2010 Comprehensive Plan
City of Greer, SC

Section 4: Community Facilities

The community facilities element includes many activities essential to the growth, development or redevelopment of the community. Preparation of this element should include involvement of special purpose district boards, and other governmental and quasi-governmental entities such as the library board, historic preservation society and public utilities board. This element of the Greer Comprehensive Plan will review the existing situation with regard to community facilities, and formulate any goals and objectives that may be needed to insure that adequate community facilities are available.

The South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994 provides the following guidelines of the vital characteristics for the Community Facilities element:

- Water supply, treatment and distribution
- Sewage system and wastewater treatment
- Solid waste collection and disposal
- Fire protection
- Emergency medical services
- General government facilities expansion
- Educational facilities
- Libraries and other cultural facilities

Community Context

Communities are often compared and evaluated by their citizens based upon their quality of life. The quality of life in a community can include many things, but one true measure is the quality and quantity of community facilities that are offered. Community facilities generally relate to those public services offered to the citizens and businesses in a community which are necessary to support development. These services include such things as public safety,
recreation, education, utilities, etc. In response to updating existing facilities and in anticipation of future needs, the Greer community has been fortunate to have relatively new educational facilities, enhanced and expanded utility infrastructure, new municipal facilities, renovated and expanded recreational facilities, etc.

**Primary Education**

A community is not only a place to live, work, and recreate, it is also a place to educate the minds of children and adults alike. An educated population is essential to maintaining a prosperous economy and building an open and inviting community. One of Greer’s strongest assets is its well regarded primary, secondary, and nearby post-secondary educational facilities.

In order for these institutions to help build a better Greer, school officials have continuously worked with city officials and community leaders to evaluate factors like population growth and demographics, the economy, and workplace skill needs when planning for new and expanded educational facilities. Moderate housing costs and quality schools all contribute to attracting many families to the area. More than 31% of the population is under 18 years old.

For every 100 new residential units constructed, the Greenville County School District receives on average 20 elementary, 10 middle, and 10 high school aged students. With the economic downturn during 2008, new single family residential construction has decreased. Several new residential developments of considerable size will continue to require close monitoring to gauge the timing and potential impact, particularly in the current economic downturn. Examples include Blue Ridge Plantation and O’Neal Village in the Blue Ridge area. The City of Greer strongly encourages each school district to meet with the developer and local government to discuss development phasing, timing, and marketing to better determine impact on the school system and to develop strategies to address such impact.

Demographic shifts are expected in high growth counties like Greenville and Spartanburg. Annual changes in school programs can also generate near-term facility needs. School districts work closely with the city to encourage an on-going exchange of information that fosters proactive planning rather than reactive problem solving.

As shown in Figure 4-1, the Greenville County School District currently has nine public school facilities within the city limits of Greer. These schools serve students from both within and outside the city limits, including students from a portion of Spartanburg County that was assigned to Greenville County schools by act of the State Legislature in 1951.
With the implementation of the BEST program, the Greenville County School District revised their design standards to improve safety and security for school buildings. The revised design standards included security cameras, exterior security door locks, and ‘capture’ areas at the front doors, HVAC systems for kitchens and gymnasiums, and paved walking tracks at elementary schools. Greenville County School District has schools that were constructed or modernized prior to the current construction program. Many of these schools were not able to benefit from these revised design standards because the projects at these schools were completed prior to the design standard revisions, or the original project scope did not include an upgrade or renovation of the facility, only an addition.
The Greenville County School District is just completing its most recent district-wide building program. The schools listed below are part of this program and are either new or have renovated and expanded facilities. With a good number of single and multi-family residences in various stages of development, enrollment in the majority of these schools is expected to grow. The school district updates its Long Range Facilities Plan and Capital Improvement Program annually to plan for projected students and program changes.

**Dunbar Child Development Center**
- Grades served: 4-year-old kindergarten
- Enrollment: 145
- Established in 1999 at the former East Greer Elementary School site upgraded in 2005

**Abner Creek Elementary**
- Grades served: 4K through 5
- Enrollment: 320
- Program Capacity: 602
- Opened 2008

**Chandler Creek Elementary**
- Grades served: 5K through 5
- Enrollment: 831
- Program Capacity: 874
- Opened in 1999 in the renovated Greer Middle School facility.

