

The background of the page features two flags waving against a light sky. The top flag is the United States flag, and the bottom flag is the Texas state flag, which has a white star on a dark blue canton and horizontal stripes of white, light blue, and dark blue. The text is overlaid on the top portion of the American flag.

CITY OF BROWNFIELD

2006 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

**CHAPTER 11: PUBLIC FACILITIES
ASSESSMENT**

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Introduction

The provision of adequate public facilities is a primary quality of life indicator for municipalities across Texas. The type and quality of public facilities and services available to the residents of Brownfield is and will continue to be an important factor influencing the desirability of Brownfield as a place to live. The future availability of public facilities within the City is also likely to affect the potential for development in certain portions of the City and the surrounding area. It should be noted that public buildings that house the various governmental and service functions of a municipality are generally of two types: (1) those requiring a nearly central or a common location and serve the entire municipal area, and (2) those serving segments of the community on a “service area” basis. Brownfield’s City Hall is an example of a governmental building that serves the entire community, while a fire station represents a public building that has a service area relationship with the community. The Public Facilities Assessment is intended to provide an evaluation of Brownfield’s public buildings and the number of related City staff employees that exist today to serve the population and to provide a foundation of understanding future needs.

Existing Public Facilities Assessment¹

This section of the Public Facilities Assessment provides an examination of many of the City’s existing facilities and departments. *(Note: Not all facilities are reviewed – i.e., lift stations, radio towers, etc.)* A review of key City facilities is important because it provides a broader foundation upon which to base steps or actions the City may take to meet future public facility needs. Recommendations for future public facilities are presented at the end of this chapter.

CITY HALL

The City Hall was built in 1978 and is located at 201 West Broadway (east of the town square). This building currently houses many of the City’s departments such as



Illustration 11-1
City Hall

¹ The City of Brownfield’s website: www.ci.brownfield.tx.us

the City Administration, Customer Service, Human Resources, Inspections Department, and Finance Department. In general, the City employs 82 people, including police and fire department (which are not located within City Hall).

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City has one fire station located at 218 West Main Street, which was built in 1950. The fire department employs three (3) full-time firefighters. One of the firefighters is on-duty at all times at the station. In support of the three (3) full-time firefighters, the City also has 30 volunteer firefighters. The volunteer firefighters are furnished with City-purchased special radio revivers and/or pocket pager to alert them in cases of fire emergencies. Brownfield's Fire Department provides services throughout the City and also provides services in some portions of Terry County, which are contracted by agreement between the City and County. Additionally, the fire department has an ISO rating of 6, which is given by the State Board of Insurance.



*Illustration 11-2
Public Safety Building*

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The City has one police station located at 102 North 5th Street. There are 17 commissioned officers, one (1) unpaid sworn commissioned officer, two (2) commissioned reserve officers, and seven (7) civilian employees working for the Brownfield Police Department. For the added safety of its residents, the department operates a fully enhanced 9-1-1 system. Also, the City does not house prisoners in its own facilities and has a contract with the Terry County Law Enforcement Center to house its prisoners. The City currently pays \$24,000 a year for this service.



*Illustration 11-3
Brownfield Police Vehicle*

BROWNFIELD MUNICIPAL POWER AND LIGHT

The City owns and operates the local electric public utility. Since the early 1920's, the Brownfield Municipal Power and Light has provided electricity to the City of Brownfield. Currently, the department employs nine (9) full-time employees and has electric generators located at 201 West Dawson Street and at 119 North 7th Street. The City's generators operate on both gas and fuel oil and can produce up to 17.9 megawatts.

However, the City contracts with an electric wholesale supplier for the community's electric needs and only uses the City's generators during peak demand times, which occur during the summer (typically during the months of July and August when air conditioning demands are at their peak).

Also, Brownfield in conjunction with the cities of Lubbock, Tulia, and Floydada have created the West Texas Municipal Power Agency (WTMPA). This agency is an action agency to ensure the future availability of power to its member cities. With the WTMPA in place, the City continues to plan for the future electric needs of the community.

