

# City of Fort Smith Data Book

## April 2013



Planning for Fort Smith's Future:  
A Compilation of City and Regional Data

FIRST EDITION

Prepared by Western Arkansas Planning and Development District (WAPDD)





# City of Fort Smith Data Book

## April 2013

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None

# Chapter 1

## Key Trends and Indicators

## **KEY TRENDS AND INDICATORS**

This chapter is a summary of the city of Fort Smith Data Book, with selected trends and indicators chosen from chapters in this data book. The selected trends and indicators were chosen because of importance in directly affecting the future growth and development of Fort Smith. This data book provides an overview of principal findings from facts and figures that were provided by city and county departments and state and federal agencies. It is hoped that these major issues will provide insight into the city and its place within the region.

The criteria for selecting a trend or an indicator to be monitored are that:

- The analysis of pertinent data result in change rates that can be tracked over time;
- The indicator or trend influences various policies;
- The indicator or trend can be measured against state and national data or regulatory standards; and/or
- The indicator or trend is a regional force that can impact Fort Smith's future over the next 20 years.

The key indicators and trends chosen for inclusion in the Fort Smith Data Book simply provide a starting point from which further assessment and analysis may be meaningful and useful to the ongoing review and revision of the city's comprehensive plan.

### **List of Key Trends and Indicators**

- Fort Smith MSA Population Growth
- Fort Smith and Fort Smith MSA Retail Sales
- Fort Smith Population Growth
- Fort Smith and Fort Smith MSA Per Capita Income
- Fort Smith and Fort Smith MSA Employment Growth/Employment by Sector
- Fort Smith and Fort Smith MSA Employment/Unemployment
- Fort Smith Service Area Water Capacity and Demand
- Fort Smith Service Area Sewer Capacity and Demand
- Fort Smith Transit Ridership
- Fort Smith and Sebastian County Landfilled and Managed Waste
- Fort Smith Crime Statistics
- Fort Smith Fire Department Statistics
- School Enrollment and Projections of schools which are located in Fort Smith
- Fort Smith and Sebastian County Parks and Open Space Inventory

## KEY TRENDS

### Fort Smith and MSA Population Growth

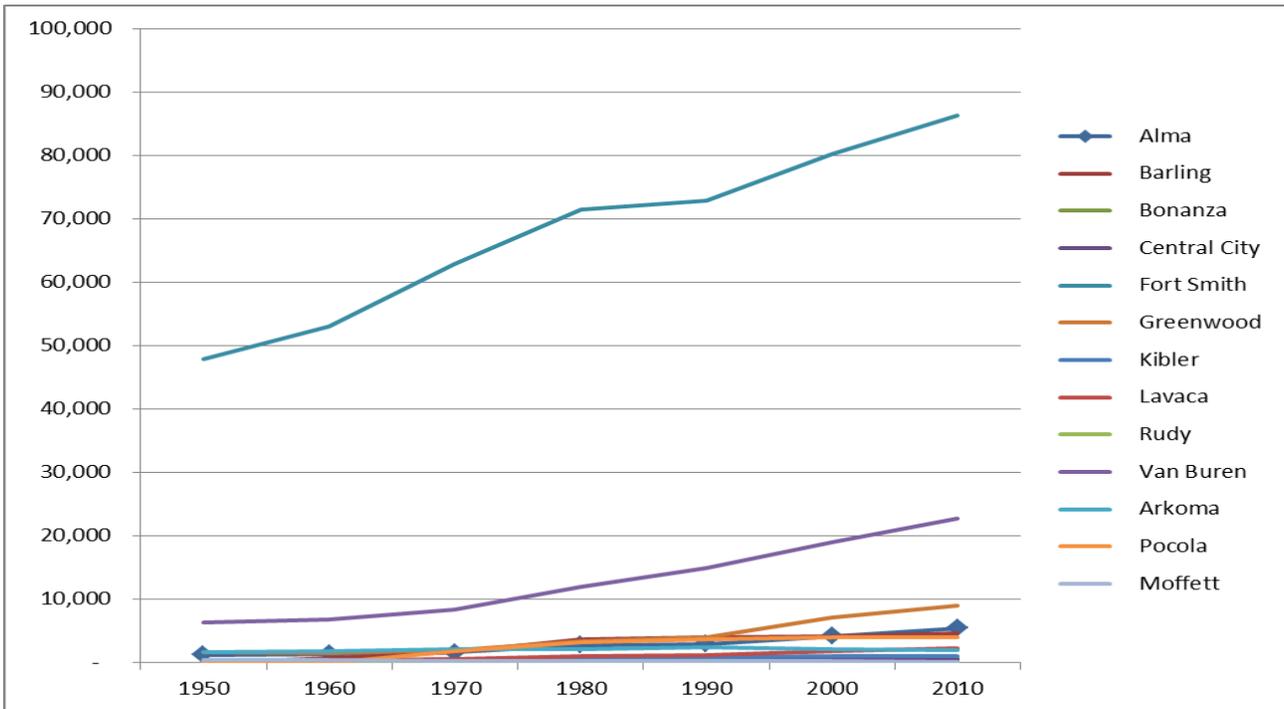
Fort Smith's population grew by 18.4 percent from 1990 to 2010, increasing from 72,798 to 86,209, which was the highest total population increase for all the cities that are included in the Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). When looking at the past 20 years, Fort Smith had a lower population growth than the overall Sebastian County population growth from 1990 to 2010, which was 26.3 percent.

According to the 2010 Census, among the eight Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Arkansas, the Fort Smith MSA is the third largest MSA. The Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA and the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA are the largest MSA's in the state. The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA, which is located only 40 miles north of Fort Smith, is one of the fastest growing MSA's in the United States. With the completion of I-540 between Fort Smith and Fayetteville, the two areas have increased their social, economic, and cultural integration by bringing over 20 percent of the state's population into a more convenient travel sphere of daily socio-economic activity. Population growth in the Fort Smith, AR –OK MSA is projected to increase by 16.5 percent over the next 25 years. Crawford County is forecasted to experience the largest increase of approximately 25,000.

<b>Fort Smith MSA Region Population Growth, 1950-2010</b>								
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>1970</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	
<b>ARKANSAS</b> Crawford County	22,727	21,318	25,677	36,892	42,493	53,247	61,948	
Sebastian County	64,202	66,685	79,237	95,172	99,590	115,071	125,744	
Alma	1,228	1,370	1,613	2,755	2,959	4,160	5,419	
Barling	(U)	770	1,739	3,761	4,078	4,176	4,649	
Bonanza	361	247	342	553	520	514	575	
Central City	-	-	-	339	419	531	502	
<b>Fort Smith</b>	<b>47,942</b>	<b>52,991</b>	<b>62,802</b>	<b>71,384</b>	<b>72,798</b>	<b>80,268</b>	<b>86,209</b>	
Greenwood	1,634	1,558	2,032	3,317	3,984	7,112	8,952	
Kibler	-	-	611	798	931	969	961	
Lavaca	373	392	532	1,092	1,253	1,825	2,289	
Rudy	97	113	103	79	45	72	61	
Van Buren	6,413	6,787	8,373	12,020	14,979	18,986	22,791	
Franklin County				14,660	14,897	17,771	18,047	
<b>OKLAHOMA</b> LeFlore County	35,296	29,106	32,137	40,698	43,270	48,109	50,384	
Arkoma	1,691	1,862	2,098	2,175	2,393	2,180	1,989	
Pocola	-	-	1,840	3,268	3,664	3,994	4,056	
Sequoyah County	19,773	18,001	23,370	30,749	33,828	38,972	42,391	
Moffett	380	357	312	269	219	179	128	
5 County Totals	141,998	135,110	160,421	218,171	234,078	273,170	298,514	

Source: U.S. Census, Arkansas Municipal League

## Population Growth in Selected Municipalities, 1950-2010



Source: U.S. Census, Arkansas Municipal League

### Fort Smith and MSA Retail Sales

From 2002 to 2007, the City of Fort Smith’s retail sales grew 18.1%. This compares to increases for the five-county Fort Smith Metro Area of 26.3% and the state of Arkansas of 28.7%. The metropolitan area consists of Sebastian, Crawford, and Franklin counties in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah counties in Oklahoma.

Because the city’s growth in retail sales was relatively slower in 2007, compared to 2002, the city’s retail sales accounted for less of the metro area’s and state’s retail sales. In 2007, the city accounted for 52.8% of the metro area’s retail sales and 5.1% of the state’s retail sales, compared to the city’s shares in 2002 of 56.5% and 5.5%, respectively.

<b>Retail Sales for Fort Smith, FS MSA &amp; Arkansas, 2002 &amp; 2007</b>				
	<b>Retail Sales (\$000)</b>		<b>Change</b>	
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fort Smith city	1,411,467	1,667,367	255,900	18.1
Fort Smith MSA	2,499,926	3,157,071	657,145	26.3
Arkansas	25,611,630	32,974,282	7,362,652	28.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2002 & 2007 Economic Census

<b>Fort Smith City's Share of Metro &amp; State's Retail Sales, 2002 &amp; 2007</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2007</b>
FS City's Percent of Retail Sales in MSA	56.5%	52.8%
FS City's Percent of Retail Sales in State	5.5%	5.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2002 & 2007 Economic Census

### Fort Smith Population Growth

Between 2000 and 2010, the population of the city of Fort Smith is estimated to have grown from 80,268 to 86,209 people. According to the United States Census Bureau, Fort Smith's population has increased every year from 1950 to 2010. The largest population increases occurred from 1960 to 1970 and from 1970 to 1980. In 1970, there was a population increase of an estimated 18.5 percent and in 1980 there was an estimated 14 percent rise. In 2010, the population gained nearly 6,000 persons (7.4 percent), based on the United States Census Bureau data.

<b>Fort Smith Annual Population Estimates 2000-2010</b>	
2000 Census (Official)	80,268
2000 Population Estimate	80,762
2001 Population Estimate	81,230
2002 Population Estimate	81,561
2003 Population Estimate	81,763
2004 Population Estimate	81,908
2005 Population Estimate	82,617
2006 Population Estimate	83,881
2007 Population Estimate	84,722
2008 Population Estimate	85,125
2009 Population Estimate	85,896
2010 Population Estimate	86,329
2010 Census (Official)	86,209

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 & 2010.

### Fort Smith and Fort Smith MSA Per Capita Income

The Fort Smith AR-OK MSA per-capita income, when compared to other MSAs in Arkansas for 2011, was lower (\$31,782) than that of all the other MSA's in Arkansas besides the Pine Bluff, AR MSA (\$30,866). The Little Rock-NLR-Conway MSA was the highest at \$39,899. The Fort Smith metropolitan area had the lowest 2001 to 2011 percent increase in per capita income with 36%.

When comparing the Fort Smith AR-OK MSA with the entire state of Arkansas and the nation, Fort Smith AR-OK MSA is lower than the state's per capita income of \$33,740 and the United States' average per capita income of \$41,560.

At \$37,052, Sebastian County's 2011 Per Capital Income is second highest among the state's urban counties (Pulaski County is the highest); higher than the state per capital income of \$33,740; and below the U.S. per capita income of \$41,560.

Since 2001, the other urban counties and the state overall have out-paced Sebastian County's per capital income increase of 34%, which was more in line with the U.S. increase of 33%. In 2011, Sebastian County income was 89% of the U. S. per-capita income. In 1971 Sebastian County's per capita income compared to the average U.S. income was 84%, rising to 88% in 1988, but holding at about that level since. As a percentage of the 2011 U.S. per-capita income, Sebastian County is 89%.

Per Capita Personal Income for Arkansas MSAs, Dollar Amounts, 1971-2011									
						Chg. 1971-2011		Chg. 2001-2011	
Year	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	Dollar	Pct.	Dollar	Pct.
United States	\$4,340	\$11,209	\$19,818	\$31,157	\$41,560	\$37,220	858	\$10,403	33
Arkansas	\$3,088	\$8,508	\$15,103	\$23,864	\$33,740	\$30,652	993	\$9,876	41
Little Rock-NLR-Conway MSA	\$3,809	\$10,119	\$18,154	\$28,771	\$39,899	\$36,090	947	\$11,128	39
Hot Springs MSA	\$3,450	\$9,640	\$17,150	\$25,302	\$35,355	\$31,905	925	\$10,053	40
Texarkana AR-TX MSA	\$3,342	\$9,231	\$15,378	\$23,705	\$34,776	\$31,434	941	\$11,071	47
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO MSA	\$2,936	\$8,483	\$16,108	\$24,966	\$34,130	\$31,194	1062	\$9,164	37
Jonesboro AR MSA	\$3,001	\$8,159	\$14,499	\$22,709	\$32,141	\$29,140	971	\$9,432	42
Fort Smith AR-OK MSA	\$3,060	\$8,496	\$14,515	\$23,321	\$31,782	\$28,722	939	\$8,461	36
Pine Bluff AR MSA	\$2,999	\$8,057	\$13,434	\$20,847	\$30,866	\$27,867	929	\$10,019	48

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Per Capita Personal Income for Arkansas MSAs, Pct. of U.S., 1971-2011					
Year	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
United States	100	100	100	100	100
Arkansas	71	76	76	77	81
Little Rock-NLR-Conway MSA	88	90	92	92	96
Hot Springs MSA	79	86	87	81	85
Texarkana AR-TX MSA	77	82	78	76	84
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO MSA	68	76	81	80	82
Jonesboro AR MSA	69	73	73	73	77
Fort Smith AR-OK MSA	71	76	73	75	76
Pine Bluff AR MSA	69	72	68	67	74

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

<b>Per Capita Personal Income for Arkansas Urban Counties, Percent of U.S., 1971-2011</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
United States	100	100	100	100	100
Arkansas	71	76	76	77	81
Pulaski (Little Rock, NLR)	94	95	100	102	106
Sebastian (Fort Smith)	84	88	87	89	89
Benton (Bentonville, Rogers)	71	84	87	87	88
Garland (Hot Springs)	79	86	87	81	85
Miller (Texarkana)	70	76	68	77	81
Washington (Fayetteville, Springdale)	69	73	81	77	80
Craighead (Jonesboro)	70	75	76	75	78
Jefferson (Pine Bluff)	72	75	72	68	76

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

<b>Per Capita Personal Income for Arkansas Urban Counties, Dollar Amounts, 1971-2011</b>									
<b>Year</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Chg. 1971-2011</b>		<b>Chg. 2001-2011</b>	
						<b>Dollar</b>	<b>Pct.</b>	<b>Dollar</b>	<b>Pct.</b>
United States	\$4,340	\$11,209	\$19,818	\$31,157	\$41,560	\$37,220	858	\$10,403	33
Arkansas	\$3,088	\$8,508	\$15,103	\$23,864	\$33,740	\$30,652	993	\$9,876	41
Pulaski (Little Rock, NLR)	\$4,065	\$10,701	\$19,777	\$31,853	\$43,938	\$39,873	981	\$12,085	38
Sebastian (Fort Smith)	\$3,644	\$9,835	\$17,321	\$27,627	\$37,052	\$33,408	917	\$9,425	34
Benton (Bentonville, Rogers)	\$3,081	\$9,378	\$17,185	\$27,040	\$36,744	\$33,663	1093	\$9,704	36
Garland (Hot Springs)	\$3,450	\$9,640	\$17,150	\$25,302	\$35,355	\$31,905	925	\$10,053	40
Miller (Texarkana)	\$3,032	\$8,499	\$13,381	\$24,024	\$33,539	\$30,507	1006	\$9,515	40
Washington (Fay., Spndl.)	\$2,973	\$8,173	\$16,135	\$23,847	\$33,220	\$30,247	1017	\$9,373	39
Craighead (Jonesboro)	\$3,057	\$8,377	\$15,045	\$23,515	\$32,588	\$29,531	966	\$9,073	39
Jefferson (Pine Bluff)	\$3,116	\$8,369	\$14,188	\$21,254	\$31,627	\$28,511	915	\$10,373	49

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

## Fort Smith and Fort Smith MSA Employment Growth/Employment by Sector

Between 1990 and 2000, the Fort Smith MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) – which essentially represents the Fort Smith economic region and the area for which the city of Fort Smith is the trade center – added 24,700 jobs. During the following decade, however, the region experienced a significant shift in its industrial employment. The negative side of this shift was primarily the result of the manufacturing sector’s continued and already well-established worldwide trend to shed jobs and the exacerbation of that trend by the national economic recession that began in the early 2000s. Between 2000 and 2012, the metropolitan area lost just over a third of its manufacturing workforce, amounting to 12,100 lost jobs that represented 10% of the region’s entire workforce. On the positive side, these losses were numerically offset by employment increases in other sectors, largely health services and local government. With further investigation, including calls to area school districts, a sizable portion of the growth in local government jobs was found to be staff additions by the area’s growing public schools, which in Arkansas are funded by relatively dependable funding sources and somewhat immune to the vagaries of general economic conditions. Overall, over the 2000 to 2012 period, the result for the Fort Smith region was a negligible net increase of 700 jobs (0.6%).

Over one-half of the 14,400 jobs gained are attributable to two sectors: *Health & Education* (most of which is health services) (29%) and *Local Government* (much of which are area public school districts) (25%). The trucking, construction, leisure and hospitality, and wholesale trade industries also contributed positively to the area’s employment growth. Of the 13,800 jobs lost, almost nine out of ten (88%) were in manufacturing.

Change in Employment by Industry Sector for FS MSA, 1990 to 2012 and 2000 to 2012							
	1990	2000	2012	Chg. 1990 - 2012		Chg. 2000 - 2012	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Manufacturing	27,200	31,300	19,200	-8,000	-29.4	-12,100	-38.7
Construction, Nat. Resources	4,800	5,600	6,900	2,100	43.8	1,300	23.2
Retail Trade	10,600	13,500	13,100	2,500	23.6	-400	-3.0
Wholesale Trade	2,900	3,200	4,100	1,200	41.4	900	28.1
Trans., Warehouse & Utilities	4,000	5,800	7,100	3,100	77.5	1,300	22.4
Information	1,500	1,900	1,400	-100	-6.7	-500	-26.3
Financial Activities	3,200	4,100	4,300	1,100	34.4	200	4.9
Professional & Business Services	6,600	11,700	11,000	4,400	66.7	-700	-6.0
Health & Education Services	9,400	12,900	17,100	7,700	81.9	4,200	32.6
Leisure & Hospitality	6,400	8,000	9,000	2,600	40.6	1,000	12.5
Other Services	2,800	3,200	4,400	1,600	57.1	1,200	37.5
Federal Government	2,100	1,700	1,600	-500	-23.8	-100	-5.9
State Government	2,000	2,400	3,100	1,100	55.0	700	29.2
Local Government	7,800	10,700	14,400	6,600	84.6	3,700	34.6
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>91,300</b>	<b>116,000</b>	<b>116,700</b>	<b>25,400</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0.6</b>

Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Employment Growth for FS Metro Counties, 2000 - 2011				
	2000	2011	Change	
			Number	Percent
Sebastian County, AR	54,625	54,575	-50	-0.1
Crawford County, AR	23,900	25,450	1,550	6.5
Franklin County, AR	7,800	7,325	-475	-6.1
LeFlore County, OK	19,848	17,964	-1,884	-9.5
Sequoyah County, OK	16,455	15,449	-1,006	-6.1
<b>Fort Smith MSA Total</b>	<b>122,628</b>	<b>120,763</b>	<b>-1,865</b>	<b>-1.5</b>

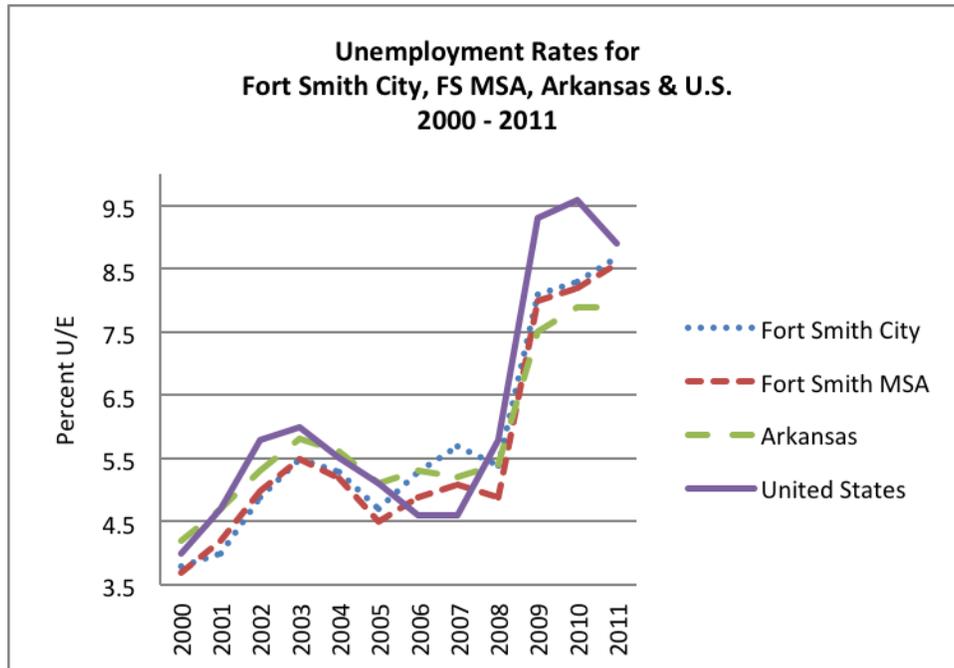
Source: CLF Data by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services & U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Fort Smith and Fort Smith MSA Employment/Unemployment

Unemployment rates for the city of Fort Smith and the Fort Smith MSA have risen significantly since 2000, particularly since 2008, tracking closely the state and national averages. Although 2012 annual employment figures for the metro area have not yet been released by the state, monthly figures for 2012 and January 2013 are available. From December 2012 to January 2013, the rate of unemployment increased from 7.7% to 8.7% and the number of unemployed increased by 1,350. January 2013 compared to January 2012 shows a slight decrease in the unemployment rate of 8.9% to 8.7%. January was the 48<sup>th</sup> consecutive month that the Fort Smith metro jobless rate has been at or above 7%, and January was the second consecutive month that the rate has been above 8%. Potentially more revealing of the region’s economic woes is the drop in job numbers in the past seven years. The number of employed in January 2013 was an estimated 120,050, down 13,011 jobs--almost 10%, compared to the high of 133,061 in June 2006.

Fort Smith MSA Employment Statistics, 2013 and 2012			
	January 2013	December 2012	January 2012
Civilian Labor Force	131,525	131,325	127,475
Employment	120,050	121,200	116,100
Unemployment	11,475	10,125	11,375
Unemployment Rate	8.7%	7.7%	8.9%

Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services



Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Unemployment Rates for Selected Areas													
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Fort Smith City	3.8	4.0	4.9	5.5	5.3	4.7	5.3	5.7	5.4	8.1	8.3	8.7	NA
Fort Smith MSA	3.7	4.2	5.0	5.5	5.2	4.5	4.9	5.1	4.9	8.0	8.2	8.6	NA
Arkansas	4.2	4.7	5.3	5.8	5.6	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.4	7.5	7.9	7.9	7.3
United States	4.0	4.7	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.6	4.6	5.8	9.3	9.6	8.9	8.1

Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

## Fort Smith Service Area Water Capacity and Demand

Fort Smith has two independent water sources. The primary water source is the Frog Bayou watershed, a 74 square mile forested valley located in the Boston Mountains, 2 miles north of Mountainburg in Crawford County. The Frog Bayou supply comes from rain (43-56" of rain per year) and stream runoff flowing down the slopes of the watershed. The water is stored in the recently expanded Lake Fort Smith (approximately 1,400 surface acres) and is treated at the Lake Fort Smith Water Treatment Plant.

Fort Smith's other water supply is the Lee Creek watershed, a 439 square mile area located in both Arkansas and Oklahoma. The Lee Creek supply also comes from rain and stream runoff flowing down the slopes of the watershed. The water is stored in the Lee Creek Reservoir (approximately 634 surface acres) and is treated at the Lee Creek Water Treatment Plant.

A July 2009 report, prepared by Kansas City, MO-based Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co., shows that the existing water supply is adequate beyond year 2060. The "Summary of Water Supply Adequacy through 2060" from Burns & McDonnell further states that the existing Lee Creek Water Treatment Plant and the expanded Lake Fort Smith Water Treatment Plant total capacities are adequate for projected maximum day water demand to year 2020. The Average Day demand for 2010 was 26.47 MGD with a Maximum Day demand of 41.99 MGD. In 2011, the Average Day demand was 29.52 MGD with a Maximum Day demand of 48.27 MGD. In 2012, the Average Day demand was 28.47 MGD with a Maximum Day demand of 41.59 MGD.

<b>Peak Water Capacity and Demand for Fort Smith area, 2010-2012</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Total (MG)	9,662,660	10,776,077	10,420,596
Average Day (MGD)	26.47	29.52	28.47
Maximum Day (MGD)	41.99	48.27	41.59

Source: City of Fort Smith

<b>Fort Smith's Water Supply, 2013</b>			
<b>Treatment Plant</b>	<b>MGD</b>	<b>Clearwell (MG)</b>	<b>Pumping (MGD)</b>
Lake Fort Smith	40.0	7.0	40.0
Lee Creek	23.4	2.5	24.0
Total	63.4	9.5	64.0
<b>System Storage</b>	<b>Number (each)</b>		<b>MG</b>
Ground Reservoir	5		27.7
Elevated	5		1.75
Standpipe	1		1.0
Total	11		30.45

Source: City of Fort Smith

### Fort Smith Service Area Sewer Capacity and Demand

Fort Smith operates 2 wastewater treatment plants, the "P" Street facility and the Massard facility.

In 2010 and 2011, the "P" Street facility had an Average Day Flow of 8 MGD and a Peak Flow Capacity of 55 MGD. In 2012, the Average Day Flow remained at 8 MGD with a Peak Flow Capacity of 83 MGD.

Since 2010, the Massard facility has experienced an Average Day Flow of 7 MGD and a Peak Flow Capacity of 20 MGD.

In 2001, the Fort Smith Sales Tax was increased to 1 percent when voters approved bonds for wastewater treatment plant improvements and a portion of the Lake Fort Smith water supply construction. The 1% sales tax continued in 2006 when voters approved bonds for wet weather sanitary sewer work and replacement of the public safety communications system. In 2009, voters again approved additional bonds for the wet weather sanitary sewer work. In 2012, voters approved an extension of the 1 percent Sales Tax, which split the tax into two parts with 0.75 percent for project supported with bonds and 0.25 percent for the fire department and for parks and recreation. The projects supported by bonds will include more than \$71 million in wastewater wet weather sanitary sewer work to include \$58.5 million in relief sewer and capacity improvements and \$12.6 million collection system rehabilitation and reconstruction. The projects supported by bonds also include more than \$28 million in water system improvements, including \$17.9 million for the Lake Fort Smith water transmission line and \$10.2 million for Chaffee Crossing transmission lines and a storage tank.

Sewer Capacity and Demand for Fort Smith area, 2000-2012			
Facility	2010	2011	2012
"P" Street WWTP			
Permit Capacity (MGD)	12	12	12
Peak Flow Capacity (MGD)	55	55	83
Average Day Flow (MGD)	8	8	8
Massard WWTP			
Permit Capacity (MGD)	10	10	10
Peak Flow Capacity (MGD)	20	20	20
Average Day Flow (MGD)	7	7	7

Source: City of Fort Smith

### Fort Smith Transit Ridership

Fort Smith Transit provides transportation open to the general public within the city limits of Fort Smith. The organization performs fixed route and curb-to-curb transportation services as well as a limited charter service by advance request. The fixed route service consists of a network of buses that travel the major avenues and some residential areas within the city. All fixed route buses are equipped with lifts for mobility devices, and most routes traverse toward the downtown area once per hour to accommodate transfers as needed. Demand response or curb-to-curb buses are available for passengers with mobility challenges that prevent access to the fixed routes or for passengers traveling to or from destinations considered outside the fixed route network area. Transit staff are well trained and can assist passengers with navigating the routes, selecting optimum travel times, purchasing vouchers, or simply learning to position a mobility device on a lift or inside the bus.

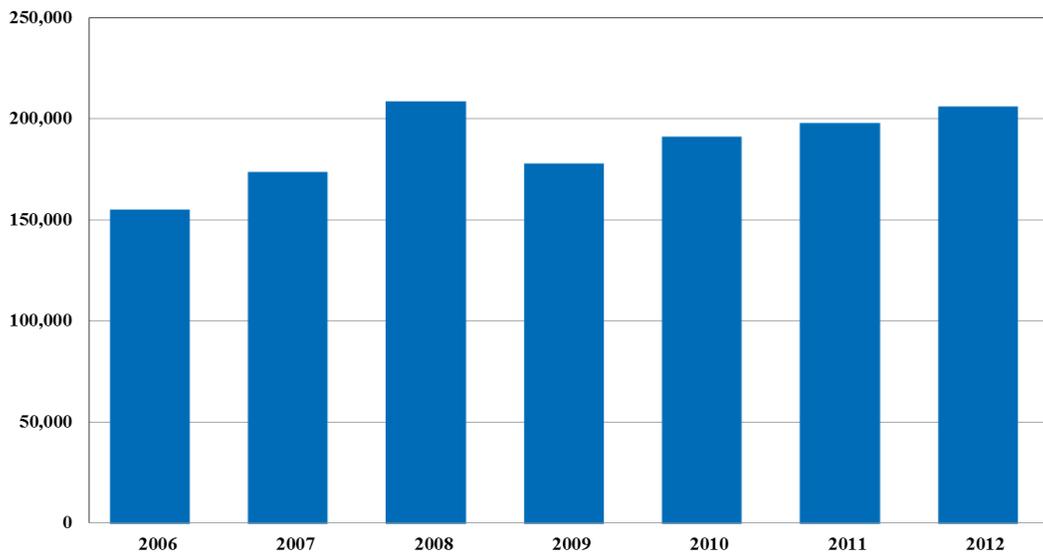
The major goals of the Fort Smith Transit System have been outlined in its plan/application for continued funding through the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and Federal Transit Administration. These goals are:

- A. Develop new rider information packets for system orientation.
- B. Install elevator for ADA access.
- C. Identify route modifications that would permit public transportation access to future parks.

<b>Fort Smith Transit Passenger Data (Linked Trips), 2011 - 2012</b>		
	<b>2011 Trips</b>	<b>2012 Trips</b>
Core Route	137,418	141,362
Demand	26,773	32,356
Night Demand	2,348	2,124
Downtown Shuttle	28,335	27,570
Charters	3,291	2,917
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,165</b>	<b>206,329</b>

Source: Fort Smith Transit

### Fort Smith Transit Ridership, 2006 - 2012



Source: Fort Smith Transit

## Fort Smith and Sebastian County Landfilled and Managed Waste

Solid waste collection and disposal service is available to every resident and business in Sebastian County. Since the service in rural areas is on a voluntary basis, some residents still do not participate. The volume of solid waste generated in the outlying areas of the county is easily handled by small compactor trucks. The maximum one way hauling distance from any point in the county to the Fort Smith landfill is less than thirty miles.

Sebastian County accounts for a majority of the waste deposited at the Fort Smith landfill, accounting for 84.4 percent of the waste deposited in 2012, up from 76.3 percent in 2010. Since 2010, the amount of landfilled waste has remained at 96 percent. Residential Municipal Solid Waste has remained fairly consistent since 2010, while Commercial/Industrial Municipal Solid Waste has seen a steady increase. Private Solid Waste has fluctuated greatly since 2010, first decreasing significantly in 2011 before a dramatic increase in 2012.

Managed waste tonnage has remained at four percent since 2010. Residential recycled, commercial/industrial recycled, yard waste, and white goods have all remained at fairly consistent levels since 2010, while residential recycled and yard waste both have shown slight increases in tonnage, and commercial/industrial recycled and white goods have both experienced slight decreases.

<b>Fort Smith Landfilled and Managed Waste</b>									
City of Fort Smith Landfill: Landfilled and Managed Waste 2010 - 2013									
Waste Type	Waste Quantity in Tons (Public and Private)								
	2010	Percent	2011	Percent	2012	Percent	**2013	Percent	Percent
<b>Landfilled</b>									
Municipal Solid Waste - Residential	23,431.60	9%	26,179.20	11%	25,848.70	8%	2,067.20	1,738.70	10%
Municipal Solid Waste - Commercial/Industrial	59,908.90	24%	65,455.40	28%	74,882.70	24%	6,201.10	5,763.10	32%
Private Solid Waste	161,419.30	63%	134,756.30	57%	198,772.20	64%	10,924.50	10,116.70	56%
<b>Managed, not Landfilled</b>									
Recycled - Residential	2,035.20	1%	2,307.00	1%	2,399.90	1%	179.70	96.23	1%
Recycled - Commercial/Industrial	746.90	0%	673.90	0%	528.00	0%	-	-	
Yardwaste	6,393.70	3%	7,257.70	3%	7,493.80	2%	372.20	379.10	2%
White Goods	276.46	0%	206.67	0%	135.09	0%	16.69	2.60	0%
Subtotal	6,670.16		10,445.27		10,556.79		568.59	477.93	
<b>Total</b>	<b>251,429.96</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>236,836.17</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>310,060.39</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19,761.39</b>	<b>18,096.43</b>	<b>100%</b>
**January & February 2013									
We do not have the amount of tons Sebastian County diverted for 2004 - 2020.									
We do not have the Sebastian County Diversion Rates and Future Diversion Estimates 2004 - 2020.									

Source: City of Fort Smith

Fort Smith Crime Statistics

Between the period of 2002 to 2012, the police department received the highest number of service calls in 2002 (79,042). In 2010, the police department handled 75,752 service calls. The volume of calls is projected to increase to 81,000 by 2025. In 2011, drug arrests in Fort Smith increased to their highest level of 1,688. There was a 53 percent increase between 2000 and 2011. The lowest number of drug arrests occurred in 2005 when 524 arrests were made. DWI arrests have declined steadily since 2008, from 479 to 351 respectively.

From 2002, the lowest number of violent crimes occurred in 2004 (606). Data from 2012 shows that violent crimes accounted for 690 events during that year. During the last ten years, total property crimes varied between a low of 4,944 and a high of 7,177. Total property crimes in 2012 totaled 5,087.

The Total Index Crimes, a combination of total violent crimes and total property crimes, decreased by 23 percent between 2002 and 2012 in Fort Smith.

**Fort Smith Crime Statistics (Incidents), 2002-2012**

<b>Incidents</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Arson	33	34	32	24	29	24	10	8	16	22	10
DWI Arrests	450	434	466	431	411	430	479	462	436	399	351
Traffic Accidents	4104	4237	3557	3791	3556	3814	3794	3474	3474	3311	3807
Fatalities Accidents	8	10	5	6	5	9	10	9	9	5	3
Arrests	7865	8388	10223	11200	10230	10834	10848	10505	9553	8679	9346

Source: City of Fort Smith Police Department

<b>Fort Smith Crime Statistics (Violent Crimes), 2002-2012</b>											
<b>Violent Crimes</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Homicide	9	12	4	5	9	5	2	5	5	5	7
Rape	52	69	83	93	75	76	91	71	140	131	136
Robbery	152	137	96	117	115	142	113	144	140	103	97
Agg. Assault	502	580	498	555	527	454	401	439	434	390	450
Total Violent Crimes	715	798	606	770	726	677	607	659	719	629	690

Source: City of Fort Smith Police Department

<b>Fort Smith Crime Statistics (Property Crimes), 2002-2012</b>											
<b>Property Crimes</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Burglary	1183	1110	1124	998	1111	1051	1086	1128	1139	1120	1095
Larceny	5296	5769	5120	4371	4163	4219	3616	3841	4041	3636	3799
Auto Theft	305	298	338	352	343	331	261	1993	232	188	193
Total Property Crimes	6784	7177	6582	5721	5617	5607	4963	5162	5412	4944	5087

Source: City of Fort Smith Police Department

## Fort Smith Fire Department Statistics

Between 2002 and 2012, total emergency responses increased by 48 percent. Over the past ten years, average response time per call decreased from 3.56 minutes to 3.17 minutes.

The FSFD has retained its Class 2 Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating. An ISO rating is a value from 1 to 10 based on a city's fire protection capabilities. A rating of 1-4 is good, 5-8 is average, 9 is marginal, and 10 is unprotected.

Fort Smith Annual Fire Department Statistics, 2000-2012													
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Emergency Responses	5959	5929	6510	6990	6802	7184	7318	7619	8053	7835	8026	8158	8793
Population													
Response per 1000 Population													
Response Time													
Average Response Time/Call	3:56	3:58	3:26	3:10	3:06	3:13	3:11	3:14	3:13	3:14	3:10	3:17	3:17
Annual Change													
Inspections													
Primary Commercial Inspections	650	700	695	695	536	529	681	598	714	543	661	673	475
Re-Inspections	650	700	695	695	536	529	681	598	714	543	661	673	475
Plans Reviewed	350	375	350	188	168	168	169	163	356	151	151	217	169
Other Information													
Fire Loss	4,200,946	4,063,118	3,083,785	2,798,415	2,476,795	5,099,610	4,533,488	2,800,235	3,175,315	5,909,001	4,495,500	6,057,841	5,758,045
Yearly Change													
Hydrants	6700	7000	6778	6778	6778	6916	6950	6950	6950	6950	7942	7950	7950

Source: City of Fort Smith Fire Department

### School Enrollment and Projections for schools which are located in Fort Smith

The Fort Smith Public Schools 2012-2013 enrollment is 14,049. The enrollment is expected to increase only slightly over the next 10 years, from 14,049 in 2012-2013 to 14,107 in 2022-2023, an increase of .004 percent. For the same period, projected enrollment growth within each grade level varies greatly. The elementary schools (K-4) are projected to have a slight decrease of .01 percent, middle school (5-8) should experience a decline in enrollment of .02 percent, and the high school should see an increase of .05 percent.

The 11 private schools in the city of Fort Smith have a total enrollment of 1,985.

The University of Arkansas at Fort Smith's current enrollment is 7,337 and the projected enrollment is 8,361. Webster University in Fort Smith has a current school enrollment of 50. John Brown University in Fort Smith has a current school enrollment of 60 and projects 70 students in the Fall 2013.

Fort Smith Public Schools Enrollment										
Schools	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Northside	1283	1350	1383	1405	1401	1348	1375	1357	1392	1459
Southside	1497	1474	1503	1532	1561	1518	1541	1547	1557	1599
Chaffin JH	696	749	756	787	751	767	758	819	793	840
Darby JH	592	581	594	618	586	562	579	595	622	586
Kimmons JH	726	708	739	790	807	765	791	820	860	880
Ramsey JH	857	874	902	889	905	931	967	961	925	932
Ballman	359	332	351	342	335	340	325	344	306	322
Barling	330	346	357	344	323	322	315	347*	353*	364*
Beard	290	294	298	295	318	294	294	303	285	298
Bonneville	331	323	310	339	317	325	343	339	369	362
Carnall	192	195	212	219	236	261	261	265	282	309
Cavanaugh	154	141	152	165	198	195	211	223	243	251
Cook	581	530	596	587	624	623	623	638	613	577
Euper Lane	399	423	427	438	420	455	467	457	457	453
Fairview	576	550	595	596	600**	643**	625**	629**	597**	594**
Howard	351	346	323	345	338**	382**	354**	335**	333**	321**
Morrison	198	212	209	210	216**	200**	191**	198**	204**	211**
Orr	361	371	409	382	389**	394**	397**	393**	397**	379**
Pike	395	409	422	410	417	433	461**	500**	509**	494**
Spradling	374	367	437	444	449	454	431	418	424	443
Sunnymede	605	617	643	637	630	619	620	606	603	611
Sutton	418	437	456	489	511	525	521	492	496	497**
Tilles	498	489	488	469	500**	469**	438**	415**	386**	391**
Trusty	276	273	300	365	362	354	365	342	325	344
Woods	463	455	435	468	477	480	464	462	492	477
Totals	12,802	12,849	13,297	13,565	13,671	13,659	13,717	13,805	13,823	13,994

Source: Fort Smith Public Schools

<b>Fort Smith Private Schools Enrollment</b>		
<b>Schools</b>	<b>Grades</b>	<b>2012</b>
Christ the King Catholic School	K-7	319
First Luthern School	K-7	90
First UMC Weekday School	K	13
Fort Smith AR Seventh-Day Adventist School	1-5	8
Harvest Time Christian	PK-6	272
Hobson Preschool & Kindergarten	PK-K	85
Immaculate Conception School	PK-6	306
The Montessori School of Fort Smith	PK-6	95
St. Boniface Catholic School	PK-6	172
Trinity Junior High School	7-9	235
Union Christian Academy Campus	PK-12	390

Source: All Private Schools listed above were contacted

<b>Fort Smith Universities Enrollment</b>						
<b>Schools</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
UAFS	6,611	6,772	7,322	7,716	7,587	7,337
Webster	--	63	61	57	49	50
JBU	61	58	56	52	57	60

Source: UAFS, Webster, JBU

**Fort Smith Public Schools Enrollment Projection Summary**

	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Kindergarten	1,268	1,179	1,152	1,077	1,122	1,131	1,131	1,131	1,131	1,131	1,131
Grade 1	1,065	1,250	1,162	1,135	1,062	1,106	1,116	1,116	1,116	1,116	1,116
Grade 2	1,092	1,048	1,231	1,144	1,118	1,046	1,089	1,098	1,098	1,098	1,098
Grade 3	1,047	1,077	1,034	1,214	1,129	1,103	1,032	1,074	1,083	1,083	1,083
Grade 4	1,082	1,035	1,065	1,023	1,201	1,116	1,090	1,020	1,062	1,071	1,071
Grade 5	1,087	1,074	1,028	1,058	1,016	1,192	1,108	1,083	1,013	1,055	1,064
Grade 6	1,054	1,077	1,065	1,019	1,048	1,006	1,181	1,098	1,073	1,004	1,045
Grade 7	1,160	1,086	1,110	1,097	1,049	1,080	1,037	1,217	1,131	1,105	1,034
Grade 8	1,045	1,162	1,087	1,111	1,098	1,051	1,082	1,038	1,219	1,133	1,107
Grade 9	1,070	1,048	1,166	1,091	1,115	1,102	1,054	1,085	1,042	1,223	1,137
Grade 10	1,128	1,096	1,074	1,194	1,118	1,142	1,129	1,080	1,112	1,067	1,253
Grade 11	1,023	1,056	1,027	1,006	1,118	1,047	1,070	1,057	1,012	1,041	1,000
Grade 12	928	952	983	955	936	1,040	974	995	984	941	968
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14,049</b>	<b>14,140</b>	<b>14,184</b>	<b>14,124</b>	<b>14,130</b>	<b>14,162</b>	<b>14,093</b>	<b>14,092</b>	<b>14,076</b>	<b>14,068</b>	<b>14,107</b>

Source: Fort Smith Public Schools

<b>University of Arkansas- Fort Smith Projections</b>		
	<b>Students</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Plan Horizon	8,361	1,076

Source: UAFS

<b>John Brown University Projections</b>	
Projected Fall 2013	70 Students

Source: John Brown University

### Fort Smith and Sebastian County Parks and Open Space Inventory

Fort Smith has community parks, river front parks, downtown parks, specialty parks, neighborhood parks, and as walking trails to offer to its citizens.

The Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department manages the following: four community parks-- Carol Ann Cross Park, Creekmore Park, Martin Luther King Park, and Tilles Park; three riverfront parks-- Fort Smith Park, Harry E. Kelley Park, and the Riverfront Amphitheater; three downtown parks-- Cisterna Park, Park at West End, and the Ross Pendergraft Park; seven specialty parks-- Anniversary Rose Garden, Fort Smith Dog Park, Kelly Park Ballfields, Massard Prairie Battlefield, Park at West End, McClure Amphitheater, and Ruth Armstrong; and six neighborhood parks--Harley A. Wilson Park, Hillcrest Park, Riley Farm Park, Spradling Park, Victory Park, and Woodlawn Park. The parks in Fort Smith provide citizens with places to enjoy nature and participate in passive and active recreational activities. Baseball and soccer fields, jogging trails, volleyball, basketball and tennis courts, boat docks, gazebos, benches, nature trails, outdoor pools, water features, gardens, and an amphitheater are all offered by existing facilities.

The Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department also provides many trail opportunities for its citizens. There are currently eight walking trails and one bikeway trail. Residents can use the Ben Geren Trail, Chad Colley Trail, Fort Chaffee West Trail, Massard Road Trail, Mill Creek Trail, Rice Carden Trail, Sunnymede Trail, Water Trail, and the Fort Smith Bikeway.

The Fort Smith Parks and Recreation also manages community facilities such as the Creekmore Community Center, Darby Community Center, Elm Grove Community Center, Riverfront Pavilion, and the River Park Events Building. The community facilities can be reserved and rented by the residents of Fort Smith.

Sebastian County also offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities to the residents. Recreational activities include public golf courses, picnic facilities, playground equipment, open space for sporting events such as soccer and softball, hiking/biking, and walking trails. The Ben Geren Regional Park provides these above mentioned park services as well as gator golf and Go-Karts facilities. With 1300 acres, the Ben Geren Regional Park is the largest county park in the state of Arkansas. This park is located just outside of the Fort Smith city limits. Sebastian County also manages the Buckner Park in Witcherville, East Sebastian County Park or the Lavaca Park, which is east of Fort Smith in Lavaca, and Boyer or Midland Park, which is located far south in the county.

The Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department provides facilities, services, and programs for approximately 273 maintained park acres. The Sebastian County Ben Geren Regional Park provides 1,300 acres of park land to the public. The county has a total of 1,811 acres of park land.

<b>Fort Smith Parks Department Facilities</b>					
<b>Parks</b>					<b>Trails</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>Riverfront</b>	<b>Downtown</b>	<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Walking/Biking</b>
Carol Ann Cross Park	Fort Smith Park	Cisterna Park	Anniversary Rose Garden	Harley A. Wilson park	Ben Geren Trail
Creekmore Park	Harry E. Kelley Park	Park at West End	Fort Smith Dog Park	Hillcrest Park	Chad Colley Trail
Martin Luther King Park	Riverfront Amphitheater	Ross Pendergraft Park	Kelly Park Ballfields	Riley Farm Park	Fort Chaffee West Trail
Tilles Park			Massard Prairie Battlefield	Spradling Park	Massard Road Trail
			Park at West End	Victory Park	Mill Creek Trail
			McClure Amphitheater	Woodlawn Park	Rice Carden Trail
			Ruth Armstrong		Sunnymede Trail
					Water Trail
					Fort Smith Bikeway

Source: Fort Smith Parks and Recreation

**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
WORKLOAD/DEMAND STATISTICS**

	Actual FY11	BUDGET FY12	Actual FY12 thru November	BUDGET FY13
Flowerbed Square Footage	90,242	90,242	90,242	90,242
Median Flowerbeds Maintained	165	165	165	165
Median Square Footage	328,000	330,000	328,000	330,000
Medians Maintained	50	60	50	60
Street Easements Maintained - Miles	8	8	8	8
Trees Planted	239	120	51	25
Park Acres Maintained	273.21	273.21	273.21	273.21
Park Flowerbeds Maintained	90	90	90	90
Parks	25	25	25	25
Trails	2	2	2	2
Miles	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90
Train Revenue	\$11,046	\$11,500	\$9,412	\$11,500
Train Riders	44,184	46,000	37,648	46,000
Cemetery Spaces/Niches Sold	77	40	67	40
Cemetery Interments/Inurments/Scatterings	70	50	54	50
Cemetery Revenue	\$65,494	\$50,000	\$56,121	\$50,000
Community Center Bookings	1,065	900	1,086	900
Community Center Patrons	45,000	45,000	48,000	45,000
Community Center Revenue	\$24,495	\$35,000	\$20,594	\$35,000
Number of Community Centers	2	2	2	2
Aquatic Admissions	34,783	35,000	37,231	35,000
Aquatic days of operation	84	90	89	90
Aquatic Revenue	\$79,436	\$70,000	\$78,414	\$70,000
Red Cross Provider Revenue (Classes)			\$38,837	\$35,000
Number of Swimming Pools	1	1	1	1
Number of Wading Pools	3	3	3	3
Splashpad	1	1	1	1
Riverpark Bookings	570	500	459	500
Riverpark Patrons	42,000	40,000	35,000	40,000
Riverpark Revenue	\$43,470	\$50,000	\$37,059	\$50,000
Number of Facilities	3	3	3	3
Total Events	55	70	35	70
Total Events Patrons	85,000	60,000	15,000	60,000
Private Events	40	40	22	40
Private Event Patrons	35,000	40,000	14,500	40,000
Parks and Recreation Events	15	30	13	30
Parks and Recreation Events Patrons	50,000	20,000	14,000	20,000
The Park at West End Revenue	\$22,610	\$23,000	\$22,786	\$23,000

<b>Sebastian County Parks</b>	
<b>Sebastian County Parks</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Ben Geren Park	1299.91*
East Sebastian County (Lavaca Park)	30
Boyer (Midland Park)	471.6
Buckner	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1811.51</b>

Source: Sebastian County Parks and Recreation

<b>Sebastian County Parks Property Type/Acres</b>					
	<b>Ben Geren</b>	<b>East Sebastian County</b>	<b>Boyer</b>	<b>Buckner</b>	<b>Total</b>
Flood Plain	51.1	0	0	0	51.1
Open Space	48.8	2.64	23.7	4.3	79.44
Organized Rec Land	480.26	10.8	0.9	5.7	497.66
Forested	750.49	16.56	447	0	1214.05
Lakes/Wetlands	20.36	0	0	0	20.36
Conservation Easement	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1299.91</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>471.6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1811.51</b>

Source: Sebastian County Parks and Recreation

Chapter 2  
Fort Smith Region

## FORT SMITH REGION: INTRODUCTION

Fort Smith is the second largest city in Arkansas and is also one of the two county seats of Sebastian County. According to the 2010 Census, the city of Fort Smith's population is 86,209, which is a 7.4 percent increase from 2000. The city of Fort Smith's growth and development affect many areas far outside of its immediate municipal boundary.

For this study, the Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has been examined and compared with the city of Fort Smith. The Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the United Census Bureau, is a five county area that includes three Arkansas counties and two Oklahoma counties. The total MSA population in 2000 was 273,170 people; in 2010 it had increased to 298,514. Major cities in this area include Fort Smith, Arkansas; Van Buren, Arkansas; Ozark, Arkansas; Poteau, Oklahoma; and Sallisaw, Oklahoma. The city of Fort Smith has the largest population in the Fort Smith MSA region of Arkansas.