**Crestview Elementary**
- Grades Served: 5K through 5
- Enrollment: 734
- Program Capacity: 788
- Completely renovated as a new school in 1997 (Kindergarten wing added in 2006)

**Woodland Elementary**
- Grades Served: 5K through 5
- Enrollment: 1,086
- Program Capacity: 1,054
- Relocated to new campus in 2002

**Greer Middle**
- Grades served: 6 through 8
- Enrollment: 939
- Program Capacity: 1,022
- Opened in its current location in 1999
Riverside Middle
Grades served: 6 through 8
Enrollment: 983
Program Capacity: 1,035
Opened in 1999

Greer High
Grades served: 9 through 12
Enrollment: 1,330
Program Capacity: 1,795
Opened in its current location in 1998.

Riverside High
Grades served: 9 through 12
Enrollment: 1,589
Program Capacity: 1,647
Rebuilt in 2006 for larger capacity

J. Harley Bonds Career Center
Grades served: Blue Ridge, Eastside, Greer, Riverside, and Wade Hampton High Schools
Enrollment: 465 (a.m. and p.m.)
Half Day Capacity: 350
Opened in 2003 in the old Greer High School site. Students at the career center pursue technical career interest while earning high school credit and dual (college) credit.

Future Needs

With statistically valid enrollment projections and defensible school capacity definitions, the school districts are able to answer key facilities planning questions for the future.

- Where will new schools or additional seats be needed over the next five years?
- Which schools should be included in rezoning?
- How much growth can be accommodated before overloading a school’s core facilities?
- How efficiently is classroom space being used?
- Are portables justified at a particular school?
- Where can new special and alternative programs be housed?
- Can additional transfer requests be approved for a specific school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Added</th>
<th>Schools to be Relieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>New Elementary School</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Bells Crossing, Oakview, Bethel, Woodland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2016</td>
<td>New Middle School</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Beck, Bryson, Hillcrest, Mauldin, Riverside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2020</td>
<td>New Middle School</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>Northern Area Middle Schools</td>
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</table>
Secondary Education

Within 20 miles of the Greer area, 10 colleges and universities provide area parents with higher education opportunities with a short commute for their children or to further their own education. Among these secondary education offerings — colleges, universities, and technical schools that serve the Greer community — are Bob Jones University, Converse College, Furman University, Greenville Technical College, North Greenville University, Spartanburg Methodist College, Wofford College, and the University of South Carolina Upstate. Recognizing that access to an excellent learning environment is a key to successful economic development and a vibrant community, city and business leaders have begun working together to help residents take full advantage of available secondary education opportunities.

Library System

The Greer Community is fortunate to have a state-of-the-art branch library — the first branch facility built under the Greenville County Library’s Comprehensive Building Plan. This well maintained 10,800-square-foot building includes a meeting room (capacity for 100 persons) with an adjoining kitchen and bathroom, as well a conference room to accommodate eight persons. The library offers the latest in library technology and services including 12 adult and four children’s computers with CD-ROM products dedicated to research; four online public access catalogs (PACs); expanded newspaper and magazine collections; DVD and CD media collections; Greer historical collection, including a special historical edition of The Greer Citizen on microfilm (microfilm reader now at main office); copier and printer service; and 107 youth and adult programs.

The Jean M. Smith Library is a tremendous asset for the Greer community. This fact is best reflected in the cumulative circulation of 347,360 for 2008, which not only includes books but also audio-visual media. Compared to circulation a decade ago, this translates to an increase of more than 200%. Put into terms of general population use, this circulation equates to approximately 12 units of circulation per person per year (one per month) for each person in the city. Given the rapid increase in cumulative circulation and population growth in the city, there is a growing need to provide the citizens with newer, larger facilities in the coming years. In addition, these facilities, existing and future, will require more advanced equipment and knowledgeable staff to adequately serve the public.
Government Services

Since the last comprehensive plan in 1999, Greer has seen continuing rapid population growth. Prior to 2008 the city provided services from 13 separate locations throughout the city. With an increase in service demand it became increasingly clear that the dispersed points of service delivery was not only inefficient but also presented a burden to the public. In order to provide more efficient and effective customer service and to support continuing economic development objectives for the core of the city, an aggressive plan was established to consolidate services into three locations. Construction of the Municipal Court and Police Department Complex and Greer City Hall was completed in 2008. Around the same time the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Services Department were relocated to the city Operations Center.

Construction on the City Hall and Events Complex, located on East Poinsett Street, was completed in 2008. Built with growth in mind, office space can accommodate as many as 90 city staff. It houses the City Administration, Finance, and Building and Development Standards departments. Services at City Hall include code enforcement, planning and development review, building permits, and business licenses. The facility also provides a large, public events space that is available for residents of the Greater Greer area to rent for private events.

