



# COMMUNITY FACILITIES

## 8.1 - INTRODUCTION

The term Community Facilities covers a broad range of facilities and activities that deal with places of public assembly. This category includes all government activities such as city, county, state, federal and public schools. Plus the private section of the community that have places of assembly or are open to the general public and are operated by private enterprise for the benefit of the community, such as, churches, private schools, fraternal or social organizations and hospitals. This category does not include the parks and recreation classification, which is outlined in greater detail in Chapter 10, but it does discuss the need for community buildings, such as, the Sermon Community Center.

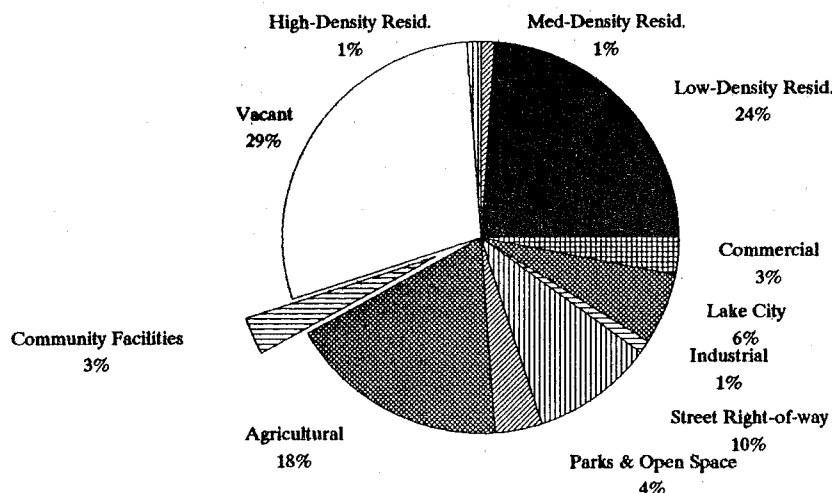
The demand for more and varied commu-

nity facilities and services increases as the City expands, population grows, old facilities become outmoded, and living standards and public expectations rise. A service or facility that was adequate a few years ago may be outgrown or inadequate due to the change of population and demands for that type of service. Figure 8.11 illustrates the percentage of each land use category and that the Community Facilities classification represents 3 percent of the total city area. Educational facilities, cemeteries, and religious organizations make up a large portion of this land area.

Table 8.11, on page 8-2, indicates the distribution of land use for community facilities at the present time by neighborhood planning district. There are 1,435 acres of land use in connection with these different types of facilities. The principal ones are referred to in the following text.

Figure 8.11

Distribution of Land Uses, April 1990, Independence Missouri



**Table 8.11**

**Distribution of Land Use by Neighborhood Planning District**

Land use in Acres												
Planning District	Low Density	Medium Density	High Density	Commercial	Community Facilities	Industrial	Lake City	Open Space	Vacant	Agricultural	Street R-O-W	TOTAL
1	180.61	0.00	0.00	2.06	5.42	6.99	0.00	20.31	392.49	0.00	198.66	807
2	156.63	0.00	11.36	5.83	0.00	6.39	0.00	147.36	47.69	0.00	111.27	487
3	711.27	6.54	5.61	23.93	22.48	4.85	0.00	31.90	29.12	0.00	169.23	1005
4	82.27	2.29	2.16	41.20	7.40	10.01	0.00	5.93	21.12	0.00	26.15	199
5	199.79	12.33	1.27	6.76	14.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.58	0.00	64.11	301
6	229.00	0.63	2.83	16.15	21.50	0.37	0.00	103.86	41.47	0.00	134.73	551
7	282.69	2.25	1.61	14.12	4.08	1.11	0.00	15.01	43.23	0.00	84.03	448
8	145.74	0.60	3.44	51.09	7.13	0.22	0.00	0.00	28.78	0.00	51.14	288
9	144.00	10.59	8.10	27.51	11.56	5.96	0.00	20.56	101.95	0.00	156.29	487
10	341.65	38.66	17.98	85.12	16.03	6.58	0.00	0.64	58.05	0.00	113.84	679
11	293.19	24.71	7.20	31.84	17.27	0.00	0.00	6.48	76.81	0.00	195.42	653
12	250.54	0.00	0.00	0.72	9.70	0.00	0.00	8.28	12.75	0.00	63.74	346
13	211.58	0.00	0.00	2.86	45.45	3.73	0.00	0.00	423.73	0.00	87.19	775
14	256.06	19.92	6.13	21.68	126.66	3.15	0.00	35.71	193.31	0.00	143.91	807
15	113.09	12.26	2.99	13.70	35.37	0.87	0.00	22.20	11.68	0.00	18.36	231
16	152.73	20.77	3.33	34.20	157.33	45.58	0.00	22.43	44.44	0.00	56.93	538
17	409.30	2.90	0.00	48.03	17.97	51.00	0.00	64.00	184.62	0.00	99.00	877
18	273.05	7.30	9.04	44.74	15.08	3.14	0.00	0.00	25.58	0.00	76.59	455
19	149.01	0.00	10.40	158.59	0.00	4.22	0.00	0.00	22.49	0.00	141.82	487
20	203.83	0.56	10.03	16.16	1.24	0.96	0.00	0.98	42.42	0.00	69.55	346
21	271.56	0.75	0.00	161.78	0.00	7.28	0.00	0.00	449.51	0.00	171.66	1063
22	129.30	3.82	18.07	33.12	0.00	14.51	0.00	11.54	28.61	0.00	49.16	288
23	473.10	29.22	19.34	22.23	49.50	9.70	0.00	15.00	39.11	0.00	46.80	704
24	403.16	6.56	2.00	42.90	306.20	0.50	0.00	0.00	119.46	0.00	117.76	999
25	498.84	0.99	3.03	65.61	59.30	5.29	0.00	7.07	47.13	0.00	144.87	832
26	1195.28	15.06	60.42	137.33	28.89	0.00	0.00	81.65	23.72	0.00	224.18	1767
27	265.22	2.31	11.95	21.88	8.02	34.56	0.00	21.35	345.63	0.00	127.61	839
28	168.55	3.19	3.76	27.95	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	74.15	0.00	41.52	320
29	451.56	11.90	51.57	48.24	53.61	0.00	0.00	104.50	103.04	0.00	110.11	935
30	201.67	4.37	29.50	10.36	21.82	1.81	0.00	3.46	274.33	0.00	137.62	685
31	441.46	35.53	46.83	30.62	1.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	325.50	0.00	84.89	967
32	110.64	0.00	8.50	32.89	6.78	0.71	0.00	0.00	319.28	0.00	33.34	512
33	40.34	0.00	0.00	16.85	0.00	1.53	0.00	0.00	83.36	0.00	18.04	160
34	210.76	7.50	60.62	31.60	21.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	187.30	0.00	62.89	583
35	242.50	0.00	0.00	0.21	17.65	0.00	0.00	6.14	45.41	0.00	27.42	339
36	253.80	8.57	39.37	6.68	8.83	47.58	0.00	252.35	1116.01	1928.54	184.81	3847
37	178.49	1.52	33.56	5.59	20.57	25.60	0.00	132.53	442.62	55.24	173.21	1069
38	456.36	13.49	0.54	26.26	30.65	104.17	0.00	260.96	1260.52	1065.21	148.37	3367
39	4.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	164.97	0.00	0.00	349.84	260.94	38.23	819
40	165.29	3.97	5.06	0.00	6.53	5.12	0.00	0.00	83.25	0.00	6.11	275
41	187.46	14.84	1.15	7.96	0.34	0.00	0.00	27.67	87.85	0.00	50.27	378
42	218.07	1.54	0.00	2.38	6.87	0.00	0.00	3.85	28.80	0.00	90.62	352
43	33.48	15.47	0.00	12.21	1.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	420.84	0.00	79.62	563
44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	103.64	557.68	33.50	162.46	858
45	13.03	0.00	23.79	94.55	2.90	28.68	0.00	0.00	465.00	56.42	90.49	775
46	494.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.34	5.73	0.00	247.33	2701.56	1004.41	88.94	4551
47	87.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3240.47	0.00	569.00	98.15	75.67	4071
48	126.12	0.00	0.00	11.31	7.37	2.75	0.00	229.17	1207.60	3735.39	222.82	5543
49	199.35	0.00	47.22	5.74	228.75	0.00	0.00	32.40	854.78	629.42	88.87	2087
<b>Total</b>	<b>12308</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>1503</b>	<b>1435</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>3240</b>	<b>2046</b>	<b>14415</b>	<b>8867</b>	<b>4960</b>	<b>50304</b>