It is important to have key statistics for the MSA cities whose population and economies are directly related to the city of Fort Smith. Persons and businesses in the Fort Smith MSA have significant interaction with and impact upon the city of Fort Smith and Sebastian County on a daily basis. Many choices made by government officials and leaders in the surrounding areas, as well as the status of the current economic situations in these areas, can directly and indirectly affect the city of Fort Smith.

### Definitions of the Fort Smith Region

#### Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) for purposes of collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal data. MSA's have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population (the core), as well as any adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration (as measured by commuting to work) with the urban core. MSA's must have, at minimum, one county, and oftentimes they include several counties.

As of January 11, 2013, there are 366 metropolitan areas in the United States, and eight of these MSA's are in Arkansas. To qualify as an MSA, an area must include at least one city with 50,000 or more inhabitants, or a Census Bureau defined urbanized area (of at least 50,000 inhabitants) and a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000. The county that contains the largest city becomes a "central county," along with any adjacent counties that have at least 50 percent of their population in the urbanized area

surrounding that largest city. Additional “outlying counties” can be included in a MSA if they meet specific requirements of commuting to the central county and other selected criteria of metropolitan character.

#### Fort Smith Regional Alliance

The Fort Smith Regional Alliance (FSRA) is a collaborative organization of Arkansas and Oklahoma communities supporting one another in economic development. The FSRA is comprised of cities and towns within a 50-mile radius of Fort Smith that all have the focus of strengthening their position to compete nationally and globally. The eight counties represented by the FSRA are Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Sebastian, and Scott in Arkansas, and LeFlore and Sequoyah in Oklahoma.

There is a trend in economic development at the state and national level to create regional partnerships where cities and counties, and in some cases states, partner together to develop comprehensive regional strategies leveraging all assets of the region. Prospects find regional partnerships attractive because companies are looking for cohesive communities where the localities work well across jurisdictional lines. The Fort Smith Region has recognized this concept and is already working to operate regionally.

#### Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce

The Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce provides vision and leadership to enhance the quality of place for businesses and individuals in the greater Fort Smith region. The chamber works to grow the economy, provide networking and training opportunities for members, and is the legislative advocate for the region.

Across the greater Fort Smith region, the chamber represents a variety of professions and businesses. The chamber’s strength lies in its members, who work tirelessly to improve their communities and businesses. A board of directors, made up of representatives from member businesses and supported by a full-time professional staff, oversees the work of the chamber.

#### Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

The Frontier MPO, the regional transportation planning organization for the Fort Smith urbanized area, is funded by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) through the Arkansas and Oklahoma Departments of Transportation. The Frontier is defined as the area projected to become urbanized within the next 20 years in Western

Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma. The MPO is currently comprised of Sebastian and Crawford counties in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah counties in Oklahoma. All cities in these counties are invited to participate in the Frontier MPO.

The MPO serves as a liaison between local governments and state and federal agencies in matters involving essential major regional transportation improvements. All urban areas in the U.S. with a population over 50K are required by federal regulations, stemming from the 1973 Highway Act, to have an MPO structure in place to administer transportation planning programs. The federal and state governments recognize the MPO as the official forum for regional transportation planning undertaken in a cooperative, continuous, and comprehensive manner in order to maximize the benefits and expenditures of federal and state monies in transportation planning and programming.

#### Regional Intermodal Transportation Planning (RITA)

The Regional Intermodal Transportation Authority of Western Arkansas (RITA) was formed in August 2009 by the cities of Fort Smith and Van Buren and the counties of Crawford and Sebastian per Act 690 of the 81st General Assembly, which authorizes the formation of regional transportation authorities in Arkansas. The purposes of RITA are to plan and provide for economic development and to develop initiatives and projects important to this region's future economic development and particularly those projects or initiatives that support any improvements involving the movement of the region's goods and freight.

### FORT SMITH REGION: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

#### Population and Employment

Fort Smith's population grew by 18.4 percent from 1990 to 2010, increasing from 72,798 to 86,209, which was the highest total population increase for all the cities that are included in the Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). When looking at the past 20 years, Fort Smith had a lower population growth than the overall Sebastian County population growth from 1990 to 2010, which was 26.3 percent.

Many of the communities immediately surrounding Fort Smith also had higher population growths. For example, Van Buren, which adjoins Fort Smith's northern border, had a population growth rate of 52.2 percent from 1990 to 2010, having grown from 14,979 to 22,791. The city of Greenwood, southeast of Fort Smith, had a

significant population increase from 3,984 to 8,952 and experienced a 125 percent growth rate for that same time period. The distribution of population growth in the Fort Smith region has been impacted by the development of the interstate systems (I-40 and I-540), the growth of the number of passenger vehicles per household, and the location of employment and retail centers. According to recent census data, the Fort Smith area is becoming an ever-expanding metropolitan urbanized area with some of the highest percentage growth rates in population occurring in the smaller communities and unincorporated areas around Fort Smith.

According to the 2010 Census, among the eight Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Arkansas, the Fort Smith MSA is the third largest MSA. The Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA and the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA are the largest MSA's in the state. The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA, which is located only 40 miles north of Fort Smith, is one of the fastest growing MSA's in the United States. With the completion of I-540 between Fort Smith and Fayetteville, the two areas have increased their social, economic, and cultural integration by bringing over 20 percent of the state's population into a more convenient travel sphere of daily socio-economic activity. Population growth in the Fort Smith, AR –OK MSA is projected to increase by 16.5 percent over the next 25 years. Crawford County is forecasted to experience the largest increase of approximately 25,000. See Table 2-3.

Sebastian County employment growth increased by 5.3 percent from 2000 to 2010. Population growth is outpacing employment growth; however, commuting into Fort Smith from outlying areas is still growing. See Table 2-8 and Figure 2-3 and 2-4 for commuting patterns in Fort Smith. Increased commuting has a number of implications for transportation and other infrastructure systems.

### Commuting and Transportation

The city of Fort Smith is situated in the center of the Frontier Metropolitan Organization (MPO) area. With the exception of I-40 and SH 59, Highways 22 and 255 to the east, Highway 71 and State Highways 253, 45, and I-540 to the south, I-540 and Highway 64/71 to the north, and Highway 64 to the west comes to or through the city. Fort Smith is separated from Van Buren by the Arkansas River, is separated from Greenwood by topographical features such as Rye Hill, is separated from the eastern section of the area by Fort Chaffee, and is separated from the Oklahoma communities by another bend in the Arkansas River. Considering these limited points of access as gateways, the following highway corridors offer the only means of accessing Fort Smith: Highways 22 and 255 to the east, Highway 71 and State Highways 253, 45, and I-540 to the south, I-540 and Highway 64/71 to the north, and Highway 64 to the west.

The city of Fort Smith actively implements their Master Street Plan through the enforcement of their subdivision regulations and through their transportation related capital improvements program that is supported by a city-wide 1-cent sales tax.

Although the city of Fort Smith has been successful in maintaining and improving its streets and highways, the Frontier MPO 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan addresses additional regional highway improvements that will provide further access and mobility improvements in and out of the city. The city of Fort Smith will work with the appropriate federal and state agencies and local governments to secure funding and implementation of these proposed improvements.

Of the approximately 62,385 people working in Fort Smith in 2010, just over 35 percent were residents of Fort Smith. It is estimated that approximately 40,464 people per day commute into Fort Smith to work.

The only public transit system currently operating in the Fort Smith MSA is the Fort Smith Transit System, which serves city residents. Its expressed purpose is to provide for the operation of the city's transit system, meeting its growing public transportation needs.

### Retail Sales

From 2002 to 2007, the city of Fort Smith's retail sales grew 18.1%. This compares to increases for the five-county Fort Smith Metro Area of 26.3% and the state of Arkansas of 28.7%. The metropolitan area consists of Sebastian, Crawford, and Franklin counties in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah counties in Oklahoma. Table 2-10 reflects this data.

Because the city's growth in retail sales was relatively slower in 2007, compared to 2002, the city's retail sales accounted for less of the metro area's and state's retail sales. In 2007, the city accounted for 52.8% of the metro area's retail sales and 5.1% of the state's retail sales, compared to the city's shares in 2002 of 56.5% and 5.5%, respectively. The city's share of Metro and State's Retail Sales can be found in Table 2-11.

An analysis by Western Arkansas Planning & Development District (WAPDD) concluded that an estimated one-half of the city of Fort Smith's retail sales are attributable to non-city residents, largely residents of the surrounding metropolitan area. This is understandable, given that Fort Smith is the area's dominant center for employment, services, and retail stores.

**Table 2-1 Fort Smith MSA Region Population Growth, 1950-2010**

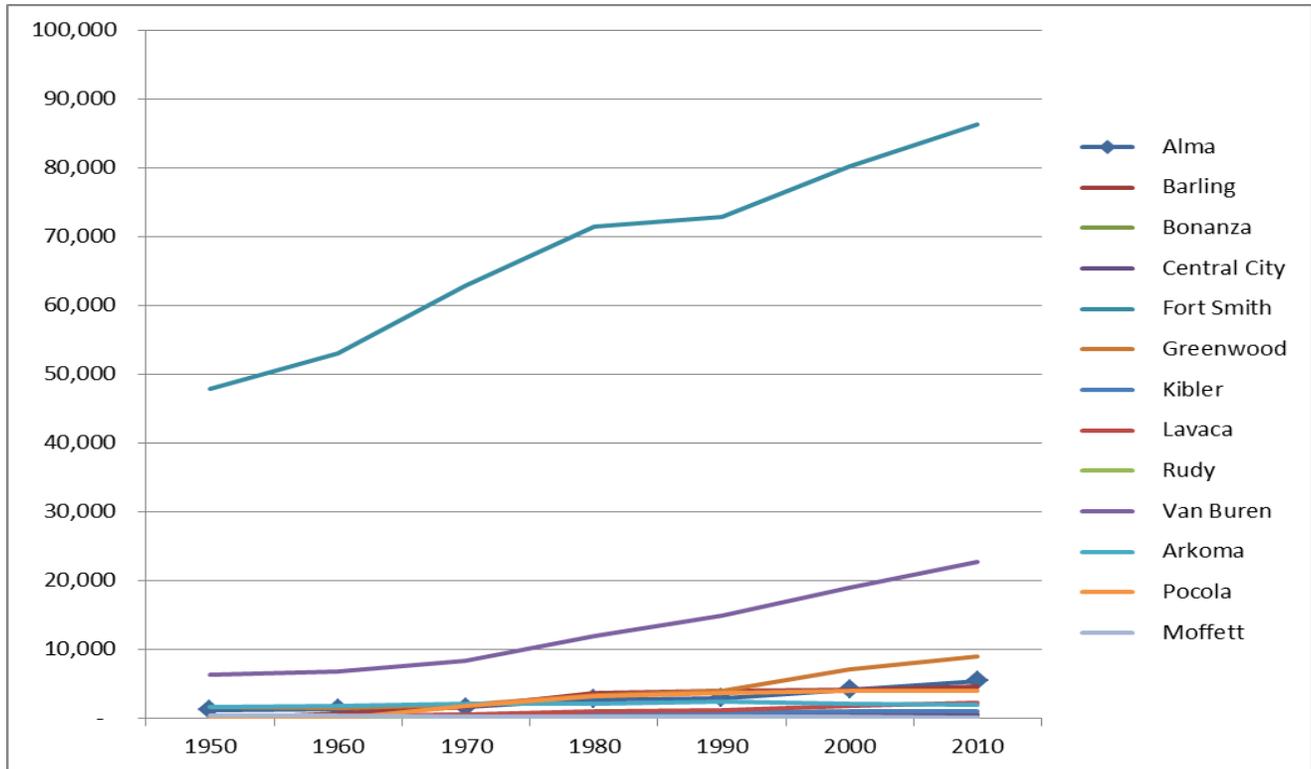
Jurisdiction		1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
<b>ARKANSAS</b>	Crawford County	22,727	21,318	25,677	36,892	42,493	53,247	61,948
	Sebastian County	64,202	66,685	79,237	95,172	99,590	115,071	125,744
	Alma	1,228	1,370	1,613	2,755	2,959	4,160	5,419
	Barling	(U)	770	1,739	3,761	4,078	4,176	4,649
	Bonanza	361	247	342	553	520	514	575
	Central City	-	-	-	339	419	531	502
	<b>Fort Smith</b>	<b>47,942</b>	<b>52,991</b>	<b>62,802</b>	<b>71,384</b>	<b>72,798</b>	<b>80,268</b>	<b>86,209</b>
	Greenwood	1,634	1,558	2,032	3,317	3,984	7,112	8,952
	Kibler	-	-	611	798	931	969	961
	Lavaca	373	392	532	1,092	1,253	1,825	2,289
	Rudy	97	113	103	79	45	72	61
	Van Buren	6,413	6,787	8,373	12,020	14,979	18,986	22,791
	Franklin County				14,660	14,897	17,771	18,047
	<b>OKLAHOMA</b>	LeFlore County	35,296	29,106	32,137	40,698	43,270	48,109
Arkoma		1,691	1,862	2,098	2,175	2,393	2,180	1,989
Pocola		-	-	1,840	3,268	3,664	3,994	4,056
Sequoyah County		19,773	18,001	23,370	30,749	33,828	38,972	42,391
Moffett		380	357	312	269	219	179	128
5 County Totals		141,998	135,110	160,421	218,171	234,078	273,170	298,514

Source: U.S. Census, Arkansas Municipal League

Table 2-2 Population Growth in Selected Municipalities, 1950-2010								
Jurisdiction	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Percent Change 1990-2010
Alma	1,228	1,370	1,613	2,755	2,959	4,160	5,419	83.1%
Barling	(U)	770	1,739	3,761	4,078	4,176	4,649	14%
Bonanza	361	247	342	553	520	514	575	10.6%
Central City	-	-	-	339	419	531	502	19.8%
Fort Smith	47,942	52,991	62,802	71,384	72,798	80,268	86,209	18.4%
Greenwood	1,634	1,558	2,032	3,317	3,984	7,112	8,952	124.7%
Kibler	-	-	611	798	931	969	961	3.2%
Lavaca	373	392	532	1,092	1,253	1,825	2,289	82.7%
Rudy	97	113	103	79	45	72	61	35.6%
Van Buren	6,413	6,787	8,373	12,020	14,979	18,986	22,791	52.2%
Arkoma	1,691	1,862	2,098	2,175	2,393	2,180	1,989	-16.9%
Pocola	-	-	1,840	3,268	3,664	3,994	4,056	10.7%
Moffett	380	357	312	269	219	179	128	-41.6%
						Total	138,581	

Source: U.S. Census, Arkansas Municipal League

Figure 2-1 Population Growth in Selected Municipalities, 1950-2010



Source: Arkansas Municipal League

Table 2-3 Fort Smith, AR-OK Metropolitan Statistical Area									
	2005	2010*	2015	2020	2025	2030**	2035**	2010 -2035 Numeric Percent	
Crawford County	57,364	61,948	65,539	69,627	73,714	77,802	81,890	19,942	32.19%
Franklin County	18,148	18,125	18,986	19,404	19,823	20,242	20,661	2,536	13.99%
Sebastian County, AR	118,484	125,744	125,464	128,954	132,445	135,935	139,425	13,681	10.88%
Le Flore County, OK	49,700	50,384	53,500	55,500	57,300	59,100	60,900	10,516	20.87%
Sequoyah County, OK	41,200	42,391	45,900	48,200	50,400	52,600	54,800	12,409	29.27%
MSA TOTAL	284,896	298,592	309,389	321,685	333,682	345,679	357,676	59,084	19.79%

\*U.S. Census 2010

\*\*Population Projections for the State, Metropolitan Areas, and Counties: 2000 – 2030

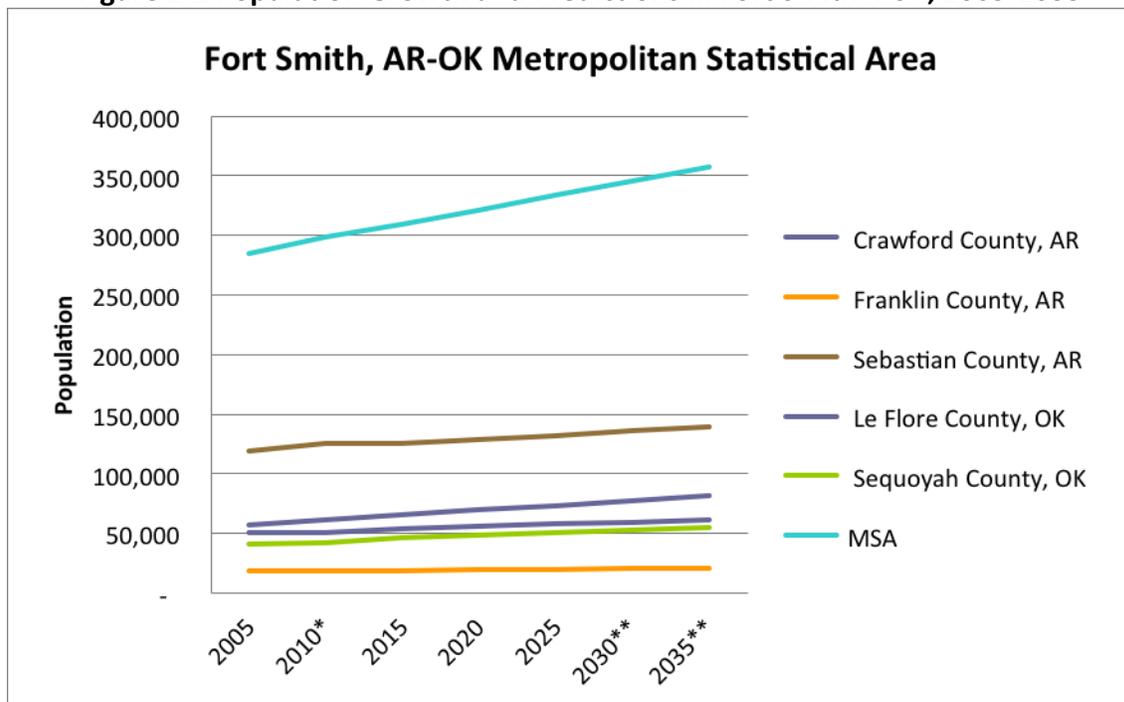
Oklahoma Department of Commerce

UALR Institute for Economic Advancement

\*\*\*Frontier MPO

Source: U.S. Census

**Figure 2-2 Population Growth and Predictions in Fort Smith MSA, 2005-2035**



Source: Arkansas Municipal League

<b>Table 2-4 Employment Growth – Labor Force Data by County (Annual Averages)</b>		
	2000	2011
Sebastian County	56,511	59,513
Crawford County	24,780	27,814
Franklin County	8,075	7,910
Leflore County	20,741	19,828
Sequoyah County	17,206	17,099

Source: U.S. Census

**Table 2-5 Sebastian County Commuting Patterns/Mode to Work – At Place of Residence**

	CTPP2000			2006-2010 ACS			Is Change Significant in Number?***
	Number	Percent	MOE (+/-)*	Number	Percent	MOE (+/-)*	
	<b>At Place of Residence</b>						
<b>Total Workers</b>	36,145	100.0	571	37,835	100.0	1,006	Yes
Drove alone	28,845	79.8	550	31,105	82.2	1,038	Yes
2-person Carpool	4,015	11.1	250	3,945	10.4	525	No
3-or-more-person Carpool	1,330	3.7	146	936	2.5	799	No
Public Transportation	130	0.4	46	217	0.6	109	No
Bike	110	0.3	42	100	0.3	90	No
Walked	520	1.4	92	410	1.1	144	No
Taxi, Motorcycle and Other means	545	1.5	94	476	1.3	212	No
Worked at Home	645	1.8	102	646	1.7	178	No

Source: CTPP Census Transportation Planning Products (Census 2000, 2006-2010)

**Table 2-6 Sebastian County Commuting Patterns/Mode to Work – At Place of Work**

	CTPP2000			2006-2010 ACS			Is Change Significant in Number? **
	Number	Percent	MOE (+/-)*	Number	Percent	MOE (+/-)*	
	<b>At Place of Work</b>						
Total Workers	64,965	100.0	452	64,167	100.0	1,388	No
Drove alone	53,475	82.3	542	54,542	85.0	1,475	No
2-person Carpool	7,490	11.5	333	6,290	9.8	619	Yes
3-or-more-person Carpool	1,750	2.7	167	1,118	1.7	305	Yes
Public Transportation	140	0.2	48	280	0.4	130	Yes
Bike	115	0.2	43	100	0.2	90	No
Walked	570	0.9	96	382	0.6	144	Yes
Taxi, Motorcycle and Other means	780	1.2	112	809	1.3	234	No
Worked at Home	645	1.0	102	646	1.0	178	No

Source: CTPP Census Transportation Planning Products (Census 2000, 2006-2010)

**Table 2-7 Sebastian County Mean Travel Time by Mode to Work**

	Census 2000		2006-2010 ACS		Is Change Significant in Minutes? **
	Minutes	MOE(+/-)*	Minutes	MOE(+/-)*	
<b>At Place of Residence</b>					
Total Workers (does not include workers who worked at home)	16.7	0.4	14.5	0.7	Yes
Drove alone	16.0	0.4	14.0	0.8	Yes
Carpooled	19.4	1.2	16.7	4.1	No
Public Transportation	34.7	9.1	23.0	17.3	No
Taxi, Motorcycle, Walk, Bicycle & Other	19.5	3.3	16.2	7.3	No

Source: CTPP Census Transportation Planning Products (Census 2000, 2006-2010)

\*The coefficient of variation (CV) can be derived by the standard error (SE) divided by the estimate, while SE=MOE/1.645.

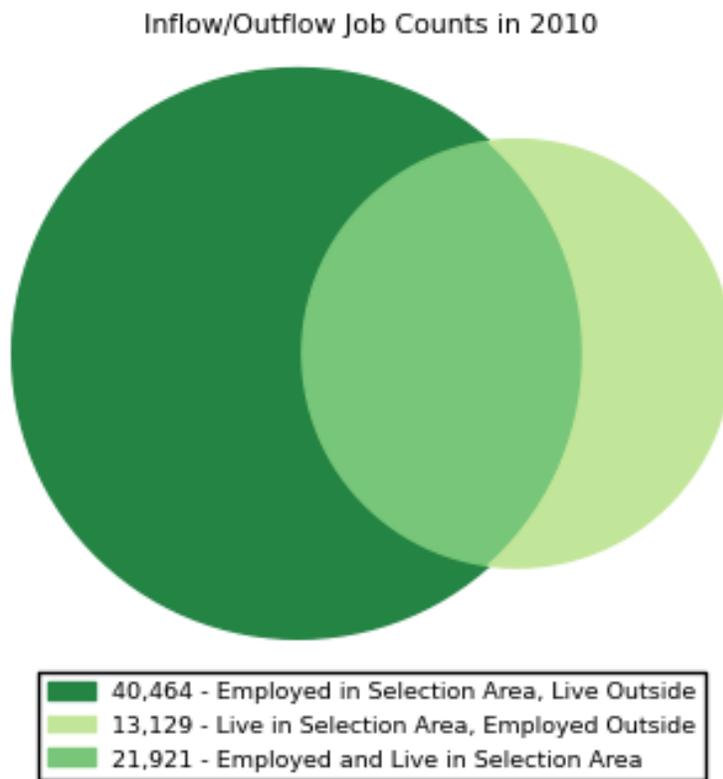
\*\*The z-value of the difference of the two estimates are used to determine if the two estimates are significantly different at 90% confidence level.

**Table 2-8 Persons Working in Fort Smith by Place of Residence**

City Name	Count	Share
Fort Smith, AR	21,921	35.1%
Van Buren, AR	3,794	6.1%
Greenwood, AR	1,576	2.5%
Barling, AR	1,565	2.5%
Pocola, OK	928	1.5%
Fayetteville, AR	771	1.2%
Little Rock, AR	726	1.2%
Springdale, AR	682	1.1%
Alma, AR	613	1.0%
Rogers, AR	537	0.9%
Muldrow, OK	465	0.7%
Roland, OK	430	0.7%
Lavaca, AR	415	0.7%
Arkoma, OK	406	0.7%
Sallisaw, OK	370	0.6%
Booneville, AR	326	0.5%
Charleston, AR	326	0.5%
Poteau, OK	310	0.5%
Bentonville, AR	285	0.5%
Spiro, OK	272	0.4%
Russellville, AR	271	0.4%
North Little Rock, AR	219	0.4%
Paris, AR	217	0.3%
Hackett, AR	207	0.3%
Mulberry, AR	184	0.3%
All Other Locations	24,569	39.4%
Total Persons	62,385	100%

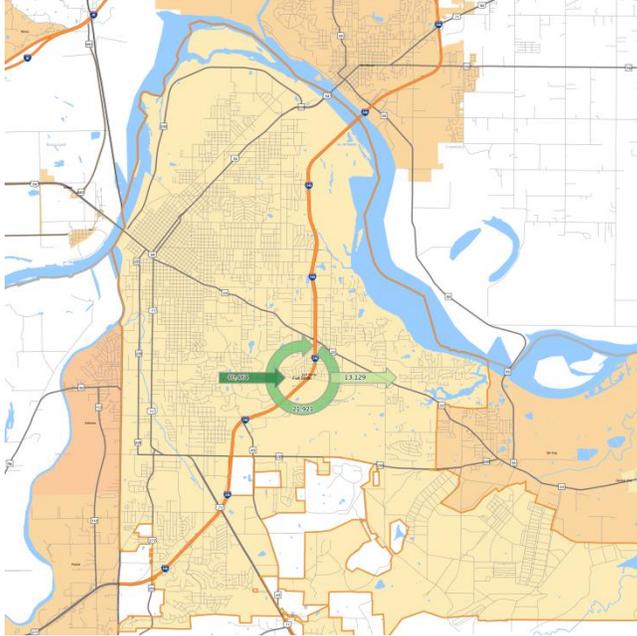
Source: UALR Institute for Economic Advancement

**Figure 2-3 Fort Smith Inflow/Outflow Job Counts**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, Inflow/Outflow Analysis

**Figure 2-4 Fort Smith Worker Flow**



**Note: Overlay arrows do not indicate directionality of worker flow between home and employment locations.**

-  **Employed and Live in Selection Area**
-  **Employed in Selection Area, Live Outside**
-  **Live in Selection Area, Employed Outside**

**Inflow/Outflow Job Counts (All Jobs) 2010**

<b>Count Share Employed in the Selection Area</b>	62,385	100.0%
<b>Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside</b>	40,464	64.9%
<b>Employed and Living in the Selection Area</b>	21,921	35.1%
<b>Living in the Selection Area</b>	35,050	100.0%
<b>Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside</b>	13,129	37.5%
<b>Living and Employed in the Selection Area</b>	21,921	62.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, Inflow/Outflow Analysis

**Table 2-9 Fort Smith Region Retail Sales**

Geographic Area	Population 2010	2010 PCPI (\$)	TOTAL RETAIL SALES & EATING, DRINKING PLACES	TOTAL RETAIL SALES	MOTOR VEHICLE & PARTS DEALERS-441	FURNITURE & HOME FURNISHINGS STORES-442	ELECTRONICS & APPLIANCES STORES-443	BUILDING MATERIAL, GARDEN EQUIP STORES -444	FOOD & BEVERAGE STORES-445 / FOOD SERVICE & DRINKING PLACES-722	HEALTH & PERSONAL CARE STORES-446	GASOLINE STATIONS-447	CLOTHING & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES STORES-448	SPORTING GDS, HOBBY, BOOK, MUSIC STORES-451	GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES-452	MISCELLANEOUS STORE RETAILERS-453	NON-STORE RETAILERS-454
<b>Arkansas</b>	2,915,918	32,805	42,160,822,404	38,964,714,211	8,768,961,634	698,281,807	1,122,199,590	4,412,223,742	7,326,915,184	2,602,876,215	5,211,739,630	1,365,385,208	664,947,646	7,642,453,354	1,266,279,787	1,078,558,607
<b>State per capita sales</b>			14,458.85	13,362.76	3,007.27	239.47	384.85	1,513.15	2,512.73	892.64	1,787.34	468.25	228.04	2,620.94	434.26	369.89
Crawford County	61,948	27,262	603,402,573	557,896,822	89,556,758	6,279,603	16,903,134	73,647,351	103,506,259	31,036,392	118,150,159	10,936,490	2,471,602	118,494,092	25,196,364	7,224,369
Franklin County	18,125	29,284	143,031,162.00	133,710,887	49,412,211	1,425,561	976,376	4,197,789	28,337,938	7,411,489	41,190,404	1,655,031	n/a	3,977,948	3,527,830	918,585
Sebastian County	125,744	38,028	2,370,381,300	2,171,806,025	543,719,854	45,426,210	84,868,959	241,063,039	332,719,809	110,011,479	153,653,281	100,387,999	66,029,218	578,590,791	73,361,319	40,549,342

Source: UALR Institute for Economic Advancement

<b>Table 2-10 Retail Sales for FS City, FS MSA &amp; Arkansas, 2002 &amp; 2007</b>				
	<u>Retail Sales (\$000)</u>		<u>Change</u>	
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Fort Smith City	1,411,467	1,667,367	255,900	18.1
Fort Smith MSA	2,499,926	3,157,071	657,145	26.3
Arkansas	25,611,630	32,974,282	7,362,652	28.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2002 & 2007 Economic Census

<b>Table 2-11 Fort Smith City's Share of Metro &amp; State's Retail Sales, 2002 &amp; 2007</b>		
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2007</u>
FS City's Percent of Retail Sales in MSA	56.5%	52.8%
FS City's Percent of Retail Sales in State	5.5%	5.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2002 & 2007 Economic Census

Chapter 3  
Demographics

## DEMOGRAPHICS: INTRODUCTION

The main focus of this chapter is to examine the demographics within the city of Fort Smith. Awareness of demographic changes is vital to city planners and decision makers in order to effectively plan for basic city services and functions. It also allows for various types of assistance to be given from the federal government such as grant and loan funding. Estimates of future population are useful tools, as well, in planning for future service needs of the community, future capital improvements projects, and bond referendums.

The current population growth of Fort Smith is due primarily to infrastructure improvements within the city, such as the completion of Interstate 540 and the future I49 construction, the increase of housing at the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority, and the water capacity expansion at Lake Fort Smith. The city continues to grow through annexation and property development as well. Other factors for population increase include the attraction of persons from beyond the city limits due to the construction of new single and multi-family residential units citywide, a positive natural increase (births minus deaths), immigration, and recent new job creations and expansions, as well as job relocations.

This chapter looks at Fort Smith over time and compares certain demographic areas with Sebastian County.

## DEMOGRAPHICS: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

### Population

As shown on Table 3-1, between 2000 and 2010, the population of the city of Fort Smith is estimated to have grown from 80,268 to 86,209 people. According to the United States Census Bureau, Fort Smith's population has increased every year from 1950 to 2010 as shown on Table 3-3. The largest population increases occurred from 1960 to 1970 and from 1970 to 1980. In 1970, there was a population increase of an estimated 18.5% and in 1980 there was an estimated 14% rise. In 2010, the population gained nearly 6,000 persons (7.4%), based on the United States Census Bureau data.

According to the United States Census Bureau, from 2000-2010, the land area of the city increased from 50.35 square miles to 61.97 square miles. In 2000, the population density was 1,594 persons per square mile. In 2010, with the increase in area, the population density was 1,391 (See Table 3-4).

## Age, Race, and Ethnic Origin

Since 1990, the percentage of the Fort Smith population that identified itself as *White* declined from 86.2% of the population in 1990 to 77% in 2000, and 69.3% in 2010. During the same period, those that identified themselves as *Other* grew at an extremely high rate, increasing by nearly 100 times between 1990 and 2000, going from 0.6% to 5% and doubling between 2000 and 2010 to reach 10.3%. Similarly, the percentage of those who identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino grew tremendously between 1990 and 2000 and then nearly doubled between 2000 and 2010, changing from 8.8% to 16.5%.

According to the US Census Bureau, the 2010 median age of the Fort Smith region is 38.0, which is slightly higher than the U.S. median age of 37.0 and the state of Arkansas' median age of 37.4. The population distribution among age groups has remained consistent since 1990 with no one age group growing at a rate substantially higher than any other. The male to female ratio is nearly 50:50.

By race, from 2000 to 2010 Fort Smith lost 2,074 Whites (a 3.4% decrease) and gained 8,379 Non-Whites (a 46.3% increase). The Hispanic or Latino population – which the Census Bureau considers not a race but an ethnic group – grew by 7,142 persons, a 101.3% or two-fold increase.

In 2010, Fort Smith's predominant groups by race were White (59,724 or 69.3%), African-American (7,789 or 9.0%), Asian (4,578 or 5.3%), "some other race" (8,881 or 10.3%, which is considered to be largely Hispanic/Latino classifying themselves as some other race on their census survey forms), and "two or more races" (3,586 or 4.2%, which for Fort Smith consisted of the combinations of White/American Indian, White/Asian, White/African-American and White/Some Other Race). Hispanic/Latino (of any race) was 16.5% (14,190 persons) of the city's 2010 total population.

Fort Smith's proportion of Hispanic/Latino population increased significantly during the 10-year, 2000 to 2010 period – from 8.8% to 16.5%. This group's contribution to Fort Smith's population numbers was also significant: without the addition of Hispanic/Latino persons, the city would have experienced a population loss of 1,201 persons, rather than its population gain of 5,941. By comparison, from 2000 to 2010, the Hispanic/Latino population for Arkansas increased 114.2%, from 3.2% to 6.4% of the state's total population, and for the U.S., the Hispanic/Latino population increased 43.0%, from 12.5% to 16.3% of the nation's total population (See Tables 3-6 and 3-7).

Considering the city's current and changing racial and ethnic makeup, national and state demographic population projections, and the current demographic composition of the Fort Smith School District's student body (See Table 3-8), it is reasonable to expect that

within fifteen to twenty years, the majority of Fort Smith's resident population will be minority persons, with most of these minority persons being Hispanic/Latino.

### Income

According to the 2000 Census, the median family income in Fort Smith was \$41,012, up from \$29,812 in 1990. Data from the 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates shows the median household income for Fort Smith to be \$37,340. The 2010 per capita income in the Fort Smith Region was \$19,032, which is approximately 31.5% lower than the United States' average of \$27,867; and 11.5% lower than Arkansas' average of \$21,568 (See Table 3-11).

### Poverty

According to the 2000 Census, 12.1% of all families in Fort Smith lived in poverty, an increase from 10.5% in 1990. Of the families with female householders, 33% lived in poverty. This number was virtually unchanged from 1990. The number of all individuals living in poverty increased from 1990 to 2000, going from 13.8% to 15.8%. The number of individuals 18 and over living in poverty also increased between 1990 and 2000, while the number of individuals 65 and over living in poverty actually decreased significantly, going from 15.3% in 1990 to 9.6% in 2000. According to data from the 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the number of individuals below poverty level has increased to 22.5%. See Table 3-13 and 3-14.

<b>Table 3-1 Fort Smith Annual Population Estimates, 2000-2010</b>	
2000 Census (Official)	80,268
2000 Population Estimate	80,762
2001 Population Estimate	81,230
2002 Population Estimate	81,561
2003 Population Estimate	81,763
2004 Population Estimate	81,908
2005 Population Estimate	82,617
2006 Population Estimate	83,881
2007 Population Estimate	84,722
2008 Population Estimate	85,125
2009 Population Estimate	85,896
2010 Population Estimate	86,329
2010 Census (Official)	86,209

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 & 2010.

<b>Table 3-2 Fort Smith Average Annual Population Growth Rate</b>	
1990-2000	2000-2010
0.98%	0.72%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 & 2010.

<b>Table 3-3 Fort Smith Historical Population</b>			
Year	Population	Growth	Percent Growth
1950	47,942	NA	NA
1960	52,991	5049	10.5%
1970	62,802	9811	18.5%
1980	71,626	8824	14%
1990	72,798	1172	1.6%
2000	80,268	7470	10.3%
2010	86,209	5941	7.4%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 & 2010.

<b>Table 3-4 Fort Smith Population Density and Square Mileage</b>			
Year	Population	Land Area (Square Miles)	Person/Square Mile
2000	80,268	50.35	1,594.2
2010	86,209	61.97	1,391.14

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 & 2010.

<b>Table 3-5 Fort Smith Vital Statistics, 1990-2010</b>			
Year	Number of Births	Number of Deaths	Natural Increases
1990	1234	781	453
1991	1254	753	501
1992	1266	756	510
1993	1168	829	339
1994	1222	835	387
1995	1278	795	483
1996	1282	812	470
1997	1358	835	523
1998	1281	843	438
1999	1301	865	436
2000	1408	844	564
2001	1399	846	553
2002	1386	860	526
2003	1354	809	545
2004	1365	876	489
2005	1452	813	639
2006	1387	763	624
2007	1495	794	701
2008	1416	879	537
2009	1430	798	632
2010	1311	805	506

Source: Arkansas Department of Health

<b>Table 3-6 Fort Smith Population Composition by Race and Ethnic Origin, 1990-2010</b>			
Race or Ethnic Origin	1990 Number/Percent	2000 Number/Percent	2010 Number/Percent
White	62,790/86.2%	61,798/77%	59,724/69.3%
African American	5,590/7.7%	6,943/8.6%	7,789/9%
Asian	2,981/4.1%	3,682/4.6%	4,578/5.3%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1,001/1.4%	1,358/1.7%	1,555/1.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Listed with Asian in 1990 Census	43/0.1%	96/0.1%
Other	436/0.6%	4,040/5%	8,881/10.3%
Identified by 2 or more	Unavailable in 1990 Census	2,404/3%	3,586/4.2%
TOTAL	72,798/100%	80,268/100%	86,209/100%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	1,032/1.4%	7,048/8.8%	14,190/16.5%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 & 2010.

<b>Table 3-7 Fort Smith's Population by Race &amp; Ethnicity, 2000 &amp; 2010 Censuses of Population</b>						
<u>Race</u>	<u>2000</u>		<u>2010</u>		<u>2000 - 2010 Change</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	61,798	77.0	59,724	69.3	-2,074	-3.4
African-American	6,943	8.6	7,789	9.0	846	12.2
Native American	1,358	1.7	1,555	1.8	197	14.5
Asian	3,682	4.6	4,578	5.3	896	24.3
Pacific Islander	43	0.1	96	0.1	53	123.3
Some Other Race	4,040	5.0	8,881	10.3	4,841	119.8
Two or More Races	2,040	2.5	3,586	4.2	1,546	75.8
Total Non-White	18,106	22.6	26,485	30.7	8,379	46.3
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	7,048	8.8	14,190	16.5	7,142	101.3
Total Population	80,268	100.0	86,209	100.0	5,941	7.4

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 & 2010.

<b>Table 3-8 Fort Smith Public School District Demography as of October 1, 2011</b>	
<b>Race</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	45.6%
African-American	11.5%
Native American	2.3%
Asian	6.1%
Pacific Islander	0.2%
Two or More Races	5.7%
Latino	28.6%
Total	100.0%

Source: Fort Smith Schools 2012 Annual Report

<b>Table 3-9 Fort Smith Population by Age, 1990-2010</b>			
Age Groups	1990	2000	2010
	Number/Percent	Number/Percent	Number/Percent
Under 18	18,480/25.4%	22,613/28.2%	21,956/25.5%
19-64	43,438/59.7%	46,654/58.1%	53,289/61.8%
65 & over	10,880/14.9%	11,001/13.7%	10,964/12.7%
TOTAL	72,798/100%	80,268/100%	86,209/100%
Male	34,774/47.8%	38,918/48.5%	41,996/48.7%
Female	38,024/52.2%	41,350/51.5%	44,213/51.3%
TOTAL	72,798/100%	80,268/100%	86,209/100%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 & 2010.

<b>Table 3-10 Fort Smith Median Age Comparison</b>			
	United States	State of Arkansas	Fort Smith Region
2010 Median Age	37.0	37.4	38.0

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 & 2010.

<b>3-11 Fort Smith Family Income 1990 and 2000</b>		
Range	1990	2000
	Number/Percent	Number/Percent
Less than \$10,000	2,049/10.3	1,655/7.9%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,687/8.5%	1,190/5.7%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	4,327/21.7%	2,906/13.9%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	3,929/19.7%	3,173/15.2%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	3,765/18.9%	3,667/17.6%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2,681/13.5%	4,212/20.2%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	666/3.3%	1,831/8.8%
\$100,000 to \$149,000	427/2.1%	1,318/6.3%
\$150,000 or more	378/2.0%	905/4.4%
Median Family Income	\$29,812	\$41,012
All Families	19,909/100%	20,857/100%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 & 2010.

<b>Table 3-12 Fort Smith Per Capita Income Comparison</b>			
	United States	State of Arkansas	Fort Smith Region
2010 Per Capita Income	\$27,867	\$21,568	\$19,082

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

<b>Table 3-13 Poverty in Fort Smith 1990 and 2000</b>		
	1990	2000
All Families	10.5%	12.1%
With related children under 18	15.9%	19.9%
With related children under 5	19.5%	27.5%
Female householder families	33.6%	33.3%
With related children under 18	43.1%	44.0%
With related children under 5	54.2%	59.7%
Individuals	13.8%	15.8%
18 years and over	12.2%	13.4%
65 years and over	15.3%	9.6%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 & 2010.

<b>Table 3-14 Poverty &amp; Demographics Measurements, 2010</b>		
Measurement	Sebastian County	Fort Smith
Home Ownership (2007-2011)	63.3%	56.1%
Unemployment Rate (Bureau of Labor Statistics)	2010 average-7.4 % 2011 average-8.3%	2010 average-8.2% 2011 average-8.6%
Median Household Income (2007-2011)	\$40,680	\$37,340
Person Below Poverty Level (2007-2011)	19.5%	22.5%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000 & 2010.

# Chapter 4

## Economy

## ECONOMY: INTRODUCTION

This chapter mainly focuses on the changing economic conditions of Fort Smith, Sebastian County, and the Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

While population gains for the city of Fort Smith have been small, relative to the growth of the region, job growth continues and accounts for most of the job gains in the region. A large percentage of workers commute into Fort Smith from Oklahoma and neighboring towns and counties. Occupations of Fort Smith are becoming more diverse, and the health, government, and education sectors of the economy have experienced the most gains. A fundamental change has been underway in that the percentage of employment in manufacturing has been on the decline, while service jobs have risen. Fort Smith is moving from a manufacturing based economy to a service based one.

The data in this chapter will assess the area's economic health. One true measure of the strength of an economy is per capita income. Unemployment, median family income, and population influence per capita income, and all are examined within this chapter. Other major topics used in this chapter to measure the health of the economy include the cost of living, the labor force, employment in the manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors, retail sales for Fort Smith and the MSA, and regional investment by new and expanded businesses in Fort Smith and the MSA.

## ECONOMY: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

### Per Capita Income

Tables 4-1 and 4-2 illustrate the per capita income figures for the urban counties of Arkansas (that is, those counties containing metropolitan cities), the state and the United States since 1971 (shown at ten-year intervals). Tables 4-3 and 4-4 illustrate the per-capita dollar and percent-of-U.S. figures for the metropolitan areas of the state.

The Fort Smith AR-OK MSA per-capita income, when compared to other MSAs in Arkansas for 2011, was lower (\$31,782) than that of all the other MSA's in Arkansas besides the Pine Bluff, AR MSA (\$30,866). The Little Rock-NLR-Conway MSA was the highest at \$39,899. The Fort Smith metropolitan area had the lowest 2001 to 2011 percent increase in per capita income with 36%.

When comparing the Fort Smith AR-OK MSA with the entire state of Arkansas and the nation, Fort Smith AR-OK MSA is lower than the state's per capita income of \$33,740 and the United States' average per capita income of \$41,560 (See Table 4-3 and Table 4-4).

At \$37,052, Sebastian County's 2011 Per Capital Income is second highest among the state's urban counties (Pulaski County is the highest); higher than the state per capita income of \$33,740; and below the U.S. per capita income of \$41,560. This can be found on Table 4-1. Since 2001, the other urban counties and the state overall have out-paced Sebastian County's per capita income increase of 34%, which was more in line with the U.S. increase of 33%. In 2011, Sebastian County income was 89% of the U. S. per-capita income. In 1971 Sebastian County's per capita income compared to the average U.S. income was 84%, rising to 88% in 1988, but holding at about that level since. As a percentage of the 2011 U.S. per-capita income, Sebastian County is 89%. This can be noted on Table 4-2.

### Cost of Living

The cost of living for Fort Smith is 85.1% of the nation's average, as shown by Table 4-5. Compared to other urban areas in Arkansas for which the Cost of Living Index is reported, Fort Smith has the lowest cost of living for the composite of all consumer goods and services (85.1) and also the lowest for Grocery Items (91.1), Housing (74.8), and Transportation (85.0).

Fort Smith's Cost of Living Composite Index of 85.1 means that compared to the average urban area in the country, in Fort Smith it costs 14.9% less in after-taxes income to maintain the same lifestyle.

About the Index: This Cost of Living Index measures relative price levels for consumer goods and services in participating places in the United States. The average for all participating places, both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan, equals 100, and each participant's index is read as a percentage of the average for all places.

The Index is produced by the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) and covers CUER's survey period of 2011 Q1–2012 Q1. CUER states that weights assigned to relative costs (listed across the top of the table) are based on government survey data on expenditures patterns for professional and executive households. All items are priced in each place at a specified time and according to standardized specifications.

### Employment Growth Rate/Employment by Sector in the Fort Smith MSA

Between 1990 and 2000, the Fort Smith MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) – which essentially represents the Fort Smith economic region and the area for which the city of Fort Smith is the trade center – added 24,700 jobs. During the following decade, however, the region experienced a significant shift in its industrial employment. The negative side of this shift was primarily the result of the manufacturing sector's continued and already well-established worldwide trend to shed jobs and the exacerbation of that trend by the national economic recession that began in the early 2000s. Between 2000 and 2012, the metropolitan area lost just over a third of its manufacturing workforce, amounting to 12,100 lost jobs that represented

10% of the region's entire workforce. On the positive side, these losses were numerically offset by employment increases in other sectors, largely health services and local government. With further investigation, including calls to area school districts, a sizable portion of the growth in local government jobs was found to be staff additions by the area's growing public schools, which in Arkansas are funded by relatively dependable funding sources and somewhat immune to the vagaries of general economic conditions. Overall, over the 2000 to 2012 period, the result for the Fort Smith region was a negligible net increase of 700 jobs (0.6%). Table 4-6 reflects this data.

Table 4-7 groups the 2000 to 2012 shifts in employment for the Fort Smith region into those industry sectors that showed job gains and those that had job losses. Over one-half of the 14,400 jobs gained are attributable to two sectors: *Health & Education* (most of which is health services) (29%) and *Local Government* (much of which are area public school districts) (25%). The trucking, construction, leisure and hospitality, and wholesale trade industries also contributed positively to the area's employment growth. Of the 13,800 jobs lost, almost nine out of ten (88%) were in manufacturing.

The Fort Smith MSA, which is comprised of the Arkansas counties of Sebastian, Crawford and Franklin and the Oklahoma counties of LeFlore and Sequoyah, fairly well describes the Fort Smith economic region and the Fort Smith trade area. Table 4-8 shows changes in the numbers of employed residents between 2000 and 2011. [Note: Whereas the preceding tables are based on *Nonfarm Payroll Employment*, which is largely derived from payroll reports regularly submitted by employers to the State, the following *Civilian Labor Force* statistics are based on on-going population surveys by the U.S. Bureau of Census, employers' nonfarm payroll reports and unemployment claims. Though they are two different data sets providing different labor force information, they largely agree, with the *Civilian Labor Force* (CLF) statistics' inclusion of farm labor and tempered by labor force information not derivable from employers' payroll reports. Also, it's important to note that the *Nonfarm Employment* data is by place of employment (that is, by place of business), whereas the CLF data is by workers' place of residence.]

Between 2000 and 2011, the Fort Smith metro area had a decline in employed workforce of 1,865 persons, a 1.5% decrease. Crawford County, with an increase of 1,550, was the only one of the five metro counties to show an addition of employed residents. Sebastian County showed a slight decline of 50. The other three more rural counties experienced declines of six to nine percent in their numbers of residents employed. Table 4-8 and Figure 4-1 illustrate this data.

Figure 4-4 highlights just the 2001 to 2011 movement of the Fort Smith metro area's per-capita income as a percentage U.S. average. Though there was an upward tick in the dollar per-capita income levels for both the U.S. and the Fort Smith metro, this chart illustrates that the metro's bounce was relatively lagging.

The 2011 average mean wage for the Fort Smith metro area was 76% of the average mean wage for the United States. This is the same percentage as the metro area's 2011 per-capita income percentage of the U.S., which explains the metro area's per-person income standing relative to that of the U.S., considering that wages are the biggest component of the area's personal income. This data can be found on Table 4-9.

### Fort Smith MSA Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates for the city of Fort Smith and the Fort Smith MSA have risen significantly since 2000, particularly since 2008, tracking closely the state and national averages. This is graphically illustrated in Figure 4-5 and Table 4-10.

Figure 4-6 illustrates year by year the size of the city of Fort Smith's total resident labor force and that portion that is unemployed and employed. It's important to note that during the past decade the sizes of the total labor force (employed and unemployed) has varied from year to year, indicating some fluidity of the workforce – with some people dropping in and out of it as active participants and some perhaps moving in and out of the city.

Because the economies of the communities of the Fort Smith region are so intertwined and inter-dependent – as evidenced by the region's residents' commuting, shopping and employment patterns – for economic analysis, planning and strategy purposes, the most sensible geographic basis for considering labor force issues is the region as a whole.

Figure 4-7 shows for the five-county Fort Smith metro area the 2000 to 2011 year-to-year size of its labor force, number employed, and number (along with percent) unemployed. As with the preceding Figure 4-6, this shows how the total labor force – the denominator for computing an unemployment rate – can vary from time to time. For example, the Fort Smith region's total labor force was bigger in 2011 than in 2000 (132,225 vs. 127,360), but in 2011 the number out of work was a lot bigger (11,450 vs. 4,675) and the number employed smaller (120,775 vs. 122,625), resulting in vastly different unemployment rates (8.6% vs. 3.6%) – and all the problems that go with high employment. A point to be made is this: having a growing and abundant population and corresponding workforce are notable for a community to have as long as there are adequate jobs for that workforce.