Construction on the Municipal Court and Police Department Complex, located at the intersection of Poinsett and Main Streets, was completed in 2008 to address the increased demand for law enforcement and court services as a result of the city’s current and future growth. This state-of-the-art complex houses police operations including the detention center, dispatch and E911, records, and administration functions. In addition to the municipal court, the building also houses county magistrate operations.
A core function of local government is to provide for the health and safety of its community. The city is fortunate to have highly-regarded fire prevention and law enforcement services. The tremendous growth over the past decade has led to increased public safety service needs and the city has responded well to increase the capacity to provide these services to the community.

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical

The City of Greer Fire Department operates out of two stations and a shared-use station with the Pelham-Batesville Fire Department. Along with firefighting and fire prevention, the department responds to other public safety-related tasks such as industrial hazards, natural disaster, aircraft emergencies, and performs building and plan inspections for fire code compliance. The department is staffed by 38 full-time firefighters and 17 volunteer firefighters trained as paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and first responders. The department has four fire engines, three 1,500 gallon pumper, a 2,000 gallon pumper, a 75-foot quint aerial platform, a heavy rescue/service truck, a brush truck, and one squad. Department personnel regularly undergo required and specialized training to maintain a highly prepared and professional staff.

The department strives diligently to maintain first-class facilities and well-trained personnel, improving its Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating over the last decade from a Class 3 to Class 2. This rating places the department among the top 5% of fire service departments in South Carolina. The ISO rating is a measure of fire risk to a community and is used by insurance companies to determine policy rates for businesses and residents. The department continually evaluates the adequacy of its service in relation to the city’s growth and its impact on demand for service. Calls for service are managed through the city’s enhanced E911 system and, as shown in Figure 4-2, have increased 84% since 2000. Seventy-four percent of the call volume
for the department in 2008 was emergency medical calls, making nearby fire stations the difference between life and death.

**Figure 4-2**

**Calls for Service**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Structural Fire</th>
<th>Vehicular Fire</th>
<th>Other Fire</th>
<th>False Alarm</th>
<th>Medical Call</th>
<th>Public Service Call</th>
<th>Mutual Aid</th>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>1098</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>197</td>
<td>1269</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>1489</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The *Suppression Division* is responsible for minimizing loss of life and property through immediate and effective deployment of resources. It provides fire extinguishment, high angle and confined space rescue, automobile extrication, and hazardous materials response services. The division also provides emergency, basic and advanced medical services including cardiac defibrillation, endotracheal intubations, and intravenous (IV) therapy under the guidance of a medical control physician.
The Fire Prevention Division ensures a safe community through fire code enforcement, fire prevention and fire safety education programs, and investigation of suspicious fires or those of unknown origin. Through these efforts 13,154 people were educated in fire prevention and life safety in 2008. The Training Division oversees the training of firefighters and assuring they maintain current certifications, maintains department personnel records, training files, and manuals covering topics such as infection control, hazard communications, and risk management.

Facing the challenge of keeping pace with the expansion of the physical size of the city and increasing traffic congestion, the department works to maintain low response times by contracting with other departments to provide fire protection service to recently annexed areas. It also works with other fire districts to provide first responder service to surrounding unincorporated areas. Planning is currently underway for a third station in the northern part of the city somewhere in the Lake Robinson area. This station would be manned by 12 personnel and one pumper. Future construction of any additional stations will depend upon annexations, a sufficient tax base to support the construction, equipment, and personnel needed for these facilities.

Law Enforcement

The City of Greer Police Department is dedicated to delivering high quality police protection services through meaningful community partnerships and problem solving. Currently, 56 of its 74 employees are sworn officers certified by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. The department relocated all its operations to the new Municipal Courts and Police Department Complex in April 2008. There are four organizational divisions, which are further broken down into units.

The Administration Division is responsible for managing department personnel functions which include recruiting, selection and hiring, employee retention, promotion, and discipline; community outreach for coordinating community service events, crime prevention activities, services to the youth of Greer, assisting with neighborhood and business watches, safety education, and the School Resource Officer service; and, the officer training and instruction.
The Patrol Services Division provides enforcement of all local, state, and federal laws through field services and around-the-clock patrol of the city divided into four geographic beat areas, as shown in Figure 4-3.

