

CHAPTER 7

SPENCER COUNTY COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES PLAN ELEMENT

PURPOSE

The need for a total living environment surpassing the simple need for basic shelter has been established as an accepted goal by the community; and reflects standard planning principles. Many housing developments and neighborhoods that appear stable and desirable owe a portion of that credit to ancillary and supportive community facilities such as police and fire protection, socio-cultural facilities such as educational institutions and libraries, public administrative Offices, health facilities, and facilities for recreation and leisure time activities.

This chapter is primarily concerned with the need for facilities associated with anticipated housing and neighborhood development that can be reasonably expected to occur in Spencer County during the planning period. Limited suggestions will be made regarding improvements on existing facilities, the type of new facilities that are needed, minimum standards for development, generalized capital and operating costs, and in some instances potential sites for new development.

POLICE PROTECTION

The present police force for the City of Taylorsville and Spencer County consists of one sheriff, five deputies, and six constables, all having the power to arrest. These law enforcement agents work for the Sherriff's Department, which has been located at 18 East Main Street in Taylorsville for about 8 years. The city of Taylorsville is served by five full-time policemen. The City of Taylorsville Police department is located in City Hall, 70 Taylorsville Road. A 24-hour dispatch service is in place. Operation is contracted through an independent contractor.

The estimated costs of construction of a new physical facility to house city police personnel was not undertaken due to the constantly changing price levels of materials and labor as well as engineering, overhead and architectural fees. However, a building was renovated at city hall to house the police department. These renovations included five offices, interview room, evidence room, and garage bay.

The adequacy of police protection within a locality is highly dependent upon the ability of that locality to pay for law enforcement. Obviously, the greatest problem facing the residents of Spencer County will be the enforcement personnel needed to patrol the county during the peak visitation season at Taylorsville Lake. Given the small tax base available to the county to pay for such services, some arrangements for assistance from the state for the provision

of state troopers during the months of April through October to patrol the county may be the only logical solution to the county's law enforcement needs.

FIRE PROTECTION

The level of development of fire protection services is generally based on the availability of water supply, value of facilities to be protected, and population served, as well as distance or time required to answer calls, and differences in population densities. Fire protection is also based on requirements of the Insurance Services Office Inc. (ISO) and with efforts to improve or maintain current ratings.

There are three fire departments that serve Spencer County: The Taylorsville Fire Department, Spencer County Fire Protection District, and Mount Eden Fire Protection District. Please see Map 16 for jurisdictional boundaries and Fire Station locations. The Mount Eden Fire District serves in eastern Spencer County, Taylorsville Fire Department serves parts of the City of Taylorsville that was not already in the Spencer County Fire Protection District and the Spencer County Fire Protection District serves the balance of the county.

Because of automatic response agreements the Mount Washington Fire Protection District responds to the Louisville Road area, Kings Church Road, and Ridgeview areas along with the Spencer County Fire Protection District.

The same firefighters that man the Taylorsville Fire Department man the Spencer County Fire Protection District. They are manned by a total of 54 firefighters. The Mount Eden Fire Protection District is manned by 22 firefighters.

Fire protection may be very difficult in remote portions of the county.

General requirements for the provision of adequate fire flow are outlined in the Insurance Services Office Fire Suppression Rating Schedule. The required fire flow for residential districts consisting of small areas, one family dwellings one to two stories in height varies from 500 to 2000 gpm for 2 to 4 hours, depending on the degree of exposure between buildings.

Analysis of the water system shows many improvements. Fire hydrant law in 1998 and many new water line extensions have improved in most areas of the county. Along with a tanker shuttle system by the Spencer County Fire Protection District has improved fire protection and lowered insurance rating in most areas of the county. The Taylorsville Fire Department is a Class 4, the Spencer County Fire Protection District is a Class 6 within 5 road miles of all six of their stations, and Mount Eden Fire District is a Class 6 within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant and Class 9 outside of 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant but within 5 miles of a fire station. The water department has taken steps to address existing and future populations in most areas of the county.

With that said there are areas that inadequate fire flow remains a serious problem and will continue to hamper fire protection efforts until the piping distribution system of the public water supply is upgraded. In order to provide an adequate supply and storage area, the system should be capable of delivering the maximum fire flow required for the specified duration per ISO.

