

Community Resources (2007)

Purpose

Community and neighborhood resources are the facilities and services available to Overland Park residents that help make lives safer, healthier, and more enjoyable. Facilities are the physical structures where programs and services are made available. Based upon growth projections for the City, it is probable that the demand for community and neighborhood resources will continue to increase in the future.

The purpose of this section is to examine the existing community and neighborhood resources available in Overland Park. This examination will help to identify areas in need of improvement, or expansion, to continue to meet the demands of a growing population. Refer to the Community Facilities map for the location of all the facilities named below.

Government

- Local, county, state and federal governments are fundamental providers of basic community facilities and resources.

City Services and Facilities

City Hall

- Located at the corner of 85th Street and Antioch Road
- Departments in City Hall:
 - City Manager's Office
 - Law

- Finance and Administration
- Human Resources
- Planning and Development Services
- Public Works Administration and Engineering divisions

Public Works Maintenance and Traffic Services

- Maintenance
 - Shawnee Mission District - located at 11300 W. 91st Street
 - Blue Valley District – located at 6869 W. 153rd Street
- Traffic Services
 - Located at 6869 W 153rd Street

Police Service

- Overland Park Police Department (OPPD) consists of four bureaus:
 - Tactical Operations
 - Special Services
 - Homeland Security
 - Administration
- Contained in these bureaus are six divisions
 - Tactical Operations
 - Emergency Services

- Detective Division
- Community Policing
- Policy Review
- Logistics and Support
- Specialized units and teams include:
 - Bomb Disposal
 - Crime Analysis
 - Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)
 - Tactical Response
 - Explosive Ordinance Detonation
 - Dive Team
 - K-9 Unit
 - Hostage Negotiations
 - School Resource Officers (SROs)
 - Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) Unit
- Functions at W. Jack Sanders Justice Center - 12400 Foster:
 - Administration
 - Investigation
 - Logistics and Support

- Personnel
- Records Custodian
- Professional Standards Unit
- Crime Analysis Unit
- Patrol Division
 - ◆ The City is patrolled by commissioned police officers based on crime data and calls for service information and Deployment Initiatives.
- Functions at Myron E. Scafe Building - 8500 Antioch:
 - Police Property Unit
 - The Traffic Safety Unit
- Functions at Westgate - 119th Street and Westgate:
 - Managers for the School Resource and DARE Officers
 - ◆ SROs in Shawnee Mission and Blue Valley School District high schools and a number of middle schools
 - ◆ Educational resources in addressing violence, drug usage, and law related personal safety issues
 - ◆ SRO's are resources for the schools' students, faculty, and staff.
 - Community Orientated Policing and Problem Solving Unit (COPPS)
 - ◆ As of 2007, nine officers are assigned to the unit.

- ◆ Implemented the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program (CFMH Program), designed to improve the quality of life at multi-housing rental properties
- ◆ Works closely with the Neighborhood Conservation Program groups:
 - Attend meetings
 - Focus on problems and concerns identified by these groups

Municipal Court - W. Jack Sanders Justice Center

- Provides the judicial system for the City
- The Court Services Division handles:
 - Substance abuse evaluations and pre-sentence evaluations
 - Monitoring and supervision by probation officers
 - Referral to education/treatment programs
 - Community outreach

The Overland Park Fire Department, Inc. (OPFD)

- Provides full fire protection services to approximately 95% of the City
- Staff of 146
- Services include:
 - Fire
 - EMS (Emergency Medical Service)

- Prevention, inspection, and public education services
- Five fire stations:
 - Station One - Marty Memorial, located at 7550 West 75th Street
 - Station Two - Cherokee, located at 9500 West 95th Street
 - Station Three - Switzer, located at 13801 Switzer Road
 - Station Four - Tomahawk Ridge, located at 8051 West 119th Street
 - Station Five - Stanley, located at 15935 Metcalf Avenue
- Fire Department's administrative office - next to the 95th Street station.
- The Fire Training Facility - 12401 Hemlock:
 - Used by the Overland Park Fire Department
 - Also leased to Sprint
 - Facility provides:
 - ◆ Computerized fire simulators for advanced fire training
 - ◆ Special rescue training areas
 - ◆ A full video production facility for producing training programs for the department
- In May of 2002, the Overland Park Fire Department joined with Johnson County Medical Action to form a truly unique "Partnership" in the provision of EMS providing:

- Five transporting ambulances assigned to the City of Overland Park
- Two paramedics, one OPFD and one Med-Act employee staff each unit
- Firefighter/paramedics previously assigned to ambulances now deployed onto first out fire apparatus at each of their five stations
- Decreases Advanced Life Support (ALS) response time while providing additional paramedic hands on critical calls

