

Chapter 7

Public Services

A. OVERVIEW

A gauge, by which a community's livability is measured, is the level of public services provided to its residents. This chapter of the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Fairmont focuses on the goals, plans and programs that will meet the current and future needs of the residents of Fairmont. People want to live and businesses want to locate their facilities in municipalities that offer a wide range of quality public services. These services more or less define the quality of life in a community. The citizens of Fairmont have a broad range of services available to them; medical, cultural, historical, social, educational, these services are provided from sources such as the City of Fairmont and other governmental entities, the private sector and also through community and non-profit organizations. Public services contribute to the structure of a community, influencing the livability of a community, thus making their availability and adequacy important. The purpose for analyzing these public services is to ensure that adequate services and facilities are available and can accommodate future population growth, meet new standards, and accommodate changes in the delivery of these public services. Public services must be provided in a manner that effectively serves existing and future population and employment centers as well as supports the land uses prescribed for the municipality. This element of the Comprehensive Plan is only a basic guide for the anticipated growth of Fairmont and the delivery of public services. It emphasizes the provision and maintenance of existing public services within the City of Fairmont and advocates that future development be encouraged in areas where adequate public services exist. In general, if future development is encouraged in areas where adequate public services exist, the need for costly capital expenditures will be reduced.

B. GOALS AND ACTIONS

The goal and actions relative to this chapter of the Comprehensive Plan aim to provide Public Services that meet the current and future needs of the residents of Fairmont through an effective and efficient delivery system.

Goal:

Ensure that a wide variety of public services are provided to the residents of Fairmont in an accessible manner based on use, need and demand.

Actions:

- Ensure that public services are provided without duplication.
- Develop and deliver public services in a cost-effective manner.
- Ensure that there are adequate public services to meet the needs of residents of all age groups.
- Enhance the delivery system of public services through financial and technical resources

C. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Through numerous channels, Fairmont is recognized as a municipality that provides response to the medical, educational, cultural, historical, social and community needs of its citizens. Closer analysis of these areas of public services will enable us to determine whether or not the current and anticipated future needs of the community are and can be met.

1. Medical Services

Fairmont is fortunate to have numerous medical services available to its citizens that offer a wide range of inpatient care, extensive outpatient and diagnostic services, home based care and skilled nursing for extended care. Through the private sector as well as by community and non-profit organizations the following provide medical services to and in Fairmont;

- a. Fairmont General Hospital
A community health care organization providing a wide range of inpatient care, extensive outpatient and diagnostic services, home based care and offers a skilled nursing facility for extended care. FGH is fully accredited by the JCAHO and licensed by the State of WV.
- b. The Fairmont Clinic
Outpatient services oriented, also provides pharmacy, diagnostic services, home health and hospice care.
- c. The John Manchin Sr. Health Care Center
Provides inpatient and outpatient clinical services regardless of income, financial status or income.
- d. The Marion County Health Department
The Marion County Health Department is a community-based, public funded organization with the goal of preventing disease through assessment and education, surveillance, enforcement, service delivery and evaluation.
- e. The Whitehall Medical Clinic
Emergency/urgent care center providing outpatient and some diagnostic services.
- f. Valley Mental Health Care
Offers comprehensive mental health care through a broad range of services.
- g. Wishing Well Manor and Health Center
Provides 24 hour nursing care along with a full range of rehabilitative therapies, including physical, speech, and occupational therapy.
- h. The Arbors
Skilled level nursing home with 120 beds.

- i. Personal Care Homes

Several facilities exist in Fairmont, dedicated to provide assisted living to individuals who are not in need of full-time skilled nursing assistance.

- j. Ruby Memorial Hospital
A 450 bed primary and specialty care services provider located in Morgantown, part of WVU Hospitals and also includes WVU Children's Hospital, Chestnut Ridge Hospital (behavioral medicine), the Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center, and Rosenbaum Family House.
- k. United and Mon General Hospitals
Located in Clarksburg and Morgantown respectively, each offers a broad range of inpatient, outpatient and diagnostic services.
- l. Health Care Providers
 - Physicians
 - Dentists
 - Optometrists
 - Therapists
 - Chiropractors

2. Educational Services

Educational services are an integral and valuable component of the development of a community. Fairmont is fortunate to provide educational services that reach all age groups, offers specialized learning and instruction. These services are provided through;

- a. Day Care Centers
- b. Head Start Programs
- c. Kindergarten Programs
- d. Elementary Education
 - Dunbar Elementary
 - East Park Grade School
 - Watson Elementary
 - Jayenne Elementary
 - Fairmont Catholic
 - Rivesville Elementary
 - Pleasant Valley
 - Whitehall Elementary
 - East Dale Elementary
- e. Junior High Schools
 - Miller Junior High
 - Fairmont East Junior High
 - Fairmont Catholic
- f. High Schools
 - Fairmont Senior High School
 - East Fairmont High School
 - North Marion High School
- g. Marion County Vo-Tech Center
- h. White School – Adult Learning

- i. Colleges and University
 - Fairmont State Community and Technical College
 - Fairmont State University
 - West Virginia University
 - Davis and Elkins
 - West Virginia Wesleyan
 - Alderson-Broaddus
 - Salem International
- j. Specialty Education
 - International Academy of Design and Technology
 - OIC Training Academy
 - Mon Youth Build
 - WVU Extension Services

* A new Middle School is currently being constructed to replace Dunbar Elementary and Miller Junior High School. The new school is scheduled to be open in 2006 and is situated in the area of 10th Street and Virginia Avenue.

