to be completed in 2004.
- Sewer flow analysis study of entire system in 2004.
- 2003-2004 GPS mapping of the Sewer System
- Sewer Rehab Phase IV - \$1.3 million. Work to be done in 2004-2005.
- Rehab Water/Wastewater/Stormwater Lab in 2004.
- Jet Vac Sewer Lines – ongoing effort.
- Chemical Root Control Program – ongoing effort

6.4.2 Solid Waste Management

Overall management of solid waste services in the City of Griffin is the responsibility of the Department of Solid Waste. The city provides services to residents with a staff of 56. Additionally, several private franchise haulers offer collection of garbage to commercial customers only.

Solid waste collection in the City of Griffin is based on six districts and four routes. The Department currently has four trucks servicing these routes. The Department has approximately 8,900 residential customers with 2,200 apartments and 6,700 homes. Commercial customers total 1,500. The City offers curbside trash pick-up twice per week. Once a week, “back door” collection service is provided for a higher fee to 115 homes that have been grandfathered. Additionally, back door collection is provided to approximately 200 mobility impaired customers at the same cost as curbside service. Crews with the Department of Solid Waste also provide once-a-week curbside collection of newspapers for the City.

The city utilizes two landfills, the Shoal Creek Road facility and the Pine Ridge Landfill. The Shoal Creek Road facility accepts construction/demolition debris, compost and any other type of inert waste. This facility is owned by the city and operates on approximately 14 acres. The present site is near capacity and a new expansion is currently under construction. The Shoal Creek Road facility will have a life span of 26 years after completion of the expansion.

The other facility used by the City is the Pine Ridge Landfill in Butts County. This facility is privately owned by Republic Industries and has a more than 50-year life span. The facility is located at 105 Bailey Jester Road. The City has a six-year renewable contract to use this facility, which accepts municipal and industrial wastes.

Additionally, the City operates a transfer station. According to the Solid Waste Director, this facility is in poor condition and needs several repairs. The needed improvements include: paving the site, constructing a side wall, expanding to provide for cardboard recycling and installing a truck wash with a special sewer system.

In 1995, the City opened an inert and Construction & Demolition landfill. This facility receives 50 tons of material per day and has approximately 2 years of capacity remaining. The City is currently working with the county on identifying a new site in the county that would last about 26 years. The Solid Waste Director reports that at this new facility the City will need a new bulldozer, a new pan and a new compactor.

The Department of Solid Waste also provides leaf and limb pickup to residents once a week. The city has four leaf vacuums and four clam loaders. Leaf/limbs materials collected are transported to the landfill-mulching site and processed. In 2003, the City collected 4,383 tons of yard waste.

6.5 Stormwater Management

Provisions to the *Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987* were designed to reduce pollution from storm water. These amendments require certain industries and municipalities to obtain permits to discharge storm water runoff from municipal separate storm sewers. Local governments are required to map outfalls, structural controls, landfills and land uses. Local governments must also conduct storm water sampling and identify impacts of storm water runoff from their municipal systems on the water quality of receiving streams. The regulations also require the development of local management programs to control storm water runoff pollution and improve water quality.

One method that is used to adhere to these regulations is the implementation of “Best Management Practices” (BMPs). An effective tool to achieve compliance with the Proposed Stormwater National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase I and Phase II Regulations is implementation of a Stormwater Utility. The NPDES program was created to ensure that permitted discharges meet applicable water quality requirements. The Phase I and Phase II permitting process involves primarily urban communities of a specific size and population. Phase I applied to cities over 100,000, while Phase II applied to smaller cities, such as Griffin.³

In 1997, the City of Griffin established a formal Stormwater Management Program. The purpose of this program was to manage its watersheds and to create an example for other cities to consider when evaluating possible management models to achieve compliance with the upcoming Phase II permitting process and to project total maximum daily pollutant loads (TMDL) for the creeks within the City. As a result of the establishment of this program, the City

³ Stormwater Master Plan Program, September, 2000.

created the Stormwater Department. To fund this new department, a Stormwater Utility was implemented, the first in Georgia.

The Stormwater Utility addresses the issue of stormwater pollutants and their removal or elimination before entering the stormwater system. Furthermore, the Utility provides the opportunity to integrate various technologies to manage stormwater, wastewater, and water using a holistic approach. The objectives of the Stormwater Utility is to deliver a higher level of service in stormwater management through: Watershed Management; Stormwater Quality; and Public Education, Public Involvement, and Public Participation.

The utility funding is being used to help fund the repair and maintenance of stormwater structures to help prevent flooding problems caused by rainfall that washes off roofs, parking lots, and other impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces are those areas within developed land, which prevent or significantly impede the natural infiltration of stormwater into the soil. Common impervious surfaces include roof tops, solid decks, asphalt streets, driveways, patios, parking areas, brick or concrete pavements, swimming pools, and buildings.

