



CHRISTIAN COUNTY
Comprehensive Plan

ADOPTED 11.21.22



[EXPLORE THE PLAN >](#)



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RESOLUTION NO. 11-21-2022-01
RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of Christian County to update the comprehensive plan to establish guidance for the future growth of the County and that promotes the health, safety, and welfare of the public, protection of the natural and man-made environment, and the efficient use of resources; and

WHEREAS, Christian County contracted with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments which conducted extensive study and has developed a Comprehensive Plan for the County; and

WHEREAS, proper notice was published in the "Daily Events" on November 4, 2022, which has general circulation within Christian County, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Planning Commission of Christian County, Missouri called the meeting to order and opened a public hearing for the Christian County Comprehensive Plan on November 21, 2022; and

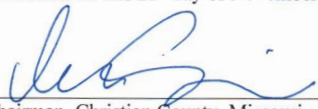
WHEREAS, the report titled "Christian County Comprehensive Plan", maps, and charts were discussed; and

WHEREAS, it was moved and seconded that the report titled "Christian County Comprehensive Plan", maps, and charts contained therein, be approved as the Comprehensive Plan for Christian County, Missouri, and that copies be certified to the County Commission and County Clerk, and that one (1) copy be made available in the office of the Christian County Recorder of Deeds; and

WHEREAS, the motion carried with eight (8) aye votes, zero (0) nay votes, and zero (0) abstentions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Commission of Christian County, Missouri, that said Comprehensive Plan and all maps and charts included therein are hereby adopted.

Passed and Adopted by the Planning Commission on this 21st day of November 2022.



Chairman, Christian County, Missouri
Planning Commission

ATTEST:



Secretary, Christian County, Missouri
Planning Commission



01 INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Christian County.

Home to unique small towns, close-knit communities, and beautiful natural landscapes, Christian County is made up of the cities of Ozark, Nixa, Clever, Sparta, Fremont Hills, Highlandville, and Billings, and the Village of Saddlebrook. These municipalities are bedroom communities for residents who work within the Springfield area, which has allowed the county to retain some of its rural elements despite its growth. Over the past 20 years, each of the municipalities in Christian County has been affected by the significant growth of the region. The largest cities in the county are Nixa and Ozark. The growth within the county can be attributed in part to the development of the Springfield Metropolitan area as a whole.

In 2020, Christian County partnered with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) to develop a comprehensive plan for the region. This comprehensive plan reflects a culmination of community engagement, the input of local stakeholders, and data analysis that have led to the formation of attainable goals for the future.

“ A comprehensive plan represents the community’s desires for the future of land use, development, and growth through a **UNIFIED REGIONAL VISION.**”

The plan should serve as a guide for the county going forward for the next 10 to 20 years. Though it is not a legally binding document, Section 89.040 RSMo of Missouri Statute requires that zoning regulations “shall be made in accordance with a comprehensive plan.” Thus, a comprehensive plan is needed to shape and enforce zoning regulations. This document will provide an overview of the planning process, community profile, the public engagement process, and assess the current features of the county. The plan will outline goals for the future and specific objectives and strategies for achieving these goals.



The Planning Process

The plan was developed using a multi-step process to ensure the final product is an representation of feedback from residents and stakeholders while providing goals and objectives to community members.

The first step of the planning process is gathering information. This information paints a picture of the current conditions of the area.

SMCOG gathered initial information by looking at past plans and studies for the community, verifying what goals have been met, and collecting census data.

After gaining foundational knowledge of the county, SMCOG developed a community survey to determine the most pressing needs and desires of the community. At the same time, SMCOG and county staff facilitated community engagement events to provide the public with a forum for voicing their concerns and hopes for the future.

The analysis conducted by SMCOG encompassed land use, transportation, economic development, community facilities, housing, and demographics of the area. The analysis included both qualitative and quantitative features that helped create a holistic picture of the region. The analysis played an important role in shaping the goals and objectives for the next 10 to 20 years.

After the analysis, SMCOG developed a draft plan. The draft plan was edited by the county staff, the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC), and the public. After all final comments were addressed, the plan was presented for adoption to the Planning Commission and the County Commission.

In the implementation phase after the adoption, the county staff and officials will focus on policy development, zoning code amendments, and implementing strategies to serve the community.

The planning process involved the creation of a Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) comprised of stakeholders and county staff.



01 INTRODUCTION

THE PLANNING PROCESS



The committee met six times throughout the planning process to discuss the topics addressed in this plan.

- [Phil Short](#) | Planning & Zoning Commission member, Christian Co.
- [Mike White](#) | Planning & Zoning Commission member, Christian Co.

The Comprehensive Planning Committee members were:

- [Valerie Carr](#) | Senior Planner, Christian Co.
- [Joan Doss](#) | Planning + Development Administrator, Christian Co.
- [Todd Wiesehan](#) | Director of Resource Management, Christian Co.
- [Bill Achor](#) | Board Chairman, Christian Co. Senior Service Fund Inc.
- [Phil Amtower](#) | Director of Emergency Management, Christian Co.
- [Miranda Beadles](#) | Highway Administrator, Christian Co.
- [Josh Bird](#) | Environmental Compliance Inspector, Christian Co.
- [Renee Brumett](#) | Executive Director, Christian County Library
- [Anna Evans](#) | Vice President of Business Retention and Expansion, Show Me Christian County
- [Kim Foster](#) | Director of Health Department, Christian County
- [Rick Gardner](#) | Alderman, City of Ozark
- [Danny Matthews](#)
- [Keith Robinette](#) | Board Member, Selmore Special Road District

The Timeline

•	August 25, 2021: CPC Orientation Meeting	01
•	September 22, 2021: CPC Stakeholders Meeting	02
•	October 27, 2021: CPC Survey Results and SWOT Meeting	03
•	December 1, 2021: CPC Goals and Objectives Meeting Pt. 1	04
•	January 26, 2022: CPC Goals and Objectives Meeting Pt. 2	05
•	March 16, 2022: CPC Future Land Use Meeting	06
•	March 24, 2022: Open House in Sparta	07
•	April 5, 2022: Open House in Clever	08
•	May 25, 2022: Open House in Clever	09
•	May 31, 2022: Open House in Sparta	10
•	November 21, 2022: Planning Commission Adoption	11
•	December 1, 2022: County Commission Adoption	12
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Community Engagement >



01 INTRODUCTION

Community Engagement

Christian County hosted a community survey for residents that collected responses for 30 days from September 10th to October 10th, 2021. A total of 810 responses were received from the public. The questions covered a variety of topics that relate to the future of the county. Questions were asked about public services and facilities, transportation, housing, economic development, land use, and the physical environment. Each of these categories will be explored in more detail further into the plan. The purpose of the survey was to collect input from residents on a variety of topics to understand the needs and desires of future growth. The majority (61%) of respondents said that ideal growth over the next 20 years would be to “increase somewhat.” This coincides with the result of why respondents choose to live in Christian County and what they love about the area --- small town feel was among the top factors. Similarly, historic downtown areas and natural green spaces emerged as the top features the respondents want to be preserved or enhanced in the county.



A total of four Open House events were held where residents were asked to provide feedback on the draft goals and objectives, the future land use map, and the draft plan.

OPEN HOUSE DATES:

Open House for Goals and Objectives:

- March 24, 2022, 6:00-800 PM
Christian County Library – Sparta Location
147 Library Lane, Sparta Missouri 65753
- April 5, 2022, 6:00-8:00 PM
Christian County Library – Clever Location
7428 W. Veterans Blvd., Clever Missouri 65631

Open House for the Goals and Objectives Prioritization Survey:

- May 25, 2022, 6:00-8:00 PM
Christian County Library – Clever Location
7428 W. Veterans Blvd., Clever Missouri 65631
- May 31, 2022, 6:00-800 PM
Christian County Library – Sparta Location
147 Library Lane, Sparta Missouri 65753

Residents were also asked to complete a goals and objectives prioritization survey that ran for 47 days from March 29, 2022, through May 15, 2022. This enabled SMCOG staff to prioritize the goals and objectives and to ensure the plan was representative of the entire county. A total of 161 responses were received from the public. The results of the goals and objectives prioritization survey are included in the implementation matrix.

“Christian County’s strong sense of community character and its commitment to stewardship of resources will guide its mission to advance the quality of life for its residents and businesses by **PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE GROWTH, CREATING ADAPTIVE POLICIES, AND FOLLOWING SOUND LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.**”

See Christian County’s Community Profile >



02 COMMUNITY PROFILE

History

Before European settlement, Christian County was periodically visited and occupied by several indigenous groups, including Paleo-Indians, Archaic people, Woodland Indians, and Mississippian people. In the early 1800s, the county area was occupied by the Osage Indians. Control over the area passed from the Osage Indians to the Spanish and French until it became a territory of the United States through the Louisiana Purchase of 1803.

The White River, the James River, and the Finley River provided early trappers and hunters with food, income, and transportation through the region. In 1819, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft explored the region and the first permanent settlers followed within two years. The Pettyjohns, Wells, and Pattersons were among the first families to settle in the area in 1822, settling near the present-day cities of Nixa and Ozark. Although settlers arrived in Christian County steadily in the early 1800s, the rate of settlement increased in 1838 with the opening of a United States Land Office in Springfield and the offering of Christian County lands

for homesteading. The Springfield Land Office made it possible for residents to obtain titles to land and insured ownership titles for future residents.

The region's rivers were a key factor in the development of permanent communities in the county. Early settlers who farmed along the rivers' fertile lands also depended on it for grain milling. The town of Ozark developed around Hoover's Mill, which was built in 1833 on the Finley River. The settlement of Riverdale also developed around a mill, with Nixa area residents utilizing its services. The City of Billings was developed in a fertile agricultural area and was settled in 1835.

On March 8, 1859, Christian County was formally organized as Missouri's 113th county. Christian County was formed out of parts of Greene, Stone, and Webster counties. One of the early residents of Christian County, Mrs. Neaves, helped with naming the territory. Mrs. Neaves said the only way that she would give up her Greene County citizenship was if the county was named after her original home in Christian County, Kentucky. They obliged her and thus the county was named.



Just two years after the formal recognition of Christian County, the Civil War broke out in Missouri. Christian County saw significant battlefield events during the 1860s. The most notable Civil War development in the area was the Battle of Wilson’s Creek in 1861. Wilson’s Creek was the first major battle in Missouri and the first of the Trans-Mississippi Theater of the war. The battle was hard-fought with an estimated 2,330 casualties and the Confederates coming out the victor.

However, the majority of Christian County residents were in favor of the Union, and many enlisted to fight for the Union. Nonetheless, there was a small minority of secessionists as well as pro-slavery guerillas called Bushwackers. Aside from the Battle of Wilson’s Creek, most of the fighting in the county was by vigilantes and guerillas.

Even after the Civil War concluded, the lawless violence remained. The area was largely void of effective law enforcement, which led a group called the Bald Knobbers to create their own forms of justice. However, their conception of justice verged on terror, which eventually led to a confrontation between the vigilantes and the sheriff’s department in 1889. The outcome of the confrontation led to the establishment of a more traditional and stable form of law enforcement. The lawless violence of the past is an important part of the lore of the area. The story of the Bald Knobbers was depicted in the novel, *The Shepherd of the Hills*, and was even adapted into a film starring John Wayne. Another key element of Christian County’s history is the railroad. Railroads helped increase economic development across the county.

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02 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Chadwick, a small village in 1842, transformed into an up-and-coming city due to its close proximity to Springfield and the Southern Railroad's use of the area's timber reserves in 1882. Chadwick and Ozark were the shipping centers for agricultural products for southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. Sparta was the shipping center for railroad ties and timber. The growth of Billings was spurred by the extension of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad through the area in 1871. The rail line between Chadwick and Ozark was abandoned in 1934 when the timber industry declined due to an increase in truck transportation.

The cities of Nixa and Clever developed along major transportation routes. Nixa developed at the intersection of Wilderness Road and current State Highway 14. Clever developed as a trading post along the Old Wire Road, a major road from St. Louis to the southwest region of the country.

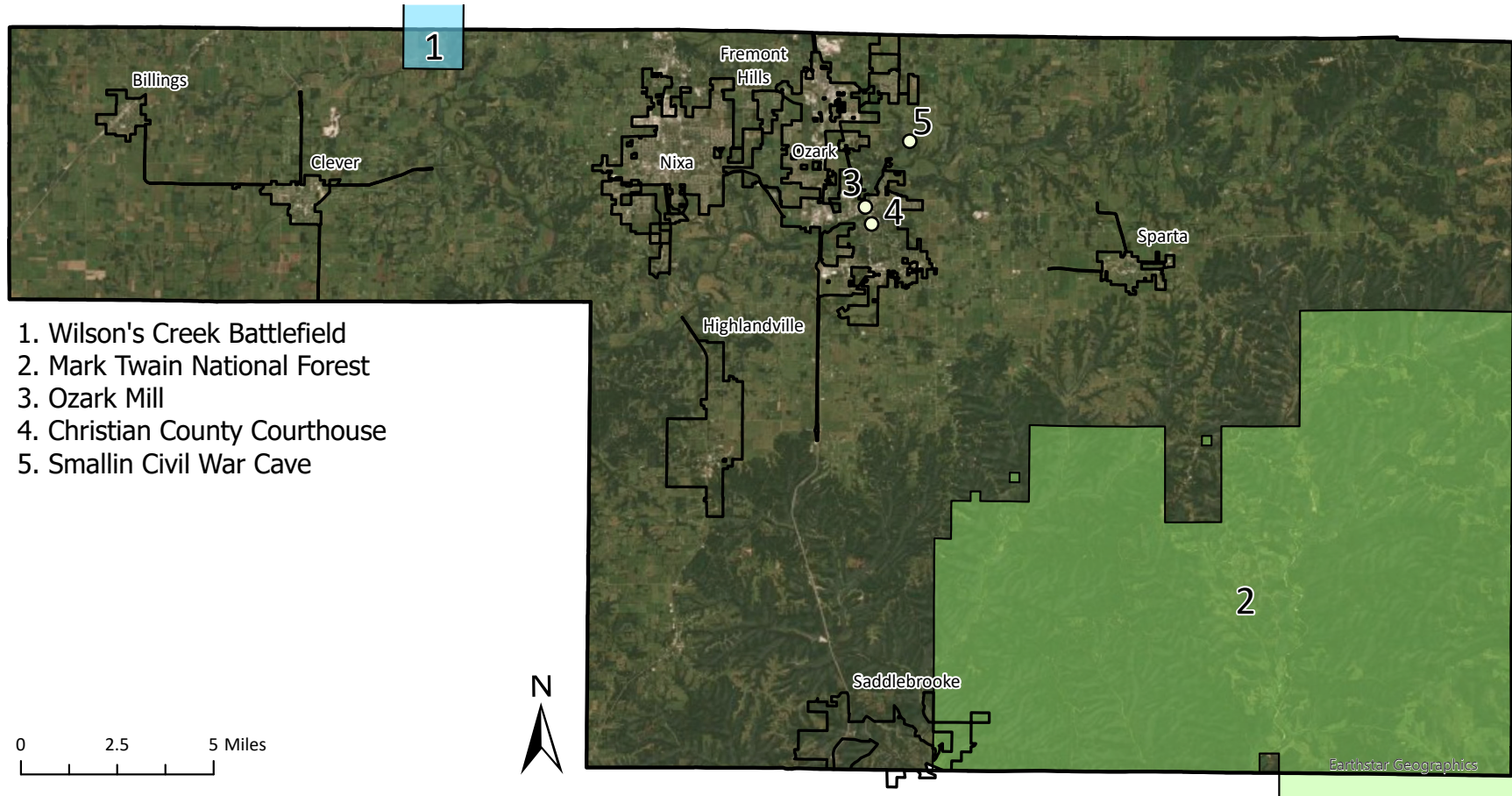
Since World War II, the county has experienced steady growth. The main factor was its proximity to Springfield. Rapid industrial growth

in the Springfield area in the 1960s and 1970s provided employment opportunities for county residents. Since then, the county continues to attract new residents who desire to live in a rural atmosphere as well as access to the amenities, job opportunities, and services of the Springfield metropolitan area. Over the past few decades, the county has also seen major growth due to the recreational opportunities in Branson, Table Rock Lake, and Lake Taneycomo.

Today, some of the most important historical sites in the county, shown below, are Wilson's Creek Battlefield, Mark Twain National Forest, Ozark Mill, Smallin Civil War Cave, and the County Courthouse in Ozark.



CHRISTIAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SITES



Prepared 11/8/2022 by





02 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Demographics

Christian County is a dynamic county with varying degrees of urban and rural areas within each city and unincorporated areas. The county has eight incorporated municipalities: Billings, Clever, Fremont Hills, Highlandville, Nixa, Ozark, Sparta, and Saddlebrook. Characteristics of the county and the local governments have been documented and analyzed to aid in the planning process for this comprehensive plan. Demographics refer to the information gathered from the analysis of the characteristics of the population profile. The demographic profile factors include population growth trends, income, educational attainment, employment, and household characteristics. It is important to outline and understand the current demographics when creating and implementing a comprehensive plan. Demographics are used to help identify current and future needs for the county.

Population Growth

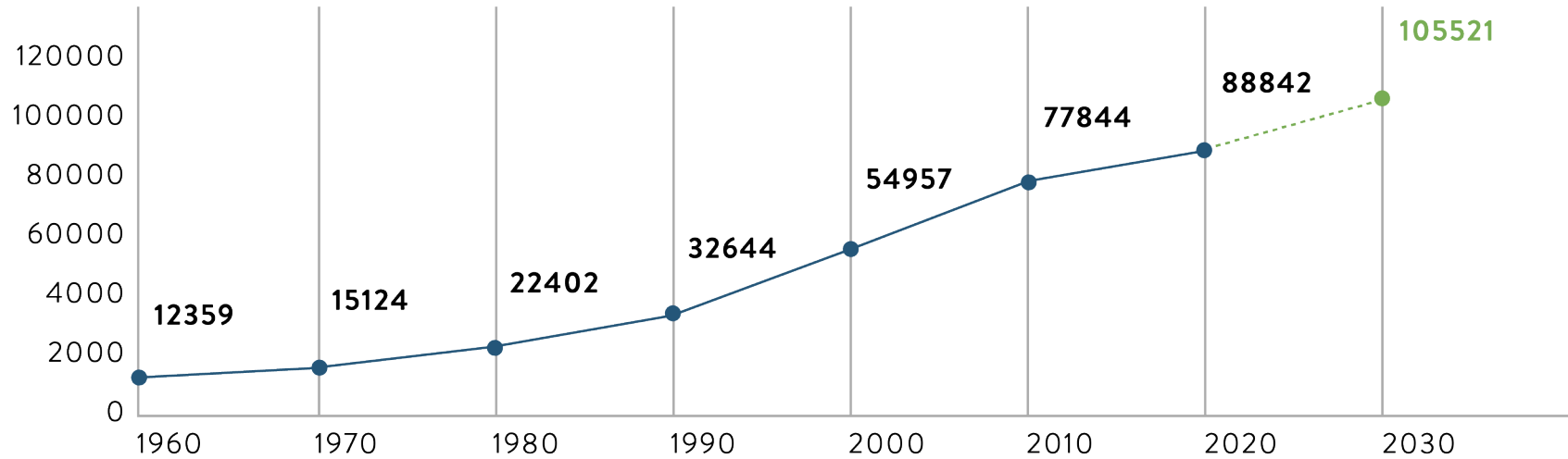
Christian County has experienced tremendous population growth over the past 20 years. Based on the 2020 census data, the County's

population is 88,842. This showed a 7.7% increase in overall population across the county from 2010 to 2020 and a 29.4% increase from 2000-2010. A population projection model was used to project population growth for Christian County. The population projection estimates a growth of 105,521, an 18.77% increase by 2030. There are several factors contributing to this growth. The birth rate, death rate, and migration affect how a population grows, declines, or becomes stagnant. For Christian County, one of the main drivers of population increase has been migration from surrounding counties. In 2020, the net migration was 1,865 people.



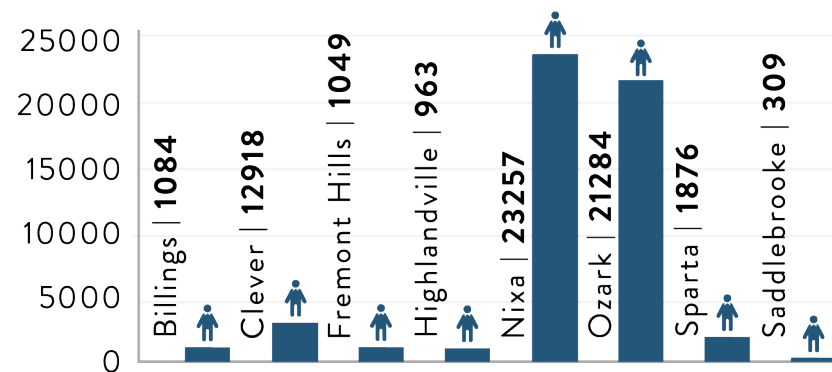
“ The population projection estimates a growth of 105,521, an **18.77% INCREASE BY 2030.**”

POPULATION PROJECTIONS



Nixa and Ozark are the largest cities within the county, both are seeing an increase in population due to the growth in the Springfield metropolitan area. Based on the 2020 census data, Nixa has 23,257 residents and Ozark has 21,284 residents. U.S. Census populations for each incorporated municipality in Christian County are shown on the right of the page:

MUNICIPALITY POPULATION





02 COMMUNITY PROFILE

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION CHANGE FROM 2010-2020

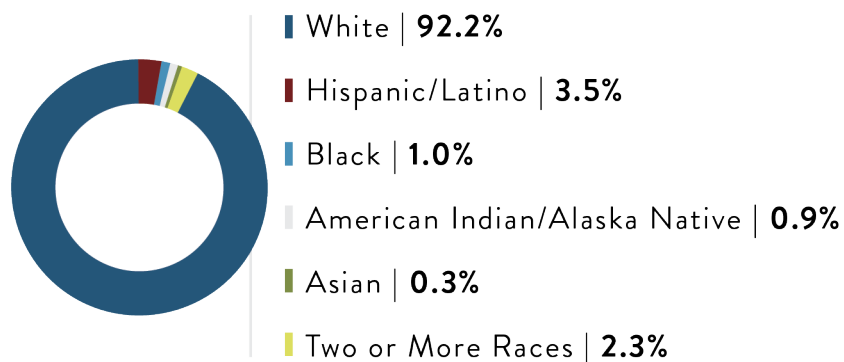
Municipalities	2000	2010	2020	Percent of Change from 2010 to 2020
Billings	1,068	1,035	1,084	5%
Clever	1,010	2,139	2,918	36%
Fremont Hills	597	826	1,049	27%
Highlandville	872	911	963	6%
Nixa	12,124	19,022	23,257	22%
Ozark	9,665	17,820	21,284	19%
Sparta	1,144	1,756	1,876	7%
Saddlebrooke	42	202	309	53%

The table above shows the population growth and percentage change between 2010 and 2020. Saddlebrooke saw the highest percentage change in population between 2010 and 2020 with an increase of 53%. The significant population growth of Saddlebrooke can be attributed to the close proximity to major cities in Southwest Missouri, Springfield, Nixa, Ozark, and Branson.

Racial Composition

In terms of race and ethnicity, Christian County has a lower diverse population than the state and nation. According to the 2020 US Census, the county's racial composition is majority white at 92.2%. As shown in the figure below, the second largest race in the county is Hispanic or Latino with 3.5% of the population.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY RACIAL COMPOSITION



Population Pyramids

An expansive population pyramid resembles the traditional pyramid shape; a large base that tapers off towards the top. This shape reflects a high birth rate and lower life expectancy in older age groups. Looking at the specific age cohorts of a community allows officials to make customized policy decisions that address the needs of large portions of the population.

Christian County has developed an identity as a place for young families to raise their children in the county's high quality school

districts. To support this population, the county should look at

expanding recreational and extracurricular opportunities for families.

Part of Christian County's ability to sustain population growth will be dependent on its ability to retain the youth population. Engaging youth and asking them what they want to see for the future may keep them in the county through adulthood. Nearly one-third of the county, 27.7%, is a part of the 0-19 age cohort; thus, this population should be considered in the planning process.

The county should continue to build upon its identity as a place to raise a family, in addition to planning to accommodate the aging population with senior housing and amenities. The 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates show a maturing population. Christian County has had an increase in the percentage of 55+ residents.

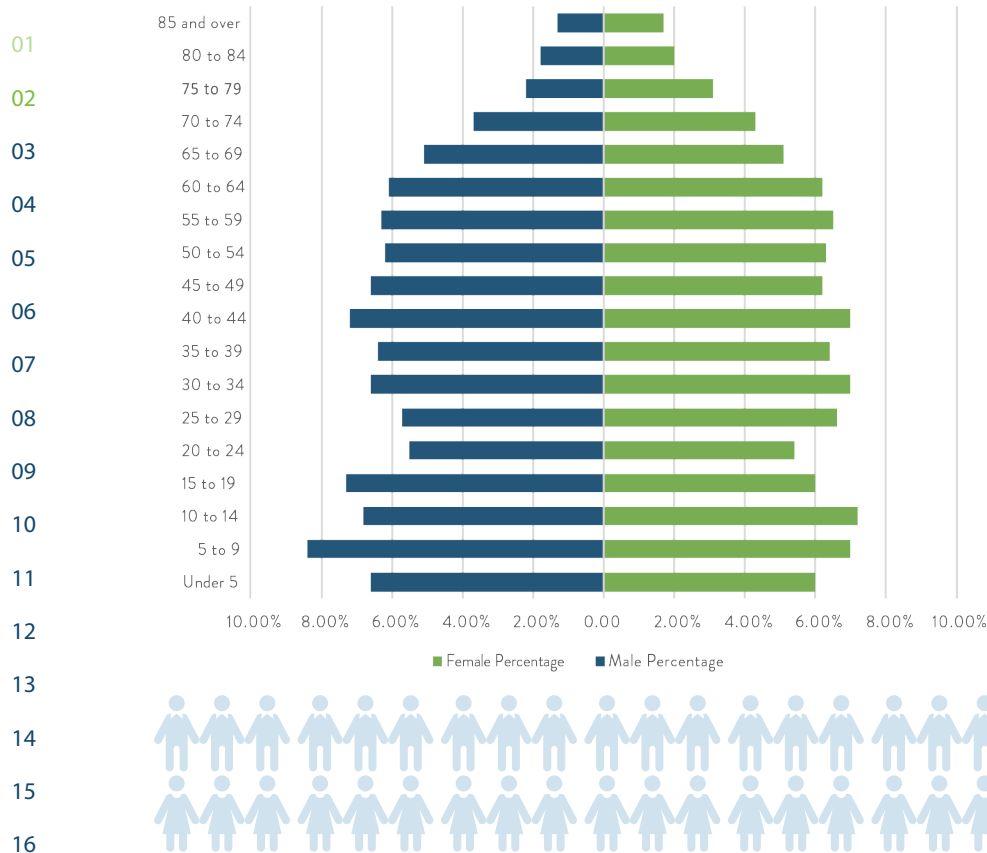
Looking toward the future, Christian County should focus on plans for this population age group. Adding senior-oriented amenities in the region as well as providing housing stock that accommodates this age



02 COMMUNITY PROFILE

group will cater to this future trend. Despite this, a large portion of the population is still between the ages of 30 and 44, with a median age of 37.9, which is lower than the national average of 38.2 years of age.

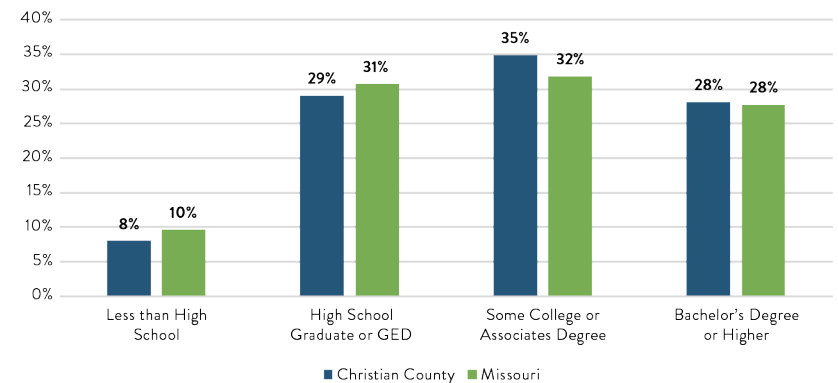
CHRISTIAN COUNTY POPULATION PYRAMID



Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is an important aspect of the county profile as it is often connected to other factors to make up the economic picture of Christian County including income and types of jobs desired by the residents. The 2020 ACS data shows that 63% of the residents over 18 years have had some higher education. Comparatively, Christian County has a slightly higher level of educational attainment than the state, which is at 60%. 40% of the residents over 25 years have received an Associate's degree or higher. Residents with a higher level of education are more likely to expect and desire better services and amenities.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



Income Characteristics

According to 2020 ACS estimates, the median household income for Christian County was \$64,442, which is higher than the state of Missouri at \$57,290. The table below shows that the greatest proportion of households, 20.8%, has an income within the range of \$50,000 to \$74,999 per year. 19.9% of the county's population earns between \$10,000 and \$34,999 per year. 41.4% of households earn over \$75,000

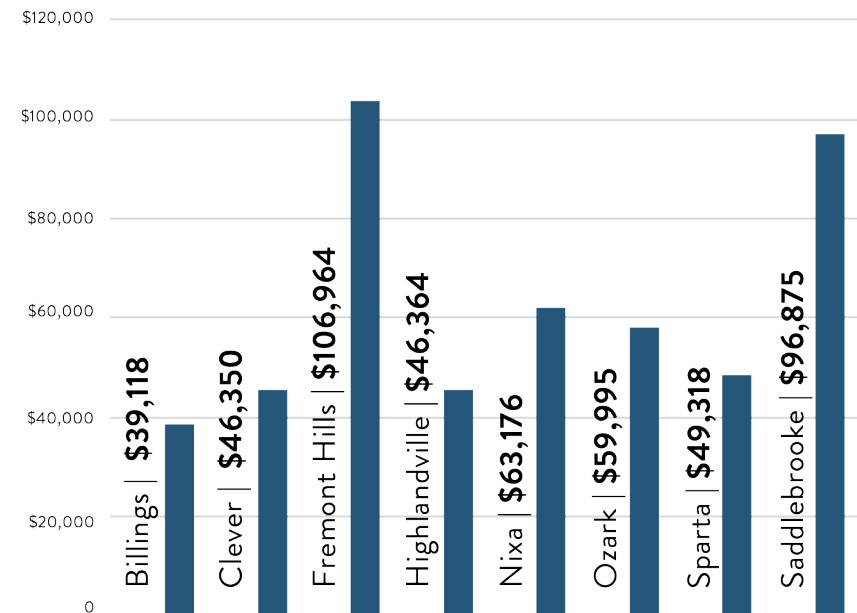
MEDIAN INCOME CHARACTERISTICS

Income	Number of Households	Percent
Less than \$10,000	1104	3.4
\$10,000-14,999	1202	3.7
\$15,000-24,999	2469	7.6
\$25,000- 34,999	2793	8.6
\$35,000-49,999	4678	14.4
\$50,000-74,999	6757	20.8
\$75,000-99,999	5295	16.3
\$100,000-149,999	4970	15.3
\$150,000-199,999	1786	5.5
\$200,000 or more	1396	4.3

per year. The higher median household income of the county indicates that many residents will have a higher disposable income that can be used to support local businesses and higher housing prices.