The Consolidated Fire District No. 2 of Johnson County (CFD2)

- Provides coverage to the area east of Nall Avenue and North of Johnson Drive

Parks and Recreation Department

- Headquarters - 11921 Hardy:
 - 8-acre site
 - Equipment storage
 - Headquarters of forestry and park maintenance personnel
- The Overland Park Community Center (OPCC) - 87th Street and Lamar Avenue:
 - Parks and Recreation Department's Leisure Services Division
 - Johnson County's Day Care Program
 - Johnson County's Nutrition Center
 - Offices for county's 50-plus program

- Exercise/weight equipment
- Fitness, aerobics, self-defense, and adult dance classes
- Basketball/volleyball courts and leagues
- Community dances
- Meeting rooms
- Tomahawk Ridge Community Center (TRCC) - 11902 Lowell:
 - Exercise/weight equipment
 - Fitness, aerobics, self-defense, and adult dance classes
 - Basketball/volleyball courts and leagues
 - Community dances
 - Meeting rooms
- Matt Ross Community Center – downtown Overland Park
 - Opening is scheduled for Fall 2007
 - Community civic spaces
 - Recreational spaces
 - Administrative offices
 - Will replace the OPCC at 87th & Lamar
- The Parks and Recreation Department’s Aquatics Division:
 - Operates six public pools

- Pools offer:
 - ◆ Swimming lessons
 - ◆ Concessions
 - ◆ Bathhouses
 - ◆ Scuba lessons are taught at several pools
 - ◆ Pool memberships are available to residents and non-residents alike.

- The Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens - 179th Street and Antioch
 - 300 acres
 - A popular hiking and nature retreat
 - Over five miles of trails offer a glimpse at eight different ecosystems

- Deanna Rose Farmstead facility - 138th Street and Switzer Road
 - Established in 1976
 - A twelve-acre facility designed to depict a turn of the century farm with a dairy barn
 - Also includes a one-room school house, petting zoo, a nature trail, fishing pond, and picnic tables

County Facilities and Services

Courthouse, Jail and Administration buildings

- Located in the vicinity of Santa Fe and Cherry Street in downtown Olathe, the county seat

The Johnson County Northeast Offices - 6000 Lamar Avenue

- The courthouse annex
- Motor vehicle registration
- Mental health clinic
- Health clinic with a Supplemental Nutrition Program for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) office

County Services

- Emergency Medical Service
 - Johnson County provides the City with a medical emergency system.
 - The MED-ACT system is the advanced life support component of the County's Emergency Medical Service system
 - ◆ Funded with a tax levy and a flat rate user's fee
 - ◆ Emergency calls are directed through the area wide 9-1-1 emergency system.
 - ◆ Twelve stations are distributed throughout the county, with some housed in fire stations.
 - ◆ MED-ACT operates:

- Ten transporting ambulances that are staffed 24-hours a day
- One transporting ambulance that is staffed 12-hours a day
- Three nontransporting vehicles (Paramedic Advanced Response serving the rural areas)
- Ambulances are staffed with Emergency Mobile Intensive Care Technicians (paramedics) and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT).
- ◆ MED-ACT Special Operations Groups:
 - Disaster Response Task Force (DRTF)
 - Emergency Operations Team (EOT)
 - Hazardous Materials and Medical Support Team (HMMST)
 - Tactical Medical Team (TMT)
- Six major medical centers in and around Overland Park with fully staffed, 24-hour emergency services:
 - ◆ Children’s Mercy South (in Overland Park)
 - ◆ Columbia Overland Park Regional Medical Center (in Overland Park)
 - ◆ Menorah Medical Center (in Overland Park)
 - ◆ Shawnee Mission Medical Center
 - ◆ St. Joseph Health Center
 - ◆ St. Luke’s South (in Overland Park)

- Shawnee Mission Urgent Care, located in Oak Park Mall, provides emergency medical care.
 - ◆ A service of the St. Luke's Shawnee Mission Health System
 - ◆ Equipped to handle a wide variety of minor emergencies and common illnesses

Other County Services

- Human resources and aging programs
- A nursing center
- Public transportation
- A library system
 - Johnson County Library System
 - ◆ Serves the entire county with the exception of the City of Olathe
 - ◆ Cooperates with other libraries to provide inter-library services in the Kansas City metropolitan area
 - ◆ Central Resource Library and 12 branch libraries
- Mental Health services
- Park and recreation programs
- Personal and commercial property as well as real estate appraisals
- Motor vehicle department
- Three museums

- Noxious weed control

Other Countywide Services and Facilities

The Johnson County Community College Library

- Serves JCCC students and staff and Johnson County residents
- Provides access to a variety of services and resources:
 - Books
 - Periodicals
 - Films
 - Slides
 - Microfilm

Johnson County Extension Service

- An educational outreach of Kansas State University
- Five areas of interest:
 - Agriculture
 - 4-H youth development
 - Family consumer sciences
 - Horticulture
 - Community economic development

- Three special programs meet local needs:
 - Master Gardeners – a group of community volunteers that answer home gardening, lawn care, and horticulture questions
 - Family and Nutrition Education helps families with limited resources develop skills needed to improve diets and stretch food dollars.
 - Family and Community Education offers education programs, leadership development, and community services.