STREET AND SANITATION DEPARTMENTS

The Street and Sanitation Departments are operated jointly under the public works supervisor. The Street Department handles routine street maintenance, repairs to City streets, and employs seven (7) people. Notably, this department does not handle street construction and seal coating. These types of jobs (i.e., street construction and seal coating) are contracted out to private businesses to be preformed.

The Sanitation Department employs seven (7) people and manages the City's Type I landfill (permit #2170), which has five (5) employees. The department operates three (3) sanitation trucks and has a fully containerized system. Also, all collection trucks and heavy machinery are equipped with two-way radios to facilitate coordination and to improve operational efficiency at the landfill.

INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Located within the City Hall, the Inspection Department employs two (2) people that inspect residential, commercial, and industrial construction sites to ensure compliance with City codes. This department serves a vital role as one of the City's means to encourage orderly development of the community. Also, the Inspections Department works closely with the City's Zoning Commission to provide input on issues relating to various City codes.

INTERMEDIATE SANCTION FACILITY (ISF)

Completed in July 1992, the Intermediate Sanction Facility (ISF) is a 55,000 square foot facility used to house parole violators for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (Division of Pardons and Paroles.) The City owns the ISF and leases building to the Management and Training Corporation (MTC), a private firm, who operates the facility. Under the contract between the City and the Management and Training Corporation, MTC is responsible for all liability coverage.

Future Public Facility Needs

Increasing public facilities (e.g., adding an additional police officer or police station) or maintaining public facilities (e.g., replacing an old fire engine with a new one) are the two basic methods the City will use to meet the future needs for public facilities. To understand the need for future public facilities, it is necessary to understand how much the City will grow in population. Specifically, understanding the rate of population growth will begin to determine the rate or amount of increase in public facilities that will be needed to meet future demand. The following table, **Table 11-1**, depicts the anticipated growth rate of the City (for more information regarding population projections please refer the Future Land Use Plan Chapter).

Year	1.0% Growth Rate
2000	9,488
2005	9,972
2010	10,481
2015	11,015
2020	11,577
2025	12,168
2030	12,788

Source: Dunkin, Sefko & Associates, Inc.

The rate of growth for the City is moderate. Therefore, assuming that current public facilities are meeting the public demand, it is not anticipated that additional short-term increases in public facilities will be needed. The City is anticipated to have modest growth in the short term and should generally plan to increase services accordingly to match or maintain its current level of service. However, changes in need for public facilities may fluctuate and should be reviewed yearly to ensure that community's needs are being met.

Although the City may not experience a major increase for the need of public facilities, the need to maintain the existing public facilities should be reviewed annually through the City's regular budget process. Improvements and replacement for existing facilities will undoubtedly occur.

Also, the City should continue to monitor local growth to ensure that public facilities are meeting public demands. Notably, when new subdivisions or other significant amounts

of local growth occur in the City, the provision of public facilities should be reviewed. For example, if growth occurs on the north side of the City with the development of new subdivisions, then a review should be conducted to ensure that these new home have adequate police and fire protection.



*Illustration 11-4
Example of a New Subdivision*

Conclusion

In conclusion, due to the small amount of projected growth (and assuming that existing public facilities are meeting current demand) the City should generally focus on maintaining or improving existing public facilities (e.g., replacing an old fire engine with a new one) than on providing increased public facilities (e.g., adding an additional police officer or police station). The following table, **Table 11-2**, summaries the recommendation found within this chapter.

<p><i>Table 11-2 Public Facilities Recommendations City of Brownfield, Texas</i></p>
<p><u>Need for Public Facilities</u> Assuming that current public facilities are meeting the public demand, it is not anticipated that additional short-term increases in public facilities will be needed.</p>
<p><u>Public Facilities Maintenance</u> Although the City may not experience a major increase for the need of public facilities, the need to maintain the existing public facilities should be reviewed annually through the City’s regular budget process.</p>
<p><u>Monitor Growth</u> The City should continue to monitor local growth to ensure that public facilities are meeting public demands.</p>
<p><small>Note: Not in any order of priority. Source: City of Brownfield’s Public Facilities Assessment.</small></p>