## 8.2 - CITY SERVICES

The City of Independence operates under a City Charter that was adopted in 1961 and established a Council-Manager form of government. The reorganization of departmental functions took place at that time and some of those functions have been changed over the past thirty years. The map on page 8-4, Figure 8.21, shows the location of City offices, City utilities and fire stations.

At the present time there are over 1,166 employees that provide the services that are necessary to operate the city government. Table 8.21 shows the departments and number of employees that provide the work force for the city in

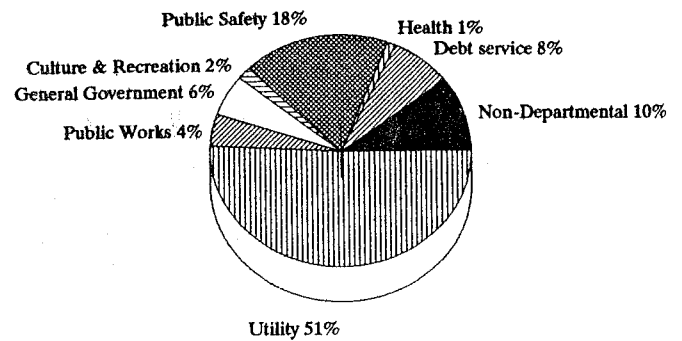
**Table 8.21**  
**1992-93 Fiscal Year Employee Positions**

Department	Employees
City Council	12
City Clerk	7
City Manager	5
National Frontier Trails Center	7.4
Computer Services	19.5
Municipal Court	13
Law	6
Finance	26.3
Personnel	4.5
Planning	20.5
Police	237.2
Fire	190
Health	29.5
Public\Works Engineering	26
Public\Works Maintenance	93
Parks & Recreation	40.4
Tourism	3.1
Power & Light	244.1
Water Pollution Control	79.2
Water	102.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1166.2</b>

the 1991-92 fiscal year. For the 1992-93 fiscal year \$109,028,787 is estimated to be needed in order to provide all City services listed in this section. This amount is divided into eight general categories of service and the percentage of each category of service is shown in Figure 8.22.

**Figure 8.22**

**1992-93 Appropriations by Percent of Total**



The estimated revenues sources that will be available to pay for these services during the 1992-93 fiscal year are shown in Figure 8.23, as a percentage of the total estimated revenue. The single largest source of revenue for the City operation is the Utility Service Charges from the City's electric, water and sewer utilities; comprising two-thirds of the