As shown in the graph to the bottom left, for the county's municipalities, Billings has the lowest median household income in the county at \$39,118. Fremont Hills has the highest in the county with a median household income of \$106,964.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



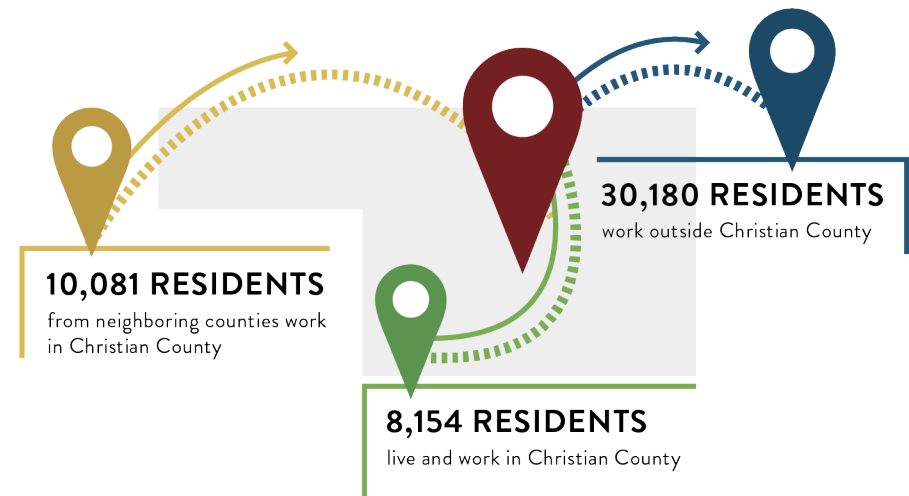


02 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Economy and Employment

Christian County's economy is closely related to that of the Springfield Metro Area. Major highways 65, 60, and 160 provide the county's residents with easy access to the Springfield area for employment and services. Municipalities located within Christian County are considered bedroom communities for the City of Springfield. In 2019, OnTheMap reported that 30,180 residents worked outside of the county, 8,154 residents live and work in the county and 10,081 travel from surrounding counties to Christian county for work. The mean commute time is 25.0 minutes to work. 52.6% of the working residents commute less than 10 miles. 24.7% commute 10 to 24 miles, 8.8% commute 25 to 50 miles, and 14% commute greater than 50 miles. Many of the residents within the county commute to Springfield for employment opportunities.

In comparison to 2010 data, educational services, and healthcare and social assistance saw the highest difference in the number of employees with an increase of 4.5% in 2020. Industries that saw the least change in the number of employees were agriculture, forestry, fishing and



THE TOP THREE INDUSTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:

Educational Services, Healthcare, and Social Assistance:
11,554

Retail Trade:
5,493

Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Services:
3,829

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hunting, and mining, and arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services at 0.1%.

Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over	Numbers	Percent
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	411	1.0%
Construction	3,451	8.1%
Manufacturing	3,197	7.5%
Wholesale trade	1,434	3.4%
Retail trade	5,493	12.9%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	2,219	5.2%
Information	574	1.3%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	3,087	7.2%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	3,409	8.0%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	11,554	27.1%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	3,829	9.0%
Other services, except public administration	2,682	6.3%
Public administration	1,302	3.1%

The largest employers in the county are the school districts of Nixa and Ozark, which is common in smaller towns. This is due to the number of families in Nixa and Ozark, and the population growth it has experienced over the last 20 years.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN CHRISTIAN COUNTY:

City of Nixa:
125 Employees

Walmart (Nixa):
287 Employees

Health MedX:
150 Employees

Walmart (Ozark):
375 Employees

NetSmart:
152 Employees

Nixa School District:
697 Employees

Christian County:
178 Employees

Ozark School District:
750 Employees

City of Ozark:
185 Employees

Lambert's Restaurant:
217 Employees

Nauvillis Healthcare Solutions:
275 Employees

Household Demographics >



02 COMMUNITY PROFILE

As of March 2022, Christian County has an unemployment rate of 2.73% which is lower than the unemployment rate for the state of Missouri at 3.55%. It is projected that jobs in the county will continue to grow. Labor force participation is slightly higher in Christian County at 65.10% than in Missouri, at 63.13%. However, the county has not reached its pre-pandemic rates of participation which peaked at 66.06% in 2019.

Household Demographics and Housing Characteristics

There are an estimated 32,487 households in Christian County. The average household size is 2.67 persons, which is higher than the state of Missouri at 2.44 persons. The average household size for Christian County has increased slightly in the past 20 years. In 2000, the average household size was 2.62 persons. Of the approximately 32,000 households in Christian County, 24,000 are families.

The majority of households in Christian County, 61.3%, are composed of married couples. This is considerably higher than the percentage for the

state which is 47.8%. 38.5% of households have one or more people under the age of 18. 28.9% of households have one or more people over the age of 65. The county has a higher percentage of female-headed households, with 20.6% compared to male-headed households at 11.18%.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE PERCENTAGES

Households by Type	Christian County		Missouri	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total households	32,487	100	2,440,212	100
Married-couple household	19,908	61.3	1,165,218	47.8
Cohabiting couple household	2,072	6.4	162,150	6.6
Male householder, no spouse/partner present	3,821	11.8	438,910	18
Householder living alone	2,847	8.8	322,307	13.2
65 years and over	986	3	91,406	3.7
Female householder, no spouse/partner present	6,686	20.6	673,934	27.6
Householder living alone	3,968	12.2	404,756	16.6
65 years and over	2,268	7	198,959	8.2
Households with one or more people under 18 years	12,506	38.5	718,835	29.5
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	9,384	28.9	726,183	29.8
Average household size	2.67	-	2.44	-
Average family size	3.07	-	3.04	-



The housing stock in Christian County is predominantly low-density, with 86.6% of structures containing only one unit – meaning that most households are single-family residences. The majority, 69.5%, of these houses contain two or three bedrooms and 27% of homes have four or more bedrooms. While single-family housing is and will be the dominant type of housing needed, there has been an increase in demand for multi-family housing and senior housing.

In terms of housing for the county, Christian County is a large owner-occupied housing community. According to 2020 ACS data, 74.7% of housing units in Christian County are owner-occupied. That leaves 25.3% of the units as renter-occupied.

The housing stock of Christian County is relatively new, which is reflective of the population growth it has experienced over the past few decades. 29.1% of residential structures were built between 2000 and 2009 alone. Previously, the county experienced a housing boom from 1980 to 1999 when 38.6% of homes were built. These periods where

homes were built quickly reflect the times when the county was experiencing significant growth. Over the past ten years, 10.9% of the total number of homes in the county were constructed. This reflects the exponential population growth that began in the 1980s. The population has continued to climb; however, it is not as drastic as the initial boom that occurred in the 20th century.

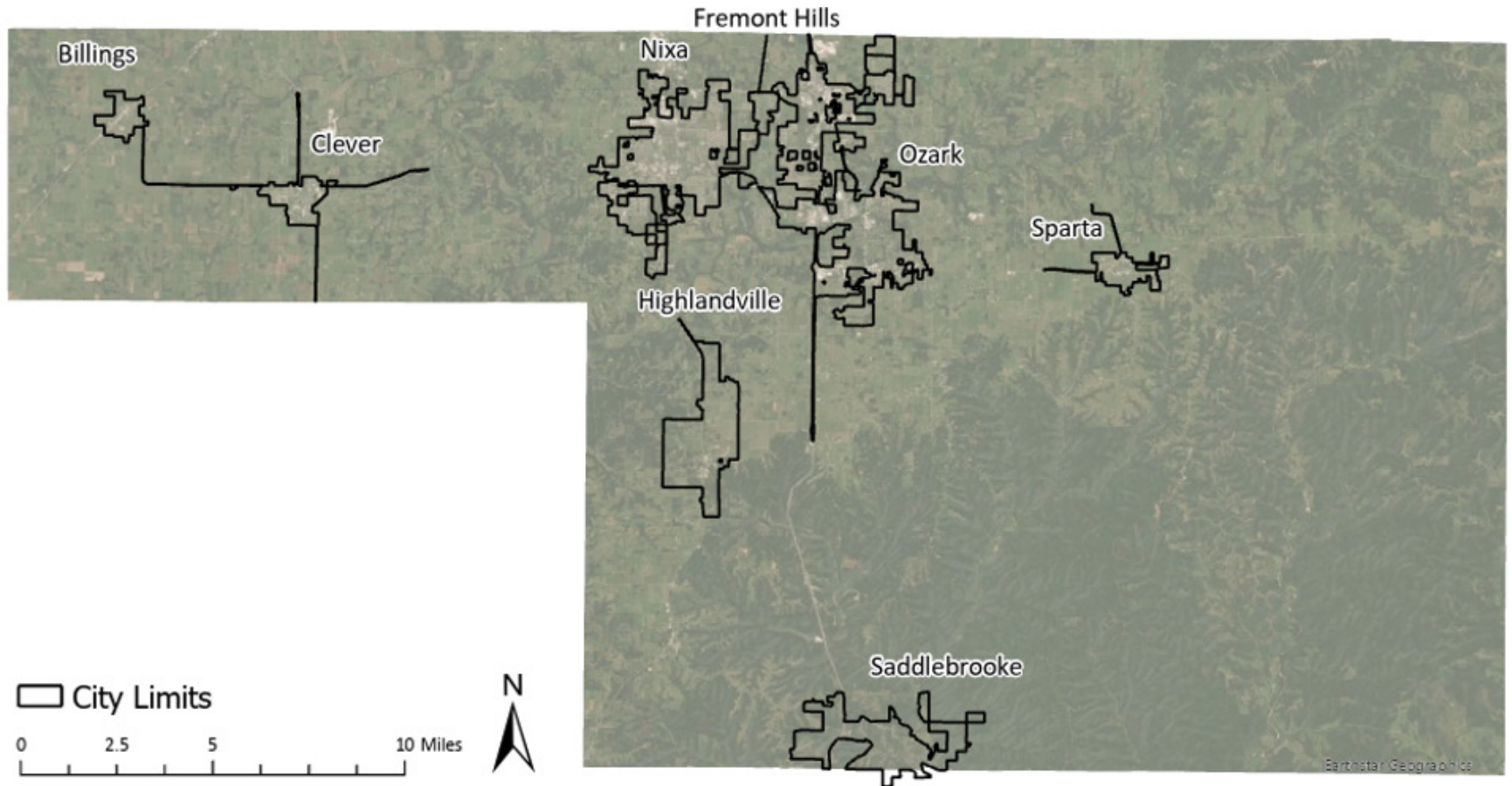
Municipalities

Christian County’s population has grown exponentially over the last 20 years due to the growth of cities nearby and the desirable bedroom community qualities. Bedroom communities are appealing for a few key reasons: their proximity to amenities and opportunities of larger cities and their low cost of living. Municipalities located in Christian County include Billings, Clever, Fremont Hills, Highlandville, Nixa, Ozark, Sparta, and Village of Saddlebrook. The following paragraphs will highlight distinct characteristics of each of these communities that should be taken into consideration when discussing the future of Christian County as a whole.



02 COMMUNITY PROFILE

CHRISTIAN COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES



Prepared 8/30/2022 by





Billings

Located in the northwest portion of Christian County, Billings is home to approximately 1,035 residents. Offering small-town charm, Billings has over 287 family households in the community. With the median age of the community being 47.1, there are many households with older children or no children at all.

The City of Billings developed and adopted its comprehensive plan in 2020. The plan discusses possible annexations and developing infrastructure for anticipated growth. Some of the goals for the city of Billings are to provide community services, recreational opportunities, and infrastructure to their residents. The city also desires to diversify its housing stock, improve its transportation network, and support business development. In the future, Billings wants to maintain its small-town feel while enhancing its sense of community.

Clever

Located between Billings and Nixa, Clever is home to 2,918 residents.

It is a part of the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area. The median age for the community is 30.3 years. Clever has experienced significant growth over the past two census cycles, becoming one of the fastest growing communities in Christian County.

The City of Clever developed and adopted its comprehensive in 2017. A considerable portion of Clever's plan addresses the need to enhance public services and recreational opportunities. Additionally, the residents of Clever want to see an increase in the quality and quantity of the housing stock to allow for moderate growth. In terms of transportation, Clever is focused on increasing safety for vehicle drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

Fremont Hills

Considered one of Missouri's unique small cities, Fremont Hills is home to 1,049 residents in the central northern part of the county. As a small town, Fremont Hills provides amenities most small towns do not offer, such as recreational centers, fine dining, a private 18-hole golf course,

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retail, and Fremont Hills Country Club. It also has the highest median income of all Christian County municipalities. The median age is 44.7 years old, which is higher than the county at large.

Highlandville

Highlandville is nestled in the quiet southwestern corner of Christian County. With a population of 963 in 2020, Highlandville is one of the smallest municipalities located in the county. Its population is maturing, with a median age of 50.2 years old. Settled in the middle to the late 1800s, Highlandville has evolved into a family-oriented small town with lots to offer, particularly in the outdoor recreation realm.

Additionally, Highlandville High School earned the mark of “Accreditation with Distinction” from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Highlandville is proud to offer its schools to the local families in and around Highlandville.

Nixa

Nixa is located between Clever and Ozark in the northern portion of the county. As the largest community in Christian County, Nixa’s 2020 population was 22,086. It has one of the lowest median ages in the county at 34.8 years. Home of the Nixa Eagles, families in the area take immense pride in their public schools. Nixa High School was one of eight schools to receive the 2022 Gold Start School award by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). With excellent education opportunities, excellent value housing, and overall high quality of life, Nixa has become an ideal destination for young families in the Springfield Metropolitan area.

The City of Nixa’s comprehensive plan was adopted in 2003 and updated in 2006. The city of Nixa prioritizes intentional growth throughout the plan. Some of their goals include taking an active role in new developments, creating a diverse economy, and maintaining and growing their road networks. They also prioritize the development of a variety of housing to support people of all socio-economic backgrounds and needs.



Ozark

The second-largest municipality in the center of Christian County is Ozark with a population of 21,284 in 2020. Incorporated in the mid-1850s, this community was founded on farming and trade. Since the construction of the railroad and US Highway 65, the community has continued to grow immensely due to its small-town charm and proximity to Springfield and other local cities. Ozark’s population increased from 19,767 in 2019 to 21,284 in 2020, making it one of the fastest-growing communities in the region. Along with being one of the fastest-growing communities, it also has one of the youngest populations. The median age for Ozark is 34.1 years old. With access to the Finley River, the city has been able to capitalize on the history and scenic beauty of the river.

The comprehensive plan for the City of Ozark was adopted in 2019. The city desires to focus on preserving the history and natural resources of the area in its plan. The City of Ozark is focused on cohesive growth in its plan and connecting the development of housing to the

transportation network. Ozark aims to encourage the construction of affordable housing, keep housing developments centralized around business districts, and restore historic homes in the downtown area.

Sparta

Sparta is located approximately four miles east of Ozark and has a population of 2,024. Its median age is 39.2 years old. Sparta is a family community that takes immense pride in its public school system. Sparta schools have received “Accreditation with Distinction in Performance,” the highest honor a school in Missouri can achieve, for 4 years in a row. The city offers a rural suburban feel to the community.

Saddlebrooke

Located between Springfield and Branson, the Village of Saddlebrooke rests in both Christian and Taney counties and offers a natural setting for residents. The village was established in 2003 as an incorporated village. Conveniently located near Mark Twain National Forest and Busiek State Forest, the village offers access to outdoor recreation

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activities as well as amenities located in either Ozark or Branson. It is the smallest municipality in Christian County and has the oldest median age at 62.7 years old.

Physical Characteristics

Physical characteristics of the landscape describe the topography, geology, soil composition, air quality, tree canopy, sinkholes, and floodplain. All of these characteristics are seen within the county and, in their own way, influence planning and development decisions.

Topography

Topography refers to the study of the land surface, foundation, and the overall physical landscape of an area. Christian County has a lot of different topographic characteristics. It features rolling hills as well as steep bluffs and valleys. It is also home to creeks, caves, and sinkholes. The county is located on three landforms – the Springfield Plateau, the Salem Plateau, and the Eureka Springs Escarpment. The Springfield Plateau covers the northern portion of Christian County, whereas the

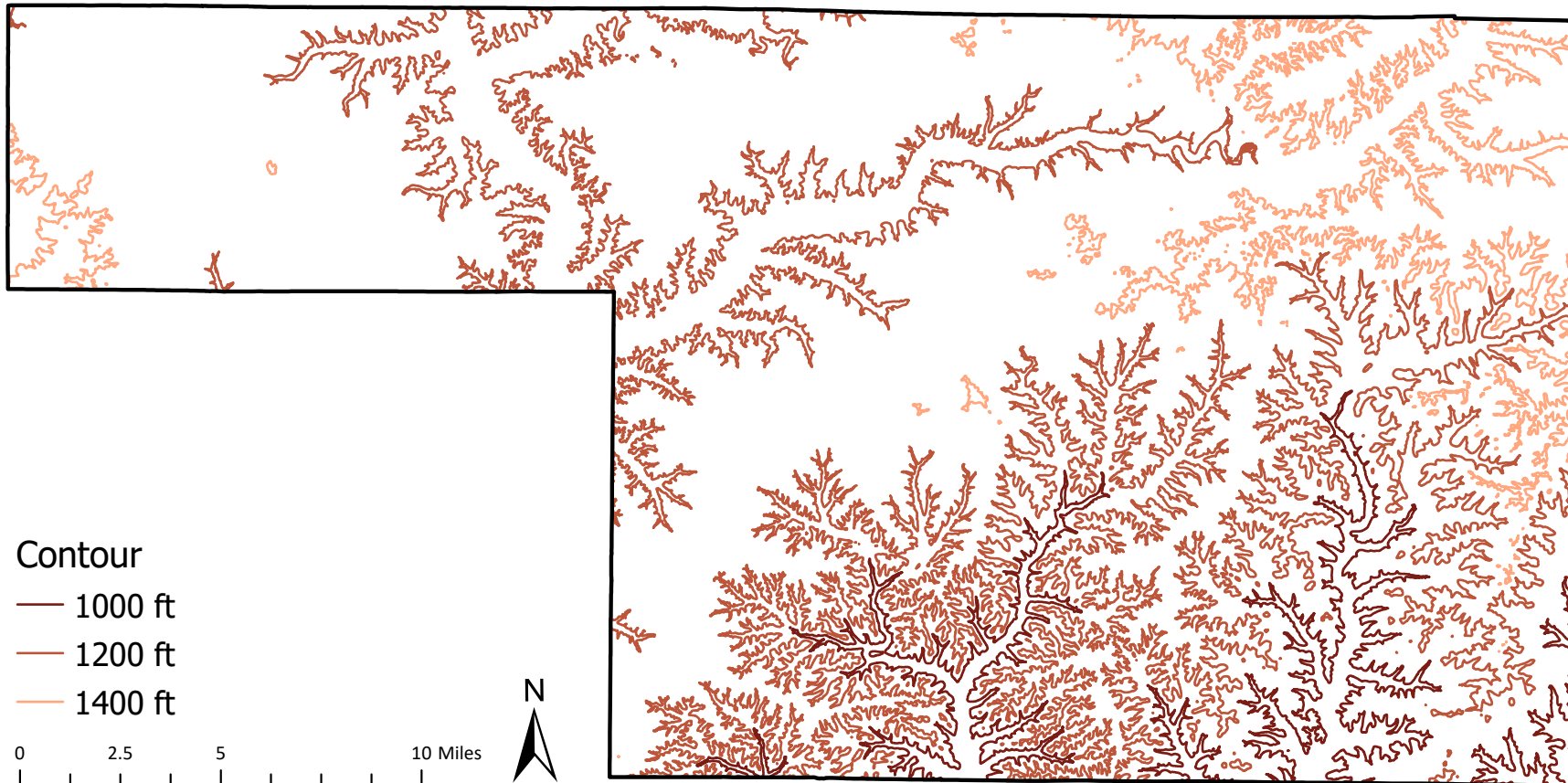
Salem Plateau is located in the Southeastern portion of the County.

The highest point of elevation in the county sits in the northeast portion of the Springfield Plateau with an elevation of 1,590 feet. The lowest point of elevation in the county is located on the Salem Plateau, at 830 feet. This is where Swan Creek enters Taney County. The variances of elevation throughout the county create steep slopes that can pose potential hazards and constrain future development.



[Explore the Christian County Topography Map >](#)

CHRISTIAN COUNTY TOPOGRAPHY



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Geology

Geology is the study of the Earth's dynamic interior, crust, and layer composition. Christian County's underlying layers consist of 8 different rock units and one unconsolidated unit. The depth of the soil throughout the county ranges from 10' to 60'. The remaining rock formations range from 0' to 180' below the surface. The most noteworthy rock formations seen in the county are Cotter Reeds Spring/Elsey, Northview, and Burlington/Keokuk.

The Cotter formation is the oldest, most deeply buried rock. The sandstone within the rock formation facilitates small amounts of groundwater that recharges many springs in Southern Christian County. This poses a hazard to well construction due to direct access to the surface and potential contaminants.

The Northview Formation is an important rock layer that ranges in thickness from 5-20 feet. This formation is comprised of siltstone and shale. The shale in the rock formation also serves as a barrier against

the downward percolation of groundwater. The Northview Formation can be considered as a divider between shallow and deep groundwater within the county. Springwater forms on top of the groundwater then percolate down to the shale until reaching a gully or a valley, then surfacing as a spring.

The Reeds Spring/Elsey formation ranges from 80 to 150 feet in thickness and is composed of alternating layers of limestone and chert. It appears in all parts of the county, but it is mainly on the hillsides that border the James River and Finley Creek. The soil on this formation is saturated with chert and gravel. The soil depth ranges from less than 1 foot to more than 15 feet. The development of onsite sewage disposal systems should be carefully monitored in these areas due to the porosity of the soils and the potential for groundwater contamination.

The Burlington/Keokuk Formation is the uppermost layer of bedrock in Christian County. Its depth ranges from 100 to 150 feet in thickness and is composed of limestone. This is found in the central portion of

the county and northern stream valleys. The weathering process in this formation creates a sharp irregular boundary with the above-lying residual soil material, resulting in pinnacles and cutters. Pinnacles and cutters cause issues for development due to their irregularity, the difficulty of detection before excavation, and increased costs during construction.

In Christian County, there are four main structural features that developers and citizens should be aware of. The 4 main faults in Christian County are Chesapeake, Sac River, Ponce de Leon, and Highlandville Faults. A fault is a fracture or series of fractures in the Earth's crust that occurs when stress is too great or when stress is applied too quickly.

The Chesapeake Fault is located in the western region of the county. The portion of the fault in the county runs from Lawrence to Christian County line west of the City of Billings and extends in a southeastern direction. Development and construction should try to avoid this



fault line if possible. The Chesapeake Fault line is what is referred to as a basement fault line. This type of fault line is made of rock underneath the sedimentary cover. Along the shear zones are faults and other structures which overlap with the sedimentary layer and create zones of weakness. These areas can be reactivated periodically by gravitational loading or tectonic stress, making them a dangerous area for development.



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The Sac River Fault runs parallel to the Chesapeake Fault, from north of the city of Nixa into where the James River crosses the Greene County and Christian County line. There are brecciated areas along this fault, which means that surface water and pollutants can easily infiltrate the groundwater and potentially risk contamination.

The Ponce de Leon Fault is primarily located in Stone County but extends into the southwest corner of Christian County. This fault line is not a threat to future development, but, as with any fault line, construction should seek to avoid the fault line.

Lastly, the Highlandville Fault line runs from the Christian and Stone County line, northwest of Highlandville, and in a southeastern direction to US Highway 65. This fault line is not a threat to future development and construction.



Sinkholes

Sinkholes are a depression, recession, or hole on the Earth's surface. These are caused when the rock below the surface naturally dissolves by groundwater circulating through the matter. As the matter dissolves and collapses, a space or cavern is developed underground. Because of the state's karst topography, and soluble rocks Missouri has more sinkholes and caverns than surrounding states, naming it the Cave State.

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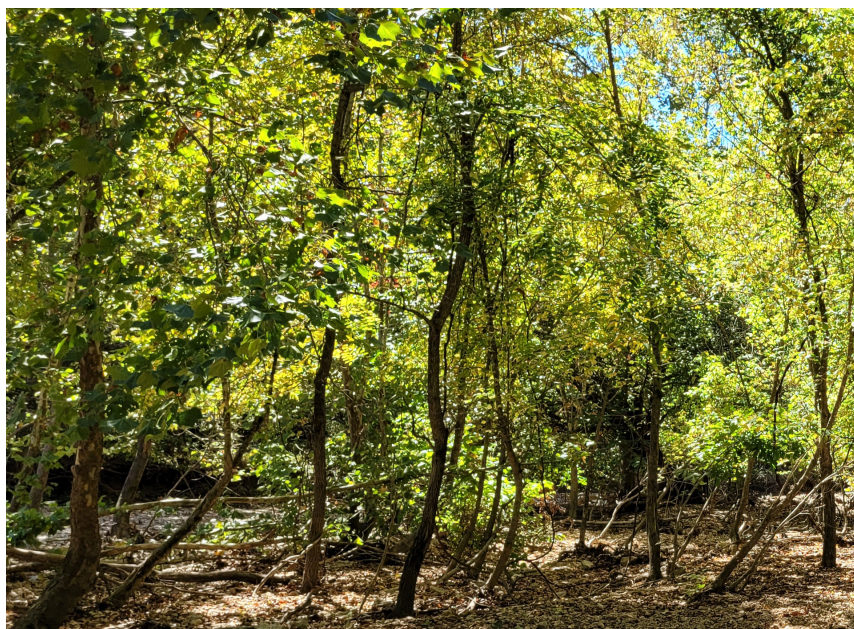
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Though this sinkhole was small enough to pose a minimal issue to city officials, sinkholes can span hundreds of acres. Prior to development, sinkholes should be identified, addressed, and avoided when possible. Recently, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources updated its map of sinkholes in the state. This can assist home builders and land developers in future projects.



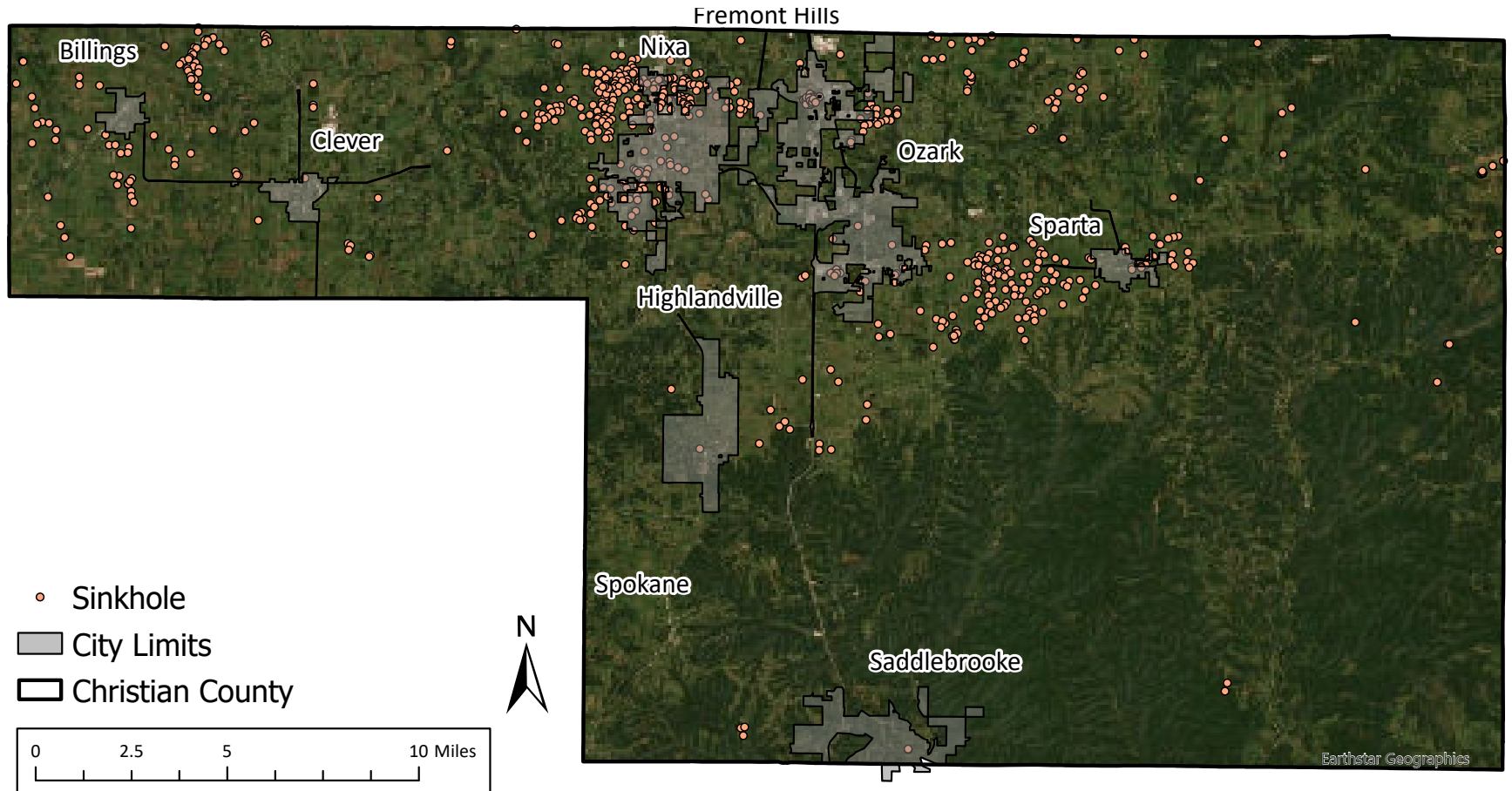
According to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri has over 7,300 caves on record, and 20 of these are open to the public. Christian County has 661 sinkholes that vary in size. Many of the sinkholes in the area can be found in the northern portion of the county, near and inside the city limits of Ozark and Nixa. Sinkholes pose a threat to the development and existing infrastructure within the county. In 2021, a small sinkhole opened on a road connecting Ozark and Nixa.