3. Public Safety and Disaster Services

The City of Fairmont provides full time, professional paid police and fire departments to ensure the public safety of its residents. Police protection in Fairmont is provided by thirty officers of which six officers are assigned to the investigation force. The others are assigned to patrol. The Fairmont Police Department is assisted and works in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies such as the Marion County Sheriff's Department, the West Virginia State Police, the FBI and the DEA. The department is currently operated out of the original Police Station constructed in the early 1900's on Monroe Street.

Fire protection services are provided through four stations within Fairmont's City limits. They include: 1) the Central Fire Station on Monroe street; 2) the East Side Fire Station at Morgantown and East Park; 3) the Watson Fire Station on Mary Lou Retton Drive; and 4) the Bellview Fire Station on Bellview Boulevard. The department is comprised of forty employees that in addition to fire protection services provide first responder services to the community.

The Central Fire Station and the current Police Station are scheduled to be replaced with the construction of the new Public Safety Building on Quincy Street.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, brought a more focused attention to municipalities positioning themselves to respond to disasters. The Safety component of this Comprehensive Plan analyzed the City of Fairmont's ability to meet those demands, but it should be noted in this chapter that through the Fairmont Police and Fire Departments Fairmont is playing a vital role in Regional Response teams and the WV Office of Emergency Services to meet the disaster preparation and recovery needs of the community.

Dispatching for the services of the Fairmont Police and Fire Departments are provided by Marion County. Additional information on the Fairmont Police and Fire Departments can be found in the Safety Chapter of this document.

Medical transportation services ranging from the most advanced high-risk critical care emergency transports to emergency and non-emergency services, emergency scene response, transportation to and from doctors' offices and nursing homes as well as other treatment centers is provide to residents by Jan Care Ambulance Service and the Marion County Rescue Squad.

4. Community and Social Services

Several community and non-profit organizations offer services to the residents of Fairmont that address a wide range of needs such as; homelessness, domestic violence, hunger, poverty, the disabled and illiteracy. Below, is a partial listing of those providers; A More detailed list is provided in the Marion County Service Directory published by the Marion County Family Resource Network.

- a. The Arc of Marion County
- b. Central WV Aging Services
- c. HOPE Inc.
- d. Scott Place Shelter
- e. The Union Mission
- f. The Soup Opera
- g. Marion County Family Resource Network
- h. The United Way of Marion County
- i. The Marion County Chapter of the American Red Cross
- j. Marion County Senior Citizens Inc.
- k. 612 MAC
- l. The Salvation Army
- m. The Op Shop
- n. The Connecting Link
- o. Serenity House
- p. Hospice of Marion County

5. Cultural and Historical Services

Previous and subsequent chapters of this Comprehensive Plan are devoted to the historical and cultural opportunities that are available to the residents of Fairmont. These organizations and programs are in place for the city's residents;

- a. The Marion County Library
- b. The Marion County Museum
- c. The Fairmont Landmarks Commission
- d. Fairmont State University
- e. The Marion County Historical Society
- f. Marion County Parks and Recreation
- g. Arts & Humanities Council

- h. Silly Strings
- i. Friends of the Symphony
- j. Prickett's Fort Foundation
- k. Town & Gown Players
- l. Churches and Places of Worship
 - Denominational
 - Non-Denominational

6. Animal Control

Animal Control is currently provided in the corporate limits and in Marion County by a private sector vendor. The City of Fairmont and other municipalities as well as the Marion County Commission provide funding to the vendor for the services of sheltering stray and lost animals and well as providing euthanasia when required.

D. BASIC ISSUES

Through various providers, Fairmont offers a broad and wide range of public services to the residents of the community. Basic needs of the community are met through the medical, educational and social service community and non-profit providers. Public safety, disaster preparation and recovery needs are met by the City of Fairmont and other governmental agencies. Needs of the residents that reach beyond, such as cultural and historical are available to residents at levels equal to the demand.

For the City of Fairmont, it is not only whether or not the needs of the community are being met at the rate that matches the current demand for the particular service, but also if growth is anticipated, can the providers continue to meet the needs of the growing community. The City of Fairmont must also analyze the level (range and quantity) of services that are being provided and determine how best to expand and enhance particular services if they are to reach their overall goal of being "A Community of Choice."

E. RECOMMENDATIONS

Short Range (2005 – 2008)

- a. A Comprehensive Needs Assessment should be undertaken to determine the needs and the demands of the community in relation to the medical, educational, social, cultural, historical and public safety services.
- b. Educational providers should continue to emphasize a high standard of education so that the students are in a position to compete with those in other neighboring counties, the State, and the nation.
- c. The City of Fairmont should participate in Local School Improvement Council meetings to monitor the school system's future needs.

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- d. Outreach and informational programs should be developed to inform the community of the public services available in the community.
- e. The City of Fairmont should continue to provide financial and technical resources to those social and community service providers.
- f. The community should support the growth and development strategies of Fairmont General Hospital.
- g. The City of Fairmont and the Marion County Commission should seek additional and/or alternative animal control providers.

Medium Range (2008-2011)

- a. The Board of Education should keep abreast of the development along the I-79 Technology Corridor and should react accordingly. Curriculums should include education and training programs that relate to new industries so that the local students are skilled to seek employment in these industries.
- b. The City of Fairmont should work closely with public service providers to ensure that services and facilities are located centrally and in areas able to accommodate the service, i.e., infrastructure support, non-hazardous areas.
- c. Partnerships between groups providing public services should be developed to use available resources in the most efficient manner.

Long Range (2011-2015)

- a. The governmental agencies should operate and maintain public services in a manner that helps stabilize the surrounding environment and sets the standard for current and potential development in the area.
- b. Additional public services based on need should be located in functional service areas. Services should be located based on accessibility and consider the interests of existing and future residents.
- c. Implement findings of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment.