

SECTION SEVEN COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities describe a group of services and amenities that largely define the quality of life in a community. Factors such as public safety, sufficient public infrastructure and access to quality education, healthcare, cultural activities and recreation determine a community's ability to attract and retain residential, commercial and industrial development. The economic vitality of a community is closely tied to the level of services provided to its citizens

The City's rapid population growth poses two challenges in providing adequate services. First, increased demand for additional facilities and services is straining the City's ability to provide sufficient capacity. Secondly, shifting demographics create intensified needs for specific types. For instance, seniors will demand increased medical services, passive recreational opportunities and public transportation. Increases in families with young children will generate demands day care facilities, schools, active recreational opportunities and a mix of transportation options.

This section evaluates Vila Rica's existing facilities, describes community expressed needs, and identifies key issues.

KEY ISSUES FACING PUBLICLY FUNDED INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Defining the utility service area
- Timing growth to coincide with capacity (building permits)
- Develop a equitable and affordable plan to fund infrastructure expansion

WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT

Villa Rica operates its own water distribution system. The primary source of water for Villa Rica is the Upper Little Tallapoosa River (ULTR). The city maintains two intakes: one on Cowen's Lake which is fed by Astin Creek, and one on Lake Paradise, which is fed by the Little Tallapoosa River.

Frank Smith Water Treatment Plant, located on North Van Wert Road, has a permitted capacity of 1.7 million gallons daily. The plant uses coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection to treat the water. Actual production ranges from .4 MGD in the winter to 1.4 MGD in the summer. Villa Rica also buys between 0.3MGD and 0.65MGD of water from both Douglas Water and Sewer Authority and Carroll County Water Authority. The water system maintains four storage tanks (**Map 7**), with a total storage capacity of 2.87 MG.

Exhibit 64: Villa Rica Water Tanks

Storage Tank	Capacity
Carrollton Highway	.41 MG
Hickory Level	1.66 MG
Sunset Road	.3 MG
Mirror Lake	.5 MG
Total Storage Capacity	2.87 MG

In 2004, Villa Rica’s water system served a total of 4,442 customers. There were 3069 residential customers inside the city, 839 residential customers outside the city, 20 commercial customers outside the city, 446 commercial customers inside the city, and 68 industrial customers inside the city. The city does not intend to offer future service outside the Urban Growth Area. Estimated needs are 2.29 MGD by 2008.

Exhibit 65: Villa Rica Projected Water Customers and Needs, 2005-2008

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Customers*	6,461	7,272	8,985	10,133
Water Needs	1.77MGD	1.93MGD	2.11MGD	2.29MDG

*Based on build out of projects approved by City Council

KEY ISSUES:

- Increasing storage capacity by 2010
- Increase and secure water supply

WASTE WATER TREATMENT

Villa Rica’s Wastewater Department operates and maintains the city’s sewer and treatment system (**Map 7**). There are two water treatment plants. The main facility, West Water Pollution Control Plant, is located in the City’s Industrial Park. This plant has a total treatment capacity of .78 MGD and a current demand of 0.38 MGD. The North Water Pollution Control Plant located near Mirror Lake has a total treatment capacity of .52 MGD and a current demand of .30 MGD.

Exhibit 66: Villa Rica Wastewater Treatment Plants

Facility	Current Demand	Capacity
West Water Pollution Control Plant	.36 MGD	.78MGD
North Water Pollution Control Plant	.30 MGD	.52MGD
TOTAL	.66 MGD	1.3 MGD

Source: Villa Rica Public Works

Approximately 78% of Villa Rica residents and all commercial and industrial development are served by this system. There are a limited number of connections outside the city limits and Urban Growth Area. The City has no plans to provide sewer outside the UGA. Although the city would like to connect all residents to sewer, there are no immediate plans to do so. Septic systems are allowed for new development on ½ acre lots or larger.

Although the table above shows that the system is currently operating at approximately half its capacity, the population of Villa Rica and demand for sewer service is growing faster than the city’s plans for expansion. Coordinating growth with plant expansion to meet increased need for sewer service is one of the city’s most important and urgent issues. As of January 2005, approved building permits exceeded the city’s sewer capacity. The projected sewer demand at build out is 5 MGD.

The City has already completed a Watershed Assessment and Management Plan (*West Georgia Watershed Assessment and Management Plan, 2003*, see Natural Resources Element). Georgia’s Environmental Protection Division requires municipalities to conduct such an assessment as part of the permitting process for the expansion of water plants or the construction of new facilities. Assessment sampling downstream of Frank Smith Water Plant detected low dissolved oxygen (DO). The plan cautioned that although the probable cause of low DO levels is a natural phenomenon, further monitoring is necessary to rule out the possibility that the Villa Rica Water Pollution Control Plant is contributing to the problem. The City will likely have to address this issue in the permitting process.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Villa Rica contracts with a private provider (Waste Management Inc) for curbside residential solid waste pick-up. The provider transfers waste to the Carroll County Transfer Station for final disposal. City residents also have disposal access at a county-run waste convenience center located on Dyer Road south of Villa Rica

on Highway 61. The Dryer Road facility also recycles paper products, glass, and aluminum.

Citizens have expressed the need for a recycling center within the city.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

In 2001 the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) was formed to develop plans for stormwater and wastewater management, water supply and conservation in a 16-county area that includes Douglas County. As part of the MNGWPD, the City of Villa Rica developed a Stormwater Management Program that incorporates regulatory actions, educational outreach, and monitoring activities to minimize the impact of stormwater.

Goals and strategies of the Villa Rica program are outlined in its Notice of Intent, which was filed with the Environmental Protection Division in 2004. The city has adopted the following stormwater management ordinances:

- Post Development Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment Ordinance
- Floodplain Management/ Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
- Conservation Subdivision / Open Space Development Ordinance
- Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance
- Litter Control Ordinance
- Stream Buffer Ordinance

The City does not own or operate any detention facilities or storm drains. It maintains stormwater conveyance ditches in the right of way throughout the City. Stormwater outfalls have not been mapped.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Villa Rica City Hall is located on 571 Bankhead Highway. The 5,000 square foot facility was built in 1989 and houses the City Administration Office, City Clerk, Community Development (Planning and Zoning and Building and Codes Enforcement), Downtown Development, Finance, Payroll, and Utilities Billing.

The City Hall building is in excellent condition but is currently at maximum capacity. There has been a 25% increase in the number of employees working in the building since 2000 (from 10 to 15). The city intends to build a new facility in the future but presently has no specific plans for expansion. The post office, library and recreation buildings each occupy separate buildings.

The City in is great need for a new city hall building and/or site. It is at maximum functional capacity and in need for expansion or relocation. No formal plans have been made at this time in alleviating this situation.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The Villa Rica Recreation Department operates five parks comprising over 200 acres. The table below shows the type and number of facilities at each park. The department employs 10 fulltime and eight part time staff, as well as instructors for various classes. The City is in the process of developing three new parks. Pine Mountain Gold Museum, opening in late 2005 will have walking trails, a pavilion and a museum. Spring Lake Nature Park and a park designated for batting cages will open in 2006.

The City’s rapidly growing population is creating increased demand for recreation. **Exhibit 67** shows how its current level of service compares with the National Parks and Recreation Association Level of Service Standards. Current facilities are relatively new and in good condition. Use does not exceed capacity except for parking deficiencies at both Gold Dust and Fullerville. **Exhibit 68** shows the type and number of facilities needed to meet standards based on 2015 population projections.

The recreation department also offers organized athletic programs, classes and special events. As is illustrated in **Exhibit 69** there has been a large increase in participation in nearly all programs. Those programs designed specifically for school aged children have had the largest increases. This is consistent with population projections. Large enrollment in new programs **Exhibit 70** indicates a high level of interest by the population.

Exhibit 67: Villa Rica Existing Recreational Facilities 2004

Facilities											
	Acres	Ball Fields	Soccer Fields	Basketball courts	Tennis Courts	Football Fields	Gymnasium	Rec. Building	Picnic Tables	Walking Trails	Boat Ramps
Powell Park	13	2						1			
Gold Dust Park	31	4		2	3		1	1		1 mile	
Cleghorn Street Park	10			1							
Fullerville Soccer Complex	21		4								
Lamar Moody Recreation Area	130										1
Bicentennial Park									1		
Prospector’s Park									1		
Villa Rica Civic Center & Sports Complex	48	10				1					
TOTAL	253	16	4	3	3	1	1	2	2	1 mile	1

Exhibit 68: Villa Rica Recreational Needs Based on 2005 Population Estimate

Facility Type	Existing	National Standard	Standard Met	Additional Facilities Needed
Ball fields	6	1 per 1,500	No	1
Soccer Fields	4	1 per 4,000	Yes	
Basketball Courts	3	1 per 3,000	No	1
Tennis Courts	3	1 per 1,500	No	4
Football Field	1	1 per 4,000	No	1
Picnic Tables		1 per 125		
Walking Trails	1mile	1mi. per 7,500	No	1/4mi
Boat Ramp	1	1 per	Yes	

Estimated 2005 population – 10,264

Exhibit 69: Villa Rica Recreational Needs Based on 2015 Population Estimates

Facility Type	Existing	Additional Facilities Needed in 2015
Ball fields	6	9
Soccer Fields	4	2
Basketball Courts	3	5
Tennis Courts	3	12
Football Field***	1	5
Picnic Tables		
Walking Trails	1mile	2 miles
Boat Ramp	1	

Exhibit 70: Villa Rica Recreation Program Enrollment, 2000-2004

Program	Registered Participants		Percent increase
	2000	2004	
Spring Track	11	52	372%
Summer Day Camp	95	237	150%
Spring Soccer (Age 4-16)	92	236	156%
Football	109	175	60%
Cheerleading	75	111	48%
Gymnastics	618	771	25%
Baseball / Softball	347	381	9.8%
Youth Basketball	211	212	>1%
Adult Basketball	120	TBA	TBA
Karate	234	221	-5%
Cultural Arts	180	104	-42%
PM Aerobics	90	41	-54%
Am Aerobics	102	27	-73%

Exhibit 71: New Program Enrollment 2004

Program	Enrollment
Fall Soccer (Age 4-19)	281
Start Smart	28
Yoga	40
Adult softball	216
Summer track	94

As the City endeavors to meet the recreational demands of its growing population the following issues should be considered:

- Establishing level of service goals that reflect public demand and City's fiscal abilities
- Increasing staff, particularly maintenance staff as facilities expand
- Establishing small parks throughout the city (community vision)
- Promoting health through active & passive recreation
- Creating trails between parks, schools and other public facilities

LIBRARIES

The Villa Rica Public Library is part of the West Georgia Regional Library System and part of the statewide PINES network, which allows patrons to borrow

materials from participating libraries across the state. The library primarily serves City residents, which comprises the majority of the 8,200 registered patrons as shown in **Exhibit 71 (c)**.

The library is housed in a 5,000 square foot building at 70 Horace Luther Drive. Its resources consist of 24,424 volumes, four on-line public access card catalogue computers, 10 public-access Internet computers, one microfilm reader, two listening stations and one meeting room. The library currently employs five full-time and two part-time staff. This staff has handled 40,883 reference questions during the fiscal year 2004, **Exhibit 71 (c)**. During the first six months of the fiscal year (2005) they have already handled 64,315 reference questions. Also, the library and its staff offer several programs as resources for the community. These programs include a preschool story hour, infant and parent activity time summer programs for school aged children and book discussion groups. Library Program attendance often exceeds the capacity of the library's meeting room, causing an overflow of participants into the main library area, **Exhibit 71 (b)**.

The building is currently at maximum capacity. There is no space for collection expansion, displays or additional work and storage areas One can note from **Exhibit 71 (a)**, that there was not a substantial increase in the volumes added from the fiscal years 2001-2005. this figure stands in contrast to the numbers of patrons and patron visits that have increased over the same time period as demonstrated in **Exhibit 71 (c)**.

Furthermore, with the library building being at full capacity there is no room for additional computers, which is in particularly high demand. As illustrated in **Exhibit 71 (d)**, the need for public access computers is increasing. When the library first offered public access to the Internet it began with eight computers to ten public access computers, even though computer use has significantly increased over the past years.

Exhibit 71 (a)

FY (July 1 – June 30)	Volumes	Community Meeting
2000	13274	
2001	20441	
2002	22345	
2003	23139	60
2004	24089	72
2005*	24814	45
*The fiscal year 2005 still had six months remaining when this figure was calculated		

Exhibit 71 (b)

FY (July 1 – June 30)	Programs	Program Attendance
2000	97	1267
2001	108	3053
2002	40833	2521
2003	148	4447
2004	128	3018
2005*	57	1381
*The fiscal year 2005 still had six months remaining when this figure was calculated		

Exhibit 71 (c)

FY (July 1 – June 30)	Registered Patrons	Patron Visits	Reference Questions
2000	5897	46473	8511
2001	8242	53968	13247
2002	3225	55889	17432
2003	5067	63530	34321
2004	6806	67002	40883
2005*	8200	61788	64315
*The fiscal year 2005 still had six months remaining when this figure was calculated			

Exhibit 71 (d)

FY (July 1 – June 30)	Computer Use	Number of Public Access Computers
1999	1473	8
2000	2406	8
2001	4800	8
2002	6102	10

CULTURAL FACILITIES

Cultural facilities are limited but expanding in Villa Rica. There is a small stage at Prospector's Park, which is used for summer concerts. Pine Mountain Gold Museum, which is scheduled to open in 2005, will have an interpretive museum and pavilion.

During the Public Visioning portion of this plan participants repeatedly expressed the need for better access to the arts. Most wanted the City to provide venues for the arts such as building a new arts center or renovating an existing building to serve that purpose.

HEALTH FACILITIES

The Tanner Health System operates a 92- bed hospital in Villa Rica that serves northeastern Carroll County, western Douglas County, and southeastern Paulding County. The facility completed an expansion in 2004 and now offers a new birthing center, MRI, High Speed CT and PET Scanning as well as a full range of medical services. Tanner clients have access to 170 physicians practicing 34 specialties.

The Carroll County Health Department and West Georgia Family Medicine provide public health services. A county clinic is located at 158 Wilson Street. It is open two (2) days a week and employs three fulltime staff, including a nurse and a nutritionist. The staff administers the Federal Women Infant and Children Program (WIC) for approximately 500 clients and provides infant and children immunizations. The clinic refers clients to the Carrollton clinic for prenatal care, baby care, wellness and adult immunizations. It is not able to provide

interpreters for non-English speaking clients. Spanish speaking clients who do not speak English are also referred to the Carrollton Clinic, which employs five Spanish language interpreters. West Georgia Family Medicine located at 116 South Carroll Street also provides indigent care.

Tanner has a policy of expansion as demand rises. There are no plans, however to expand the County Health Department clinic in Villa Rica. Staff at the clinic reports a high demand for services and cliental that is increasingly multi-ethnic.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The Carroll County Board of Education (BOE) operates the schools serving Villa Rica. A small number of students living in the Mirror Lake Subdivision may elect to go Mirror Lake Elementary, which is operated by the Douglas County Board of Education. The Carroll BOE schools serving Villa Rica include four (4) elementary schools, two (2) middle and one (1) high school. **Exhibit 72** below shows the projected enrollment of the schools through 2010.