The selection of new fire station locations will be based on requirements from the Insurance Services Office. There are 7 fire stations in Spencer County (Refer to Map 16 for locations of Fire Stations):

Mount Eden Fire District	Mount Eden
Taylorsville Fire Department	Taylorsville
Spencer County FPD Station #1	Taylorsville
Spencer County FPD Station #2	Elk Creek
Spencer County FPC Station #3	Waterford
Spencer County FPC Station #4	Little Mount
Spencer County FPC Station #5	Ashes Creek
Spencer County FPC Station #6	Cotton Lane

- *Mount Washington FPD Station #2 Kings Church Road
- *Automatic response agreement with the SCFPD

Of the three fire departments serving Spencer County 74 firefighters are volunteer and 2 are paid. Because of limited funds volunteer firefighters will be the primary firefighting force for years to come. The Taylorsville Fire Department is budgeted by the city from their general fund. The Mount Eden Fire District is funded by a 7 cents per \$100 tax assessment on real property and motor vehicles. The Spencer County Fire Protection District is funded by a 5 cent per \$100 tax assessment on real property and a 10 cent per \$100 tax assessment on motor vehicles. One pumper and equipment cost around \$250,000. Thus local officials as well as community residents must determine the level of service that is desired, and try to produce a fiscally sound program to meet that level of fire protection deemed necessary. This has somewhat been addressed by forming two fire protection districts.

From the analysis of existing fire protection services described above it is evident that the greatest concerns from providing adequate fire protection are funding to expand fire services as the community grows, staffing of firefighters, and insufficient fire flow in some areas of the county. The concerns are the same that come up across the county.

Based on current Insurance Services Office reviews the location of additional stations manned by volunteer firefighters could include the following:

Bloomfield Road & Overlook Road
 Little Mount Road and Fairgrounds Road
 Taylorsville Road & Wilsonville Road
 Dales Lane Area
 John Henry & Yoder Tipton

New stations will be added based on maintaining current ISO ratings. Table 7-1 shows the current ISO ratings.

**TABLE 7-1
 ISO RATINGS**

Department	ISO Rating	Stations	Real Pro. Tax Rate
Taylorsville	4	1	General Fund
Spencer County FPD	6-10	6	5 cents per \$100
Mount Eden FPD	6-9-10	2	7 cents per \$100
Shelby County FPD	4-9-10	3	10 cents per \$100
Simpsonville FPD	6-9-10	2	8 cents per \$100
Northeast Nelson	6-9-10	2	7 cents per \$100
Mount Washington	5-9-10	3	10 cents per \$100

MEDICAL SERVICES

Current emergency medical services in Spencer County are provided by two full time and two part time conforming ambulances as well as numerous certified EMTs that cover the entire population of the county.

There are five full time Medical Doctors that serve the county.

The Spencer County Public Health Department, located at 88 Spears Drive, Taylorsville, provides a wide range of screening and environmental services.

Services offered (by appointment only):

- Immunizations
- Well Child Clinic
- Prenatal Clinic
- Family Planning Clinic
- Hypertension
- Diabetes Screening & Counseling
- Tubercuosis Screening and Counseling
- Hearing & Vision Screening
- Cancer Screening (Pap Smear)
- Cholesterol Screening
- Handicap referrals

- Environmental & Plumbing (reviews of new septic systems required by law)
- Mammogram Screening
- STD screening
- HIV Testing

There are no hospitals in Spencer County. The nearest is Jewish Hospital of Shelbyville which is 19.3 miles away. There are multiple comprehensive health care facilities which are located 25 miles west in Jefferson County.

Formerly the Rural Health Clinic, the Park Duvalle at Spencer County, which has hours Monday through Friday, offers family centered primary medical care to all residents of Spencer, Shelby, Bullitt and Nelson counties regardless of age or income. Services are provided by a family practice physician and a family nurse practitioner. Services include:

- Physical Exams
- Medical Testing & Screening
- Treatment of Acute & Chronic Disorders
- Prescriptions for Medications
- Laboratory Services
- Nutrition Counseling
- Health Education

The clinic will make arrangements for patients to receive the following services at our parent center, Park DuValle Community Health Center in Louisville:

- Dental Care
- Eye Care
- Foot Care
- X-rays
- Referrals for other services

Free transportation to Park DuValle is available by calling one day in advance. Clinic charges are also based on ability to pay. Depending upon family size and income, you may be eligible for a reduced or sliding fee scale.