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SINKHOLE LOCATIONS



Prepared 8/5/2022 by



Soils

Soil analysis tells us the current health of the soil and its composition. Understanding soil composition helps farmers and developers understand the soil they are working with. The Christian County area consists of 17 individual soil types, which are divided into 23 different soil units. Soils are formed by loess, the accumulation of matter due to wind, or by residual materials from underlying limestone or dolomite bedrock. Multiple residuum deposited soils have a fragipan, a brittle, cement-like subsurface layer. Fragipan prevents the penetration of plant roots, reduces downward water movement, and limits the operation of major construction equipment. Permanent soil development in low-lying areas with a soil fragipan is susceptible to standing water and potential foundation damage during wet periods as downward percolation of water is restricted. These areas pose severe limitations for septic tank system installations. Substantial areas along Highway 14 around the cities of Nixa and Ozark have fragipan conditions, which results in standing water during heavy rain conditions.

Approximately 28,000 acres of
Christian County are considered
PRIME FARMLAND.

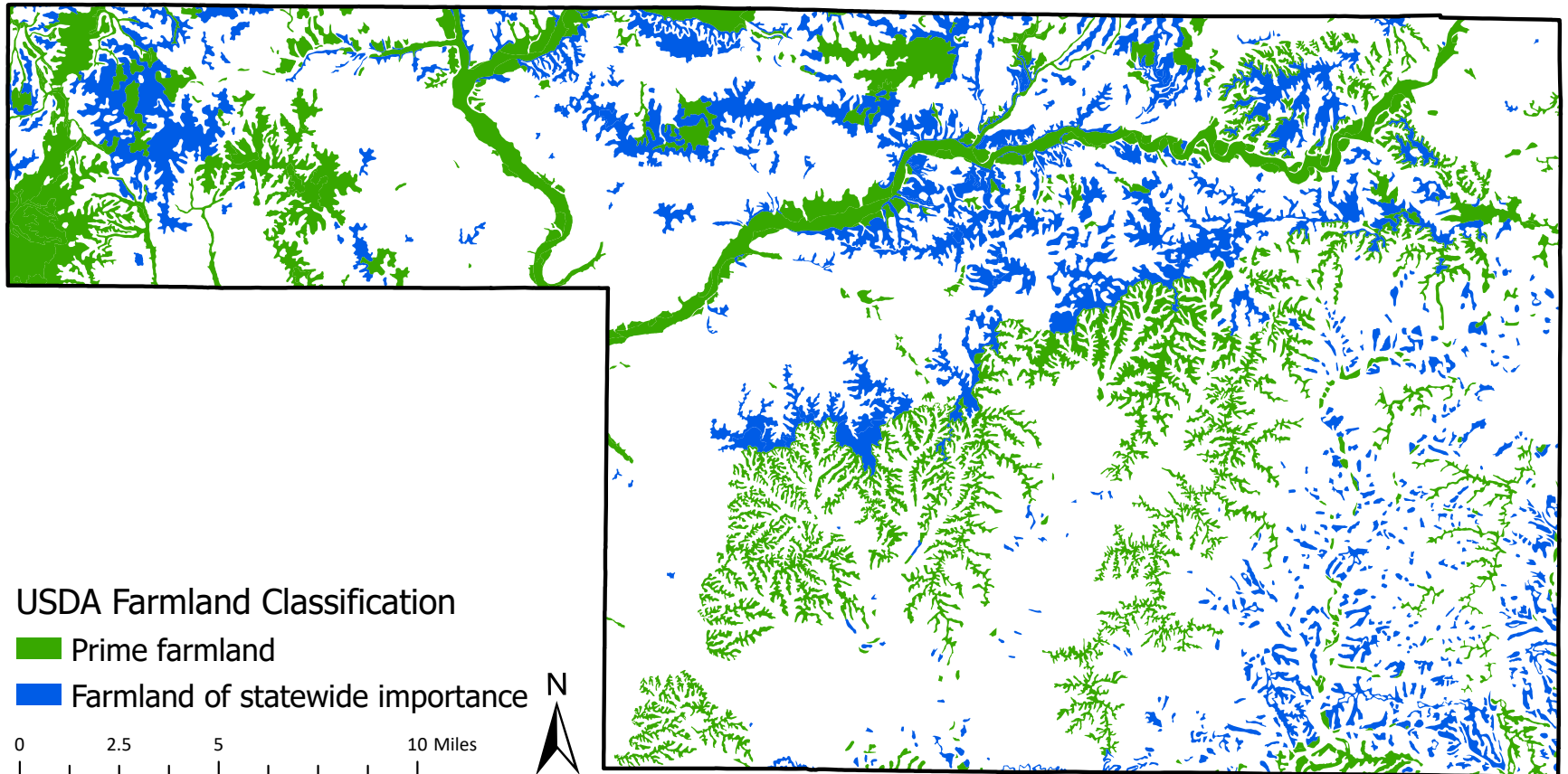
To preserve soil quality instead of increasingly frequent flooding and drought, some Missouri farmers are exploring no-till methods. The no-till method is when soil is not plowed, which allows it to retain existing crop residue from the previous harvest, which promotes soil biodiversity. The no-till method slows the evaporation process which means rainwater can be better absorbed in the soil and retained for dry periods. This can lead to higher crop yields during the summer season. Prime farmlands are areas where soil content is suitable for producing crops and feed. Approximately 28,000 acres of Christian County are considered prime farmland.

[Explore the Prime Farmland Map >](#)



02 COMMUNITY PROFILE

CHRISTIAN COUNTY PRIME FARMLAND



Prepared 8/30/2022 by





Air Quality

Air quality is an important factor to consider for all regions. Particulate matter is measured to determine the level of air pollution present in an area. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines particulate matter as particles that contain microscopic solids or liquid droplets that can lead to health issues after continued inhalation. PM_{2.5} is considered the greatest health risk of any type of particulate matter, making it the most commonly measured class of particle. PM_{2.5} is measured in micrograms per cubic meter of air, which is notated as µg/m³. 12 µg/m³ has been set by the EPA as the current annual standard, being considered a relatively healthy level of PM_{2.5} for most individuals. PM levels that go to or above 35 µg/m³ during a single day are considered unhealthy and can cause health issues for individuals with preexisting breathing issues. Prolonged exposure to 50 µg/m³ or more of PM_{2.5} can lead to serious health problems and even premature death.

Christian County currently has a PM_{2.5} level of approximately 10-12µg/m³ according to EPA models, making it a healthy area as of 2022. However, the county should continue to monitor EPA releases on area air quality to ensure air quality does not see a decline.

Tree Canopy

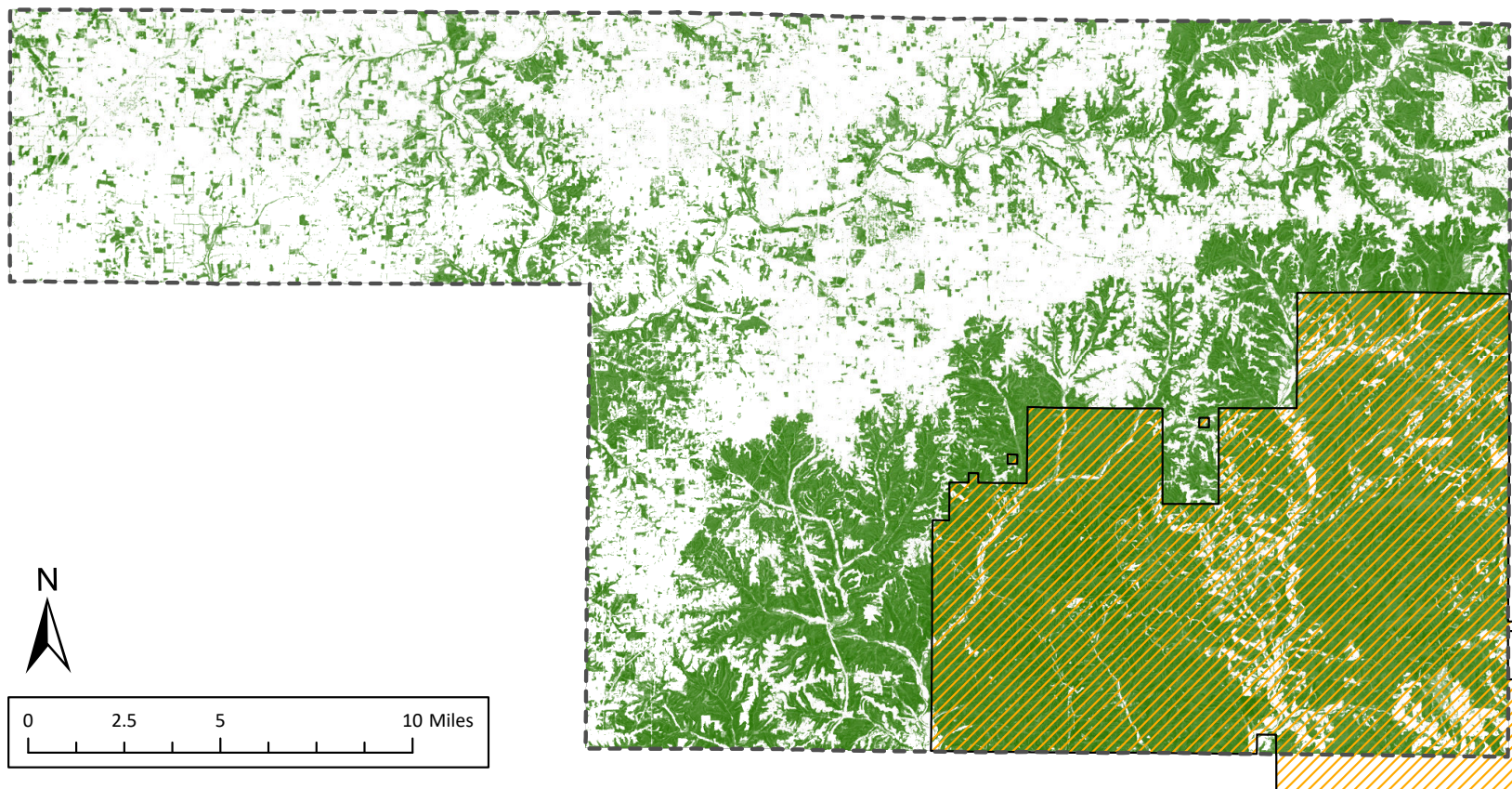
The majority of the tree cover in Christian County is located in the southeast. Tree cover is limited in the north, with Nixa, Ozark, and Sparta having very little tree canopy cover in and around the cities. Trees can provide numerous benefits to an area, and can be utilized to accomplish several things, including carbon absorption, water absorption, improvement of air quality, reduction in runoff and flooding, and even the basic role of providing shade and improving area aesthetics. The county may want to consider promoting planting initiatives throughout the area to capitalize on the many benefits trees can provide.

[See the Tree Canopy Cover Map >](#)



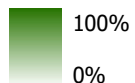
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TREE CANOPY COVER



 Mark Twain National Forest  Christian County Boundary

Tree Cover



Prepared 5/6/2022 by



Hydrology and Drainage

Christian County has four watersheds across the county. A watershed, also known as a drainage basin, is defined as any area of land where precipitation collects and drains off into a common outlet, such as into a river, bay, or other body of water, and are measured on several scales based on the geography that is most relevant to its specific areas. A watershed can be small, such as a modest lake or a single county. The four watersheds within Christian County are the Sac River, Spring River, James River, and Bulls Shoals Lake watersheds. It is crucial to preserve and monitor watersheds to ensure that the groundwater is not contaminated by harmful pollutants.

Bull Shoals Lake Watershed lies within the upper subdivision of the White River Basin in Arkansas and crosses over into Missouri. Bull Shoals Lake is mostly rural, including sizeable acreage in the Mark Twain National Forest. The watershed lies on the Salem Plateau, with a small portion of the northwestern edge of the watershed on the Springfield Plateau Major. Christian County tributaries in the Bull

Shoals Lake watershed include Swan, Bull, and Bear Creeks, which flow in a southerly direction.

A small portion of the western panhandle of Christian County, including the City of Billings, lies with the Sac River watershed which drains northwest to the Osage River. A small portion of the panhandle area west of Missouri Highway 13 and south of the City of Billings lies within the Spring River Basin. The Spring River drains in a northwesterly direction east of the City of Asbury in Jasper County then southwest into Kansas and to the Grand Lake of the Cherokees in Oklahoma. The northern third of the county is in the James River basin. From its headwaters in Webster County, the James traverses ninety-nine miles through Southern Greene County and Christian County, flowing in a southerly direction to where it is impounded in Table Rock Lake in Stone County. Major tributaries to the James flowing in Christian County include Finley Creek, Flat Creek, Terell Creek, and Wilson's Creek.

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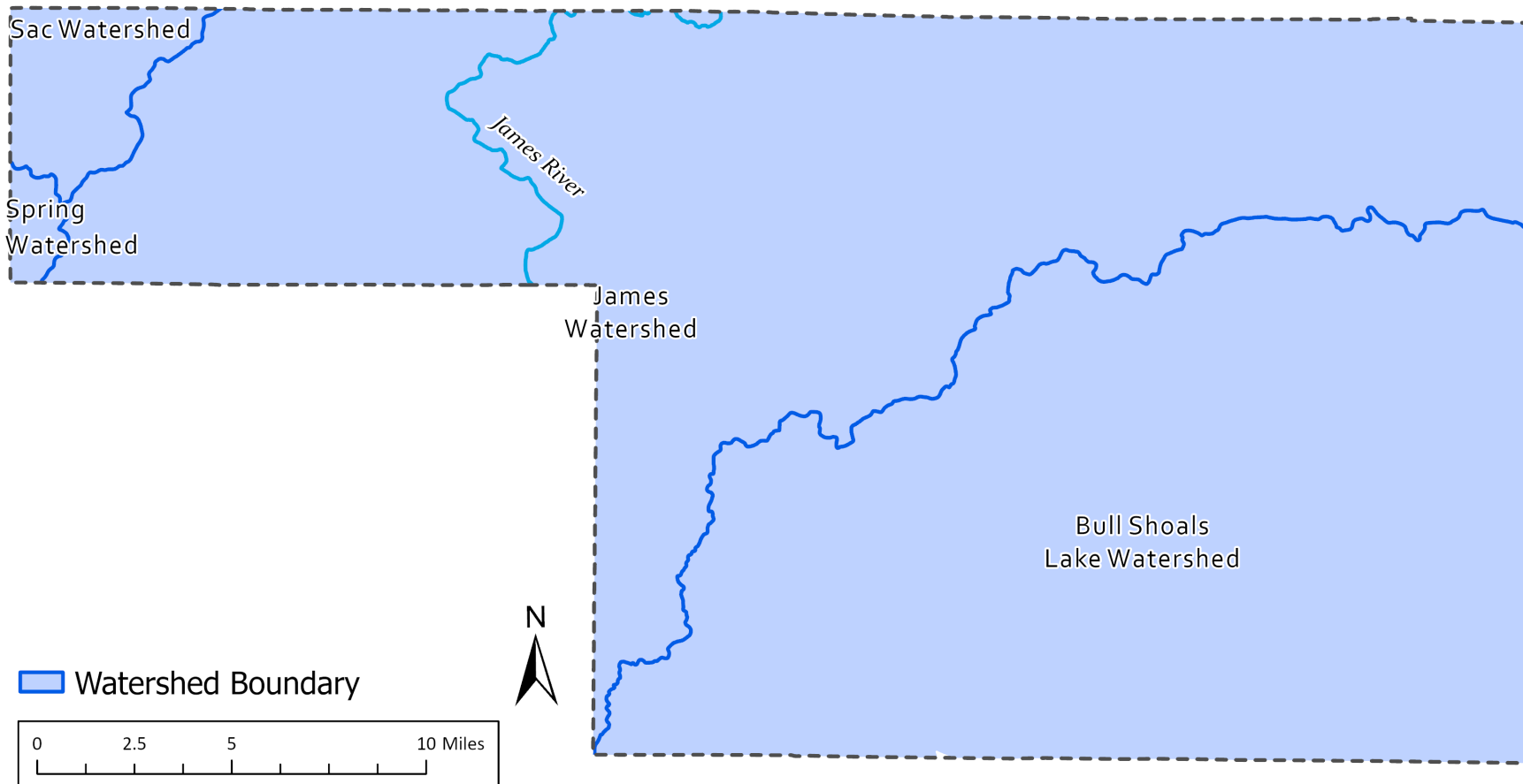
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The predominant agricultural activity in the watershed is cattle production. Finley Creek is the only stream or tributary flowing through any of the incorporated communities in Christian County. The smaller streams and creeks affect low water bridges on county roads and low-lying agricultural lands. Contaminated effluent from poorly designed livestock facilities, landfills, or sewage disposal facilities can quickly pass into the groundwater, thereby resulting in groundwater pollution.

Much of Christian County is considered a sensitive karst region which is the dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone, dolomite, and gypsum and is characterized by underground drainage systems with sinkholes and caves. The northcentral and northwestern parts of the county have been classified by the Missouri Department of Natural resources (DNR) as a sensitive area for well construction due to the karst topography.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY WATERSHED



Prepared 7/18/2022 by





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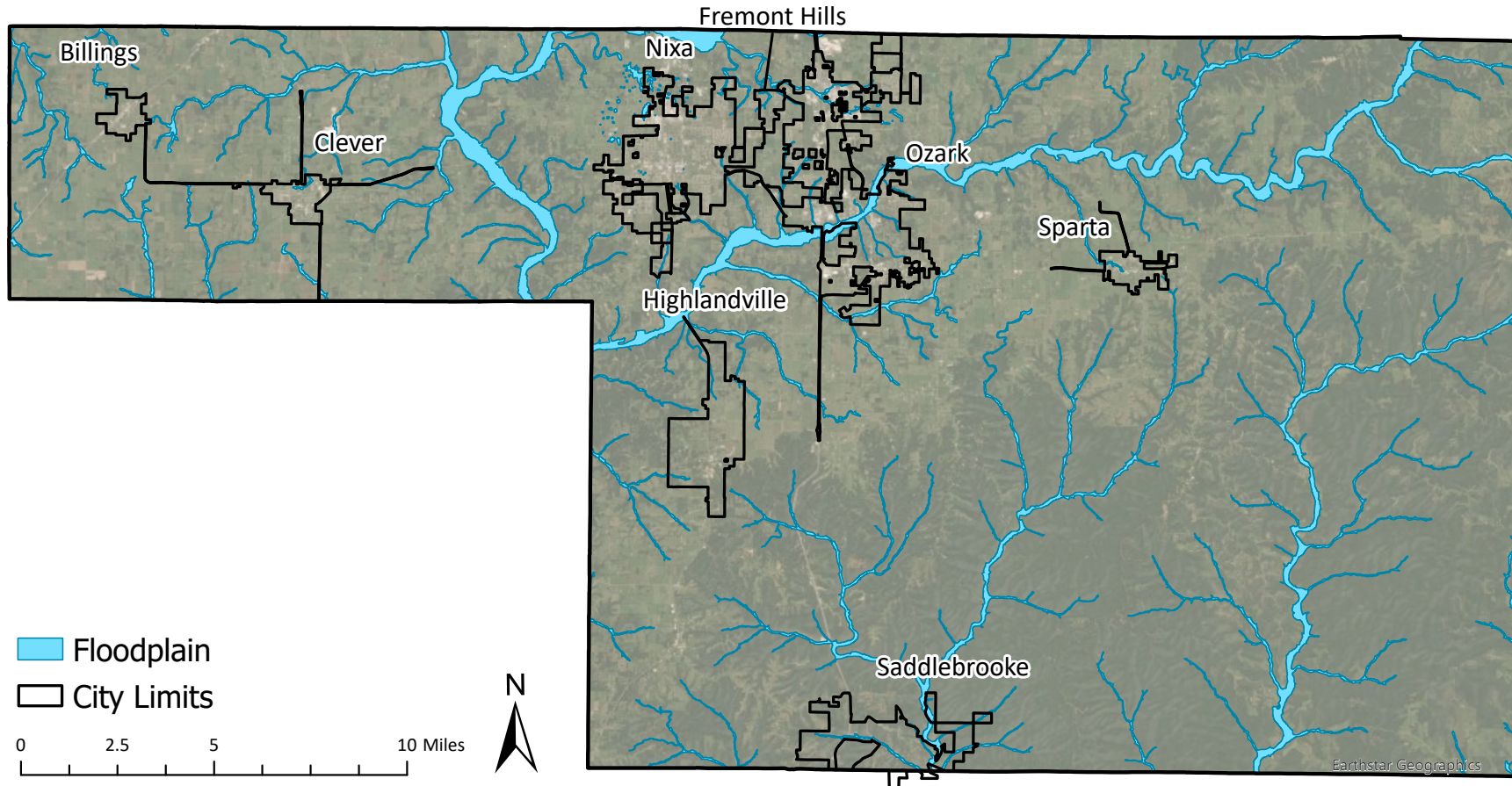
Floodplain

The 100-year floodplain is a delineation identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that indicates a 1% probability for an area to flood in any given year. These properties are extremely prone to loss of property or life if developed without compliance with local ordinances and requiring the property to be enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These areas are highly regulated by local ordinances, as well as state and federal regulations. Participation in the county's hazard mitigation plan, as well as the NFIP, can reduce costs associated with damage and ensure that new development is resilient to periodic flooding.



[Explore the Floodplain Map >](#)

CHRISTIAN COUNTY FLOODPLAIN



Prepared 8/30/2022 by





03 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Public facilities and services such as fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, libraries, community centers, senior centers, and all other places for recreation not only affect citizens' quality of life but also influences future development and growth. As families look to relocate, the availability of public facilities and services plays a big role in the decision process. There is an emphasis on strengthening public utilities in Christian County to accommodate future growth and addressing problem areas such as rural parts of Christian County. Electricity, natural gas, water, and sewer services in Christian County are serviced by different companies in each municipality. There are limited water and sewer facilities that are operated by the municipalities outside of the city limits.

Educational Facilities

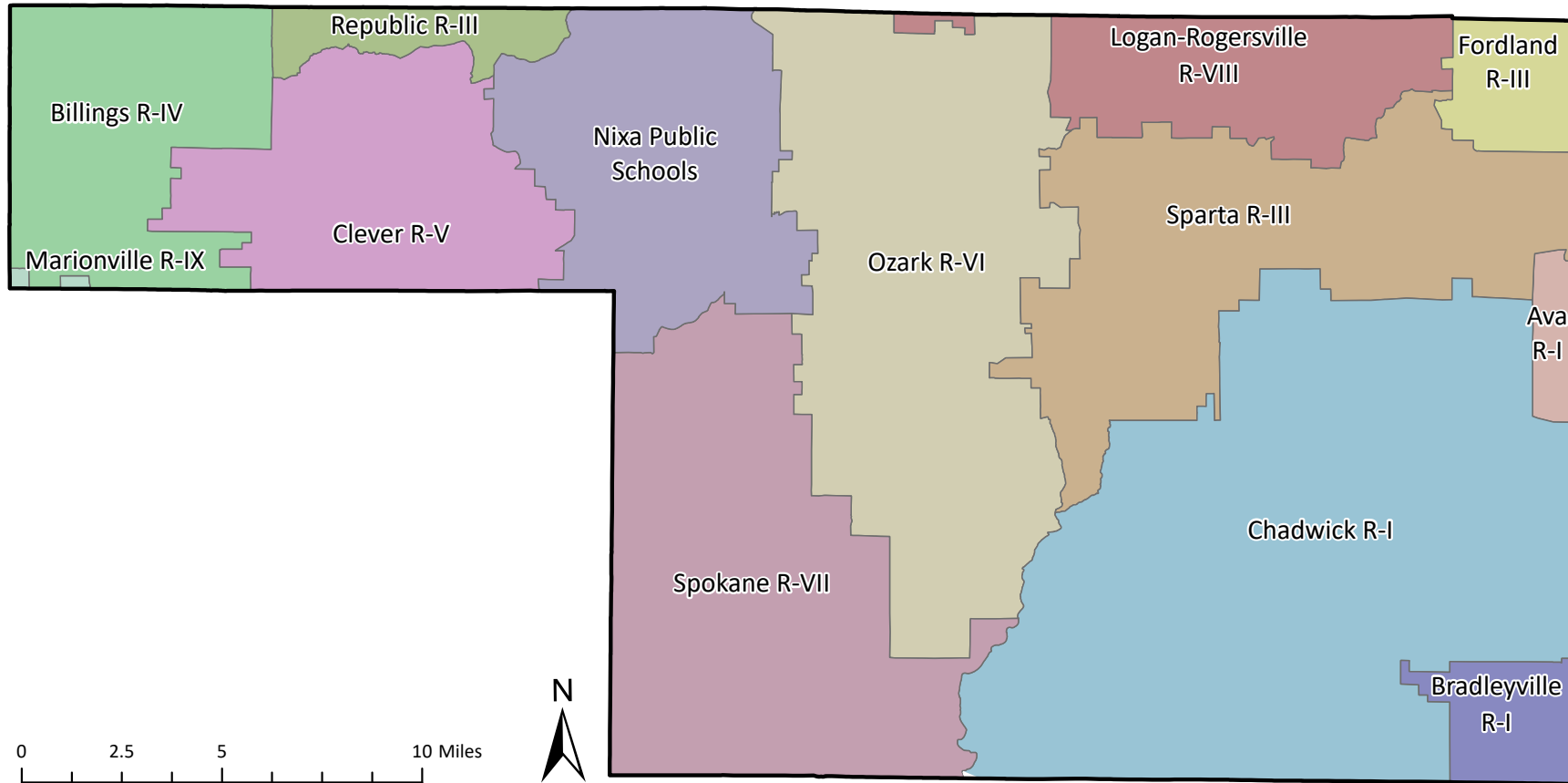
There are thirteen public school districts in the county: Ava, Billings, Bradleyville, Chadwick, Clever, Fordland, Marionville, Nixa, Ozark, Republic, Sparta, Spokane, and Rogersville School Districts. Ava, Bradleyville, Fordland, Marionville, Republic, and Rogersville School

Districts do not have facilities in the county and serve only a few county residents. There are 36 public schools in Christian County which serve over 83,028 residents within an area encompassing 563 square miles. The county is also home to the Ozarks Technical Community College – Richwood Valley Campus.



There are 36 public schools in
Christian county, serving over
**83,028 RESIDENTS WITHIN 563
SQUARE MILES.**

CHRISTIAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS



Prepared 8/30/2022 by





03 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Billings School District

The Billings School District covers a 40 square mile area, 7.09 % of total land, in the Christian County panhandle. This district is home to one elementary and one junior high/high school and serves 383 students.

The school facilities are located at 118 West Mt. Vernon St., Billings, in good condition. Facilities include 42 classrooms, two gymnasiums, a vocational and agriculture facility, eight offices, a cafeteria, a library, and ten restrooms. Renovations to the Pre-K-12th grade building were completed in November 2008. This renovation included six new high school classrooms, a new high school computer lab, and two new preschool-kindergarten rooms. Expansions to the library, and cafeteria also occurred in 2008.

Chadwick (R-1) School District

The Chadwick School District covers the largest geographic territory in Christian County, 135 square miles or 24.1% of total land. There are two schools located in the district's area—Chadwick Elementary School and Chadwick High School. The facilities include 19 classrooms, five mobile

classrooms, two gymnasiums, one agricultural building, four offices, and a cafeteria. The school facilities are generally in good condition. The district serves approximately 245 students.

Clever (R-5) School District

The Clever School District serves approximately 42 square miles, 7.4% of total land, in the panhandle area of the County. There are three schools located within the district, Clever Elementary, Clever Upper Elementary and Middle School, and Clever High School. Clever High School was renovated in 2008 and is home to a performing arts center, an 8-lane track, and a tornado shelter. There are approximately 1,200 students in the district.

Nixa (R-2) School District

The Nixa School District covers a 55 square mile area, 9.75% of total land. The facilities are all in excellent condition and include eleven campuses: The Early Childhood Center, Century Elementary, Matthews Elementary, George Espy Elementary, John Thomas School of Discov-



ery, Inman Elementary, Summit Elementary, High Pointe Elementary, the S.C.O.R.E school, Nixa Middle School, and Nixa High School.

The Early Childhood Program is offered to district children ages 3-5 years old. The school has ten classrooms plus an additional mobile unit which houses the Parents as Teachers offices. The current enrollment for the Early Childhood Center is 63 students.

Century Elementary is located east of town on North Street next to Nixa Junior High. The facility was built in 2001, sits on 32 acres, and houses grades K-4. It contains 25 classrooms, a computer lab, a library, and a multipurpose room. It has an enrollment of 463 students.

Matthews Elementary is located at 605 S. Gregg Road and sits on 20 acres. The school houses grade K-4 and are in excellent condition. The facility contains 27 classrooms, a mobile classroom, a computer lab, a library, and a multi-purpose room.

George Espy Elementary is located west of Nixa on Highway 14 and serves students in grades K-4. The building was constructed in 1987, is in excellent condition, and contains 35 classrooms, a library, and a multi-purpose room.

John Thomas Discovery School is a magnet school located at the corner of Cherry and Market Streets that houses grades K-6. It has an enrollment of 484 in 2022. The school became an accredited science, technology, engineering, arts, and math STEAM school in 2012.

High Pointe Elementary is the newest school in the Nixa R-2 district and is located east of town at 900 N. Cheyenne Road. The school was built in 2007 and houses grades K-4 with a total enrollment of 370 for the 2008-2009 school year. The facility has 36 classrooms, a library, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria.