Although 2012 annual employment figures for the metro area have not yet been released by the state, monthly figures for 2012 and January 2013 are available in Table 4-11. From December 2012 to January 2013, the rate of unemployment increased from 7.7% to 8.7% and the number of unemployed increased by 1,350. January 2013 compared to January 2012 shows a slight decrease in the unemployment rate of 8.9% to 8.7%. January was the 48<sup>th</sup> consecutive month that the Fort Smith metro jobless rate has been at or above 7%, and January was the second consecutive month that the rate has been above 8%. Potentially more revealing of the region's economic woes is the drop in job numbers in the past seven years. The number of employed in January 2013 was an estimated 120,050, down 13,011 jobs--almost 10%, compared to the high of 133,061 in June 2006.

Tables 4-18 and 4-19 illustrate the major new business locations and expansions in the Fort Smith region and the major business closures and layoffs in the Fort Smith region.

<b>Table 4-1 Per Capita Personal Income for Arkansas Urban Counties, Dollar Amounts, 1971-2011</b>									
<b>Year</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Chg. 1971-2011</b>		<b>Chg. 2001-2011</b>	
						<b>Dollar</b>	<b>Pct.</b>	<b>Dollar</b>	<b>Pct.</b>
United States	\$4,340	\$11,209	\$19,818	\$31,157	\$41,560	\$37,220	858	\$10,403	33
Arkansas	\$3,088	\$8,508	\$15,103	\$23,864	\$33,740	\$30,652	993	\$9,876	41
Pulaski (Little Rock, NLR)	\$4,065	\$10,701	\$19,777	\$31,853	\$43,938	\$39,873	981	\$12,085	38
Sebastian (Fort Smith)	\$3,644	\$9,835	\$17,321	\$27,627	\$37,052	\$33,408	917	\$9,425	34
Benton (Bentonville, Rogers)	\$3,081	\$9,378	\$17,185	\$27,040	\$36,744	\$33,663	1093	\$9,704	36
Garland (Hot Springs)	\$3,450	\$9,640	\$17,150	\$25,302	\$35,355	\$31,905	925	\$10,053	40
Miller (Texarkana)	\$3,032	\$8,499	\$13,381	\$24,024	\$33,539	\$30,507	1006	\$9,515	40
Washington (Fay., Spndl.)	\$2,973	\$8,173	\$16,135	\$23,847	\$33,220	\$30,247	1017	\$9,373	39
Craighead (Jonesboro)	\$3,057	\$8,377	\$15,045	\$23,515	\$32,588	\$29,531	966	\$9,073	39
Jefferson (Pine Bluff)	\$3,116	\$8,369	\$14,188	\$21,254	\$31,627	\$28,511	915	\$10,373	49

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

<b>Table 4-2 Per Capita Personal Income for Arkansas Urban Counties, Percent of U.S., 1971-2011</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
United States	100	100	100	100	100
Arkansas	71	76	76	77	81
Pulaski (Little Rock, NLR)	94	95	100	102	106
Sebastian (Fort Smith)	84	88	87	89	89
Benton (Bentonville, Rogers)	71	84	87	87	88
Garland (Hot Springs)	79	86	87	81	85
Miller (Texarkana)	70	76	68	77	81
Washington (Fayetteville, Springdale)	69	73	81	77	80
Craighead (Jonesboro)	70	75	76	75	78
Jefferson (Pine Bluff)	72	75	72	68	76

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

<b>Table 4-3 Per Capita Personal Income for Arkansas MSAs, Dollar Amounts, 1971-2011</b>									
<b>Year</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Chg. 1971-2011</b>		<b>Chg. 2001-2011</b>	
						<b>Dollar</b>	<b>Pct.</b>	<b>Dollar</b>	<b>Pct.</b>
United States	\$4,340	\$11,209	\$19,818	\$31,157	\$41,560	\$37,220	858	\$10,403	33
Arkansas	\$3,088	\$8,508	\$15,103	\$23,864	\$33,740	\$30,652	993	\$9,876	41
Little Rock-NLR-Conway MSA	\$3,809	\$10,119	\$18,154	\$28,771	\$39,899	\$36,090	947	\$11,128	39
Hot Springs MSA	\$3,450	\$9,640	\$17,150	\$25,302	\$35,355	\$31,905	925	\$10,053	40
Texarkana AR-TX MSA	\$3,342	\$9,231	\$15,378	\$23,705	\$34,776	\$31,434	941	\$11,071	47
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO MSA	\$2,936	\$8,483	\$16,108	\$24,966	\$34,130	\$31,194	1062	\$9,164	37
Jonesboro AR MSA	\$3,001	\$8,159	\$14,499	\$22,709	\$32,141	\$29,140	971	\$9,432	42
Fort Smith AR-OK MSA	\$3,060	\$8,496	\$14,515	\$23,321	\$31,782	\$28,722	939	\$8,461	36
Pine Bluff AR MSA	\$2,999	\$8,057	\$13,434	\$20,847	\$30,866	\$27,867	929	\$10,019	48

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

<b>Table 4-4 Per Capita Personal Income for Arkansas MSAs, Percent of U.S., 1971-2011</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
United States	100	100	100	100	100
Arkansas	71	76	76	77	81
Little Rock-NLR-Conway MSA	88	90	92	92	96
Hot Springs MSA	79	86	87	81	85
Texarkana AR-TX MSA	77	82	78	76	84
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers AR-MO MSA	68	76	81	80	82
Jonesboro AR MSA	69	73	73	73	77
Fort Smith AR-OK MSA	71	76	73	75	76
Pine Bluff AR MSA	69	72	68	67	74

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

<b>Table 4-5 Cost of Living Index Comparison</b>							
<b>2011Q1–2012Q1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13.36%</b>	<b>28.64%</b>	<b>10.46%</b>	<b>10.66%</b>	<b>4.44%</b>	<b>32.44%</b>
	<b>Composite Index</b>	<b>Grocery Items</b>	<b>Housing</b>	<b>Utilities</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Health Care</b>	<b>Misc. Goods and Services</b>
<b>URBAN AREA</b>							
Conway	87.3	94.1	78.7	92.1	97.0	84.7	88.0
Fayetteville	86.0	91.2	76.2	92.1	87.9	91.3	89.4
Fort Smith	85.1	91.1	74.8	88.7	85.0	90.3	90.0
Hot Springs	96.1	103.7	85.7	94.0	94.2	93.7	103.9
Jonesboro	89.0	94.4	80.2	83.2	89.4	87.6	96.5
Little Rock-NLR	96.8	95.0	91.8	106.2	96.0	90.5	100.2

Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)

**Table 4-6 Change in Employment by Industry Sector for FS MSA, 1990 to 2012 and 2000 to 2012**

	1990	2000	2012	Chg. 1990 - 2012		Chg. 2000 - 2012	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Manufacturing	27,200	31,300	19,200	-8,000	-29.4	-12,100	-38.7
Construction, Nat. Resources, Mining	4,800	5,600	6,900	2,100	43.8	1,300	23.2
Retail Trade	10,600	13,500	13,100	2,500	23.6	-400	-3.0
Wholesale Trade	2,900	3,200	4,100	1,200	41.4	900	28.1
Trans., Warehouse & Utilities	4,000	5,800	7,100	3,100	77.5	1,300	22.4
Information	1,500	1,900	1,400	-100	-6.7	-500	-26.3
Financial Activities	3,200	4,100	4,300	1,100	34.4	200	4.9
Professional & Business Services	6,600	11,700	11,000	4,400	66.7	-700	-6.0
Health & Education Services	9,400	12,900	17,100	7,700	81.9	4,200	32.6
Leisure & Hospitality	6,400	8,000	9,000	2,600	40.6	1,000	12.5
Other Services	2,800	3,200	4,400	1,600	57.1	1,200	37.5
Federal Government	2,100	1,700	1,600	-500	-23.8	-100	-5.9
State Government	2,000	2,400	3,100	1,100	55.0	700	29.2
Local Government	7,800	10,700	14,400	6,600	84.6	3,700	34.6
Total Nonfarm Employment	91,300	116,000	116,700	25,400	27.8	700	0.6

Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

**Table 4-7 Industry Sectors in the Fort Smith MSA Gaining & Losing Jobs, 2000 - 2012**

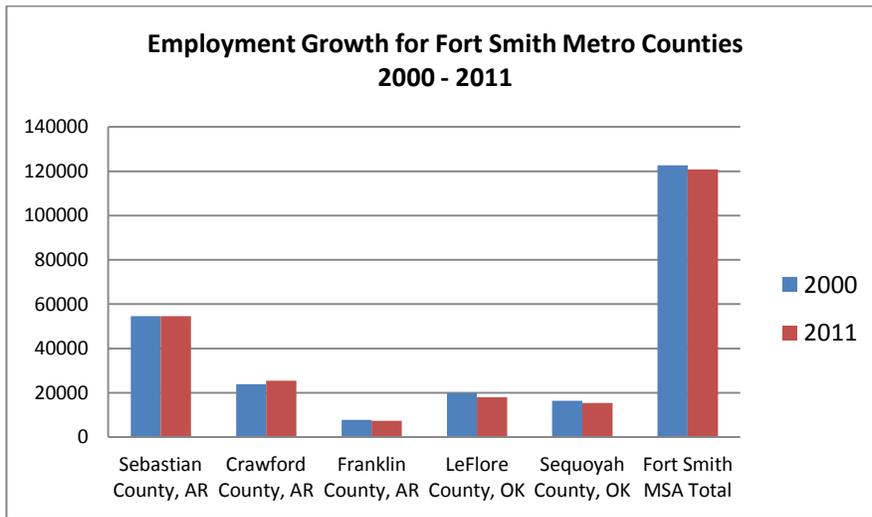
	2000 – 2012 Change		Comments
	Number	Percent	
<b>Sectors with Job Gains</b>			
Health & Education Services	4,200	32.6%	Most of these job increases are related to the health services sector.
Local Government	3,700	34.6%	Many of these are jobs with public school districts in the metro area.
Transportation, Warehouse & Utilities	1,300	22.4%	Most of these job increases are related to the trucking industry.
Construction, Natural Resources & Mining	1,300	23.2%	Most of these job increases are related to the construction industry.
Leisure & Hospitality	1,000	12.5%	
Wholesale Trade	900	28.1%	
State Government	700	29.2%	
Financial Activities	200	4.9%	
Other Services	1,200	37.5%	
Total for Sectors Gaining Jobs	14,500		
<b>Sectors with Job Loses</b>			
Manufacturing	-12,100	-38.7%	
Professional & Bus. Services	-700	-6.0%	
Information	-500	-26.3%	
Retail Trade	-400	-3.0%	
Federal Government	-100	-5.9%	
Total for Sectors Losing Jobs	-13,800		
Net Increase in Jobs for FS MSA, 2000-2012	700	0.6%	

Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Table 4-8 Employment Growth for FS Metro Counties, 2000 - 2011				
	2000	2011	Change	
			Number	Percent
Sebastian County, AR	54,625	54,575	-50	-0.1
Crawford County, AR	23,900	25,450	1,550	6.5
Franklin County, AR	7,800	7,325	-475	-6.1
LeFlore County, OK	19,848	17,964	-1,884	-9.5
Sequoyah County, OK	16,455	15,,449	-1,006	-6.1
Fort Smith MSA Total	122,628	120,763	-1,865	-1.5

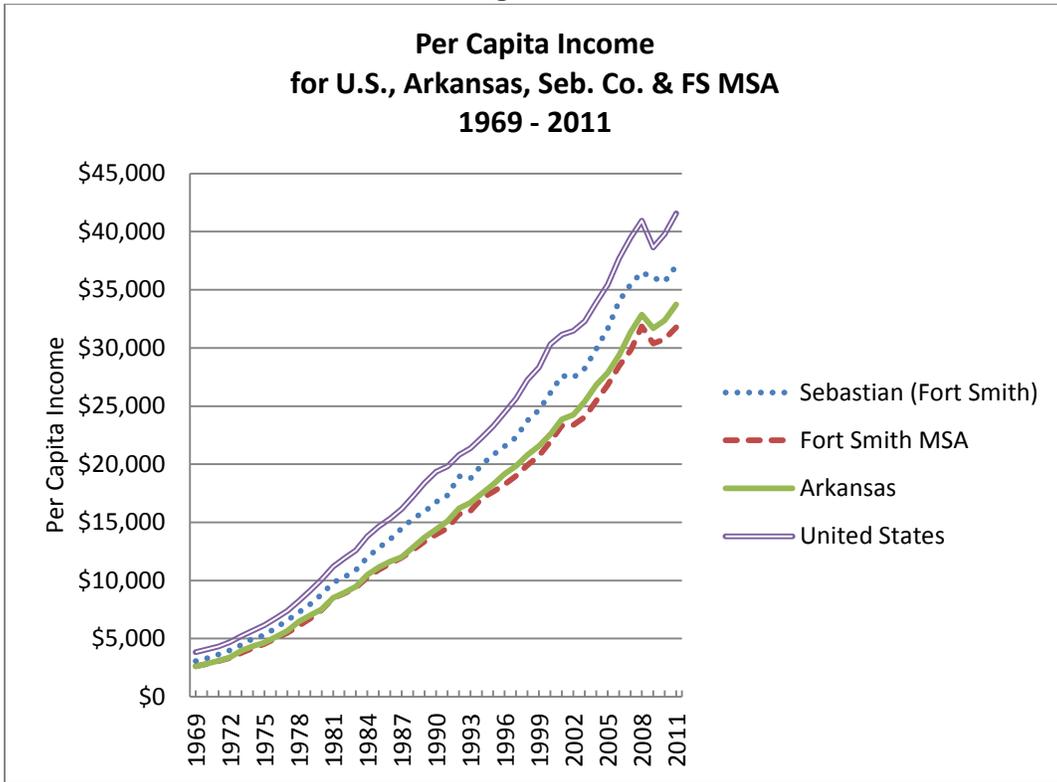
Source: CLF Data by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services & U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
 Note: by county of residence of the workers

Figure 4-1



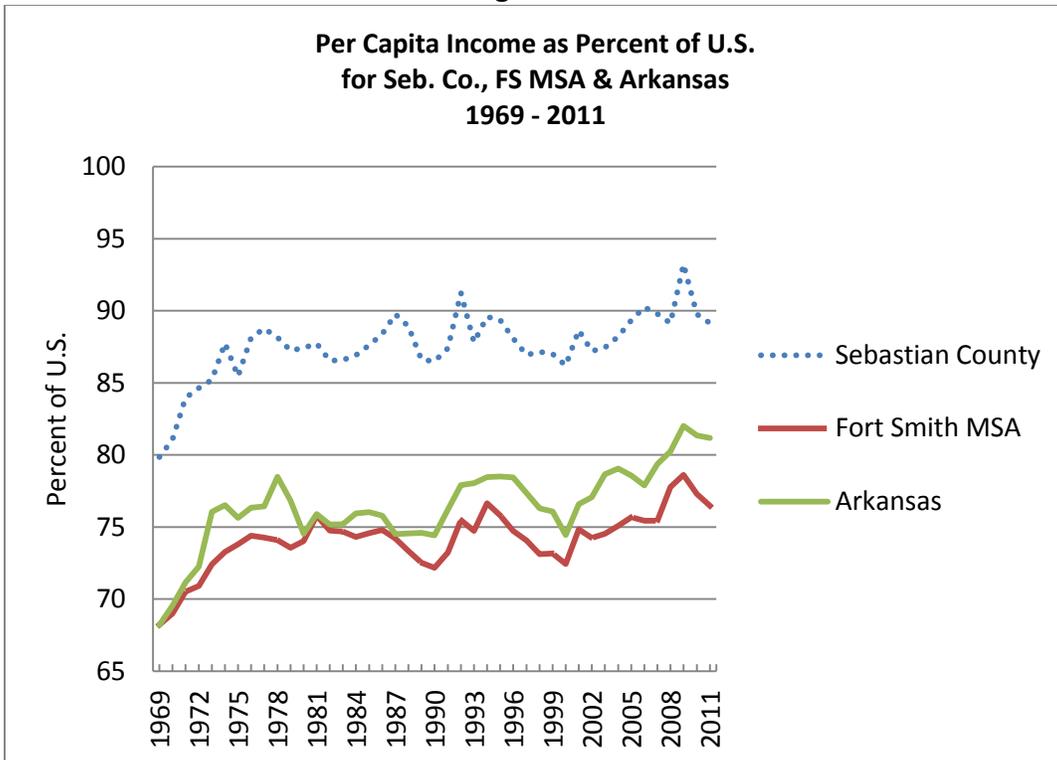
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Figure 4-2**



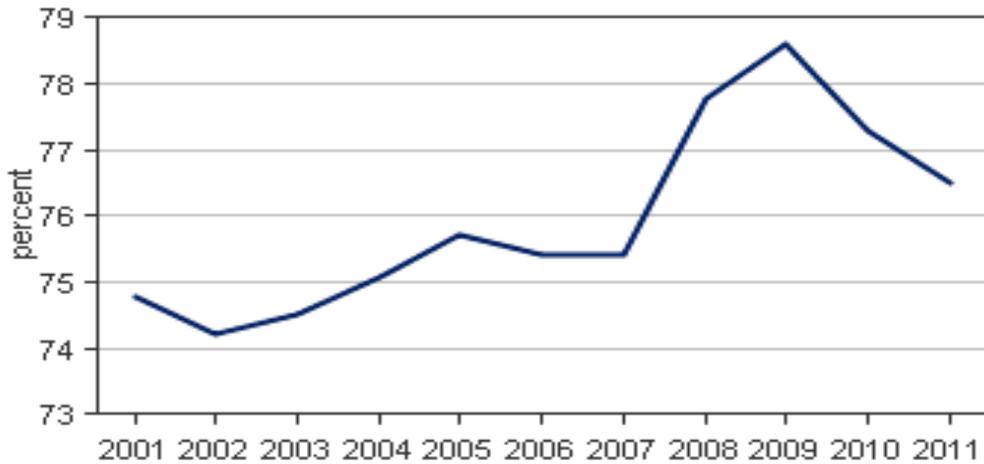
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Figure 4-3**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Figure 4-4 FS MSA PCI as a Percent of the United States  
2001 - 2011**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

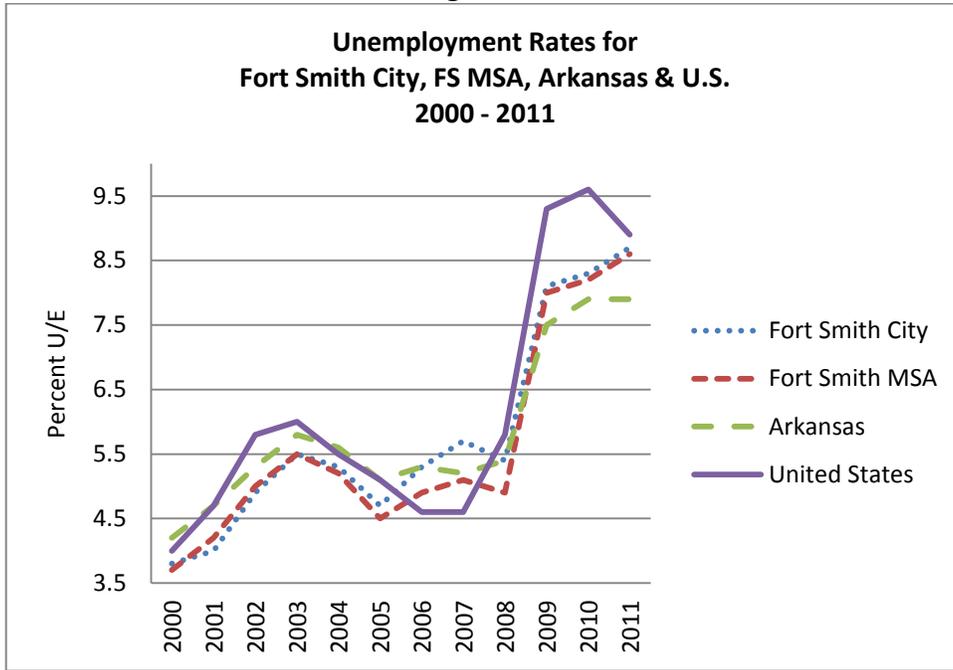
<b>Table 4-9 2011 Annual Mean Wage for FS MSA &amp; Arkansas In Dollar Amounts &amp; As a Pct. of U.S.</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Pct. of US</b>
United States	\$45,230	100
Arkansas	\$36,340	80
Fort Smith MSA	\$34,510	76

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<b>Table 4-10 Unemployment Rates for Selected Areas</b>													
	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Fort Smith City	3.8	4.0	4.9	5.5	5.3	4.7	5.3	5.7	5.4	8.1	8.3	8.7	NA
Fort Smith MSA	3.7	4.2	5.0	5.5	5.2	4.5	4.9	5.1	4.9	8.0	8.2	8.6	NA
Arkansas	4.2	4.7	5.3	5.8	5.6	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.4	7.5	7.9	7.9	7.3
United States	4.0	4.7	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.6	4.6	5.8	9.3	9.6	8.9	8.1

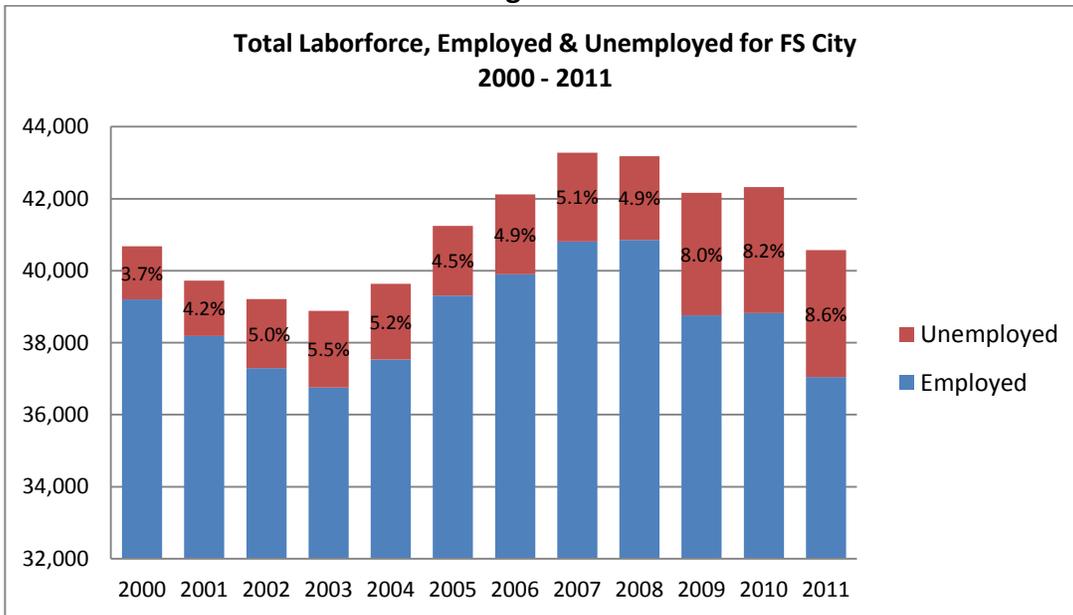
Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services. 2012 annual data unavailable for city & MSA at the time this report was compiled.

**Figure 4-5**



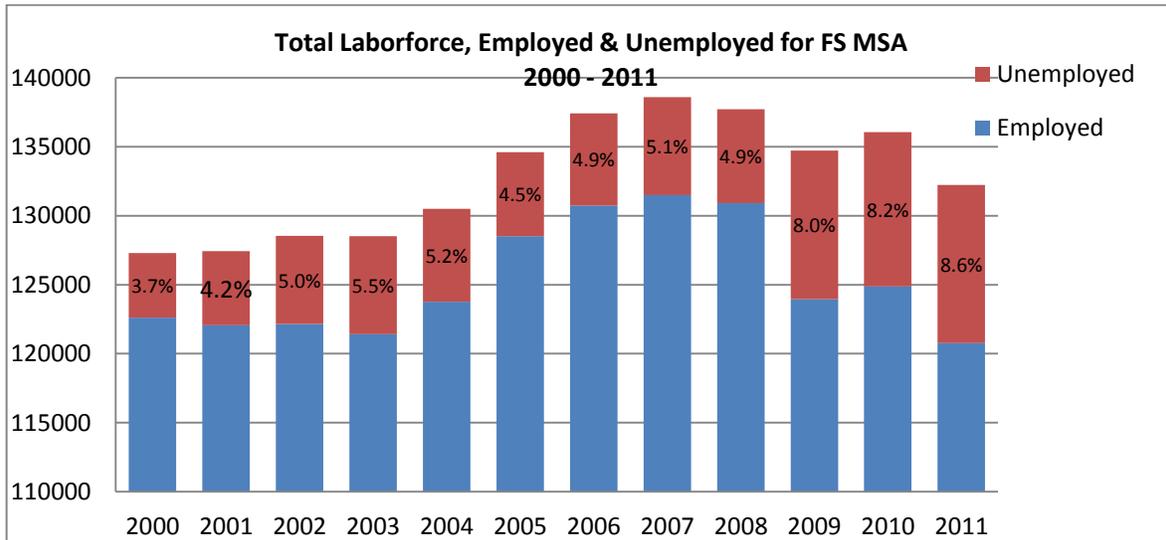
Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services.

**Figure 4-6**



Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services.

**Figure 4-7**



Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services.

<b>Table 4-11 Fort Smith MSA Employment Statistics, 2012 and 2013</b>			
	<b>January 2012</b>	<b>December 2012</b>	<b>January 2013</b>
Civilian Labor Force	127,475	131,325	131,525
Employment	116,100	121,200	120,050
Unemployment	11,375	10,125	11,475
Unemployment Rate	8.9%	7.7%	8.7%

Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

**Projected Industry & Occupation Growth for Western Arkansas WIA Area  
(consisting of Sebastian, Crawford, Logan, Franklin, Scott and Polk Counties, AR)**

<b>Table 4-12 Projected Industry Growth, 2008-2018</b>				
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Estimated Employment</b>	<b>Projected Employment</b>	<b>Numeric Change</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Total Employment, All Jobs	127,512	133,241	5,729	4.49
Natural Resources and Mining	3,184	2,644	-540	-16.96
Construction	4,777	4,699	-78	-1.63
Manufacturing	26,106	25,782	-324	-1.24
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	23,709	24,372	663	2.80
Information	1,321	1,060	-261	-19.76
Financial Activities	4,100	4,359	259	6.32
Professional and Business Services	11,109	11,791	682	6.14
Education and Health Services	22,611	26,598	3,987	17.63
Leisure and Hospitality	8,521	9,077	556	6.53
Other Services (Except Government)	3,650	3,232	-418	-11.45
Government (Excluding State/Local Education & Hospitals)	5,999	6,891	892	14.87

Source: 2012 Arkansas Labor Market & Economic Report

<b>Table 4-13 Projected Occupational Growth, 2008-2018</b>				
<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Estimated Employment</b>	<b>Projected Employment</b>	<b>Numeric Change</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Total, All Occupations	127,512	133,241	5,729	4.49
Management Occupations	10,394	10,626	232	2.23
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	3,370	3,431	61	1.81
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	1,178	1,152	-26	-2.21
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	1,193	1,175	-18	-1.51
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	495	494	-1	-0.20
Community and Social Services Occupations	1,158	1,348	190	16.41
Legal Occupations	594	513	-81	-13.64
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	5,255	6,628	1,373	26.13
Arts, Design, Entertain., Sports, & Media Occs	900	837	-63	-7.00
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	6,302	7,133	831	13.19
Healthcare Support Occupations	3,123	3,756	633	20.27
Protective Service Occupations	1,486	1,703	217	14.60
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	8,569	9,195	626	7.31
Bldg & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occs	3,290	3,439	149	4.53
Personal Care and Service Occupations	3,104	3,206	102	3.29
Sales and Related Occupations	11,804	11,587	-217	-1.84
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	17,206	17,318	112	.65
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	833	846	13	1.56
Construction and Extraction Occupations	9,253	9,744	491	5.31
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	5,931	6,038	107	1.80
Production Occupations	19,052	19,091	39	.20
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	13,022	13,981	959	7.36

Source: 2012 Arkansas Labor Market & Economic Report

<b>Table 4-14 Top Ten Growth Industries, 2008-2018</b>				
<b>Ranked by Net Growth</b>				
<b>Industry</b>	<b>2008 Base Employment</b>	<b>2018 Projected Employment</b>	<b>Net Growth</b>	<b>Percent Growth</b>
Educational Services	8,079	10,087	2,008	24.85
Administrative and Support Services	6,824	7,958	1,134	16.62
Truck Transportation	5,155	6,112	957	18.56
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	2,859	3,565	706	24.69
Ambulatory Health Care Services	4,585	5,185	600	13.09
Hospitals	4,854	5,421	567	11.68
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	1,998	2,558	560	28.03
State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	1,665	2,204	539	32.37
Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	5,145	5,672	527	10.24
Food Services and Drinking Places	7,332	7,856	524	7.15

Source: 2012 Arkansas Labor Market & Economic Report

<b>Table 4-15 Top Ten Growth Occupations, 2008-2018 Ranked by Net Growth</b>				
<b>Occupation</b>	<b>2008 Base Employment</b>	<b>2018 Projected Employment</b>	<b>Net Growth</b>	<b>Percent Growth</b>
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	5,472	6,493	1,021	18.66
Registered Nurses	2,050	2,447	397	19.37
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	1,692	2,059	367	21.69
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	1,098	1,439	341	31.06
Customer Service Representatives	1,586	1,840	254	16.02
Personal and Home Care Aides	691	937	246	35.60
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Vocational Education	935	1,152	217	23.21
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	1,727	1,927	200	11.58
Farmers and Ranchers	5,279	5,477	198	3.75
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	1,251	1,445	194	15.51

Source: 2012 Arkansas Labor Market & Economic Report

### Occupational Employment and Wages

<b>Table 4-16 Wages of Western's 10 Largest Occupations, May 2011</b>				
<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Estimated Employment</b>	<b>Average Wage</b>	<b>Entry Wage</b>	<b>Experience Wage</b>
Retail Salespersons	3,250	\$21,614	\$17,015	\$23,914
Cashiers	3,120	\$18,006	\$17,057	\$18,480
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	2,970	\$23,765	\$16,984	\$27,155
Team Assemblers	2,410	\$31,023	\$22,217	\$35,425
Office Clerks, General	2,400	\$23,341	\$16,917	\$26,554
Helpers--Production Workers	2,020	\$22,729	\$16,625	\$25,782
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	1,870	\$20,824	\$16,983	\$22,745
Registered Nurses	1,840	\$50,829	\$39,768	\$56,360
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	1,760	\$20,120	\$17,043	\$21,659
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	1,750	\$16,987	\$16,819	\$17,070
Retail Salespersons	3,250	\$21,614	\$17,015	\$23,914
Cashiers	3,120	\$18,006	\$17,057	\$18,480
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	2,970	\$23,765	\$16,984	\$27,155

Source: 2012 Arkansas Labor Market & Economic Report

## Covered Employment and Earnings

<b>Table 4-17 Employment and Earnings, By Industry Calendar Year 2010</b>				
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Average Employing Units</b>	<b>Average Covered Employment</b>	<b>Total Earnings</b>	<b>Average Weekly Earnings</b>
Total, All Industries	6,687	104,145	\$3,457,983,607	\$639
Natural Resources and Mining	183	2,692	\$152,913,833	\$1,092
Construction	607	4,141	\$148,074,371	\$688
Manufacturing	385	22,932	\$852,940,412	\$715
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,678	22,451	\$676,496,455	\$579
Information	88	1,128	\$51,100,060	\$871
Financial Activities	676	3,766	\$143,094,055	\$731
Professional and Business Services	879	9,693	\$324,675,938	\$644
Education and Health Services	989	15,042	\$542,821,085	\$694
Leisure and Hospitality	526	8,099	\$105,520,695	\$251
Other Services	450	1,993	\$52,184,315	\$503
Local Government	152	9,204	\$313,266,097	\$655
State Government	73	3,003	\$94,896,291	\$608

Source: 2012 Arkansas Labor Market & Economic Report

<b>Table 4-18 Major New Business Locations/ Expansions, 2005-2013</b>			
<b>Business</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Announcement</b>	<b>Investment &amp; Number of New Jobs</b>
Phoenix Metals	Fort Smith	2013 new plant announced by existing business (65,000sf)	\$12 mil., 40 jobs
14 Various Businesses	Fort Smith	2012	\$52.3 mil. in capital investments
30 Various Businesses	Fort Smith	2012	\$57 mil. in capital investments and 1,100 new jobs
Mitsubishi Power Systems Americas, Inc.	Fort Smith	2010 new plant (200,000sf) constructed	\$100 mil. (est.), Plant opening postponed
Graphic Packaging	Fort Smith	2005 new plant constructed by existing Fort Smith firm	Total current employment 370
Mars Petcare	Fort Smith	2010 new plant constructed	250 jobs
Umarex USA	Fort Smith	2010 new plant constructed (100,000sf)	60 jobs
Oxane Materials	Van Buren	2009 new plant constructed (\$15mil. renovation of bldg.)	150 jobs

Source: Information provided by Chaffee Crossing & Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce.

<b>Table 4-19 Major Business Closures/Layoffs, 2011-2012</b>			
<b>Business</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Announcement</b>	<b>Number of Affected Workers</b>
Penske Logistics	Fort Smith	2011 Department closure	16
Fortis Plastics	Fort Smith	2011 Business closure	94
Rheem Mfg. Co.	Fort Smith	Layoff	250
Stark Mfg.	Logan Co.	Layoff	28
Whirlpool Corp.	Fort Smith	Plant Closure	934

Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

# Chapter 5

## Zoning and Land Use

## ZONING AND LAND USE: INTRODUCTION

Both the natural environment and the man made environment influence the future growth and development of the city. Existing public policy, through the exercise of zoning and subdivision regulations, the implementation of the Capital Improvements Program and Voter Sales Tax Revenue dictate what the city can do to affect the land use, appearance, function and maintenance of the city's physical characteristics.

The City of Fort Smith is comprised of roughly 61.97 square miles of land according to the 2010 Census. The annexation of Fort Chaffee lands in 2002 added approximately 6,990 acres, or almost 11 square miles. The city of Fort Smith does not have an aggressive annexation program and typically only annexes areas when the city is approached by that area or individuals.

Zoning is a legal exercise of government police power created to provide for the "public health, safety, convenience or general welfare" of a community. Most communities in the United States have zoning applied to the land. Zoning directs land development with regard to use, height, bulk, intensity or density, character and location of structures and facilities. All land in Fort Smith is zoned under Chapter 27 of the Municipal Code. Zoning consists of language, the ordinance, and a map depicting the zoning districts as they apply to property in the city. All zones generally have a purpose or intent designed to address needs within a community. The overall intent of zoning is to stabilize and protect property values, to protect public facility investments, to provide appropriate locations for each land use that is properly related to infrastructure and neighboring uses, to separate/address conflicting or non-compatible land uses, to ensure adequate parking and loading space off of public rights-of-way, to improve living conditions and fire protection, and to protect residents from noise, air and light pollution.

Several major factors will influence the rate and type of growth that Fort Smith can expect in the next twenty years. These factors include: economic conditions (Chapter 4 Economy), residential and commercial growth (Chapter 6 Residential and Commercial Development), environmental constraints (Chapter 7 Natural Environment), availability of water and sewer (Chapter 8 Water and Sewer), major road projects and improvements (Chapter 9 Transportation), and existing land use patterns and local development regulations and policies. Other influences include consumer demand, national economies, state and federal regulations and policies, and population growth.

The Fort Smith zoning ordinances and existing land uses are designed around three basic uses: residential, commercial, and industrial. This chapter provides details on the types of zoning and the developmental patterns for the city.

## ZONING AND LAND USE: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

### Zoning

According to the 2010 Census, the Fort Smith city limits encompass approximately 61.97 square miles. Approximately 42.21 percent of the city limits was zoned for residential uses, and approximately 39.28 percent was zoned for office, commercial, industrial or public/institutional uses. The city of Fort Smith has approximately 273 acres designated as park areas and Sebastian County has approximately 1,300 acres at the Ben Geren Park that is located in Fort Smith (see Chapter 15 Parks and Recreation).

Residential zoning comprised the greatest proportion of zoning acreage, approximately 42.21 percent or 17,724.92 acres (residential estate, residential historic, residential mixed density, single family, and multi-family). Transitional districts comprise about 1.98 percent of the zoning distribution and were not included in the residential zoning. Transitional districts are the small scale areas for limited office, professional service, and medical services that are designed in scale with surrounding residential uses. See Table 5-1 and 5-2 for zoning distribution.

### Development

Development patterns in Sebastian County since 1990 reveal that industrial growth occurred primarily in the Fort Smith area centered near transportation routes. Commercial and/or office development followed around the major thoroughfares. Currently, there is multijurisdictional cooperation in Western Arkansas to develop I-49 and additional port facilities, to increase tourism, to continue development of Chaffee Crossing and of the river front development in Fort Smith, and to provide rail improvements and river ports in the Fort Smith region, specifically to Chaffee Crossing's industrial properties.

Chaffee Crossing in Fort Smith is a growth area where substantial residential and industrial/and or commercial activity is occurring.

Beyond the immediate Fort Smith-Van Buren urban area, job growth and related economic development efforts have ties to the long-term trend of population redistribution in the state and nation. In general, most of the population growth in the Western Arkansas–Eastern Oklahoma region has been within the Fort Smith urbanized area.

The city of Fort Smith's planning, zoning, and development is handled at the city's Planning and Zoning Department. Planning and Zoning manages city land-use ordinances, policies and procedures governing all development within the city and its growth area; provides professional services and advice to the Board of Directors, Planning Commission, committees,

and other city divisions involved in development review; manages the Historic District Commission; responds to public inquiries and reviews building permits each year to ensure compliance of federal and state laws as well as local ordinances; processes all property activity and complaints; performs short and long term zoning analysis; makes recommendations; and issues violation notices when necessary. For procedures and regulations that pertain to land development within the city limits, please see the Fort Smith Planning and Zoning Department's Web site at <http://fortsmithar.gov/planning/>.

### Land Use

Land use for everything from the city center to the water/sewer boundary was examined in a portion of the Comprehensive Planning process that was completed in 2002.

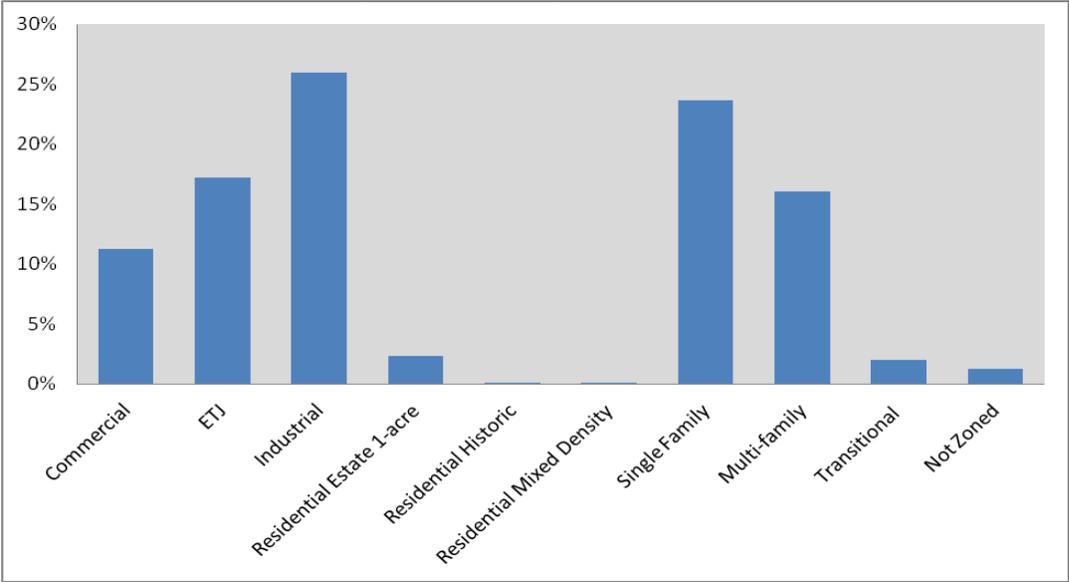
The city of Fort Smith is situated in the center of the Frontier Metropolitan Organization (MPO) area. With the exception of I-40 and SH 59, Highways 22 and 255 to the east, Highway 71 and State Highways 253, 45, and I-540 to the south, I-540 and Highway 64/71 to the north, and Highway 64 to the west comes to or through the city. Fort Smith is separated from Van Buren by the Arkansas River, is separated from Greenwood by topographical features such as Rye Hill, is separated from the eastern section of the area by Fort Chafee, and is separated from the Oklahoma communities by another bend in the Arkansas River. Considering these limited points of access as gateways, the following highway corridors offer the only means of accessing Fort Smith: Highways 22 and 255 to the east, Highway 71 and State Highways 253, 45, and I-540 to the south, I-540 and Highway 64/71 to the north, and Highway 64 to the west.

Residential detached is the largest single existing land use category other than the vacant land use category. Residential detached occupies nearly 32.72 percent of the land use. The existing land use categories are broken out in Table 5-3.

Table 5-1 Fort Smith Zoning Distribution as of 2012		
	Acres	Percent
Commercial	4,746.13	11.30%
ETJ	7,239.88	17.24%
Industrial	10,918.88	26.00%
Residential Estate 1-acre	972.99	2.32%
Residential Historic	62.69	0.15%
Residential Mixed Density	14.98	0.04%
Single Family	9,923.22	23.63%
Multi-Family	6,751.04	16.07%
Transitional	831.27	1.98%
Not Zoned	537.23	1.28%
Total	41,998.31	100.00%

Source: City of Fort Smith Planning/GIS Dept.

**Figure 5-1 Zoning Distribution in Fort Smith**



Source: City of Fort Smith Planning Department/GIS Department

**Table 5-2 Zoning Detailed Distribution in Fort Smith 2012**

	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Commercial 2	1.55	0.00%
Commercial Downtown	255.39	0.61%
Commercial Heavy	3090.97	7.36%
Commercial Heavy Special	340.40	0.81%
Commercial Light	620.46	1.48%
Commercial Light Special	77.40	0.18%
Commercial Moderate	83.42	0.20%
Commercial Moderate Special	28.12	0.07%
Commercial Neighborhood Compatible	14.49	0.03%
Commercial Neighborhood Compatible Special	1.13	0.00%
Commercial Regional	224.23	0.53%
Commercial Regional Special	8.58	0.02%
ETJ Commercial 1	1.96	0.00%
ETJ Commercial 3 Special	0.99	0.00%
ETJ Commercial Moderate	8.89	0.02%
ETJ I-1 SPL	0.78	0.00%
ETJ Industrial Light	28.56	0.07%
ETJ Industrial Light Special	30.92	0.07%
ETJ Industrial Moderate	58.27	0.14%
ETJ Industrial Moderate Special	186.03	0.44%
ETJ Open 1	6923.46	16.49%
Industrial Heavy	249.43	0.59%
Industrial Heavy Special	118.21	0.28%
Industrial Light	7868.76	18.74%
Industrial Light Special	1850.69	4.41%
Industrial Moderate	831.80	1.98%
Not Zoned	537.23	1.28%
Residential 3 Single Family Medium/High Density	19.73	0.05%
Residential Estate One Acre	972.99	2.32%
Residential Historic	62.69	0.15%
Residential Mixed Density	9.60	0.02%
Residential Mixed Density Special	5.38	0.01%
Residential Multi-family High Density	455.27	1.08%
Residential Multifamily High Density Special	2.81	0.01%
Residential Multifamily Low Density	120.37	0.29%
Residential Multifamily Low Density Special	27.39	0.07%
Residential Multifamily Medium Density	6061.04	14.43%
Residential Multifamily Medium Density Special	84.17	0.20%
Residential Single Family	5.40	0.01%
Residential Single Family Duplex High Density	146.66	0.35%
Residential Single family Duplex Low/Medium Density	3634.02	8.65%
Residential Single Family Duplex Medium/High Density	1272.45	3.03%
Residential Single Family Duplex Medium/High Density Special	43.17	0.10%
Residential Single Family High Density	267.10	0.64%
Residential Single Family High Density Special	23.51	0.06%
Residential Single Family Low Density	1121.31	2.67%
Residential Single Family Low Density Special	18.20	0.04%
Residential Single Family Medium Density	1779.29	4.24%
Residential Single Family Medium Density Special	4.87	0.01%
Residential Single Family Medium/High Density	1421.98	3.39%
Residential Single Family Medium/High Density Special	48.56	0.12%
Residential Single family Rowhouse and Zero Lot Line District	97.75	0.23%
Residential Single family Rowhouse and Zero Lot Line District Special	10.19	0.02%
Residential Single Family-Duplex Medium/High Density	2.42	0.01%
Residential Single-Family Duplex High Density	2.93	0.01%
Residential Single-Family Duplex Medium Density Special	3.67	0.01%
Transitional	736.37	1.75%
Transitional Special	94.90	0.23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41998.32</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: City of Fort Smith Planning & GIS Departments / April 2013

# ZONING DISTRICT DESCRIPTIONS

## ZONING: RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

### 27-406 Residential Estate Three Acres (RE-3)

To provide areas for very low density single family uses. This district is appropriate for locations where low density residential development is desired or where the lack of public facilities and services requires low intensity development. Development in this district shall be designed to allow for the future planned expansion of utilities and services where necessary. RE-3 zoning is generally appropriate in the Rural, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment future land use classification of the Master Land Use Plan.

### 27-407 Residential Estate One (RE-1)

The purpose of the Residential Estate One Zoning District is to provide areas for low-density, large lot single family residential development. Property zoned RE-1 should include tracts that abut or are in close proximity to existing or approved large-lot single family development, making RE-1 an appropriate transition between rural and suburban uses. Where public facilities and services are not yet available, development in this district shall be designed to allow for the future planned expansion of utilities and services where necessary. RE-1 zoning is appropriate in the Residential Detached, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment future land use classification of the Master Land Use Plan.

### 27-408 Residential Single Family Low Density (RS-1)

The purpose of the Single Family Low Density zoning district is to maintain, protect, and provide opportunities for low density residential development in spacious environments, along with compatible limited public and institutional uses. RS-1 zoning is appropriate in the Residential Detached, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment category of the Master Land Use Plan.

### 27-409 Residential Single Family Medium Density (RS-2)

Provide for detached homes in low-to-medium density single family neighborhoods where adequate public services and facilities are available. The RS-2 zoning district is appropriate in suburban areas and primarily applies to the Residential Detached, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment category of the Master Land Use Plan.

### 27-410 Residential Single Family Medium/High Density (RS-3)

Provide for medium-to-high density, compact single family detached development on new sites or as infill construction. Adequate public services and facilities shall be available with sufficient capacity to serve the proposed development. This zoning district is intended to serve as a transition between the lower density single family districts and the multifamily or commercial districts. RS-3 zoning is appropriate in urban and suburban areas and primarily applies to the Residential Detached, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment classification of the Master Land Use Plan.

#### 27-411 Residential Single Family High Density (RS-4)

Provide very dense single family detached housing as either new or infill development. The RS-4 Zoning District is appropriate in higher density residential areas near the downtown, in mixed use/density areas, and as a transitional buffer zone between lower density residential development and multifamily or commercial uses. The RS-4 Zoning District corresponds to the Residential Detached, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment classification of the Master Land Use Plan.

#### 27-Residential Single Family Rowhouse and Zero Lot Line District (RS-5)

The principal purpose to achieve a more efficient use of land as compared with the typical single-family development, making available needed housing at a more affordable cost. By placing the dwelling against one (1) or more property lines, the outdoor space is essentially grouped and utilized to its maximum benefit to provide high density attached homes, including multi-story residential buildings in those areas where such building types already exist or where such buildings would be consistent with an area's established development pattern and character. The use of this district is equally appropriate in portions of the city as a transitional or buffer zone between low density residential districts, commercial district, industrial districts, or major transportation arteries, or other uses that are not compatible with a low density residential environment. RS-5 zoning is appropriate in urban areas in the Residential Attached, Residential Detached, Mixed Use Residential, or Mixed Use Employment categories of the Master Land Use Plan.

#### 27-4 Residential Single Family - Duplex Low/Medium Density (RSD-2)

Provide for attached and detached homes in low-to-medium density neighborhoods where adequate public services and facilities are available. The RSD-2 zoning district is appropriate in suburban areas and primarily applies to the Residential Attached, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment category of the Master Land Use Plan.

#### 27-4 Residential Single Family - Duplex Medium/High Density (RSD-3)

Provide for medium-to-high density, compact single family detached and duplex development on new sites or as infill construction. Adequate public services and facilities shall be available with sufficient capacity to serve the proposed development. This zoning district is intended to serve as a transition between the lower density single family-duplex districts and the multifamily or commercial districts. RSD-3 zoning is appropriate in urban and suburban areas and primarily applies to the Residential Attached, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment classification of the Master Land Use Plan.

#### 27-4 Residential Single Family - Duplex High Density (RSD-4)

Provide very dense single family detached and duplex housing as either new or infill development. The RSD-4 Zoning District is appropriate in higher density residential areas near the downtown, in mixed use/density areas, and as a transitional buffer zone between lower density residential development and multifamily or commercial uses. The RSD-4 Zoning District corresponds to the Residential Attached, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment classification of the Master Land Use Plan.

#### 27-412 Residential Multifamily Low Density (RM-2)

Provide low-to-medium density detached and attached single family homes and duplexes in areas characterized by similar development. The RM-2 zone is appropriate for suburban areas within the Residential Attached, Commercial Neighborhood, General Commercial, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment classification of the Master Land Use Plan, and may serve as a transition or buffer zone between single family development and higher density multifamily or commercial land uses.

#### 27-413 Residential Multifamily Medium Density (RM-3)

To provide for medium density attached homes, including multi-unit residential buildings in areas where such development already exists or is planned for the future. The RM-3 Zoning District is appropriate in urban areas within the Residential Attached, Mixed Use Residential, Mixed Use Employment, Commercial Neighborhood, and General Commercial land use categories of the Master Land Use Plan.

#### 27-414 Residential Multifamily High Density (RM-4)

Provide high density attached homes, including multi-story residential buildings in those areas where such building types already exist or where such building types already exist or where such buildings would be consistent with an area's established development pattern and

character. RM-4 zoning is appropriate in urban areas in the Residential Attached, Mixed Use Residential, Mixed Use Employment, Commercial Neighborhood, and General Commercial categories of the Master Land Use Plan.