All property owners are being charged a stormwater utility fee proportionate to the demand they put on the system. The utility divides the fees among property owners of developed properties so that each owner pays only for the demand they put on the system. The stormwater user fee is calculated on amount of impervious area on the property. The amount of impervious area on all properties for non-single family parcels is derived using aerial topography and field measurements. Aerial photography is used to determine the median amount of impervious area. Owners of non-single-family-residential are eligible for a credit if they have and maintain a stormwater detention or retention facility on their property in accordance with the City's policies. The equivalent residential unit or equivalent runoff unit is 2,200 square feet. The charge per month is \$3.50 per residence or per every 2,200 square feet of impervious area on non-residential properties. The user fee is estimated to generate \$1.56 million dollars per year.

In 2000, the City hired a consultant to prepare the *Stormwater Master Plan*. This plan provides an overview of integrated stormwater management, watershed and site level stormwater management, floodplain management and technologies being utilized by the City for implementing the stormwater management program. The plan is also intended to serve as a guide for developers, contractors and the general public based on the basic principals of effective urban stormwater management for Georgia. It is anticipated that the plan will need to be updated by 2008.

Additionally, the city has contracted an engineering consultant to inventory the City's stormwater drainage network into a GIS database using state-of-the-art GPS equipment. The consultant will use the GIS database for its overall master planning effort. Also included in the plan are nine performance goals that should apply to certain land disturbance activities.

Other stormwater projects include:

- Phase II NPDES County Implementation Program
- USGS Monitoring - 7 stream gauges

- Update of Watershed Assessment

6.6 Health Care Services

6.6.1 Hospitals and Health Centers

Griffin is considered a regional center for health care, anchored by Spalding Regional Hospital and number of related health facilities. This is major asset to the community, and will help to make the community more attractive to retirees as the baby boom population ages. **Figure 6-5** shows a map of public health facilities in the City, and below is description of the services these facilities provide.



