

Chapter 9: Public Services & Facilities

Introduction

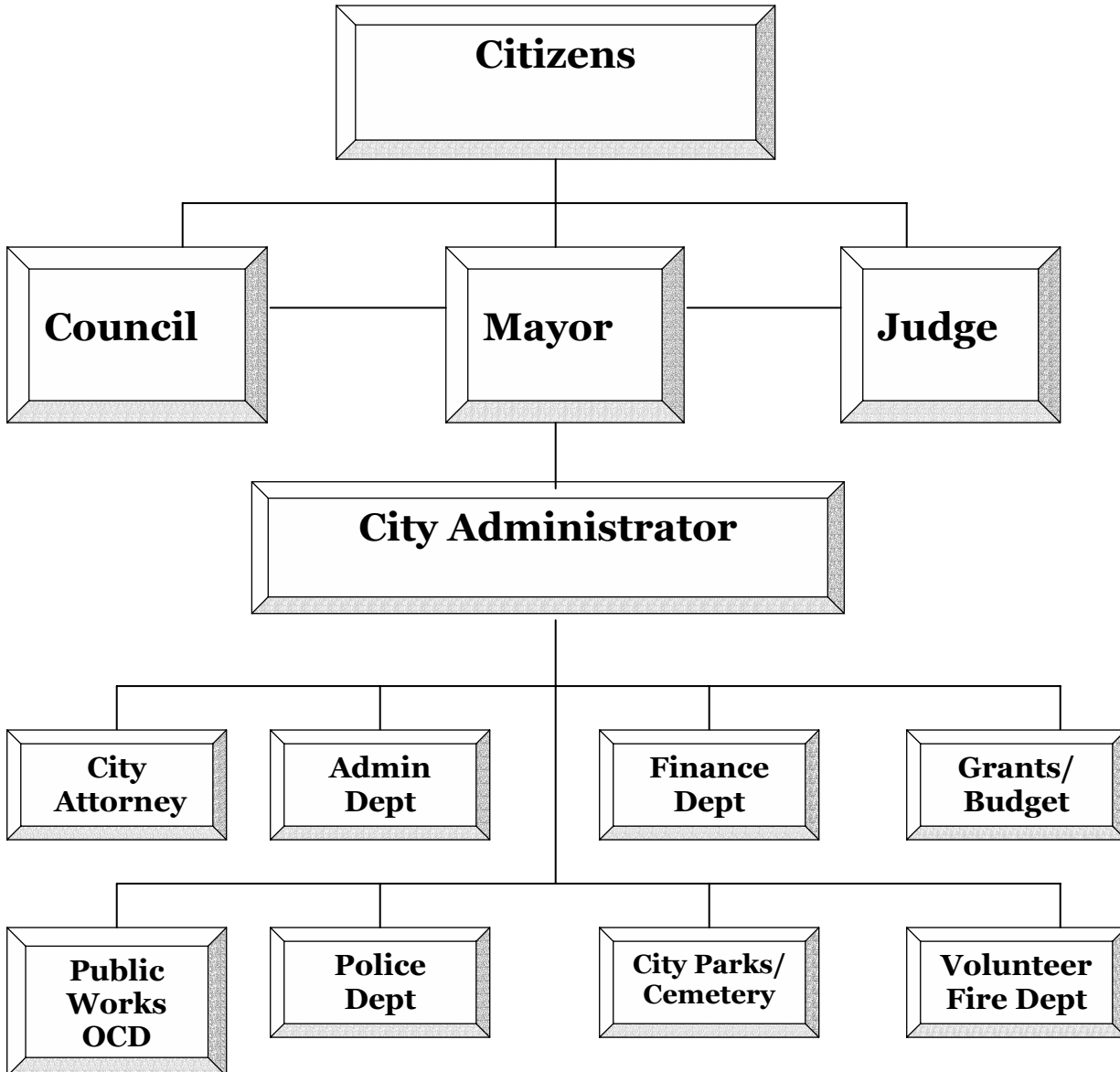
Public services and facilities are important facets of the quality of life enjoyed by Hamilton area residents. This chapter provides background information, goals and objectives for a variety of City services and facilities such as wastewater collection and treatment, water treatment and distribution, storm drainage, fire and police protection.

The wastewater and water systems protect public and environmental health while considering the future needs of the City as growth continues. Police and fire protection are fundamental components of life and safety protection, but also provide important educational, peacekeeping, and community service functions. The library advances the welfare of area residents by providing general information, lifelong learning opportunities, and materials on current topics and titles, as well as by advancing literacy skills.

As the City continues to grow, the maintenance of existing facilities must be balanced with the need to provide new facilities so that existing users do not suffer a reduction in service quality in order to provide services to new developments. It is easier to strike this balance with some facilities and services than with others. For example, it is comparatively simple to make new development “pay its own way” when it comes to street, water and wastewater infrastructure. On the other hand, it is difficult to make new development “pay its own way” for some other types of municipal services and facilities, such as Police Departments and schools.