27-415 Residential Mixed Density (RMD)

Provide a mixture of housing styles and products which are consistent with an area's established development pattern and neighborhood character. Mixed Density Residential land uses should also be located convenient to commercial uses and employment centers. The RMD Zoning District is appropriate in urban areas within the Residential Attached, Mixed Use Residential, or Mixed Use Employment land use categories of the Master Land Use Plan.

27-416 Residential Historic (RH)

Preserve and promote the educational, cultural and general welfare of the public through the preservation, protection, and restoration of the traditional architectural character and historic significance of structures located in the RH District. The RH Zoning District is appropriate in the Residential Attached, Residential Detached, General Commercial, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment of the Master Land Use Plan.

27-417 Residential Mixed Use/Commercial Employment Mixed Use (RMU/CEMU)

Provide for residential and commercial mixed use developments to serve the community and provide flexibility and innovation in layout and development designs. The RMU Zoning District is appropriate for the Commercial Neighborhood, General Commercial, Mixed Use Residential and Residential Attached classifications of the Master Land Use Plan. Where only single family detached development is proposed, the RMU District is appropriate in a Residential Detached Master Land Use Plan classification. The CEMU district is appropriate in the Mixed Use Employment, Commercial Neighborhood, General Commercial classifications of the Master Land Use Plan.

Sections 27-418 and 419 are reserved for future use.

## TRANSITIONAL DISTRICT

### 27-4 Transitional - (T)

Provide small scale areas for limited office, professional service, and medical services designed in scale with surrounding residential uses. The transitional zoning district applies to the Residential Attached, Institutional, Commercial Neighborhood, and General Commercial categories of the Master Land Use Plan.

## COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

### Sec. 27-420 General Purpose

The Commercial Zoning Districts established by this chapter are designed to promote the following specific purposes:

- A.** To protect the property values of land and buildings, to promote the most desirable use of land and building development, to promote stable commercial development, to strengthen the economic base of the metropolitan area, and to protect the character of the Commercial Zoning Districts and their suitability for particular land uses.
- B.** To provide sufficient and appropriate land areas at appropriate locations, to meet the City's current and anticipated future needs for commercial developments within central shopping districts, regional, community and neighborhood shopping centers, as well as all other types of commercial and miscellaneous service facilities.
- C.** To provide off-street parking and loading facilities for commercial areas; to encourage commercial establishments to concentrate in planned developments to the mutual advantage of both consumers and merchants, to encourage or require common entrances and exits to businesses thereby limiting the number of curb-cuts and promoting shared parking facilities.
- D.** To protect both commercial developments and nearby residences against congestion by regulating the intensity of commercial developments by restricting those types of establishments which generate heavy traffic.
- E.** Commercial developments shall conform to Design Guidelines of chapter 27-600 et seq.

## Sec. 27-421 Commercial Zones Established

Seven (7) commercial zones are established by this chapter. Their designation is as follows:

- A. Neighborhood Compatible (C-1)
- B. Commercial Light (C-2)
- C. Commercial Moderate (C-3)
- D. Commercial Regional (C-4)
- E. Commercial/Employment Mixed Use (CEMU)
- F. Commercial Heavy (C-5)
- G. Commercial Downtown (C-6)

### 27-422 NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBLE (C-1)

Provide small scale areas for limited office, professional service, and local retail businesses designed in scale with surrounding residential land uses. The C-1 zoning district encourages the incorporation of compatible neighborhood commercial uses in close proximity to residential uses for easy and convenient accessibility and the promotion of pedestrian-oriented development. C-1 zoning is appropriate in the Commercial Neighborhood, General Commercial, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment classification of the Master Land Use Plan.

### 27-423 COMMERCIAL LIGHT (C-2)

Provide office, service, and retail activities that are located within buffer areas near the edge of residential areas but which serve an area larger than adjacent neighborhoods. The C-2 zoning district is intended to accommodate well designed development sites and shall provide excellent transportation access, make the most efficient use of existing infrastructure, and provide for orderly buffers and transitions between Commercial and Residential land uses. C-2 zoning is appropriate in the Commercial Neighborhood, General Commercial, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment classification of the Master Land Use Plan.

#### 27-424 COMMERCIAL MODERATE (C-3)

Provide for general commercial activities, offices, and services for the community. The C-3 zoning district promotes a broad range of commercial activities, operations, and services that are dispersed throughout the City and designed at a smaller scale than a regional center. The C-3 zoning district is appropriate in the General Commercial, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment classification of the Master Land Use Plan.

#### 27-425 COMMERCIAL REGIONAL (C-4)

Provide for the development of large shopping centers, mixed use developments, entertainment venues, and other appropriate land uses that serve the broad retail, commercial, and entertainment needs of the metropolitan area. The C-4 zoning district is appropriate in the Regional Center, General Commercial, Mixed Use Residential, and Mixed Use Employment classification of the Master Land Use Plan.

#### 27-427 COMMERCIAL DOWNTOWN (C-6)

Provide for the orderly development of the original downtown area of Fort Smith and the areas immediately adjacent to it. The Commercial Downtown (C-6) Zoning District establishes guidelines and controls that allow for retail and residential development which is compatible with existing and expanding governmental, financial, professional, cultural, historic, and entertainment facilities. Commercial, governmental, and professional uses that serve the metropolitan area are allowed in this zone.

### INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

#### 27-430 INDUSTRIAL LIGHT (I-1)

Provide for a mixture of light manufacturing, office park, research and development, and limited retail/service retail land uses in an attractive, business park setting. The Industrial Light District may be used as a zoning buffer between mixed uses, commercial uses and heavier industrial uses. The I-1 Zoning District is appropriate with the Office, Research, and Light Industrial (ORLI) and Industry classifications of the Master Land Use Plan.

27-431 INDUSTRIAL MODERATE (I-2)

Provide for industrial land uses which can be operated in a clean and quiet manner that shall not be obnoxious to adjacent land uses, and shall have relatively limited environmental impacts. The land uses within an Industrial Moderate (I-2) zoning district are primarily contained indoors and have heavier traffic generation than the I-1 uses. I-2 zoning is appropriate within the Industry classification of the Master Land Use Plan.

27-432 INDUSTRIAL HEAVY (I-3)

Accommodate a wide variety and intensity of industrial uses, some of which may have significant external impacts. This may include areas of heavy and concentrated fabrication, manufacturing, and industry. The Industrial Heavy (I-3) zoning district requires readily available and adequate public facilities and services, including access to major transportation hubs (rail, river, or highway-interstate). The I-3 Zone must be located so as to minimize conflicts with other land uses. Industrial Heavy Zoning is appropriate in the Industry classification of the Master Land Use Plan.

Sections 27-433 and 434 are reserved for future use.

27-440 OVERLAY DISTRICTS

27-441-444 Reserved

27-445 EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION

## LAND USE: DEFINITIONS

**Accessory building or use**—a building or use which is incidental and subordinate to and serves the principal building or principal use.

**Apartment house**—any building or portion thereof which is designed, built, rented, leased or let to be occupied as three (3) or more dwelling units or apartments or which is occupied as a home or place of residence by three (3) or more families living in independent dwelling units.

**Authorized agent**—an architect, attorney, builder, developer or other person or persons legally empowered to act on behalf of other persons.

**Board of adjustment**—the board of zoning adjustment of the city.

**Certificate of land use compliance**—official certification that the property usage conforms to the provisions of these regulations and may be used or occupied. Unless a certificate is issued by the city administrator, or designated agents, of the city, the property cannot be used or occupied.

**Church**—shall mean a place of worship and religious training, including accessory housing facilities such as a rectory.

**City**—The City of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

**City administrator**—The city administrator of the city.

**Commission**—The city planning commission.

**Conditional use**—Uses that can be approved in a zone where they are specifically listed as conditional uses and are subject to special conditions as determined by the planning commission.

**Country club (private)**—An area containing a clubhouse and recreation facilities restricted to the use of specific membership and which may contain a golf course, tennis court, swimming pool, dining room, social facilities and similar recreation and service facilities, with a minimum of ten (10) acres.

**Dwelling or dwelling unit**—Any room or group of rooms located within a structure forming a single habitable unit with facilities which are used and intended to be used for living, sleeping, cooking, eating and sanitation by one (1) family, but not including hotels, motels or boarding homes.

- (1) Single family—a building containing one (1) dwelling unit designed for occupancy by not more than one (1) family.
- (2) Duplex—a building designed for and/or occupied exclusively by two (2) families living independently of each other.

**Dwelling, mobile home**—A single detached single-family dwelling unit with all of the following characteristics:

- (1) Designed for full time occupancy and containing sleeping accommodations, flush toilet, tub or shower bath, and kitchen facilities, with plumbing and electrical connections provided for attachment to outside systems.
- (2) Designed to be transported after fabrication on its own wheels or on a flatbed or other trailers of detachable wheels, or by other means.
- (3) Designed to arrive at the site where it is to be occupied, complete and ready for occupancy except for minor and incidental unpacking and assembly operations, location on and connection to foundation supports, and connection to utilities.

**Easement**—A right-of-way or parcel of land specified or set aside for a specific use, normally used for access, utilities, and other public or private usage, given by the owner of land to another party, and kept free from buildings or structures.

**Flood**—A temporary rise in stream level that results in water covering areas not ordinarily covered by water.

**Flood hazard boundary map (FHBM)**—An official map of the city or of the county issued by the Federal Insurance Administration, designating the boundaries of special flood hazards.

**Floodway**—The channel of a river or other water course and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one (1) foot.

**Golf course (commercial)**—A golf course, privately or publicly owned but opened to the public for a fee and operated as a commercial venture.

**Greenhouse or plant nursery**—An area or structure for the growing, display and sale, at retail, of plants, flowers, trees and other plant materials and the supplies for maintaining plant material.

**Heavy industrial district**—Is an industrial zone that is primarily for the manufacturing, assembly, and fabrication activities resulting from the processing of raw materials. Industrial uses which generate relatively high levels of noise, vibrations, smoke, dust, odor or an objectionable site condition are limited to this zone. The industrial uses permitted in this zone are generally incompatible with residential uses and therefore they should be located as far away as possible from residential and most commercial uses.

**High density residential district**—A residential use zone primarily for medium to high population densities. The principal uses of land may range from two-family residential to high density multi-family apartment residential use where the multifamily apartments do not exceed twenty-four (24) units per acre.

**Home occupation**—An occupation carried on in a residential dwelling and/or related accessory building as an incidental, subordinate and accessory activity to the primary use of the premises.

**Light commercial/office**—This zone is established to provide locations beyond the central area of the city, primarily along arterial or major collector streets which will accommodate offices or laboratories for professional persons and other related uses. This zone should not be established in a "strip" zoning manner along major streets but should be concentrated to provide easy accessibility to the public. The zone is intended to provide availability of professional services conveniently to all neighborhoods in the community. Uses permitted in the LCO zone would typically include offices for doctors, dentists, accountants and other similar professions, medical and dental laboratories and pharmacies. Each single LCO zone shall contain a minimum of one (1) acre and a maximum of twenty (20) acres.

**Light industry**—This district is intended for light manufacturing, processing, storage, wholesaling and distribution. Commercial and service uses in support of industrial uses are also permitted. Examples of permitted uses are listed below:

- (1) Establishments for the manufacture, processing and assembly of goods and uses. Examples of such establishments include:
  - a. Clothing manufacturers.
  - b. Metal fabricators.
  - c. Industrial laundries.
  - d. Furniture and wooden products manufacturers.
- (2) General contractors and specialty contractors.
- (3) Building materials and supplies.
- (4) Retail, service and other commercial establishments intended to serve the needs of the industrial community. Examples of such establishments include:
  - a. Industrial machinery dealers.
  - b. Packaging materials.
  - c. Gasoline service stations.
  - d. Petroleum products dealers and wholesalers.
  - e. Machine shops.
  - f. Warehousing.
  - g. Truck terminals.
  - h. Self-service storage (mini-warehouses).

**Light residential**—Single family detached.

**Lot**—A parcel of land intended to be occupied by principal buildings or uses and accessory buildings or uses customarily intended to go with them and having frontage on a dedicated public street. A lot as defined herein may consist of one (1) or more platted lots, or tract or tract conveyed or parts thereof.

**Medium industrial district**—An industrial use zone that is intended to primarily accommodate wholesale activities, processing, distribution, storage, and warehouse and industrial operations which may generate relatively low levels of noise, odor, smoke, dust or intense light. Residential development is excluded from this zone, both to protect residents from an undesirable environment and to facilitate maximum efficiency of industrial activity.

**Medium residential**—A single-family and two-family but no more than six (6) units per acre. Lots not served by sanitary sewer must have a soil test and site evaluation. The results of the test and evaluation will determine the possibility for the maximum density of 6 units per acre.

**Neighborhood commercial**—The neighborhood commercial (NC) zone is established to provide an area in which the primary use of the land is for commercial and service uses to serve the daily convenience needs of the surrounding residential neighborhood. The zone is

intended to be located within neighborhood areas and to be integrated into the residential structure of a neighborhood in a manner that will create a minimum of detriment, hazard, or inconvenience to surrounding residential development. Each neighborhood commercial zone will be small (containing from one (1) to five (5) acres) and will be located within convenient walking distance from the edge of the surrounding residential area it is

designed to serve. In general, the NC zones will be located from one-half ( 1/2) to one (1) mile from each other, or from another zone in which the daily commercial needs of a neighborhood or residential area will be served.

**Nonconforming use**—A use of land lawfully occupied at the time of the effective date of these regulations or amendment thereto, or which was subsequently included in the extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction of the city which does not conform to the use regulations for the zone in which it is situated.

**Nursing homes**—A building used for lodging, boarding and nursing care, on a twenty-four-hour basis, of four (4) or more persons who, because of mental or physical incapacity, may be unable to provide for their own needs and safety without the assistance of another person.

**Occupancy**—The use or intended use of land.

**Orphanage**—an institution for the care of orphans or homeless children.

**Park or playground (public)**—An open recreational facility or park owned and operated by a public agency such as the city, the county or Fort Smith School Board and available to the general public.

**Park or playground (nonpublic)**—A park or playground developed and sponsored by a quasipublic group or private agency for the benefit of specific groups, such as Little League Baseball, or the public in general.

**Planning commission**—The planning commission of the city.

**Portable building**—A temporary building that does not have a foundation and is transportable and is not used as a residential structure.

**Principal use**—The use which fulfills the primary function of an establishment, institution, household and other entity.

**Public building**—Any building held, used or controlled exclusively for public purposes by any department or branch of government, state, county, or municipal, without reference to the ownership of the building or of the realty upon which it is situated. A building belonging to or used by the public for the transaction of public or quasi-public business.

**School business professional**—A business organized to operate for a profit and offering instruction and training in a service or art such as secretarial school, barber college, beauty school or commercial art school, but not including trade schools.

**School, public or private**—A school under the sponsorship of a public or religious agency having a curriculum generally equivalent to a public elementary or secondary school, but not

including trade or commercial schools.

**School, trade or technical**—A business organized to operate for a profit and offering instruction and training in a trade such as welding, bricklaying, machinery operation and similar trades.

**Site**—A single holding which consists of a lot, tract, parcel or acreage, or a combination thereof, not divided in any manner by a public right-of-way including a street or alley but not including easements.

**Street**—A public maintained right-of-way, other than an alley, which affords a primary means of access to property.

**Telecommunication tower**—A structure designed and constructed to support one (1) or more antennas used by commercial wireless telecommunication facilities and including all appurtenant devices attached to it. A tower can be freestanding (solely self-supported by attachment to the ground) or supported (attached directly to the ground and with guy wires), of either lattice or monopole construction.

**Truck farm**—A farm devoted to the production of vegetables for the market.

**Use**—A purpose to which land, structures or buildings are committed.

**Utility substation**—A station which is subsidiary to a central station and at which a utility from the central station is converted or passed on to another area.

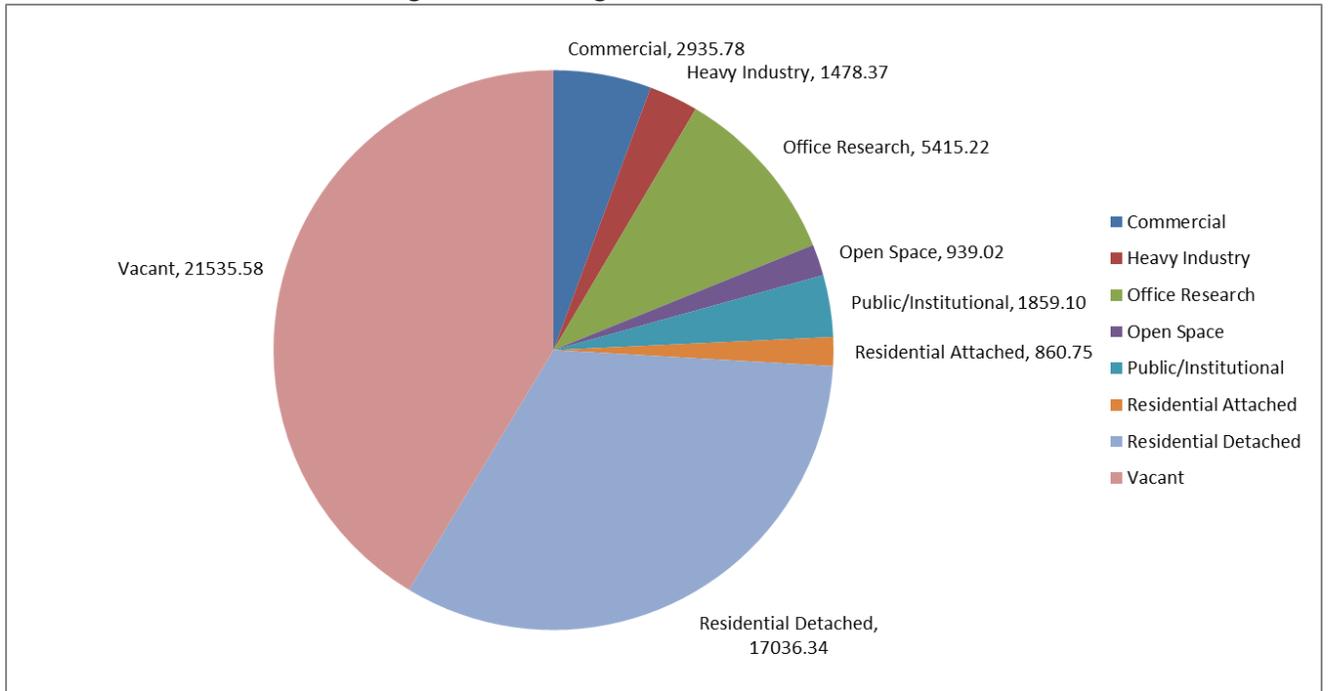
**Zone**—A section of the lands within the extraterritorial jurisdiction designated in these regulations in which requirements for the use of land and development standards are prescribed.

**Zone boundaries**—That boundary line which separates unlike zoning districts.

Table 5-3 Existing Land Use as of 2012		
	Acres	Percent
Commercial	2,935.78	5.64%
Heavy Industry	1,478.37	2.84%
Office Research	5,415.22	10.40%
Open Space	939.02	1.80%
Public/Institutional	1,859.10	3.57%
Residential Attached	860.75	1.65%
Residential Detached	1,7036.34	32.72%
Vacant	21,535.58	41.37%
Total	52,060.15	100.00%

Source: City of Fort Smith Zoning and Land Use

Figure 5-2 Existing Land Use as of 2012



Source: City of Fort Smith Planning Department/GIS Department

# Chapter 6

## Residential and Commercial Development

## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT: INTRODUCTION

Between 1990 and 2010, Fort Smith experienced a 15 percent increase in housing. Diverse architectural styles provide a variety of housing types and neighborhoods for all income levels and preferences. With a rich history, the city retains many of its historic structures. As in most cities in the United States, affordable housing is in demand. This chapter focuses on residential development. Data is presented on housing types and tenure, housing stock age, and the location of historic districts.

## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

### Type and Tenure

In 1990, according to the United States Census Bureau, there were 33,054 housing units in Fort Smith, with a population of 72,798. According to the 2000 Census, there were 35,341 housing units for a population of 80,268. In 2010, there were 37,899 housing unit for a population of 86,209. According to the 2000 Census, 65 percent of Fort Smith's housing units have been built since 1960, with approximately 53 percent built between 1960 and 1989. In 2000, five and six room housing units were 43 percent of the housing market (15,212 units), while seven and larger room units comprised 19 percent of the housing market (6,790). Four and smaller room units comprised 38% (13,351). In 2000, 91.7% of the housing units in the city of Fort Smith were occupied. The total average vacancy rate was 8.3 percent. Of the total units occupied, 56.3% were owned, rather than rented. In 2000, 70% of the rental units rented for between \$300 and \$749, with a median rental rate of \$424. Publicly subsidized and assisted housing totaled 1699 units.

### Historic Districts

Fort Smith is home to three residential historic districts; the Belle Grove Historic District, the Fishback Neighborhood Historic District, and the May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District. Belle Grove is the oldest neighborhood in Fort Smith, and the district contains many fine examples of mid-to-late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century architectural styles including Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Second Empire, Romanesque Revival, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, and Prairie. The Belle Grove neighborhood began its development before the Civil War as Fort Smith residents began moving away from the river. Affluent doctors, merchants, and politicians built stately homes for their families just east of the downtown area. Within the district are two properties individually listed in the National Register: the Bonneville House at 318 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street (listed 9/22/1971); and the W.H.H. Clayton House at 514 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street (9/4/1970). Both of these properties have been rehabilitated and are contributing to the character of the district. The Fishback Neighborhood developed in the early 20th century as a middle and upper class residential area as the city expanded to the east. The neighborhood was platted and developed primarily between 1910 and 1922. Between 1910 and 1930, the

neighborhood experienced a subdivision of lots and a wave of construction, concentrated with dwellings designed in the Colonial Revival, Neo-classical, Tudor Revival, and Craftsman styles. Following World War II, vacant lots on the eastern edge of the neighborhood were developed with ranch style dwellings. Houses occupied almost all of the lots in the neighborhood by 1960. The Fishback Neighborhood retains much of its architectural character as an early-to mid-20th century residential area, and few modern homes are within its boundary. The May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District has a period of significance that spans 1890 to 1958. With a high percentage of contributing properties, the architecture and history of this neighborhood are reflective of suburban development in Fort Smith during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

<b>Table 6-1 Fort Smith Housing Stock Age Distribution, Pre-1940 to 2000</b>	
<b>YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT</b>	<b>NUMBER/PERCENT</b>
1999 to March 2000	550/1.6%
1995 to 1998	1,845/5.2%
1990 to 1994	1,900/5.4%
1980 to 1989	4,911/13.9%
1970 to 1979	7,511/21.2%
1960 to 1969	6,302/17.8%
1940 to 1959	9,067/25.6%
1939 or earlier	3,267/9.2%
<b>TOTAL HOUSING UNITS</b>	<b>35,353/100%</b>

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

<b>Table 6-2 Fort Smith Housing Units by Number of Rooms, Ownership and Vacancy (US Census, 2000)</b>	
<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>	<b>NUMBER/PERCENT</b>
Total Housing Units	35,341/100%
Occupied Housing Units	32,398/91.7%
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	18,253/56.3% (of 32,398)
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	14,145/43.7% (of 32,398)
Vacant Housing Units	2,943/8.3%
<b>ROOMS</b>	
1 room	742
2 rooms	1,868
3 rooms	4,400
4 rooms	6,341
5 rooms	7,961
6 rooms	7,251
7 rooms	3,329
8 rooms	1,834
9 or more rooms	1,627
Median (rooms)	5.0

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

<b>Table 6-3 Fort Smith Population and Housing, 1990-2010</b>			
	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>
Population	72,798	80,268	86,209
Housing Units	33,054	35,341	37,899
Occupied	29,646	32,398	34,352
Owner-Occupied	Unavailable	18,253	18,602
Renter-Occupied	Unavailable	14,145	15,750
Vacant	3,408	2,943	3,547

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

<b>Table 6-4 Cumulative Gain in Fort Smith Housing Units, 1990-2010</b>		
	<b>Number of Housing Units</b>	<b>Gain</b>
1990	33,054	NA
2000	35,341	+2,287
2010	37,899	+2,558

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

<b>Table 6-5 Fort Smith Publicly Subsidized and Assisted Housing</b>				
Nelson Hall Homes	Section 8 Rental Assistance	Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Ragon Homes Site)	Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Under Construction Clayton Heights)	TOTAL
288	1239	115	57	1699

Source: Fort Smith Housing Authority

<b>Table 6-6 Fort Smith Apartment Rental Rates, 2000</b>	
<b>GROSS RENT</b>	<b>NUMBER/PERCENT</b>
Less than \$200	1,040/7.4%
\$200 to \$299	1,516/10.7%
\$300 to \$499	6,355/45.1%
\$500 to \$749	3,507/24.9%
\$750 to \$999	747/5.3%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	209/1.5%
\$1,500 or more	54/0.4%
No cash rent	676/4.8%
Median (dollars)	\$424.00

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

# Chapter 7

## Natural Environment

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: INTRODUCTION

The city of Fort Smith, located in the Arkansas Valley on the Arkansas-Oklahoma border and situated between the Ouachita and Ozark national forests and mountains, is bisected by the Arkansas River. Built on the flats left by the meandering Arkansas River, the city is level and green, but its citizens have easy access to mountains in the surrounding areas. The Arkansas Valley is one of the six natural divisions of Arkansas. The city of Fort Smith is the largest city in this valley and has been greatly influenced by physical and man-made boundaries. The northern edge of the city is defined by the Arkansas River, the western edge is drawn by its border with Oklahoma, and the eastern edge is defined by the city of Barling and Fort Chaffee. Fort Smith's location on the Oklahoma border, between Tulsa and Little Rock, has insured that it remains the cultural and service center for a trade area of nine counties.

The Arkansas Valley is up to forty miles wide and includes geological features typical of both the Ozarks and the Ouachitas, including dissected plateaus like those of the Ozarks and folded ridges like those of the Ouachitas. However, some features are characteristic of the Arkansas Valley itself, including isolated, flat-topped, steep-sided mesas like Mount Magazine and Mount Nebo. Even though it is within a valley, Mount Magazine is the highest point in Arkansas at over 2,753 feet; by some definitions Mount Magazine is the only "mountain" in the state since it is more than 2,000 feet from its base to its summit.

The Arkansas River not only plays a major role in developing the physical form of the valley, but it also contributes importantly to its biological distinctiveness by serving as a migration corridor for birds in their annual north-south passage. As migrating birds intersect the northwest-to-southeast-trending course of the river, they sometimes alter their route to follow its course. Pelicans, ducks, geese, and swallows may be seen moving in groups or singly along the river during spring and fall migration periods. Fort Smith's reputation as a bird sanctuary allows for great year-round bird watching of resident and migratory species.

People have also used the Arkansas Valley as a travel corridor since it offers a relatively easy route through this generally mountainous area. The number of cities along its corridor is evidence of the importance of the valley for settlement and urbanization. Today, most of the valley is developed for various human uses, with few large forested areas remaining except for on the steeper mountainsides.

The streams and rivers flowing through these Arkansas Valley plains reflect their character: they flow gently, they are bordered by broad bottomlands, and they are often (Source: Thomas Foti and Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture).

This chapter includes details on air quality and endangered and threatened species that have been classified according to the state and federal regulations.

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

### Air Quality

In 2010, there were 302 days in which an Air Quality Index Value was reported for the Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area. Of those days, 253 were indexed as *Good*, 48 were *Moderate* and 1 was reported as *Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups*. The Fort Smith MSA reported 0 *Unhealthy* days, 0 *Very Unhealthy* days, and 0 *Hazardous Days*. During 2010, the maximum Air Quality Index reported was 109. The median AQI was 36. The pollutants reported for the Fort Smith MSA during 2010 were Nitrogen Oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), and Particle Matter less than 2.5 micrometers (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). No days were reported for Carbon Monoxide (CO), Sulfur Oxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), or Particle Matter between 2.5 micrometers and 10 micrometers (PM<sub>10</sub>). The EPA is most concerned about Particle Matter 10 micrometers in diameter or smaller because these particles are able to pass through the nose and throat and enter the lungs. Carbon Monoxide (CO) mostly results from mobile sources. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) is one of a group of highly reactive gasses known as nitrogen oxides and forms quickly from emissions from cars, trucks and buses, power plants, and off road equipment. Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight. Sulfur Oxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) is one of a group of highly reactive gasses known as oxides of sulfur. The largest source of emissions is from fossil fuel combustion at power plants and other industrial facilities.

### Endangered and Threatened Species

Arkansas has 23 species listed as Endangered or Threatened; 4 of these are located within Sebastian County. Two species of birds, the Least Tern (Endangered) and the Piping Plover (Threatened), are most likely to be found near water, specifically water with sandy areas. The American Burying Beetle (Endangered) prefers grasslands and open understory oak hickory forests. The Gray Bat (Endangered) is the only mammal from the Endangered Species list located in Sebastian County. The Gray Bat, with rare exceptions, lives in caves year-round.

<b>Table 7-1 Endangered Species Act Species List for Sebastian County</b>		
<b>BIRDS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>HABITAT</b>
Least Tern	Endangered	From late April to August, terns use barren to sparsely vegetated sandbars along rivers, sand and gravel pits, or lake and reservoir shorelines.
Piping Plover	Threatened	Piping plovers use wide, flat, open, sandy beaches with very little grass or other vegetation. Nesting territories often include small creeks or wetlands.
<b>INSECTS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>HABITAT</b>
American Burying Beetle	Endangered	Current information suggests that this species is a habitat generalist, or one that lives in many types of habitat, with a slight preference for grasslands and open understory oak hickory forests.
<b>MAMMALS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>HABITAT</b>
Gray Bat	Endangered	With rare exceptions, gray bats live in caves year-round.

Source: <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac>

**Table 7-2 Fort Smith MSA Air Quality Index Report, 2010**

		Number of Days When Air Quality Was...					AQI Statistics			Number of Days When AQI Pollutant Was...					
CBSA	# Days with AQI	Good	Moderate	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Unhealthy	Very Unhealthy	Maximum	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Median	CO	NO2	O3	SO2	PM2.5	PM10
Fort Smith, AR-OK	302	253	48	1	0	0	109	57	36	0	22	211	0	69	0

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/airdata/>

**Table 7-3 Air Quality Index Color Code Table**

Air Quality Index Values	Levels of Health Concern	Meaning	Color
0-50	Good	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.	Green
51-100	Moderate	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.	Yellow
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.	Orange
151-200	Unhealthy	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.	Red
201-300	Very Unhealthy	Health warning of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.	Purple
301-500	Hazardous	Health alert: Everyone may experience more serious health effects.	Maroon

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/airdata/>

# Chapter 8

## Water and Sewer

## WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM: INTRODUCTION

Fort Smith's primary water supply comes from two sources: Lake Fort Smith (Frog Bayou watershed) and Lee Creek Reservoir (Lee Creek watershed), both located in Crawford County. Water from Lake Fort Smith is treated at the Lake Fort Smith Water Treatment Plant, and water stored in the Lee Creek Reservoir is treated at the Lee Creek Water Treatment Plant.

A July 2009 report, prepared by Kansas City, MO-based Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co., shows that Lake Fort Smith will meet the region's water needs to 2060.

Fort Smith operates two wastewater treatment plants, the "P" Street facility and the Massard facility.

Primary information in this chapter serves to describe the various aspects of Fort Smith's water and sewer system.

## WATER AND SEWER: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

### Water Supply

Fort Smith has two independent water sources. The primary water source is the Frog Bayou watershed, a 74 square mile forested valley located in the Boston Mountains, two miles north of Mountainburg in Crawford County. The Frog Bayou supply comes from rain (43-56" of rain per year) and stream runoff flowing down the slopes of the watershed. The water is stored in the recently expanded Lake Fort Smith (approximately 1,400 surface acres) and is treated at the Lake Fort Smith Water Treatment Plant.

Fort Smith's other water supply is the Lee Creek watershed, a 439 square mile area located in both Arkansas and Oklahoma. The Lee Creek supply also comes from rain and stream runoff flowing down the slopes of the watershed. The water is stored in the Lee Creek Reservoir (approximately 634 surface acres) and is treated at the Lee Creek Water Treatment Plant.

These lakes cover 2,034 acres and yield 55 MGD.

In 2012, improvements to the Lake Fort Smith Water Treatment Plant were completed. The project entered the planning stage in July 2000 and reached planning completion in 2007. Construction began in 2009 and finished in August 2012 at a cost of approximately \$36.57 million. Funding for the project was derived from bonds paid for by water rates.

## Water Capacity and Demand

A July 2009 report, prepared by Kansas City, MO-based Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co., shows that the existing water supply is adequate beyond year 2060. The “Summary of Water Supply Adequacy through 2060” from Burns & McDonnell further states that the existing Lee Creek Water Treatment Plant and the expanded Lake Fort Smith Water Treatment Plant total capacities are adequate for projected maximum day water demand to year 2020. The Average Day demand for 2010 was 26.47 MGD with a Maximum Day demand of 41.99 MGD. In 2011, the Average Day demand was 29.52 MGD with a Maximum Day demand of 48.27 MGD. In 2012, the Average Day demand was 28.47 MGD with a Maximum Day demand of 41.59 MGD.

## Sewer Capacity & Demand

Fort Smith operates two wastewater treatment plants, the “P” Street facility and the Massard facility.

In 2010 and 2011, the “P” Street facility had an Average Day Flow of 8 MGD and a Peak Flow Capacity of 55 MGD. In 2012, the Average Day Flow remained at 8 MGD with a Peak Flow Capacity of 83 MGD.

Since 2010, the Massard facility has experienced an Average Day Flow of 7 MGD and a Peak Flow Capacity of 20 MGD.

## Water Service Areas

The Lake Fort Smith Water Treatment Plant and the Lee Creek Water Treatment Plant combine to serve a wider region of customers than just those within the city of Fort Smith. The two treatment plants also serve portions of Crawford, Franklin, Washington, Sequoyah, Leflore, and Sebastian Counties. Including the city’s population, the Fort Smith water supply serves 160,000 customers.

## WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM

Fort Smith’s water is supplied to its customers by pumping raw water from Lake Fort Smith and Lee Creek Reservoir into the two water treatment plants, where it is treated and then pumped to homes and businesses throughout the city of Fort Smith and the surrounding area. A July 2009 report, prepared by Kansas City, MO-based Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co., showed a 30.2 MGD average-day demand and a 51.4 MGD maximum-day demand in 2010. According to the report, demand will grow to 48.9 MGD on an average day and 83.2 MGD on a maximum day by 2060. The report indicates the existing water supply is adequate beyond year 2060.

Fort Smith maintains year-round water conservation measures which are intended to prevent the wasteful use of water. Fort Smith also has a Two-Phase water conservation plan in the event its water supply lake levels drop due to lack of rainfall. Phase I Conservation will go into

effect when lake levels drop from 91,000 acre-feet (100 percent) to a capacity of 55,000 acre-feet (60 percent) and will continue until lake levels remain above 56,000 acre-feet (61 percent) for 15 consecutive days. Phase II Conservation will go into effect when the total usable water storage decreases to 36,000 acre-feet (39 percent). The restrictions and prohibitions of Phase II will be removed when the lake levels remain above 41,000 acre-feet (45 percent) for 15 consecutive days.

In 2001, the Fort Smith Sales Tax was increased to one percent when voters approved bonds for wastewater treatment plant improvements and a portion of the Lake Fort Smith water supply construction. The one percent sales tax continued in 2006 when voters approved bonds for wet weather sanitary sewer work and replacement of the public safety communications system. In 2009, voters again approved additional bonds for the wet weather sanitary sewer work. In 2012, voters approved an extension of the one percent Sales Tax, which split the tax into two parts with 0.75 percent for project supported with bonds and 0.25 percent for the fire department and for parks and recreation. The projects supported by bonds will include more than \$71 million in wastewater wet weather sanitary sewer work to include \$58.5 million in relief sewer and capacity improvements and \$12.6 million collection system rehabilitation and reconstruction. The projects supported by bonds also include more than \$28 million in water system improvements, including \$17.9 million for the Lake Fort Smith water transmission line and \$10.2 million for Chaffee Crossing transmission lines and a storage tank.

<b>Table 8-1 Peak Water Capacity and Demand for Fort Smith Area, 2010-2012</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Total (MG)	9,662,660	10,776,077	10,420,596
Average Day (MGD)	26.47	29.52	28.47
Maximum Day (MGD)	41.99	48.27	41.59

Source: City of Fort Smith

<b>Table 8-2 Summary of Raw Water Supplies, 2012</b>				
<b>Reservoir</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>	<b>Acre-Feet</b>	<b>MG</b>	<b>Yield (MGD)</b>
Lake Fort Smith	1,400	84,000	27,373	45
Lee Creek Reservoir	634	7,118	2,319	10
Total	2,034	91,120	29,693	55

Source: City of Fort Smith

<b>Table 8-3 Fort Smith's Water Supply, 2013</b>			
<b>Treatment Plant</b>	<b>MGD</b>	<b>Clearwell (MG)</b>	<b>Pumping (MGD)</b>
Lake Fort Smith	40.0	7.0	40.0
Lee Creek	23.4	2.5	24.0
Total	63.4	9.5	64.0
<b>System Storage</b>	<b>Number (each)</b>		<b>MG</b>
Ground Reservoir	5		27.7
Elevated	5		1.75
Standpipe	1		1.0
Total	11		30.45

Source: City of Fort Smith

<b>Table 8-4 Sewer Capacity and Demand for Fort Smith Area, 2000-2012</b>			
<b>Facility</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
"P" Street WWTP			
Permit Capacity (MGD)	12	12	12
Peak Flow Capacity (MGD)	55	55	83
Average Day Flow (MGD)	8	8	8
Massard WWTP			
Permit Capacity (MGD)	10	10	10
Peak Flow Capacity (MGD)	20	20	20
Average Day Flow (MGD)	7	7	7

Source: City of Fort Smith

# Chapter 9

## Transportation

## TRANSPORTATION: INTRODUCTION

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) provides transportation services to Fort Smith. The Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization (Frontier MPO) serves as a liaison between local governments, state, and federal agencies in matters involving major regional needed transportation improvements in Western Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma. The FMPO works with AHTD to study and manage traffic in the city of Fort Smith.

The city of Fort Smith Streets and Traffic Control Department is made up of eight programs: Administration, Street Construction, Street Drainage, Street Maintenance, Traffic Control Operations, Traffic Signals, Street Lighting, and Sign Shop. The department is responsible for performing minor street construction projects; constructing curbs and gutters; maintaining the city's drainage system including road ditches, retention ponds, creeks and inlet streams; maintaining and upgrading all traffic control devices; and providing and installing high visibility street signage.

## TRANSPORTATION: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

The present multi-modal system continues to develop into an intermodal system, as seen in the construction of intermodal river-port terminal facilities along the Arkansas River immediately east of the I-540 Bridge between Van Buren and Fort Smith. Additional interest in intermodal transportation has been expressed by the city of Fort Smith, city of Van Buren, Crawford County, and Sebastian County with the formation of the Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority also known as Regional Intermodal Transportation Authority (RITA).

Interstate 40, Interstate 49, railroads, and the Arkansas River provide for an “intersection” of regional and national freight movement in the United States. A recent study by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, entitled “Unlocking Freight, Transportation Reboot: Restarting America’s Most Essential Operating System-- The Case for Capacity to Unlock Gridlock, Generate Jobs, Deliver Freight, and Connect Communities,” published in July 2010, provided a forecast of the capacity of the nation’s transportation system. The report looked at the 2005 to 2035 planning horizon and utilized updated travel demand forecast for different modes of transportation. Overall, travel demand and freight tons on interstates, railroads, and ports in the United States is forecasted to increase significantly over this period.

Demand across all modes of transportation will increase as the United States population increases from approximately 308 million in 2010 to approximately 420 million by 2050, along with changes in freight movements due to the widening of the Panama Canal, which is expected to be completed by 2014.

## MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

A review of the many modes of travel and transportation is provided below (Air, Rail, Water, Roadway, Pipeline, Public Transportation, Bicycle, and Pedestrian/Recreational Trails):

### 1. Air

Regional passenger air service is provided by the Fort Smith Regional Airport located in the city of Fort Smith. In 2005, the Regional Airport retained a consultant to develop their Airport Master Plan Update. The principal transportation system needs that were identified in the Update refer to signage for the airport, improved access at the Leigh Avenue/I-540 interchange, and the deployment of appropriate Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects. The Airport Master Plan Update has estimated a total airport improvement cost of \$74,170,000 over a Three Phased Development Program. The overwhelming majority of these costs are for airport operational and functional projects. The associated costs for improvements to the region's surface transportation system will be found in regularly scheduled maintenance activities, implementation of improved signage pertaining to airport access, and related projects resulting from the development of off-airport properties under the airport's ownership.

The Fort Smith Regional Airport is a key element of the transportation system that serves the residents and businesses of Western Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma. By offering access to safe, efficient, and convenient air transportation, the airport plays a significant role in economic development for the region.

Fort Smith Regional Airport is home to approximately 90 corporate and general aviation aircraft, as well as Arkansas' only fighter base, the 188<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing of the Arkansas Air National Guard. The airport's primary runway is 8,000 x 150 feet with dual instrument landing systems. The crosswind runway is 5,002 x 150 feet. Air Traffic services are provided by the Federal Aviation Administration from an Air Traffic Control (ATC) Tower and Tracon (Terminal Radar Approach Control). The Airport is located just off Interstate 540 within an eight mile radius of Interstate 40 and future Interstate 49, providing excellent access to ground transportation.

### 2. Rail

Three Class 1 railroads also serve the Frontier MPO Area. The first of these, the Union Pacific, is located north of the Arkansas River and provides east-west service essentially along the I-40 corridor. Switching capabilities are located in Van Buren, Arkansas, and in Sallisaw, Oklahoma, located approximately nine miles west of the western boundary of the Frontier MPO area. The second Class 1 rail line is the Kansas City Southern, which provides services to the west/southwestern portion of the area in Le Flore County, Oklahoma. The

Kansas City Southern offers rail services in a north-south corridor between US 59 in Oklahoma and the Arkansas/Oklahoma state line. Switching capabilities along this line are offered at two locations, both of which are located outside of the area. One of these facilities is located in Poteau, Oklahoma, approximately 25 miles southwest of Fort Smith, while the other facility is located in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. The third Class 1 rail line, the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe, utilizes a line that parallels US 71/I-540 between the Arkansas-Missouri line and Fort Smith.

In addition to the three Class 1 rail lines, the Frontier MPO Area is served by two Class 3 lines known as short line railroads. The Arkansas-Missouri Line (A&M) provides rail services on the same tracks as the BNSF. The tracks lay along the US 71 corridors between Springfield, Missouri, and Fort Smith, Arkansas. The A&M has contractual arrangements with all three Class 1 lines in the area, which is a rarity among communities that are primarily serviced by a Class 3 short line railroad. The second short line is the Fort Smith Railroad. This service offers transportation services within Fort Smith. With the provision of the two Class 3 short lines and the three Class 1 main lines, the Frontier MPO area has access to every major east-west and north-south gateway for freight and raw material transportation. For Arkansas, by 2035, the capacity of the rail system between Little Rock and Fort Smith is forecasted to be at a level of service "F".

### 3. Water

The Frontier MPO Area is bisected in a west to east direction by the Arkansas River. The Arkansas River is part of a larger navigation system which involves the Arkansas and White Rivers in Arkansas and the Arkansas and Verdigris Rivers in Oklahoma. This system, the Kerr-McClellan Arkansas River Navigation System, was completed in the 1970's and opened a length of the Arkansas River to barge traffic between the Mississippi River in Desha County, Arkansas, and the Port of Tulsa in Catoosa, Oklahoma. The Kerr-McClellan Arkansas River Navigation System operates 365 days per year/24 hours per day since the river does not freeze during the winter.

Although the river channel width varies, the channel depth is maintained at a minimum depth of nine feet in order to accommodate barge traffic. The area is served by two commercial ports as well as several private terminals, docks, and loading facilities. The two commercial ports are located in Fort Smith and Van Buren, Arkansas. The Port of Fort Smith is actually located on the Poteau River immediately south of the confluence of the Poteau and Arkansas Rivers, while the port in Van Buren is located on the Arkansas River, east of and adjacent to the I-540 Bridge over the Arkansas River. Both ports are in operation and serve local, regional, and national barge and shipment needs. The Port of Van Buren is actually a series of privately held terminals individually owned and operated.

In 1999 a study was undertaken to determine the feasibility of establishing an intermodal port facility at this site or at another site depending on the size, availability, and need as

defined by the study. The study determined that there is, in fact, a need for an intermodal facility in the region and that a Van Buren site would be the preferred location. The study also indicated that the most pressing need was not for an intermodal port, although the findings showed that there was sufficient volume for one, but that there was a critical need for an intermodal facility for truck-rail transloading. The study further identified a location for the truck-rail transloading facility in the Van Buren Industrial Park adjacent to the Port of Van Buren. Since the completion of the 1999 study and subsequent planning studies, recommended rail improvements have been made in the port area on the riverside portion of the port property. There are currently three port related projects that are being addressed by the city of Van Buren with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

The three port related projects are:

1. Improvements to access road into the port;
2. Signalization at the I-540/SH 59 interchange, which is the interstate access for the port;
3. An extension of an access road along the “toe” of the levee on the riverside side of the port.

The Frontier MPO, along with Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority (RITA), continues to support efforts to make the Arkansas River channel a twelve foot depth and thus increase the freight capacity of the ports and terminals. The additional three foot increase in depth on the Arkansas River would result in a 43 percent capacity increase of freight loaded onto barges.

As stated, the Fort Smith region is fortunate to have all modes of transportation available to move freight. As the region competes for economic development opportunities, waterborne transportation is considered a fuel efficient, safe, and cost effective mode of transportation to move freight from and through the region. Freight is typically measured in ton miles when comparing the different modes of transportation. A ton mile is defined as the “equivalent to a ton of freight moved one mile.”

#### 4. Roadway

The Frontier MPO Area is served by numerous state and federal highways. The east-west corridors are serviced by the following state and federal highways:

<u>Arkansas:</u>	State Highways:	348, 282, 162, 22, 10, 10 spur, and 255
	Federal Highways:	I-40, I-540, and US 64
<u>Oklahoma:</u>	Federal Highways:	I-40, and US 64

The north-south corridors are serviced by the following state and federal highways.

<u>Arkansas:</u>	State Highways:	59, 255, 45, and 253
	Federal Highways:	I-540 (I-49), US 71 and 271
<u>Oklahoma:</u>	State Highways:	9, 9A, and 112
	Federal Highways:	US 271, and US 59

## 5. Pipeline

The Frontier MPO area sits upon one of the largest continental natural gas fields in the nation. This field, the Arkoma Basin and the Fayetteville Shale Clay Formation, provides natural gas for local, regional, and national customers and is regularly being expanded as the need for natural gas increases. It was recently announced that a new interregional pipeline is to be constructed through the Frontier MPO Area. This new pipeline will begin south of the Red River in Texas near the Oklahoma state line and continue through the vicinity of Fort Smith to Newport, Arkansas, and then to the Ohio River Valley. The number and location of all pipelines will be an important factor in the design and location considerations during implementation of the proposed improvements contained in the Frontier MPO 2035 Transportation Plan. As the proposed improvements are readied for implementation, the location of the lines and efforts to avoid or accommodate them will be considered on a case by case basis.

## 6. Public Transportation

Fort Smith Transit provides transportation open to the general public within the city limits of Fort Smith. The organization performs fixed route and curb-to-curb transportation services as well as a limited charter service by advance request. The fixed route service consists of a network of buses that travel the major avenues and some residential areas within the city. All fixed route buses are equipped with lifts for mobility devices, and most routes traverse toward the downtown area once per hour to accommodate transfers as needed. Demand response or curb-to-curb buses are available for passengers with mobility challenges that prevent access to the fixed routes or for passengers traveling to or from destinations considered outside the fixed route network area. Transit staff are well trained and can assist passengers with navigating the routes, selecting optimum travel times, purchasing vouchers, or simply learning to position a mobility device on a lift or inside the bus.

The major goals of the Fort Smith Transit System have been outlined in its plan/application for continued funding through the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and Federal Transit Administration. These goals are:

- A. Develop new rider information packets for system orientation.
- B. Install elevator for ADA access.
- C. Identify route modifications that would permit public transportation access to future parks.

Table 9-1 lists the Fort Smith Transit Passenger Data for 2011 – 2012. Figure 9-1 illustrates the Fort Smith Transit Ridership numbers for 2006-2011, and Figure 9-2 reflects the Fort Smith Transit Fixed Route Bus System.

### River Valley Transportation Providers

The River Valley Transportation Providers was established through the formation of collaborative efforts between multiple entities and agencies. The River Valley Transportation Providers, mostly human service agencies, provide a vital link to the overall passenger transportation service in the Frontier MPO region. They provide transit service to specific clients for a variety of trip purposes, including medical, shopping, education, employment, and recreational. Funding for transportation services is largely provided to these agencies through the AHTD administered Sections 5310, 5316 and 5317 programs and through the Arkansas Department of Human Services aging, disability, and Medicaid programs. These agencies provided an estimated 150,000 passenger trips annually throughout Crawford and Sebastian Counties:

- Abilities Unlimited
- Area Agency on Aging
- BOST, Inc.
- Brookfield Assisted Living Center
- Butterfield Place
- City of Fort Smith Transit
- Community Rescue Mission
- Community Services Clearinghouse
- Crisis Intervention Center
- Fort Smith Housing Authority
- Franklin County Learning Center
- Franklin County Emergency Management Center
- Franklin County Senior Center
- Gateway House
- Gorman Towers
- Harbor House
- Heart To Heart
- Hope's Creek
- Integrity Ministries
- Legacy Heights
- Let's go Charters

- Mercy Crest
- Methodist Village
- Neighbors United
- Non-Ambulatory Transportation Service
- Peachtree Village
- Pregnancy Help Center
- Razorback Cab Company
- Salvation Army
- Sebastian Retirement Citizen's Association
- Stepping Stone Schools
- Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center
- Western Arkansas Red Cross
- Willow Brook

## 7. Bicycle

The Fort Smith Bikeway connects to parks, libraries, schools and universities, and to transit system bus stops. Ultimately, bicyclists will be able to pedal to their favorite Fort Smith destinations. Initial bicycle routes, based on safety and compatibility with the city's streets, are already open.