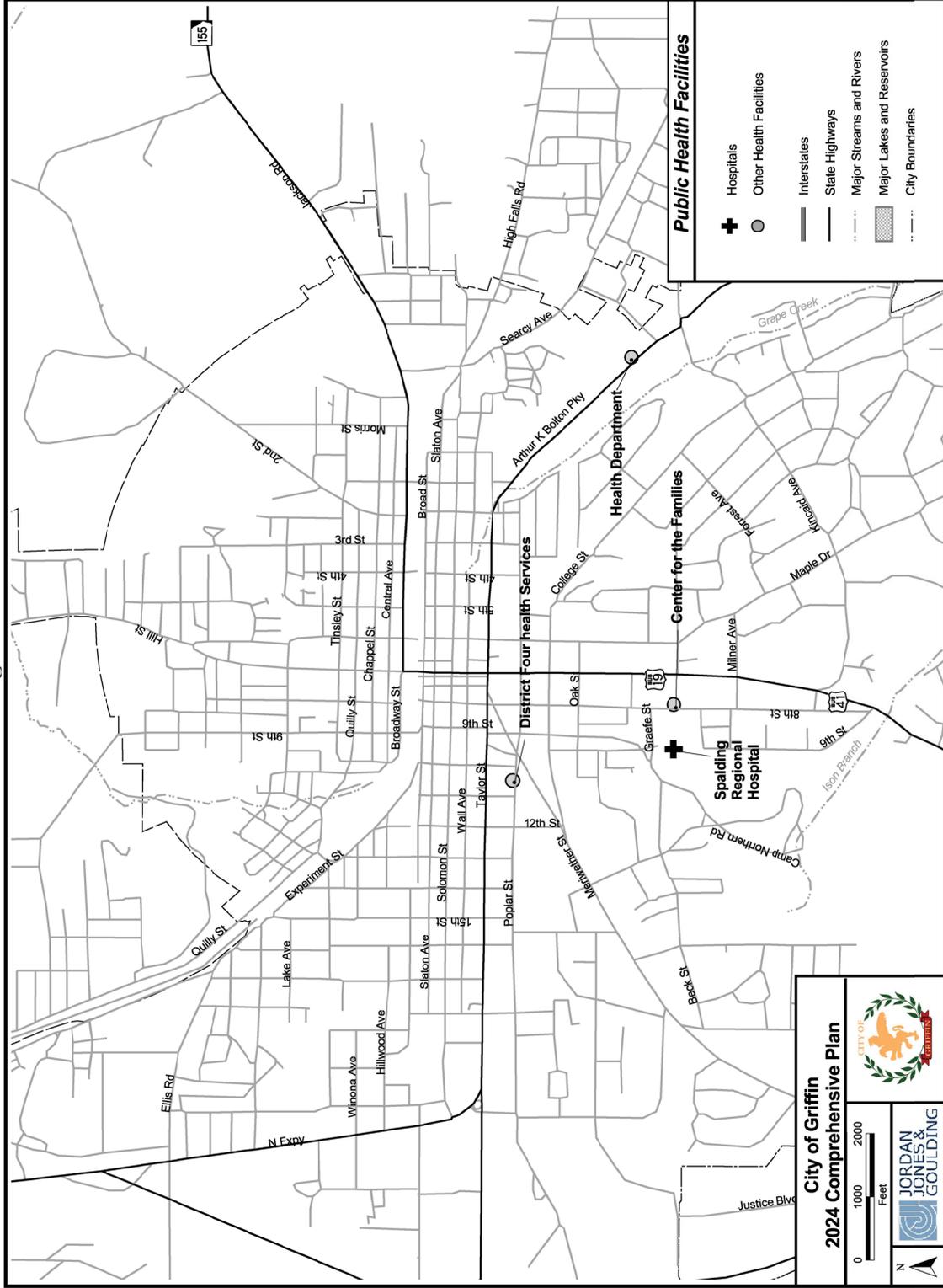
Spalding Regional Hospital

Spalding Regional Hospital is located at 601 South 8th Street in Griffin, and serves as the primary provider for medical services in Spalding and adjacent counties. The services the hospital offers include: 24-hour emergency service, magnetic resonance imaging, center for sleep disorders, family childbirth center, women’s imaging center, anti-coagulation clinic, cardiac catheterization, occupational therapy, laser surgery, pulmonary rehabilitation, kidney lithotripsy, and speech and physical therapies. The acute care facility in this hospital has 160 beds and 70 physicians. The hospital offers treatments in 20 specialties and has a staff of more than 750.

Spalding County Health Department is located at 1007 Memorial Drive in Griffin. The purpose of this facility is to promote and protect the health of all ages in Spalding County. The programs and services offered by the Health Department include:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health checks • Immunization • Children’s Medical Services • Children’s First • Family Planning • Voter Registration • Cancer Screening • Pregnancy Testing • Prenatal Case Management • WIC • Lab Test • Parasite Infestation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rash Checks • Hearing/Vision/Dental Checks • Head Checks for Lice • Scoliosis • Class II Physical Examinations • Tuberculosis • Nutrition Services • Marriage Blood Test • Hypertension • Sexually Transmitted Diseases • HIV Clinic • Vital Records |
|---|---|

Figure 6-5



The fees for this facility are based on income and a sliding fee scale is implemented.

McIntosh Trail Personal Growth Center is located at 132 N. Hill Street in Griffin. This facility operates out of the old post office in Griffin. The services that are offered include adult mental health and substance abuse counseling, outpatient older adult services, case management with consumers and utilization management. Normal business hours are recognized by this facility; however, a 24-hour crisis line is available.

6.6.2 Senior Centers

The **Spalding County Senior Center** is located at 1005 Memorial Drive in Griffin and housed in a 6,000 square foot facility. The facility provides senior adult recreation, which includes activities such as exercise, crafts, travel and tai chi. The Council on Aging and Golden Age Club also operate from this facility. The Council on Aging provides meals on wheels for Spalding County and the Golden Age Club provides transportation to the facility for those who wish to attend.

6.6.3 Nursing Homes

Brightmoor Nursing Center is located at 3223 Newnan Road and is a 36,000 square foot facility that has 133 beds. This facility has just completed a certificate of need with the state of Georgia and has plans to rebuild on the same sight for replacement needs only.

Spalding Health Care, located on 619 Northside Drive, also provides nursing facilities for the City of Griffin. This facility was built in 1972 and has 69 beds. Staff at Spalding Health Care totals 79 employees with an administrator, director of nursing, three full-time and three part-time registered nurses, 19 licensed practical nurses and 27 certified nursing assistants.

The last nursing facility in Griffin would be Sunridge Health Care located at 415 Airport Road.

6.6.4 Other Community Services

The **Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)** is located at 411 East Solomon Street. This is a county facility, operated by Spalding County. DFCS offers temporary assistance based on income and resources to needy families. Funding for the DFCS comes primarily from the state, with some additional funding coming from the U.S. government. Programs offered by this facility include a food stamp program, medicaid, childcare, employment services, foster care placement, adoption and guardian services and child and adult protective service investigations. This facility has expressed a need for space. A number of positions, depending on legislation, will be added to this department and the current office space has already been utilized.

A majority of health care services in the Griffin-Spalding County area are designed to meet not only the communities' needs, but also the needs of the adjoining counties. Therefore, health care services for the City of Griffin are more than adequate for the size of their population.

6.7 Electric Power Supply

The City of Griffin Power is the predominant electric power supplier for Griffin and Spalding County, Georgia. Griffin Power is a member of the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG), which is a unique wholesale power supplier that co-owns four generating facilities and Georgia's Integrated Transmission System (ITS). Griffin Power employs 50 personnel and is located at 217 E. Solomon Street in Griffin. Griffin Power operates eight substations and provides electricity to 98% of the City's residences, or about 14,000 residential customers. Electricity is also provided to about 2,000 commercial customers as well.