Ambulance service should be increased gradually to serve both the anticipated permanent population and the seasonal population which can be expected to have many recreation related injuries. The encouragement of training of qualified EMTs to man the ambulance should be emphasized.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Education is the single most important aspect of human resources regarding economic growth and development. Spencer County is quickly becoming a highly desirable rural community for workers in Louisville and

surrounding counties who seek a quality education for their children. Since Spencer County is one of the fastest growing counties by percentage in Kentucky we can expect that the current 2,585 K-12 student population to grow by approximately 100 students per year. The following table 7-2 shows the 10 year enrollment projections.

**TABLE 7-2
SPENCER COUNTY SCHOOLS
Ten Year Enrollment Projection**

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Elementary K-5	1,133	1,173	*1,239	1,300	1,327	1,332	1,342	##	##	##
Middle 6-8	622	665	644	625	612	670	726	789	809	821
High 9-12	698	776	*798	869	910	888	862	893	906	961
Totals	2,453	2,614	2,681	2,784	2,849	2,890	2,930	##	##	##

Birth rates are the basis for projections. Without birth data, Kindergarten enrollment is impossible to project six years from now

*Indicates last year before facility reaches capacity; Need new facility

Table 7-3 shows current enrollment capacity and possible expansion needed for Spencer County Schools.

**TABLE 7-3
ENROLLMENT CAPACITY**

	Currently Enrolled 2006	Capacity	New or Expanded Facility Needed By:
Taylorville Elementary	411	450	2008
Spencer County Elem.	722	800	2008
Spencer County Middle	613	800	2013
Spencer County High	685	800	2008
Hillview Academy	22		
TOTAL	2,453		

In 2005-2006 the school district opened a new and innovative Spencer County Middle School and Taylorville Elementary School. We are currently in the construction stages for renovating and adding much needed space to Spencer County High School. These major renovations include HVAC, new roof, kitchen/cafeteria, gymnasium, library, and an eight classroom technology wing.

Table 7-4 shows the ten year projection plan for the building of new educational facilities.

**TABLE 7-4
TEN YEAR PROJECTION OF EDUCATION BUILDING PROJECTS**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Middle School											
Renovated Elem. School II											
Elem. School III (or Renov)			1								
Renovated High School	1	2	3								
Renovated Central Office			1	2	3						
Sell Current Central Office					3						
New Bus Garage					1	2	3				
New High School								4	1	2	3
Middle School II move to HS											

Note: 1 – Project in Planning Stages
 2 – Project in Building Stages
 3 – Project is complete
 4 – Land is being acquired

As evident in the above tables, the enrollment for the schools in Spencer County will have a continued need for new facility updates. When planning the construction of new schools, the Board of Education should consider the following: elementary schools should have a playground completely screened from the street, and equipped for a wide range of activities; while junior high schools should have a play field equipped for a wide range of games. General locations of both schools should be near concentrations of dwelling units or near the center of a residential area. Schools should be away from major arterial streets; and pedestrian walkways from other areas should be provided. Location adjacent to parks is ideal.

LIBRARY FACILITIES

Regardless of the size of the community the library should provide access to enough books to cover the interests of the whole population. The free public library is located at 168 Taylorsville Road, Taylorsville. As of July 31, 2007, the library contains 28,880 volumes and operates on a \$290,000 annual budget

supported by a \$.03 per \$100 library district tax. Generally, libraries serving a population of 5,000 to 10,000 persons should have a minimum of 6 books per capita. All libraries should have designated areas for children's, young adult and adult materials. The Spencer County library has operating hours Monday through Saturday. There are seven computers available to the public, but no book mobile available. The library employs three full time and two part time employees.

The library can also play an important role as a cultural center. In addition to providing books, it can provide record and tape lending, music-listening and visual aid facilities, lecture series, and act as a general information center. With such an expanded role, the library can be an important element in the community. As such, multi-purpose rooms should be provided for meeting, viewing and listening by cultural, educational and civic groups unless such facilities are already available elsewhere in the community.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

A variety of public and private recreational facilities are available in the Taylorsville area. Facilities located at Taylorsville include a city park with playground equipment and a picnic site. There are two new County parks: one being Waterford Park, located on State Route 44, which includes one baseball field, soccer fields, basketball court, concession stands and a walking track, the second being Ray Jewel Memorial Park, located on Ray Drive which is on the outskirts of the city limits, and includes three baseball fields, soccer fields, playground area, concession stands, basketball courts and a walking track. Also, the County has the use of school parks during the three month summer period.