The Criminal Investigation Division is responsible for preliminary and follow-up criminal investigations. Detectives provide ongoing follow up investigation of serious crimes against persons and/or property. The Vice/Narcotics Team was developed to suppress organized crime, particularly drug trafficking. The Victim Advocate is responsible for providing support to victims and eyewitnesses of crimes. The Crime Analysis Team is specially trained and equipped to conduct investigations of crime scenes to include the collection and preservation of all physical evidence.

The Operational Support Division consists of the Detention Unit, which operates a 48-hour holding facility for inmates awaiting bond hearings; the Communications Unit, which receives and dispatches all non-emergency and emergency calls; the Records/Data Entry Unit, which compiles, stores, and releases the department’s operational and activity records in accordance with state and federal laws; and the Animal Control Unit, which responds to complaints about strays and also patrols known animal nuisance areas.

In looking to the future, the City of Greer Police Department will focus on continuing to address the challenges facing a growing community by working together with the Fire Department to include police substations in all new fire stations built; maintaining a department that is efficient, effective, and responsive to the needs of the community; using community policing
and problem solving methods to achieve the highest level of service and citizen satisfaction; conducting professional recruiting activities that are designed to attract and retain the highest quality of officers and staff; and promoting citywide traffic safety through public awareness and education, strategic selective enforcement, and by increasing the resources available to the Patrol Unit.

**Municipal Court**

The Greer Municipal Court is part of the statewide unified court system and is responsible for warrants, arraignments, and the adjudication of cases. The Municipal Court is one of limited jurisdiction, hearing only misdemeanor criminal cases and traffic cases carrying a maximum fine and sentence of $500 or 30 days in jail. It has no civil jurisdiction, meaning no lawsuits or non-criminal matters are heard. Since 1999, there has been a tremendous increase in the number of cases heard per year. During that time, there also has been a great improvement in technology and increased access to the court. In 2001, approximately 6,500 cases were processed through the court. By 2008, that had increased to 11,453.

**Parks and Recreation**

The City of Greer recognizes that parks and other recreational outlets are necessities to fostering an excellent quality of life for residents and visitors to the community. These amenities contribute to economic development, environmental responsibility, personal enjoyment, and social connectivity. Together, these benefits help generate a positive attitude shared by many within the community, leading to social connectedness, lower crime rates, higher educational attainment, and strong families. The City of Greer Parks and Recreation Department maintains a number of community and neighborhood parks, manages the events complex, provides support for festivals and events, and manages the city's sports and recreational programs.
The Greer City Hall Events Complex opened in 2009, providing a range of amenities that includes a lobby/seating area with televisions, restrooms, and meeting halls with state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment. The meeting halls can provide a single 4,500 sq. ft events space or be partitioned into three separate 1,500 sq. ft. event spaces depending on the need. The Horace McKown Jr. Center, formerly the National Guard Armory, is currently undergoing renovation planning with hopes of providing a senior community center and a home for Greer Cultural Arts. The Needmore Community Recreation Center and Park located on Canteen Avenue is used for senior activities and afterschool programs, and has playground equipment, a blacktop basketball court, tennis courts, and a shelter with picnic tables.

Century Park and Kid’s Planet located on Brushy Creek Road, is a complex used for youth baseball, adult softball, and for tournaments on fields available for rent by the general public. The park includes a full concession stand, press box, picnic shelters, a walking/cross country trail, and a disc golf course. It is also home to Kid’s Planet, a playground that features two large play-structures surrounded by wooden picnic areas, pavilions, and a paved walking track.

Greer City Park, a 12-acre park located on East Poinsett Street, opened in 2009 and is part of the Greer City Hall and Events Center Complex located in the core of downtown. It has multiple features including an amphitheater, musical fountain, promenade, large reflection pond with fountain and gazebo, and a picnic shelter/playground area. In addition to being an everyday destination for the community, the park hosts outdoor movies, music concerts, and other entertainment as well as weddings and other private events. Veteran’s Park, located on South Line Street, was renovated in 2001. This memorial features monuments with plaques dedicated to the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the United States. The site includes retired military vehicles on static display, a fountain, and a gazebo.
The Victor Park and Gym, located on South Line Street, was renovated in 2009. The site includes a brick enclosed baseball field with bleacher seating, a large playground structure, 2 full-size outdoor basketball courts, and a gymnasium with included classroom. The Country Club Road Park and Sports Complex, located on Country Club Road, opened in 2003. Serving the northern section of Greer it offers three soccer fields, two baseball fields with bleachers, and a press box/concession stand/restroom facility.