According to the Director of Griffin Power, the utility can access 100 megawatts if needed. Additionally, Griffin Power sells a portion of their capacity. Currently, they have approximately 60% more capacity than needed.

The City of Griffin Power is beginning construction on a new power substation located on Cowan Road. This new substation will require \$20,000 in funding from Griffin Power which will be provided by user fees. The remainder of the funding for this project will be provided by MEAG. Griffin Power also has a one million dollar annual budget for the repair and extension of distribution lines. Additionally, Griffin Power allocates up to \$250,000 of their annual budget to replace other major equipment.

The City of Griffin Power offers many programs and value-added services designed to help commercial customers make the most of the electricity they purchase. Available services include:

- Commercial Energy Analysis
- Pre-Construction Planning
- Security Lighting Program
- 24-hour Sign-up Assistance
- Good Cents Energy Audits
- Residential Security Lighting
- Preconstruction Assistance
- Power Quality Audits
- Electrotechnology Updates
- Telecommunications Services

The City of Griffin Power is a leader in the provision of high-speed data communications for e-commerce, data transfer and internet access. These resources are critical to the success of today's business and industry. The City of Griffin Power is a founding member of MEAG Telecom. This division of MEAG Power has implemented the largest single deployment of high-speed fiber communications in the state.

The City of Griffin Power is certified as a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) and has already installed a fiber ring in both the Green Valley and Griffin-Spalding Industrial Parks, and has tied this local network to the MEAG Telecom statewide fiber backbone. This provides high-speed connectivity to major points of presence (POP) and internet access with redundant carriers and multiple on-ramps to the internet.

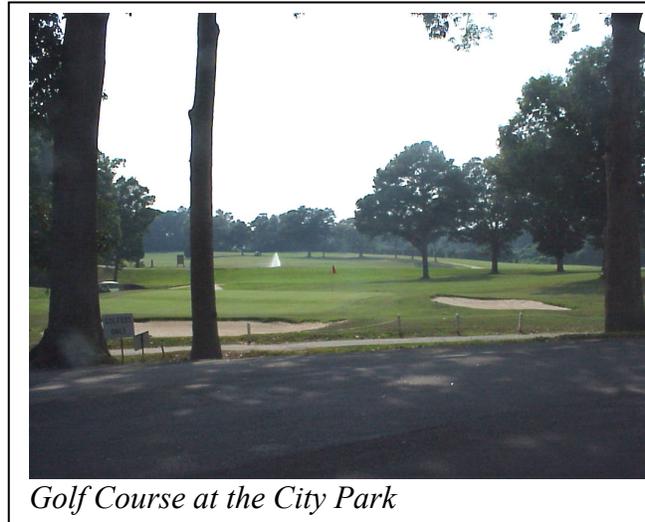
Griffin Power offers a variety of services, including DS1, DS3, shared and private high-speed Ethernet networks and dark fiber leases. These services can be provided with no mileage charges,

and monthly access fees that are negotiable for a new customer based on specific needs. These telecom services provide enough revenue to cover all capital and operations costs associated with this program.

6.8 Parks and Recreational Facilities

Park and recreational facilities are provided in Griffin by both the City and Spalding County. Griffin maintains four parks within the city and Spalding County maintains an additional five parks inside the city limits.

The county also has five more parks in unincorporated Spalding County.



The four park facilities maintained by the city include: City Park, the Griffin Municipal Golf Course, Raymond Head, Jr. Park and Turner Street Park (see **Figure 6-6**). The facilities operated by the Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department that are inside the City of Griffin include: Airport Road Park, Dundee Park, Fairmont Park, Senior Center Park and Volunteer Park, see **Figure 6-7**.

**Figure 6-6
Griffin Park and Recreation Facilities**

Name	Facilities	Size
City Park	Golf course, tennis courts, swimming pool, 3 ball fields, 5 pavilions, 2 restrooms, miniature golf, skate facility, picnicking, playground, walking trail	75 acres
Griffin Municipal Golf Course	18-hole golf course	125 acres
Raymond Head, Jr. Park	Pavilion, basketball courts, walking trail, playground	5 acres
Turner Street Park	Pavilion, playground, greenspace	1 acre
<i>Source: Brant Keller, Public Works Director</i>		

Total park acreage for all of the City’s and county’s facilities within the city is approximately 141 acres of land. This total does not include the 125 acres at the Griffin Municipal Golf Course. The acreage at the golf course should not be included in total park acreage because of its type of usage. The Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department Comprehensive Master Plan states that the park standards for medium sized communities between 25,000 and 100,000 population is one acre of park land per 172 population. This would mean that the City should currently have 138 acres of park land and by 2025 it should have 154 park acres. Therefore, it appears the City does meet these recommended guidelines.