The bikeway plan has been developed to ensure that long-term objectives are met. While class III bikeways are open and clearly marked on neighborhood streets, the plan calls for future expansion. In the future, the bikeway will include striped lanes on selected streets and bike paths that are separate from the road.

The new bikeway in Fort Smith is a transportation alternative that enhances our quality of life. It provides citizens an opportunity to utilize shared use of bike routes for transportation, recreation, and community services. By replacing even a few motor vehicles on the road with bicyclists, the city can reduce pollution, traffic, and potentially stress. The result is a healthier environment.

Figure 9-3 illustrates the existing Fort Smith Bikeway Plan.

## 8. Pedestrian and Recreational Trails

A regional pedestrian plan for the Frontier MPO area is challenging due to geography and the Arkansas River. Major cities in the area are separated from one another by long stretches of undeveloped land corridors, accessed by state or federal highways. In turn, these corridors do not have sufficient population or activity to generate the need for pedestrian improvements. As cities continue to grow, and needs such as pedestrian

improvements arise, the Frontier MPO Staff will coordinate all local pedestrian plans to ensure connectivity, correct location, ADA accessibility, and design.

The Fort Smith Trails and Greenways Plan was developed during late 2003 and into 2004. The Plan shows 22 individual corridors that have been identified as potential trails. A total of nearly 88 miles of trails are proposed in the plan with a three phased implementation schedule of Near Term (0-5 years), Mid Term (5-10 years) and Long Term (10–15 years). Over its three phases, total estimated costs for the plan range from \$21,897,500 to an estimated \$26,277,000.

The Fort Smith Plan will be the backbone for the development of other trails plans within the Frontier MPO Area. Currently, the city of Greenwood is developing a Greenways Plan that will become an element of their master street plan.

The trails master plan identifies 22 corridors throughout the city of Fort Smith and calls for the implementation of an 87.59 mile network of off-road multi-purpose trails throughout the city. The system is extensive and comprehensive, but at the same time it provides a realistic program for satisfying the needs of local residents regarding access to outdoor resources and linkage to popular destinations.

Figure 9-4 demonstrates the trails and greenways route plan for the city of Fort Smith.

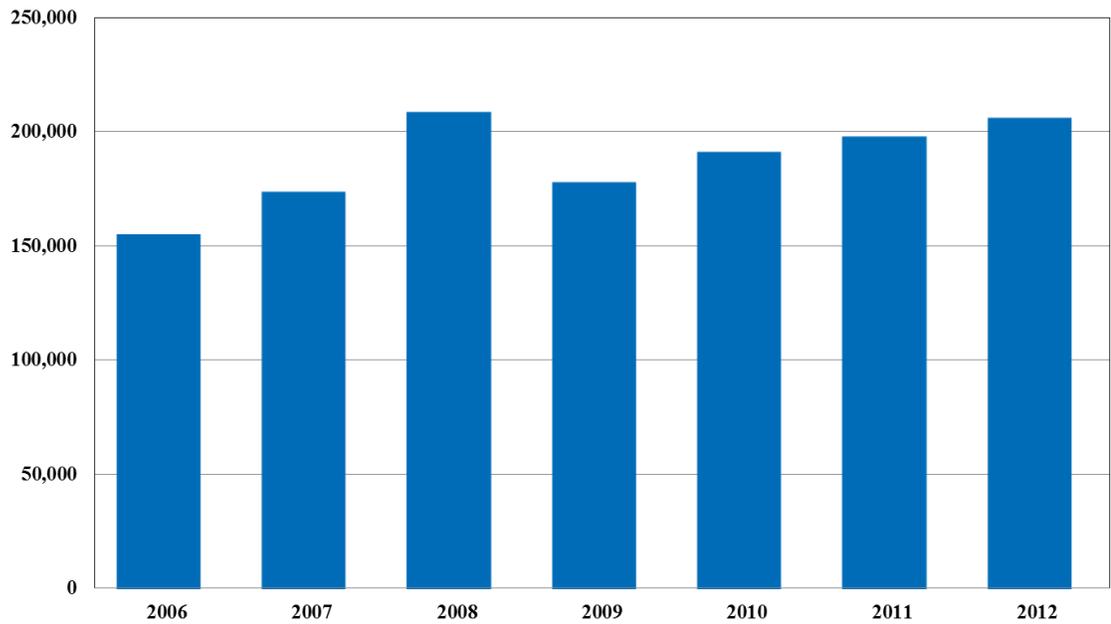
Frontier MPO over the last 30 years has monitored travel demand and traffic volume trends within the region. As mentioned earlier, the Arkansas River bisects the region and provides opportunities and challenges for all modes of transportation. The following traffic trends have been provided for the Interstate System, State Highway System, and the four highway bridges that cross the Arkansas River within the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary. One additional bridge will be constructed over the Arkansas River when I-49 is completed from SH 22 to I-40.

Figures 9-5 and 9-6 describe the traffic congestion areas for the city of Fort Smith.

<b>Table 9-1 Fort Smith Transit Passenger Data (Linked Trips), 2011 - 2012</b>		
	<b>2011 Trips</b>	<b>2012 Trips</b>
Core Route	137,418	141,362
Demand	26,773	32,356
Night Demand	2,348	2,124
Downtown Shuttle	28,335	27,570
Charters	3,291	2,917
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,165</b>	<b>206,329</b>

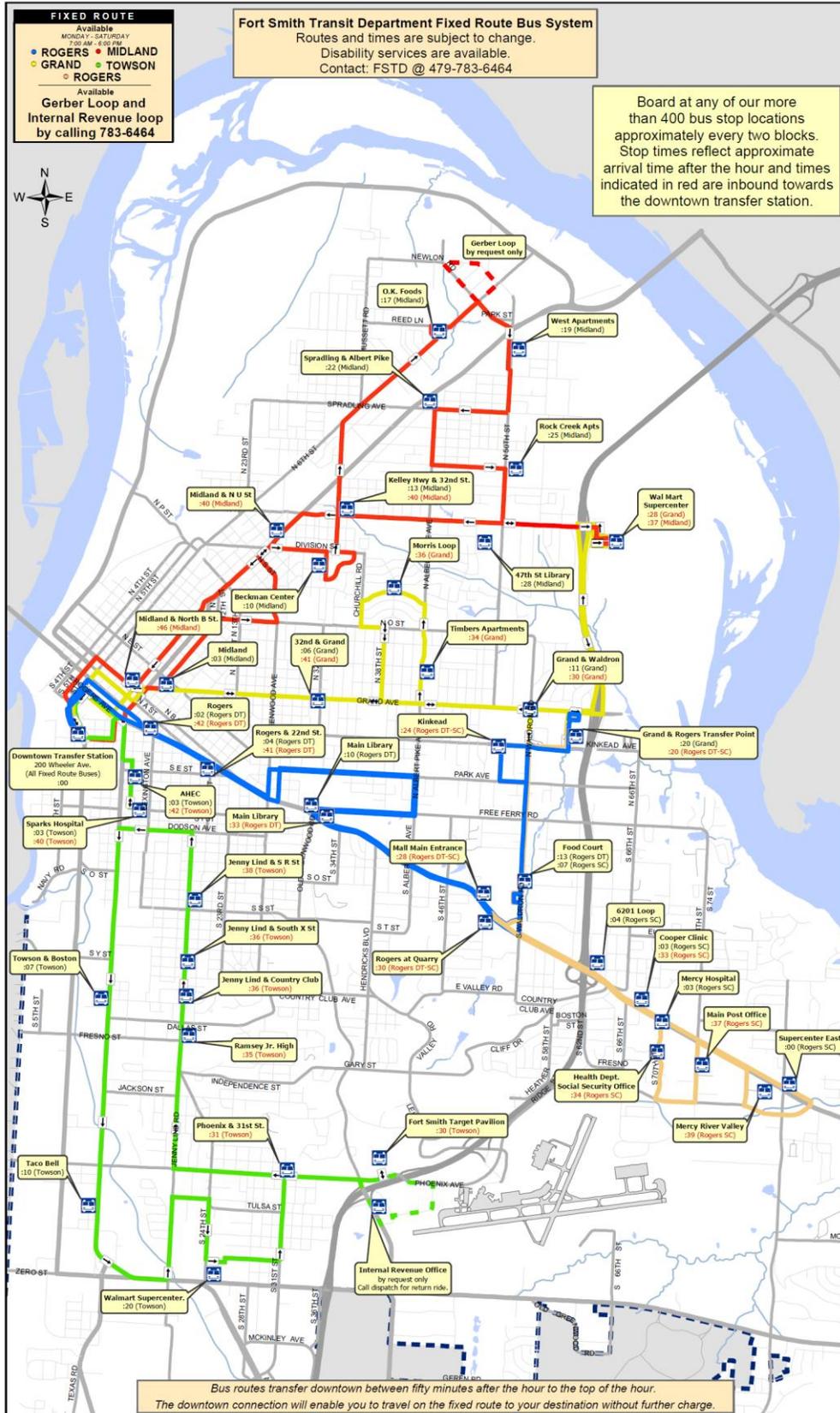
Source: Fort Smith Transit

**Figure 9-1 Fort Smith Transit Ridership, 2006 - 2012**



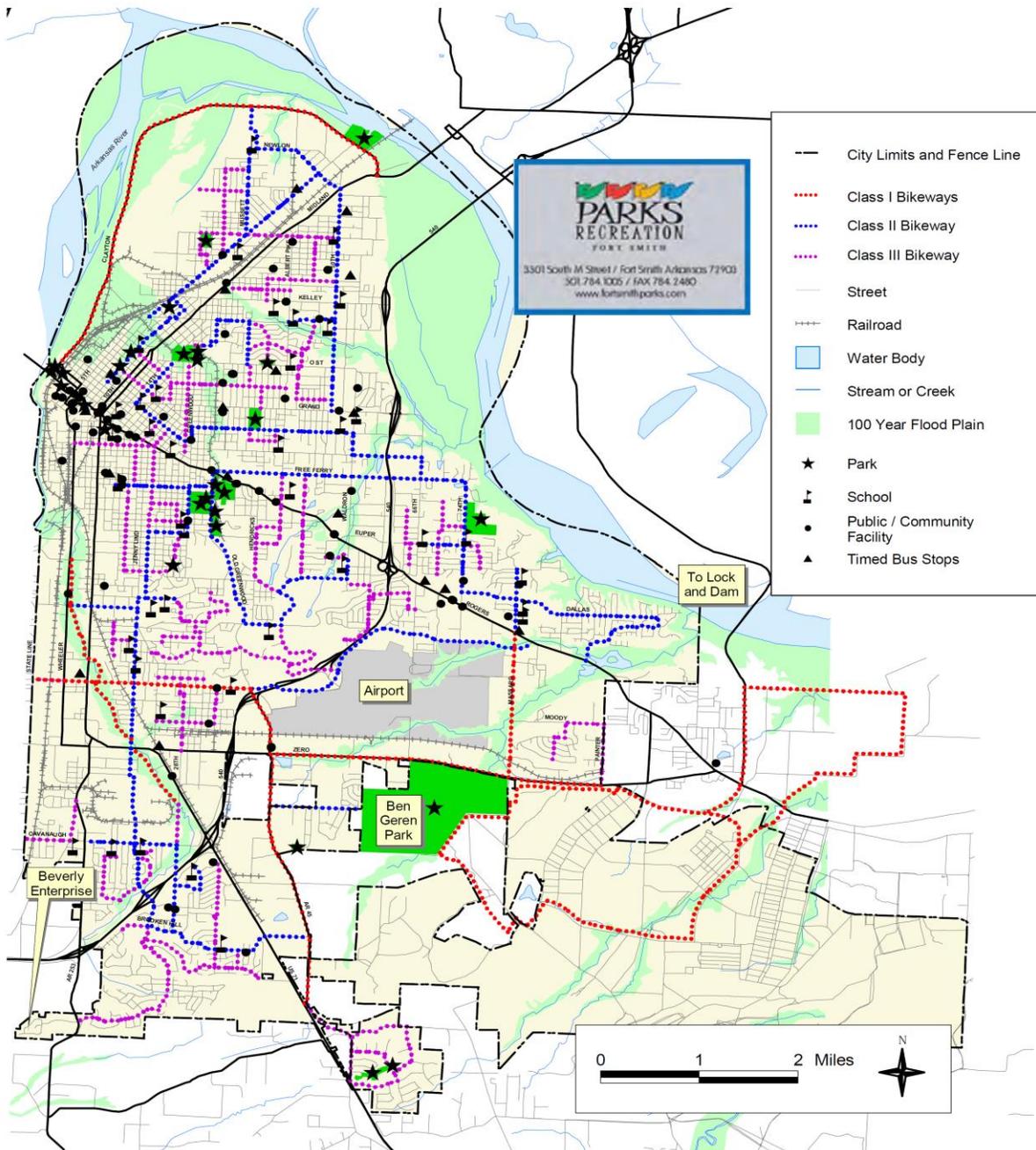
Source: Fort Smith Transit

**Figure 9-2 Fort Smith Transit Fixed Route Bus System**



Source: Fort Smith Transit

Figure 9-3 Existing Fort Smith Bikeway Plan Map



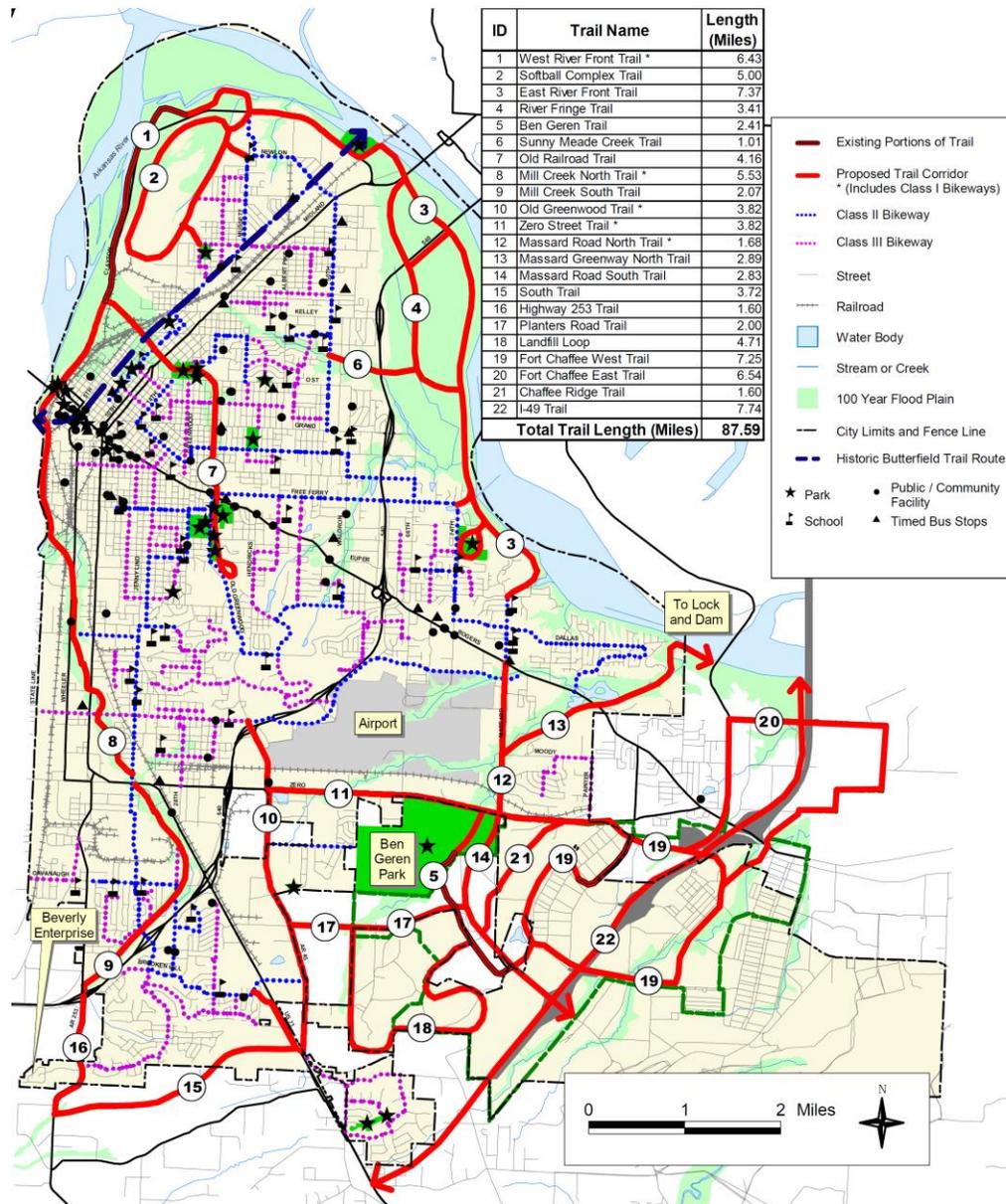
# Fort Smith Trails and Greenways Plan

prepared for  
**City of Fort Smith, Arkansas**  
 2/16/04  
**LANDPLAN**  
 CONSULTANTS  
 INCORPORATED

## Existing Fort Smith Bikeway Plan

Map 2.4

Figure 9-4 Fort Smith Trails and Greenways Plan Map



# Fort Smith Trails and Greenways Plan



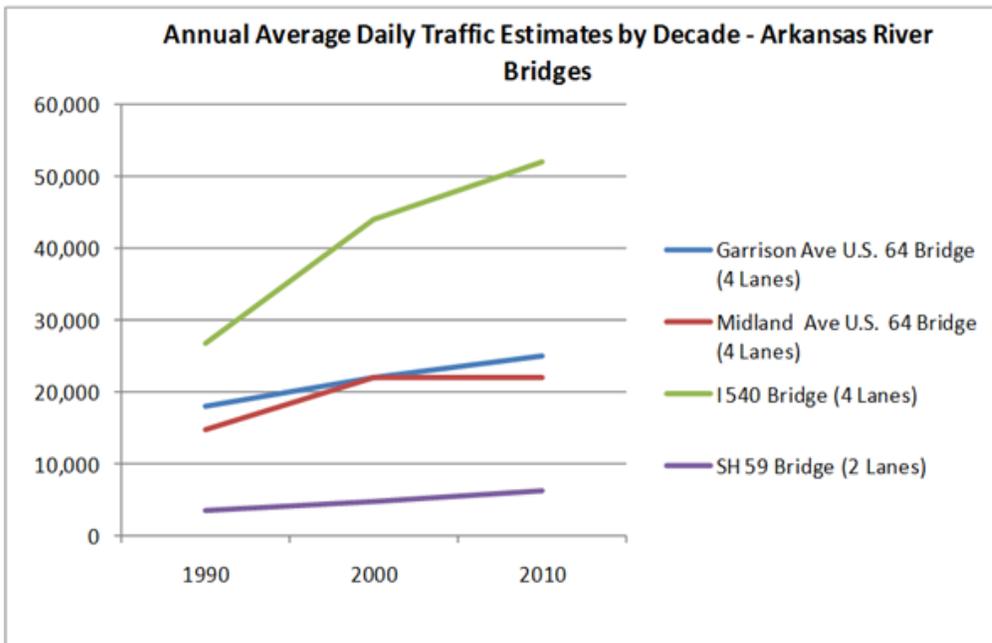
prepared for  
**City of Fort Smith, Arkansas**  
 5/10/04

Trails and Greenways Route Plan

Map 5.1

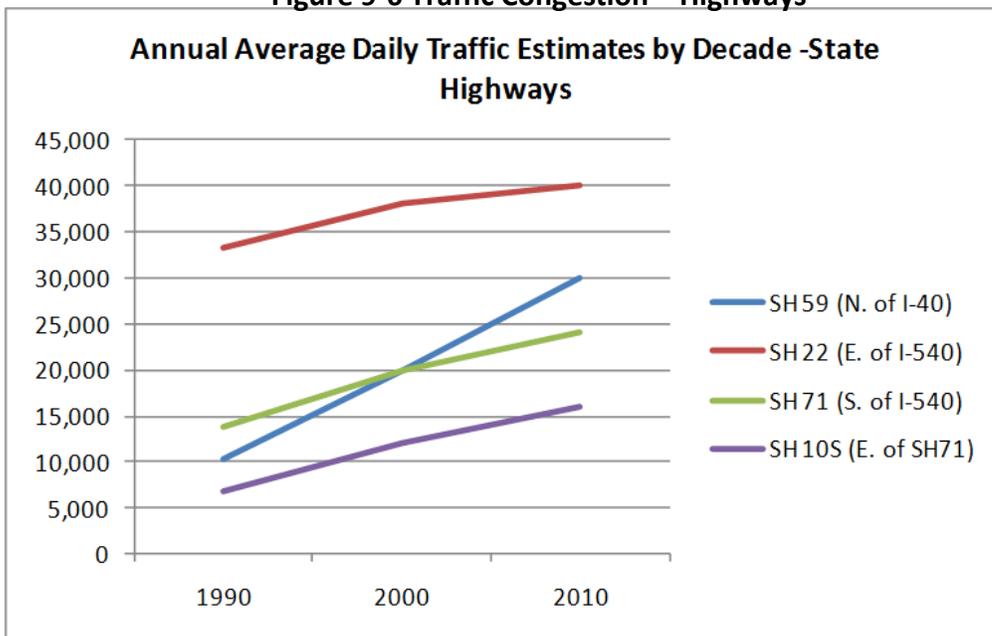
Source: Frontier MPO

**Figure 9-5 Traffic Congestion - Bridges**



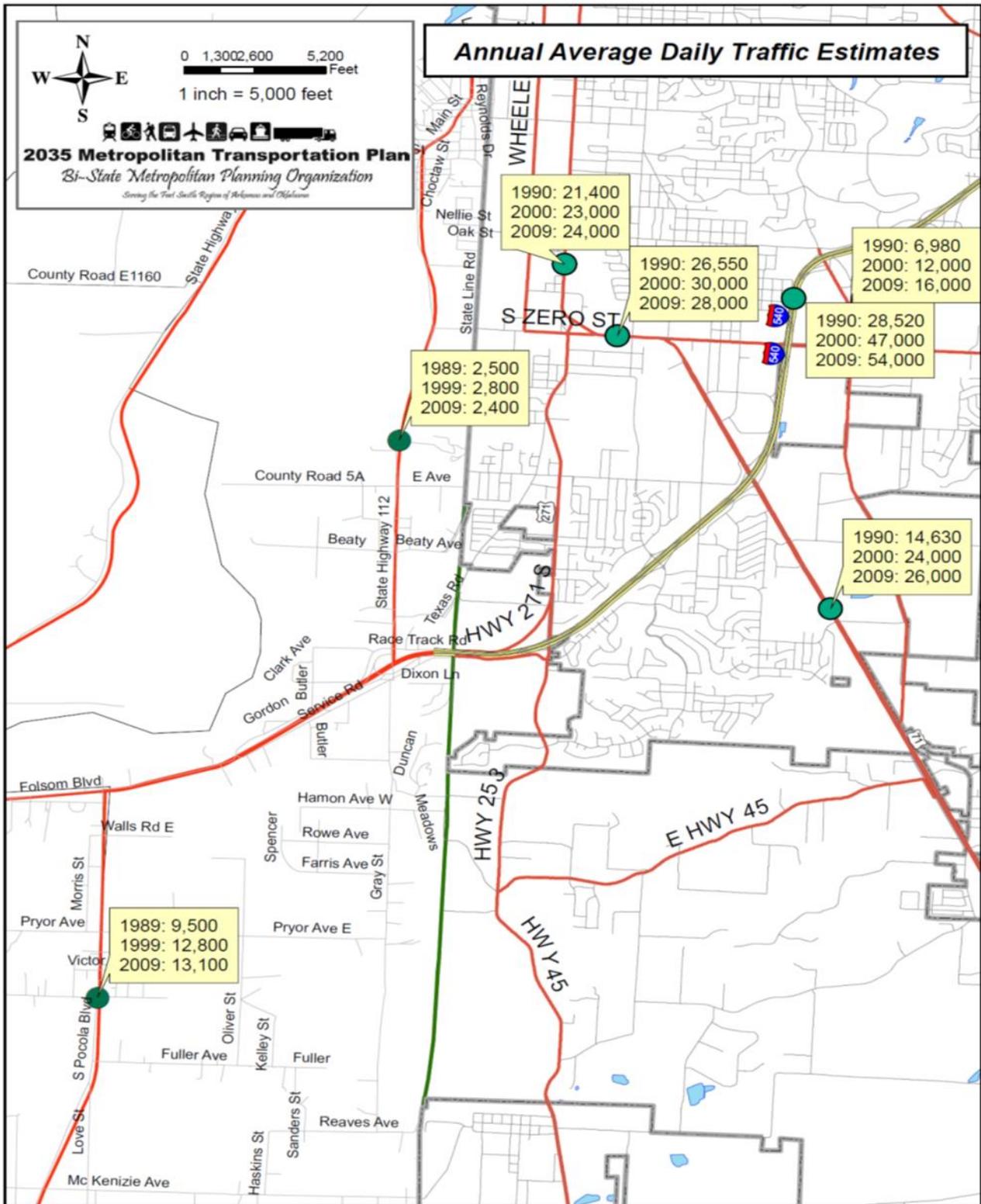
Source: Frontier MPO

**Figure 9-6 Traffic Congestion – Highways**



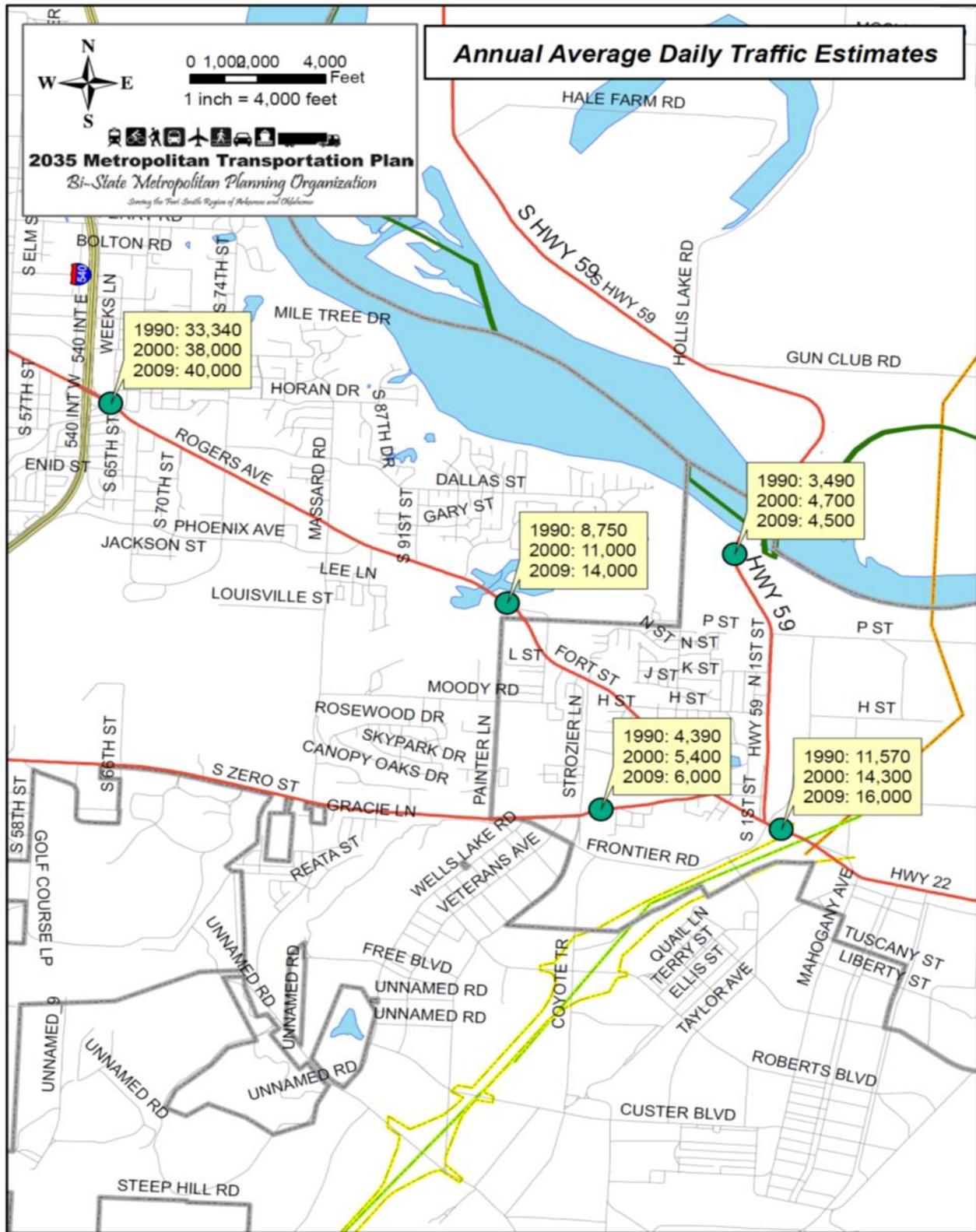
Source: Frontier MPO

Figure 9-7 Frontier MPO Annual Traffic Estimates | Zero Street



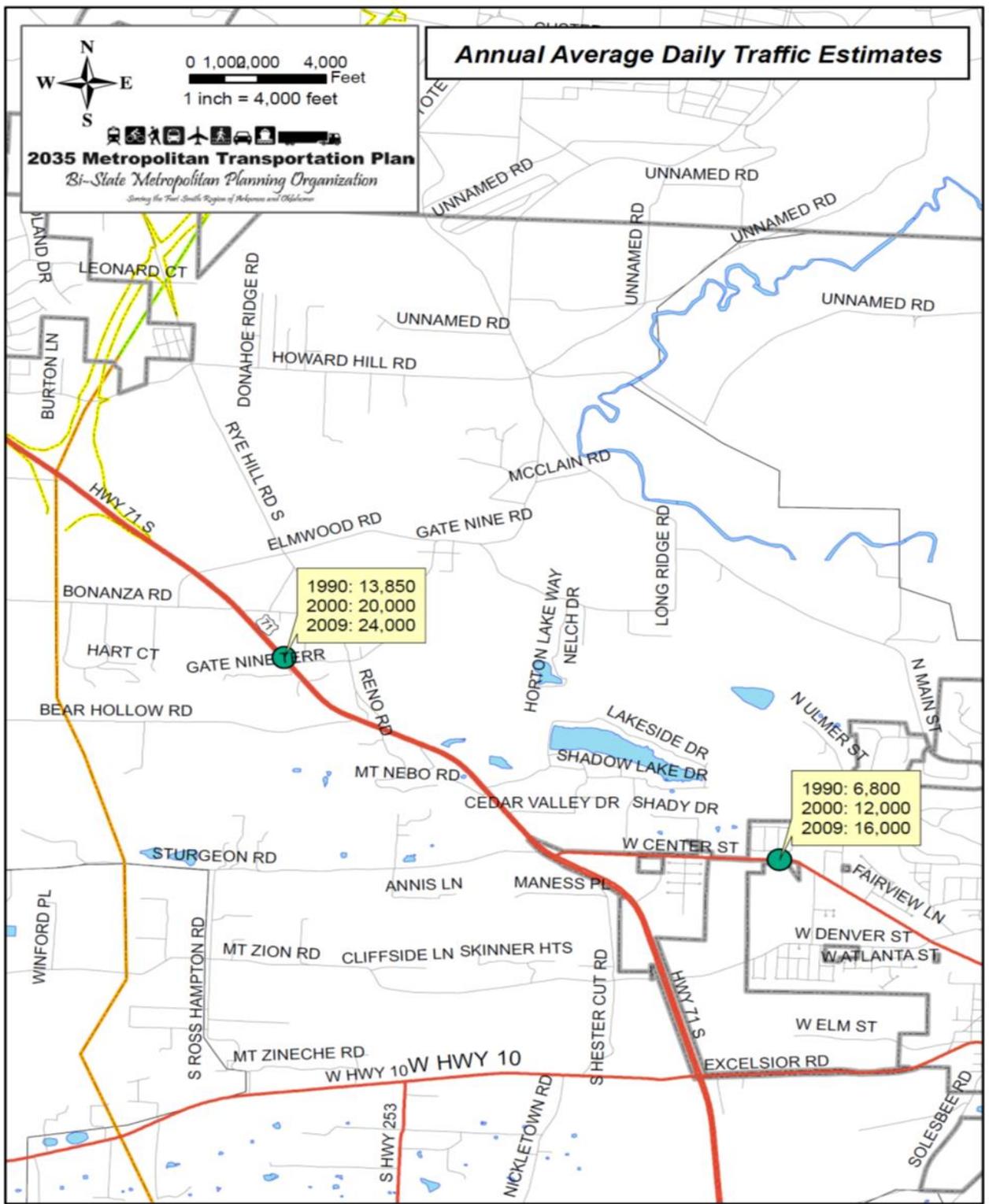
Source: Frontier MPO

Figure 9-8 Frontier MPO Annual Traffic Estimates | Rogers Avenue



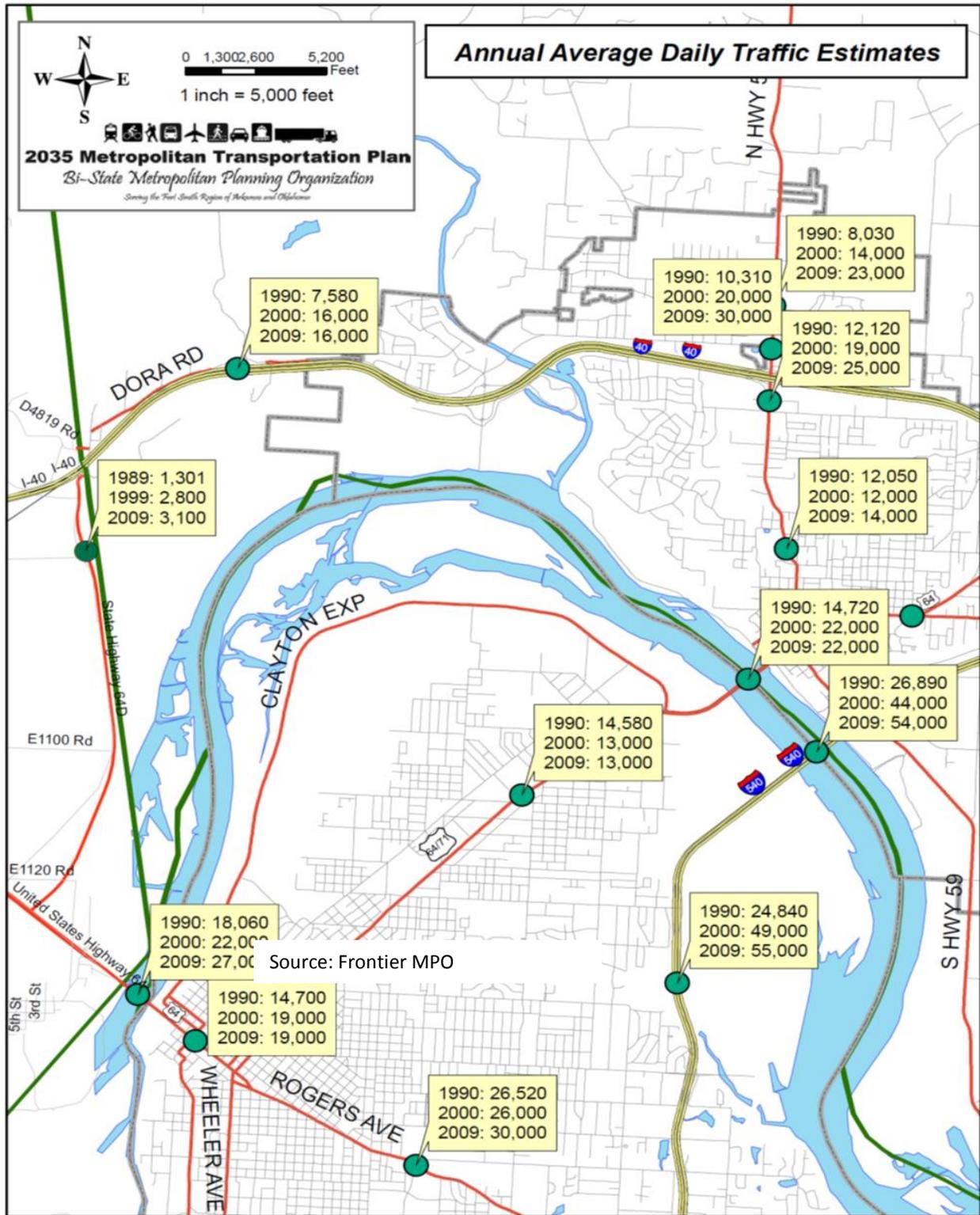
Source: Frontier MPO

Figure 9-9 Frontier MPO Annual Traffic Estimates | Highway 71 South



Source: Frontier MPO

Figure 9-10 Frontier MPO Annual Traffic Estimates | Wheeler Avenue



Source: Frontier MPO

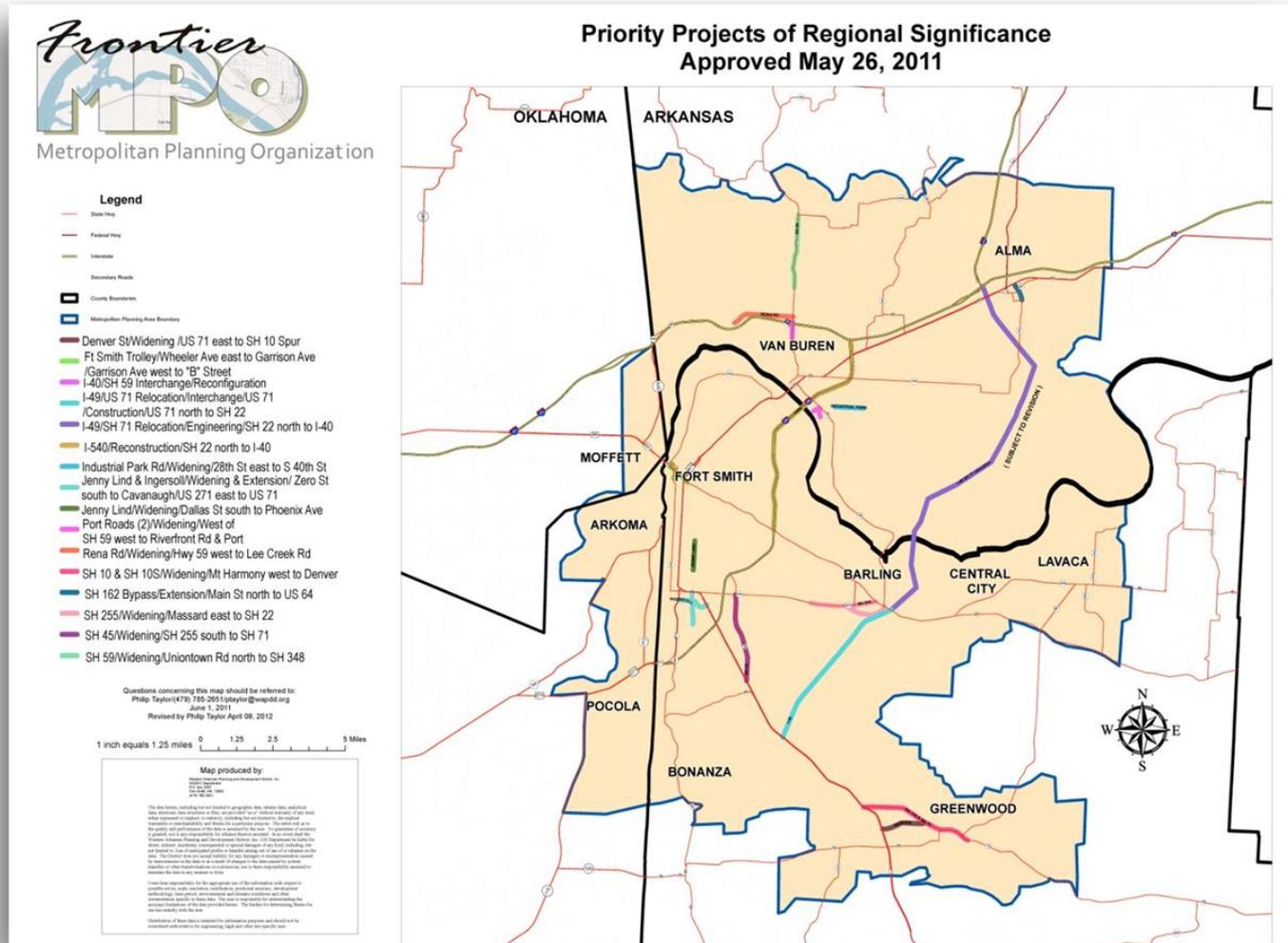
**Table 9-2 Fort Smith's Top 20 Highest Average Daily Street Traffic, 2010**

<b>Primary Name</b>	<b>Annual Average Daily Traffic</b>
HWY 22 (ROGERS AVE)	40,000
HWY 71 (Towson)	26,916
HWY 64 (Garrison)	25,000
HWY 71 S	25,000
HWY 45	24,000
HWY 255	21,000
HWY 271	21,000
OLD GREENWOOD RD	21,000
KELLY HWY	20,000
GRAND AV	20,000
HWY 255 (ZERO ST)	18,000
PHOENIX AVE	18,000
N GREENWOOD AV	16,000
KELLY HWY	14,221
N WALDRON RD	14,038
MASSARD RD	11,000
JENNY LIND	11,000
S 74TH ST	11,000
N ALBERT PIKE AVE	9,100
GARY ST	8,300
Interstate 540	55,000

Source: Frontier MPO

Proposed Roadway Improvement Projects

**Figure 9-11 Frontier MPO Priority Projects of Regional Significance**

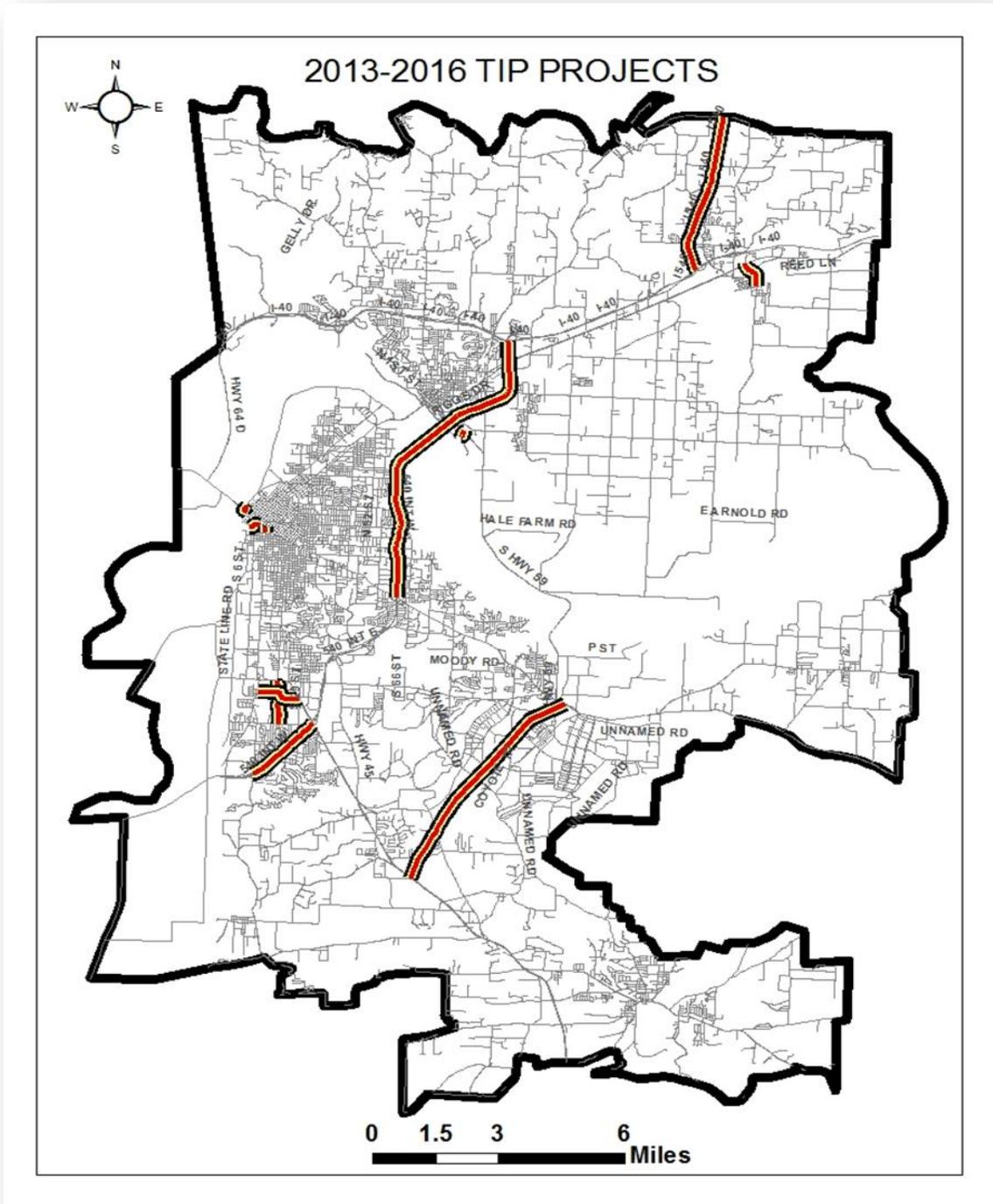


Source: Frontier MPO

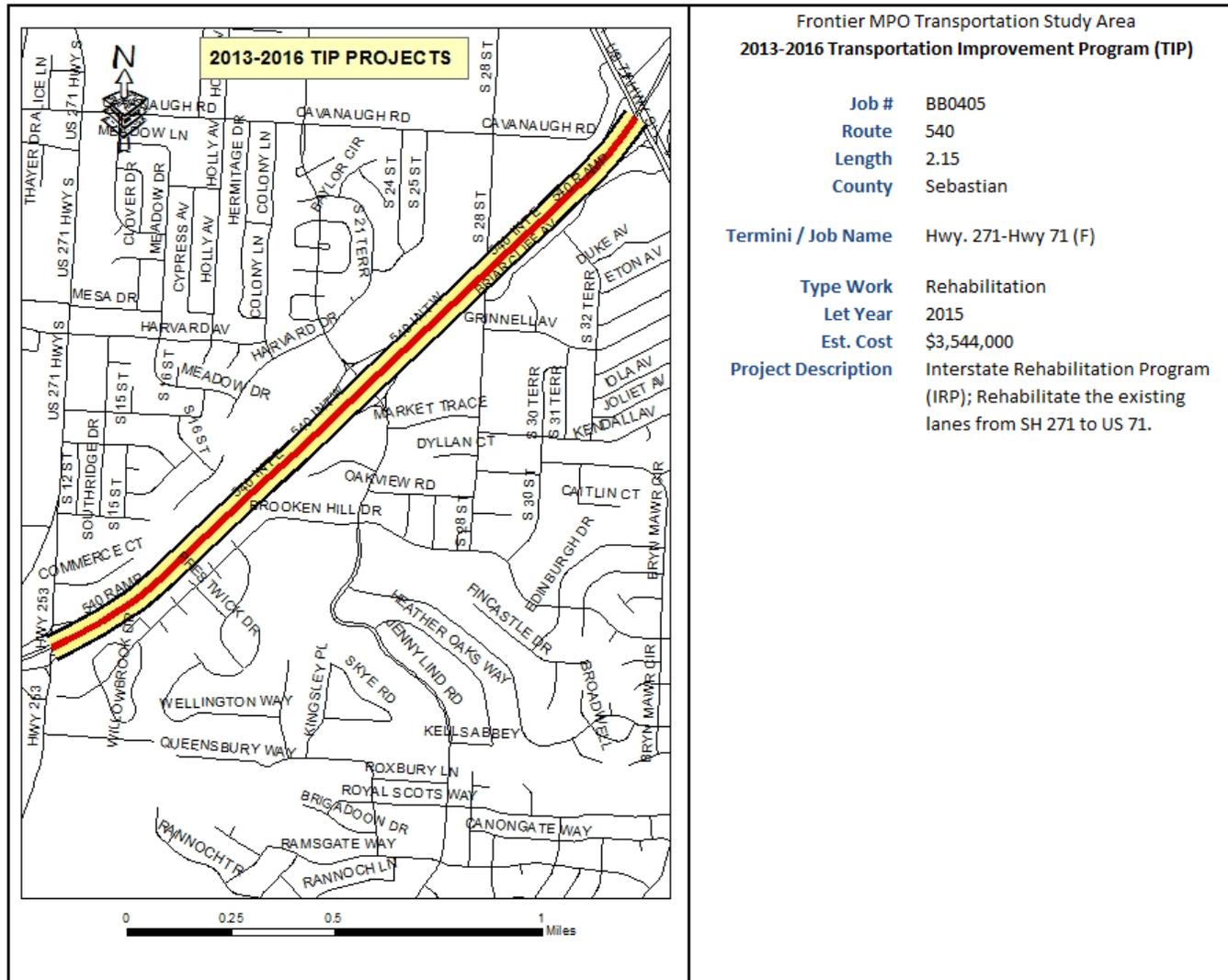
Overview of Major Projects in Frontier MPO Boundary

Project descriptions on following pages for Sebastian County.