The Greer City Stadium, located on Wood Avenue, is the former Greer High School Football Stadium. With seating capacity for approximately 3,000 spectators, it is home to youth football, cheerleader, and soccer programs. The Suber Road Soccer Complex, built in 2001, features three soccer fields, a concession stand, and a picnic shelter.

Stevens Field, located on Highway 101, is a baseball stadium renovated in 2009 to seat 1,000 spectators at full capacity. It has a full concession stand, veranda area with picnic tables, grass infield, and halogen lights. It is home to American Legion Baseball games and soccer matches. Turner Park, located on Virginia Avenue, was renovated in 2005 to provide safer, more modern facilities for the community. It consists of two lighted baseball/softball diamonds.

B.P. Edwards Park, located on Sunnyside Drive, provides the eastern area of Greer’s community with a picnic shelter, basketball court, and play-structure. Greentown Park, located on Moss Street, serves the Sunnyside community such amenities as a picnic shelter, basketball court, swing set, and playground structure.

Springwood Community Park, located on Wood Avenue and adjacent to the Greer City Stadium, is a small neighborhood park that features a playground structure/area and a picnic shelter. Victor Heights Community Park, located on Anita Street, is a small neighborhood park that features a moderately sized playground structure/area. The Wards Creek Community Park,
located on Elmer Street, is a large neighborhood that includes amenities such as picnic tables, basketball courts, a baseball field, and playground structure.

The City of Greer Parks and Recreation Department also works closely with the board appointed City of Greer Recreation Association (CGRA) to provide recreation programming and events for an estimated service area population of about 245,000 people. The Dixie Youth Baseball Organization affiliated program annually draws 500 to 600 players; the youth football program has approximately 250 players that compete in the Golden Strip League; the cheerleading program has approximately 200 participants; and the St. Giles Organization affiliated youth soccer program has 250 participants.

*Tryon Park Recreation Center and Tennis Academy* features six lighted tennis courts, two clay courts, and a fellowship hall. This facility houses adult activities, general recreation, and is available to rent for parties and meetings. The center is also currently home to Greer Cultural Arts and other many activities.

The Tennis Association of Greer (TAG) sponsors youth team play, youth clinics, and adult lessons, and annually hosts the George Crossland Memorial Tournament, a USTA and SCTA sanctioned regional event. During the summer, children ages 7 to 14 are busy with morning day camp programs that include movies, games, arts and crafts, and field trips. Gymnastics is a new program offered to youth in Greer that focuses on developing better motor skills.

In addition to the commitment to youth programs for the community, there are adult recreation opportunities including softball, personal fitness training, tennis, and bowling, as well as such family activities as skating and miniature golf. There are also many opportunities for senior citizens. The Senior Citizens Club meets monthly to hear a speaker or some form of entertainment, share a delicious covered dish lunch, make various trips, or take part in other activities.

In 2009, the City of Greer Parks and Recreation department contracted with Clemson University’s Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management and the South Carolina Recreation Development Project to develop a Parks and Recreation Strategic/Master Plan. The process for conducting this study included an information gathering and review stage, the review and development of a vision and mission plan, a facility inventory and peer agency comparisons, a market/demand analysis in the form of a needs assessment survey and focus group interviews, and the development of recommendations. The
Community Facilities

project team met with city and department staff, reviewed previous city planning efforts, toured city-owned recreation facilities and amenities, conducted numerous staff and public input sessions, and conducted a needs assessment survey in order to develop the final report and recommendations contained in the plan.

The needs assessment survey revealed that while 63% of the respondents felt the City of Greer Parks and Recreation Department had improved over the past three years, only 32% thought the city provided adequate recreation facilities. Trails/Greenways; Walking/Jogging Paths, Outdoor Community Pools, Fitness/Recreation Centers and Indoor Aquatics Centers were the top five facility needs identified in the needs assessment. Fitness Classes, Open Gyms, Swimming Instruction, Adult Activities, and Concerts were the top five program needs identified in the needs assessment.

Parks and Open Space, Entertainment/Commercial Recreation, and Public Recreation Programs had the largest gaps between the importance residents place on those elements and community life and their satisfaction with those same elements as compared to others like public schools, police and fire, social and human services, etc. Sixty percent of respondents indicated a preference for developing a balance of large community parks and small neighborhood parks; Thirty-one percent indicated they would prefer the city to concentrate on developing centralized facilities and amenities. Seventy-two percent of respondents preferred that parks and recreation facilities and programs be funded through a combination of taxes and user fees.