During the Spring of 2000, citizens, elected officials and recreation department staff drafted an update to the *1993 Recreation Master Plan*. This update represents a planning tool to help guide the long-term growth and direction of parks and recreation in Griffin and Spalding County. In order to promote consistency between the Recreation Master Plan and the Comprehensive Plan, the primary goal for recreation will be to follow the recommendations outlined in the Master Plan update.

Figure 6-7
Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department Facilities
Within the City of Griffin

Name	Facilities	Size
Airport Road Park	Walking trail, practice fields, restroom	11 acres
Dundee Park	2 baseball fields, with restrooms	10 acres
Fairmont Park	Outdoor basketball courts, softball field, playground and picnic facilities, community center with gym, meeting space and office park	16 acres
Senior Center Park	Community center and walking trail	3 acres
Volunteer Park	4 field baseball complex with central concessions building, soccer complex and football complex with concessions	20 acres
9 th Street Pocket Park	Basketball courts	NA
<i>Source: Louis Greene, Spalding County Recreation Director</i>		

One additional recreation issue was highlighted in the Recreation Master Plan update and was conveyed throughout the public involvement efforts for developing the Comprehensive Plan. That issue was the need for greenspace, and more specifically, greenways. Greenspace helps protect natural resources as well as provides recreational amenities. Greenways offer the same benefits, but also provide an alternate mode of transportation. The Recreation Master Plan states that, “Much of the land set aside for greenspace is expected to be floodplain, which has great natural and historic value and is difficult and expensive to develop; it really should not be developed anyway. Land along streams naturally forms connected corridors, or usable buffer, along which people and wildlife can travel. But communities may also permanently protect park, school, playground and other sites for outdoor recreation; paths for walking, cycling and other alternative transportation opportunities; and neighborhood access lands which do not lie along streams.” The City should work closely with Spalding County to identify greenway corridors and acquire the land needed to create these important amenities.

Another issue raised during the public involvement process was that maintenance. In particular, citizens noted the bad state of the repair the city pool was in. Also, the golf course irrigation system needs repair, and the city cemetery is running out of space and in general need of upkeep.

6.9 General Government Facilities

The City of Griffin owns several buildings used for general government purposes. The locations and square footage of these buildings are listed in **Figure 6-8** below.

**Figure 6-8
Griffin General Government Facilities**

Facility	Location	Square Footage
Solid Waste/Animal Control	Emlett Drive	4,000
City Hall	231 E. Solomon Street	10,750
Planning and Development Department	132 N. Hill Street	5,000
Department of Public Works (Park Maint. Div.)	Camp Northen Drive	6,000
Department of Public Works (Admin. Div.)	217 N. Hill Street	2,000
Department of Public Works (City Garage)		2,000
Water and Wastewater Dep. (Admin. Div.)	229 N. Expressway	10,000

Source: Griffin City Manager's Office

According to the City, several departments are overcrowded and need additional space. Discussion exists on the feasibility of renovating the historic City Hall which could house the City of Griffin Administrative Departments comprised of City Commission, City Manager, Finance, Personnel, Risk, etc. The existing City Hall could then be utilized by Public Works and Utilities and Planning and Development Departments.



6.10 Education

The Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education provides public elementary and secondary education in the City of Griffin. The Board of Education is a 5-member board that employs approximately 1,500, including over 700 teachers. The Griffin-Spalding County School System had an enrollment of 10,316 students in 16 schools for the 2002-2003 school year, see **Figure 6-9**. This includes vocational training, special education and alternative educational programs. **Figure 6-10** provides the names and addresses of the existing school facilities.

Figure 6-9: Griffin-Spalding County School System - Historic and Projected Enrollment

School Year	Enrollment
1998-1999	10,290
1999-2000	10,268
2000-2001	10,052
2001-2002	10,133
2002-2003	10,316
2003-2004 *	10,322
2004-2005 *	10,328
2006-2007 *	10,340
2007-2008 *	10,348
* Projected	

**Figure 6-10
Spalding County/Griffin Existing School Facilities**

Elementary Schools	
Anne Street Elementary School	802 Anne Street
Atkinson Elementary School	307 Atkinson Drive
Beaverbrook Elementary School	251 Birdie Road
Cowan Elementary School	1233 Cowan Road
Crescent Elementary School	201 Crescent Road
Futral Elementary School	180 Futral Road
Jackson Elementary School	1233 Jackson Road
Jordan Hill Elementary School	75 Jordan Hill Road
Moore Elementary School	201 Cabin Creek Drive
New Moreland Road Elementary School	455 Moreland Road
Orrs Elementary School	1553 Flynt Street
Middle Schools	
A.Z. Kelsey Middle School	200 Kelsey Avenue
Cowan Middle School	1185 Cowan Road
Flynt Middle School	221 Spalding Drive
Taylor Street School	234 Taylor Street
High Schools	
Griffin High School	1617 West Poplar Street
Spalding High School	550 Wilson Road
Special Entities	
Opportunity Academy	205 Spalding Drive
Elementary Science Enrichment Center	205 Spalding Drive
Crossroads Program	415 Jefferson Avenue
RESA Academy	814 Experiment Street
<i>Source: Griffin-Spalding County Schools</i>	