**Figure 8.23**

**1992-93 Revenues Sources**

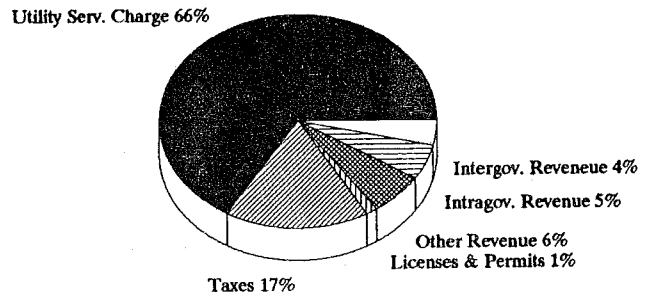
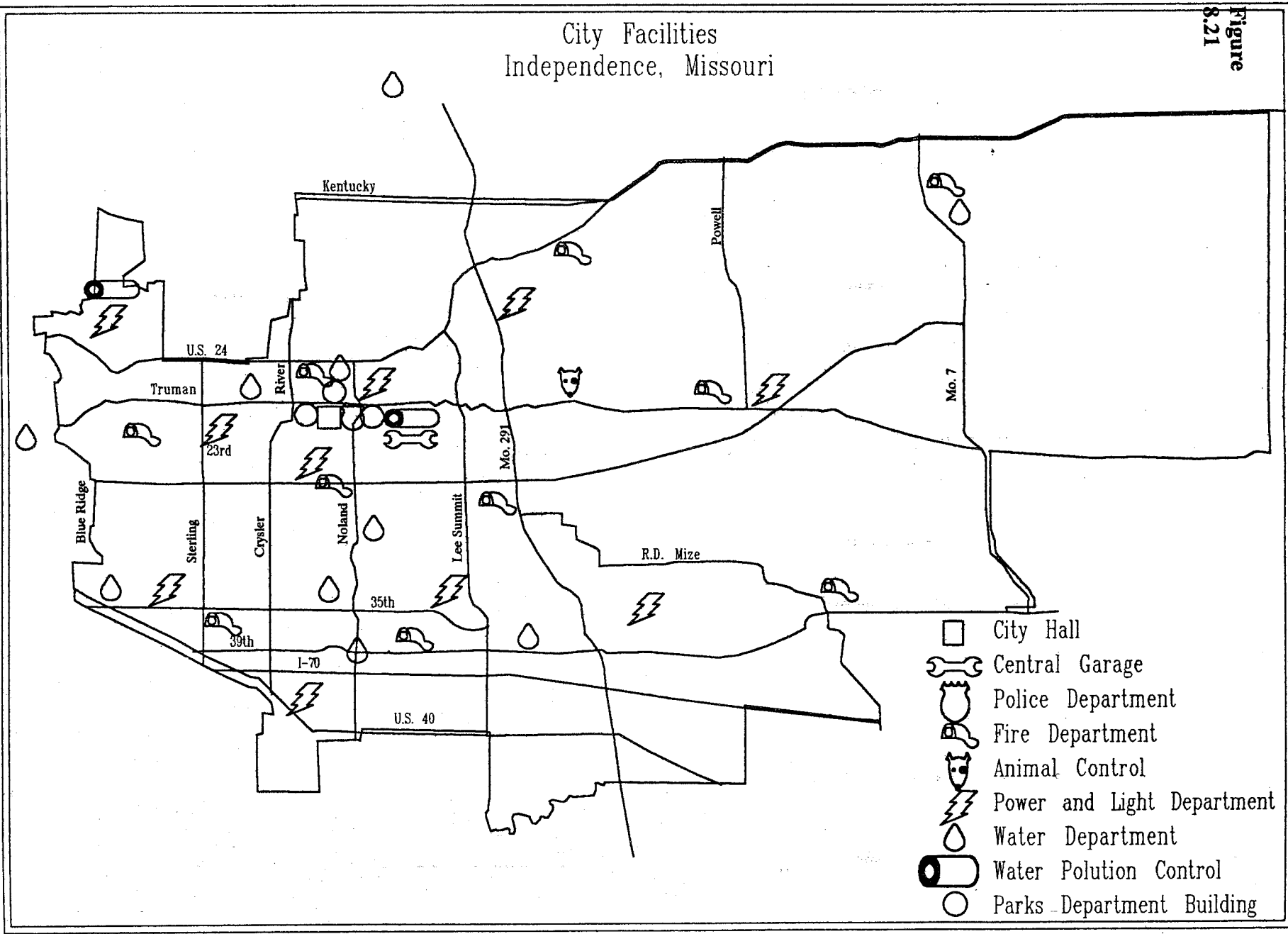


Figure 8.21

### City Facilities Independence, Missouri



total revenues. Taxes represent the second largest category making up seventeen percent of the total. For general funds alone, taxes represent fifty-three percent of total revenues. Total revenues are projected to increase in 1992-93 by approximately four and three tenths percent over the 1991-92 fiscal year. Intergovernmental revenues, such as State and Federal funds have declined considerably over amounts received in previous fiscal years.

### **City Council**

The City Council is the legislative and governing body of the city, consisting of seven elected members, including the Mayor. The Councilmanic District Map, Figure 8.24, shows the current boundary lines of each council district and the estimated 1990 population for each district, as approved by the City Council on August 5, 1991 by Ordinance number 11652. The Council appoints the City Manager, Management Analysis, City Clerk and such other personnel as needed to assist the council in performing its duties. The City Council appoints members to various advisory boards and commissions. It also enacts legislation to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the City's citizens.. The City Management Analysis conducts performance audits of the City's departments and programs. These audits are focused on identifying opportunities to reduce costs, increase efficiency, improve program effectiveness, and enhance management and administration of city activities.

### **City Clerk**

This department functions are to keep the journal of council proceedings; authenticate and record all ordinances and resolutions; edit and print the city code; certify the validity of city documents for court evidence; attest to

signatures on contracts and proclamations; apply the city seal when appropriate; administer oaths of office; write ordinances and resolutions; maintain record of title to city vehicles; prepare and maintain record of deeds for woodlawn cemetery; operate the in-house printing facility for the City; operate the City's word processing center; maintain a records management and microfilming program for the City; transcribe the minutes of all council meetings; and work with the Jackson County Board of Election Commissioners in the handling of elections for the City.

### **City Manager**

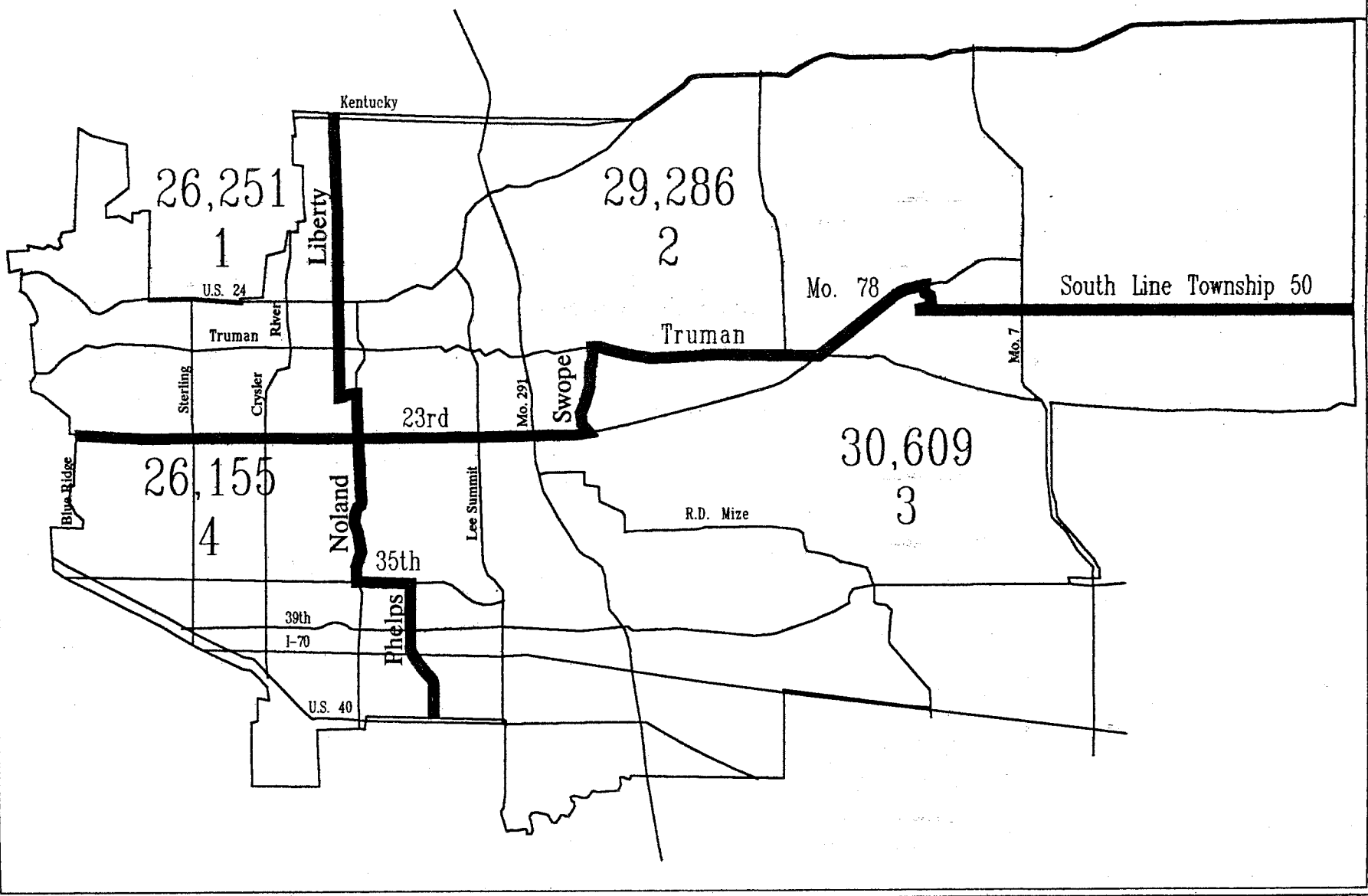
The City Manager is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the City Council. The City Manager is the administrative head of the City government, executes the laws and ordinances, and administers the government of the City. The City Manager advises the council of the financial condition and future needs of the City, and takes recommendations to those officials. The City Manager prepares and submits the annual budget to the City Council for modifications and adoption and is responsible for the administration of the annual budget after its adoption.