**Figure 9-12 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program Major Projects Overview**



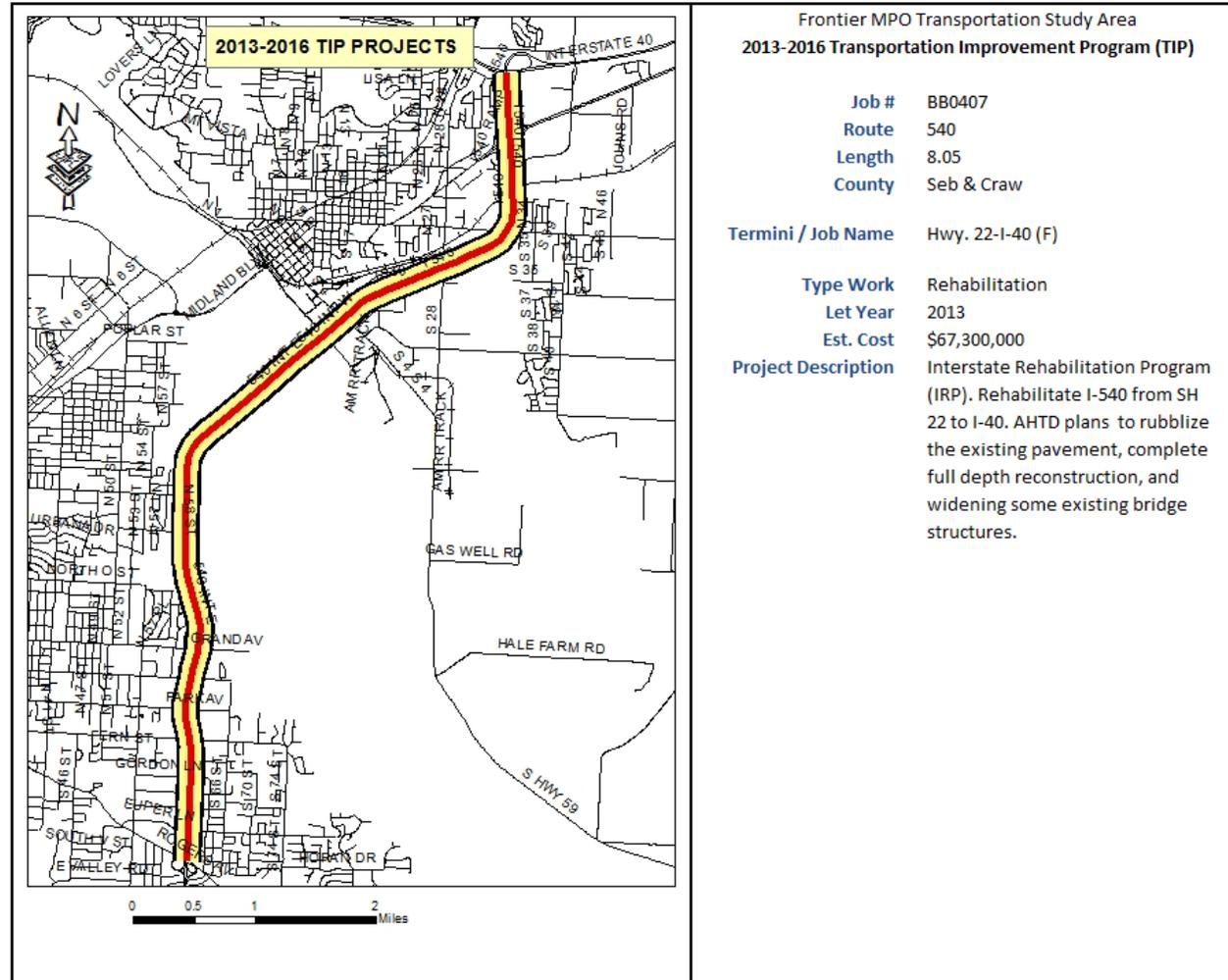
**Figure 9-13 2013-2016 TIP | SEBASTIAN COUNTY  
(Hwy. 271 - Hwy.71)**



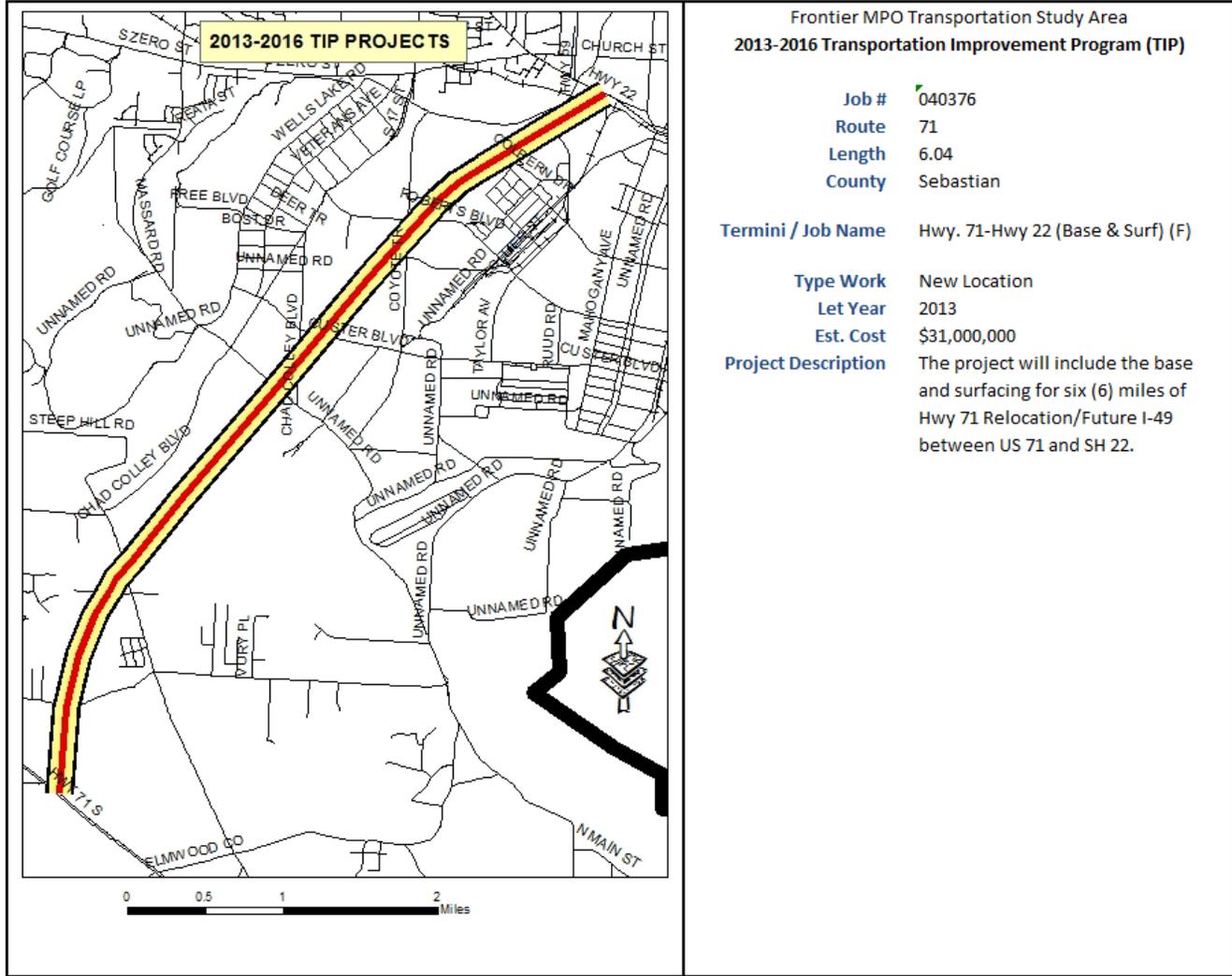
Source: Frontier MPO

Figure 9-14 2013-2016 TIP | SEBASTIAN and CRAWFORD

(Hwy. 22 – I-40)

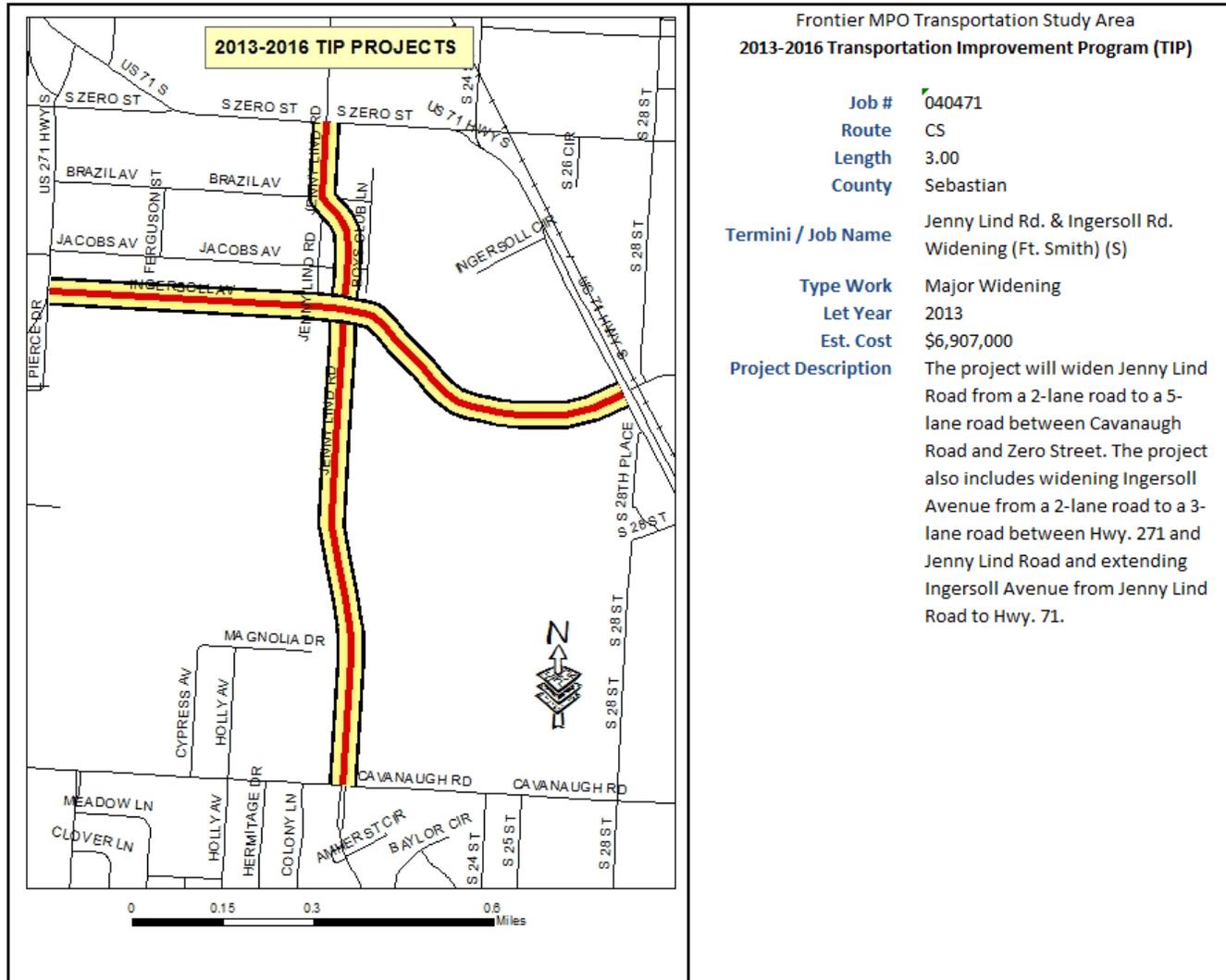


**Figure 9-15 2013-2016 TIP | SEBASTIAN  
(Hwy. 71 – Hwy. 22)**



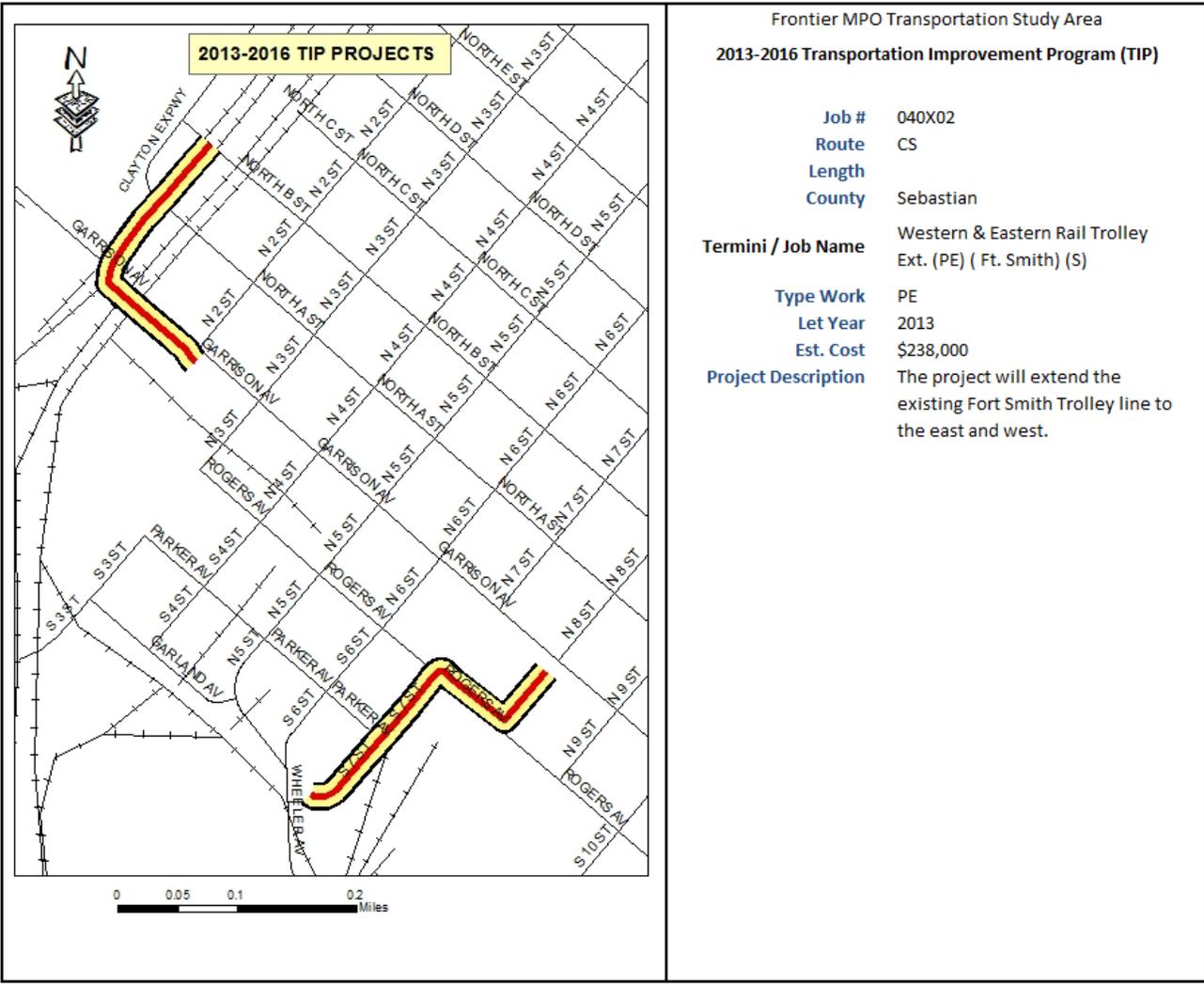
Source: Frontier MPO

**Figure 9-16 2013-2016 TIP | SEBASTIAN  
(Jenny Lind Rd. & Ingersoll Rd. Widening)**



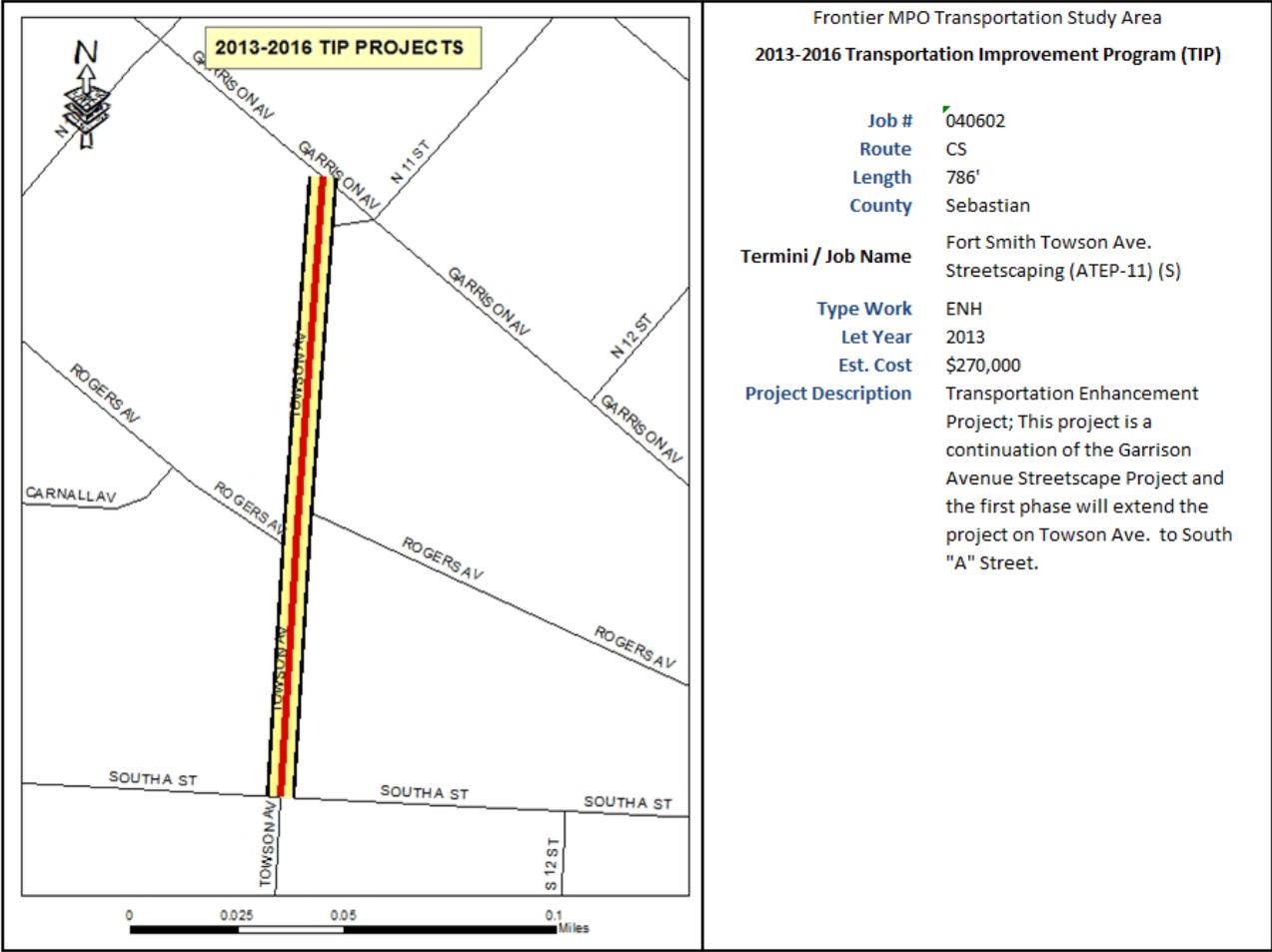
Source: Frontier MPO

**Figure 9-17 2013-2016 TIP | SEBASTIAN  
(Western & Eastern Rail Trolley Ext.)**



Source: Frontier MPO

**Figure 9-18 2013-2016 TIP | SEBASTIAN  
(Fort Smith Towson Ave. Streetscaping)**



Source: Frontier MPO

# Chapter 10

## Solid Waste

## SOLID WASTE: INTRODUCTION

The Fort Smith Department of Sanitation provides weekly curbside solid waste, recycling, and yard waste collection services with bulk trash services provided upon request. Fort Smith's automated refuse collection uses technology to pick up and empty city-provided carts instead of relying on manual heavy lifting. Fort Smith residents are provided one city-owned, 95-gallon cart or a smaller 65-gallon cart. The city of Fort Smith has established successful residential curbside recycling as well as recycling programs in city government offices. Upon request, the Fort Smith Department of Sanitation also provides recycling containers that can be used for materials like steel and aluminum cans, plastics marked 1, 2, 4, and 7, corrugated cardboard, and newspapers. Additionally, the opportunity for recycling white goods, tires, household hazardous waste, and yard waste is available in Fort Smith. Sebastian County holds two county-wide clean-up campaigns, and the city of Fort Smith holds two city-wide clean-up campaigns annually.

The Fort Smith Department of Sanitation also offers the full range of collection services to the commercial and industrial sector – including the availability of containers and complete recycling programs, including the recycling of corrugated cardboard. The Department of Sanitation offers commercial customers container and roll-off services, with containers available according to customers' needs with two, four, six, or eight-yard sizes available. Roll-off containers for large jobs and industrial customers are available in twenty, thirty, and forty-yard sizes. Many businesses also participate in the cardboard recycling program, which is free with commercial services and makes use of eight-yard containers for commercial businesses or roll-off containers for industrial customers.

The city of Fort Smith operates a Class I landfill. In 1983, the Fort Smith landfill began operations on 1,012 acres of land purchased from Fort Chaffee. This is a regional facility serving surrounding counties in Arkansas and Oklahoma. In addition to processing household waste, the landfill offers several other services, which provide valuable resources to the community. A yard waste compost facility is permitted and operated at the Fort Smith Class I Landfill. At present, yard waste collection and diversion to the composting facility occurs weekly for Fort Smith residents, while residents of the county use the facility occasionally as needed. A household hazardous waste collection center is also located at the Fort Smith landfill. Material collected at the HHW facility includes the following: motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze, brake and transmission fluids, all lead acid batteries, ni-cad batteries, lithium and alkaline batteries, oil based and latex paints, thinners, strippers and solvents, household pesticides and herbicides, fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts, aerosol cans, and sharps. All residents of Sebastian County utilize this facility at no charge. A landfill gas collection project was also developed in cooperation with a private developer. It provides processed landfill gas directly to a gas transmission company.

A public/private partnership with Fort Smith Waste Paper Company to establish a recycling materials recovery facility is in place. Fort Smith Waste Paper Company and the city jointly

operate a Materials Recovery Facility, which accepts commingled recyclables, sorts and prepares recyclables for market, and assists in marketing. Weekly curbside collection of recyclables is offered to every residential household and most small business and institutions in Fort Smith. A public information system has been implemented for the city of Fort Smith to assist with their recycling effort.

This facility also serves Sebastian County and the associated municipalities. Today, the Fort Smith landfill is the largest in the state of Arkansas. With an expected operational life of 65-plus years, the landfill sits on 1,012 acres and has a disposal capacity of more than 72 million cubic yards of waste and required soil cover material. The landfill serves customers in six Arkansas counties and in portions of two Oklahoma counties. An average of more than 400 vehicles brings more than 1,000 tons of trash to the landfill each day.

#### SOLID WASTE: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

Solid waste collection and disposal service is available to every resident and business in Sebastian County. Since the service in rural areas is on a voluntary basis, some residents still do not participate. The volume of solid waste generated in the outlying areas of the county is easily handled by small compactor trucks. The maximum one way hauling distance from any point in the county to the Fort Smith landfill is less than thirty miles.

<u>CITY</u>	<u>Solid Waste Collection Service</u>
Barling	City owned/operated curbside
Bonanza	Private owned curbside
Central City	Private owned curbside
Fort Smith	City owned/operated curbside
Greenwood	Private owned curbside
Hackett	Private owned curbside
Hartford	Private owned curbside
Huntington	Mansfield provides Huntington
Lavaca	Private owned curbside
Mansfield	City owned/operated curbside
Midland	Private owned curbside
Unincorporated Sebastian County	Private owned curbside

## Landfilled and Managed Waste

### LANDFILLED

Sebastian County accounts for a majority of the waste deposited at the Fort Smith landfill, accounting for 84.4 percent of the waste deposited in 2012, up from 76.3 percent in 2010. Since 2010, the amount of landfilled waste has remained at 96 percent. Residential Municipal Solid Waste has remained fairly consistent since 2010, while Commercial/Industrial Municipal Solid Waste has seen a steady increase. Private Solid Waste has fluctuated greatly since 2010, first decreasing significantly in 2011 before a dramatic increase in 2012.

### MANAGED

Managed waste tonnage has remained at four percent since 2010. Residential recycled, commercial/industrial recycled, yard waste, and white goods have all remained at fairly consistent levels since 2010, while residential recycled and yard waste both have shown slight increases in tonnage, and commercial/industrial recycled and white goods have both experienced slight decreases.

<b>Table 10-1 Fort Smith Landfilled and Managed Waste</b>										
City of Fort Smith Landfill: Landfilled and Managed Waste 2010 - 2013										
Waste Quantity in Tons (Public and Private)										
Waste Type	2010	Percent	2011	Percent	2012	Percent	**2013		Percent	
<b>Landfilled</b>										
							January	February		
Municipal Solid Waste - Residential	23,431.60	9%	26,179.20	11%	25,848.70	8%	2,067.20	1,738.70		10%
Municipal Solid Waste - Commercial/Industrial	59,908.90	24%	65,455.40	28%	74,882.70	24%	6,201.10	5,763.10		32%
Private Solid Waste	161,419.30	63%	134,756.30	57%	198,772.20	64%	10,924.50	10,116.70		56%
<b>Managed, not Landfilled</b>										
Recycled - Residential	2,035.20	1%	2,307.00	1%	2,399.90	1%	179.70	96.23		1%
Recycled - Commercial/Industrial	746.90	0%	673.90	0%	528.00	0%	-	-		
Yardwaste	6,393.70	3%	7,257.70	3%	7,493.80	2%	372.20	379.10		2%
White Goods	276.46	0%	206.67	0%	135.09	0%	16.69	2.60		0%
Subtotal	6,670.16		10,445.27		10,556.79		568.59	477.93		
<b>Total</b>	<b>251,429.96</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>236,836.17</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>310,060.39</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19,761.39</b>	<b>18,096.43</b>		<b>100%</b>
**January & February 2013										
We do not have the amount of tons Sebastian County diverted for 2004 - 2020.										
We do not have the Sebastian County Diversion Rates and Future Diversion Estimates 2004 - 2020.										

Source: Fort Smith Department of Sanitation

<b>Table 10-2 Fort Smith Sources of Waste by County in Tons</b>										
Sources of City of Fort Smith and Sebastian County Waste by County in Tons										
Counties	2010	Percent	2011	Percent	2012	Percent	**2013		Percent	
							January	February		
Adair	0	0.0%	20.2	0.0%	4.7	0.0%	0	5.5		0.0%
Benton	4.5	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0		0.0%
Crawford	44,325.5	18.1%	29,282.1	12.9%	32,477.0	10.8%	3,352.6	3,994.7		20.1%
Franklin	2,169.5	0.9%	3,651.4	1.6%	2,140.7	0.7%	188.5	152.7		0.9%
Haskell	0	0.0%	9.5	0.0%	197.0	0.1%	34.4	15.6		0.1%
Johnson	1,370.9	0.6%	57.8	0.0%	70.8	0.0%	11.1	0		0.0%
Le flore	5,237.7	2.1%	5,311.6	2.3%	5,762.0	1.9%	584.8	456.9		2.9%
Logan	2,952.8	1.2%	3,952.1	1.7%	2,324.8	0.8%	192.7	197.6		1.1%
Muskogee	1.2	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0		0.0%
Polk	16.5	0.0%	0	0.0%	1.2	0.0%	0	0		0.0%
Pope	3.9	0.0%	4.8	0.0%	10.5	0.0%	0	0		0.0%
Scott	1,414.7	0.6%	1,230.6	0.5%	3,506.1	1.2%	393.0	0		1.1%
Sebastian	186,802.7	76.3%	182,500.5	80.6%	252,658.7	84.4%	14,382.2	12,419.9		73.5%
Sequoyah	447.0	0.2%	342.4	0.2%	301.8	0.1%	30.2	30.6		0.2%
Washington	12.9	0.0%	27.9	0.0%	48.3	0.0%	23.3	3.1		0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>244,759.8</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>226,390.9</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>299,503.6</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>19,192.8</b>	<b>17,276.6</b>		<b>100.00%</b>
**January & February Only										

Source: Fort Smith Department of Sanitation

# Chapter 11

## Police

## POLICE: INTRODUCTION

The Fort Smith Police Department's top priority is ensuring the safety of people in Fort Smith. The department aims to do this in a respectful manner based on their core values of leadership, integrity, service, and teamwork. In order to manage all of the operations successfully, the department is broken into three divisions: Administrative Services Division, Patrol Division, and Criminal Investigation Division. Each division is led by a major who reports to the Chief of Police.

The Administrative Services Division coordinates the efforts of all divisions and units within the police department. The division is comprised of the Office of the Chief of Police, the Administrative Assistant to the Chief, the Office of Professional Standards, Evidence, Communication, Crime Analysis, Public Affairs, and Central Records. The Patrol Division consists of a variety of units. The uniformed officers provide around the clock police services throughout the city. The Community Oriented Policing Unit provides a police presence in neighborhoods through visibility and public interaction. The Reserve Office Unit is a group of volunteer officers who provide assistance to full time officers in the field by performing regular police duties as well as helping during special events. The SWAT Unit provides support in high risk situations in addition to the normal duties of the officers involved.

The Detective Division consists of six separate units, working together for the common good of the community. Each unit is designed to handle investigations for specific types of crime. The Crimes Against Persons Unit investigates "persons" crimes, such as assaults, rape, and homicide. The Crimes Against Properties Unit investigates crimes against "property," such as burglaries, thefts, and arson. The Special Investigation Unit includes the Cyber Investigation Unit that conducts investigations concerning online criminal activity. The Special Investigation Unit also includes the Juvenile and Family Violence Unit that investigates domestic violence and child abuse, as well as runaways. Also included in this unit is an investigator who works sex offender registration. The Identification Unit is responsible for processing evidence and for fingerprint detection and analysis. The Narcotics Unit is responsible for investigating the possession, sale, or manufacture of illicit controlled substances. The Street Crimes Unit investigates "vice" type crimes and addresses various quality of life issues, such as graffiti when these issues arise within the city of Fort Smith.

This chapter contains statistics for drug arrests, arson, traffic accidents and arrests, violent crimes, and property crimes from 2002 to 2012. Data is also provided for the Fort Smith Police staffing and equipment estimates and projections. Projections were based on historical trends. Personnel projections are based upon the national average of 2.3 officers per 1000 population. The Fort Smith Police Department staffing has held steady at 1.93/1000.

## POLICE: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

### Fort Smith Crime Statistics

Between the period of 2002 to 2012, the police department received the highest number of service calls in 2002 (79,042). In 2010, the police department handled 75,752 service calls. The volume of calls is projected to increase to 81,000 by 2025.

In 2011, drug arrests in Fort Smith increased to their highest level of 1,688. There was a 53 percent increase between 2000 and 2011. The lowest number of drug arrests occurred in 2005 when 524 arrests were made. DWI arrests have declined steadily since 2008, from 479 to 351 respectively.

From 2002, the lowest number of violent crimes occurred in 2004 (606). Data from 2012 shows that violent crimes accounted for 690 events during that year. During the last ten years, total property crimes varied between a low of 4,944 and a high of 7,177. Total property crimes in 2012 totaled 5,087.

The Total Index Crimes, a combination of total violent crimes and total property crimes, decreased by 23 percent between 2002 and 2012 in Fort Smith.

### Fort Smith Police Staffing

In 2012, the police department had a total of 166 sworn staff and 56 civilian staff. Total staff is projected to increase to 214 sworn and 71 civilian by 2025.

**Table 11-1 Fort Smith Crime Statistics (Incidents), 2002-2012**

<b>Incidents</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Arson	33	34	32	24	29	24	10	8	16	22	10
DWI Arrests	450	434	466	431	411	430	479	462	436	399	351
Traffic Accidents	4104	4237	3557	3791	3556	3814	3794	3474	3474	3311	3807
Fatalities Accidents	8	10	5	6	5	9	10	9	9	5	3
Arrests	7865	8388	10223	11200	10230	10834	10848	10505	9553	8679	9346

Source: Fort Smith Police Department

**Table 11-2 Fort Smith Crime Statistics (Violent Crimes), 2002-2012**

<b>Violent Crimes</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Homicide	9	12	4	5	9	5	2	5	5	5	7
Rape	52	69	83	93	75	76	91	71	140	131	136
Robbery	152	137	96	117	115	142	113	144	140	103	97
Agg. Assault	502	580	498	555	527	454	401	439	434	390	450
Total Violent Crimes	715	798	606	770	726	677	607	659	719	629	690

Source: Fort Smith Police Department

**Table 11-3 Fort Smith Crime Statistics (Property Crimes), 2002-2012**

<b>Property Crimes</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Burglary	1183	1110	1124	998	1111	1051	1086	1128	1139	1120	1095
Larceny	5296	5769	5120	4371	4163	4219	3616	3841	4041	3636	3799
Auto Theft	305	298	338	352	343	331	261	1993	232	188	193
Total Property Crimes	6784	7177	6582	5721	5617	5607	4963	5162	5412	4944	5087

Source: Fort Smith Police Department

**Table 11-4 Fort Smith Police Staffing and Equipment Estimates and Projections, 2002 - 2025**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Calls For Service</b>	<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>
2002	*81,562	79,042	148 sworn – 49 civilian	111
2010	86,209	75,752	169 sworn – 56 civilian	149
2012	87,152	74,883	166 sworn – 56 civilian	144
2016	89,038	77,000	**204 sworn – 68 civilian	179
2020	90,924	79,000	**209 sworn – 69 civilian	184
2025	93,281	81,000	**214 sworn – 71 civilian	189

\*Estimate US Census Bureau

\*\*Projection at National level 2.3

Source: Fort Smith Police Department

<b>Table 11-5 Fort Smith Police Staffing Estimates and Projections, 2002-2025</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Calls For Service</b>	<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>Vehicle Costs</b>
2002	*81,562	79,042 No data available for total # of calls	148 sworn – 49 civilian	31 marked patrol units / 111 fleet total	\$40,185.00
2010	86,209	362,154 - total incoming calls 75,752 - calls for police service	169 sworn – 56 civilian	30 marked patrol units / *** 149 fleet	\$44,780.60
2012	87,152	359,248 – total incoming calls 74,883 – calls for police service	166 sworn – 56 civilian	41 marked patrol units / *** 144 fleet	\$48,769.24
2016	89,038	357,000 - total incoming calls 77,000 - calls for police service	**204 sworn – 68 civilian	44 marked patrol units / ***179 fleet	\$52,869.00
2020	90,924	360,000 – total incoming calls 79,000 – calls for police service	**209 sworn – 69 civilian	50 marked patrol units / ***187 fleet	\$57,169.00
2025	93,281	361,000 – total incoming calls 81,000 – calls for police service	**214 sworn – 71 civilian	53 marked patrol units / ***193	\$61,469.00

\*Estimate US Census Bureau

\*\* Projection at National Level – sworn officers 2.3

\*\*\*Fleet units encompass those such as the mobile Incident Command, SWAT, Hostage Negotiations, 4 wheelers, CID, Narcotics, K-9's, Golf Cart, Gator, marked units, supervisory units, administration units, Segways, etc.

Source: Fort Smith Police Department

# Chapter 12

## Fire

## FIRE: INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Fort Smith Fire Department (FSFD) is to serve the community by protecting lives, property, and the environment in a safe, efficient, and professional manner. The FSFD's motto is Duty, Honor, Courage, and Brotherhood. The purpose of the Fort Smith Fire Department is to provide timely, effective, and efficient fire protection; suppression; prevention; education; and investigation services to the citizens of Fort Smith.

The Fort Smith Fire Department (FSFD) is a dynamic and progressive public safety provider to the citizens of Fort Smith and the greater Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area. The FSFD provides an all-hazards approach while responding to many types of emergencies including, but not limited to, fires, medical first response, technical rescues, hazardous materials events, bomb response, natural disasters, and terrorist events. The FSFD is responsible for the coordination of emergency management for the city of Fort Smith; the FSD works very closely with Sebastian County and the state of Arkansas in all types of disasters and emergencies.

The FSFD's strength is in its 129 uniformed and three non-uniformed personnel. The FSFD has 10 fire stations strategically placed within the city of Fort Smith and has 92 square miles of coverage. A new fire station is currently being constructed at the Chaffee Crossing area. The fire department also has three aerial ladder companies, two rescue boats, three brush fire fighting units, ten first line engine companies, two equipped rescue units, a hazardous material response unit, and a bomb response unit.

The National Insurance Services Office (ISO) rates communities and their available resources how the communities respond to and control fires. Typical rating factors include response time, staffing, equipment availability, building code requirements, and inspection procedures.

Protection risks are mainly determined by a city's development patterns, population density, building density, and special hazards.

The ISO uses a scale of 1 (best rating) to 10 (no protection available) to rate communities for the purpose of establishing fire insurance rates. The FSFD currently has a Class 2 fire rating and the average response time for the fire department throughout the city is 3 minutes and 13 seconds.

Principal information in this chapter includes information on personnel, capital facilities, apparatuses and equipment, selected factors related to the level of service, annual department statistics, and planned capital improvements.

## FIRE: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

### Personnel/Equipment

The Fort Smith Fire Department operates 10 fire stations and covers 92 square miles. The FSFD currently has 129 uniformed and three non-uniformed personnel. The fire department also has three aerial ladder companies, two rescue boats, three brush fire fighting units, ten first line engine companies, two equipped rescue units, a hazardous material response unit, and a bomb response unit. The fire department also has three fire engines in reserve status.

### Department Statistics

Between 2002 and 2012, total emergency responses increased by 48 percent.

Over the past ten years, average response time per call decreased from 3.56 minutes to 3.17 minutes.

The FSFD has retained its Class 2 Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating. An ISO rating is a value from 1 to 10 based on a city's fire protection capabilities. A rating of 1-4 is good, 5-8 is average, 9 is marginal, and 10 is unprotected.

<b>Table 12-1 Fort Smith Annual Fire Department Statistics, 2000-2012</b>													
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Total Emergency Responses</b>	5959	5929	6510	6990	6802	7184	7318	7619	8053	7835	8026	8158	8793
Population													
Response per 1000 Population													
Response Time													
<b>Average Response Time/Call</b>	3:56	3:58	3:26	3:10	3:06	3:13	3:11	3:14	3:13	3:14	3:10	3:17	3:17
Annual Change													
Inspections													
<b>Primary Commercial Inspections</b>	650	700	695	695	536	529	681	598	714	543	661	673	475
<b>Re-Inspections</b>	650	700	695	695	536	529	681	598	714	543	661	673	475
<b>Plans Reviewed</b>	350	375	350	188	168	168	169	163	356	151	151	217	169
Other Information													
<b>Fire Loss</b>	4,200,946	4,063,118	3,083,785	2,798,415	2,476,795	5,099,610	4,533,488	2,800,235	3,175,315	5,909,001	4,495,500	6,057,841	5,758,045
Yearly Change													
<b>Hydrants</b>	6700	7000	6778	6778	6778	6916	6950	6950	6950	6950	7942	7950	7950

Source: Fort Smith Fire Department

**Table 12-2 Fort Smith Fire Department Apparatus and Personnel, 2012**

<b>Apparatus</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
<b>On-Line Status</b>	
Fire Engines	10
Ladder Trucks	3
Rescue Units	2
Brush Fire Units	3
Hazmat Units	1
Bomb Response Unit	1
<b>Reserve Status</b>	
Fire Engines	3
Ladder Trucks	0
Total Personnel	129

Source: Fort Smith Fire Department

**Table 12-3 Plans for New Stations**

<b>Station Number</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Estimated Construction Date</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
11	6900 Massard Rd	Currently in Construction - 2013	\$3,000,000.00
12	South Fort Smith (Old HWY 71 area)	2016-2017	\$4,500,000.00

Source: Fort Smith Fire Department

# Chapter 13

## Schools

## SCHOOLS: INTRODUCTION

The city of Fort Smith has many educational opportunities to serve its residents with its public schools, many private schools, and three colleges.

The Fort Smith Public Schools consist of two high schools, four junior high schools, nineteen elementary schools, and one alternative school. The current enrollment at the Fort Smith Public Schools is 14,049. In the 2012-2013 school year, the Fort Smith Public School District celebrated 138 years of educational excellence. With more than 14,000 students and 1,000+ certified staff members, the Fort Smith School District is among the largest in Arkansas. All schools are fully accredited by the North Central Association and the Arkansas Department of Education. In 2011-2012, 77 percent of Fort Smith seniors took the ACT (American College Test) and maintained an average score that exceeded the state average.

The city of Fort Smith has approximately 11 private schools that serve kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Out of the 11 private schools, there are eight kindergarten through sixth grade schools, one junior high, one Montessori, and one combined middle/high school. The combined total private school enrollment in Fort Smith is approximately 1,985 students. There are a multitude of preschools and daycares in the city of Fort Smith, but for this data book, only those schools that serve kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade were included in the data.

The city of Fort Smith is very fortunate to have three universities: the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS), Webster University, and John Brown University.

The University of Arkansas at Fort Smith offers bachelor's degrees, associate of arts degrees, associate of general studies, associate of applied science degrees, certificates of proficiency, technical certificates, as well as work-based learning and community education. All courses and programs are designed to meet specific needs of the community. The following colleges are located at the UAFS campus: College of Applied Science and Technology, College of Business, College of Education, College of Health Sciences, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Language and Communication, College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and College of Student Success. The UAFS campus provides 22 associate degree options, 37 bachelor degree options, 25 minor options, 22 certificates of proficiency, and 16 technical certificates. UAFS also provides two locations for campus living: Sebastian Commons Apartments for upperclassmen and the Lion's Den, a suite-style residence hall, for all students. Current enrollment at UAFS is approximately 7,337.

Webster University has offered graduate programs in the Fort Smith area since 1989, when it received an invitation from the US military at Fort Chaffee. In 2005, it moved to its current location in downtown Fort Smith. Webster University in Fort Smith offers the following academic programs: Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a Master of Human Resource Management. Webster's current enrollment at the Fort Smith location is 50 students.

The John Brown University Fort Smith Center offers an undergraduate degree completion program in organizational management. This campus location also offers a master degree in each of the following: business administration (MBA), licensed and professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, and school counseling.

## SCHOOLS: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

### Enrollment

The Fort Smith Public Schools 2012-2013 enrollment is 14,049. The enrollment is expected to increase only slightly over the next 10 years, from 14,049 in 2012-2013 to 14,107 in 2022-2023, an increase of .004 percent. For the same period, projected enrollment growth within each grade level varies greatly. The elementary schools (K-4) are projected to have a slight decrease of .01 percent, middle school (5-8) should experience a decline in enrollment of .02 percent, and the high school should see an increase of .05 percent. See Table 13-1 for enrollment numbers of the Fort Smith School District and Table 13-4 for projections.

The 11 private schools in the city of Fort Smith have a total enrollment of 1,985. The breakdown for each school is illustrated on Table 13-2.

The University of Arkansas at Fort Smith's current enrollment is 7,337 and the projected enrollment is 8,361. Webster University in Fort Smith has a current school enrollment of 50. John Brown University in Fort Smith has a current school enrollment of 60 and projects 70 students in the Fall 2013. See Table 13-3, 13-5, and 13-6 for more information.

### Dropout and Retention

In 2011, the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith had 180 dropouts or a 2.37 percent dropout rate. The 168 dropouts in 2012 equaled a 2.29 percent dropout rate. The retention rate in the fall of 2011 – 2012 was 57 percent, with 4,324 students being retained. John Brown University Center in Fort Smith had a 78 percent retention rate at the Fall of 2012. Tables 13-7, 13-8, and 13-9 illustrate this data.

### Demographic Data

The Fort Smith School District Demographic Percentages can be found on Table 13-10 and Figure 13-1. Fort Smith Public Schools' current enrollment is 42.6 percent Caucasian and 30.8 percent Latino.

Currently, the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith has a 75 percent Caucasian enrollment and a 23 percent minority student enrollment. John Brown in Fort Smith had a 94 percent Caucasian enrollment during their Fall 2012 term.

### Construction Inventory

The Fort Smith Public Schools construction inventory is dated back to the 1900s and can be found on Table 13-13. All the school buildings were constructed from 1900-1980, with the exception of 23 tornado safe rooms that were constructed on all elementary and junior high campuses after 1980.

The University of Arkansas at Fort Smith's construction inventory dates back to 1928 and continues until the current year of 2013. From 1950-2010, 41 buildings were constructed. During the 1990's, fifteen buildings were constructed, and in the 2000's, seven were constructed. In 2010-2013, dorms were constructed and additions were made to transform the library into an academic center. See Table 13-14 and 13-15 for a detailed construction inventory.