Exhibit 72: Villa Rica Projected School Enrollment Through 2010

School	Enrollment Projections						School Capacity	Growth 2005-2010
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010		
Ithica Elementary	393	417	442	468	496	526	600	34%
Sand Hill Elementary	744	781	820	861	904	950	625	28%
Bay Springs Middle School	670	704	739	776	814	855	775	28%
Glanton-Hindsman Elementary	596	638	682	730	781	836	650	40%
Villa Rica Elementary	568	608	650	696	745	797	550	40%
Villa Rica Middle	504	539	577	617	661	707	625	40%
Villa Rica High	1204	1288	1378	1475	1578	1689	975	40%
TOTAL	4679	4975	5288	5623	5979	6360	7800	

Source: Carroll County Board of Education 2005

Serving the educational needs of the growing population will require building new schools. **Exhibit 73** shows student the capacity of each school and the amount over capacity based on enrollment projections. Carroll County BOE will complete its update of the Comprehensive Facilities Plan by 2006. At the time this data was collected, no information was available regarding the expansion of schools serving Villa Rica. The public cited a need for additional schools.

Exhibit 73: Students Over Capacity Through 2010

School	Capacity	Number of Students Over Capacity					
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Ithaca Elementary	600	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sand Hill Elementary	625	119	156	195	236	279	325
Bay Springs Middle School	775	0	0	0	1	39	80
Glanton-Hindsman Elementary	650	0	0	32	80	113	186
Villa Rica Elementary	550	18	58	100	146	195	247
Villa Rica Middle	625	0	0	0	0	36	82
Villa Rica High	975	229	313	403	500	603	714
TOTAL	4800	366	527	730	963	1265	1634

Source: Carroll County Board of Education 2005

PUBLIC SAFETY

Villa Rica Police Department is located at 101 Main Street at the Holt-Bishop Justice Center. The 16,000 square foot building, expanded in 2003, houses the Police Department as well as Community Service, the City Mechanic Shop, and the Municipal Court. The Police Department occupies approximately 10,000 square feet. The City has plans to renovate the old firehouse to house Community Service and future expansion. The department employs forty-nine (49) full-time officers with the following ranks and positions:

- 1 Chief
- 2 Majors
- 2 Captains
- 6 Sgt 1st Class
- 12 Patrol Officers
- 2 Detectives
- 2 Drug Task Force
- 2 School Resource Officers
- 2 ICE/CSU

The department also employs ten (10) support staff including four (4) receptionists, two (2) public safety Records Specialists, two (2) mechanics, one (1) Clerk of Court and three (3) Community Service personnel (prisoners). The department maintains a fleet of forty-six (46) vehicles including two (2) motorcycles.

Villa Rica's rapidly growing population combined with a recent sharp increase in property crime indicates that increasing staff and equipment will be an important

future concern. The City has added several grant-funded positions in the last five years and needs to consider increasing the budget to hire additional permanent staff. There are current staffing needs in the Police Department and the Municipal Court. The police department would also like to establish a Traffic Unit.

Capital equipment needs include a fully automated IT system and a wireless system (laptop computers for patrol cars), and high-speed traffic cameras at congested intersections.

During the public comment process, participants repeatedly cited a desire for community policing and the need for increased staff and equipment.

FIRE PROTECTION

Carroll County and Douglas County have an Automatic Aid Agreement, which assures that both departments are available to respond to all calls within the City. The 911 system routes calls to the fire station in the jurisdiction where calls originate. Staff at the receiving station then makes a determination regarding the need for additional help.

The Douglas County Fire Department provides first response fire and emergency services to the portion of Villa Rica that is in Douglas County. Station #2 built in 1998, is the primary station serving this area. It houses one engine truck, one 100' ladder truck and one Advanced Life Support (ASL) ambulance. Five to seven firefighters are at the station at all times. In 2004, the station responded to 299 calls with an average response time of 10 minutes 21 seconds. The county has an ISO (Insurance Services Organization) rating of 4/9.