### **National Frontier Trails Center**

The National Frontier Trails Center is a historical complex created to collect, preserve and exhibit items connected with one of the most significant eras in american history, The Great Migration Westward. To achieve this purpose and to highlight the importance of Independence to the expansion of the three major overland trails we maintain an interpretive center, special exhibit gallery, theater, archives, research library and bookstore. Frequently changing exhibits and an expanding research facility mark the growth of the center as it strives to become a major tourist attraction

Councilmanic Districts  
Independence, Missouri

Figure  
8.24



that will draw trails enthusiasts from across the country. The center also serves the local community by hosting meetings of a historical nature, community gatherings, and educational events. The facility is open to the public daily and most holidays.

### **Computer Services**

The Computer Services Department provides analysis, programming, and computer processing support services to the city departments. The department assists user departments in planning computer applications, and designs, programs, and implements systems to meet those requirements. The department is responsible for the documentation and maintenance of the programs contained in such systems. The City's computer facility consists of two large scale computers, a mini-computer, and a communication network of terminals which connect these computers with user departments.

### **Municipal Court**

The Municipal Court has jurisdiction of cases involving violation of city ordinances, establishes and collects all fines, court cost, and bond money; issues warrants, subpoenas, orders of commitment, and provides other services as prescribed by the charter of the City of Independence, Missouri and applicable state statutes.

### **Law**

The Law Department conducts and carries on all civil suits, actions and proceedings; represents the City on all legal matters in which the City is a party or interest; advise the City Council, City Manager and heads of all departments concerning any legal questions affecting the City's interest; draft or review

proposed city ordinances or amendments; prepare or officially approve as to form all contracts, deeds, bonds and other documents; direct and supervise the revision of the City's ordinances; direct and supervise the future codification of ordinances; and perform such other legal duties as the council may require.

### **Finance**

The Finance Department has charge of the administration of all financial affairs of the City. It maintains accounting systems for the City, approves all disbursements, prepares payrolls, and pre-audits all claims and demands against the City. It bills for established revenue sources and all other amounts due the City, as well as, collects and invests all such City funds. It prepares the annual financial statement and other financial reports that may be required. It supervises and controls the acquisition of all City goods and services within approved procurement procedures.

### **Personnel**

The Personnel Department provides the following services; labor relations, employment, recruitment, placement, training, benefits administration, management training, employee development, discipline, EEO, affirmative action, testing, job performance evaluation, job development, etc. This department is responsible for maintenance of a merit system of employment for the City of Independence within the guidelines prescribed by the charter, state and federal laws.

### **Planning**

The Planning Department is responsible for the development and implementation of a Comprehensive Plan for community development, administration of zoning and subdivision

controls, assure minimum standards for building construction, promote safe and healthful housing conditions. Plan for the enhancement of the environment and implement the goals of the community development block grant programs. Provide for the public transit needs of the citizens of Independence with the Dial-A-Ride program, Inter-City and Intra-City Bus program. Provide the planning, implementation, and coordination of development of historic properties owned by the City.

### **Police**

The Police Department is charged with the preservation of peace and order, enforcement of the law and ordinances, prevention and suppression of crime, detection and apprehension of violators of all laws and ordinances, incarceration of those sentenced to detention for municipal ordinance convictions or those awaiting formal charges from the state or federal level, and to perform other duties relating to public, order and safety.

### **Fire**

The Fire Department provides for the prevention and extinguishment of fires and explosions. This department also responds to the needs of the community by providing some emergency medical services and protection from hazardous materials and toxic substances. The primary goal of the Fire Department is to provide a safe environment in which to live and work for the citizens of Independence. The fire prevention division reviews construction plans and inspects all commercial establishments. The training division trains employees to provide quality service to the community. The maintenance division provides service for fire trucks and equipment to insure prompt response to citizens needs.

There are ten fire stations at the present

time that are strategically placed throughout the City. Eight stations are located in the urban developed portion of the city and two stations are in the rural eastern portion.

### **Health**

The Health Department is charged by the City Charter to enforce and administer the laws of the state, the provisions of the Charter and ordinances relating to public health and sanitation. It also must inspect the production, handling, storage and sale of all commodities intended for human consumption to insure their safety. The department endeavors to control or counteract as much as possible physical, social and environmental conditions that threaten the health or decrease the enjoyment of life for the citizens of Independence through code enforcement, health promotion and direct service programs.

