

CHAPTER V: Community Facilities -- Municipal

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Helena Municipal Building is situated on Highway 52 East near its intersection with State Route 261. Serving as City Hall for the residents of Helena, the building also houses various departments of the City. In addition to the Mayor's Office, and the administrative functions of the city, the Helena Municipal Building accommodates the Municipal Court, the Revenue Department, the Building, Planning & Development Department, and the Utility Board. The building's council chambers services as the meeting space for the City Council, Planning & Zoning Commission and Municipal Court. Also housed in the building are the Police Department, the main office of the Fire Department and Fire Station Number 1.

At the time it was constructed, the municipal building was spacious for the services it contained, however, as with all growing communities, these services have far outgrown the current space of the building. Future plans for City services should include an evaluation of each department's needs and the development of a facilities plan so that, overtime, these needs can be met. This plan should include not only services contained within the Municipal Building, but also those housed elsewhere.



Helena Municipal Building

POLICE PROTECTION

The Helena Police Department is housed within the Helena Municipal Building along with the City Jail. The City Jail has facilities to accommodate eight males and four females. Staff of the police department includes 22 full time sworn police officers and four currently active part time sworn officers. City E-911 services are performed by four full time dispatchers and three part time dispatchers assigned to the police department. Helena Police provide law enforcement protection and services to approximately 18,000 residents over a 24 square mile area. It provides all of the services typically provided by any modern, progressive police agency and those services include, but area certainly not limited to: criminal and traffic law enforcement,

investigation of felony and misdemeanor offenses inside the City of Helena, investigation of traffic crashes, answering calls for service, proactive patrol and detection of crime, provision of security and traffic control and community events and functions, full service Evidence Technician Unit, Emergency Response Team (SWAT), School Resource Officers and it offers a Law Enforcement Explorer Program to interested youth in the community as well as hundreds of other smaller, incidental duties. In 2014 and 2015 the Helena Police Department answered 77,000 calls for service, arrested over 500 criminal offenders and issued over 3800 traffic warnings and citations.

Table 16 Police Department Vehicles		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Vehicle Type</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
2015	Chevy Tahoe	500
2015	Chevy Tahoe	500
2015	Chevy Tahoe	1,000
2014	Chevy Tahoe	17,277
2014	Chevy Tahoe	16,955
2014	Chevy Tahoe	19,396
2014	Chevy Tahoe	16,076
2014	Chevy Tahoe	24,624
2014	Chevy Tahoe	21,532
2014	Chevy Tahoe	17,798
2014	Chevy Tahoe	17,025
2012	Chevy Tahoe	34,350
2012	Ford Expedition (CID)	43,168
2009	Ford CV	109,675
2009	Ford CV	160,215
2009	Ford CV	143,783
2009	Ford CV	180,000 appx. <i>(odometer broken)</i>
2007	Chevy Tahoe	120,426
2007	Chevy Tahoe	111,560
2008	Dodge Charger	79,000
2006	Chevrolet Impala	13,0721 <i>(to be eliminated in 2015 WFA)</i>
2003	Chevrolet Tahoe	103,798
2005	Ford CV	197,000 <i>(to be eliminated in 2015)</i>
2000	Ford CV	137,500
2000	Ford F150	206,489
1998	Ford Econoline Van	134,008
2008	Ford E450 Bus	18,938

Source: City of Helena

The Helena Police Department also owns all of the emergency/patrol equipment (lights, radios, radar units, etc.) to outfit the above cars and is committed to the maintenance and proper usage of vehicles and equipment to extend service life. However, it should be understood that the life span of a patrol car is not the same as the lifespan of a family car. Patrol cars by the nature of the work performed are subjected to extreme ends of the driving environment, on one end high speed driving in response to calls and on the other long hours of idling. The gradual changeover to Chevy Tahoes or to other truck based frames will extend the life of police vehicles exponentially. The difference in condition and drivability of the 2009 Ford Crown Victoria (which were for years the gold standard for public safety vehicles) and the 2007 Chevy Tahoe are quite frankly, astounding. The vehicle maintenance/replacement plan put in place over the last two fiscal years should be continued as long as funding allows. One additional priority in equipping vehicles is the purchase of high quality computers designed for field use in each new car as they are added.

Future for Helena Police Department:

The men and women of the Helena Police Department want to be able to continue to provide top notch, professional and courteous law enforcement services based on a paradigm of community policing and problem solving. In order to do so they must have the man power and equipment necessary to allow them to continue this level of service. The department's manpower has stayed the same since at least 2005. During that time the City has grown by approximately 10,000 to 12,000 citizens and commercial and traffic growth has been equivalent. The department's human resources are stretched thin and should be augmented as funding is available. Manpower should be increased steadily over the next five to seven years as funding allows until the department is at approximately 30 full time sworn officers and six full time dispatchers. The department tries to keep a minimum of two officers and a supervisor in the field at all times, however this is actually inadequate to cover a population of 18,000 and provide readily available back up. Keeping more officers in the field while at the same time controlling part time hours, overtime earned and allowing for vacation and sick time is difficult. Calls for service volumes have been at such a level that, more often than not, two dispatcher have needed during peak times on both day and evening shifts for several years, however, having two dispatchers available is a rarity. Trying to staff the dispatch center twenty-four hours a day with only four full time and three part time employees is very difficult. In addition to growing the human resources of the police department, we must also make it a priority to invest in time by gradually and incrementally increasing budgets for employee training (especially in today's litigious environment) over the next few years. As with all city departments, incrementally increasing benefits such as insurance, etc. will improve employee retention making it easier to keep valuable, experienced team members on duty where they can be of the greatest service to the community.