<b>Table 13-1 Fort Smith Public Schools Enrollment</b>										
<b>Schools</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Northside	1283	1350	1383	1405	1401	1348	1375	1357	1392	1459
Southside	1497	1474	1503	1532	1561	1518	1541	1547	1557	1599
Chaffin JH	696	749	756	787	751	767	758	819	793	840
Darby JH	592	581	594	618	586	562	579	595	622	586
Kimmons JH	726	708	739	790	807	765	791	820	860	880
Ramsey JH	857	874	902	889	905	931	967	961	925	932
Ballman	359	332	351	342	335	340	325	344	306	322
Barling	330	346	357	344	323	322	315	347*	353*	364*
Beard	290	294	298	295	318	294	294	303	285	298
Bonneville	331	323	310	339	317	325	343	339	369	362
Carnall	192	195	212	219	236	261	261	265	282	309
Cavanaugh	154	141	152	165	198	195	211	223	243	251
Cook	581	530	596	587	624	623	623	638	613	577
Euper Lane	399	423	427	438	420	455	467	457	457	453
Fairview	576	550	595	596	600**	643**	625**	629**	597**	594**
Howard	351	346	323	345	338**	382**	354**	335**	333**	321**
Morrison	198	212	209	210	216**	200**	191**	198**	204**	211**
Orr	361	371	409	382	389**	394**	397**	393**	397**	379**
Pike	395	409	422	410	417	433	461**	500**	509**	494**
Spradling	374	367	437	444	449	454	431	418	424	443
Sunnymede	605	617	643	637	630	619	620	606	603	611
Sutton	418	437	456	489	511	525	521	492	496	497**
Tilles	498	489	488	469	500**	469**	438**	415**	386**	391**
Trusty	276	273	300	365	362	354	365	342	325	344
Woods	463	455	435	468	477	480	464	462	492	477
Totals	12,802	12,849	13,297	13,565	13,671	13,659	13,717	13,805	13,823	13,994

\*21CCL Pre-K Classrooms: Barling

\*\*ABC Pre-K Classrooms: Fairview – 2, Howard – 3, Morrison 2, Orr – 1, Pike – 2, Tilles – 1, Sutton – 3

Source: Fort Smith Public Schools

<b>Table 13-2 Fort Smith Private Schools Enrollment</b>		
<b>Schools</b>	<b>Grades</b>	<b>2012</b>
Christ the King Catholic School	K-7	319
First Luthern School	K-7	90
First UMC Weekday School	K	13
Fort Smith AR Seventh-Day Adventist School	1-5	8
Harvest Time Christian	PK-6	272
Hobson Preschool & Kindergarten	PK-K	85
Immaculate Conception School	PK-6	306
The Montessori School of Fort Smith	PK-6	95
St. Boniface Catholic School	PK-6	172
Trinity Junior High School	7-9	235
Union Christian Academy Campus	PK-12	390

Source: All private schools listed were contacted

<b>Table 13-3 Fort Smith Universities Enrollment</b>						
<b>Schools</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
UAFS	6,611	6,772	7,322	7,716	7,587	7,337
Webster	--	63	61	57	49	50
JBU	61	58	56	52	57	60

Source: UAFS, Webster and JBU were all contacted

**Table 13-4 Fort Smith Public Schools Enrollment Projection Summary**

	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Kindergarten	1,268	1,179	1,152	1,077	1,122	1,131	1,131	1,131	1,131	1,131	1,131
Grade 1	1,065	1,250	1,162	1,135	1,062	1,106	1,116	1,116	1,116	1,116	1,116
Grade 2	1,092	1,048	1,231	1,144	1,118	1,046	1,089	1,098	1,098	1,098	1,098
Grade 3	1,047	1,077	1,034	1,214	1,129	1,103	1,032	1,074	1,083	1,083	1,083
Grade 4	1,082	1,035	1,065	1,023	1,201	1,116	1,090	1,020	1,062	1,071	1,071
Grade 5	1,087	1,074	1,028	1,058	1,016	1,192	1,108	1,083	1,013	1,055	1,064
Grade 6	1,054	1,077	1,065	1,019	1,048	1,006	1,181	1,098	1,073	1,004	1,045
Grade 7	1,160	1,086	1,110	1,097	1,049	1,080	1,037	1,217	1,131	1,105	1,034
Grade 8	1,045	1,162	1,087	1,111	1,098	1,051	1,082	1,038	1,219	1,133	1,107
Grade 9	1,070	1,048	1,166	1,091	1,115	1,102	1,054	1,085	1,042	1,223	1,137
Grade 10	1,128	1,096	1,074	1,194	1,118	1,142	1,129	1,080	1,112	1,067	1,253
Grade 11	1,023	1,056	1,027	1,006	1,118	1,047	1,070	1,057	1,012	1,041	1,000
Grade 12	928	952	983	955	936	1,040	974	995	984	941	968
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14,049</b>	<b>14,140</b>	<b>14,184</b>	<b>14,124</b>	<b>14,130</b>	<b>14,162</b>	<b>14,093</b>	<b>14,092</b>	<b>14,076</b>	<b>14,068</b>	<b>14,107</b>

Source: Fort Smith Public Schools

<b>Table 13-5 University of Arkansas - Fort Smith Projections</b>		
	<b>Students</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Plan Horizon	8,361	1,076

Source: University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

<b>Table 13-6 John Brown University Projections</b>	
Projected Fall 2013	70 Students

Source: John Brown University

<b>Table 13-7 University of Arkansas - Fort Smith Dropout Rates, 2011-2012</b>			
<b>Term</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Drops</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fall 2011	7,587	180	2.37%
Fall 2012	7,337	168	2.29%

Source: University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

<b>Table 13-8 University of Arkansas - Fort Smith Retention Rates, 2011-2012</b>				
	<b>Fall 2010 to Fall 2011</b>		<b>Fall 2011 to Fall 2012</b>	
	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Retained	4,397	57%	4,324	57%
Not Retained	3,319	43%	3,263	43%
Grand Total	7,716		7,587	

Source: University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

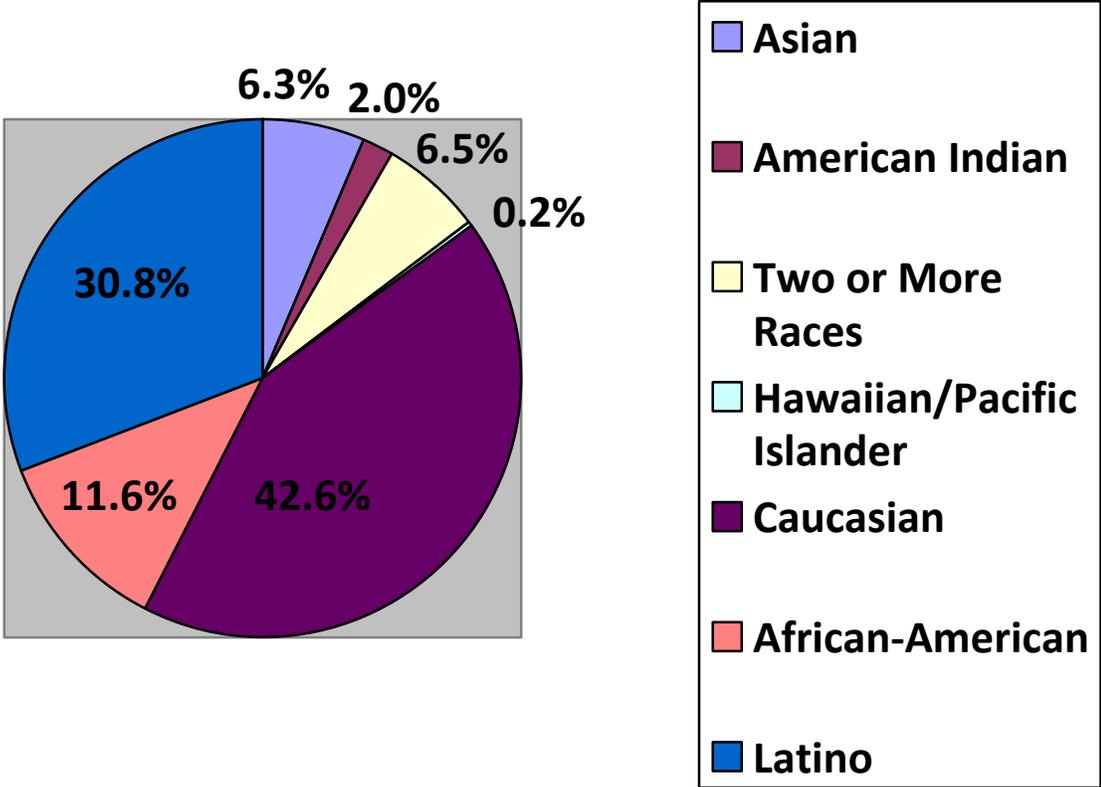
<b>Table 13-9 John Brown University Retention Rates, 2008-2012</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fall 2008	80%
Fall 2009	76%
Fall 2010	75%
Fall 2011	78%
Fall 2012	78%

Source: John Brown University

Table 13-10 Fort Smith Public Schools Demographic Percentages, 2012-2013	
	Percent
American Indian	2.0%
Asian	6.3%
African American	11.6%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2%
Caucasian	42.6%
Latino	30.8%
Two or more races	6.5%
Grand Total	100%

Source: Fort Smith Public Schools

Figure 13-1 Fort Smith Public Schools Demographic Percentages, 2012-2013



<b>Table 13-11 University of Arkansas - Fort Smith Demographic Percentages, 2011-2013</b>				
	<b>Fall 2011</b>		<b>Fall 2012</b>	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	239	3%	214	3%
Asian	339	4%	312	4%
Black or African American	313	4%	296	4%
Hispanics of any race	584	8%	545	7%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	6	0%	4	0%
Non-Resident Aliens	57	1%	63	1%
Race and ethnicity unknown	59	1%	65	1%
Two or more races	363	5%	351	5%
White	5,627	74%	5,487	75%
Minority Students	1,844	24%	1,722	23%
Grand Total	7,587		7,337	

Source: University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

<b>Table 13-12 John Brown University Demographic Percentages, 2012</b>	
	<b>Percent</b>
Caucasian	94%
Hispanic	3%
African American	2%
Indian	1%
Grand Total	100%

Source: John Brown University

Table 13-13 Fort Smith Public Schools Construction Inventory, 1900-1980						
Decade	High Schools	Junior Highs	Elementary	Alternative	Service Centers	Totals
1900s					1	1
1910s				1	1	2
1920s	1	1		1	1	4
1930s						0
1940s			2			2
1950s		1	5			6
1960s	1	2	6		1	10
1970s			4			4
1980s			2			2

Source: Fort Smith Public Schools

Table 13-14 University of Arkansas - Fort Smith Construction Inventory, 1928-2013					
Decade	Buildings	Square Footage	Infrastructure	Improvements	Notes
1920s	0	0	0	0	*
1930s	0	0	0	0	*
1940s	0	0	0	0	*
1950s	4	12,468	0	1	**
1960s	6	107,476	1	2	
1970s	9	202,942	4	6	
1980s	13	264,103	6	9	
1990s	19	392,630	7	13	
2000s	34	947,068	7	17	
2010s	41	1,116,074	8	21	

\*Classes held at Fort Smith High School

\*\*Square footage not available for all buildings

Source: University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

**Table 13-15 University of Arkansas - Fort Smith Construction Inventory, 1928-2013**

<b>Decade</b>	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Square Footage</b>	
<b>1920s</b>	None (Classes held at FS High School)		
<b>1930s</b>	None (Classes held at FS High School)		
<b>1940s</b>	None (Classes held at FS High School)		
<b>1950s</b>	Quonset Hut	NA	Removed in 1960s
	General Classroom	NA	Removed in 1960s
	Administration Building	NA	Removed in 1960s
	Ballman Speer	12,468	
	Parking Lot (Gravel)	IMP	Removed in 1970s
<b>1960s</b>	Holt	9,728	
	Gym	32,650	
	Technical Complex	NA	Removed in 2000s
	Vines	24,858	
	Flanders	27,772	
	Parking Lot (Tech Complex area)	IMP	
	Sidewalks	INF	
<b>1970s</b>	Breedlove	31,683	
	Fullerton	26,233	
	Gardner	37,550	
	Tennis Courts (4)	INF	Removed in 1990s
	Baseball Field	IMP	Removed in 1990s
	Parking Lot (Breedlove area)	IMP	Portion Removed in 1990s
	Parking Lot (south of Fullerton area)	IMP	Removed in 1990s
	Lights	INF	
	Signage	INF	
	Landscaping	IMP	
	Fencing	IMP	
<b>1980s</b>	Baseball Field Restroom	1,296	
	Business Center	9,008	
	Echols Complex	21,696	
	Boreham Library	29,161	

	Baseball Field Lights	INF	
	Parking Lot (Boreham Library)	IMP	
	Parking Lot (Echols)	IMP	
	Fullerton Plaza	IMP	
	Irrigation System	INF	
<b>1990s</b>	Bell Tower	7,840	
	Business & Industrial	24,206	
	Dental Clinic	8,348	Sold in 2000s
	Math/Science Center	82,000	
	Greenhouse	1,663	
	Kinkead Annex	4,470	
	Parking Lot (south of Kinkead)	IMP	
	Parking Lot (Tunnel area)	IMP	
	Parking Lot (north of Grand)	IMP	
	Parking Lot (west of MS and Campus Ctr)	IMP	
	Campus Green	IMP	
	Baseball Field	IMP	
	Tunnel	INF	
	Fiber Optics & Conduit System	INF	
<b>2000s</b>	Sebastian Commons Bldg 1	25,554	
	Sebastian Commons Bldg 2	25,554	
	Sebastian Commons Bldg 3	25,554	
	Sebastian Commons Bldg 4	25,554	
	Sebastian Commons Office	3,289	
	Sebastian Commons Bldg 5	17,310	
	Sebastian Commons Bldg 6	17,310	
	Sebastian Commons Bldg 7	17,310	
	Sebastian Commons Bldg 8	17,310	
	Pendergraft Health Sciences Center	72,230	
	Smith Pendergraft Campus Center	83,000	
	Stubblefield Center	80,766	
	Baldor Technology Center	102,000	
	Baseball Pressbox/Concessions	429	
	Physical Plant	27,000	

	51st Street Annex	16,339	
	Drennen Scott	6,277	
	Baldor Fountain	IMP	
	Parking Lot (Kinhead Annex)	IMP	
	Parking Lot (Health Sciences Center)	IMP	
	Parking Lot (Stubblefield Center)	IMP	
<b>2010s</b>	Drennen Scott Visitor Center	1,067	
	Drennen Scott Maintenance Bldg	167	
	Lions Den North	57,960	
	Lions Den South	49,600	
	Lions Den Dining Hall	7,000	
	2nd Street Live	11,750	Capital Lease
	Central Energy Plant	2,292	
	Boreham Library Addition	39,170	
	Parking Lot (East of Waldron)	IMP	
	Parking Lot (North of Business Center)	IMP	
	Parking Lot (west of Fullerton)	IMP	
	Intramural Field	IMP	
	Lion Sculpture	INF	

Source: University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

# Chapter 14

## Library System

## LIBRARY SYSTEM: INTRODUCTION

The Fort Smith Public Library's beginnings can be traced to the formation of the Fortnightly Club on October 7, 1891. The library was formally opened on July 27, 1892, in the Bell Grove School building. By 1902, the library had grown to be the largest public library in Arkansas. In 1904, the Fort Smith Reading Room Association and the Fortnightly Library Association formed a permanent organization, named the Fort Smith Public Library Association, whose purpose was to raise money for a new library building. In 1907, the state's first Carnegie library was built on North 13<sup>th</sup> Street. This was the city's library building until 1970, when a 35,000 square foot library was built on South 8<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1995, a needs assessment was conducted on the library plans for the next 25 years. This study indicated that the following libraries were needed: a new central library, a branch on the south side of town, a branch on the east side of town, and a branch on the north side of town. In October 1997, the voters of Fort Smith passed a sales tax so that the library improvements could begin in 1999.

The Fort Smith Public Library strives to offer services to all citizens of Fort Smith through its four library locations: the new centrally located Main Library located on 3201 Rogers Avenue that opened in February 2001, and the three neighborhood branches that opened in 2000. In February 2000, the Dallas Street Library opened its doors at 8100 Dallas Street (it was originally established in January, 1995 and was the Stonewood Village Branch). The Miller Branch opened in April 2000 at 8701 South 28<sup>th</sup> Street (it was originally the Market Trace Branch established in June 1996). The Windsor Street Branch at 4702 Windsor Drive opened its doors for the first time in March 2000.

The four library locations provide more space for book collections, tapes, and videos. They also provide more public access to computers. The main branch provides meeting room space, an expanded genealogy area and resources, computer class space, more room for children's collections and activities, a young adults section, and a place to sell used books.

This chapter describes existing resources, service areas, facilities, and library service factors.

## LIBRARY SYSTEM: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

### Library Resources

The Windsor Branch offers special book collections and magazines in both Spanish and Vietnamese languages. This site has Internet access, children's games, and word processing programs.

The Miller Branch offers a well-rounded collection of fiction, non-fiction, and children's books. This site also has Internet access, word processing software, and kids' games.

The Dallas Street Branch offers a wide selection of current bestsellers, health and physical fitness books, and children's books. This site also offers Internet access and word processing programs.

### Library Use Measures

From 2008 to 2012, the legal service area has remained at 80,268. Registered borrowers increased by 30 percent. In 2012, 98.1 percent of the population was registered users.

During that same period, library visits decreased by twenty-seven percent. In 2008, visitors to the library numbered 446,700; in 2012, visitors to the library numbered 434,788. While library visits decreased, total circulation from 2008 to 2012 increased by thirty-nine percent.

### Geographic Distribution

In 2012, 98.1 percent of the population was registered library users. In FY 2010 – 2012, the Main Library had both the highest circulation and the highest visits. The Windsor Drive Branch had the lowest circulation, and the Miller Branch had the lowest library visits (See Table 14-1 and Table 14-2).

<b>Table 14-1 Fort Smith Public Library Selected Measures, FY 2008 to FY 2012</b>					
<b>Patron Use Measures</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Legal Service Area	80,268	80,268	80,268	80,268	80,268
Registered Borrowers	60,705	63,336	69,943	62,949	78,749
Percent of Population Registered	75.6%	78.9%	87.1%	78.4%	98.1%
Library Visits (People)	446,700	465,820	453,542	445,389	434,788
Total Circulation (Books and Materials)	496,573	526,007	548,566	517,890	515,871
Circulation Per Capita	6.19	6.55	6.83	6.45	6.43

Source: Fort Smith Public Library

Note: Arkansas State Library uses census data to define the legal service area - even for 2012 they used the 80,268

<b>Table 14-2 Fort Smith Public Library Circulation &amp; Library Visits, FY 2010 to FY 2012</b>						
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Circulation Total FY 2010</b>	<b>Circulation Total FY 2011</b>	<b>Circulation Total FY 2012</b>	<b>Library Visits Total FY 2010</b>	<b>Library Visits Total FY 2011</b>	<b>Library Visits Total FY 2012</b>
Main Library	346,550	327,397	324,721	263,316	259,031	251,625
Dallas Street	71,330	64,391	61,872	67,769	61,460	60,387
Miller	84,860	78,688	82,768	57,888	56,647	56,724
Windsor Drive	45,826	47,414	46,510	64,569	68,251	66,052
Total	548,566	517,890	515,871	453,542	445,389	434,788

Source: Fort Smith Public Library

**Chapter 15**  
**Parks and Recreation**

## PARKS AND RECREATION: INTRODUCTION

Parks and recreation facilities and services are provided to the public through their parks, trails, and community centers that are situated throughout the city. Fort Smith has community parks, river front parks, downtown parks, specialty parks, neighborhood parks, and as walking trails to offer to its citizens.

The Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department manages the following: four community parks-- Carol Ann Cross Park, Creekmore Park, Martin Luther King Park, and Tilles Park; three riverfront parks-- Fort Smith Park, Harry E. Kelley Park, and the Riverfront Amphitheater; three downtown parks-- Cisterna Park, Park at West End, and the Ross Pendergraft Park; seven specialty parks-- Anniversary Rose Garden, Fort Smith Dog Park, Kelly Park Ballfields, Massard Prairie Battlefield, Park at West End, McClure Amphitheater, and Ruth Armstrong; and six neighborhood parks--Harley A. Wilson Park, Hillcrest Park, Riley Farm Park, Spradling Park, Victory Park, and Woodlawn Park. The parks in Fort Smith provide citizens with places to enjoy nature and participate in passive and active recreational activities. Baseball and soccer fields, jogging trails, volleyball, basketball and tennis courts, boat docks, gazebos, benches, nature trails, outdoor pools, water features, gardens, and an amphitheater are all offered by existing facilities.

The Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department also provides many trail opportunities for its citizens. There are currently eight walking trails and one bikeway trail. Residents can use the Ben Geren Trail, Chad Colley Trail, Fort Chaffee West Trail, Massard Road Trail, Mill Creek Trail, Rice Carden Trail, Sunnymede Trail, Water Trail, and the Fort Smith Bikeway.

The Fort Smith Parks and Recreation also manages community facilities such as the Creekmore Community Center, Darby Community Center, Elm Grove Community Center, Riverfront Pavilion, and the River Park Events Building. The community facilities can be reserved and rented by the residents of Fort Smith.

Sebastian County also offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities to the residents. Recreational activities include public golf courses, picnic facilities, playground equipment, open space for sporting events such as soccer and softball, hiking/biking, and walking trails. Ben Geren Regional Park provides these above mentioned park services as well as gator golf and Go-Karts facilities. With 1300 acres, the Ben Geren Regional Park is the largest county park in the state of Arkansas. This park is located just outside of the Fort Smith city limits. Sebastian County also manages the Buckner Park in Witcherville, East Sebastian County Park or the Lavaca Park, which is east of Fort Smith in Lavaca, and Boyer or Midland Park, which is located far south in the county.

## PARKS AND RECREATION: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

The Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department provides facilities, services, and programs for approximately 273 maintained park acres. The Sebastian County Ben Geren Regional Park which is located just right outside of the Fort Smith city limits provides 1,300 acres of park land to the public.

### Fort Smith Parks and Recreation

The Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department manages community parks, river front parks, downtown parks, specialty parks, neighborhood parks, and community facilities.

Table 15-2 illustrates the Fort Smith Parks and Recreation workload/inventory of park facilities. The table shows open space and parkland acreage, including 273 acres of maintained parkland, swimming pools, and community facility bookings. The Fort Smith Parks Department also maintains 90,242 square feet of flowerbeds.

### Sebastian County Parks and Recreation

Sebastian County manages the Ben Geren Regional Park, which is the largest county park in the state of Arkansas; the Buckner Park in Witcherville; the East Sebastian County (Lavaca Park), which is east of Fort Smith in Lavaca; and the Boyer Park (Midland Park), which is located far south in the county. Table 15-3 lists the Sebastian County Parks.

The Sebastian County Parks property type and acre amounts can be found on Table 15-4. The county has a total of 1,811 acres of park land with 1,300 of that being in the Ben Geren Regional Park. According to Table 15-4, out of the 1,811 acres, Sebastian County has 79.44 acres of open space and 20.36 acres of wetlands.

<b>Table 15-1 Fort Smith Parks Department Facilities</b>					
<b>Parks</b>					<b>Trails</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>Riverfront</b>	<b>Downtown</b>	<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Walking/Biking</b>
Carol Ann Cross Park	Fort Smith Park	Cisterna Park	Anniversary Rose Garden	Harley A. Wilson park	Ben Geren Trail
Creekmore Park	Harry E. Kelley Park	Park at West End	Fort Smith Dog Park	Hillcrest Park	Chad Colley Trail
Martin Luther King Park	Riverfront Amphitheater	Ross Pendergraft Park	Kelly Park Ballfields	Riley Farm Park	Fort Chaffee West Trail
Tilles Park			Massard Prairie Battlefield	Spradling Park	Massard Road Trail
			Park at West End	Victory Park	Mill Creek Trail
			McClure Amphitheater	Woodlawn Park	Rice Carden Trail
			Ruth Armstrong		Sunnymede Trail
					Water Trail
					Fort Smith Bikeway

Source: Fort Smith Parks and Recreation

**Table 15-2 FORT SMITH PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
WORKLOAD/DEMAND STATISTICS**

	Actual FY11	BUDGET FY12	Actual FY12 thru November	BUDGET FY13
Flowerbed Square Footage	90,242	90,242	90,242	90,242
Median Flowerbeds Maintained	165	165	165	165
Median Square Footage	328,000	330,000	328,000	330,000
Medians Maintained	50	60	50	60
Street Easements Maintained - Miles	8	8	8	8
Trees Planted	239	120	51	25
Park Acres Maintained	273.21	273.21	273.21	273.21
Park Flowerbeds Maintained	90	90	90	90
Parks	25	25	25	25
Trails	2	2	2	2
Miles	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90
Train Revenue	\$11,046	\$11,500	\$9,412	\$11,500
Train Riders	44,184	46,000	37,648	46,000
Cemetery Spaces/Niches Sold	77	40	67	40
Cemetery Interments/Inurments/Scatterings	70	50	54	50
Cemetery Revenue	\$65,494	\$50,000	\$56,121	\$50,000
Community Center Bookings	1,065	900	1,086	900
Community Center Patrons	45,000	45,000	48,000	45,000
Community Center Revenue	\$24,495	\$35,000	\$20,594	\$35,000
Number of Community Centers	2	2	2	2
Aquatic Admissions	34,783	35,000	37,231	35,000
Aquatic days of operation	84	90	89	90
Aquatic Revenue	\$79,436	\$70,000	\$78,414	\$70,000
Red Cross Provider Revenue (Classes)			\$38,837	\$35,000
Number of Swimming Pools	1	1	1	1
Number of Wading Pools	3	3	3	3
Splashpad	1	1	1	1
Riverpark Bookings	570	500	459	500
Riverpark Patrons	42,000	40,000	35,000	40,000
Riverpark Revenue	\$43,470	\$50,000	\$37,059	\$50,000
Number of Facilities	3	3	3	3
Total Events	55	70	35	70
Total Events Patrons	85,000	60,000	15,000	60,000
Private Events	40	40	22	40
Private Event Patrons	35,000	40,000	14,500	40,000
Parks and Recreation Events	15	30	13	30
Parks and Recreation Events Patrons	50,000	20,000	14,000	20,000
The Park at West End Revenue	\$22,610	\$23,000	\$22,786	\$23,000

Source: Fort Smith Parks and Recreation

<b>Table 15-3 Sebastian County Parks</b>	
<b>Sebastian County Parks</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Ben Geren Park	1299.91*
East Sebastian County (Lavaca Park)	30
Boyer (Midland Park)	471.6
Buckner	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1811.51</b>

Source: Sebastian County Parks and Recreation

<b>Table 15-4 Sebastian County Parks Property Type/Acres</b>					
	<b>Ben Geren</b>	<b>East Sebastian County</b>	<b>Boyer</b>	<b>Buckner</b>	<b>Total</b>
Flood Plain	51.1	0	0	0	51.1
Open Space	48.8	2.64	23.7	4.3	79.44
Organized Rec Land	480.26	10.8	0.9	5.7	497.66
Forested	750.49	16.56	447	0	1214.05
Lakes/Wetlands	20.36	0	0	0	20.36
Conservation Easement	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1299.91</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>471.6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1811.51</b>

Source: Sebastian County Parks and Recreation

# Chapter 16

## Financial Conditions

## FINANCIAL CONDITIONS: INTRODUCTION

By December 1 of each year, the Fort Smith City Administrator is required to submit to the Mayor and Board of Directors a proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning the following January 1. The budget includes proposed expenditures/expenses and means of financing them. In addition, the budget includes city-wide goals as well as departmental objectives within those goals.

The city's General Fund operates under ten sources of revenue: Intergovernmental, Taxes and Assessments, Licenses and Permits, Court Fines and Forfeitures, Service Charges and Fees, Interest, Contributions, Bond Proceeds, Miscellaneous, and Transfers In.

This chapter highlights overall financial resources and includes a summary of revenues and expenditures for the period of FY2008 through FY2013.

## FINANCIAL CONDITIONS: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

The city of Fort Smith maintains strong bond ratings of AA on its sales tax bonds and A- on its water and sewer bonds. The city of Fort Smith's legal debt margin is established by state statute at 25 percent of total assessed property value. This debt limit applies to general obligation debt only; there is no limit on revenue bonds. In addition to the legal debt margin for general obligation bonds, the city has established a Revenue Debt Policy whereby annual payments should not exceed 25 percent of total operating revenue.

### Operating Funds

The city of Fort Smith administers four Operating Funds:

General Fund: Intergovernmental, Taxes and Assessments, Licenses and Permits, Court Fines and Forfeitures, Service Charges and Fees, Interest, Contributions, Bond Proceeds, Miscellaneous, and Transfers In

Street Maintenance Fund: Intergovernmental, Taxes and Assessments, Miscellaneous

Water and Sewer Operating Fund: Service Charges and Fees, Miscellaneous

Sanitation Operating Fund: Service Charges and Fees, Miscellaneous

## Revenues and Expenditures

Since 2008, the top source of General Fund revenues has been Taxes and Assessments, approximately \$72 million per year, except for 2012 when the city forecasted \$106 million in Bond Proceeds. The principal expenditure for the same period has been Operating Expenses.

<b>Table 16-1 Revenues, FY 2008 – FY 2013</b>						
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>Actual FY2008</b>	<b>Actual FY2009</b>	<b>Actual FY2010</b>	<b>Actual FY2011</b>	<b>Budget FY2012</b>	<b>Budget FY2013</b>
Intergovernmental	12,873,957	12,290,621	12,018,859	11,353,296	12,592,753	15,744,098
Taxes & Assessments	75,659,260	70,340,097	70,520,732	72,591,692	72,971,322	75,004,356
Licenses & Permits	1,844,407	1,377,109	1,343,739	1,628,157	1,370,000	1,475,000
Court Fines & Forfeitures	2,188,504	2,098,900	2,299,274	2,356,809	2,184,000	2,258,000
Service Charges & Fees	61,682,587	58,868,507	61,896,651	63,571,168	60,412,400	62,195,658
Interest	5,643,507	984,852	265,229	35,255	77,575	74,152
Contributions	3,928,504	1,514,870	1,342,500	1,345,283	1,584,010	2,408,770
Bond Proceeds	60,597,693	27,144,493	3,595,000	40,764	106,000,000	0
Miscellaneous	1,333,828	8,146,360	1,484,555	2,835,309	1,365,954	1,305,663
Transfers In	21,724,088	21,466,189	25,692,914	20,770,482	19,843,335	19,260,151
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>247,476,335</b>	<b>204,231,998</b>	<b>180,459,453</b>	<b>176,528,215</b>	<b>278,401,349</b>	<b>179,725,848</b>

Source: City of Fort Smith Department of Finance

<b>Table 16-2 Expenditures, FY 2008 – FY 2013</b>						
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>Actual FY2008</b>	<b>Actual FY2009</b>	<b>Actual FY2010</b>	<b>Actual FY2011</b>	<b>Budget FY2012</b>	<b>Budget FY2013</b>
Operating	96,897,943	98,039,855	99,324,458	94,876,836	98,968,908	110,104,611
Capital Improvements	62,765,389	83,885,920	71,975,918	55,059,959	66,661,252	107,700,223
Community Assistance	1,908,808	2,278,201	2,692,635	2,690,663	1,870,539	1,500,000
Debt Service	36,417,190	35,751,361	39,252,841	35,806,636	34,642,150	30,823,096
Pension Benefits/Retirement Contributions	4,601,114	5,579,958	6,203,014	6,388,626	6,445,200	7,679,820
Health Insurance & Workers' Comp. Claims	7,672,290	8,337,407	8,982,407	8,895,020	8,995,000	9,458,950
Other	4,123,983	5,347,600	3,477,184	3,722,186	3,885,920	4,179,370
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>214,386,717</b>	<b>239,220,302</b>	<b>231,908,457</b>	<b>207,436,926</b>	<b>221,468,969</b>	<b>271,446,070</b>

Source: City of Fort Smith Department of Finance

**Chapter 17**  
**Capital Improvements Program**

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM: INTRODUCTION

The city of Fort Smith has seven bond issues outstanding in 2013: Water and Sewer Revenue Construction Bonds-Series 2005B, Water and Sewer Revenue Construction Bonds-Series 2007, Water and Sewer Revenue Refunding and Construction Bonds-Series 2008, Water and Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds-Series 2011, Water and Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds-Series 2012, Parking Facilities Revenue Construction and Refunding Bonds-Series 1998, and Sales and Use Tax Refunding and Construction Bonds-Series 2012.

The Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds-Series 2005B, The Water Sewer Revenue Bonds-Series 2007, and the Water and Sewer Refunding and Construction Revenue Bonds-Series 2008 are collateralized by the operating revenue of the water and sewer utility system. The Series 2005B Water and Sewer Revenue Construction Bonds were issued to provide financing for water improvements in the southern areas of the city, extension of water service lines, construction of an elevated water tank, and painting of an elevated water tank.

The Series 2007 Bonds were issued to provide financing for new sewer pump stations, sewer extensions in the southern growth area of the city, Lake Fort Smith water treatment plant rehabilitation and expansion, Midland Boulevard water transmission line replacement, neighborhood water line replacements, new water transmission line from Lake Fort Smith to the city, water storage tank painting, Lee Creek water treatment plant instrumentation, and water transmission system metering. The Series 2008 Bonds were issued to advance refund the Series 2002A Bonds, to provide financing for sewer extensions in the growth areas of Fort Smith, Lake Fort Smith water treatment plant rehabilitation and expansion, neighborhood water line replacements, and the Howard Hill elevated storage tank. The Water and Sewer Operating Fund provides for the current year's debt service. If revenue in a particular year was estimated to be insufficient to provide for the operation of the system and current debt service, the rates of the system would be increased.

In November 2011, Fort Smith issued \$18.92 million in water and sewer revenue refunding bonds to refund the outstanding 2002B and 2002C water and sewer revenue refunding bonds. In January 2012, Fort Smith issued \$13.25 million in water and sewer revenue refunding bonds to refund the outstanding 2005A water and sewer revenue refunding bonds.

The Parking Facilities Revenue Bonds-Series 1998 were issued to refund the 1991 parking bonds and provide additional parking sites in downtown Fort Smith. Revenues generated by the parking deck rental spaces and parking meters are expected to cover the required debt service in 2013.

The Sales and Use Tax Bonds-Series 2012 are collateralized by the three-quarter (3/4%) local sales tax that was approved by voters on March 13, 2012. This sales tax authorization is an extension of the one percent (1%) sales tax that supported the 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2010 sales and use tax bonds. The remaining one quarter percent (1/4%) of the tax is allocated for fire and parks operations. The purposes of the bonds include: construction of a new fire station in

Chaffee Crossing, purchase of fire apparatus, repairs/improvements to existing fire stations, the construction of an aquatics park at Ben Geren Regional Park in a shared venture with Sebastian County, wastewater improvements, water improvements, and the refunding of the remaining 2006, 2008, and 2009 sales and use tax bonds.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM: SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

### Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Projects Funds

In August 2008, Fort Smith issued \$117.42 million in water and sewer refunding and construction revenue bonds to provide funding for the advance refund of the Series 2002A bonds, for sewer extensions in the growth areas of the city, Lake Fort Smith water treatment plant rehabilitation and expansion, replacement of neighborhood water lines, and the Howard Hill elevated water storage tank. The remaining proceeds from the 2008 Bonds on December 31, 2012 are estimated at \$2.5 million. These funds will be spent during 2013. Funding for additional projects for years 2013 through 2017 will be provided by annual transfers from the operating fund.

### Sales and Use Tax Bond Construction Funds

In September 2009, the city issued \$29.15 million in Sales and Use Tax Construction Bonds to provide additional sewer wet weather improvements. In January, 2010, the city issued \$3.595 million in Sales and Use Tax Construction Bonds that were remaining from the 2006 issue. The purpose of these bonds is for sewer wet weather improvements. These wet weather improvements are transferred from this fund to the Water and Sewer Operating Fund for capitalization purposes. At the end of 2011, approximately \$8.3 million of the 2009 bond proceeds and approximately \$2.1 million of the 2010 bond proceeds remained to be spent.

In 2012, voters approved an extension of the 1% Sales Tax, which split the tax into two parts with 0.75% for projects supported with bonds and 0.25% for the fire department and for parks and recreation. The projects supported by bonds will include more than \$71 million in wastewater wet weather sanitary sewer work to include \$58.5 million in relief sewer and capacity improvements and \$12.6 million collection system rehabilitation and reconstruction. The projects supported by bonds also include more than \$28 million in water system improvements, including \$17.9 million for the Lake Fort Smith water transmission line and \$10.2 million for Chaffee Crossing transmission lines and storage tank. In addition, the projects supported by bonds also include \$9.1 million in fire service improvements to include \$3.2 million for Fire Station #11, \$4.6 million for fire apparatus replacement and \$1.3 million for fire station renovations. Also included in the projects supported by bonds will be \$4.2 million for the Aquatic Center at Ben Geren Regional Park. The remaining 0.25% of the 1% sales tax will fund fire department improvements, as well as parks and recreation projects.

**Table 17-1 Summary of Debt Service Requirements by Purpose**

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>FY13 Principal and Interest</b>	<b>Principal/Interest Outstanding</b>	<b>Year of Retirement</b>	<b>Original Issue</b>
Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds-Series 2005B	834,795	8,556,637	2025	7,330,000
Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds-Series 2007	1,887,768	26,444,545	2027	24,470,000
Water and Sewer Refunding and Construction Revenue Bonds-Series 2008	6,920,179	192,495,516	2032	117,420,000
Water and Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds-Series 2011	1,812,073	18,103,337	2023	18,920,000
Water and Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds-Series 2012	2,146,200	12,893,700	2019	13,250,000
Parking Facilities Refunding and Improvement Revenue Bonds-Series 1998	138,390	422,630	2017	2,025,000
Sales and Use Tax Bonds- Series 2012	13,984,536	126,171,035	2012	110,660,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,723,941</b>	<b>385,087,400</b>		<b>294,075,000</b>

Source: City of Fort Smith 2013 Budget

**Table 17-2 CIP for the Water and Sewer Utilities**

<b>WATER PROJECTS</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Distribution System and Fire Protection Improvements	1,200,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Neighborhood Water System Improvements-Haven Hill	1,200,000				
24-Inch Water Transmission Line-Edwards Street	800,000				
Chaffee Crossing Water Transmission Treatment Design	80,000				
Riverfront Development-Water & Sewer-Marshals Museum	308,000				
Riverfront Drive Water & Sewer Extensions	1,575,000				
Lake Fort Smith 48-Inch Transmission Line Design	730,000	200,000			
Water Storage Tank Painting	165,000	165,000	165,000	165,000	165,000
<b>WATER PROJECTS TOTAL</b>	<b>6,058,000</b>	<b>1,865,000</b>	<b>1,665,000</b>	<b>1,665,000</b>	<b>1,665,000</b>
<b>WASTEWATER PROJECTS</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Chaffee Crossing Pump Station Improvements	921,700				
Program 5612 Sewer Const. Excavator Replacement	100,000				
<b>WASTEWATER PROJECTS TOTAL</b>	<b>1,021,700</b>				
<b>TOTAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIP</b>	<b>7,079,700</b>	<b>1,865,000</b>	<b>1,665,000</b>	<b>1,665,000</b>	<b>1,665,000</b>

Source: City of Fort Smith 2013 Budget

**Table 17-3 CIP for Sales & Use Tax Bond Construction Fund for 2013-2017 (Wastewater Projects)**

<b>WASTEWATER PROJECTS</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
South 62 <sup>nd</sup> Sanitary Sewer Improvements	1,450,000				
Sunnymeade Basin Neighborhood & Ramsey Tributary Sewer	200,000				
2011 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Phase 1	1,404,600				
Wastewater Pump Station Standby Power Equipment	500,000				
Basin 11-1 Sewer Improvements	1,805,000				
Neighborhood Sewer Improvements-Zero St.	2,300,000				
Wastewater Master Plan 2012	340,000				
Sunnymeade Interceptor	1,682,000				
Mill Creek Pump Station Wet Weather Improvements	5,735,000	8,515,000			
Zero St. Pump Station Wet Weather Improvements	11,065,000	8,309,000			
2011 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Phase 2	1,600,000	100,000			
Basin 9 Collection System Improvements	1,135,000	1,050,000			
Mill Creek Interceptor Phase 1	477,000	1,333,000	326,000		
Basin 17 Collection System Improvements	345,000	600,000	1,655,000		
"P" Street Interceptor	1,152,000	1,038,000	4,172,000		
Mill Creek Interceptor Phase 2	330,000	1,215,000	454,000		
Basin 15 Collections System Improvements	255,000	350,000	1,560,000	390,000	
Lift Stations 15,16,17 Replacements		765,000			
May Branch Interceptor Phase 1		629,000	2,751,000	1,671,000	
Basin 19 Collection System Improvements		380,000	615,000	1,560,000	
Tilles Park Interceptor			200,000		
Pump Station 19 Force Main Replacement			1,530,000		
4 <sup>th</sup> Street Interceptor			304,000	1,521,000	
20 <sup>th</sup> St. Interceptor Phase1			278,000	2,092,000	
Basin 19 Collections System Improvements			328,000	1,032,000	1,195,000
Basin 12 Collections System Improvements					510,000
May Branch Interceptor Phase 2					600,000
Zero St. Interceptor					40,000
20 <sup>th</sup> St. Interceptor Phase 2					40,000
12 <sup>th</sup> St. Interceptor					125,000
9 <sup>th</sup> St. Interceptor					400,000
<b>WASTEWATER TOTAL</b>	<b>31,776,100</b>	<b>24,284,000</b>	<b>14,173,000</b>	<b>8,266,000</b>	<b>2,910,000</b>

Source: City of Fort Smith 2013 Budget

**Table 17-4 CIP for Sales & Use Tax Bond Construction Fund for 2013-2017 (Water Projects)**

<b>WATER PROJECTS</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Chad Colley & Custer Blvd. Water Lines	900,000				
Chaffee Crossing Reservoir Pump Station	1,284,000				
Chaffee Crossing Geren Rd. 24-Inch Transmission Line	2,938,000				
Chaffee Crossing Massard 30-Inch Transmission Line	2,494,000				
Chaffee Crossing 2.5 Gallon Reservoir	1,537,300	250,000			
Lake Fort Smith 48-Inch Transmission Line	10,682,000	6,134,000			
<b>WATER TOTAL</b>	<b>19,835,300</b>	<b>6,384,000</b>			

Source: City of Fort Smith 2013 Budget

**Table 17-5 CIP for Sales & Use Tax Bond Construction Fund for 2013-2017 (Fire Department Projects)**

<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Fire Station #11 Construction	2,857,414				
Repair/renovations for Existing Stations	1,231,053				
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>4,088,467</b>				

Source: City of Fort Smith 2013 Budget

**Table 17-6 CIP for Sales & Use Tax Bond Construction Fund for 2013-2017 (Parks Projects)**

<b>PARKS PROJECTS</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Water Park at Ben Geren Park	3,035,866	925,000			
<b>PARKS TOTAL</b>	<b>3,035,866</b>	<b>925,000</b>			

Source: City of Fort Smith 2013 Budget

**Table 17-7 Parks and Recreation 5-Year CIP**

<b>PARKS AND RECREATION</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Neighborhood Parks		300,000		300,000	300,000
Trails & Greenways			700,000	1,000,000	1,500,000
Equipment	150,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Creekmore Tennis Court Repair				250,000	
Tilles Tennis Court-Resurface				25,000	
Softball Fields (2) Ben Geren	893,338	356,662			
Strategic Plan				100,000	
FSP Playground			100,000		
FSP Parking & Fishing Pavilion			200,000		
Wilson Park-Playground & Pavilion				100,000	
River Valley Sports Complex	1,400,000	200,000			
Cisterna Plaza Improvements	50,000				
Soccer Fields & Park-Riverfront Dr.		1,000,000	1,000,000		
Creekmore Park Land Acquisition & Parking			150,000		
Shade Structures				75,000	
Glass Pavilion				100,000	
Kelley Stage & River Park Amphitheater				75,000	
<b>PARKS AND RECREATION TOTAL</b>	<b>2,493,338</b>	<b>1,956,662</b>	<b>2,250,000</b>	<b>2,125,000</b>	<b>1,900,000</b>

Source: City of Fort Smith 2013 Budget

Maps



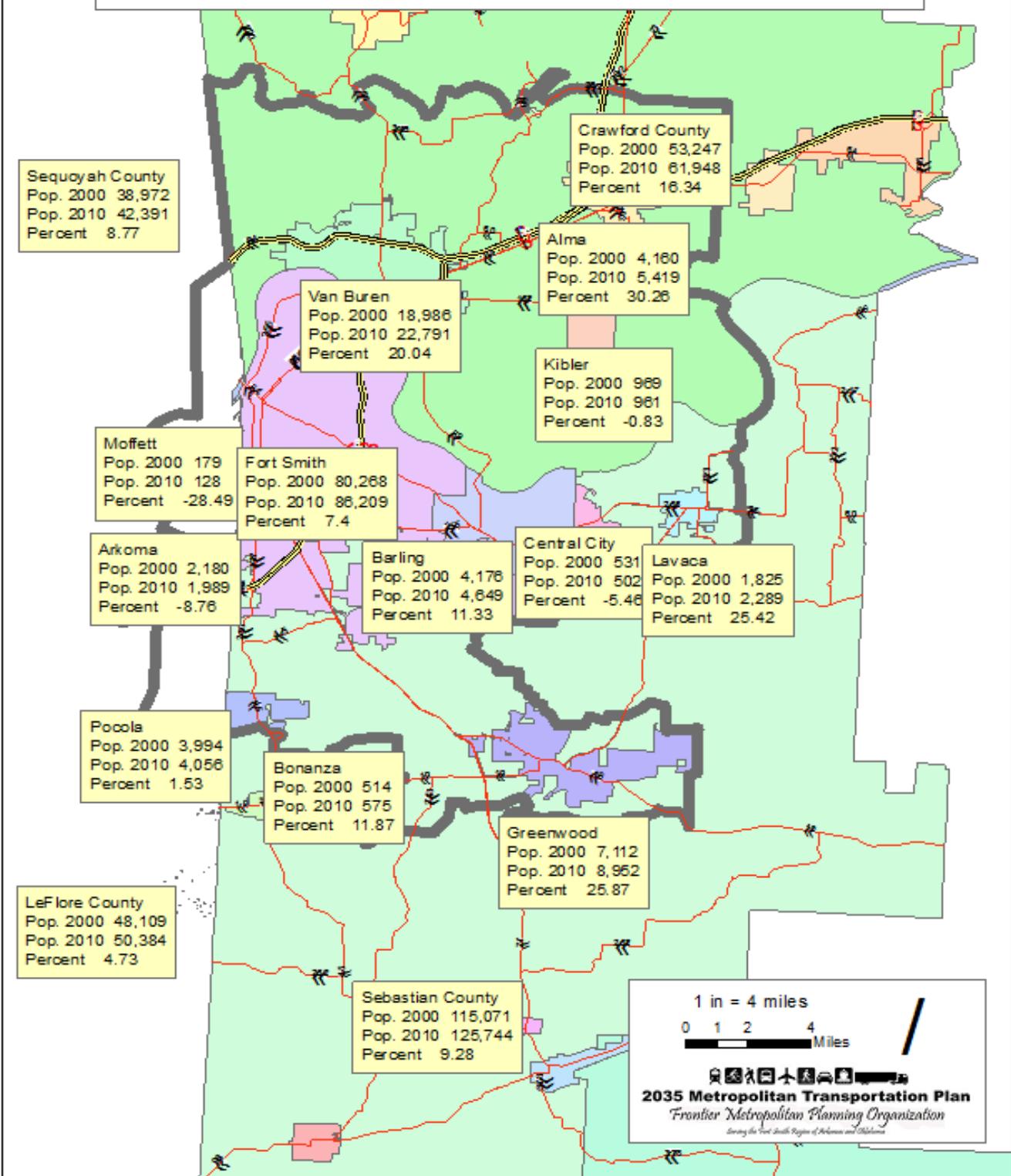
## Fort Smith MSA Region Map

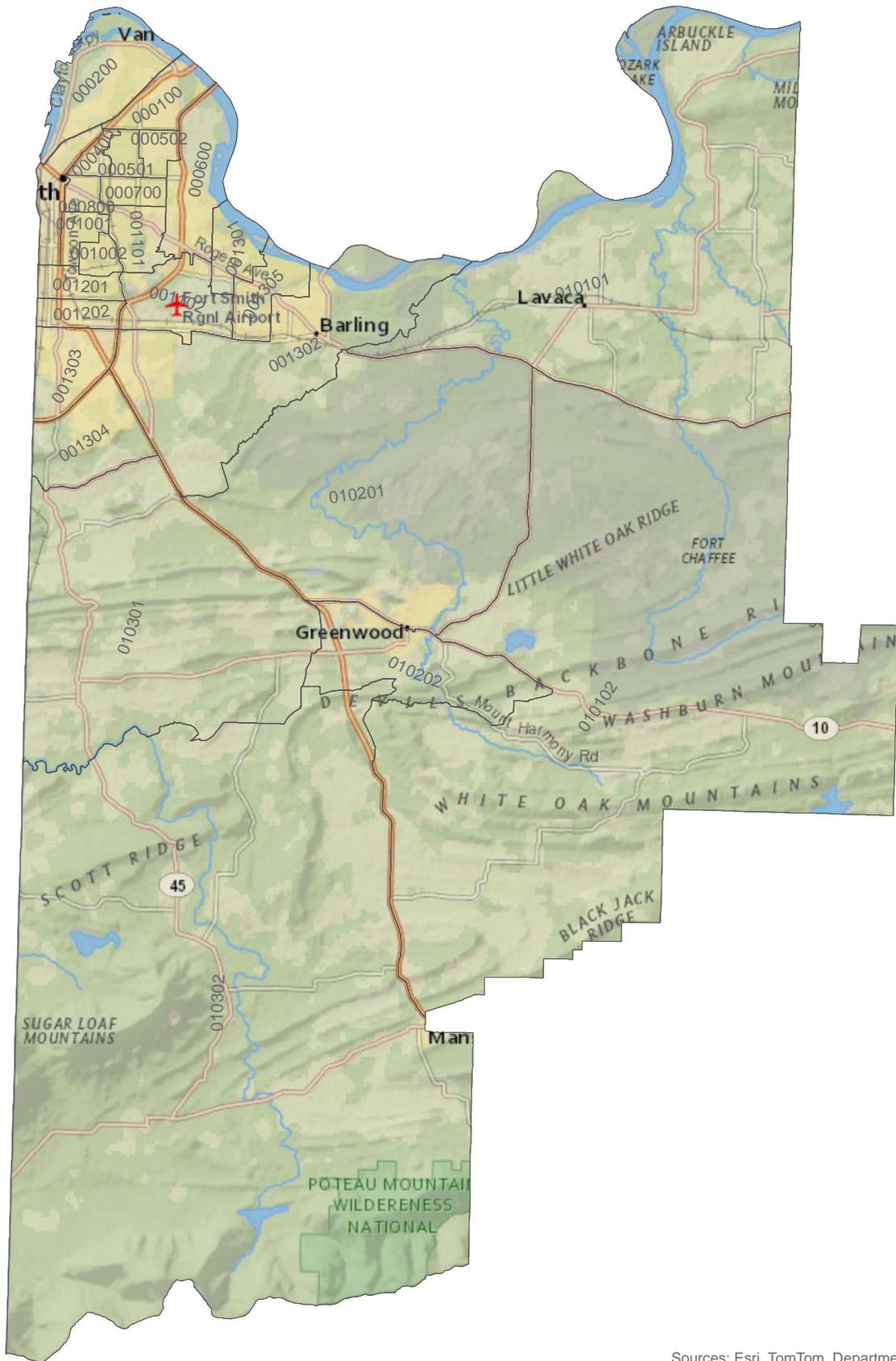
Crawford, Sebastian & Franklin County Arkansas  
 Leflore & Sequoyah County Oklahoma



1 in = 16.83 miles  
 0 4.5 9 18 Miles

# Population - 2000, 2010, Percent Change



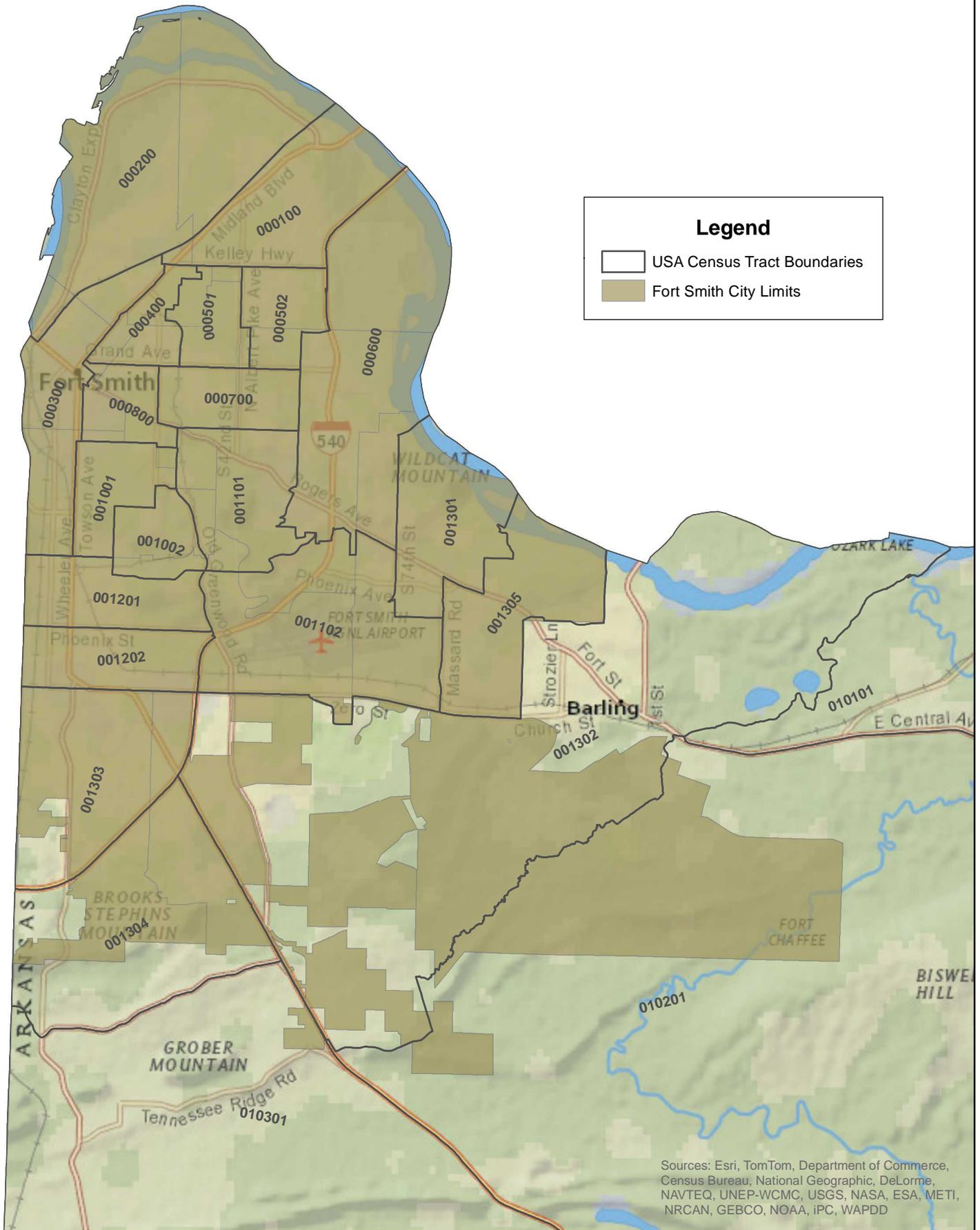


Sources: Esri, TomTom, Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, National Geographic, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC, WAPDD