### **Public Works/ Engineering**

This department provides professional engineering services for the public safety and convenience; design, acquire rights-of-way and administer contracts for public improvements. It assists in the preparation of the capital budget, enforce mandates of the City Code, reviews building applications, issue flood plain development permits, maintain records of city owned property, issue construction permits, issue blasting permits, investigate and review citizen complaints relative to public works, and provide testing and inspection for public works constructed by private development. This department also provides the building maintenance and custodial services for city owned buildings.

### **Public Work/Maintenance**

This department provides the basic main-

tenance services required within the city rights-of-way and in accepted maintenance easements, and maintains a large portion of the city's vehicle fleet. The department is made up of the following divisions: Street Maintenance and Fleet Maintenance.

### **Parks and Recreation**

The function of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide recreational opportunities and to improve the quality of life for all residents of the City of Independence. To fulfill the goals and objectives, this department is responsible for the recreational needs and desires of all individuals and groups. This department is responsible for the short range planning and implementation of the Master Park Plan. The department strives to improve upon this through the constant evaluation of our present and future programs.

### **Tourism**

The function of the Tourism Department is to attract out-of-town visitors to the City of Independence and increase visitor spending thereby generating revenue to the City. To achieve these goals, the Tourism Department promotes Independence to the individual, group and convention traveler through various marketing activities. This includes local, regional and national advertising, public relations activities, production and dissemination of collateral material. In addition to marketing and promotional activities, the Tourism Department administers a city volunteer program which staffs historic sites, such as, the Vaile Mansion and Bingham-Waggoner Estate within the City.

### **Power and Light**

This department is responsible for provid-

ing electrical services and meet the demands of the citizens of Independence at the lowest possible cost consistent with sound business practices.

Independence Power and Light services over 48,000 customers and the electricity is produced by steam and combustion generators with a total capacity of 288 MW. In addition, Independence Power and Light purchases 135 MW of wholesale power from outside sources for electrical needs. The City operates two power plants, one is located on Truman Road and Missouri 78 Highway and the second plant is located in Missouri City.

The Power and Light Department has interconnections with Kansas City Power and Light Company, the Missouri Public Service Company and the Associated Electric Co-operative insuring reliable power supply for its customers.

### **Water Pollution Control**

The Water Pollution Control Department responsibility is to protect public health from the spread of waterborne disease and to reduce and abate pollution for the protection of the aquatic environment. The department operates and maintains the City's wastewater treatment facility, seven pumping stations and 500 miles of sanitary sewer. This is one of the highest quality sanitary sewer system and waste water treatment facilities in the country that can treat 10 million gallons per day.

The department administers sewer service agreements with six area jurisdictions; enforces the city, state, and federal water pollution control and hazardous waste regulations; and, manages the billing for sewer use throughout the city's service area. The department provides emergency response and procedural guidance for hazardous spills within the

community and administers the programs of the clean water act, resource conservation and recovery act and the comprehensive environmental response, compensation, and liability act, at the municipal level. Also this department is responsible for the City's developing storm water management program.

## Water

The Water Department produces and supplies drinking water to approximately 42,000 customers that are served directly, and another 48,273 that are served through 11 wholesalers. The department operates, maintains and manages, 633 miles of water mains, more than 3,337 fire hydrants, 33 wells and the Courtney Bend Water Plant. This system has a capacity of over 36 million gallons per day. Average daily consumption is 23 million gallons per day. The water source is supplied by wells and is more than sufficient to meet present and anticipated future development.

The department has four general functions: administration, charged with the overall operation and reporting of the department; customer service, responsible for meter reading, billing, collection, and customer inquiry; production, for water treatment, water quality and pumping and transmission and distribution; for construction and maintenance of the distribution system which conveys the water to customers. The department is obligated to meet the requirements of the clean water act, the safe drinking water act, and all standards of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

## 8.3 - OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES

### Jackson County

The official county seat of Jackson County is located at the County Court House in Inde-

pendence. The county government was organized on December 15, 1826 and was named in honor of General Andrew Jackson. Jackson County maintains courthouses in Kansas City, as well as Independence. The major portion of the County governmental functions are conducted out of the Court House building in Kansas City, where more people can be served conveniently. The county records for eastern Jackson County are maintained in the County Court building located at Kansas and Osage, and the records for property west of the Blue River are located in Kansas City.

The first county courthouse was built of logs in 1827 in Independence. A larger courthouse was constructed in 1831. This courthouse was rebuilt once and remodeled six times. It contains the restored courtroom of former Presiding Judge Harry S. Truman and offices of the Jackson County Election Commission.

Also the county Public Works Department and the Health Department are located in Independence.

### State and Federal

The following Missouri State government offices and services are located in Independence.

- License Bureau, for vehicles and drivers
- Natural Resources Department
- National Guard Medical Unit
- Revenue Department office
- Family Services office
- Youth Services office
- Natural Resources Department

- Probation and Parole office
- Vocational Rehabilitation Division office

The following United States government offices and services are located in Independence.

- Corps of Engineers Kansas City District
- Recruiting Offices for all military services
- National Park Service for the Truman National Historic Site
- Postal Services
- Truman Library and Museum
- Agricultural Department of Food and Nutrition Service
- Defense Contract Audit Agency
- Health and Human Services Department of Social Security Administration, branch office
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agent
- Internal Revenue Service branch office
- U.S. Geological Survey field office

## 8.4 - EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

### Public Schools

Five public school districts serve the families and children of Independence with quality education in well-equipped, modern facilities. Having several school districts available allows residents of Independence a greater choice of

educational facilities. The school districts are shown on the map on page 8 - 12, Figure 8.41, and include Independence, Kansas City, Blue Springs, Fort Osage and Raytown. Table 8.41 shows the number of schools, teachers, and enrollment for each school district for the 1989-90 school year.