Growth in the areas outside of the city limits places further demands on elements of City services without providing revenues to offset demand. Creative and cooperative funding strategies are vital to enable the City to address the needs for provision of services.

City of Hamilton Organizational Chart



Wastewater Facilities

The City of Hamilton operates a municipal treatment system that provides disposal and treatment of sewage. The system collects sewage flows through 16.2 miles of main lines. The wastewater treatment plant is located at the west terminus of New York Avenue.

The facility plan has identified a variety of improvements for treatment, transmission, and storage that are required in order to maintain service as the City grows in population and area. The Wastewater Facility Plan also includes a map showing the location and sizing of expected major distribution system components.

As development occurs, the construction of the expected system will serve to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by providing for safe treatment and disposal of wastes.

The municipal wastewater system supports the land use element of the Hamilton Growth Policy by providing a means of treatment and disposal of sewage generated by urban density development that could not be adequately done by septic systems. It also supports prevention of groundwater contamination and preservation of public health by removing harmful organisms before release of treated water.



Take a
closer
look....

The development of the City's wastewater system is guided by a facility plan, which was most recently updated in 1997. It contains detailed information supporting this and other sections of the Hamilton Growth Policy. Therefore, the **1997 Water and Wastewater Facility Plan** and its successors are hereby adopted as supporting elements of the Hamilton Growth Policy.

For the most current information about the City's public facilities, see this year's *Director of Public Works Annual Report on Water, Sewer and Streets*. The Report is available for viewing at City Hall.

Water Treatment And Distribution

The City operates a municipal water system that provides for domestic, fire suppression, and irrigation uses.

The system utilizes four groundwater wells (Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 6) as its source of municipal water supply. Well No. 7 was drilled in 1999 and has not been put into service. Wells 8 and 9 were drilled as test wells in 2002, and will be brought on-line as production wells within the next 3 years. The operating wells are treated with chlorine disinfection.

In 2003, the City will install a 1,000,000-gallon water tank to replace the existing 500,000-gallon tank. The installation will expand the City's domestic water storage capacity and support future development.

The 1997 Water and Wastewater Facility Plan identified a variety of improvements for treatment, transmission, and storage that are required in order to maintain service as the City grows in population and area.

The municipal water system supports the land use element of the Hamilton Growth Policy by providing safe and reliable supply of water for urban density development that would be difficult to adequately service by individual wells. It also supports preservation of wetlands and associated habitat and wildlife species by reducing groundwater depletion and helps ensure a safe community by providing a reliable fire suppression water supply.



Similarly, the development of the City's water system is guided by the **1997 Water and Wastewater Facility Plan**.

It contains detailed information supporting the water system development.

For the most current information about the City's public facilities, see this year's *Director of Public Works Annual Report on Water, Sewer and Streets*. The Report is available for viewing at City Hall.

Stormwater Drainage

Hamilton’s current storm drainage system is primarily a subsurface discharge system relying on dry wells installed along many streets in town. However, several City, State and privately owned stormwater collection systems discharging to the Bitterroot River are also installed in Hamilton.

Currently, the main problem with the existing drainage system is that a number of slow-draining dry wells experience significant ponding following rain or snowmelt events.

In the spring of 2002, the City hired Morrison Maierle to analyze Hamilton’s storm drainage system and to investigate potential ways to improve that system.

Their June 2002 report concluded that the main problem with the existing dry-well system appeared to be sediment and debris that plug the infiltration surfaces in the dry well. The gravel parking strips adjacent to nearly every street in Hamilton are a likely source of this sediment, in addition to tree leaves, wintertime sanding and other sources. The potential for contamination of the groundwater supply wells is also a significant concern with a subsurface discharge system.

The report offered two improvement alternatives available to the City of Hamilton:

- (1) Improve the existing subsurface discharge system; or
- (2) Install a collection and treatment system with discharge to the Bitterroot River.

The report concluded that the next logical step for the City of Hamilton is to consider developing a comprehensive Storm Drainage Master Plan. That document would provide the City with an evaluation of the two alternatives, planning-level cost estimates, preliminary location of improvements, and potential options for funding those improvements. The Master Plan could lead to better decision-making on the future of Hamilton’s stormwater system, and improved coordination of stormwater improvements with street and other utility projects.



The **Hamilton Storm Drainage Evaluation June 2002**, prepared by Morrison Maierle, Inc., guides the development of the City’s stormwater drainage system.

Therefore, the **Hamilton Storm Drainage Evaluation June 2002** and its successors are hereby adopted as supporting elements of the Hamilton Growth Policy.

Fire And Police Protection

Fire

Fire prevention, fire protection and citizen safety protection within the City are provided by the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department. The Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department participates in a comprehensive Mutual Aid Agreement for fire protection with other fire agencies. This agreement helps ensure the shortest possible emergency response time.