Inman Intermediate houses grades 5-6 with a total enrollment of 382 in 2022. The facility located on 40 acres, at 1300 North Nicholas Road, is in good condition. The building has 31 classrooms, two modulars, a

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computer lab, a library, and a multipurpose gym/ cafeteria.

Summit Intermediate serves students in grades 4-6 with a total enrollment of 622 students. It is located at 890 N. Cheyenne Road in Nixa.

The S.C.O.R.E School is the Nixa alternative high school and has an enrollment of 50 students. The school is located at 1398 W. Mount Vernon and provides alternative methods of learning that meet the individual needs of students. The facility includes six classrooms, a multipurpose room, and a computer lab.

Nixa Junior High School is located in the old high school building on North Street in Nixa and serves grades 7-8. The structure sitting on 10 acres was built in 1969 and contains 46 classrooms, seven classrooms in mobile units, a library, gymnasium, an all-purpose room, an auditorium, kitchen, science laboratories, art facilities, industrial arts shop rooms, home economic rooms, and a track and football field. Nixa Junior High recorded a total enrollment of 982 students in 2021.

Nixa High School was built in 1998 and serves students in grades 9-12. The 225,000 square-foot building is in excellent condition and sits on 43 acres located at 514 S. Nicholas Road. The facility's capacity is 1,750 students. In 2008, high school enrollment was around 1,600, a 91% occupancy rate. The state-of-the-art facility includes 90 classrooms, an enlarged library, school theater, football stadium, and a 3,000-seat gym.

Ozark (R-6) School District

The Ozark School District serves a 90 square mile area, 15.95% of total land, and is home to seven schools: Ozark East Elementary, Ozark North Elementary, Ozark South Elementary, Ozark West Elementary, Ozark Middle School, Ozark Junior High, and Ozark High School. All schools are in good to excellent physical condition.

Ozark East Elementary was built in 1994 and is located at 2449 East Hartley Road. The facility is in excellent condition and includes 28 classrooms, a gym, and a library. The facility serves grades K-5 and the total enrollment for 2022 was 636.

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Ozark North Elementary, located at 3608 North Highway NN, is in excellent condition and houses grades K-5. The building has 28 classrooms, a computer lab, a library, a gym, and a cafeteria/multi-purpose room. Total enrollment for 2022 was 632.

Ozark South Elementary is located at 1250 W. South Street. It is in good condition and houses grades K-5 with a 2022 total enrollment of 644. The building has 27 regular classrooms, three special education rooms, a cafeteria, a gym, and a library.

Ozark West Elementary is the newest school in the Ozark R-6 School District. The school, built in 2007, is located at 3105 West State Highway CC. The building contains 28 classrooms, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, a library, and a computer lab. The school contains grades K-5 and reported a total enrollment of 625 in 2022. Ozark Middle School is located on Highway NN and was constructed in 1993. The building is in excellent condition and contains 50 classrooms, a computer lab, two gymnasiums, two libraries, and a cafeteria/multi-purpose room for grades 5-6.

Ozark Junior High is located on Jackson Street in the old high school building and is in good condition serving grades 8-9. The facilities include a total of 60 classrooms, 2 gyms, a cafeteria, and a library. The junior high had an enrollment of 928 for the 2022 school year.

Ozark High School was built in 2004 and serves 1,309 students, grades 10-12. The 247,621 square foot brick structure contains 78 classrooms, 2 gymnasiums, 11 computer labs, a library, an auditorium, and a cafeteria. When the new high school was built the junior high moved to the old high school facility and the old junior high building was used to expand elementary school needs.

Sparta (R-3) School District

The Sparta School District serves residents in the east-central section of the county, covering a 66 square mile area, 11.7% of total land. In the Sparta District, there is one pre-school, one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school.

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03 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Sparta Preschool offers both half-day and full-day programming for children ages 4 and 5. Sparta Elementary School serves about 300 students entering pre-K through 4th grade. The elementary school is located at 522 State Highway 125 N. Sparta Middle School houses 225 students in grades 5-8. It is located at 217 Division Street in Sparta.

Sparta High School has 223 students enrolled at its campus located on State Highway 14 e.

Spokane (R-7) School District

The Spokane School District covers 81 square miles, 14.36% of total land, and serves residents in the southwestern section of Christian County. There are three schools within the Spokane School District--Highlandville Elementary, Spokane Middle School, and Spokane High School.

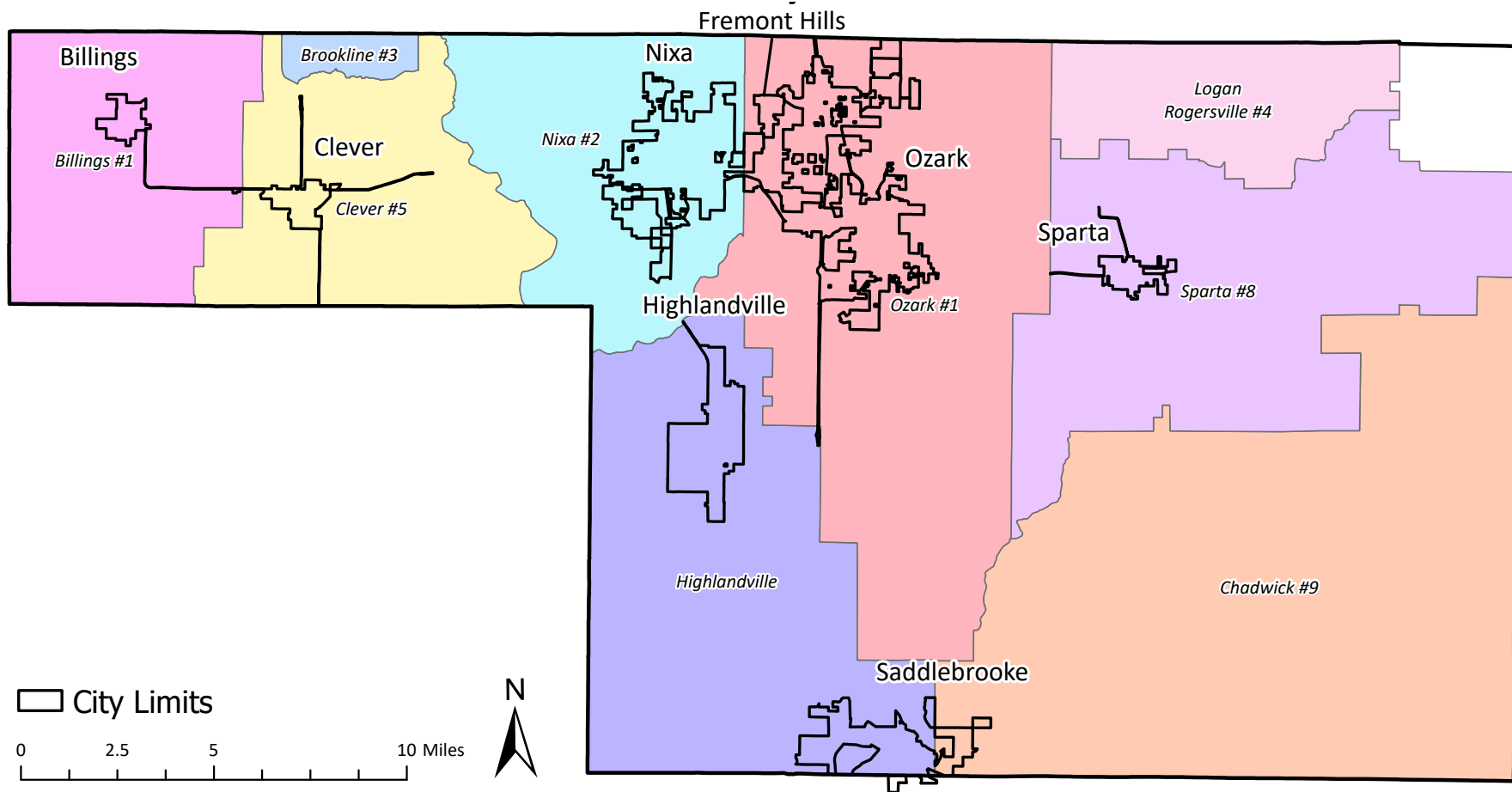
The high school facilities were constructed in 1992 and include 19 classrooms, a gymnasium, a library, and a cafeteria. The high school reported an enrollment of 204 students for the 2022 school year. The

Middle School facility has 12 classrooms, a gymnasium, a library, and a cafeteria. The 2022 enrollment for the Middle School was 144 for grades 6-8. The elementary facility houses 25 classrooms, one library, one gymnasium, two offices, and one cafeteria. The elementary reported an enrollment of 339 students for grades K-5.

Fire Protection Districts

There are seven fire protection districts in the county: Billings, Clever, Highlandville, Logan-Rogersville, Nixa, Ozark, and Sparta Fire Protection Districts. All of the fire protection districts have mutual aid agreements with surrounding districts, with assistance provided on request. 22 fire departments serve a population of 83,023 in an area of 563 square miles. There is one fire department per 3,774 people, and one fire department per 25 square miles.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT



Prepared 8/30/2022 by





03 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Billings Fire Protection District

The Billings Fire Protection District serves the area of Christian County west of Farm Road 147. This district also extends into portions of Stone, Lawrence, and Greene Counties. Fire protection equipment is housed at three stations and the district operates with 40 volunteer firefighters.

Stations are located throughout the district. One station is located in Billings on Washington Street, a second Station is located in Lawrence County on Highway 14 West, and a third is located on Highway 13. A fourth station is planned around the Greene County line. The district also has mutual aid agreements with Clever, Republic, Crane, Hurley, Marionville, Marionville Rural, North Stone County, and Aurora.

The Billings District is supported by a \$0.3939 property tax levy.

In addition to fire protection services, the district also provides first response services and instructors, storm warnings, and participates in school programs. Plans to upgrade fire protection services include the addition of a fourth station currently under construction, and additional equipment including two more engines, and an aerial truck.

Brookline Fire Protection District

The Brookline Fire District services a small area of Christian County generally bounded by ZZ Highway on the east, Terrell Creek on the south, and P Highway on the west. The district has two stations; Station #1 is in Brookline and Station #2 is at Farm Roads 97 and 178. Fire protection services are provided by 26 volunteer firefighters and the district operates on a \$0.2435 property tax levy. Brookline has mutual aid agreements with Clever, West Republic, Willard, and Battlefield. The Brookline District maintains an average response time of seven to eight minutes depending on location. The district provides a range of public services, including storm warning and rescue services. Anticipated needs over the coming years include building a new station in Greene County and purchasing a hazmat truck and training four new hazmat technicians. The department also wants to train more first responders.

Chadwick Fire Protection District

The Chadwick Fire Protection District serves a 135-square-mile area in the southern and eastern part of the County. In November of 2001,

the fire protection district was voted in as a tax-supported department. The district has cooperative agreements with Sparta and Forsyth and an unwritten agreement with the Conservation Department and the National Park Service (Mark Twain National Forest area).

The district's fire equipment is housed on Highway 125 in Chadwick and includes two pumpers, two tankers, one rescue unit, and a small brush truck. The district operates on a \$ 0.2982 tax levy. The district's personnel are comprised of 17 volunteer firefighters and 15 first responders. All volunteers respond to calls, except for grass fires. Under the agreement with the National Park Service, the Chadwick volunteers will respond to a fire in the Mark Twain National Forest if a member's property is in imminent danger.

The district has several needs that are related to the lack of financial resources and the rural nature of the district's service area. One of the most immediate needs identified is to build a new station out around the district and purchase more equipment. Because the district covers a



largely rural area, adequate sources of water supply are also a concern. The district either need increased water carrying capacity or additional water supply sources in the field. The Chadwick District provides other services besides fire protection. The district also provides first responders and storm watchers. A storm-warning siren was donated to the district, but this must be repaired before it can be put into service.

Clever Fire District >



03 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Clever Fire Protection District

The Clever Fire Protection District serves the portion of Christian County located generally between Billings and Nixa. The district also has mutual aid agreements with Billings, Hurley, Nixa, Republic, Highlandville, Battlefield, and Brookline. The district has three fire stations, one is in Clever, Boaz and another is situated in Stone County at Union City.

Fire protection services are provided by 35 volunteers. The district operates on a \$0.3784 tax levy. The average response time to fire is eight minutes. The district has a fire insurance rating of seven for rural and four for the city. These ratings were given to the district following an inspection by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) and have a classification scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the best possible rating. Firefighting vehicles maintained by the district include four pumper trucks, five tanker trucks, two brush trucks, one rescue, and one heavy rescue truck. The district also provides storm warnings and emergency medical services. The district has 18 certified first responders and five emergency medical technicians to assist on ambulance calls.

Highlandville Fire Protection District

The Highlandville Fire Protection District encompasses a 100-square-mile area in the central and southern portions of the County. Fire protection is provided by 30 volunteer firefighters operating out of four stations, one station located south of Highlandville, a second station located in Abesville, a third located at Steinert Lane and Highway 160, and a fourth at Saddlebrooke. The main equipment housed at these four facilities includes Station #1 – pumper, rescue, tanker, brush truck, and service truck. Station #2 – pumper, tanker, brush truck, rescue vehicle. Station #3 – pumper, tanker, brush truck, rescue vehicle. Station #4 – two engine pumpers, tanker, brush truck, rescue vehicle.

In addition to fire protection, the district also provides emergency medical services, first responders, and storm warnings. Emergency response equipment on hand includes airbags and two sets of jaws. The district's operations are financed through a \$0.3765 tax levy. There are no user fee charges except in unusual circumstances. Written mutual aid agreements are in effect with Ozark, Nixa Western Taney, Hurley,



and Southern Stone. The district maintains a typical response time of four minutes from the point of notification via pagers to manning the fire trucks. The district anticipates a fifth station, an additional tanker, engine, and brush truck. The Highlandville District has also noted the need for additional water supply sources at appropriate locations throughout the county, such as a dry hydrant system.

Logan-Rogersville Fire Protection District

In addition to portions of Greene and Webster Counties, the Logan-Rogersville Fire Protection District also serves the northeast corner of Christian County along Highway U. The district maintains three stations in Greene County. Station #1, located on Highway 125, is the district's headquarters and houses the district's front-line apparatus. Station #2 is located on Blackman Road and responds to all fire and medical emergencies on the west side of the district. The third Station, Station #5 is the maintenance station and is located on Farm Road 174 west of Rogersville. Station #4 and Station #6 are located in Webster County. Station #4 is located at Highway AD and Highway KK and Station #6 is

in the city hall of Rogersville. Station #3 is in Christian County off Highway VV, south of Rogersville. Mutual aid agreements are in effect with surrounding fire districts except for Springfield. The district operates on a \$0.3526 tax levy and is manned by 40 volunteer firefighters and 22 full-time staff. Of the total personnel, there are 17 emergency medical technicians, five paramedics, and 30 first responders.

In addition to firefighting equipment, the district also has specialized equipment for rescue services including two sets of Jaws, spreaders-cutters, light and heavy airbags, and six defibrillation units. The district also provides storm-warning services. The average response time is four minutes. The district hopes to add a new engine to its apparatus in the coming years. The district has noted the need for additional water sources, such as fill wells located throughout its service area.

Nixa Fire Protection District

The Nixa Fire Protection District covers an area of approximately 53 square miles. District boundaries run north of the Christian and Greene

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03 PUBLIC FACILITIES

County line, west along the James River 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 which is currently at \$0.6749 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation. All taxes are collected by the Christian and Stone County Assessor's Office. The full-time staff provides 24-hour coverage. Equipment is located at four stations: Station No. 1 located at 711 N. Main Street and Station No. 2 located at 301 S. Nicholas Road in the city, Station No. 3 located at 1752 W. Tracker Road northwest of the city and Station No. 4, located at 1765 S. Nicholas Road southwest of the city.

Ozark Rural Fire Protection District

The Ozark Rural Fire Protection District covers the central portion of Christian County surrounding Ozark, between the Greene County line on the north and close to the Taney County line on the south. The district has written mutual aid agreements with the Highlandville Fire Department and the Logan-Rogersville Fire Protection District.

The district also has verbal agreements with all other departments in the county. The Ozark District is supported by a \$0.3888 tax levy. The district operates with 31 volunteer firefighters and 23 paid staff. Of the total personnel, 12 are Emergency Medical Technicians, two paramedics, and 25 first responders. The district maintains four stations. Station #1 is located at 604 N. 3rd Street in Ozark, Station #2 is located at Christian County Comprehensive Plan 99 Highway 65 and County Road CC, Station #3 is sited at Highway W at the Christian Center, and station #4 is located at 175 Pippenville Road.

The average response time to fire alarms within the district is 2 1/2 to 3 minutes and fire insurance ratings range from 3 to 5, depending on location. All properties within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant received a score of 3, while a rating of 5 was given to properties that do not fall within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant but are within 5 miles by road of a fire station. The district also provides rescue services and storm warnings. At present, the district has no major problems or needs to maintain fire protection services. The district will soon be adding a brush truck to

Station #3 and currently is attempting to add another ladder to Station #1 that will help to suppress fires in larger structures.

Sparta Fire Protection District

The Sparta Fire Protection District encompasses an area of 150 square miles in the northeastern part of Christian County. The district's equipment is housed at the Community Building in Sparta. The department has two pumpers, a tanker truck, a brusher truck, and a mini pumper. The Fire District is supported by a \$0.2734 tax levy. The department has 26 volunteer firefighters and maintains a two-minute average response time.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in Christian County is provided by the police departments in the municipalities and by the Christian County Sheriff's Department. The training for law enforcement personnel includes areas of communications, domestic violence, crisis intervention, etc. to not only promote the welfare of the citizens but also to learn effective ways

to deescalate volatile situations.

Christian County Sheriff's Office is housed in the Christian County Justice Center in Ozark. In addition to providing law enforcement for the county's citizens, the Sheriff's Department also provides different community programs such as extra patrol requests, citizen's academy, women's self-defense program, youth academy, neighborhood watch programs, ride-along programs, and D.A.R.E.

Emergency Management

The Christian County Emergency Management Agency aids with effective and efficient coordination of resources and provides response and recovery in the event of emergencies and disasters. The agency advises the County Commission on disaster and hazard mitigation measures and implements measures that are deemed appropriate by the Commission. Some of the services and programs provided by the agency are Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, emergency notifications and alerts, and safe rooms.

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03 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Ambulance and Rescue Services

The Christian County Ambulance District, formed in 1984, provides ambulance services throughout the county. The Ambulance District has Emergency Management Services (EMS) stations in Sparta, Spokane, Mid and North Ozark, and Nixa. The Ambulance District is governed by six-elected board members and funding is provided through property tax. In 2016, the district annexed a portion of northern Stone County that includes Highlandville Fire Protection District's response areas and rural areas of Abesville and Ponce De Leon, making it a dual county ambulance district.



Library Services

Four county libraries throughout the county serve the residents' education and recreational needs: Clever Community Branch, Nixa Community Branch, Ozark Community Branch, and Sparta Community Branch. Some services and programs offered by the libraries are study rooms, test proctoring, seed library, reference assistance, school and daycare visits, and voter registration. The library also hosts events for children and families both online and in person.

Parks and Recreation

Although there is an abundance of recreational opportunities in the county, the county does not own or operate parks or recreation facilities. Most of the recreational land in the county lies within the Mark Twain National Forest. Mark Twain National Forest covers the southern and eastern portions of Christian County. Mark Twain National Forest is the largest public land manager in Missouri, with over 5% of the land base. It is comprised of 1.5 million acres of land stretching across 29 Missouri counties including Christian County. Christian County uses the National

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Forest for recreational purposes as well as preservation efforts. It has two developed recreation areas: Cobb Ridge and Camp Ridge. These areas include camping units, picnic areas, and trailer parking. These are designated areas of recreation for outdoor use and can be used for a variety of purposes.

Busiek State Park is forested with woodlands, glades, and old fields. Amenities at the park include picnic areas, an unstaffed firearms range, an intermittent stream, and a permanent stream. A well-marked trail system provides 18 miles of trails for use by hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders. Camping is allowed in the park with a permit and certain types of hunting are allowed depending on the season. Overall, Busiek State Park provides a large amount of recreation in Christian County.

Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield is home to the second major battle of the Civil War, and the first major Civil War battle fought west of the Mississippi River. It is a major historical site in Christian County and

is recognized for its historic value to the community and surrounding areas to commemorate those of the past and interpret the battle within the context of the war in the Trans-Mississippi West. It comprises a 4.9-mile paved tour road accessed by private vehicles, bicycles, or on foot.

There is an abundance of trails such as the Ozark Finley River Greenway Trail and Glade Top Trail that receive a lot of visitors. A portion of the James River is on the Ozarks Greenway Trail where residents and visitors enjoy fishing, kayaking, and other water activities.

There are two community centers in Christian County, the Ozark Community Center, and the Nixa Community center. They serve as a place for recreation for residents by providing state-of-the-art exercise equipment, an aquatic center, and multiple instructor-led fitness classes. These community centers also offer youth sports and summer camps. This helps contribute to the overall happiness and quality of life for Christian County residents.

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03 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Water

Residents and businesses in Christian County receive their water supply from groundwater that is supplied through municipal water systems, various other public water systems, and private wells. Christian County does not provide public water services. Each of the county's municipalities has its own municipal water system except Fremont Hills. Fremont Hills is served by Ozark's water system. A majority of the unincorporated areas receive their water from private wells. The cities of Nixa and Ozark also provide water services to some developments outside their city limits.

Sewage

As with water systems, multiple public sanitary sewage systems are serving the entire county. There are multiple public sewage systems operated by municipalities that serve mobile home parks or other subdivisions, but most residents rely on septic tank disposal systems. Because of this, Christian County has been proactive in educating residents and ensuring that all sewage disposal systems installed in

the county must be permitted through the Health Department. This is important for not only a clean environment for the residents but also for protecting the area's groundwater supply.

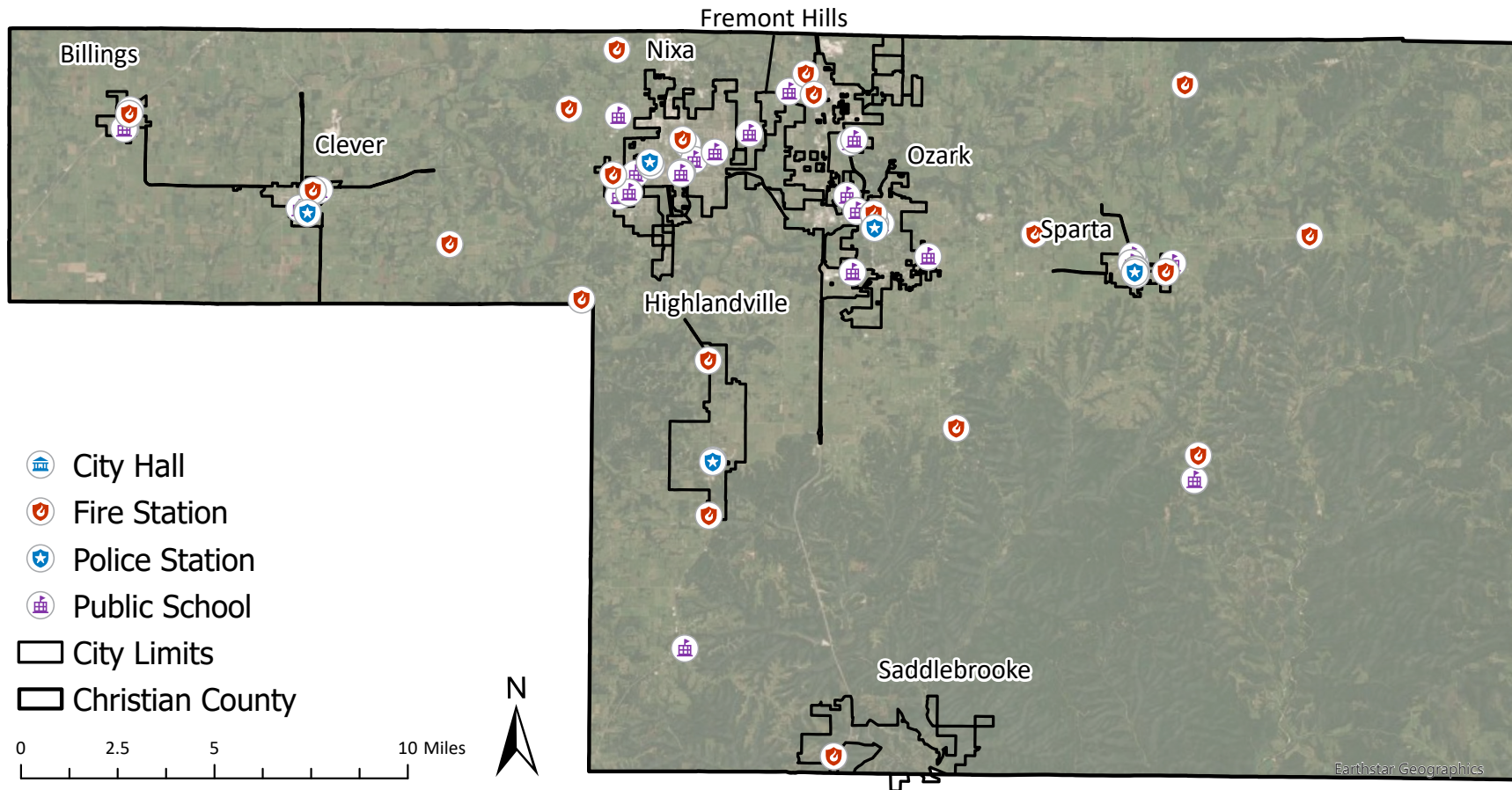
Electric Services

There are several electric service providers in Christian County: Liberty Utilities, White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Nixa Utilities, and Webster Electric Cooperative. The largest electricity provider in terms of total customers is Nixa Utilities. The electric cooperatives may serve different parts of the Christian County region.

Natural Gas Services

There are a few natural gas providers that serve the Christian County region; Central Gas Propane, Queen City Gas, and Christian County Gas Company.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITIES



Prepared 8/30/2022 by





03 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Public Facilities Survey Results

According to the community survey, the biggest dissatisfaction with public services was the quality of broadband access. 88.7% of respondents support the dedication of resources to improve broadband access. Over 70% of the respondents were satisfied with emergency services, police protection, and fire protection. Around 60% of the respondents were satisfied with water, library, and electricity services.

Public Facilities Goals and Objectives

Goal #1: Pursue infrastructure improvements to accommodate current and future growth.

Objective: Coordinate with local municipalities and service providers to facilitate the appropriate expansion of sanitary sewer and public water services in the urban/rural interface.

As the county continues to experience growth, there is a need for expansion of utilities such as sanitary sewer and water services. The county should work with municipalities and public utility agencies

to expand existing infrastructure into unincorporated areas. This coordination is essential for the delivery of water services to people across the county. Many residents of Christian County who reside outside city limits and in unincorporated areas depend on private well water and septic systems. These options tend to be more affordable for residents because of increased fees associated with water and sewer connections for properties outside city limits. However, these private wells and septic sewer systems are not frequently monitored for contaminants and pathogens once they are installed. Christian County should encourage utility companies to expand their service network. The expansion of utility services into unincorporated areas is essential for the health and wellness of the area.

Objective: Support initiatives that will expand opportunities for broadband access throughout Christian County for residential and commercial needs.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, more people have found themselves dependent on high-speed broadband internet as jobs and

schools moved to be held online. Whether this transition to online learning and working was temporary or permanent, lack of access to the internet became an obstacle to success. This affected people residing in rural areas particularly hard, as these areas are most likely to be neglected by providers. Not only does this lack of access affect family's day to day, but it also affects businesses in the area and prohibits potential growth.

Improvements in access and usage of broadband in rural areas lead to higher property values, increased job, and population growth, increased educational opportunities, higher rates of new businesses, and lower unemployment rates. The county should explore state and federal funding to expand broadband opportunities to residents and businesses. Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) can be used to expand access to broadband for state and local municipalities.

The eastern portion of the county has the least access to broadband, according to the Department of Economic Development. Overall, the county has lower rates of broadband access than the state and nation as

a whole.

Goal #2: Provide quality community facilities and services to increase citizen satisfaction

Objective: Promote and encourage disaster resiliency.

Narrative: Reviewing and updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) every five years is a great way to promote and encourage disaster resiliency.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan outlines potential disasters that can affect the area and identify what critical community assets may be put at risk. The HMP plan is compiled with the help of the local leadership and stakeholders in the community. By having as many municipalities, schools, and special districts participate as possible, proper natural hazard resiliency can be ensured across the entire county. Encouraging individuals to engage in community and neighborhood preparedness activities will help prepare them to know what steps to take as a result of a natural disaster. Training such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), first aid, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and

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psychological first aid is also very important and beneficial to residents in a variety of situations. Preparing citizens for emergencies will make them safer, and ultimately increase citizen satisfaction.

Objective: Promote the development and expansion of facilities and infrastructure to address the needs of an aging population.

In the next 10 – 20 years, senior citizens will account for 30% of the county’s total population. As this population increases, there will need to be additional infrastructure in place to support and accommodate them. There is a growing need for senior service facilities, disability facilities, and affordable senior housing. Ensuring that community facilities meet accessibility requirements outlined by the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) will contribute to an increased quality of life for aging adults. Additionally, there should be various modes of transportation and access to opportunities for social engagement regardless of age or mobility. The county should plan to provide these services to maintain a high quality of life for this age group.

Christian County should aim to keep seniors engaged in the social fabric of the community. Christian County should partner with the Southwest Missouri Office on Aging (SWMOA) to promote the events happening at the senior centers that they operate. The Southwest Missouri Office on Aging has centers in 17 counties in the state. The Nixa and Ozark senior

The National Park Service (NPS) outlines four ways to care for historic properties: **PRESERVATION, REHABILITATION, RESTORATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION.**

centers fall under their purview and host activities that foster social connectivity and improve quality of life.

Objective: Promote the development and preservation of recreational and cultural resources.