State Facilities

Kansas University Edwards Campus – 127th Street & Quivira Road

- Bringing educational resources from KU to the Kansas City metropolitan area
- Facilities include:
 - Library
 - ◆ Part of the KU library systems
 - ◆ Tailored to support the students and the curriculum
 - ◆ Computer connections to the 3.2 million books and journals in the libraries on the Lawrence Campus
 - ◆ Access is very limited but materials are available to those 18 and over.
 - Computer labs
 - Community and organizational meeting spaces

- Twenty graduate degree programs
- Four undergraduate degree completion programs
- One certificate program
- Most courses are offered in the afternoon or evenings to accommodate working professionals.

The Kansas Department of Transportation's Transportation Maintenance Facility - northeast corner of 167th Street and U.S. 69 Highway

- A salt storage barn and equipment storage area

The Kansas State Office Building - 8417 Santa Fe

- Unemployment Tax Department
- Job Service Offices of the Kansas Department of Human Resources

Federal Facilities

Post Offices

- Five Shawnee Mission Post Office branches
- The Olathe Post Office provides service to some portions of southern Overland Park though there are no Olathe Post Office branches located in the City.
- Contract stations throughout the City, most commonly in grocery stores
 - ◆ Sell stamps and receive parcels

Housing Services

Property taxes from housing are a primary source of income for many local governments. Therefore, it is in the government's best interest that property values are maintained.

- To ensure that housing conditions are maintained, the City enforces:
 - Building codes
 - Property maintenance codes
 - Zoning codes
- Financial assistance is provided to homeowners through:
 - City Programs and Services:
 - ◆ Home Improvement Partnership Program – a partnership between the City and Valley View State Bank
 - A low-interest loan program for exterior home improvements
 - To qualify:
 - Own and occupy either a one- or two-unit family dwelling in Overland Park
 - Meet the income guidelines established for the program
 - Meet the loan qualification standards of the bank
 - Eligible improvements include:
 - Painting
 - Siding

- Fence repair or replacement
 - Deck repair or replacement
 - Screened porch repair or replacement
 - Replacement of garage doors
 - Replacement of windows, roofing, driveway, sidewalk, shutters and awnings, gutters, landscaping, and retaining walls
 - Repair or replacement of existing detached structures
- The City offsets a portion of the interest on these loans.
 - Loan amounts can range from \$1,000 to \$15,000.
- County Programs and Services
 - ◆ Housing Services section of Johnson County Human Services and Aging Department
 - Offering the following housing programs:
 - The Section 8 Certificate and Voucher Program - a rental assistance program for very-low-income families and individuals
 - Minor Home Rehabilitation - homes repairs and limited accessibility modifications
 - Revitalization - limited assistance to low- to moderate-income homeowners for repairs designed to promote sustainability for the structure and surrounding neighborhood
 - Weatherization Program - to make homes more comfortable, safe, and energy efficient

- The Home Program – helps low-income residents bring their homes into compliance with local housing codes
 - ADDI (American Dream Downpayment Initiative – provides low-to-moderate-income people with 6% (up to \$10,000) of the purchase price of a home
- Other Programs and Services
 - ◆ Help A-Neighbor Program - 501(c)(3)
 - Volunteers help a resident who has financial and physical limitations with exterior property maintenance such as:
 - Minor painting
 - Window screen replacement
 - Yard upkeep

Summary

Overland Park has evolved into a city of varying preferences and mixed land uses, and the need for its community facilities reflects these changes. As the southern section of the City continues to develop, there will be an increased demand for all types of services and the facilities that house them. These service demands will also be affected by shifts in the median population age, as well as household composition and size.

Population growth has affected such community services as schools, hospitals, libraries, public safety, and city government. Planning to expand service districts, redirect resources, and construct new facilities can help accommodate short-term growth and development patterns. However, to effectively deal with long-term changes, coordinated efforts among various parties are needed. Because many services are operated at the county level, coordination is often a challenge due to multi-jurisdictional conflicts and an overlap of services. Despite these problems, the goal remains to provide adequate services and facilities to all residents.