**Table 8.41**

### Public Schools Serving Independence

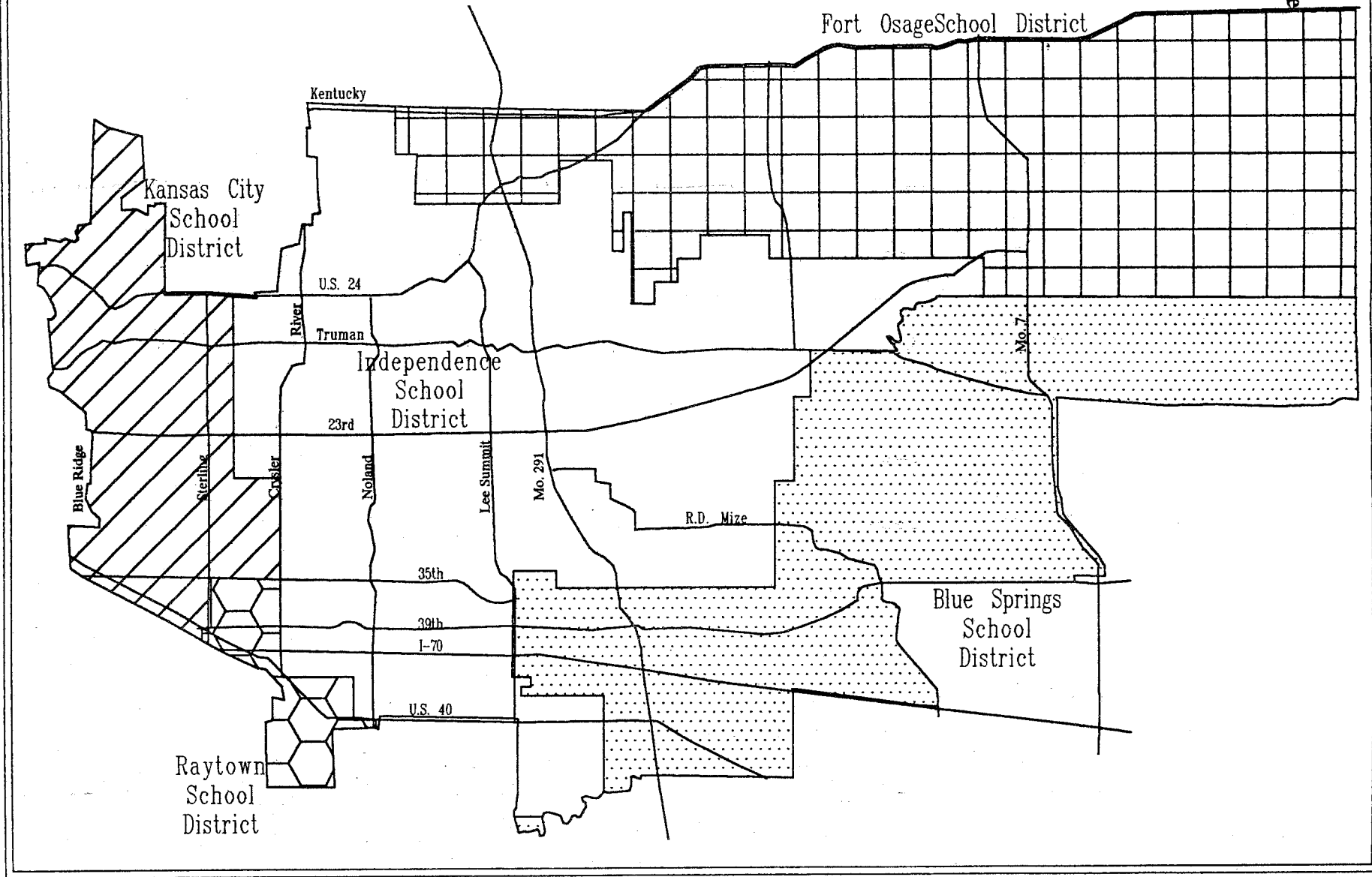
School District	Schools Teachers Enrollment		
<b>Independence</b>			
Elementary	13	355	6,290
Junior High	2	107	1,696
High School	2	209	3,034
<b>Blue Springs</b>			
Elementary	11	356	6,124
Junior High	2	98	1,699
High School	1	176	3,091
<b>Fort Osage</b>			
Elementary	6	158	2,811
Junior High	1	62	1,190
High School	1	80	1,202
<b>Kansas, City</b>			
Elementary	53	1,454	18,971
Junior High	10	695	7,185
High School	13	641	8,484
<b>Raytown</b>			
Elementary	10	256	3,841
Junior High	2	137	1,890
Senior High	4	190	2,498

Source: Missouri School Directory, 1989-90

The Independence School District serves the central portion of the city from approximately Chrysler Avenue, east to the Little Blue River. Kansas City School District serves the western third of the developed portion of the city, from Chrysler Avenue west to Blue Ridge Boulevard. Blue Springs School District serves a small portion of the developed area of the city, from 35th and Lee's Summit Road to the east. Also, from the Little Blue River and

School Districts  
Independence, Missouri

Figure  
8.41



Truman Road south which is a rural low-density residential area. Fort Osage School District serves the north-western portion of the city, from U.S. 24 highway and Dickinson Road east to the Eastern City limits. A large portion of this area is rural low-density residential. Raytown School District serves a small corner of the south-western portion of Independence, south of 35th and Crysler.

Independence School District is one of the larger school districts in the metropolitan Kansas City with 10,920 students. As a "AAA" rated school district, Independence has been a leader in innovative programs and is one of only two large districts in the State of Missouri with all of its schools accredited by the North Central Association.

Kansas City School District is also a leader in innovative programs that offer students a choice of magnet school programs. Some of the programs offered are Environment Science, Engineering, Arts, Foreign Language and others specialized programs. The Independence and Kansas City School Districts offer an advanced education program for senior students through the Math/Physics Institute to earn calculus and physics college class credits at the UMKC Truman campus in Independence.

#### Private and Parochial Schools

There are a number of private and parochial schools that are located in Independence and offer educational programs to the residents of the City. The following schools offer education programs through high school that have been approved by the State of Missouri:

- Englewood Christian High School and Elementary
- Hope Day School High School and Elementary

- Messiah Lutheran High School and Elementary
- St. Mary's High School
- St. Ann's Elementary
- Holy Family Elementary
- B.V.M. Nativity School Elementary
- Try-City Christian High School and Elementary

#### Colleges and Universities

There are more than thirty colleges and universities in the Kansas City metro area that are available to the residents of Independence, as well as numerous private and vocational facilities. The following area institutions are located in Independence:

- Graceland College, a private 4-year college operates an Education Center in Independence. The center is designed to serve upper division nursing students. The Center also provides general liberal arts courses and continuing education opportunities.
- Park College, a private liberal arts school, offers a variety of degree opportunities for the working adult.
- University of Missouri- Kansas City - Truman Campus, a branch of the University of Missouri that offers engineering and secretarial science programs.
- Central Missouri State University offers a variety of undergraduate/graduate courses ranging from Business Administration to Industrial Manufacturing.
- Metropolitan Community Colleges (MCC)

District now serves the Independence and Fort Osage School Districts. The residents of these two school districts voted to be part of the MCC District in the spring of 1993. MCC offers over 70 two-year associate degree programs and one-year certificates.