The preservation of community historical sites is crucial to maintaining the character of a region. One way to do this is by taking steps to protect historic properties. The National Park Service (NPS) outlines four ways to care for historic properties: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. Each of these methods prioritizes the historic elements of the property but is characterized by differing levels of alterations to the original structure. Preservation is intended to keep the integrity of the original structure by salvaging or repairing elements of historical significance by using materials like those used at the time. Rehabilitation is focused on repairing rather than replacing historic features of the property. Restoration is when a property's features are restored to a specific time in history, which means that some characteristics of the property may be changed or eliminated. Reconstruction is the total rebuilding of a structure in a historically accurate location and manner based on other comparable structures from the selected time. The county should support policies that strengthen the preservation of historical and cultural resources. Additionally, the county should encourage rehabilitation and restoration

of cultural resources. The NPS offers guidelines for historic preservation and criteria for what sort of method should be used in different situations. Maintaining historical sites is essential for developing a unique identity within the county. Historical features are memorable in the minds of visitors which can lead to more tourism in the area and increased economic prosperity.

Many of the recreational opportunities in the Christian County area are connected to the outdoors. This means it is crucial to preserve and protect natural lands that allow these recreational opportunities to flourish. The area is home to Busiek State Park, which is under the protection of the Missouri Department of Conservation. The Finley River offers many recreational activities and has been the focus of development over the last few years. The Finley River is now home to the Ozark Mill riverside restaurant, a coffee shop called the Workshop, as well as an urban farm. The Finley Farms development encompasses historic preservation, outdoor recreation, and community development.

Explore Christian County's Transportation Network >



04 TRANSPORTATION

01 Transportation impacts the quality of life, economic development,
02 and public safety of the residents of Christian County. The county
03 continues to provide direction for citizen participation to guide future
04 transportation planning decisions. The county maintains over 1,200
05 miles of roadway, 35 bridges, and hundreds of pipe/box culverts and
06 low water crossings. Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
07 is responsible for the maintenance of the federal highway system in the
08 county, which includes U.S. Highway 65, US. Highway 60, U.S. Route
09 13, and U.S. Route 160.

07 Christian County lies within the Ozark Transportation Organization
08 (OTO) and Southwest Missouri Council of Government (SMCOG)
09 service area. OTO is the metropolitan organization charged with the
10 Springfield metropolitan area's transportation planning efforts. The
11 cities of Nixa and Ozark lie within OTO's boundary. The rest of the
12 county lies within the boundary of SMCOG. The county benefits from
13 active engagement in OTO and SMCOG's process of identifying regional
14 transportation priorities and projects to be funded.
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Major Corridors

North/South

U.S. Highways 160 and 65 are the primary north/south corridors in and out of Christian County. These highways bring traffic from the major regional activity centers of Springfield and Branson. The corridors have seen a steady flow of traffic over five years from 2017 to 2021. The average annual daily traffic (AADT) of U.S. 65 from the Christian County line to Highway CC north of Ozark in 2017 was 26,592. By 2021 the AADT had risen to 29,038, an 8% increase. However, the AADT decreases south on U.S. 65 toward Taney County to 14,385.

The county maintains 1,200 MILES
OF ROADWAY, 35 BRIDGES,
AND HUNDREDS OF PIPE/BOX
CULVERTS AND LOW WATER
CROSSINGS.



East/West

U.S. Highway 60 services the western panhandle of Christian County and covers approximately 7.8 miles going from the northeast to southwest from Greene County towards Lawrence County. U.S. Highway 60 passes through the town of Billings and serves as a connection between Lawrence County and Springfield. Over the five years of 2017-2021, AADT in the southwest portion of U.S. Highway 60 has been consistent but decreased northeast of Billings. The AADT south of Billings was roughly around 5,500 while to the north it dropped from 6,300 in 2017 to 5,400 in 2021.

State Highway 14 traverses the entire county and services nearly all incorporated areas in the county, except for Highlandville and Saddlebrook. State Highway 14 begins at the Douglas County line and continues to the Lawrence County line in the panhandle of Christian County. The segments near the Douglas County line heading toward Sparta have seen a slight decrease in AADT. Specifically, the section from the county line, through Sparta, to the east of Ozark has seen a 6%

decrease in AADT. The portion of Highway 14 between Highways 160 and 65 has also seen a decrease in traffic dropping from roughly 19,000 to 18,000 AADT over the five years. The portion of State Highway 14 traveling west from Nixa toward Highway N has seen a 6.5% increase in AADT from 2017 to 2021. The stretch of Highway 14 from Highway N, through Clever toward Billings, has also seen an increase in AADT going from roughly 3,500 to nearly 3,800.

Highways EE and CC also serve as major east/west connectors between U.S. 160 and U.S. 65. Highway CC connects the northern portions of the Cities of Nixa and Ozark. Traffic volume has increased from 2017 to 2021, roughly resulting in an additional 1,100 trips per day. The city of Highlandville along U.S. 160 and U.S. 65 is connected by Highway EE. As of 2021 Highway EE serves nearly 3000 trips daily. Most segments along these roads are two-lane with no shoulders. The nature of the county's topography causes some safety concerns regarding road

See Functional Classification >



04 TRANSPORTATION

alignment.

Functional Classification

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) identifies the functional classification and functions of each type of roadway: expressway, primary, arterial, secondary arterial, collector, and local roads.

Functional classification is the process by which streets and highways are grouped into classes or systems according to the character of traffic service that they are intended to provide.

Expressway: Expressways have partial access control and a higher priority for traffic flow with at-grade signalized intersections for major roadways. These roadways serve through traffic and provide regional and interstate connectivity. Expressways are generally used for longer trips and accommodate higher travel speeds. Expressways do not permit access to adjacent property.

Primary Arterial: Primary arterials accommodate moderate to high volumes and moderate speeds through major activity centers. Primary

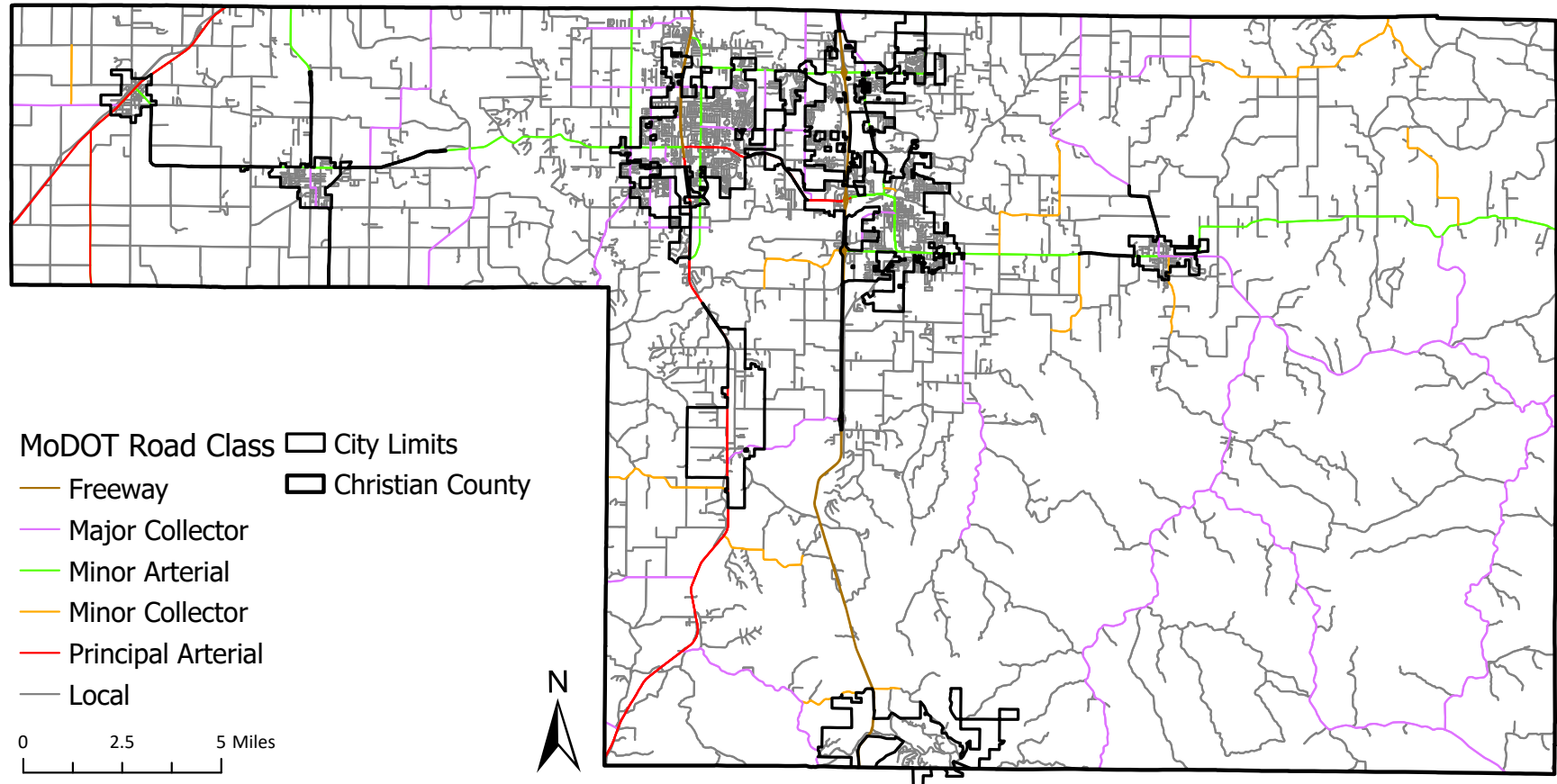
arterials connect to expressways that serve interstate and regional traffic. Access to the adjacent property is subordinate to traffic flow and is subject to the necessary entry and exit controls.

Secondary Arterial: Secondary arterials accommodate moderate volumes and moderate speeds. Access to the adjacent property is partially controlled to maintain the carrying capacity of the roadway. Secondary arterials also serve major activity centers as well as less intense development areas such as small retail stores, and offices.

Collector: Collectors accommodate low to moderate volume and low-speed traffic. Collectors collect and distribute traffic between arterials and local streets. These streets are intended for short trips and provide access to adjacent property. Collectors serve less intense developments such as schools, residential, parks, and low-density commercial areas.

Local Street: Local streets accommodate low volume and low-speed traffic and discourage through traffic. These streets are intended for

CHRISTIAN COUNTY FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAPS



Prepared 9/2/2022 by





04 TRANSPORTATION

shorter trips and provide access to adjacent property.

Accidents

Christian County accident data was analyzed over the five years from 2016 to 2021. A large portion of traffic accidents in Christian County during this period occurred in or around the city of Nixa with Freemont Hills and Ozark contributing a significant portion of the accidents. Other hotspots included key corridors in Christian County, including MO-60 and MO-65. In total, Christian County saw 7,552 crashes during this period with the majority of these being made up of Property Damage Only (PDO) crashes (5,436 PDO crashes, or 72% of all crashes). There was a total of 58 traffic fatalities within the county during this time.

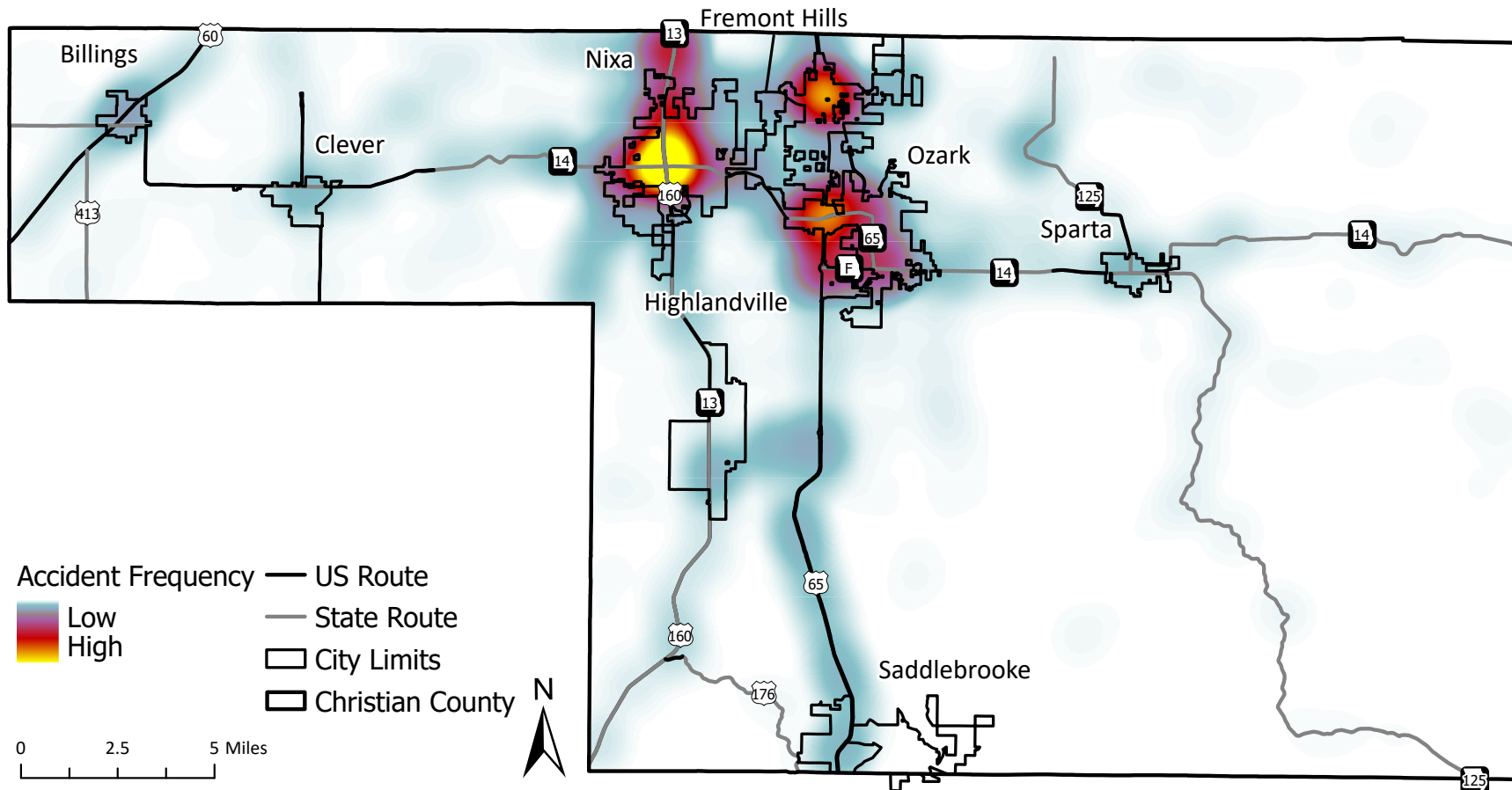
Within the City of Nixa, many crashes were seen at the intersection of Highway 14 and MO-160. 159 crashes occurred at this location during the study period, with nearby intersections like MO-160/Wasson Drive and Highway 14/Village Center Street also seeing multiple crashes during this time. In total, there were 1,840 crashes within Nixa city limits during the study period, including two fatal crashes, 25 crashes

resulting in disabling injuries, 24 suspected serious injuries, and 355 minor injuries.

As previously mentioned, MO-65 was a hotspot for crashes. During the five years, 537 crashes occurred. Of these crashes, 11 were fatal. It should be noted that the short segment of Highway EE that connects MO-160 and MO-65 saw 4 fatal crashes, two disabling injuries, and a suspected serious injury during the five years. Freemont Hills and Ozark also had a large number of crashes, with 2,287 total accidents between the two. Of these accidents, five were fatal, 38 crashes resulting in disabling injuries, 29 crashes with suspected serious injuries, and 445 minor injuries.

[See Accident Heat Map >](#)

CHRISTIAN COUNTY ACCIDENT HEAT MAP



Prepared 9/2/2022 by





04 TRANSPORTATION

Public Transportation

There is no municipal transportation service operating in Christian County except for OATS Transit. OATS Transit is a non-profit organization that provides specialized transportation services to rural residents, senior citizens, and people with disabilities. OATS Transit offers a shared-ride, demand-response, door-to-door service. In the county, OATS Transit provides services to the food pantry, and the cities of Springfield, Nixa, and Ozark.

Transportation services for approximately 400 senior citizens is provided through the county's senior services tax fund. A levy tax was approved by the county's voters to provide services to residents aged 60 and older.

Pedestrian/Bike Routes and Greenways

Christian County is predominantly a rural area, which renders maintenance and usability of pedestrian accommodations an issue. However, municipalities within the county have taken steps to assure that there is connectivity for those that chose to walk or bike to nearby



amenities. Ozark has made great strides in creating these opportunities, the Chadwick Flyer Trail connects the city to the City of Springfield to its north. It has also assisted in the growth of the regional trail system. The county also maintains many well-paved roads that have low-volume traffic that can be utilized as bike routes. These roads/routes can be found in OTO's Major Thoroughfare Plan.



Aviation

Christian County is primarily served by the Springfield-Branson Regional Airport located in the northwest section of Springfield and the Branson Airport in Hollister. These locations provide commercial passenger and air freight services to Christian County. There are several private-use airports in the City of Ozark and the northeastern portion of the county.

The Special Road Districts are:

- Billings Special
- Garrison Special
- Ozark Special
- Selmore Special
- South Sparta Special
- Stoneshire Special

Special Road Districts

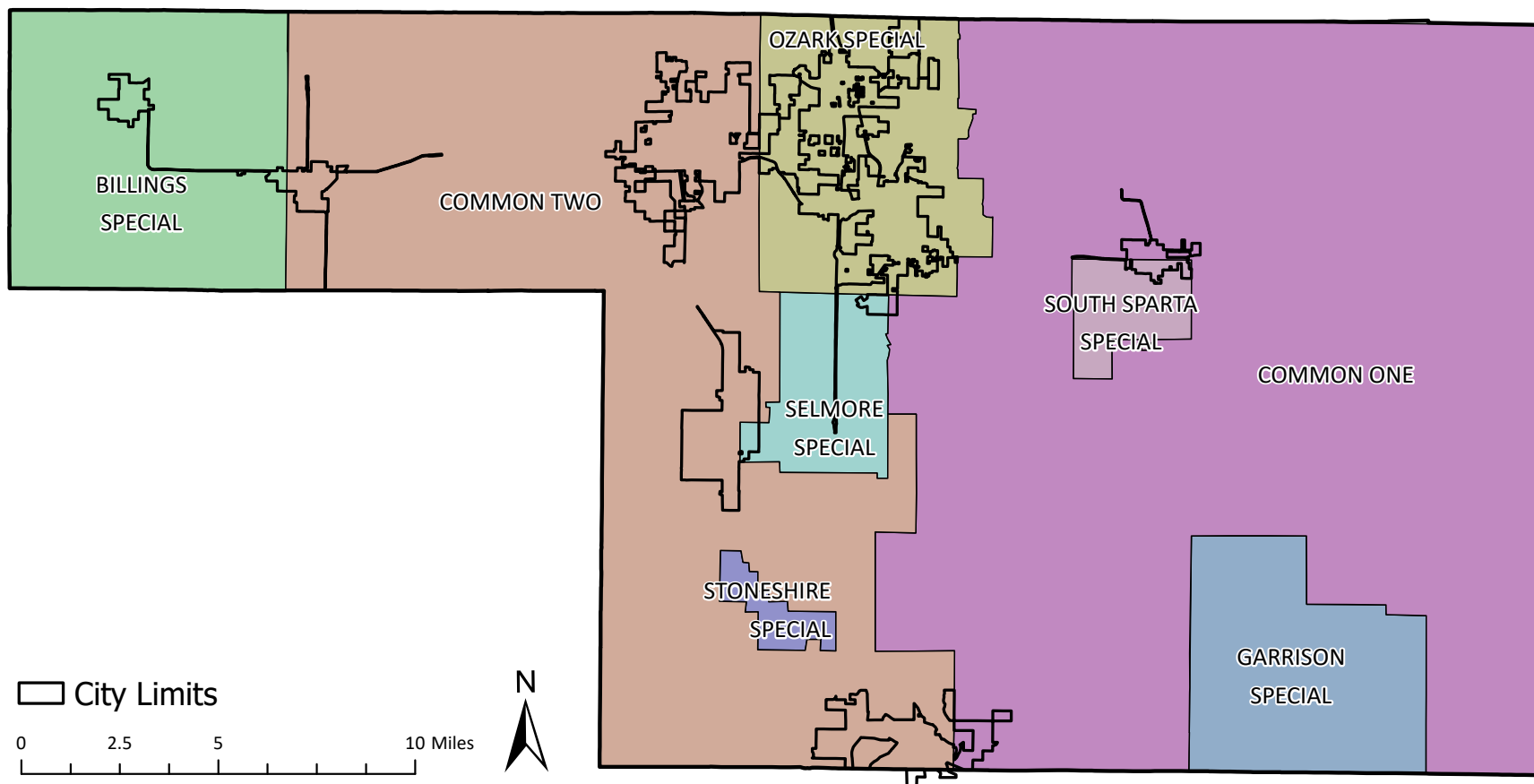
Special Road District is an area where residents vote to establish a district that levies a property tax to fund maintenance. Christian County has six Special Road Districts that exist under RsMO, Chapter 233. Each road district consists of three road commissioners that are elected by the residents. The Special Road Districts do not operate under the authority of Christian County. The districts are responsible for planning and maintenance of the transportation network throughout the county, and the application of uniform road standards.

See the County Road Districts >



04 TRANSPORTATION

CHRISTIAN COUNT ROAD DISTRICTS



Prepared 8/30/2022 by





The county road district and the special road districts are funded through a combination of road tax levies, sales tax revenues, and county road and bridge gasoline tax revenues. The Billings, Nixa, Ozark, Selmore, and South Sparta Special Road Districts have their own road tax levies as established by the voters in the respective districts. Sales tax and gasoline tax revenues finance Common 1 and 2 along with Garrison districts.

Transportation Survey Results

The community survey showed that a majority of the respondents, 68.6%, felt that maintenance of existing roads is a high priority. 60.3% of respondents felt that widening existing roads is a high priority. It is important to address these concerns and focus on creating solutions for local and regional transportation infrastructure.

Transportation Goals and Objectives

Goal #1: Enhance and maintain the transportation system to meet the needs of current and future residents and businesses.

Objective: Maintain a safe and efficient county road network.

To maintain a safe road network, the county should require traffic impact studies to be done on any potential road construction projects. Completing a traffic impact study will help the county see how safety, road capacity, and traffic patterns could be affected by the construction or improvement of a road. The findings of the studies should be shared with the Special Road District commissioners whose jurisdiction might be affected.

The county should identify interchanges and major intersections and upgrade them with appropriate improvements to create a safe and efficient road network. It is also important to ensure that existing and future road networks are supportive of future development. As the county grows, the road network will need to adapt to it as well. This can be achieved by aligning the transportation system with future

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development. By identifying the best management practices for rural road systems, the needs of rural residents and businesses will be met and lead to an improved quality of life.

The county should review and make necessary improvements to low water crossings. This will create a safe roadway network for rural residents that promotes connectivity despite environmental hazards.

Objective: Improve access to rural areas that are supportive of the rural economy and residents.

For rural residents to get their health and wellness needs to be met, there must be adequate transportation options to do so. Local transit organizations, such as OATS Transportation, offer a shared-ride, demand-response, and door-to-door service. The Christian County Health Department should consider partnering with OATS transportation to drive residents seeking non-emergency health services efficiently to their appointments. The county should promote OATS services to residents and businesses by sharing information via social media and physical brochures. This will help improve access to rural

areas for residents without reliable transportation, as well as for those who are unable to drive. Having this public transportation allows rural residents to access not only medical care, but grocery stores, and places of employment. It connects them to the economic centers of the county and helps to get their needs met.

In rural areas, low-water crossings must be well-maintained. These crossings should be reviewed and updated when necessary to allow residents to move safely through the area in times of severe weather. With low-water crossings especially, there is a need for adequate signage and alternative routes.

Objective: Continue to collaborate with the Special Road Districts, OTO (Ozarks Transportation Organization), SMCOG (Southwest Missouri Council of Governments), and MoDOT for transportation planning and needs prioritization.

The county should communicate frequently with the six Special Road Districts to share status updates regarding any problematic roads.



The commissioners of the districts and county officials should meet to compile a comprehensive road inventory where data can become readily available on road measurements, conditions, traffic counts, and accidents. The county should participate in meetings with local and regional planning partners to prioritize county transportation needs. This will help the county be better prepared to secure funding for improvements and expansion when available.

These organizations can help the county produce the documentation needed to apply for qualifying grants. Christian County should publicize public input events so that these planning organizations can hear the community's greatest concerns and begin to address them.

Coordination with these organizations will lead to road improvements that will increase citizens' quality of life and ease road safety concerns. This is especially important as the county grows. As more development takes place, there becomes a greater need for traffic studies that can help shape the way roads are designed for the future. Traffic studies can help

guide the regional planning partners in their efforts to prioritize certain needs and avoid potential hazards or road congestion.

Goal #2: Maintain a safe, efficient, and accessible multi-modal transportation system.

Objective: Collaborate with municipalities and organizations to develop trail connections throughout the county and the region.

Christian County seeks to create a safe, efficient, multi-modal transportation system. Establishing a connected network of greenways and trails will help achieve this goal. Building a connected network of greenways and trails through collaboration with trail planning groups will increase connectivity locally and regionally while making trails accessible to a variety of individuals. The county should collaborate with participating municipalities to see where the region could reap the most benefit from the creation or extension of a trail. From there, the county should publicize the recreational opportunities of the trails on its website.

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The creation of trails is a relatively low-cost way to improve transportation opportunities in a community. Trails benefit communities by offering outdoor recreation and physical activity for all. Trails can also help promote a sense of pride in a neighborhood or community. The county should support trail connections such as the Chadwick Flyer Trail through assistance and guidance with grant applications. Educating property owners on the benefits of trail connections such as opportunities for physical activity, increases in the local economy, and increases in property value could help entice owners to support trail expansions.

Objective: Support the development of alternative energy vehicles infrastructure.

Alternative energy vehicles can help improve fuel economy, lower fuel costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A feasibility study that is focused on the development of alternative energy vehicle infrastructure would help guide the county to make infrastructure decisions and aid in policy changes. In addition to the study, the county should also support

workshops on electric vehicles (EV) to educate the public and increase the EV adoption rate. The Federal Government offers tax incentives for people with electric and hybrid vehicles.

The electric car market has grown drastically in the nation over the past few years. Missouri has over 6,000 electric vehicles registered and 985 charging stations. Compared to the rest of the nation, Missouri has a strong ratio of EVs to charging stations. But as they become more popular and available, Christian County should encourage charging stations to be installed and inform the public about tax incentives they can receive by going electric. Currently, there are 2 public EV charging stations in Christian County, both of which are in Ozark. To support the increase in electric cars, more charging stations must be installed throughout the county.



Environment

The natural environment plays a pivotal role in the development and quality of life of a community’s residents. With an ever-evolving county, growth poses many challenges to the natural environment. Christian County recognizes the importance of protecting the natural environment while providing for the needs of the growing number of residents and businesses. The county has placed a higher priority on environmental sustainability because of this. A community that embraces sustainability must continually improve the relationship between the natural and built environment. The natural environment provides benefits that require planning, monitoring, and supporting policies and strategies.

Environment Survey Results

The community survey showed that the residents place a higher priority on maintaining environmental quality. 81% of the respondents supported the dedication of more time and resources to maintaining environmental quality.

Environment Goals and Objectives

Goal #1: Encourage development to occur with minimal impacts on the natural environment to preserve the natural beauty of Christian County.

Objective: Evaluate and enforce development standards to minimize the negative impacts of development on the environment.

Many steps can be taken to preserve the natural beauty of Christian County. By enforcing development standards, future development will preserve land and minimize negative impacts on the environment. Encouraging municipalities to write zoning codes that keep environmental protection in mind is one way to ensure that the natural features of the area are protected. An open space and conservation easement can protect open spaces and sensitive natural resources by limiting the use of the land. Conservation easements place restrictions on the potential development of land while ensuring that the land is protected for the future. Conservation easements may offer considerable income tax and estate tax benefits.

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05 ENVIRONMENT

Objective: Encourage sustainable land development patterns and decisions which will minimize adverse impacts on the County's natural environment.

Encouraging environmentally friendly projects goes a long way in preserving a county's natural environment. This sets a standard for the type of projects developers to bring forth and encourages developments to become Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified. LEED is a globally recognized certification criterion used to evaluate buildings based on their environmental impact and sustainability practices. Promoting the use of shared parking will prevent additional land from being used for parking and encourages diverse land usage. Shared parking between adjacent land uses promotes sustainability, creates opportunities for more compact development, and promotes open space and creative landscaping. Land use and transportation policies should complement one another. There should be regular communication between Christian County, special road districts, and the Missouri Department of Transportation.

One sustainable land development pattern is a conservation or cluster

subdivision. In conservation subdivisions, half of the potentially buildable land is conserved, undivided, protected, and held in common by the community. Creating mixed-use areas where restaurants and shops can coexist close to residential areas will promote walkable communities, thus cutting down on pollution. Municipalities in Christian County should also incentivize developers to preserve natural features, plant trees, and build trails through new developments. By supporting efforts to mitigate losses to the natural environment, Christian County can become an ally in preserving the county's natural beauty.

Objective: Protect water quality in the County's rivers, streams, and wetlands from the negative impacts of development on adjacent land.

Development affects the quantity and quality of water by changing the natural flow of stormwater runoff. Several strategies can be utilized to minimize any potential negative impacts of development, particularly in the areas of Christian County with karst topography. Features of Karst topography are caves, sinkholes, losing streams, and underground drainage systems. Damage to these features can disrupt the wildlife

habitats in the area and contaminate the water used by humans. Regulating land use activities with stricter policies will protect the water quality in the county's rivers and streams. Enforcing development standards in the county's karst topography will protect subsurface water resource quality from negative impacts of development. Karst topography can be problematic because of its propensity for sinkholes. Karst can be protected when municipalities limit and regulate the number of septic tanks and wells that are allowed in the region. Similarly, when new developments are being built, staging areas for construction sites should be located away from karst features to avoid any fuel or oil spillage into the water supply. Utilizing riparian buffers, limiting construction within the 100-year floodplain, and regulating land use activities all help curb runoff. Riparian buffers are areas of trees and shrubs that serve as a barrier for runoff into streams and rivers. They can filter out and reduce the volume of sediments, nutrients, and other contaminants that enter surface waters. It is recommended to utilize 50-foot buffer on minor streams, i.e., 25-feet on either side and 100-feet for major blue line waterways, i.e., 50-feet on both sides.