The Griffin-Spalding County school system operates 17 schools that include 11 elementary schools, 4 middle schools and 2 high schools. Special schools within the system include Program Challenge Center, Elementary Science Enrichment Center, Crossroads Program and RESA Academy. **Figure 6-11** provides a map showing the location of the county's schools. Program Challenge Center services a select group of middle school children who have been targeted for additional academic support. The Crossroads Program services a special population of children from the City of Griffin, Spalding County and surrounding counties. RESA Academy is an alternative school for middle and high school students.



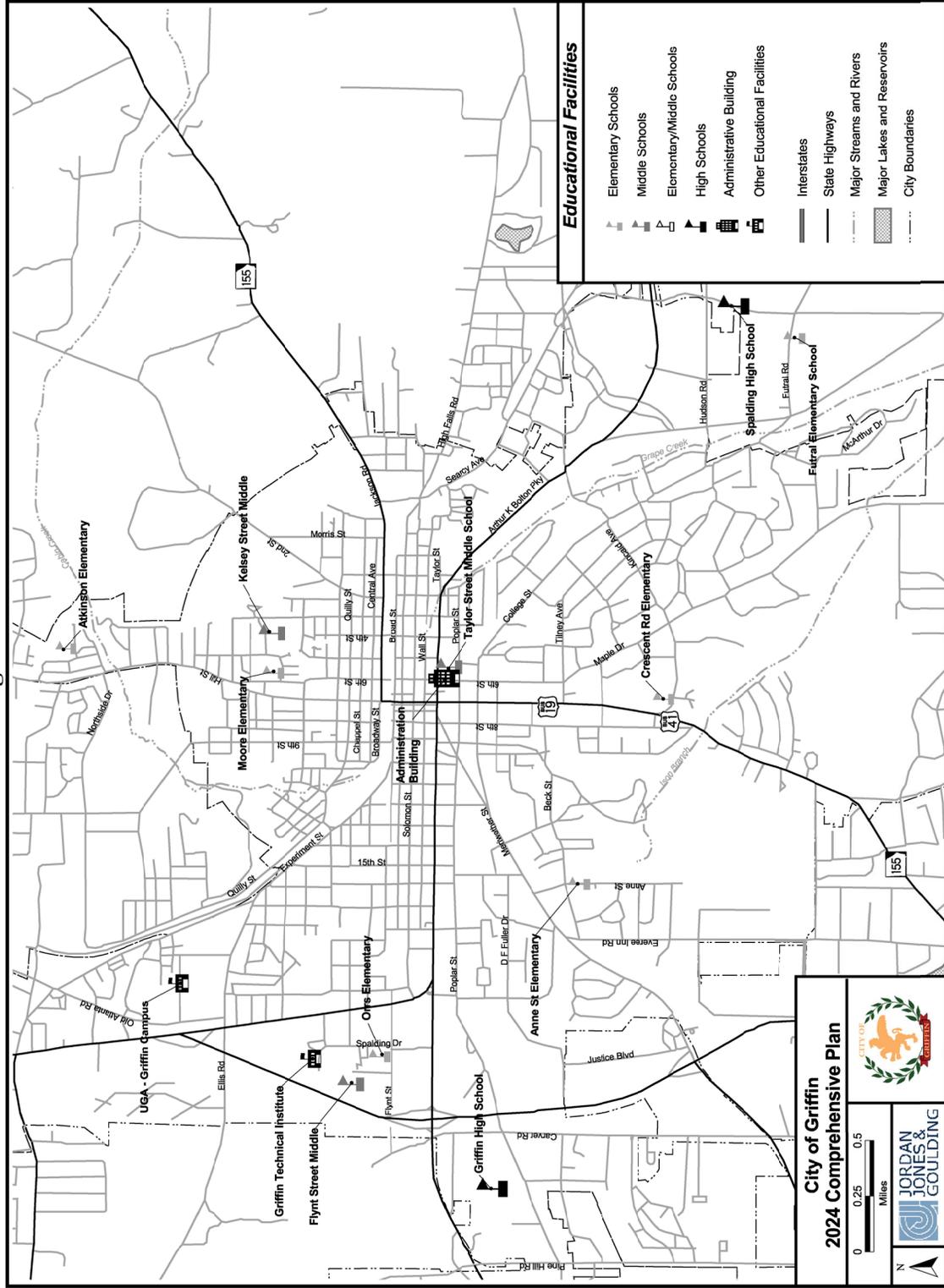
The Griffin-Spalding County school system has recently reorganized the school system. As part of this effort, several schools have been closed and are now used for different purposes. Other aspects of this reorganization included eliminating all primary schools so all elementary schools would serve grades K-5. Additionally, the school zones have been adjusted.