The final report provided several recommendations for programming, operations and service development including: more effectively leveraging CGRA’s non-profit status; increasing staffing and funding; developing green-way and blue-way trail systems; building an aquatic center for community use, swimming instruction, and water aerobics; developing strategically located multi-use and passive recreation parks; developing a cultural arts facility; creating wellness and fitness programs; increasing adult programming; increasing cultural arts, performing arts, and concert offerings; developing outdoor adventure camps, nature programs, and outdoor adventure activities; and expanding teen programs. A complete copy of the plan can be found at http://www.cityofgreer.org/departments/ParksMasterPlan.aspx.

Public Services

The Public Services Department is responsible for solid waste collection, street maintenance, vehicle maintenance, building maintenance, 16 personnel, and an inventory of 24 vehicles and equipment. The department relocated in 2009 to its new location in the Operations Center on Pennsylvania Avenue. This facility not only allows the department to provide office space for
as the City of Greer continues to grow, the Public Services Department will continue to be challenged to maintain the same level and quality of service it currently provides. The department has been successful in implementing new technology to help maintain costs and in providing both efficient and effective service. The department is also in the process of planning and developing a Recycling Center to better serve the Greater Greer community. This facility will accept an expanded list of recyclable items and should help ease the impact on the local refuse facilities.
Human Services

With slightly less than 16% of Greer’s population falling below the poverty line, it has been important to provide assistance to individuals and families in need. Currently, there are three Greer-based organizations that provide food, clothing, and/or shelter in the community.

*Greer Community Ministries* is a faith-based organization located at 738 South Line St. Ext. and has served the Greater Greer area for more than 35 years, providing essential programs that help the elderly and disadvantaged in the community. Meals on Wheels are delivered weekdays by volunteers to the homebound elderly; Senior Dining offers on-site congregate dining; and the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet programs offer emergency food and clothing assistance. The organization is funded through support from individuals, businesses, churches, civic groups, fundraising events, and grants.

*Greer Relief and Resources Agency, Inc.*, located at 202 Victoria Street, has provided emergency assistance to individuals and families in the Greater Greer area since 1938. This assistance includes a food pantry, clothing, financial assistance for utilities, rent and prescription medications, service delivery management and referral, school supplies, Adopt-A-Family programs, tax preparation, transportation, and other emergency services to those in need. The organization is funded through the United Way of Greenville County, donations from citizens, businesses and church groups, and fundraising events.

*Daily Bread Ministries Soup Kitchen* – Founded in 1990 and located at 521 East Poinsett Street, this organization provides meals to the hungry in the Greer community. The Soup Kitchen relies heavily on donations and volunteers to serve more than 150 meals per day.

Medical

In addition to numerous private medical practices and primary care services, residents of the Greater Greer Area are fortunate to have state-of-the-art facilities and services from the Greenville Hospital System, the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, and the nearby Bon Secours St. Francis Health System. Recognizing the growth in the Greer area, two these systems have made a significant investment through new hospital construction and expansion of services to provide diverse and quality medical care to the community.
Greer Memorial Hospital, a Greenville Hospital System community hospital located on South Buncombe Rd., replaced the Allen Bennett Hospital in August 2008. It has 82 licensed acute care beds and 10 sub-acute care beds. Services offered at the campus include a Level III Emergency Trauma Center, Cardiology, Cancer Care, Internal Medicine, Maternity Care, Obstetrics and Gynecologic, Outpatient, Radiology, Orthopaedic, and Health Education Classes.

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System opened the Village Hospital on Westmoreland Road in 2008 as part of the Village at Pelham medical campus. This 48 bed, state-of-the-art facility includes 44 inpatient rooms and four intensive care rooms. It has four labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum rooms, four operating suites and an emergency department with 11 rooms. Services offered by Village Hospital include a Level III Emergency Trauma Center, Health Education Classes, Hospitalist Program, Imaging, Intensive Care, Laboratory, Maternity, Inpatient and Outpatient Medical and Surgical, Obstetrics and Gynecologic, Pathology, and Respiratory Therapy.

Assisted Living/Skilled Nursing Facilities

One of the most important aspects for quality of life in Greer is the availability of assisted living/skilled nursing facilities. Greer residents are fortunate to have a choice of several reputable facilities that provide top-notch service and care. Currently there are five facilities that operate in Greer, with two additional facilities set to open in the coming years.