The MCC District has proposed to add an Independence campus as a branch to serve this additional area. It will be located at Missouri 78 highway and Holke Road. The two-year associates art s degree facility will open for classes beginning in the fall of 1994.

- University of Missouri Extension Service provides special training classes and continuing education courses at its Independence facility.

Three area vocational technical schools (AVTS) serve Independence, the Fort Osage AVTS, the Joe Herndon AVTS, and the Kansas City AVTS. Hamilton Business College and Vatterott College are also located in Independence.

## 85 - AUDITORIUMS

### **R.L.D.S. Auditorium**

The R.L.D.S. Auditorium building serves as the assembly area for the R.L.D.S. bi-annual World Conference. The large auditorium chamber has a seating capacity of 5,800. In addition to church functions, this building is made available to many groups and organizations for concerts, lectures, civic meetings, etc. For example, graduation exercises of the various high schools in Independence and surrounding area generally use the auditorium.

### **Roger T. Sermon Community Center**

The decision to make use of the abandoned

Dodgion Street Power Plant as a community center for Independence, not only preserved a landmark, but provided a much-needed recreational center. The center contains an auditorium/gym with a basketball court and volleyball court, theater with seating for two hundred and twenty six, recreation facilities, small game area, meeting rooms, dressing rooms, locker rooms, craft rooms, showers and kitchen. In January 1993 the Center will offer a senior citizen program that provides activities and meals for this group of Independence residents.

The theater has multi-purpose cultural role with log and no-cost programming, community theater, lectures, recitals and multimedia programs. The kitchen facilities allow for catered banquets and receptions. The rooftop contains a greenhouse which is part of the Senior Citizens program and plant.

The six-acre site near Truman and Noland Roads was acquired by the City in 1901. The 3,276 square feet brick electric generating plant replaced the older, privately owned power building in the 1920's. Additions to the new plant were made in 1925, 1940 and 1954, bringing the total area to 19,307 square feet. It provided power for residents of the City for more than fifty years. In 1961 the plant became obsolete and was abandoned for a new steam-generating plant located on Truman Road and Missouri 78 highway. The old turbines were fired annually until 1968 and maintained on a standby basis. Other parts of the building were used as a storage area for city equipment.

The site has also been a favorite gathering place in the 1800's where there were several springs besides the "Big Spring". Here settlers stopped to water animals and fill their water barrels for the trek across one of the three major trails west, Santa Fe Trail, California Trail, and the Oregon Trail. An historic cabin built in the 1830's with hand-hewn logs also was moved to this site and contains authentic pioneer furnishings.

## Memorial Building

This facility was built by private subscription in 1926 as the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial by the American War Mothers Chapter of Independence, Missouri. The structure is typical in style and sentiment of buildings erected by mid-western communities as a tribute to those citizens who lost their lives in the "war to end all wars." The building also serves as a community and recreation center and houses the Parks and Recreation Department offices. It contains an auditorium/gym with basketball courts, meeting rooms and served as a polling place for over fifty years.

After President Truman returned to Independence following his presidency in 1953 the building was used to store part of the papers of his administration until the Harry S Truman Library and Museum was constructed. The death of President Truman on December 26, 1972, caused the Memorial Building to become a central communications point for national and international news media. Many of the phone lines installed by the press and wire service for coverage of the state funeral service at the Truman Library are still observable.

## 8.5 - LIBRARIES

### Public Libraries

Library facilities for Independence are provided by the Mid-Continent Public Library system and the Kansas City Public Library. The Mid-Continent Library system serves a major portion of the metropolitan Kansas City area and is linked by computer to library resources throughout the region. There are three public libraries located in Independence. Two of the libraries are part of the Mid-Continent Library system; one is located at U.S. 24 Highway and Spring Street, and the second is located at

35th Street and Lynn Court. The third library is part of the Kansas City Public Library system and is located at 23rd Street and Vermont. The map on page 8-16, Figure 8.51 shows the location of each library in Independence plus the location of the two hospitals which will be discussed later in this Chapter.

### Truman Library

The Harry S Truman Library was dedicated and opened to the public in 1957. The primary function of this presidential library is to preserve the books, papers, and other historical materials relating to President Truman, and to make them available for research and public display. It is one of eight Presidential Libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, an agency of the Federal Government.

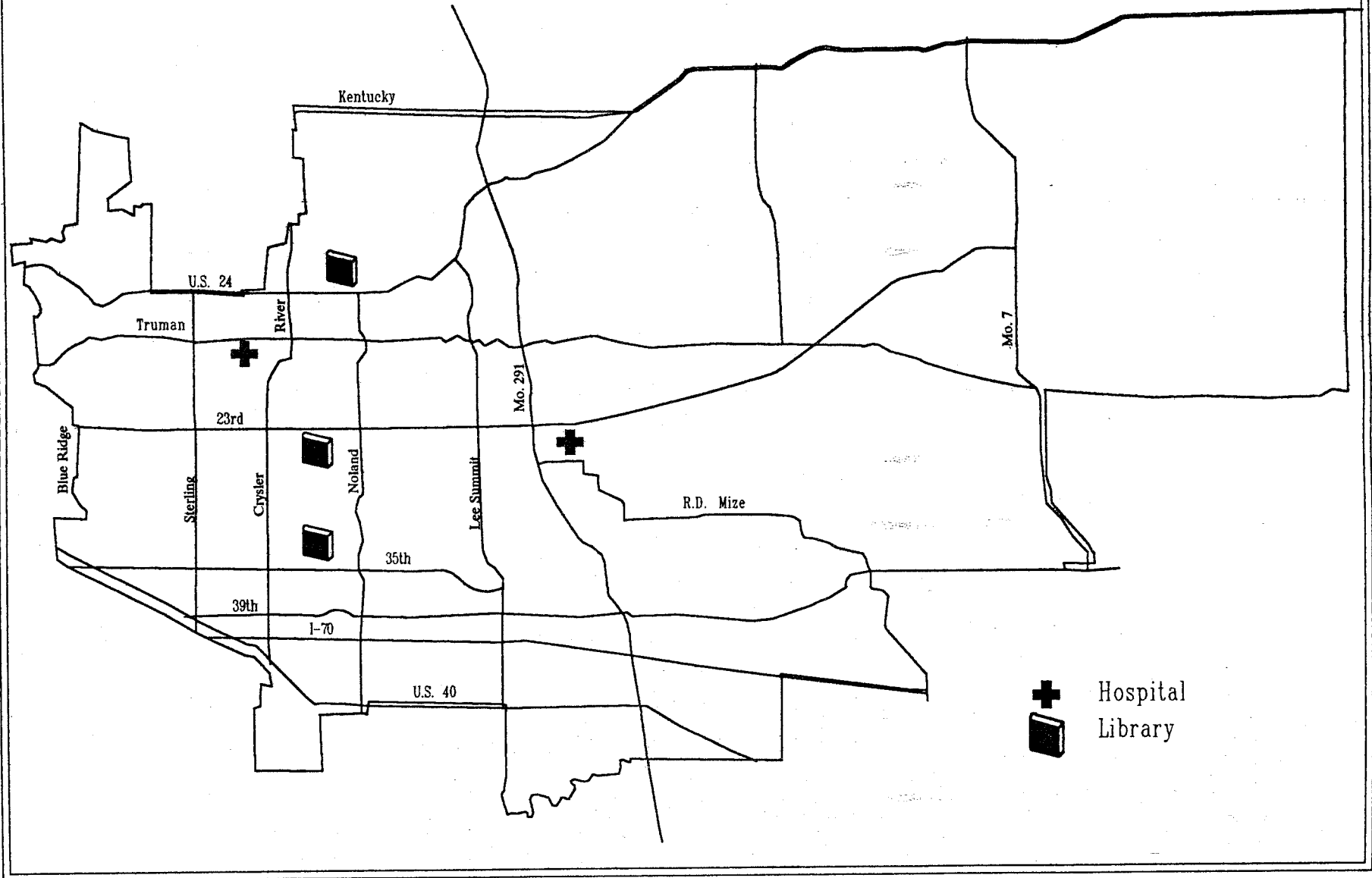
The library is located on land that was in part donated by the city of Independence and it was constructed with private funds given by more than 17,000 individuals and organizations. The land, the building, and the historical materials it contained were transferred to the Federal Government on July, 6 1957.