The Griffin-Spalding County School System has been actively involved in the School Improvement Planning Process for more than three years at the system level and at the local school level. Each school within the system is either newly constructed or has been renovated to meet minimum standards. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accredits all the system's schools, which are actively involved in raising student achievement.

In addition to the network of public schools in Spalding County, Griffin has a number of private schools operating as well. Grace Academy offers instruction for students in grades 9-12; Harvest Christian Academy teaches students from the age of 6 weeks through the ninth grade; Griffin Christian Academy provides Kindergarten through the eighth grade and St. George's Episcopal School works with first through sixth graders.

There are two local institutions for post secondary education available for the City of Griffin residents including Griffin Technical College and Gordon College. Additionally, Spalding County is in great need of a four-year college that offers bachelors and masters degrees in order to supplement technical opportunities available at Griffin Technical College. The University of Georgia currently has plans to offer 4-year degree programs at the Griffin campus. See **Chapter 3, Economic Development**, for more detailed information on Griffin's post secondary institutions.

Figure 6-11



6.11 Libraries and Cultural Facilities

6.11.1 Libraries

The Griffin-Spalding County Library is located at 800 Memorial Drive in Griffin. The 26,726 square-foot facility was constructed in 1975 and is the headquarters of the Flint River Regional Library System. The system includes eight affiliated libraries in the six counties of Butts, Fayette, Lamar, Monroe, Pike and Spalding. The mission of the library is to offer services that contribute to the educational, recreational, cultural and inspirational needs of people of all ages.

The Griffin-Spalding County Library provides access to information through the State’s Public Information Network for Electronic Services (PINES), Georgia Library Learning Online (GALILEO), and has 44 computers connected to the internet and available for public use six days a week. This includes a 23-computer educational learning laboratory offering instruction in basic computer skills, word processing, email, internet use and adult literacy classes. Other services offered at the library include story times and Summer reading programs for children, a meeting room for use by non-profit community organizations and State and Federal tax forms available year-round. The Griffin-Spalding County Library includes 100,000 volumes and is open 60 hours per week. The web page address is www.spalding.public.lib.ga.us.

One of the library’s most important short-term goals is to provide computer classes for groups such as the “Self-Sufficiency Program-Workforce 1” program. These classes focus on job-seeking skills and will be an integral part of a “Life Skills Management” curriculum designed to help lower-income residents obtain literacy skills, GED’s and employment.

6.11.2 Cultural Facilities

Over the past decade, the City of Griffin has experienced a growth in its arts community. Ballet, choral music and drama are just some of the areas that have enjoyed increased popularity. The Griffin Area Arts Alliance was a catalyst in restoring the Griffin Auditorium. This facility is home to the Camelot Theatre Company, the Griffin Area Community Concert Association, the Griffin Ballet Theatre and many other performers and organizations.

The concert association brings four international guest artists to Griffin-Spalding County each year. The theatre



Griffin Auditorium

produces a half dozen or more musicals and plays each year, and the ballet offers an annual production of The Nutcracker and other performances. The Griffin Ballet Theatre school offers young dancers the opportunity to work with world-renowned guest artists and coaches.

The Griffin-Spalding Arts Association provides opportunities for local artists to network with each other, take classes, and show and sell their work. With more than 50 members, the association also funds a college art scholarship for a local graduating high school senior.

Music and choral enthusiasts also enjoy participating, performing in and attending programs sponsored by the Griffin Music Club. The Music Club provides free programs for the community, college scholarships and sponsors the Junior Music Festival each March.

Additionally, several annual events take place in the City that attract visitors including the Kiwanis Spalding County Fair, the Great Griffin Mayfling Arts and Crafts Festival, the Christmas Parade, the Taste of Downtown, and the Iris City Beauty Pageant.⁴

During the visioning workshop for this plan, several participants supported the construction of a new Civic Center. The center would provide needed space for conventions and cultural events. It could also serve as a catalyst for economic development efforts.

6.12 Assessment of Current and Future Community Facility Needs

The City's community facilities currently serve its residents well, but it is clear that if Griffin is to achieve its goals and vision for the future that several steps need to be taken. One of the major needs identified in this plan is the need to attract new business and residents in order to maintain a healthy tax base and a standard of living. To do this, it is very important for the city to promote and foster a strong sense of identity and place. Visitors and residents to the community should identify with the community and see it as desired place to live-work and play. From a community facilities stand point this will require maintaining a strong sense of public safety, adequate public infrastructure, a strong education system and offering abundant cultural and recreational opportunities.

One of the biggest challenges facing government officials in past years has been that of water supply. Over the past five years there have been times when water supply has been dangerously low, but with the new reservoir being constructed in Pike County, the county should have an adequate water supply for the next 50 years.

The City has been a leader in stormwater management with the creation of the state's first stormwater utility. Staying up to date with federal regulations and anticipated growth of the city will require maintaining this high level of service.