Tanglewood is a privately managed 18-hole golf course, with a clubhouse, pro shop and a campground for recreational vehicles. Also, a second golf course is under construction at the Top Flight Subdivision located on S.R. 55 and the Shelby County Line.

Taylorsville Lake consists of a 3,050-acre lake constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Salt River Basin. The Corps of Engineers operates a visitors' center overlooking the dam. There are four boat ramps at the lake that the park leases from the corps: Possum Ridge, Van Buren, Chowning Lanes, and Settlers Trace, also home to Taylorsville Lake Dock and Marina. Pontoon and fishing boat rentals are available through Taylorsville Lake Dock. The state managed Possum Ridge Boat Ramp offers a boat ramp, shoreline fishing, horseback riding, and picnic facilities. Several other state managed boat ramps are also available. Over 10,000 acres of surrounding lakeside property, including Taylorsville Lake State Park, are devoted to wildlife preservation and recreational uses. At the Taylorsville Lake Park, campers can stay on one of forty-five recreational camp sites or a horse camping area. This includes a ten pad horse camping area with a bath house, roads, and complete infrastructure. Spencer County has acquired 165 acres overlooking the lake. Rolling Hills, also located at the lake, provides camping facilities, cabins, and a swimming pool.

The newest development at Taylorsville Lake is Edge Water Resort, a 163 acre development that now boasts 40 available cottages overlooking beautiful Taylorsville Lake. The Edge Water Resort is privately owned. The agreement to use the land is a result of a complex agreement involving local, state, and federal governments. The Lake is owned and regulated by the Corp of Engineers and the property on which Edge Water sits was made available through a series of long term leases. The newest expansion to Edge Water Resorts, is Edge Water Sports, which sets on 170 acres. Edge Water Sports will be a state of the art sports complex for baseball, softball, soccer, and field hockey, hosting tournaments and camps for youth athletes from around the nation.

Passive recreation activities such as picnicking, nature-centered trails, etc. are also presently lacking in the county. Portions of the lake area could be set aside for these passive recreation pursuits. The need for community involvement in the long range planning of the lake area and its recreation facilities is very apparent. Interested residents should lobby their state representatives and the Governor's planning committee to make their views known.

Finally, it is of concern to the community residents that there are no indoor year-round recreation facilities available to either adult or young residents of the community. If a community recreation facility could be constructed, it should be designed to function as a community center with strong citizen participation; and should be designed for both young and old for passive and active recreation pursuits. The programming of such a facility should be closely coordinated with existing or proposed facilities in other community buildings such as schools. The location of the building should be central to the population served and near to outdoor recreation areas. The integration of indoor-outdoor activities would provide a maximum year-round activities program.

Annual events in the Taylorsville area include the Spencer County Fair, held at the fairgrounds each July, featuring truck and horse pulls, exhibits, shows, and entertainment. The Taylorsville homecoming is held in September and includes a parade, contests, arts and crafts booths, music, children's rides, and concessions. Christmas on Main Street, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, features a parade, the arrival of Santa Claus, games and activities for children, and Christmas decorating contest. The Kentucky Gourd Show occurs in May in downtown Taylorsville, which includes craft booths, classes, and gourd craft items for sale.

SUMMARY

Although beyond the scope of this study, the need to further prioritize desired community facilities and services is very apparent from the analysis in Chapter 7, but as one can see, strides are being made towards the goal with the many new facilities that have been mentioned. From this prioritization, local and county officials should develop a capital improvements program (CIP) that specifies budgetary requirements of the desired improvements for a certain period of time, usually five years. Long range maintenance and operating

budgets should also be developed for those necessary services, especially police and fire protection. The CIP and operating and maintenance budgets can then be utilized to present a fiscally sound program of public expenditures to the community; as well as to lobby state and federal officials for financial aid to develop certain facilities. This will be helpful from the standpoint of the financial burden that the lake will place on the ability of the county to provide basic public services.

Selected sites for the location of community facilities should be considered in relation to the recommended land use plan for both the county and Taylorsville and its surrounding area described in the following Chapter 8. This is especially important as the land use plan indicated where the major concentrations of population are anticipated to locate; and subsequently will illuminate potential sites in proximity to these population centers.

The following land use plan will also delineate areas appropriate for locating community facilities in terms of compatibility of the land for development purposes, service costs and overall efficiency, and the aesthetic and social desirability of the developed environment.