For every 10,000 pounds of waste that ends up in a landfill, **10 JOBS ARE CREATED.**

Objective: Encourage and promote recycling opportunities.

Strong recycling programs can contribute to a healthy community.

Recycling programs can also help to improve water and air quality and are building blocks to a sustainable community. Recycling centers and services offer jobs in a growing industry and minimize the amount of waste that ends up in landfills. The Missouri Recycling Association calculated that for every 10,000 pounds of waste that ends up in a landfill, one job is created. But when 10,000 pounds of waste is recycled, 10 jobs are created. Recycling has economic, as well as environmental benefits.

Providing educational materials for residents and businesses who wish to participate in solid waste reduction activities will inform them of the

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importance of responsible waste reduction. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources offers resource materials on recycling, and waste management and lists grant funding opportunities for waste management. To fully serve the interest of the natural environment and decrease pollution, the county should provide for the collection, recycling, and disposal of household hazardous waste. Currently, there are two recycling centers in Christian County located in Ozark and Nixa.

Goal #2: Enhance and promote the County's natural environment.

Objective: Apply existing development standards to protect and enhance green spaces and waterways.

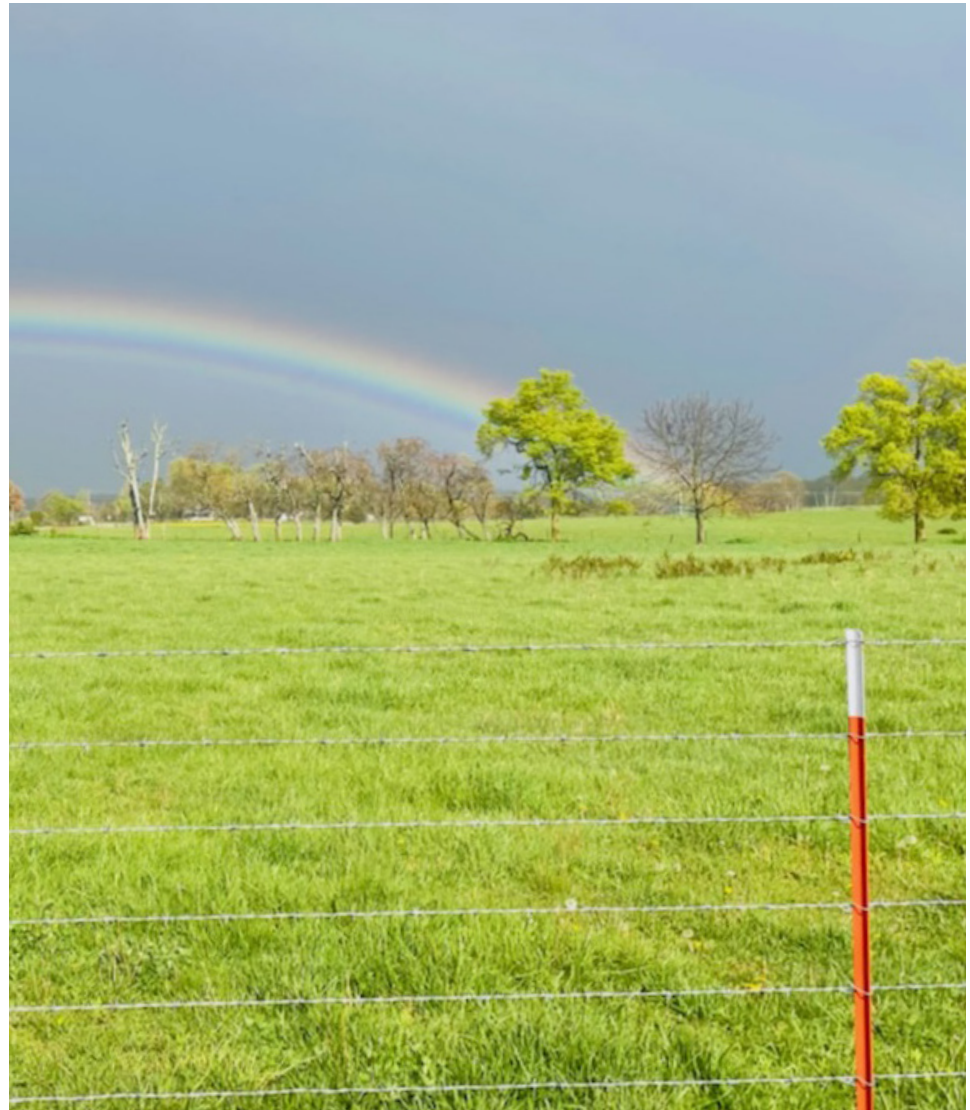
Enforcing existing codes regarding landscaping and screening will enhance and preserve the County's natural environment, as well as make the county more visually appealing. Raising the standards for landscaping and architecture is a straightforward way to ensure that future developments meet the criteria for quality and aesthetics the town has established. These regulations can be used to maintain the historic

integrity of an area or to cultivate a higher standard of development for future buildings. Landscaping standards may require a certain number of trees to be planted in neighborhoods or along streets. They may also require the use of a buffer yard in between different land uses.

One way to preserve Christian County's natural environment is to ensure that native species are protected from invasive species. Invasive species can cause environmental, economic, and health problems in the area. However, contentiously planting native species can help native insects and wildlife flourish. This is a great way to promote the county's natural environment and restore it organically and naturally. The county can collaborate with the Missouri Department of Conservation to plant native vegetation which will help increase the aesthetics of the county and minimize the negative effects of invasive species.

Objective: Promote the County's outdoor recreation opportunities and natural beauty.

Collaborating with partnering organizations for improved access to the county's parks and trails by increasing connectivity has many benefits. The county can partner with the municipalities it contains so that recreational opportunities can be publicized throughout the region. One way to publicize events and opportunities is through social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. This is a great way to showcase existing recreational opportunities while promoting the natural beauty of the county. Using social media and the county's website to promote outdoor recreational opportunities will reach an audience that may not have been aware of the opportunities accessible to them. Keeping parks and recreation social media pages up to date is crucial and will increase the turnout rate at recreation events and opportunities.



[See Housing >](#)

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06 HOUSING

Housing is not only a basic need, but it is the building block in developing a strong and vibrant community. Strong neighborhoods include a variety of housing options that provide for a full range of income levels, backgrounds, and preferences. The county is growing at a fast rate and wants to ensure that there is an adequate housing stock available for young professionals, families, and the elderly population.

A diverse housing stock can help meet the needs of different age groups already living in the county and those planning to move into the area.

Within each of those demographics, there is a variety of housing needs to address.

Two demographic groups should be kept in mind while the county explores options for more affordable housing: families and the aging population. Currently, a significant portion of households in the county are families with children but there is a sizeable number of residents age 55+. Families may be kept out of the housing market because of the high cost of home buying. As Christian County's population grows, it will be increasingly important for housing availability to keep pace with



demand. Similarly, as job opportunities within the county grow, there will be an imperative for housing availability to keep residents within the county in which they work. Minimizing out-of-county travel will cut down on traffic congestion and keep money within the local economy. The average housing value for homes in Christian County is higher than the Missouri state average.

While the state median home value is \$163,600, most of Christian County's housing value falls within a range of \$200,000 - \$299,999.



Within the county, 70% of all housing is valued between the range of \$100,000 – \$299,999, with a median value of \$182,800. As the housing market becomes increasingly competitive, home sale price in Christian County has gone up considerably between May 2021 to May 2022, according to the Greater Springfield Board of Realtors. The median sale price in May of 2021 was \$259,950 and has increased to \$300,000 in May of 2022. This competitive market climate exemplifies the imperative for more affordable housing for the future of the county.

Christian County also has a higher rate of homeownership than the state at large. 74.7% of housing in the county is owner-occupied, while the remaining 25.3% of housing is renter occupied. Comparatively, the state has a 32.9% rate of renter-occupied housing. In terms of physical characteristics, 82.1% of housing in Christian County is made up of single-family detached homes. Of the homes in Christian County, 69.5% of homes have 2-3 bedrooms, and 27% of homes have 4 or more bedrooms. As discussed earlier in the community profile, the county also has a relatively new housing stock, while the state’s overall stock is much older.

In Missouri, 5.3% of homes were built in the last decade while 10.9% of homes in Christian County were built over the last 10 years.

One area where housing and economic development coincide is the issue of housing costs proportional to income. In Christian County, the median rent is \$842. The total amount of cost-burdened households in Christian County is 38.9%. Households are categorized as “cost-burdened” when 30% or more of their total household income goes toward paying rent.

Housing Survey Results

The community survey shows that respondents are satisfied with the current condition of housing, quality of life, and proximity to employment opportunities and amenities. 91.6% of respondents expressed they are satisfied with the current condition of housing. 75.8% of respondents expressed they were satisfied with the proximity of housing to employment opportunities, and 78.8% expressed they were satisfied with the proximity of housing to amenities. Residents and

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06 HOUSING

the CPC have also identified that there is a lack of moderately priced housing options in the county and infrastructure available beyond city limits. Therefore, Christian County’s goal overall is to support the housing needs of all current and future residents.

Housing Goals and Objectives

Goal: Support the development of a variety of housing options that meet the needs of all residents

Objective: Evaluate existing regulations for possible modifications which could create opportunities for greater diversity in housing options.

Zoning guides the growth and development within the county.

Zoning changes can be used to promote housing flexibility within the community in many ways. The county should examine and modify any zoning regulations that may create barriers to housing flexibility. The county can utilize cluster zoning, multifamily zoning, and mixed-use zoning to encourage flexible zoning opportunities. The county currently

has a zoning classification called a Planned Use Development (PUD) which allows for mixed residential uses in one zone. This allows high- and low-density housing options to be built alongside one another to support a variety of housing needs and create the foundation for a strong neighborhood.

The county should also consider creating diverse housing options by reducing lot sizes in subdivisions. Building smaller homes will allow more first-time home buyers to get into the housing market and allow empty nesters to downsize to better suit their needs. The need to increase their housing stock is increasingly important as the housing market becomes more competitive. Homeownership allows people to build equity and wealth that is not possible while renting.

Reducing minimum requirements allows for the opportunity for smaller homes to be built, which will aid in the availability of homes that meet the needs of all residents. Encouraging the use of accessory dwelling units is another way the county can work to promote a variety

of housing options. Accessory dwelling units (ADU), which are smaller residential units located on the same lot as a larger single-family home, can be used to address some of the housing needs of older people. ADUs can be an affordable option for older people who want to stay close to family yet retain a degree of independence. This sort of living situation allows them to continue participating in community events and maintain their neighborhood connections. Communities in Christian County should evaluate their zoning codes regarding accessory dwelling units to ensure that they support this type of housing option.

Objective: Work alongside local organizations and municipalities to address the housing needs of the entire county.

The county understands that there is a need for housing to accommodate all income levels and family characteristics. Christian County should conduct a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) to identify current housing inventory and characteristics, government policies and incentives, and housing affordability issues. The results of this assessment can be used to make strategic decisions that will affect

the housing market and improve housing conditions in Christian County. A Housing Needs Assessment is used by local governments to identify housing issues and solutions that can be used to make strategic decisions related to the housing market and is often used as a basis for future housing and policy decisions and/or to secure financing for various housing programs and projects. It can also be referenced by developers looking to fulfill a certain housing need in the region. Collaboration between the county and municipalities is essential to improving the housing stock.

By making all information regarding housing available online, residents will be better educated on housing conditions in the county and help streamline the process for any new developments. The county website is an excellent source of information for all residents and should include any current information about housing needs and assistance. County staff should work to ensure that all information on the website is always current and accurate. Additionally, the county should support residential development that meets the needs of the changing

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population demographics. The county should pursue federal and state funds available for specifically addressing housing needs.

The county should work to develop partnerships within the area with non-profit organizations addressing housing. Several non-profit organizations like The Kitchen, Inc. have been working to address homelessness and the lack of affordable housing in Springfield. Collaboration with organizations like The Kitchen, Inc. is crucial for addressing this lack. The Springfield Community Land Trust also aims to promote homeownership and maintain low housing costs. Collaboration with non-profit organizations, promoting their resources, and sharing information can help address housing affordability concerns in the county.

Objective: Improve the overall quality of construction through continued support of the County's adopted building code and inspection requirements.

To improve the overall quality of construction, the county should review the current building codes and update them if necessary. Building codes are utilized to preserve the structural integrity of properties. Building codes keep people safe by mitigating the hazards resulting from natural disasters. Currently, Christian County utilizes 2012 building codes. The county should also make educational materials regarding building codes readily available to all citizens and developers.

Economic Development

One key factor to consider when looking at economic development is the number of inbound and outbound commuters. In Christian County, 9,664, 42.9%, of the 22,511 jobs in Christian County are staffed by commuters coming inbound from other counties, according to EMSI, a labor analytics and economic data tool. This means that 12,847, 57.1%, of the jobs in Christian County are staffed by residents living and working in the area. The majority of these commuters come from surrounding communities, largely from within Greene County. EMSI data also tracks outbound commuters, showing that 27,175 of the 87,324 residents are leaving Christian County for work. This is likely due to proximity to larger communities with a larger labor market, primarily Greene County and the Springfield Metro Area.

Of those in the labor force, Christian County has a lower unemployment rate than both Green County and the state of Missouri at 2.73% in March of 2022. The county also has a higher labor force participation rate at 65.10% compared to 63.13% for the state. Data from the 2020

ACS indicates that the median household income for Christian County is \$64,442. In the county, 21.3% of residents earn between \$50,000 - \$74,999, while 70.4% of residents earn within or above this range.

Because the county is in proximity to major corridors and growing cities, Christian County should use its resources to capitalize on the growing populations nearby. To attract new businesses and facilitate economic growth, the county should consider serving as a viable resource for all entrepreneurs and businesses looking to move into the area. Having consistent and accurate information available to the public is essential for aiding in the creation of a vibrant regional economic center. The county should also closely coordinate plans and initiatives with the municipalities within the county to capitalize on their resources.

Economic Development Survey Results

The community survey indicates that the majority, 69%, of residents spend 50% or more of their regular spending within the county. The three largest categories of growth in commercial services that residents wanted to see were retail, education, and recreation/entertainment.

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07 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

They also wanted to see improvements in light industrial and IT/tech sectors within the county. Community input suggests strong support for dedicating the county’s resources and time to retaining and expanding businesses, actively recruiting business prospects, attracting professionals, and providing assistance to entrepreneurs.

81% of respondents stated that they support the dedication of time and resources to retaining and expanding existing businesses.

Economic Development Goals and Objectives

Goal #1: Develop a more diversified economy that encourages retention and expansion of existing local businesses while supporting the creation of new business types that can be successful in the future.

Objective: Become a repository of quality geographic and demographic information for economic development needs.

The county has several resources and organizations that support the local economy. Show Me Christian County (SMCC) is an organization that represents all seven municipalities in Christian County. Its goal

as an organization is to encourage business attraction, business retention and expansion, workforce development, and entrepreneurship throughout the county. SMCC offers Financial Health Analysis to businesses in the county and connects potential business owners with the resources and information they need to start and grow their companies. SMCC works closely with the cities of Ozark and Nixa to promote incentives for businesses to locate in their cities. SMCC has strong community partnerships with both the Nixa and Ozark Chambers of Commerce and the Carl G Hefner Enterprise Center. The Carl G Hefner Enterprise Center houses office space for budding small businesses looking to gain access to the Center’s seminars, workshops, and entrepreneurial community. SMCC is also partnered with local planning and zoning organizations, licensing organizations, and banks to spur business development.

SMCC analyzes the different aspects of economic development for the county. Analyzing and understanding the Show Me Economic Development Study is essential for understanding the current job market and

workforce skills the county already has. The results of this study can also be utilized by entrepreneurs in understanding the local economy.

The SMCC website makes Christian County data readily available on its website. The accessibility of this information helps potential business owners and those looking to expand their existing businesses to know how to best serve the county as it grows into the future. The county can support business expansion and encourage retention by displaying information about the county's economy, demographics, and other related information on its website. This will allow all residents and developers access to information they can use to make decisions for their business regarding future growth.

Objective: Support and engage with organizations that support local businesses.

The county should identify and collaborate with local and regional organizations that support local businesses. Supporting and engaging with these organizations will help build a strong relationship among

them, entrepreneurs, and Christian County. A strong relationship between the local government and businesses is crucial for economic development. The county should create opportunities such as networking events and workshops where entrepreneurs can collaborate with local organizations and citizens in the area. This will help grow the economy and support the development of area businesses.

The Nixa Area Chamber of Commerce has opportunities for entrepreneurs to promote their business, network with other members of the community, and participate in professional development training. Similarly, the Ozark Chamber of Commerce helps their member businesses by providing them with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and including their business in their annual directory which is distributed throughout the community. The Springfield Regional Economic Partnership and the Springfield Business Development Corporation are two additional organizations that support the growth of the region.

The county should collaborate with high school and college programs

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that cater to workforce development. These programs will ensure that students have the skills to support entrepreneurial endeavors and help them make connections within the community. The Greater Ozarks Centers for Advanced Professional Studies (GO CAPS) aims to achieve these goals. GO CAPS trains students in the fields of engineering/manufacturing, entrepreneurship/business, and medicine/healthcare.

Objective: Elevate the awareness and understanding of available county services within the business community.

The county should increase awareness of available services to residents and the business community. The county should ensure that all county contacts and information are easily accessible to citizens via the county website. Additionally, the county should also frequently update the website and social media pages to ensure that all communication platforms have up-to-date and accurate information. Publicizing the opportunities that are available through local Chambers of Commerce and other regional economic agencies will help cultivate a culture that champions local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Objective: Coordinate with municipalities to provide quality assistance and information to those who may wish to locate or expand a business within Christian County.

Christian County is home to seven municipalities. Each of the municipalities has its own resources and connections that are viable for the growth of businesses across the county. This is pivotal to planning within the county. Establishing a point of contact will ensure that accurate information is provided to all citizens within each municipality. Each point of contact should be identified on the county website and



Land Use >

made accessible to all.

Land use is a key part of the comprehensive plan and is required by state statutes. Land use planning allows for the county to proactively manage growth and development for the future. Land use planning is essential to managing growth by providing guidance on decisions and patterns regarding public and private development. Identifying current and desired future land uses assists the county in implementing zoning codes and development regulations consistent with the needs of the residents and businesses.

Current Land Use

To determine current land use in Christian County, SMCOG used GIS data from the county, Google Maps, and Google Maps Street View.

Current land uses are grouped into seven designations:

Agricultural

This land is used for agricultural purposes including animal grazing and growing crops and hay. This land is designated for agriculture due to the



evidence of farming such as the presence of crops, tilling, livestock, or cultivated products such as bales of hay. This identification is different from vacant land due to the evidence of active use of the property for productive purposes.

Commercial

Commercial uses include restaurants, offices, retail stores, gas stations, storage units, banks, and more. Parcels designated as commercial generally have a lighter environmental impact than industrial and



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manufacturing uses.

Conservation Area

Conservation Area includes areas that are owned and managed by the government for conservation and public use. These areas provide conservation-related recreation and education opportunities.

Government/Institutional

Land uses under this category include schools, churches, and government buildings. Services such as fire protection, law enforcement, and utility services also fall under this category.

National Forest

The National Forest designation covers the central and southern portion of Christian County. This land is dedicated to Busiek State Park and Mark Twain National Forest.

Residential

Residential use is comprised of single-family and multi-family homes.

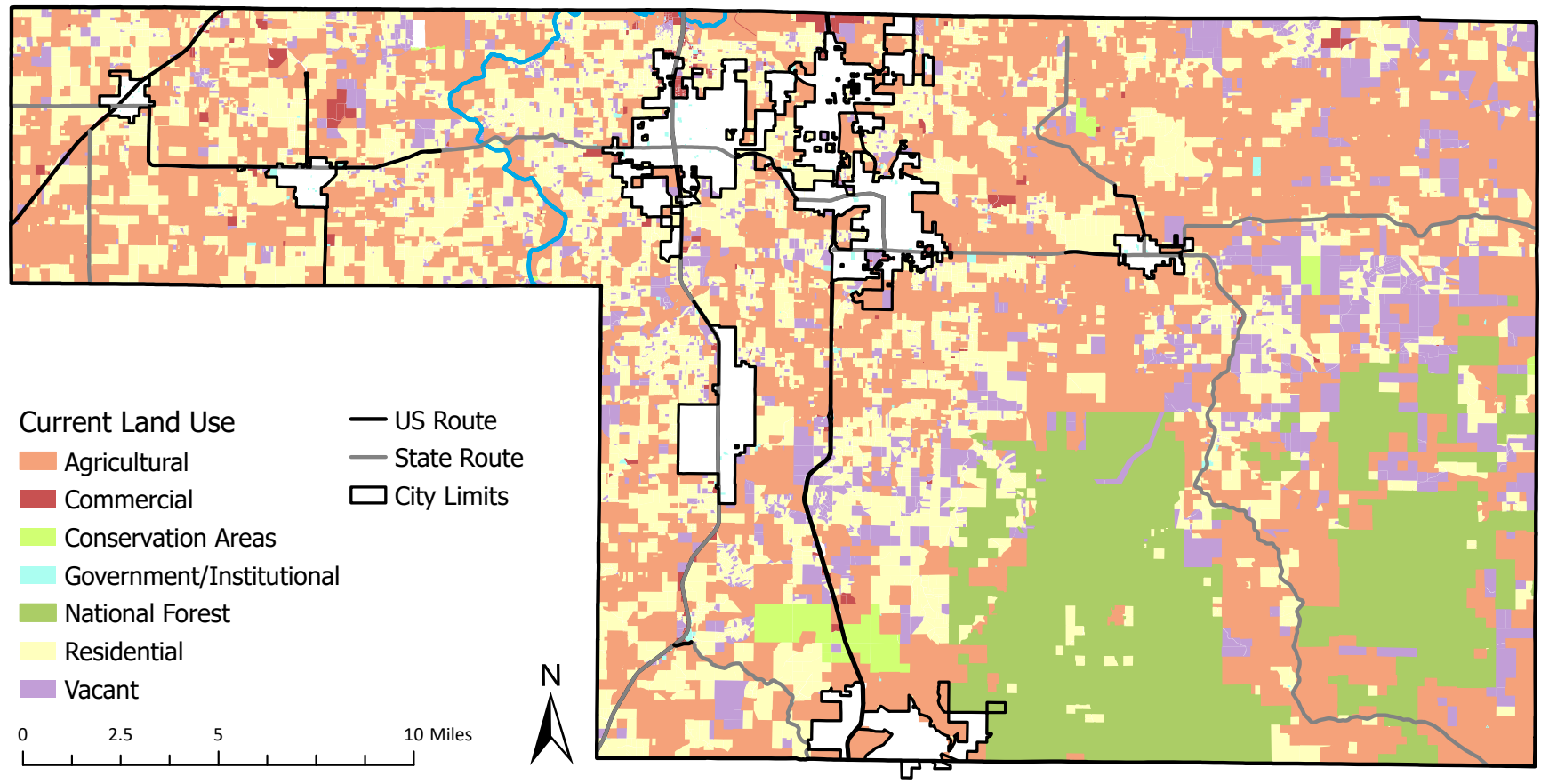
Multi-family residential includes apartments, condominiums, duplexes, townhouses, and assisted living facilities.

Vacant

Properties with no existing structures or that are in use as open space are identified as vacant. These parcels provide an opportunity for infill development on existing plated lots without the need to expand the county's infrastructure.

Explore Christian County's Current Land Use >

CHRISTIAN COUNTY CURRENT LAND USE



Prepared 9/2/2022 by





08 LAND USE

Future Land Use

Over the next 20 years, Christian County should plan for moderate growth toward municipalities. Future land use designations have been identified and mapped on a future land use map in this plan. These designations were determined based on the current land use, predicted growth patterns, and community input. The future land use designations are as follows:

Agricultural/Rural Residential

Agricultural/Rural Residential designation comprises low-density residential as well as large tracts of agricultural land. Most of these areas rely on septic systems for wastewater treatment and have a limited road network. Land parcels should be located in areas with adequate water and other services but don't require central water and sewer services.

Conservation Area

Conservation Area designation applies to areas that are owned and managed by the government for conservation and public use. These areas



provide conservation-related recreation and education opportunities. This designation also applies to the Mark Twain National Forest.

Commercial/Industrial

The Commercial/Industrial designation applies primarily to regional commercial services, office, warehouse, and industrial uses. Some other compatible uses under this designation are healthcare, community facilities, parks, and open space. These designations provide service

retail and service needs of surrounding development and travelers. Buildings under this designation are typically larger, have greater density, and are concentrated along major activity centers or high-traffic areas. This designation also serves to increase employment and contribute to the county’s tax base. These land parcels should be located in areas with adequate existing or planned transportation access and public infrastructure.

Government/Institutional

Government/Institutional designation applies to government, quasi-government, and non-profit facilities. Uses that fall under this designation are government offices, maintenance facilities, healthcare, religion, education, and facilities that serve the intended use of the site. These land parcels should be located in areas with adequate existing or planned transportation access and public infrastructure.

Urban Service Area

Urban Service Area designation applies to the area around the cities of Nixa and Ozark that was created in coordination with the county. These areas show where future development may occur outside of city limits.

The urban service area identifies three tiers: tier one is the city’s growth area for the next 5 years, tier two is the rural/low-density planning area, and tier three is the agricultural area. An in-depth future land use map for the Urban Service Area is provided in Appendix A.

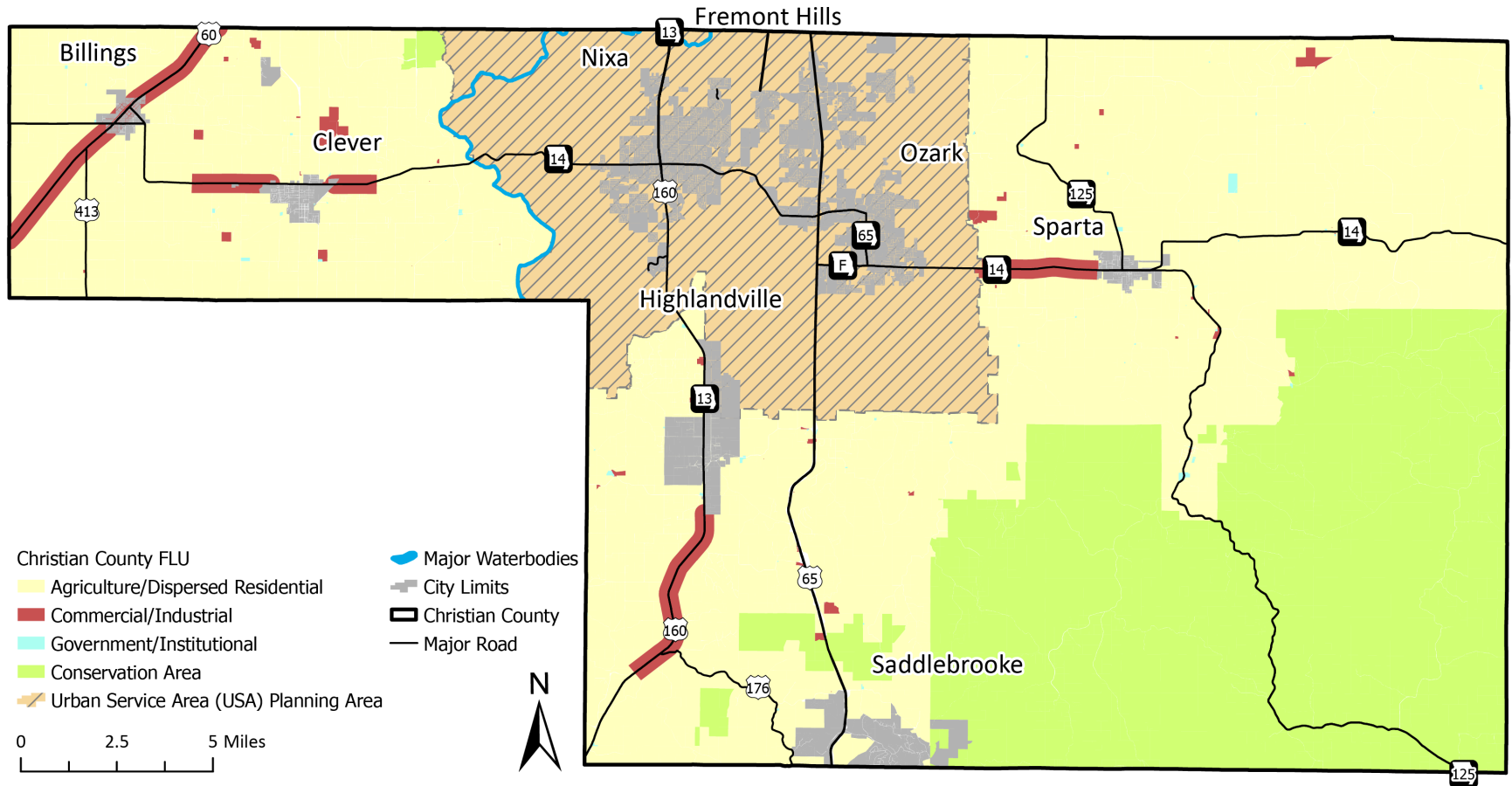


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08 LAND USE

CHRISTIAN COUNTY FUTURE LAND USE



Prepared 9/6/2022 by





Land Use Goals and Objectives

Goal #1: Encourage appropriate and efficient use of land while enhancing the natural and built environment.

Objective: Update the future land use map to support land-use decisions or zoning designation changes that encourage sensible development.

The future land use map serves as a guide for not only future planning and development but also the county's long-term vision. It is important to regularly review the future land use map to ensure the county is developing in a way that supports appropriate organic development and helps achieve the goals of the comprehensive plan. This map should be updated when any changes are made. The future land use map should also be made available online on the county's website.

Objective: Coordinate with municipalities' land use maps in growth areas that extend into the unincorporated areas of the county.

The county should coordinate with municipalities' land use maps and evaluate the uses to ensure that the land use for the county and

municipalities align and contain similar information. The county should also consider implementing an online version of their land use for easier access and use by the public and developers. An accessible map will make Christian County more transparent for development and keep the public up to date on new changes coming to their communities.

Objective: Identify future growth areas within major transportation corridors.