During major fire and emergency situations that exceed the capacity of local departments and/or response units, the Ravalli County Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) Coordinator offers assistance in the implementation of combined plans and actions.

Police

The Hamilton Police Department has a total of 13 sworn officers, resulting in approximately one (1) police officer for every 290 residents of the City. As the county seat and a center of commerce for the valley, Hamilton requires a larger police force than the suggested “one sworn officer for every 1,000 city residents” ratio typically used by other police departments.



The Police Department is divided into two divisions: Patrol (traffic, burglary and property investigation) and Administration (records etc.). The rank structure includes the Chief of Police, one sergeant, two detectives (one who serves as the School Resource Officer), eight patrol officers and one animal control/parking enforcement officer. Service is provided 24 hours a day/seven days a week.



“The mission of the Hamilton Police Department is to provide professional police services to the public we serve in a fair and impartial manner while trying to maintain an acceptable quality of life for our community.”

Mission Statement

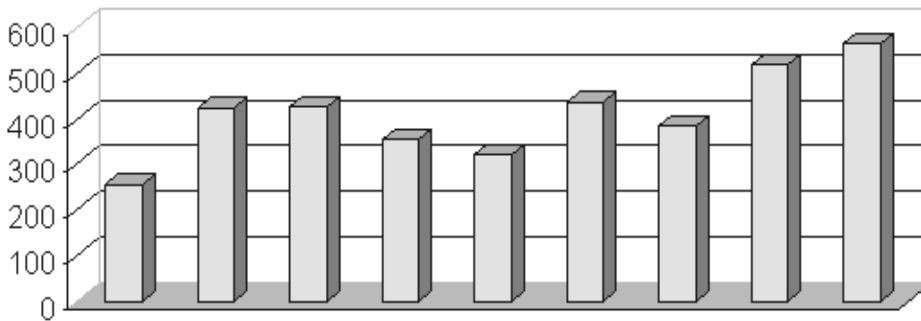
City of Hamilton
Police Department

The Hamilton Police Department has several active programs:

- The **Reserve Officer Program** is comprised of civilian volunteers who receive department training and assist patrol officers in general patrol functions.
- **Crime Stoppers Program**
- **School Resource Officer Program (SRO)**
- **"Do the Right Thing" Program**, which recognizes young people for doing the right thing.



Police Statistics Total Persons Arrested by Year



YEAR	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
TOTAL	254	425	428	351	320	438	385	520	565



The Bitterroot Library District

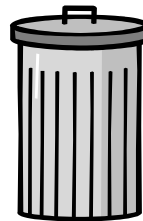
The Bitterroot Public Library was originally chartered under the authority of the Bitterroot Library District, and receives partial funding from both Ravalli County and the City of

Hamilton through property tax mills.

The Library Board is comprised of residents who live throughout the Library District. The Board consists of five members: two each appointed by the City and County, and one appointed jointly by the City and County. This Board governs total operation of the Library, has final decision authority, and has the authority to make loans and grants.

Solid Waste

Solid waste and refuse is collected by private contractors and then transferred to a landfill.



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The Bitterroot Valley Emergency Medical Service is a private contractor providing paramedic, emergency medical technician services and ambulance transport to area hospitals.

Public Facilities & Services Goals and Policies

With increased growth and development, the need for all local services will increase. The cost of needed services and public facilities will likely depend on the future development patterns in the city and county.

Facilities and Services

Goal:

All public facilities and services provided under the authority of the City of Hamilton shall be provided in an efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally sound manner.

Policies:

The Hamilton Growth Policy is the guiding policy and decision-making tool for decisions made by elected, appointed, and administrative officials.

Continue to update and follow facility plans to ensure that orderly development can be supported by infrastructure facilities.

Balance maintenance of existing facilities with the need to provide new facilities so that existing users do not suffer a reduction in service quality in order to provide services to new development.

Sewer Facilities – Provide for central sewer collection and treatment facilities for all existing and future land uses within the Planning Area.

Domestic Water – Provide for safe and adequate water supply, distribution, storage, and treatment facilities to support water demand projected in regard to planned uses in the Planning Area.

Storm Drainage – Provide for storm drain, flood control and treatment facilities to protect existing and future land uses, preserve public safety, and protect surface and groundwater.

Fire Protection – Protect the community through a comprehensive fire and life safety program for current and future city needs.

Police Protection – Provide protection to community residents from criminal activity, reduce the incidence of crime, and provide other necessary services to meet current and future needs.

Goal:

The City shall work with other service and utility providers to ensure the adequate and safe provision of services.

Policies:

Education – Ensure that the areas around educational institutions have adequate residential parking, facilities, bike paths, and zoning to ensure a high quality of life for school users and city residents.

Private Utilities – Facilitate the provision of adequate private utility services within the City while respecting the character of Hamilton.