The library consists of a public museum and a research archives containing more than 14 million pages of manuscript material, including approximately 5 million pages from the Truman Administration White House files. Also still photographs are available for researchers, motion pictures, audio recordings, books, and other historical materials relating to President Truman's life and administration.

The library contains a museum with exhibits that emphasize the career of Harry S. Truman, the history of the Truman Administration, and the nature and history of the American Presidency. Among the permanent exhibits are the large mural painting in the entrance lobby ("Independence and the Opening of the West" by Thomas Hart Benton), the table on which the

# Public Facilities Independence, Missouri

Figure  
8.51



United Nations Charter was signed, a reproduction of the Oval Office as it appeared during the Truman Administration, and the office used by Mr. Truman in his retirement years.

### Other Libraries

Also, the residents of Independence have access to the Linda Hall Library of Science and Technology, located in Kansas City, Missouri, which is the Nation's largest privately endowed scientific and technological library.

## 8.6 - HOSPITAL FACILITIES

There are two hospitals located in Independence that serve the residents. They are the Medical Center of Independence and the Independence Regional Health Center. The map on page 8 - 16, Figure 8.51 shows the location of these two hospital facilities.

The Medical Center of Independence (MCI), a 210-bed acute care non-profit community hospital, serves the entire eastern Jackson County area. MCI offers intensive care, progressive care, pediatric, general medical, orthopedic and surgical care as well as specialized services in emergency care, women's health care, mental health, therapies and rehabilitation, diagnostic testing and educational programs. MCI's radiology services include CAT scanning. A full range of physical occupational and speech therapies as well as cardiac rehabilitation are available.

The Independence Regional Health Center is a 366-bed acute care non-profit facility. The hospital provides a complete range of acute care services, including intensive and cardiac care, a family centered Pediatric Unit, Diabetic Resource Center, complete obstetrical services, extensive oncology program and alcohol treatment center. The hospital is a Level II Trauma

Center. This hospital also has a care program for sick children called the Comfort Corner, for parents who cannot stay home with a sick child.

In addition, there are a number of medical and dental clinics located in Independence that serve the residents.

## 8.7 - COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

### Goals for the City Concerning Community Facilities

Goals are viewed as board general statements or ends that we would like to plan for. The Town Hall meetings held by the City Council and Planning Commission over the past twenty years solicited ideas and citizens concerns for improving Independence. The following list identifies several goals that were developed from these meetings and are related to community facilities, for example:

#### Goal(s)

- 1.) Expand community programs and facilities.
- 2.) Increase vocational education, literacy education and General Education Degree (GED) programs.
- 3.) Encourage community-supported cultural activities.
- 4.) Cooperate with school boards to provide after-hours recreation programs in the schools.
- 5.) Expand social, cultural, recreational and education activities for senior citizens.
- 6.) Increase crime prevention and drug

awareness in schools.

- 7.) Another goal is to provide satellite community centers in older neighborhoods which generally contain low income youth.

### **Issues related to Community Facilities**

To separate the issues concerning Community Facilities from the Land Use Plan or develop special categories that deal with the social, economic and physical characteristics of this one element of the plan is a difficult task. The following list of major issues concerning the land use plan relate to the community facilities element and were developed as part of the review and analysis of the existing land use:

- 1.) Classify the vacant land which is presently part of the Drumm Farm (Boys Home) to single family residential use.
- 2.) Convert some of the vacant surplus commercial property to "store front" multi-purpose recreation-community centers.
- 3.) Continue to control the placement of religious facilities and school facilities through the zoning ordinance plan district requirement and landscape ordinance in order to provide adequate screening for surrounding residential property.

### **Recommendations for Future Community Facilities**

The City departments will continue to cooperate with the individual public school districts and private schools serving Independence to provide information and data that is necessary to expand the educational facilities within the City. Cooperation with these public agen-

cies can lead to further utilization of existing facilities, such as, swimming pools, gyms and other school facilities for the general public at probably a lesser cost than the facilities could be duplicated. This also applies to schools of higher learning, such as, the Truman Campus of U.M.K.C. and other private and public business schools. The education of the youth of Independence will continue to be a prime concern of city government.

Several of our neighborhoods are not served by multi-purpose community buildings. The City needs to develop approximately three additional public facilities to meet the need of the older neighborhoods for senior citizen and youth programs. Private groups should be encouraged to open and operate satellite community buildings in additional areas presently not being served.

The proposed mixed use zoning classification, that was explained in the Land Use Chapter of this report, identified several existing commercial business areas which were recommended for this new category. This new classification should include public facilities, such as, community service centers as part of the proposed reuse of older commercial buildings. The older business areas are ideally located for this type of facility and contain the square foot of building area that is required for community building.

In order to follow through with these issues and implement the proposed changes it will be necessary to rezone certain areas of the City and create the classification of a mixed use zoning district.