It is important to ensure that proposed uses align with the future land use map to encourage intended growth. The county should identify future growth areas along major transportation corridors, such as Highway 65 and Highway 60, and ensure the proposed uses align with the future land use map. Development along major transportation corridors can be an excellent way to stimulate the local economy while providing convenient services to travelers and residents.

Residential - Goal #1: Support growth outside of city limits to expand residential opportunities within the county

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Objective: Ensure residential uses are compatible with neighboring and projected future uses

To support growth outside of city limits, the county should identify areas where desired residential development is feasible. The county should also evaluate all commercial and industrial zones to ensure adequate space and buffer between different zoning districts. The use of buffers between different land uses in these areas can help create distinct districts within the county. To further support the growth of residential opportunities, the county should coordinate with municipalities to integrate infrastructure such as water and sewer by extending these services to the unincorporated areas where possible. Servicing areas outside of the city limits with infrastructure is essential for maintaining an environmentally viable watershed.

Objective: Ensure land-use decisions account for appropriate transition between varying intensities of land uses

The county should utilize the future land use map as a guide to strategically plan for new and proposed development to ensure that

residents can move easily from one land use to another. The future land use map should be referenced frequently to manage growth and provide guidance on development decisions. Each use has a different level of intensity that the county must consider when evaluating land-use decisions. Appropriate transitions between the varying intensities are essential to maintain a balance between each use. The county should evaluate the use of the required buffer between each use. Transitional land uses or buffer zones help to act as a gradient for moving from one land use to another. Transitional land uses could be multi-family apartments or townhomes that are positioned between single-family neighborhoods and commercial areas. A mixed-use zone would also serve well as a transitional use. Transitional land uses can act as a noise and landscape barrier between uses. Overall, transitional land uses help promote cohesion in the community.

Agriculture – Goal #1: Preserve and protect existing agricultural lands

Objective: Ensure a balance between natural and built environments to preserve agricultural lands.

The county should ensure a balance between the natural and built environment by requiring the use of buffers to preserve existing agricultural lands. Implementing the use of landscape buffers between residential, commercial, and agricultural lands will ensure that there is a boundary set between the varying uses. These buffers can be composed of vegetative buffers and green space. The county should also support efforts to educate citizens and farmers on sustainable farming to further preserve agricultural land.

Objective: Minimize negative impacts on agriculture operations from non-agricultural uses

To preserve and protect existing agricultural lands, the county must work to minimize negative impacts on agricultural operations from non-agricultural development. One way to do this is through riparian buffers that separate uses. These buffers can act as a filter for materials that may come as a result of neighboring development. Similarly, the county should support educational programs that focus on implementing practices that improve soil quality. The county should also encourage

development and practices to occur in a way that does not reduce the quality of farmlands.

Objective: Minimize development within the 100-year floodplain.

To minimize development within the 100-year floodplain, the county should review and update the floodplain ordinance to limit development in flood-prone areas. The county should also inform residents and business owners about potential flood risks and reasons for minimizing development in the floodplain area. Preserving floodplains can preserve the long-term health of creeks and rivers and prevent damage to life and property in the event of extreme flooding. One of the most common ways to reduce development in these areas is to preserve undeveloped floodplains and convert these areas into a park or gardens.

Objective: Prevent isolated commercial developments in areas suitable for agriculture.

The county must ensure proper zoning is used in areas suitable for agriculture to further preserve those lands. Commercial development should be more concentrated around existing commercial areas. This

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will prevent long-standing commercial development in areas that are suitable for agricultural use.

Commercial – Goal #1: Identify appropriate locations within transportation corridors for commercial and industrial growth

Objective: Coordinate with municipalities to identify appropriate areas for commercial development and expansion of city services.

The county should support independent utility providers that expand utilities into underserved areas. Working with private companies as well as other municipalities can help diversify reliance on different utility agencies. The future land use map should be used as a guide to promote and encourage development in the major corridors in Christian County. Expanding city services can benefit commercial development by ensuring that they have access to the utilities needed to run their business.

Objective: Ensure commercial and industrial uses have direct access to state or county-maintained roadways of appropriate capacity

The county should commission a traffic impact study to identify any important corridors that can sustain proposed commercial or industrial development. It will also be important to ensure suitable properties that are along the high-capacity roadways are zoned as commercial and industrial lots. Positioning commercial and industrial areas along these corridors will make businesses easily accessible.

Goal #2: Encourage new commercial and industrial development that is compatible with surrounding land uses

Objective: Ensure sufficient transitions between neighboring land uses.

To ensure that new commercial and industrial development is compatible with surrounding land uses, the county should require the use of landscape buffers between parcels that differ in use to protect neighboring properties. The purpose of a buffer is to prevent any conflict between land uses within the community. Buffers also serve to eliminate excess noise, smell, or other distractions that can occur between residential, agricultural, commercial, and industrial uses. Landscape buffers help to maintain a seamless transition from one land

use to another while preserving the integrity of both.

Objective: Ensure proper zoning in areas designed for commercial purposes.

Infill development is the development that occurs within a previously developed area or an area near existing development. The county should focus on identifying these areas for commercial use to stimulate the creation of growth and make use of vacant or abandoned properties. These areas are likely to already be close to existing infrastructure and have easier access to utilities than undeveloped swathes of land. Encouraging infill development of vacant properties will aid in the creation of dense commercial districts which will generate economic development over time.



Future Land Use Map>



09 FUNDING

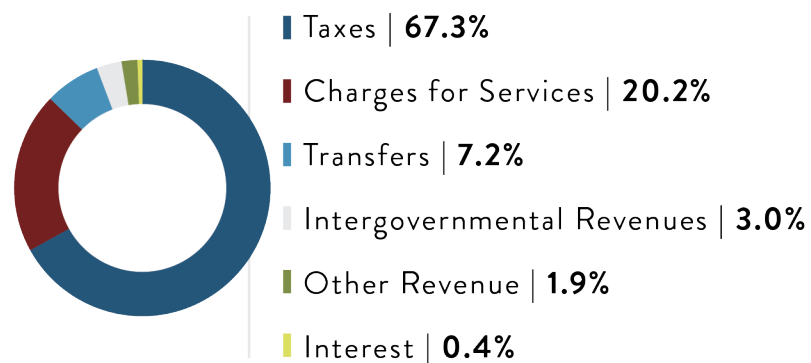
Funding

Christian County has maintained adequate fund balances, which are essential for financing large infrastructure projects. The following sections provide a brief overview of the Fiscal Year 22 General Fund revenues and expenses.

Revenues

The following chart shows the breakdown that demonstrates the sources and budgeted amounts for the County's General Revenue Fund for the Fiscal Year 2022. As typical for local government, taxes contribute significantly to the general fund revenue at 67.3%. Within this category,

FY22 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BY SOURCE



property tax accounts and sales tax accounts for 15% and 85%, respectively. The second highest revenue source for the general fund charges for services. Under this category, some of the top three revenue sources are collector commission fees at 57.2%, recorder of deeds fees at 28.5%, and circuit clerk fees at 4.3%.

Expenditures

The following chart shows the breakdown that demonstrates the sources and budgeted amounts for the County's expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2022. As typical for local governments, general government expenditures account for a majority of the general fund expenditures.

FY22 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE BY FUNCTION



This category includes expenses such as facilities management, county operations, commission, auditor, and judicial. Under this category, the top three expenses are county operations, judicial, and facilities management at 34%, 25%, and 13% respectively. The second highest category is public safety which accounts for 16.6%. Under this category, the top three expenses are campus security, emergency management, and the coroner at 62%, 15%, and 12% respectively.

Potential Funding Sources

There are several potential funding sources enabled under the state statutes as well as grant opportunities available for the county to fund additional activity. The county needs to diversify its revenue streams to ensure the fiscal sustainability of its operation. Many of the revenue sources require residents' votes to implement, which will likely require staff time dedicated to residents' education. To the left is a non-comprehensive list of additional funding sources the county may pursue.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Foundation Funds	Varies by program	N/A	May require local match; Typically focused on quality-of-life initiatives, such as recreation; May have unique requirements
Government Funds	Varies by program	N/A	Typically requires a local match; Administration can be demanding; Partner agencies can typically offer free or subsidized grant writing and administration services



10 IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the Plan

A successful comprehensive plan implementation requires all parties: local governments, public sector partnerships, private investment, and public engagement. Each party plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the goals and objectives laid out in each chapter are achieved.

Jurisdiction Responsibilities

A county government has the responsibility to provide the best community possible for its citizens. This includes ensuring public health, safety, welfare, and opportunity for responsible growth. The County Commission, along with the Planning and Zoning Commission, takes a leadership role in making policy and land-use decisions to stimulate growth and development. Although most of the identified goals and objectives may require action by county staff and officials, several other stakeholders play a vital role in the successful implementation of the comprehensive plan.

County Commission

The County Commission is the legislative and policy-making body for the county. The commission may approve, amend, and repeal local laws. The commission has the authority to enact and amend zoning regulations after considering the recommendations of the Planning and Zoning Commission. The County Commission must consider the comprehensive plan when making various policy decisions for the future of Christian County.

Planning and Zoning Commission

The primary role of the Planning and Zoning Commission is to review land use applications and make decisions based on the vision outlined in the comprehensive plan. The Planning and Zoning Commission acts as an advisory board by making land-use policy recommendations to the County Commission.

Partner Agencies

Partnerships with other levels of government and local organizations

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are needed to implement and enact most goals and objectives that involve infrastructure and land-use projects. Several agencies identified in this plan, such as SMCOG, OTO, and MoDOT, are available to provide professional and technical expertise and to guide the county to beneficial funding opportunities. These partner agencies can help support activities for community events and provide advocacy for citizens. County staff should utilize these relationships as they may help maximize successful outcomes for the county.

Private Developers, Residents, and Volunteers

Many of the goals and objectives listed in this plan rely on the private sector. Changes in land use and development require involvement from developers, residents, and volunteers. These stakeholders play a crucial role in successful plan implementation. The county should provide these stakeholders with the tools and information needed for the successful implementation of planning efforts that are not within the capacity of the county staff and officials.

Implementation

During the planning process, the comprehensive planning committee identified strategies for goals and objectives based on the community survey. These strategies ensure the needs and desires of the county residents are fulfilled. The following implementation matrix builds upon those goals and objectives. Priority rankings were based on the goals and objectives prioritization survey.

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			Responsible Entity					Existing Funding Sources	Potential Funding Sources
			A bold X indicates lead entity						
			County Commission	Planning and Zoning Commission	Partner Agencies	Private Developers, Residents, Volunteers	County Staff		
Objectives	Priority	Strategy							
Transportation									
Goal #1: Enhance and maintain the transportation system to meet the needs of current and future residents and businesses.									
Objective 1: Maintain a safe and efficient county road network.	H	Upgrade and maintain major intersections/interchanges and encourage improvements.		X			x		Government Grants
		Ensure existing and future road network is properly supportive of future development activities.		X			x	N/A	
		Identify best management practices for rural road systems.					X	N/A	
Objective 2: Improve access to rural areas that is supportive of the rural economy and residents.	H	Review, and update as necessary, the low water crossing inventory.					X		
		Support local transit organizations and promote services to residents and businesses.			x	x	X	N/A	
Objective 3: Continue to collaborate with the Special Road Districts, OTO (Ozarks Transportation Organization), SMCOG (Southwest Missouri Council of Governments), and MoDOT for transportation planning and needs prioritization.	H	Ensure participation in meetings with Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO), Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG), Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to prioritize county needs.	x	x			X	N/A	
Goal #2: Maintain a safe, efficient, and accessible multi-modal transportation system.									
Objective 1: Collaborate with municipalities and organizations to develop trail connections throughout the county and the region.	L	Partner with OTO, Special Roads District, Ozark Greenways, and other private or public trail planning groups to build a connected network of greenways and trails.	x	x	x	x	X	N/A	Government Grants
		Support local and regional trail connections such as the Chadwick Flyer Trail through assistance and guidance for grant applications.	X	x			x	N/A	Government Grants
		Educate property owners on the benefits of trail connections and how they can support trail expansions.					X	N/A	
Objective 2: Support the development of alternative energy vehicles infrastructure.	L	Support public education and training programs on Plug-in Electric Vehicles (PEV)s.					X	N/A	
		Conduct a feasibility study focused on the development of public PEV infrastructure.		x		X	x	General Fund	Government Grants

			Responsible Entity					Existing Funding Sources	Potential Funding Sources
			A bold X indicates lead entity						
			County Commission	Planning and Zoning Commission	Partner Agencies	Private Developers, Residents, Volunteers	County Staff		
Objectives	Priority	Strategy							
Public Facilities and Services									
Goal #1: Pursue infrastructure improvements to accommodate current and future growth.									
Objective 1: Coordinate with local municipalities and service providers to facilitate the appropriate expansion of sanitary sewer and public water services in the urban/rural interface.	H	Encourage the extension of sewer and water services into unincorporated rural areas.		X			x	N/A	Government Grants
Objective 2: Support initiatives that will expand opportunities for broadband access throughout Christian County for residential and business needs.	H	Explore federal and state funding for broadband access.					X	N/A	Government Grants
Goal #2: Provide quality community facilities and services to increase citizen satisfaction									
Objective 1: Promote and encourage disaster resiliency.	M	Review and update the hazard mitigation plan every five (5) years.			x		X	General Fund	
		Engage in community and neighborhood preparedness activities.				x	X	N/A	
		Teach community-based training like Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), first aid, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and psychological first aid.				x	X	General Fund	
Objective 2: Promote the development and expansion of facilities and infrastructure which address the needs of an aging population.	M	Plan for aging-friendly communities.	x	X			x	N/A	
Objective 3: Promote the development and preservation of recreational and cultural resources.	M	Support policies that promote the preservation of historical and cultural resources.	x	X			x	N/A	
		Encourage rehabilitation and restoration of recreational and cultural resources.	x	X			x	N/A	Government Grants

			Responsible Entity					Existing Funding Sources	Potential Funding Sources
			A bold X indicates lead entity						
			County Commission	Planning and Zoning Commission	Partner Agencies	Private Developers, Residents, Volunteers	County Staff		
Objectives	Priority	Strategy							
Land Use									
Goal #1: Encourage appropriate and efficient use of land while enhancing the natural and built environment									
Objective 1: Update future land use maps that will support land-usedecisions or changes in direction that support sensible developmentthroughout the county	M	Regularlyreevaluatethefuturelandusemapfor necessary changes to continue to support and accommodate planned growth.		X				N/A	
Objective 2: Coordinate with municipalities’ land use maps in growth areas that extend into unin-corporated areas of the county.	M	Evaluate each municipality’s land use to ensure the county and municipality’s maps have similar information.		x			X	N/A	
		Establishaninteractivecountylandusemaponthe countywebsite to ensure accessibility.					X	General Fund	
Objective 3: Identify futuregrowthareaswithin major transportation corridors	M	Ensureanyproposeduseiscompatiblewiththefuturelandusemap.		X			x	N/A	
Residential - Goal #1: Support moderated growth outside of city limits to expand residential opportunities within the county									
Objective 1: Ensure resi-dential uses are compat-iblewith neighboring and projected future uses	L	Identifyareasinthe countywheredenser residential developmentis suitable and desired.		X			x	N/A	
		Evaluate all commercial and industrial zones and ensure there is adequate space and buffer between different districts.		X			x	N/A	
		Coordinate with municipalities to ensure future residential uses can be serviced by public water and sewer		x			X	N/A	
Objective 2: Ensure land-usedecisionsaccount for appropriate transition betweenvaryingintensities of land uses	L	Utilize the future land use map as a guide to strategically plan for new and proposed development to ensure it is compatible with development patterns.		X			x	N/A	
		Ensure the use of required buffers between varying intensities of use.		X			x	N/A	

			Responsible Entity					Existing Funding Sources	Potential Funding Sources
			A bold X indicates lead entity						
			County Commission	Planning and Zoning Commission	Partner Agencies	Private Developers, Residents, Volunteers	County Staff		
Objectives	Priority	Strategy							
Agriculture – Goal #1: Preserve and protect existing agricultural lands									
Objective 1: Ensure a balance between natural and built environments to preserve and protect agricultural lands.	M	Implement the use of buffers from residential, commercial, and agricultural lands with vegetative buffers and green space		X			x	N/A	
		Support outreach efforts to educate citizens and farmers on sustainable farming.		x		x	X	N/A	
Objective 2: Minimize negative impacts on agriculture operations from non-agricultural uses	M	Support educational programs focused on implementing practices that improve and preserve soil quality.		x		x	X	N/A	
		Encourage development to occur in a way that does not reduce the quality of farmlands.		X			x	N/A	
Objective 3: Minimize development within the 100-year floodplain.	M	Review and update floodplain ordinance to limit development in flood-prone areas.		X			x	N/A	
		Educate residents and business owners about potential flood risks.		x		x	X	N/A	
		Preserve undeveloped floodplains.		X			x	N/A	
Objective 4: Prevent isolated commercial developments in areas suitable for agriculture.	L	Ensure proper zoning is used in areas suitable for agriculture.		X			x	N/A	
Commercial – Goal #1: Identify appropriate locations within transportation corridors for commercial and industrial growth									
Objective 1: Coordinate with municipalities to identify areas available to establish commercial developments and expansion of city services.	L	Support independent utility providers to provide utilities and expand into underserved areas.		X			x	N/A	
		Use the future land use map as guidance to promote and encourage development in major corridors.		X			x	N/A	
Objective 2: Ensure commercial and industrial uses have direct access to state- or county- maintained roadways of appropriate capacity	L	Review traffic impact studies to ensure that the roadways can sustain proposed commercial and industrial development.		X			x	N/A	
		Ensure suitable properties along high-capacity roadways are zoned as commercial and industrial.		X			x	N/A	

			Responsible Entity					Existing Funding Sources	Potential Funding Sources
			A bold X indicates lead entity						
			County Commission	Planning and Zoning Commission	Partner Agencies	Private Developers, Residents, Volunteers	County Staff		
Objectives	Priority	Strategy							
Commercial – Goal #2: Encourage new commercial and industrial development that is compatible with surrounding land uses									
Objective 1: Ensure sufficient transitions between neighboring land uses.	L	Require the use of landscaped buffers between uses to protect neighboring properties.		X			x	N/A	
Objective 2: Ensure proper zoning in areas designed for commercial purposes.	L	Identify areas for commercial use to encourage infill development of commercial zoned vacant properties.		X			x	N/A	
Environment									
Goal #1: Encourage development to occur with minimal impacts on the natural environment to preserve the natural beauty of Christian County.									
Objective 1: Evaluate and enforce development standards to minimize the negative impacts of development on the environment.	H	Review and amend development regulations to include open space requirements.	x	X			x	N/A	
		Use open space and conservation easements to preserve open space.		X			x	N/A	
		Support efforts to mitigate natural environment losses near areas of increased development.		X			x	N/A	
Objective 2: Encourage sustainable land development patterns and decisions which will minimize adverse impacts to the County's natural environment.	H	Encourage projects that increase air quality, reduce carbon emissions, or reduce climate impacts.	X	x			x	N/A	
		Encourage developments to become certified by the United States Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system.		X			x	N/A	
		Review and amend development regulations regarding parking minimums and encourage the use of shared parking between adjacent land uses.	x	X			x	N/A	
		Ensure land use and transportation policies are complementary to one another.		X			x	N/A	
Objective 3: Protect water quality in the County's rivers, streams, and wetlands from negative impacts of development on adjacent land.	H	Review and amend stormwater regulations regarding the use of riparian buffers.	x	X			x	N/A	
		Limit construction within 100-year floodplain.		X			x	N/A	
		Regulate land use activities to protect surface and groundwater resources.		X			x	N/A	
		Enforce development standards in areas of karst topography to preserve the quality of sub-surface water resources.		X			x	N/A	
Objective 4: Encourage and promote recycling opportunities.	H	Provide educational materials for residents and businesses who wish to participate in solid waste reduction activities.		x		x	X	N/A	
		Encourage and promote participation in environmentally safe and economically sound recycling.		x			X	N/A	
		Provide for the collection, recycling, and disposal of household hazardous waste to prevent pollution in the county.		x			X		

			Responsible Entity					Existing Funding Sources	Potential Funding Sources
			A bold X indicates lead entity						
			County Commission	Planning and Zoning Commission	Partner Agencies	Private Developers, Residents, Volunteers	County Staff		
Objectives	Priority	Strategy							
Goal #2: Enhance and promote the County's natural environment.									
Objective 1: Apply existing development standards to protect and enhance green spaces and waterways.	H	Enforce existing zoning codes regarding landscaping and screening requirements to protect landowners from visual pollution and unsightly uses.		X			x	N/A	
		Collaborate with the Missouri Department of Conservation to encourage the planting of native vegetation to restore the environment to its natural state.			x		X	N/A	
		Evaluate the need for and consider the adoption of new or modifications to existing standards which will enhance and preserve the County's natural environment.		X			x	N/A	
Objective 2: Promote the County's outdoor recreation opportunities and natural beauty.	H	Collaborate with partnering organizations to improve access to county's parks and trails by increasing connectivity to neighborhoods and other modes of transportation.			x		X	N/A	
		Promote outdoor recreational opportunities on the county's website and social media pages.					X	N/A	

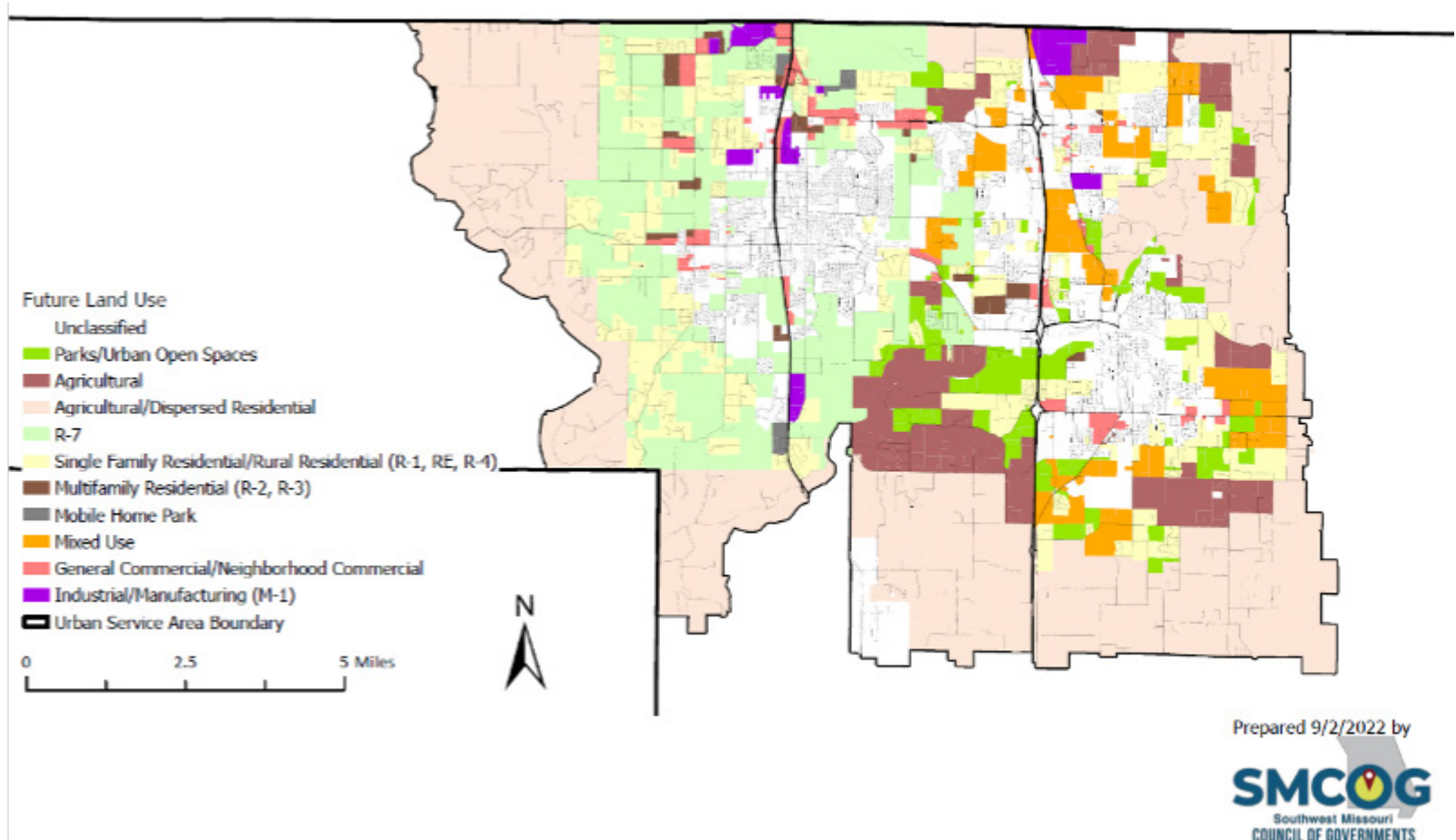
			Responsible Entity					Existing Funding Sources	Potential Funding Sources
			A bold X indicates lead entity						
			County Commission	Planning and Zoning Commission	Partner Agencies	Private Developers, Residents, Volunteers	County Staff		
Objectives	Priority	Strategy							
Housing									
Goal: Support development of a variety of housing options that meet the needs of all residents									
Objective 1: Evaluate existing regulations for possible modifications which could create opportunities for greater diversity in housing options.	L	Examine and modify zoning regulations to increase housing flexibility.	x	X			x	N/A	
		Consider reducing the minimum square footage requirement for single-family homes.		X				N/A	
		Support the use and creation of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) for residential homes.		X				N/A	
Objective 2: Work along-side local organizations and municipalities to address the housing needs of the entire county.	L	Conduct a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) to identify current housing inventory and characteristics, government policies and incentives, and the availability of community services.		x		X	x	General Fund	
		Make information regarding housing needs and assistance available to citizens and developers.				x	X	N/A	
		Support housing development that meets the needs of our changing population demographics.		X			x	N/A	
Objective 3: Improve the overall quality of construction through continued support of the County's adopted building code and inspection requirements.	L	Update the current building code.		X			x	N/A	
		Provide educational materials to the public regarding adopted building codes.				x	X	General Fund	

			Responsible Entity					Existing Funding Sources	Potential Funding Sources
			A bold X indicates lead entity						
			County Commission	Planning and Zoning Commission	Partner Agencies	Private Developers, Residents, Volunteers	County Staff		
Objectives	Priority	Strategy							
Economic Development									
Goal #1: Develop a more diversified economy that encourages retention and expansion of existing local businesses and supports the creation of new business types that can be successful in the future.									
Objective 1: Become a repository of quality geographic and demographic information for economic development needs.	M	Analyze and review the Show Me Economic Development Study for data on the local economy.			x		X	N/A	
		Display geographic, demographic, and other available related information on the county website.					X	N/A	
Objective 2: Support and engage with organizations that support local businesses.	H	Identify and collaborate with organizations that help local businesses.			x		X	N/A	
Objective 3: Elevate the awareness and understanding of available County services within the business community.	M	Ensure County contacts and information is easily accessible to citizens.					X	N/A	
		Update County website and social media pages with current information as needed.					X	N/A	
Objective 4: Coordinate with municipalities to provide quality assistance and information to those who may wish to locate or expand a business within Christian County.	M	Establish a point of contact within each municipality to maintain connectivity and communication and provide this information on the county website.					X	N/A	



11 APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A: CHRISTIAN COUNTY URBAN SERVICE AREA FUTURE LAND USE



Past Plans and Studies

The 2009 Comprehensive Plan served as a guide for the elected and appointed officials, citizens, and others in the private sector working to improve Christian County. This plan provides information on the local economy, physical characteristics of the county, environmental considerations, and existing land uses. The plan also discusses goals for the future and strategies for how to achieve them for various topics such as public facilities, and transportation.

Since the completion of the last comprehensive plan, there have been various plans and studies conducted for Christian County and its municipalities. The studies include Christian County Economic Development Strategic Plan, Kansas Expressway Extension Corridor Study, and Ozarks Regional Bicycle Destination Plan. These studies gave recommendations and developed goals that are vital to the proper development of Christian County. A brief description of each study is provided in this section.

Christian County Economic Development Strategic Plan

In 2013, TIP Strategies developed the Christian County Economic Development Strategic Plan. This plan was created with the help of boards, councils, administrators, and Chamber of Commerce members.

The study highlighted the impact of population growth on the county and its economic impact. The vision of the plan was to ensure that Christian County becomes a destination of high-quality talent and innovative employers in the Springfield Metropolitan area.

The Plan outlines a vision and guiding principles for accomplishing the initiative. It also identifies goals, strategies, and actions to achieve the vision. The goals that were developed to achieve the vision are:

1. Ensure that Christian County communities have the resources needed to support business expansion, formation, and attraction.
2. Provide a regulatory environment and the infrastructure to support the creation of employment centers across the country.
3. Build a strong sense of identity in Christian County as a magnet for talent in the Springfield Region.

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12 APPENDIX B

Action Plan for Economic Development

In cooperation with Show Me Christian County, Community Growth Strategies (CGS) analyzed the status of the 2013 Christian County Economic Development Strategic Plan. This Action Plan ensures that steps are being taken in pursuit of the implementation of the 2013 Plan.

Actions steps developed for Goal 1 are:

- Establish and roll out a formal Christian County Business Retention (BRE) program utilizing the Synchronist© software made available through the partnership with SREP. Organize a “volunteer” interview group to conduct interviews.
- Explore the potential for the implementation of an “Economic Development Sales Tax” to fund marketing and incentives for new capital investment and job creation
- Pursue a partnership with the e-factory and Missouri State University in the realignment of the entrepreneurship program to include upgrading and re-aligning the Carl G. Hefner Enterprise Center into an updated, new business incubator and accelerator.
- Begin the process of identifying locations for Enterprise Centers at

key locations across Christian County.

- Identify potential sites for Industrial/Business Park development and begin formulating plans for option-to-purchase or sell and/or purchase.
- Realign and update the Target Industries.

Actions steps developed for Goal 2 are:

- Organize regular (recommend monthly) meetings with Nixa and Ozark Planners. Encourage City Administrators to attend these meetings. (See Strategy 2.1 from the 2013 Strategic Plan)
- Host “Developer Roundtable” events. Allow developers and potential investors to have “off the record” conversations to discuss impediments to growth and development.

Actions steps developed for Goal 3 are:

- Develop a complete Community Profile for Christian County. Be sure it is linked to all city, community, and chamber/betterment association websites in Christian County. The “Show Me Christian

County” website should serve as the “umbrella” site for all the communities in the county.