By 2007 the county plans to complete construction of an additional fire station to serve the western part of the county, including Mirror Lake. The project will be funded through Douglas County SPLOST funds.

The Carroll County Fire Department provides first response fire and emergency services to the portion of Villa Rica that is in Carroll County. Station # 9 is located on Industrial Boulevard. It houses one 1,500 G/M pumper truck, one tanker truck and one ladder truck.

In 2003, Station #9 was the busiest engine company in the county. It received 1272 calls, or 21% of the calls for all twelve stations. The second and third busiest stations were Station #3 in Sand Hill and Station #2 in Temple. These three engine companies had 2948 responses, which represent 49.09% of the county responses in 2003. Due to the large demand for services in this area of the county, Carroll County Fire Department is building an additional station on Tumlin Lake Road in Villa Rica (source: *CC Fire and Rescue 2003 Annual Report*).

During the public comment process, participants cited the need for better fire protection in Douglas County, and increased staff and equipment in both counties.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Carroll County Fire Rescue and EMA responds to medical emergencies within the twelve (12) response districts in Carroll County. On average, this service provides a medical first responder on the scene of each medical emergency within 6 minutes and 18 seconds.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Carroll County Fire Department 2003 Annual Report states that:

“Villa Rica is under the protection of the Carroll County Emergency Management Agency, which is responsible for assisting in the protection of lives and property of Carroll County citizens in the event of natural or man-made disasters. Emergency Management anticipates emergencies, takes steps to prevent loss of life and property and provides quick response when disasters strike.”

Attached to Carroll County Fire Rescue, the Emergency Management Agency was established by the commissioners to develop and implement a countywide program. The backbone of the countywide program is that all emergency agencies and support agencies work together. Emergency Management and other emergency agencies identify hazards that face each community and develop contingency plans for each potential emergency. Emergency Management provides the expertise; training and coordination that local governments need to protect lives and property.

LEPC stands for Local Emergency Planning Committee. The West Georgia Regional LEPC is composed of concerned citizens from the three west Georgia counties of Carroll, Haralson and Heard who represent business, industry, public safety, local government, law enforcement, fire, emergency management, emergency medical services, health departments, schools, environmental groups and the news media.

An LEPC is required to develop an emergency plan to educate, communicate and protect the local community during an accidental release of toxic chemicals. The LEPC also collects inventories of regulated chemicals each year and responds to inquiries from the public regarding community right-to-know issues. The LEPC acts as a source of information for anyone interested in chemical safety, including maintaining a library of Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for chemicals in use in the three counties. “

COMMUNITY FACILITIES ISSUES

Map 8 shows the locations of Villa Rica's community facilities. The following items are a summary of the major issues that need to be addressed. They were identified during this assessment and by public comment.

- Securing an adequate future water supply
- Increasing wastewater capacity
- Expanding police department
- Increasing the amount of and access to parks
- Constructing a new, larger city hall
- Creating venues for the arts

SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

In addition to the arrangements with Carroll County, Douglas County and other governments for community services described in this chapter, the City of Villa Rica is also part of the Carroll County Service Delivery Strategy adopted in September 1999.

The Carroll County Service Delivery Strategy is a well coordinated agreement for community services in Carroll County and its local governments of Bowdon, Bremen, Carrollton, Mt. Zion, Roopville, Temple, Villa Rica and Whitesburg. The strategy also includes the counties of Haralson, Douglas and other areas outside of Carroll County for the provision of certain services, such as airport and water. A copy of this Service Delivery Strategy is provided at the end of this chapter.

WATER PLANNING DISTRICTS

In 1998, the City of Villa Rica annexed the portion of Douglas County where the Mirror Lake subdivision is located. Douglas County is included in the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District. When the planning district was formed in 2001, this portion of the City of Villa Rica which lies in Douglas County is now included in the water planning district.

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning district is also mentioned on page 42 in the Natural Resources section of the plan.