In keeping with the joint city and county vision of attracting more quality jobs and providing a mixture of housing types, appropriate infrastructure must be in place in order to accomplish this. The *Wastewater Management Master Plan: 2000-2015* outlined several recommendations in

⁴Griffin Chamber of Commerce, *Griffin & Spalding County, GA*, (August, 2000).

order to expand the public sewer system into the unincorporated county. The city and county need to work together to determine the most feasible strategy to finance the system upgrades and possibly construct a new wastewater treatment plant.

In a community troubled with poverty, maintaining efficient and responsive public safety services is a necessity. The Griffin Police and Fire Departments have done an excellent job, but to maintain these high standards, resources will have to be allocated for new equipment and facilities.

City residents have indicated throughout the planning process a need for developing a greenway network. Some unique opportunities exist to possibly acquire some abandoned rail lines and convert these into greenways. The city and county need to be planning together for these greenways now so implementation can begin soon. The City also needs to allocate some resources to repairing and maintaining existing recreational facilities.

With the anticipated growth in the city and county population, another ongoing need is the improvement of education facilities. The new four-year college could play a strong role in training the local work force and attracting new jobs and industry to the community.

6.13 Community Facilities and Services Goals

1. Provide a safe environment for local residents and business
2. Promote good stewardship of the region's limited water resources and provide adequate water and sewer service to support current and future needs
3. Provide and maintain quality recreational facilities and create additional passive recreation opportunities.
4. Provide efficient and responsive government services in a fiscally responsible manner.
5. Support the development of strong education system

6.14 Implementation Program

Goal #1: Provide a safe environment for local residents and business

Action Item	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Upgrade police equipment including, dispatch radio system, cameras, radar and in-car computers	City Police Dept	2005-2006
Improve Police HQ building and construct an indoor firing range	City Police Dept	2005-2006
Maintain ISO rating of 3 or better within the city	City Fire Dept	On-going
Replace aging fire engines and equipment	City Fire Dept	On-going

Goal #2: Promote good stewardship of the region's limited water resources and provide adequate water and sewer service to support current and future needs

Action Item	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Work with the Spalding County Water Authority on updating the Water Supply Study and the Wastewater Management Master Plan to be consistent with the new city and county land use plans	Spalding County Water Authority, City Public Works and Utilities Dept. and the City Manager's Office	2005-2006
Promote water conservation measures	City Public Works and Utilities Dept	On-going
Complete construction on Still Branch Reservoir and distribution system to the city	City Public Works and Utilities Dept	2004-2006
Map the existing water and sewer system in GIS	City Public Works and Utilities Dept	2004
Complete Emergency Response Plan (Homeland Security Requirement)	City Public Works and Utilities Dept	2004
Replace damaged and faulty water meters	City Public Works and Utilities Dept	On-going
Install Automatic meter reading system	City Public Works and Utilities Dept	2005-2006

Construct Dewatering sludge facility	City Public Works and Utilities Dept	2004
Install new sewer lines along Ison branch	City Public Works and Utilities Dept	2004
Conduct sewer flow analysis study of entire system	City Public Works and Utilities Dept	2004
Rehab Water/Wastewater/Stormwater Lab	City Public Works and Utilities Dept	2004
Implement Phase II NPDS Program	City Stormwater Div	2004
Monitor stream quality – USGS Monitoring	City Stormwater Div	On-going
Update Stormwater Management Plan	City Stormwater Div	2004
Update watershed assessment study	City Stormwater Div	On-going

Goal #3: Provide and maintain quality recreational facilities and create additional passive recreation opportunities.

Action Item	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Work with the County to develop a countywide Greenways Master Plan	City Public Works Department.	2004-2005
Close or replace the City Pool	City Public Works Department.	2005-2006
Repair the City golf course's irrigation system	City Public Works Department.	2005-2006
Expand the City Cemetery	City Public Works Department.	Ongoing
Explore the possibilities of reusing vacant schools for public services and amenities	City Public Works Department and School Board	On-going

Goal #4: Provide efficient and responsive government services in a fiscally responsible manner.

Action Item	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Conduct an Infrastructure Master Plan to address the issues of maintaining aging infrastructure and study the cost/benefits of consolidation of government facilities	Public Works and Utilities Dept	2005-2006
Cooperative City-County agreements – Identify more opportunities for joint service and funding agreements between Spalding County and Griffin that will spread the cost and improve the efficiencies of public facilities and services such as garbage collection, parks and recreation, libraries, emergency services, and other facilities and services that are now funded and provided separately.	Public Works and Utilities Dept	On-going

Goal #5: Support the development of strong education system

Action Item	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Actively support the development of a 4-year college of the University of Georgia System	City Commission	On-going
Coordinate city land use policy and school planning decisions through open communication and regular reporting of development activity	City Planning & Development Dept.	On-going