- Host regular meetings with the leadership of OTC, Nixa Public Schools, and Ozark Public Schools to encourage the development and implementation of partnerships and joint-use programs.
- Christian County should be the “Education & Training” center of the region.
- Support the development of the Finley Farm project by promoting it as a regional destination for visitors and locals. This project has the potential to make Christian County a true major destination for visitors.
- Investigate and pursue the potential for an “All Sports Complex” development in connection with U. S. Baseball Stadium. The vacant property appears to be available in both directions from the existing stadium.
- Encourage Christian County, in partnership with the cities and MODOT, to implement a common set of way-finding signage throughout the county.

Kansas Expressway Extension Corridor Study into Christian County

In 2005, Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) conducted a corridor study to identify needed improvements along Kansas Expressway going into Christian County. The study identified 3 options for Christian County to use as a new corridor extended from Kansas Expressway. Each corridor option begins at a future extension of Farm Rd 190 in Greene County and ends at Highway 14 in Christian County, with different variations along the way for each option. OTO identified effects each corridor option would have, such as properties impacted, project length, construction costs, and right-of-way costs.

The goals that were developed as a part of the study are:

1. Alleviate congestion in high traffic areas during peak times
2. Identify needed improvements and associated costs
3. Provide examples of corridor options

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Ozarks Regional Bicycle Destination Plan

Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) developed a Regional Bicycle Destination Plan in 2014. The destination plan was designed to identify and highlight the region's growing trail network within the Springfield area while including a route and various destinations within Christian County. The purpose of this plan was to highlight the potential of the region as a destination for bicycle tourism. Christian County should use the conclusions drawn from this study to plan for bicycle routes and complete streets.

The goals that were developed as a part of the study are:

1. Provide strategies for marketing and wayfinding
2. Identify specific locations and route names to promote various destinations
3. Address mountain biking and special events in the area

Destination 2045

Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) developed a Long-Range Transportation Plan which was approved in 2021. The plan looks at

transportation needs for the Springfield metropolitan area and makes priorities looking forward through the year 2045. Though this plan is focused on transportation, it integrates economic and environmental goals as well. The plan addresses all modes of transportation from cars to cyclists to pedestrians. This plan outlines the various funding opportunities that can help make improvement projects come to fruition.

Christian County Stormwater Management Plan

Christian County developed a Stormwater Management Plan to develop and implement programs throughout the county that effectively minimize stormwater pollutant runoff in the various watersheds located within the county. Part of this plan aims to inform individuals and households about how they can do their part in reducing stormwater pollution. This plan outlines the structure of a maintenance and training program for dealing with stormwater as well as a plan for monitoring the management of the stormwater. The six minimum control measures discussed in the plan are:

1. **Public Education and Outreach:** The county will implement a public education program to distribute education materials to the community or conduct equivalent outreach activities about the impacts of stormwater discharge on water bodies and the steps the public can take to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff.
2. **Public Involvement/Participation:** The county will implement public involvement/participation program that complies with State and local public notice requirements.
3. **Illicit Discharge and Elimination:** The county will develop, implement, and enforce a program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges into the county's regulated small MS4.
4. **Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control:** The county will develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in any stormwater runoff to their regulated small MS4 from construction activities that result in a land disturbance of greater than or equal to one acre. Reduction of stormwater discharges from construction activity disturbing less than one acre shall be included in the program if construction activity would disturb one acre or more.

5. **Post Construction Stormwater Management:** The county will develop, implement, and enforce a program to address stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment projects that disturb greater than or equal to one acre, including projects less than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development of sale, that discharge into the county's small MS4. The program will ensure that controls are in place that would prevent or minimize water quality impacts.
6. **Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations:** The county will develop and implement an operation and maintenance program that includes a training component and has the ultimate goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations.

Comprehensive Plans of municipalities within Christian County

Within the county, several municipalities have their own comprehensive plans.

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12 APPENDIX B

Billings Comprehensive Plan

The comprehensive plan for the city of Billings, adopted in 2020, discusses possible annexations and developing infrastructure for anticipated growth. Some of the goals for the city of Billings are to provide community services, recreational opportunities, and infrastructure to their residents. They also want to diversify their housing stock, improve their transportation network, and support business development. In the future, Billings wants to maintain its small-town feel while enhancing its sense of community.

Clever Comprehensive Plan

The comprehensive plan for the city of Clever was adopted in 2017. A considerable portion of Clever’s plan addressed the need to enhance public services and recreational opportunities. Additionally, the people of Clever want to see an increase in the quality and quantity of the housing stock to allow for moderate growth. In terms of transportation, Clever is focused on increasing safety for vehicle drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

Nixa Comprehensive Plan

The city of Nixa’s comprehensive plan was adopted in 2003 and updated in 2006. The city of Nixa prioritizes intentional growth throughout the plan. Some of their goals include taking an active role in new developments, creating a diverse economy, and maintaining and growing their road networks. They also prioritize the development of a variety of housing to support people of all socio-economic backgrounds and needs.

Ozark Comprehensive Plan

The comprehensive plan for the city of Ozark was adopted in 2019. Ozark focused on preserving the history and natural resources of the area in their plan. The city of Ozark is focused on cohesive growth in its plan and connecting the development of housing to the transportation network. Ozark aims to encourage the construction of affordable housing, keep housing developments centralized around business districts, and restore historic homes in the downtown area.



AADT	Average Annual Daily Traffic	LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design	
ACS	American Community Survey	MoDOT	Missouri Department of Transportation	
ADA	Americans with Disability Act	NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program	
ADU	Accessory Dwelling Unit	NPS	National Park Service	
ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act	OTO	Ozark Transportation Organization	
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team	PDO	Property Damage Only	01
CPC	Comprehensive Planning Committee	PUD	Planned Use Development	02
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	SMCC	Show Me Christian County	03
DESE	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	SMCOG	Southwest Missouri Council of Governments	04
DNR	Department of Natural resources	SWMOA	Southwest Missouri Office on Aging	05
EMS	Emergency Management Services			06
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency			07
EV	Electric Vehicles			08
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency			09
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration			10
HNA	Housing Needs Assessment			11
HMP	Hazard Mitigation Plan			12
GO CAPS	Greater Ozarks Centers for Advanced Professional Studies			13
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15 APPENDIX E

APPENDIX E: COMMUNITY SURVEY

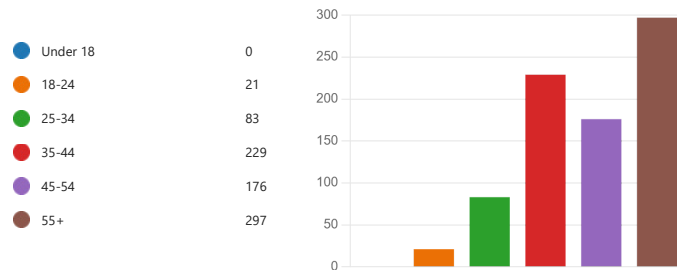
Christian County 2021 Comprehensive Plan Survey

810
Responses

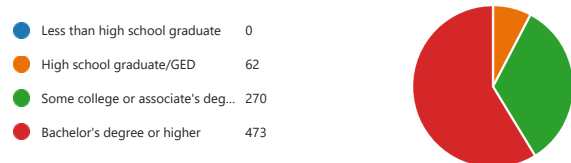
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Average time to complete

Active
Status

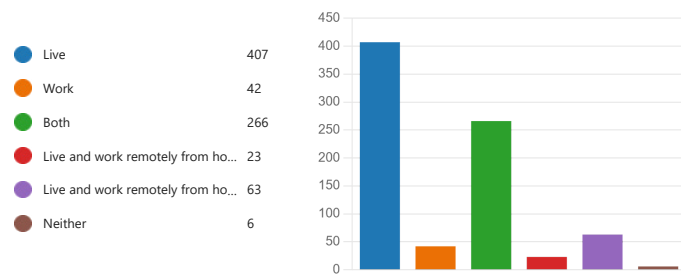
1. What is your age?



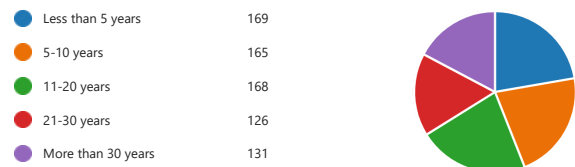
2. What is your highest educational attainment?



3. Do you live or work in Christian County?



4. How long have you lived in Christian County?

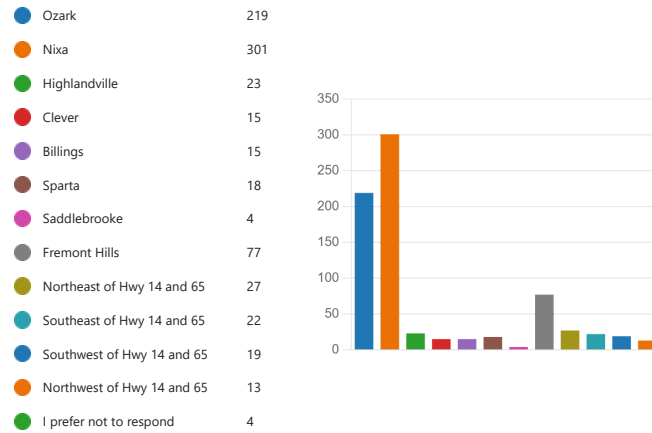


5. Why did you choose to live in Christian County?

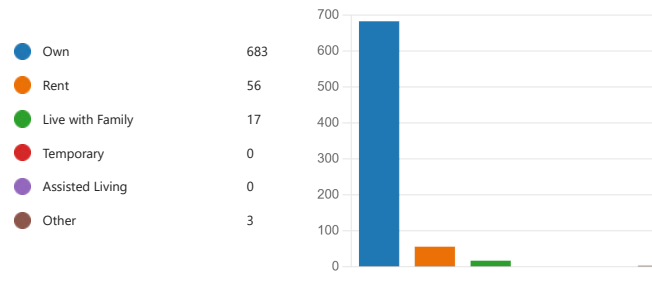
732
Responses

Latest Responses
 "Rural, agricultural and Conserative region. "
 "less government control"
 "It's home, where my family is from. And it has decent schools"

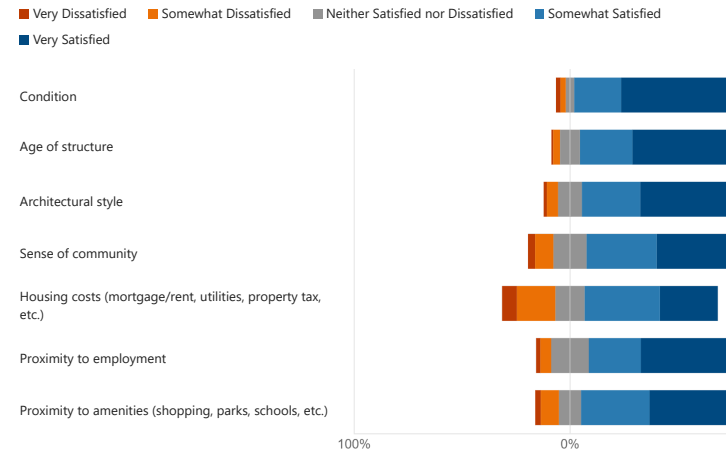
6. Where do you live within Christian County?



7. What is your current living situation?



8. How would you describe your satisfaction with your current living situation?

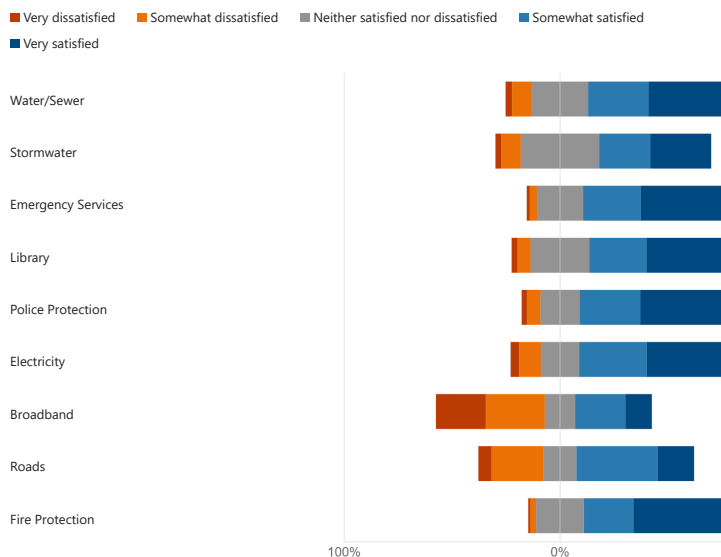


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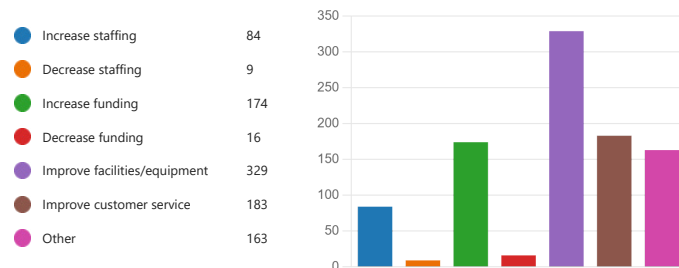


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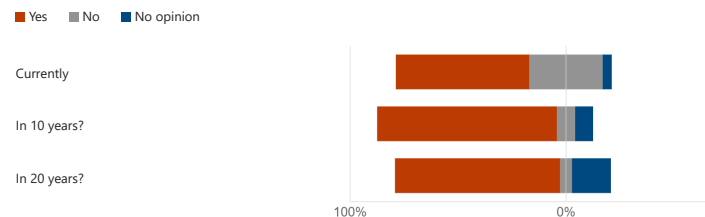
9. How would you describe your satisfaction with the following services and infrastructure?



10. If you chose "Somewhat dissatisfied" or "Very dissatisfied" for any community services or infrastructure in the previous question, what could be improved?

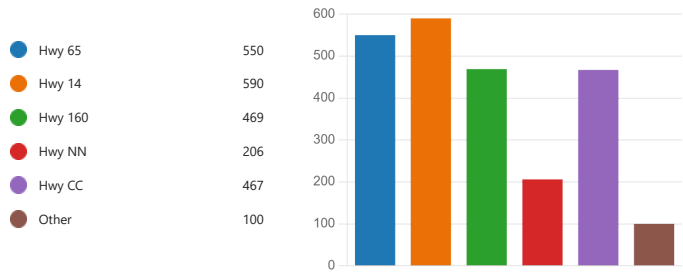


11. Do you think traffic congestion is and/or will be a problem?



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12. What major road(s) do you use most often? Select all that apply.



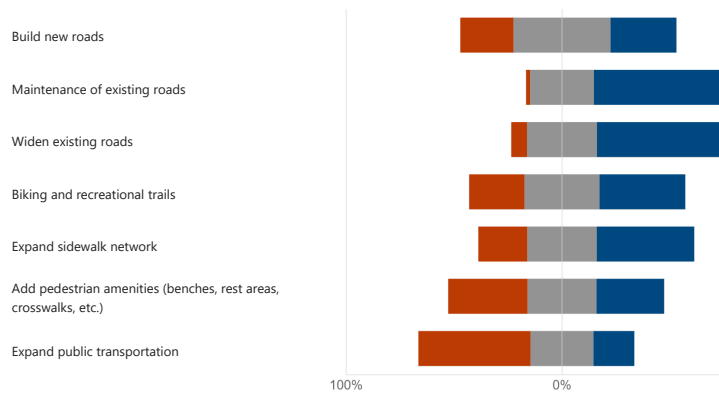
4. What amount of your regular spending (groceries, auto care, personal services, etc.) do you spend in Christian County?

Less than 25%	84
25% - 49%	166
50% - 74%	278
75% or more	279



13. How high of a priority should the following transportation improvements be over the next 20 years?

Low Moderate High



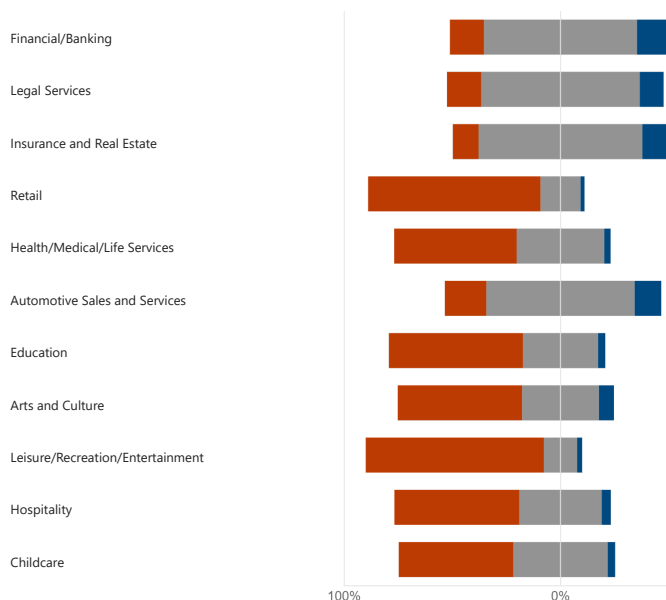
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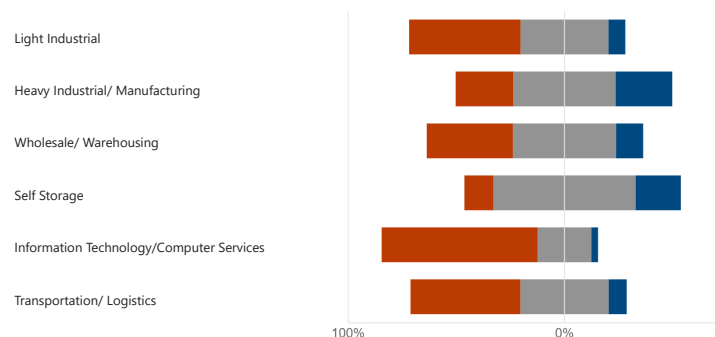
15. Which of the following commercial services would you like to see grow in the next 20 years?

Encourage growth Remain the same Discourage growth



16. Which of the following industries would you like to see grow in the next 20 years?

Encourage Allow, but do not encourage Do not allow



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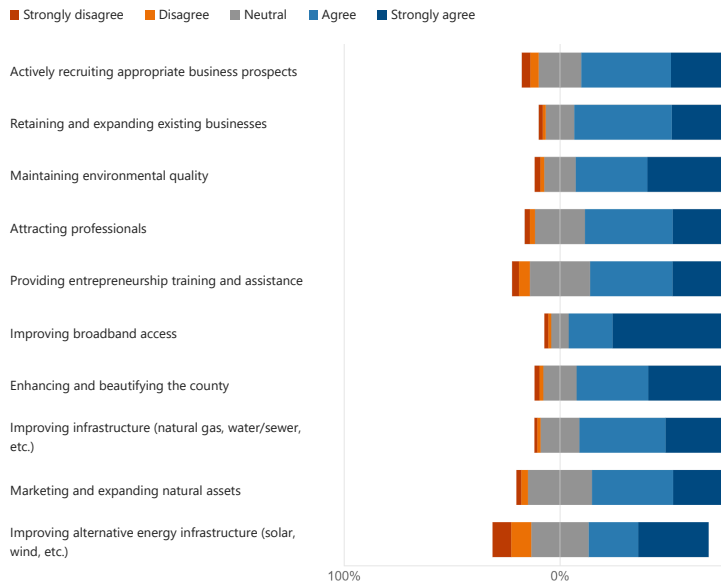
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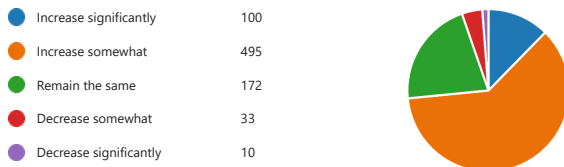
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17. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement. I would support the dedication of more time and resources to:



18. What would be the ideal growth of your community over the next 20 years?



19. What type of growth would you like to see?



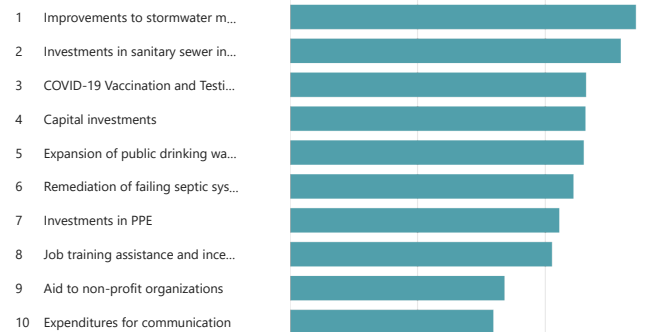
20. Do any areas have a unique character that you feel should be preserved or enhanced? If so, what qualities should be preserved or enhanced?

361
Responses

Latest Responses
"river walk in ozark"

"The parks need to be better in the Ozark area. We have a gre..."

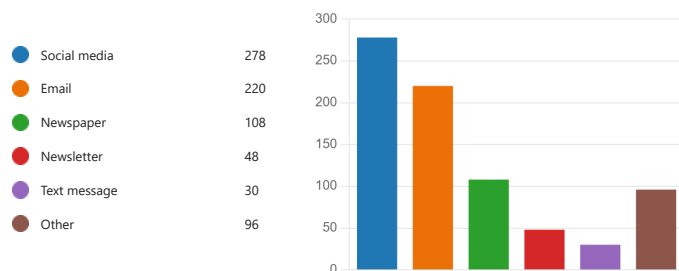
21. Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Christian County has been allocated a significant sum of money which can only be used for certain purposes which are covered by the Act. From the list below, please rank what you feel should be the County's top priorities for utilizing these funds. (Hover over the option and click the arrows to move up and down)



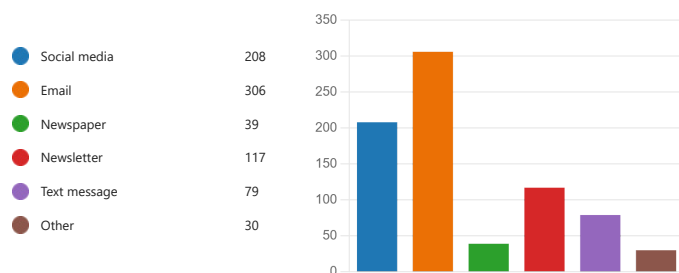


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22. How does the county currently communicate with you?

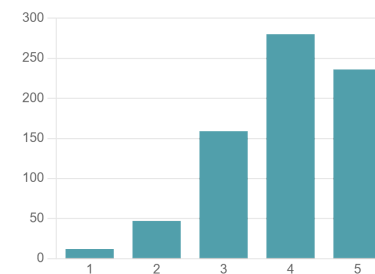


23. How would you like the county to communicate with you?



24. Please rate your experience working with county staff in the past.

3.93
Average Rating

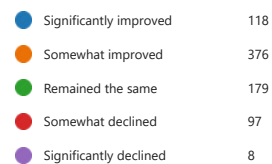


25. What services, if any, do you wish the county would provide?

262
Responses

Latest Responses
"the ability to communicate with presiding commissioner"

26. Over the past ten years, would you say that the quality of life in Christian County has:



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27. What is one thing that you love about Christian County?

619
Responses

Latest Responses
"Rural character "
"quite out in the country"
"Small town feel."

28. What struggles do you have living/working in Christian County?

626
Responses

Latest Responses
"Government overreach "
"no roads can not get into town without drive through webster ..."
"Poor parks in the Ozark area, Limited internet access, and mo..."

29. Any additional comments or concerns may be made here:

254
Responses

Latest Responses
"Lower taxes "
"planning continues approving driveways which destroy our co..."
"Please lower property taxes. People are going to be pushed o..."

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16 APPENDIX F

APPENDIX F: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES SURVEY Christian County Comprehensive Plan Goals & Objectives Prioritization Survey

161
Responses

85:26
Average time to complete

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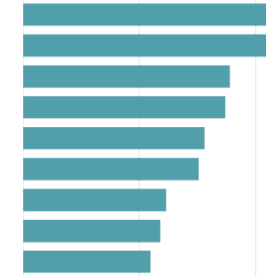
1. Rank the following goals related to the topics of Housing, Economic Development, and Environment in order of importance.

- 1 Encourage development to occ...
- 2 Enhance and promote County's ...
- 3 Develop a more diversified econ...
- 4 Support development of a varie...



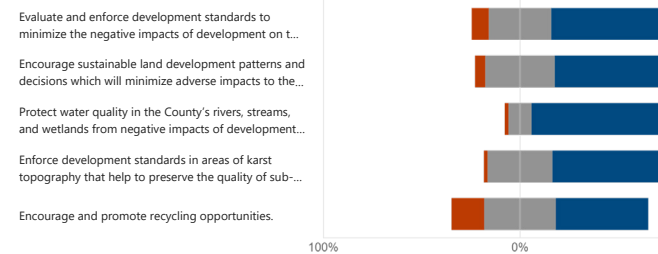
2. Rank the following goals related to the topics of Transportation, Public Facilities & Services, and Land Use in order of importance.

- 1 Pursue infrastructure improvem...
- 2 Enhance and maintain the trans...
- 3 Encourage appropriate and effic...
- 4 Provide quality community faci...
- 5 Preserve and protect existing ag...
- 6 Provide a safe, efficient, and acc...
- 7 Support moderated growth out...
- 8 Identify appropriate locations wi...
- 9 Encourage new commercial and...



3. Encourage development to occur with minimal impacts on the natural environment to preserve the natural beauty of Christian County.

Low Medium High



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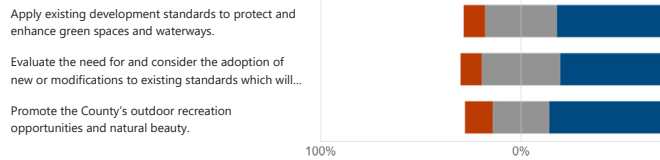
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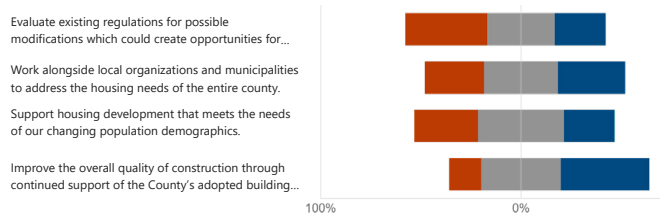
4. Enhance and promote County's natural environment.

Low Medium High



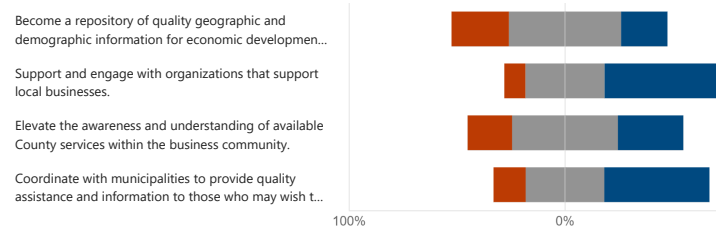
5. Support development of a variety of housing options that meet the needs of all residents.

Low Medium High



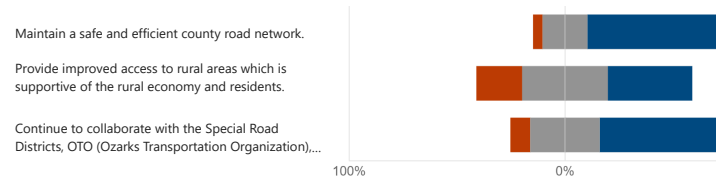
6. Develop a more diversified economy that encourages retention and expansion of existing local businesses and supports the creation of new business types that can be successful in the future.

Low Medium High



7. Enhance and maintain the transportation system to meet the needs of current and future residents and businesses.

Low Medium High



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16 APPENDIX F

8. Provide a safe, efficient, and accessible multi-modal transportation system.

Low Medium High

Collaborate with municipalities and organizations to develop trail connections throughout the county and...

Explore opportunities to promote carpooling, ridesharing, etc.

Encourage the development of alternative energy vehicles infrastructure.

100% 0%

9. Pursue infrastructure improvements to accommodate current and future growth.

Low Medium High

Coordinate with local municipalities and service providers to facilitate the appropriate expansion of...

Support initiatives that will remove barriers to and expand opportunities for high-speed internet access...

100% 0%

10. Provide quality community facilities and services to increase citizen satisfaction.

Low Medium High

Promote and encourage disaster resiliency.

Promote development and expansion of facilities and infrastructure which address the needs of an aging...

Promote the development and preservation of recreational and cultural resources.

100% 0%

11. Encourage appropriate and efficient use of land while enhancing the natural and built environment.

Low Medium High

Develop and update the future land use map, to guide land use decisions that support sensible development...

Coordinate with each municipality's land use maps in growth areas that extend into unincorporated areas...

Identify future growth areas within major transportation corridors.

100% 0%

12. Support moderated growth outside of city limits to expand residential opportunities within the county.

Low Medium High

Ensure residential uses are compatible with neighboring and projected future uses.

Ensure land use decisions account for appropriate transition between varying intensities of land use.

Coordinate with municipalities to ensure future residential uses can be serviced by public water and...

100% 0%

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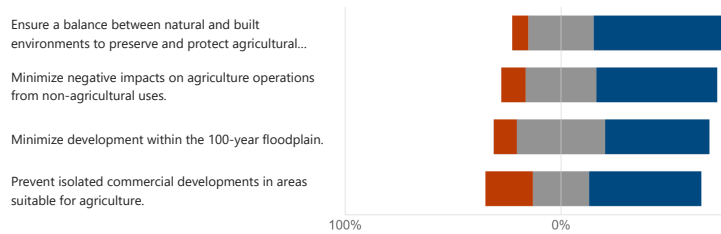
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13. Preserve and protect existing agricultural lands.

Low Medium High



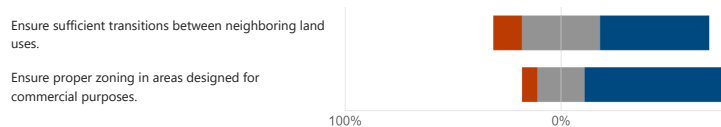
14. Identify appropriate locations within transportation corridors for commercial and industrial growth.

Low Medium High



15. Encourage new commercial and industrial development that is compatible with surrounding land uses.

Low Medium High



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