The Cottages at Brushy Creek, located at the Greer Memorial Hospital campus on Buncombe Road, is one of the newer skilled nursing facilities in Greer. Completed in 2008, these facilities provide a total of 120 beds, 24 of which are intended for rehabilitation purposes. This facility is designed to seem more like a home setting than a nursing home and has been recognized nationally as an evolution in long-term care facilities.

Bayberry Retirement Inn, an assisted living community located on Northview Drive, offers 20 private rooms in a facility that provides meals, social activities, housekeeping services, and transportation to all its residents. The Manning House is an assisted living facility located on
Community Facilities

Companion Court and contains 39 apartments (44 beds total). It provides social activities, meals, and other services to its residents. Ridgeview Community Care Home, located on Chandler Road, is a forth-three bed assisted living facility that specializes in providing care for persons of all ages with mental health issues. Piedmont Living Center is a newly renovated skilled nursing facility located on Chandler Road and provides 128 beds, 38 of which are reserved for patients with rehabilitation needs. This facility provides many services including physical and speech therapy, wellness programs, and meals.

Due to the aging baby boomer population, new assisted living/skilled nursing facilities are rapidly increasing in demand. To meet this demand, new facilities are currently being planned and developed in the Greer community to open in the next few years. One of these facilities, currently under construction is Chandler Creek Apartment, located at intersection of Village Drive and Chandler Road, and is projected to open in the fall of 2009. It will have 36 independent living apartments that are restricted to the elderly and will provide various activity programs, transportation, meals, and medical services.

Utilities

Since 1913, the Greer Commission of Public Works (CPW) has played a vital role in the growth of the community by providing an “all-in-one” source for utility needs in the Greater Greer area. Since its inception, it has provided the area with quality water, sewer, and electrical services. In 1957, Greer CPW added natural gas to their list of services, thus creating an excellent environment for promoting strong growth in both residential and commercial sectors.

Water Supply Treatment and Distribution

Water is also provided to the Greer community by the Greer Commission of Public Works. The current water service area is bounded by the Enoree River to the west, the South Tyger River to the east, the boundary with the Blue Ridge Water District to the north, and a boundary with the Startex-Jackson-Wellford-Duncan Water District (SJWD) to the southeast. The water treatment facility for the City of Greer, also operated by Greer CPW, is located on Lake Cunningham. This facility, built in 1971, was recently upgraded to treat up to 24 MGD of water. This is an increase of an additional eight MGD. Greer CPW currently has 17,400 water customers who use an average of 6.6 to 7.5 million gallons of water daily.
During the summer of 2008, the Treatment Facility reached a peak of 14 million gallons per day. With the additional treatment capacity since the upgrade, Greer CPW will be able to meet the growth of its water service area for the next 12 to 15 years. Should this be insufficient output in the future, the current facility’s site will allow for an expansion providing up to 32 million gallons per day. Currently, Greer CPW has raw water capacity of 48 million gallons per day from Lakes Robinson and Cunningham, which should meet the raw water needs for the next 30 years. Looking beyond that time span, Greer CPW acknowledges that Lake Robinson’s storage capacity can be expanded by one billion gallons, which should meet its peak water requirement for an additional 10 years.

In 2010, Greer CPW started construction of 20,000 feet of 24-inch water line. This will complete the 24-inch water transmission loop south of Greer. As a part of this project, construction began in late 2009 on a new 1,500,000 gallon elevated water storage tank in the Pleasant Grove area.

**Sewage and Wastewater Treatment**

Greer CPW provides sewer service and wastewater treatment to the Greer community. The service area was primarily within the city limits until the mid-1990s when the City of Greer began its aggressive annexation efforts. Since then, the sewage system has expanded in all four directions and almost tripled its service area size. The Greer Commission of Public Works operates one wastewater treatment facility and has an operational agreement with another governmental entity.

The Maple Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant has been in operation for more than 50 years and serves the majority of Greer’s industrial discharge. Currently, the plant is permitted to treat five million gallons daily (MGD). To deal with the rapid increase in demand, Greer CPW has developed a three-phase construction plan for the facility. The first phase, completed in June 2009, is to expand the treatment capacity to five MGD. The next two phases of construction are expected to occur over the next seven to 10 years and, when completed, should provide up to 10 million gallons daily.