# 2010 Census Tracts Sebastian County, Arkansas

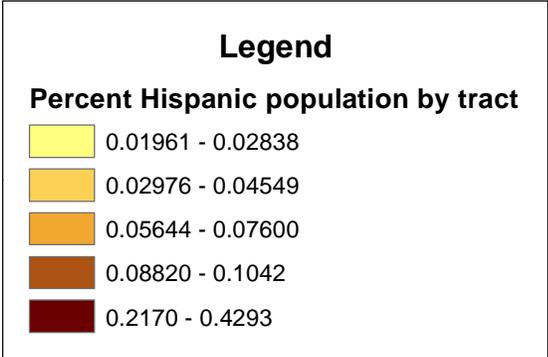
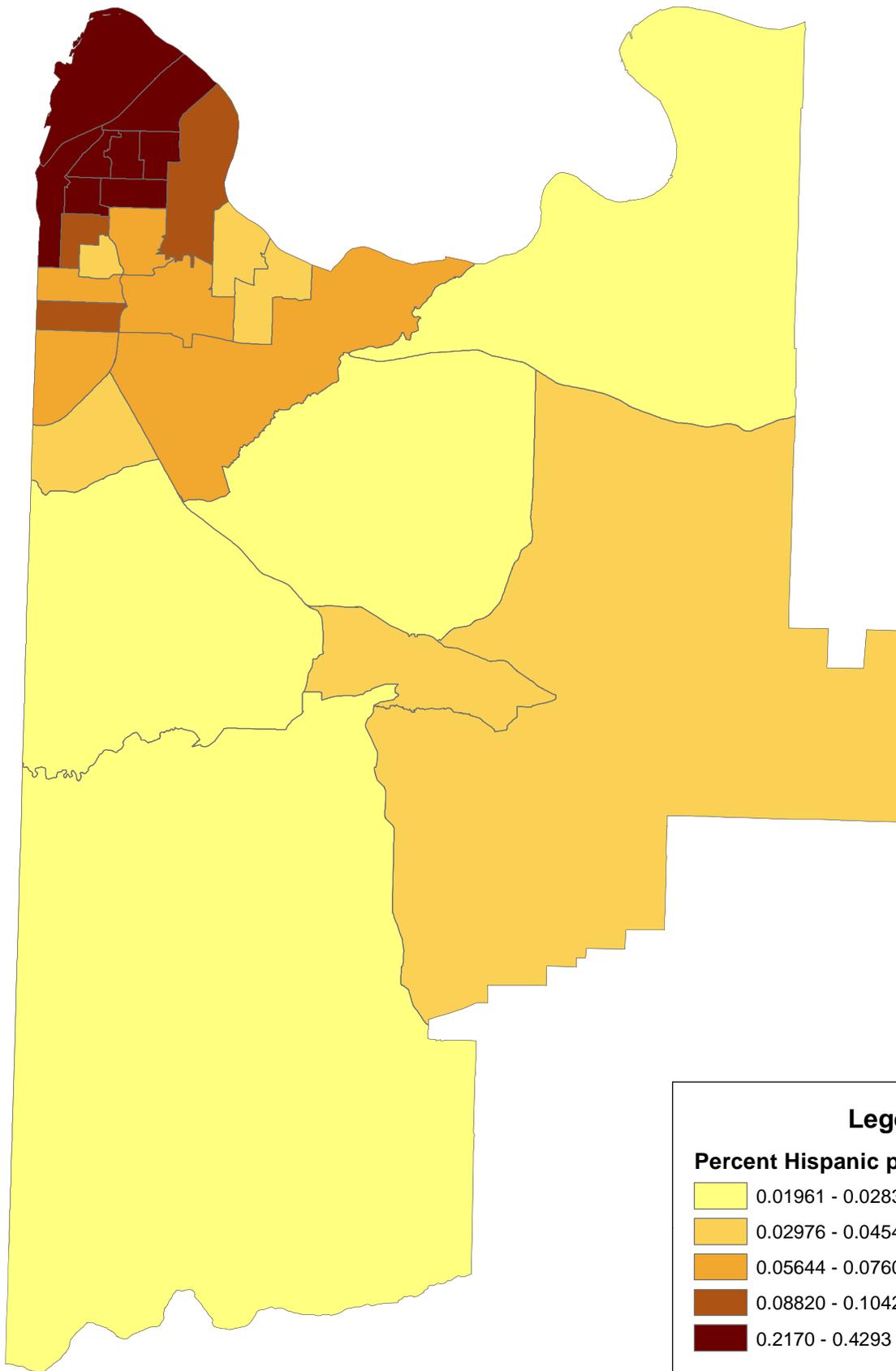
1 in = 5 miles  
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles





2010 Census Tracts Fort Smith  
Sebastian County, Arkansas

1 in = 2 miles  
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

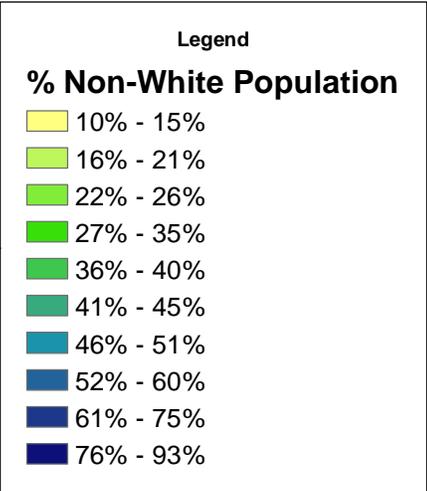
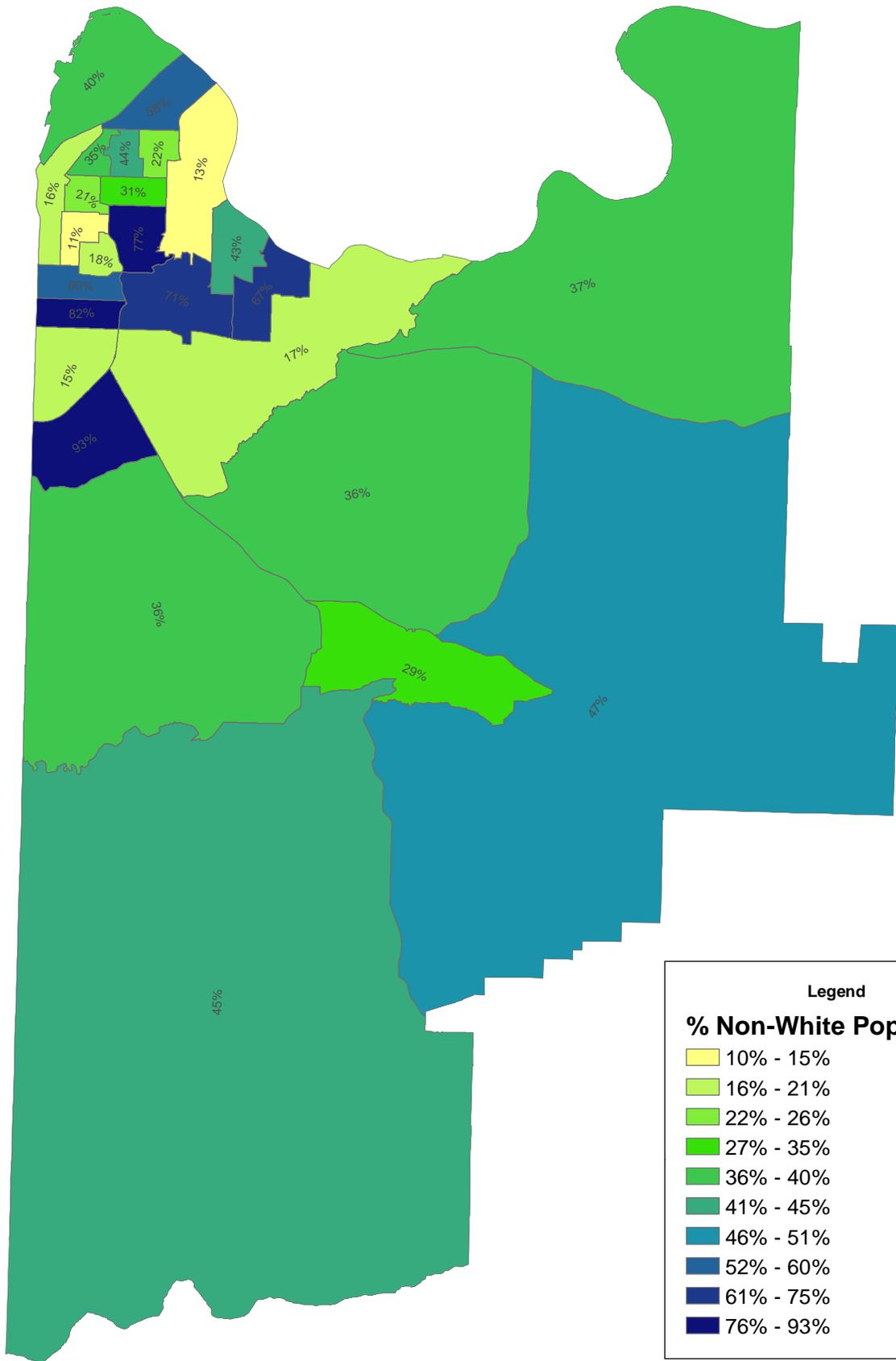


Sources: US Census Bureau 5 year ACS 2011

**Percentage of Hispanic Population  
Sebastian County, Arkansas**

1 in = 5 miles  
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



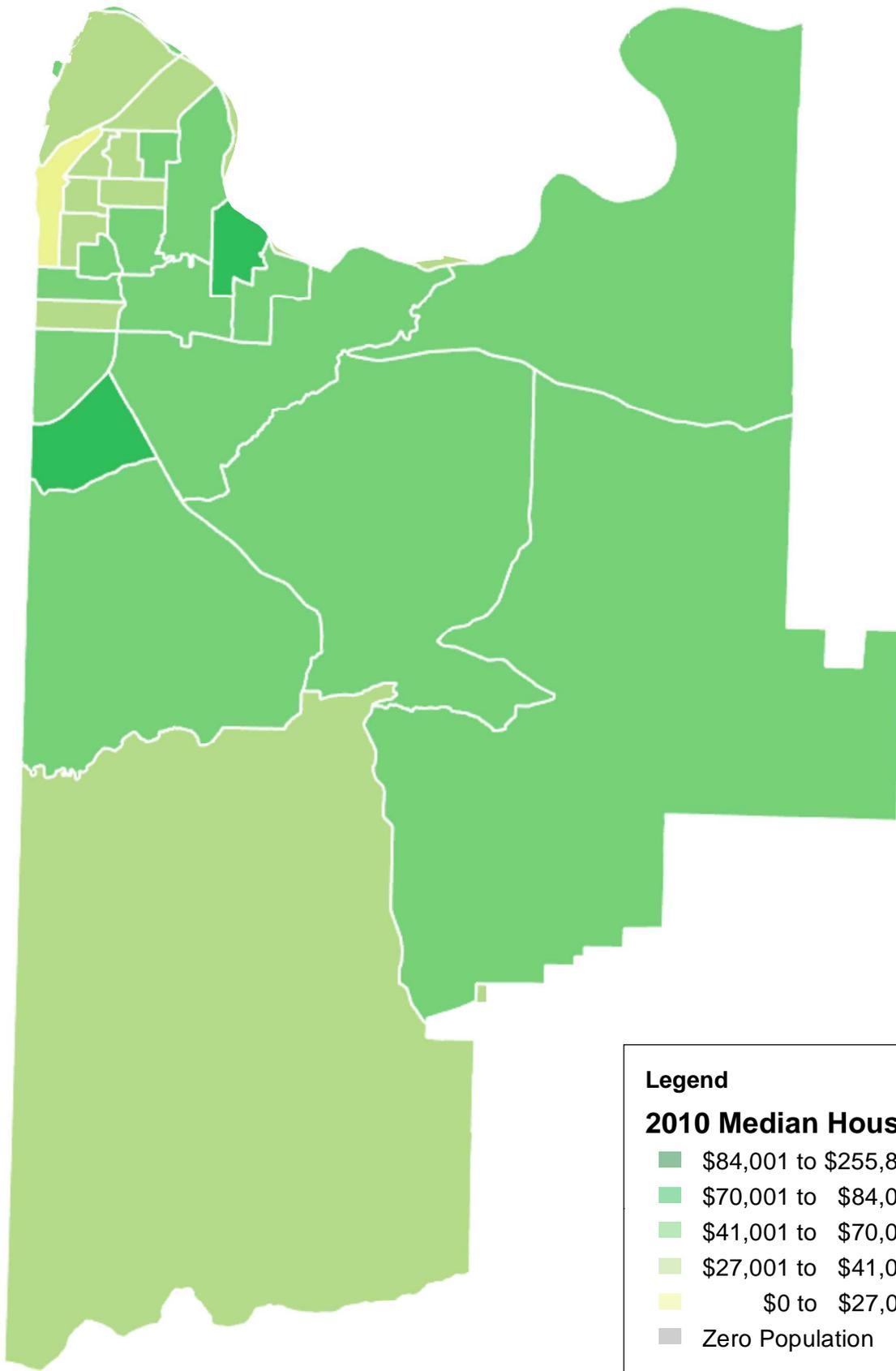


Sources: US Census Bureau 5 year ACS



Percentage Non-White Population by Census Tract  
Sebastian County, Arkansas

1 in = 5 miles  
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



**Legend**

**2010 Median Household Income**

- \$84,001 to \$255,862
- \$70,001 to \$84,000
- \$41,001 to \$70,000 (Mean: \$55,148)
- \$27,001 to \$41,000
- \$0 to \$27,000
- Zero Population

Sources: US Census Bureau

**Median Household Income by Census Tract  
Sebastian County, Arkansas**

1 in = 5 miles  
 0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

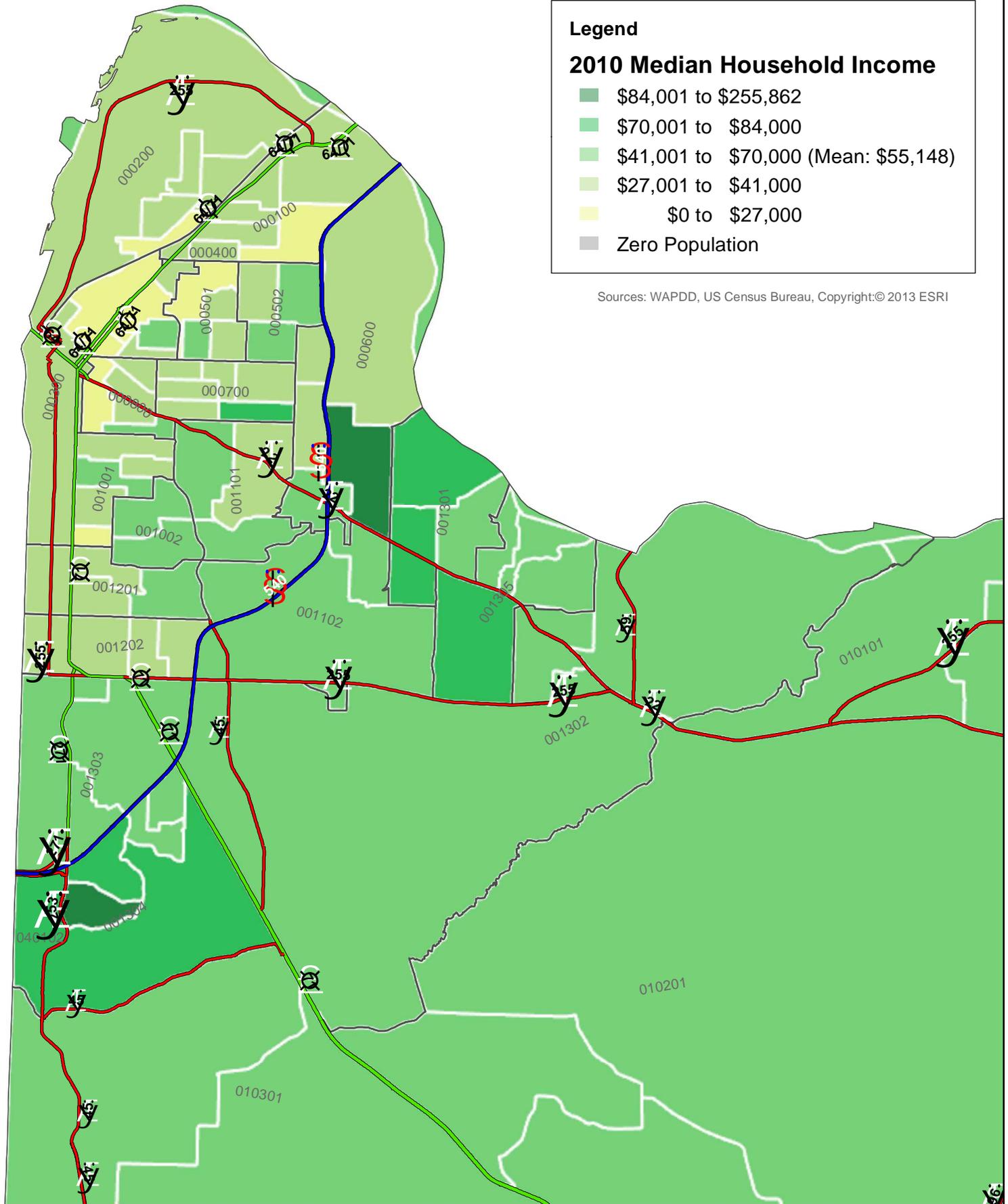


**Legend**

**2010 Median Household Income**

- \$84,001 to \$255,862
- \$70,001 to \$84,000
- \$41,001 to \$70,000 (Mean: \$55,148)
- \$27,001 to \$41,000
- \$0 to \$27,000
- Zero Population

Sources: WAPDD, US Census Bureau, Copyright:© 2013 ESRI



**Median Household Income by Census Tract 2010**  
**Sebastian County, Arkansas**

1 in = 2 miles

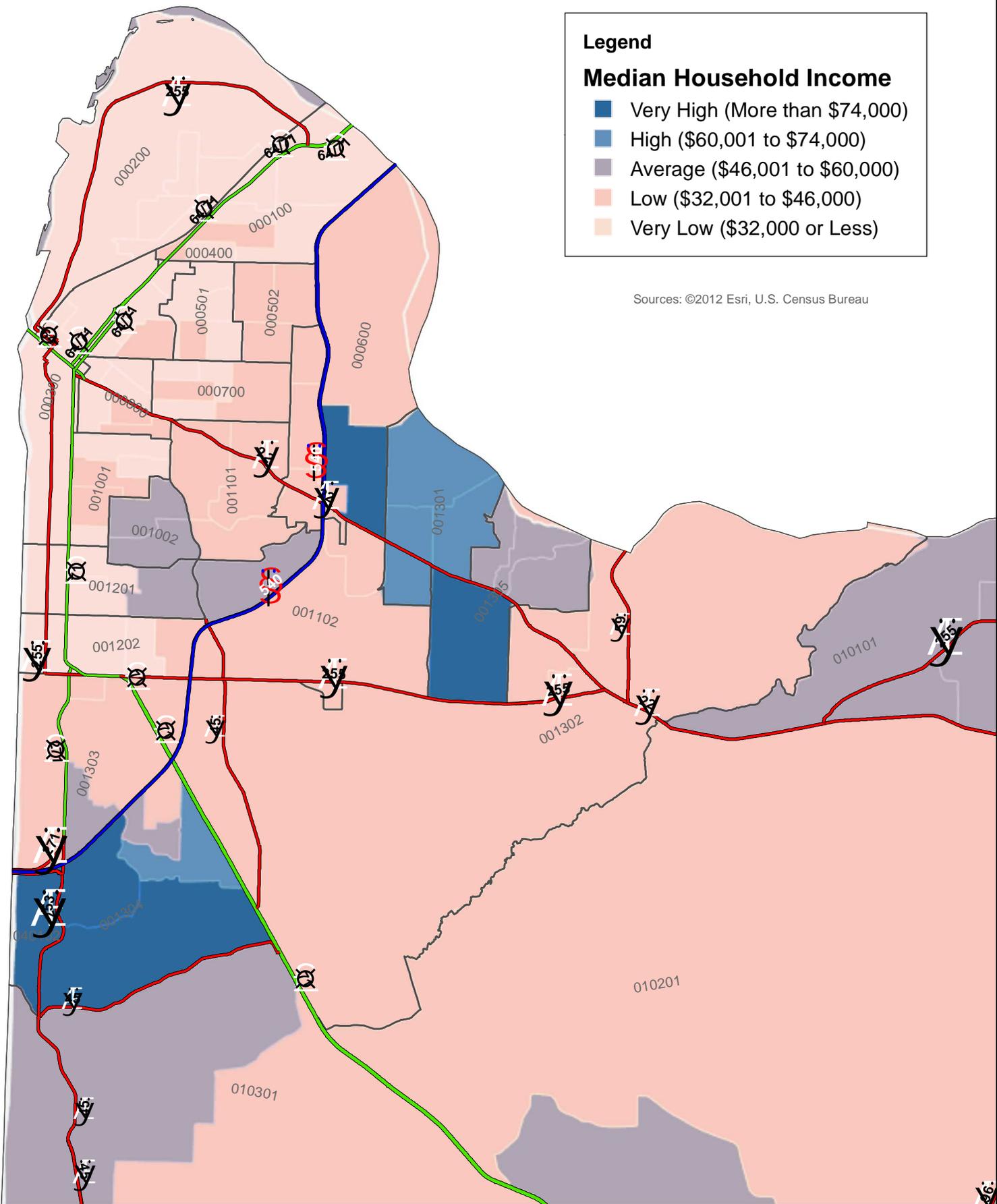


**Legend**

**Median Household Income**

- Very High (More than \$74,000)
- High (\$60,001 to \$74,000)
- Average (\$46,001 to \$60,000)
- Low (\$32,001 to \$46,000)
- Very Low (\$32,000 or Less)

Sources: ©2012 Esri, U.S. Census Bureau



**Median Household Income by Census Tract 2011**  
**Sebastian County, Arkansas**

1 in = 2 miles



# City of Fort Smith Zoning



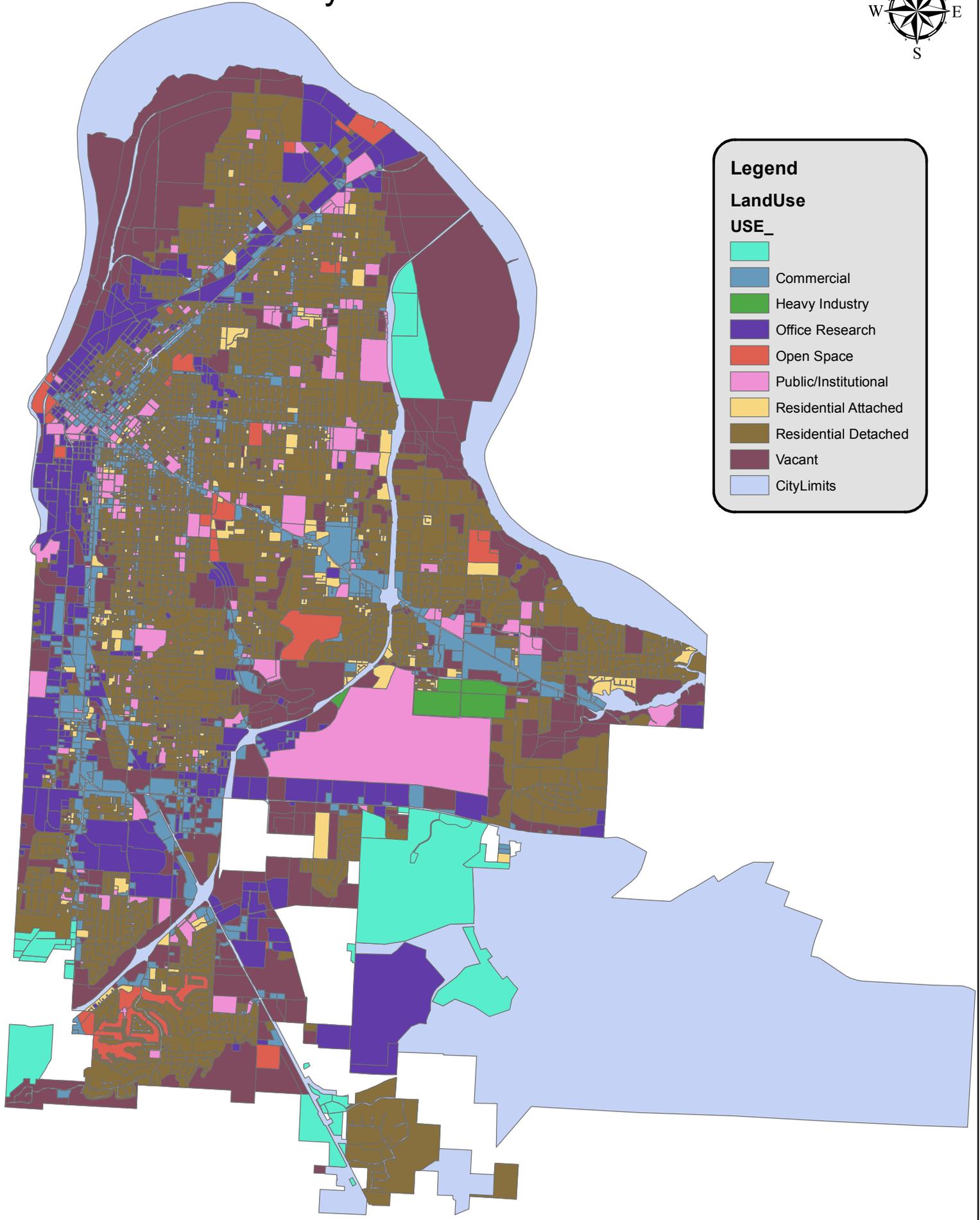
**Legend**

**Fort Smith Zoning**

C-1	ETJ I-1 SPL	RM-4 SPL
C-1 SPL	ETJ I-2	RMD
C-2	ETJ I-2 SPL	RMD SPL
C-2 SPL	ETJ Industrial Light	RS-1
C-3	ETJ O-1	RS-1 SPL
C-3 SPL	ETJ Open 1	RS-2
C-4	I-1	RS-2 SPL
C-4 SPL	I-1 SPL	RS-3
C-5	I-2	RS-3 SPL
C-5 SPL	I-2 SPL	RS-4
C-6	I-3	RS-4 SPL
CEMU	I-3 SPL	RS-5
ETJ C-1	NZ	RS-5 SPL
ETJ C-3	RE-1	RSD-2
ETJ C-3-SPL	RH	RSD-3
ETJ I-1	RM-2	RSD-3 SPL
ETJ I-1 SPL	RM-2 SPL	RSD-4
ETJ I-1-SPL	RM-3	T
	RM-3 SPL	T SPL
	RM-4	City Limit Boundary



# City of Fort Smith Land Use

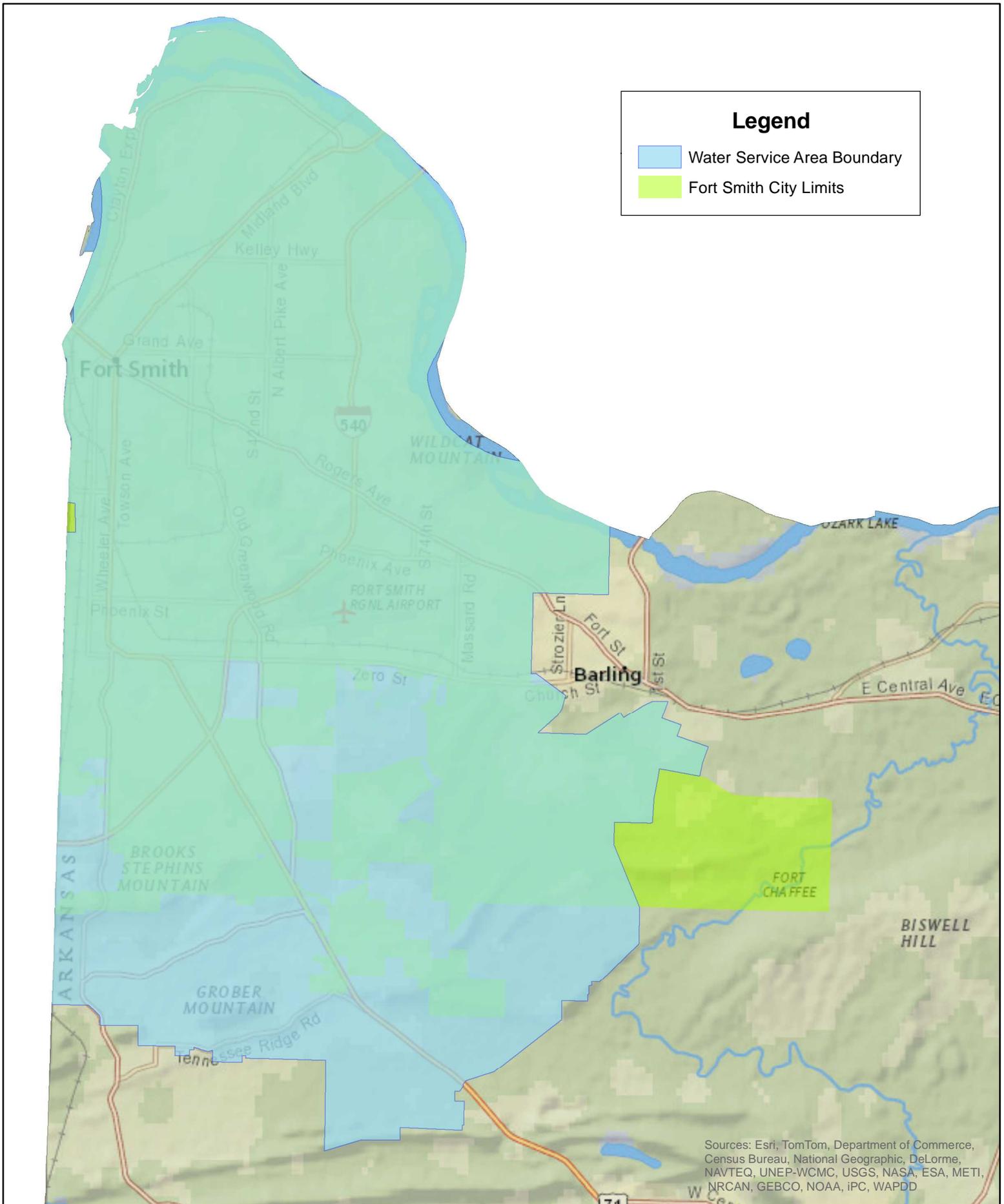


**Legend**

**LandUse**

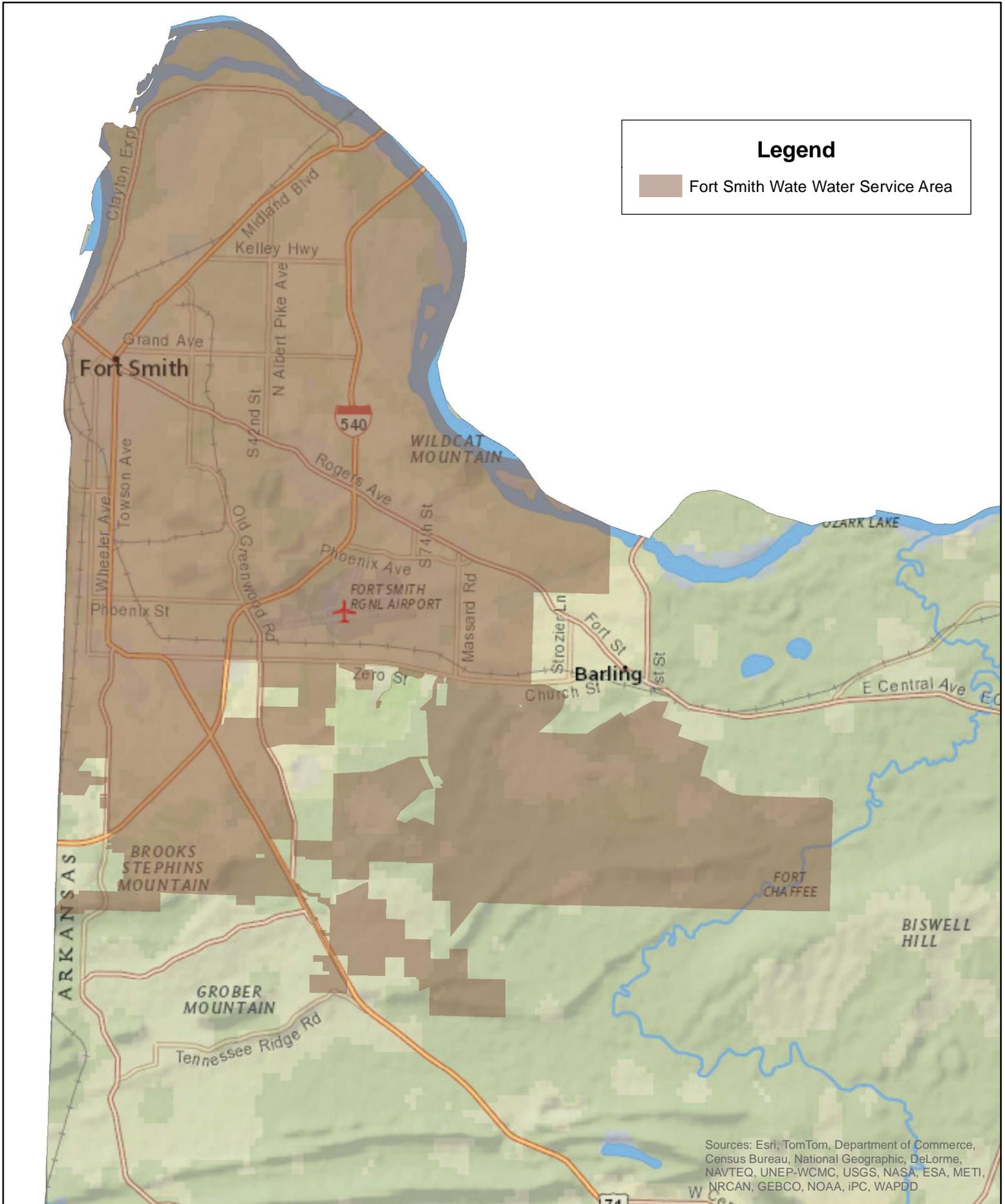
**USE\_**

- Commercial
- Heavy Industry
- Office Research
- Open Space
- Public/Institutional
- Residential Attached
- Residential Detached
- Vacant
- CityLimits



**Fort Smith Water Service Area**  
**Sebastian County, Arkansas**

1 in = 2 miles  
 0 0.5 1 2 Miles



**Fort Smith Waste Water Service Area  
Sebastian County, Arkansas**

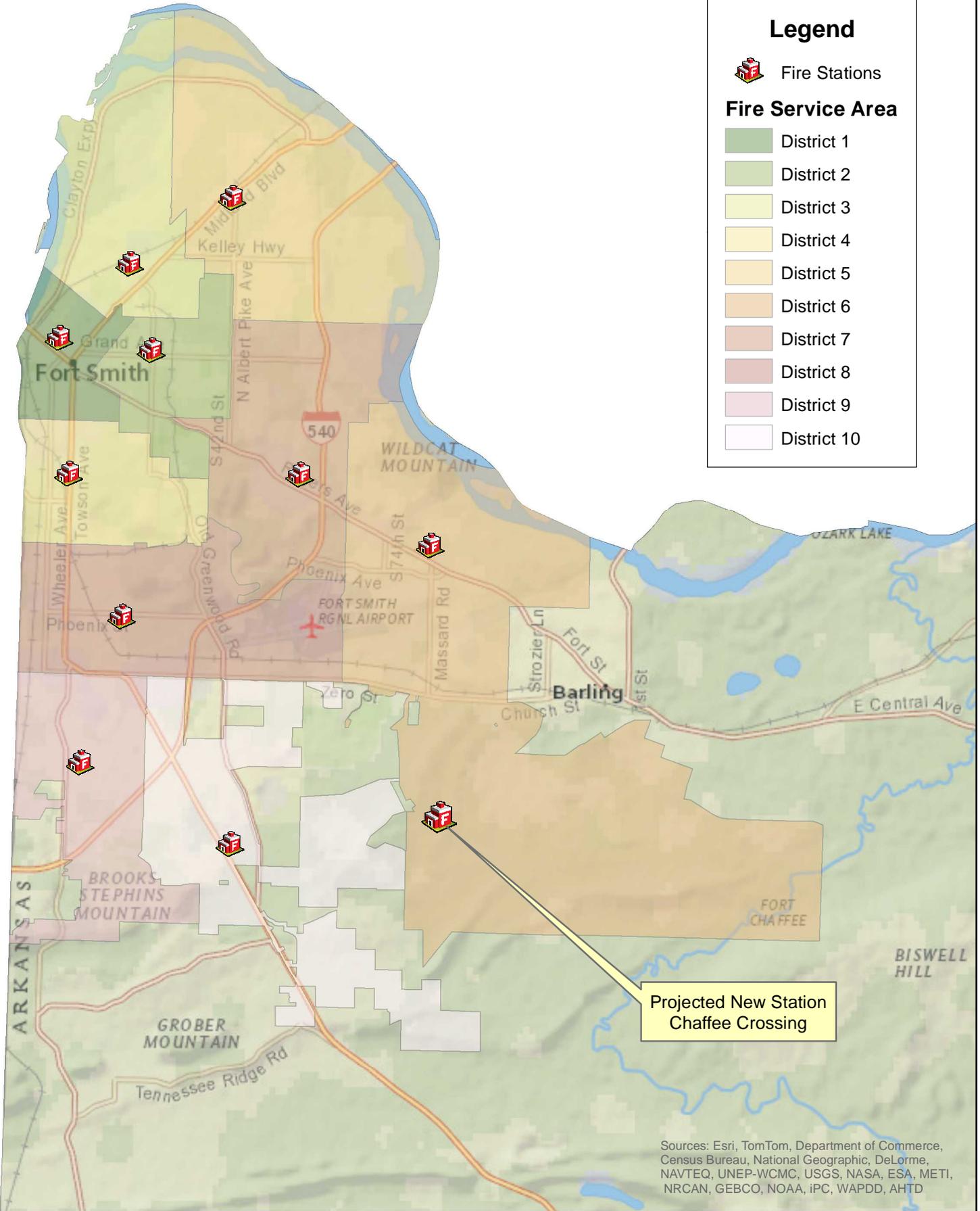
1 in = 2 miles  
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# Legend

 Fire Stations

## Fire Service Area

-  District 1
-  District 2
-  District 3
-  District 4
-  District 5
-  District 6
-  District 7
-  District 8
-  District 9
-  District 10



Projected New Station  
Chaffee Crossing

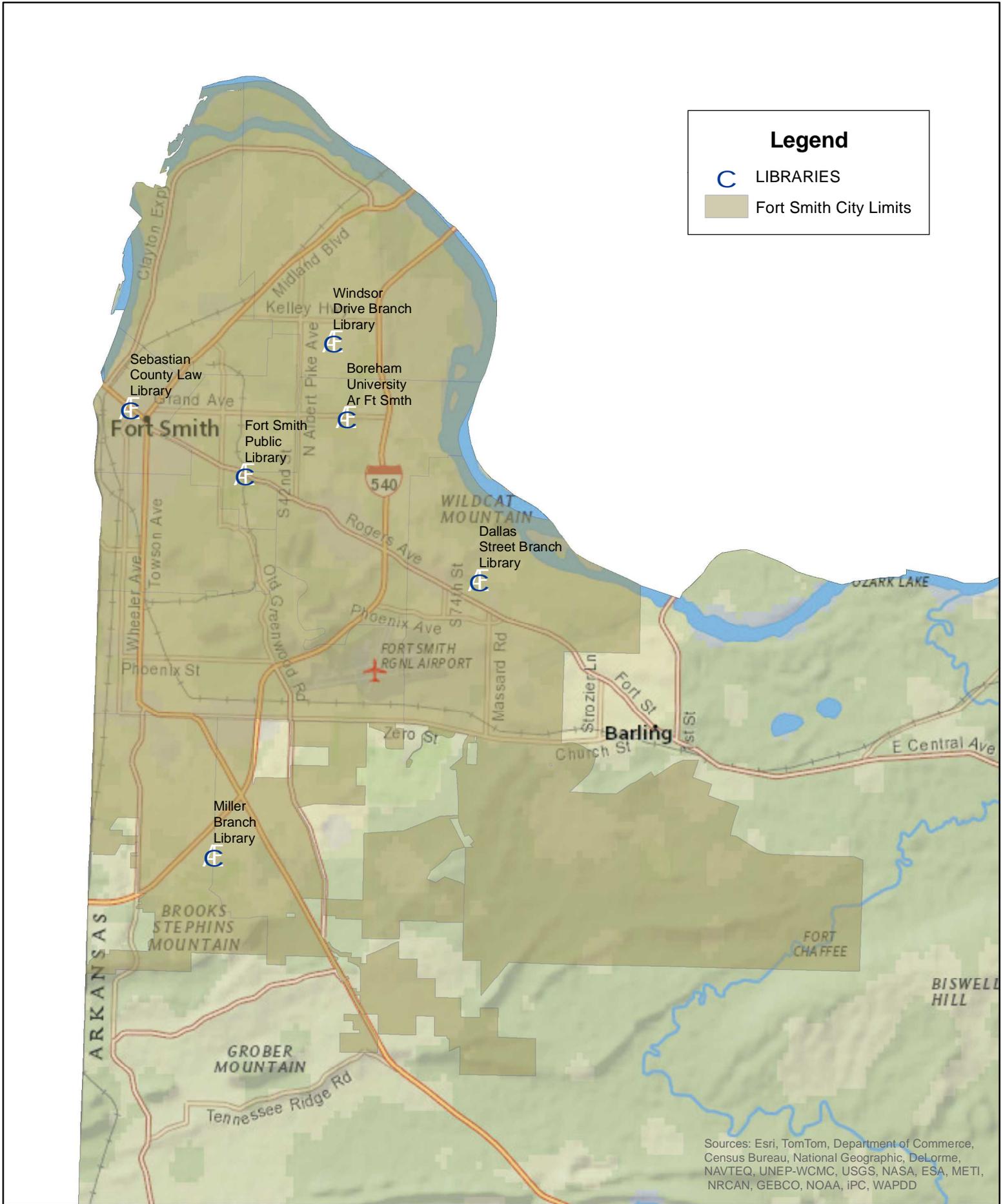
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, National Geographic, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC, WAPDD, AHTD

## ISO Class 2 Coverage, Existing & Projected Fire Stations Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas

1 in = 2 miles  
0 0.5 1 2 Miles







**Legend**

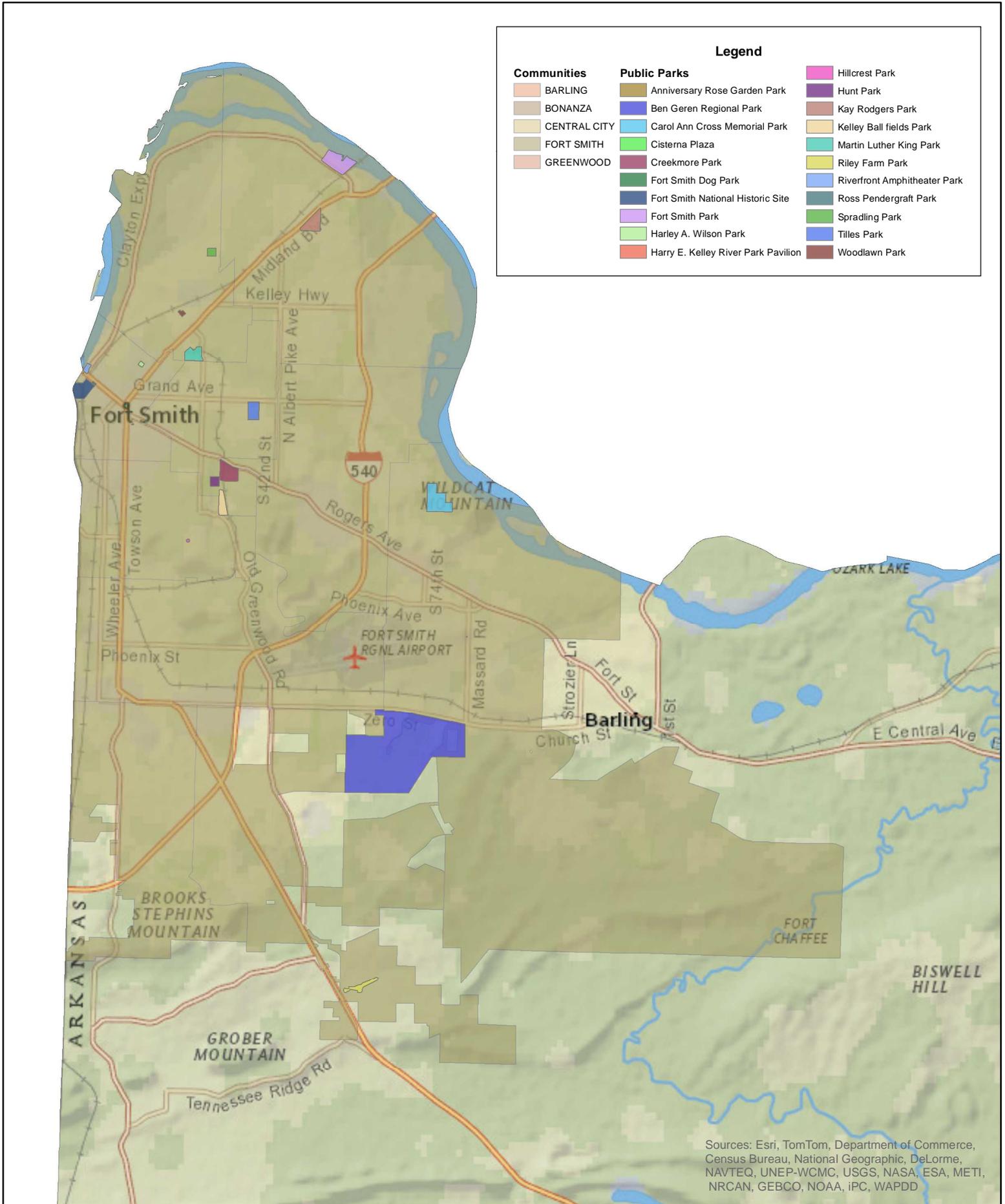
- C LIBRARIES
- Fort Smith City Limits

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, National Geographic, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC, WAPDD

**Fort Smith Libraries**  
**Sebastian County, Arkansas**

1 in = 2 miles

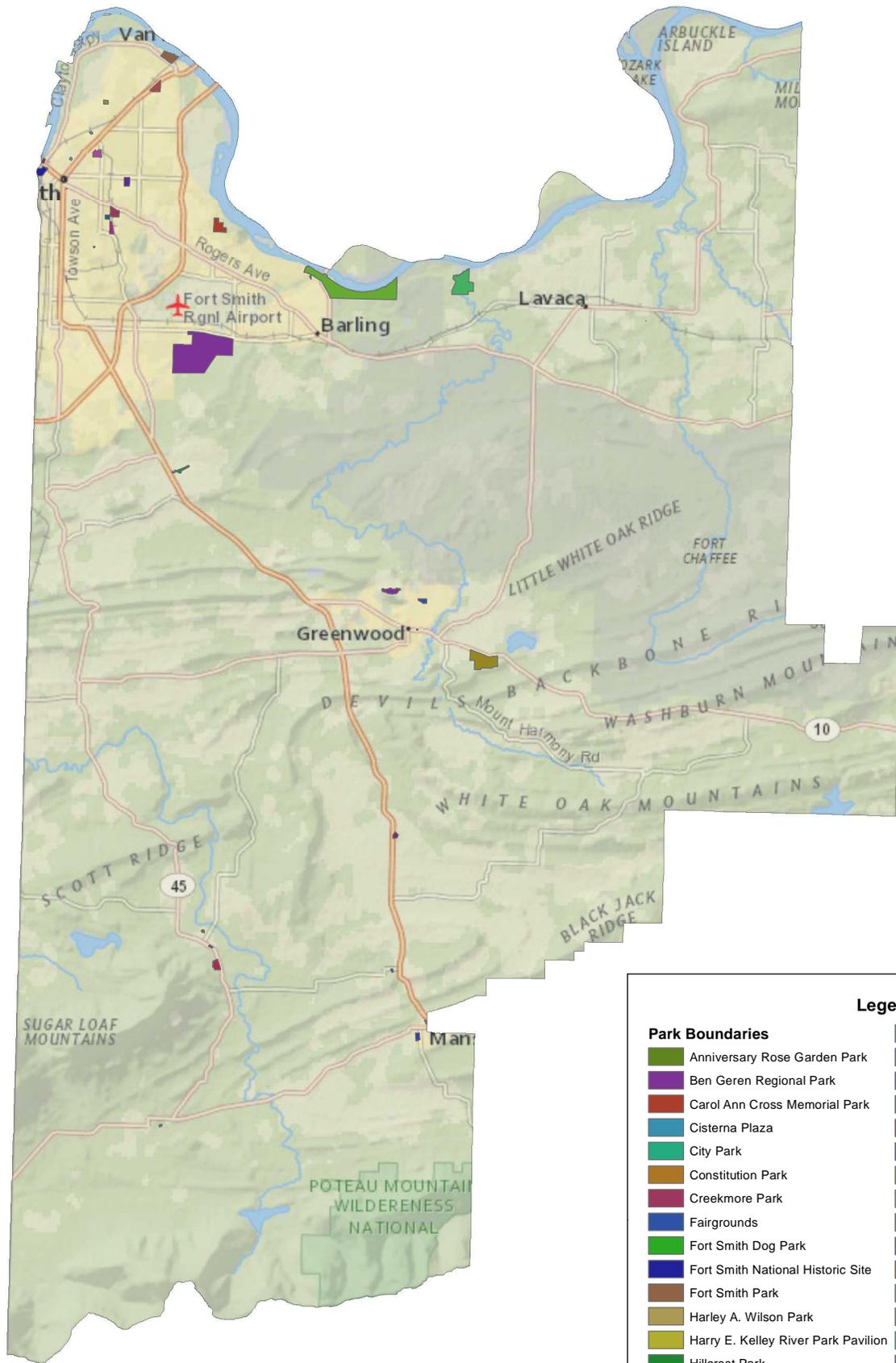
Miles



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, National Geographic, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC, WAPDD

# Fort Smith Parks & Recreation Areas Sebastian County, Arkansas

1 in = 2 miles  
0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, National Geographic, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC, WAPDD, AHTD

Legend	
<b>Park Boundaries</b>	
Anniversary Rose Garden Park	Lavaca City Park
Ben Geren Regional Park	Martin Luther King Park
Carol Ann Cross Memorial Park	Park
Cisterna Plaza	Riley Farm Park
City Park	Riverfront Amphitheater Park
Constitution Park	Ross Pendergraft Park
Creekmore Park	Spradling Park
Fairgrounds	Springhill Park
Fort Smith Dog Park	Sugarloaf Baseball Assoc. Park
Fort Smith National Historic Site	Tilles Park
Fort Smith Park	Townsquare Memorial Park
Harley A. Wilson Park	Vache Grasse Park
Harry E. Kelley River Park Pavilion	Vache Grasse Rec Area
Hillcrest Park	Woodlawn Park
Hunt Park	River Ridge Park
Kay Rodgers Park	Buckner Park
Kelley Ball fields Park	East Sebastian County Ball fields
	Midland Municipal Park

# Sebastian County Parks & Recreational Areas

## Sebastian County, Arkansas

1 in = 5 miles  
 0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