The construction of a two-mile outfall line carries treated effluent from the Maple Creek Plant to the South Tyger River because of the Tyger River’s larger flow. This completed project improves the treatment limits for the various elements monitored by the South Carolina
Department of Health and Environmental Control and benefits industrial customers with regard to the pretreatment of sewer.

In 1994, Greer CPW entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Renewable Water Resources (ReWa); formerly Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority. This agreement provides wastewater treatment service for all the new growth in the Princess Creek Basin on the west side of Greer. It will provide sewer treatment to South Highway 14 below I-85, Westmoreland Rd, and the new Village Hospital Campus. It also will provide wastewater treatment along I-85 from Highway 14 to Brockman Mcclimon Rd. Wastewaters from this area will be treated at the ReWa Pelham Treatment Facility. This treatment facility was upgraded and completed in 2007 to 22 MGD. Combined with Greer CPW having the ability to increase its Maple Creek Treatment Facility to 10 MGD, Greer CPW should be able to meet the demand for sewer service, stemming from new development, for the next 15 years.

Natural Gas

The Greer Commission of Public Works also provides natural gas to more than 20,000 customers in the Greater Greer area. Natural gas is supplied to the Greer Commission of Public Works by an eight-inch high-pressure gas line from the Williams Pipeline Co. gas pipeline south of Greer in the Crescent area of Spartanburg County. In 1993, Greer CPW began a four-phase expansion of its natural gas system, to the north, with the installation of 25 miles of 12-inch high-pressure natural gas lines from the City of Landrum to Greer. As of 2008, this newly-completed 12-inch line has been providing an additional 35,000mcf (million cubic feet) to the system. Today, Greer CPW has the capacity to deliver 59,000mcf to its customers daily. The current peak demand is about 22,000mcf. With the recent expansion, Greer CPW expects that it will meet future natural gas demands for the next 20 to 25 years which have been growing at a rate of about five percent each year.

Electricity

Electricity is provided to the Greer community by the Greer Commission of Public Works and Duke Power. Greer CPW serves more than 17,000 customers, most of whom are residential and commercial. As of 2008, Greer CPW has been in the planning stages of building a new electrical substation in the Lake Robinson area of the Greer city limits. This substation will provide electrical service to existing electric customers and new electrical customers north of
Greer and in the Lake Robinson area of the city limits of Greer.

Electrical improvements are in the process of starting in the city limits below I-85, in the Highway 14 area east to Highway 101. To further enhance Greer CPW’s ability to serve its customers, it is a member of the Piedmont Municipal Power Agency which is a coalition of ten cities who collectively own 25 percent of a reactor at the Catawba Nuclear Plant. Through this association and its projects, the Greer Commission of Public Works is expected to meet the electrical demands of the community well into the next century.

**Future Utility Plans/Projects**

While Lakes Robinson and Cunningham will more than likely meet the demand for Greer’s raw water needs over the next 20 to 30 years, Greer CPW acknowledges beyond that they may be insufficient beyond that point. Within the next 10 to 15 years, Greer CPW will need to begin looking for another source of raw water supply for future water customers. In addition, consideration will need to be given towards available alternatives to meet the area’s future water requirements. Aside from the projects mentioned in the previous utility sectors, Greer CPW is always looking at improving/upgrading existing infrastructure to provide reliable, top-notch service to all of its customers. Currently, it is looking at a continued expansion of all services to the area between Highway 14 South and Highway 101 South. This expansion is critical as it will provide the necessary utilities to promote growth in this area for years to come.

**Goals**

The stakeholders in the Greer community have made a significant investment over the past ten years to insure the best community facilities are available to meet the public’s needs. The following goals emphasize a continued focus in providing facilities that match the demands of a growing community by supporting economic development efforts and improving quality of life for residents and visitors.

**Continue to coordinate and support the provision of needed city facilities and services to the Greer community.**

- Explore joint use facilities between the police department and fire department in the northern and southern portions of the city.
- Develop strategies to implement the recommendations of the City of Greer Parks and Recreation Strategic/Master Plan.
- Open a City of Greer Recycling Center.
- Continue to partner with Greer CPW for the effective delivery of utility services.
Effectively communicate planning and development activities with both school districts.

- Continue to include the school districts on the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

Continue to support industry efforts for delivery of first rate medical and long term care facilities.

- Provide resources and effort to insure an accurate and complete census count.
- Keep health industry and long term care professionals informed of city planning activities.

Continue to support community efforts to provide effective human services.

- Work with Greer Relief in relocating to a new, larger facility
- Assist community service organizations in attaining funding through Community Development Block Grants.