Facilities at Helena Police Department are cramped at best. There is little office space, no interview rooms for conducting interviews (Police Chief recently reached an agreement with Pelham P.D. to use their interview rooms for important investigations), no roll call room to conduct shift training, and storage space is basically nonexistent. The patrol room (which is where the majority of patrol officers try to complete reports and make business calls) is cramped and serves triple duty as the Patrol Lieutenant's and Patrol Sergeant's office. The dispatch center

is cramped even for one dispatcher and when there are two on duty it becomes even more so. The police department needs space in order to grow. The department needs more dispatch space, at least two additional offices, a roll call/training room and interview rooms. The police department would greatly benefit from a new building but jail construction is prohibitively expensive. A reorganization/remodel of the municipal building that would allow the police department to use more of the building when funding is available is a more feasible alternative.

The primary operational equipment need for Helena Police Department over the next few years is a new digital radio system. The current system is antiquated and obsolete (based on circa 1975 or so technology) and it is difficult or impossible to find parts for it when repairs are needed. This system is so out of date that it is considered a waste of time and money to upgrade it to provide full transmit/receive capabilities for the entire City. There is information that the Federal government may again require narrow banding in the coming years and if that occurs, Helena Police Department will lose approximately 30% of its current radio coverage. As it stands now, there are sections of the City (especially on the western side) that are only partially covered especially for transmission by officers in the field. Officers in those locations cannot use their hand held radios, and in some instances their mobile units, to call for help or to report problems. This is a safety issue and a solution is not going to be cheap, but it is a necessity. At the current time Police Chief has been in discussions with several other agencies about the possibility of a large scale digital interoperable radio system that would offer 100% coverage for transmit and receive on a hand held radio in Helena. This is the future of police radio communication and it would be both operationally and financially beneficial for Helena Police Department to be in on the ground floor of that process.

The second most important operational, and administrative, equipment needed at Helena Police Department is for a modern police records management system. The Police Chief has already reached an agreement with Shelby 911 to be allowed to utilize their Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software at no cost to Helena. This agreement resolves one very high priority need for Helena but combining this CAD with a new records management system would go a long way towards complete data modernization of the Police Department. This new CAD system would require the gradual purchase of in car laptops mentioned earlier. The current records management system is old (circa 1995), outdated, and unsupported by new technology. It often “crashes” and, when it does, Dispatch is forced to manually log of officer traffic. In addition, the report writing system used by Helena Police Department for years for in house and proprietary reports, as well as State reports, is also unsupported and Police Officers currently have to use the State of Alabama MOVE system for State reports. This is workable for now but results in triplication of work as the MOVE system is not a records management system but only a report writing and storage system. It cannot be searched for statistics or used for crime analysis like a true modern records management system. It is simply a form storage system much like a “my documents” file on a home computer. Again, this will not be cheap but it will be worth the cost over the coming years and even decades. The cost of this system would be approximately \$40,000 - \$50,000 and then approximately \$4,000 - \$5,000 annually thereafter for maintenance and upgrades.

Like many City departments, the Police Department has other smaller, less expensive needs such as “ready bags” in the event of an Active Shooter situation, night vision devices for ERT unit,

additional Taser devices, etc. The Police Chief is committed to finding the funding for those things from grants, using funds left over from the frugal use of current budgeted amounts, donations and other funding avenues. The items listed above are critical needs and cannot be funded with left over funds or by grants. They will require capital funding from the City over a period of time. After these needs are met the Helena Police Department will, for the foreseeable future, only need to grow in both personnel, vehicles and issued equipment at a pace designed to keep up with population growth and calls for service.

FIRE PROTECTION

The Helena Fire Department is comprised of three fire stations – two in Shelby County and one in Jefferson County. Currently, the department maintains a staff of seventeen full time paid firefighters/paramedics, two paid full time firefighter/AEMT's four part time firefighter/paramedics, six volunteer firefighter/first responders, three volunteer firefighter/EMTs and the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal. The current staffing is the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal working Monday-Friday 8 am -5 pm and three shifts of personnel working 24 hours on/48 hours off. Each shift is assigned a total of seven personnel. This number is not currently augmented when someone is off on vacation or sick time so many times the shift operates with five personnel. The part-time personnel split a full-time shift by working every other day on an assigned shift. They end up working 5 days per month verses the 10 days the full time personnel work. Effective March 2016, the ISO rating, that affects insurance premiums for residents and business owners, improved from a rating of 3 to a rating of 2 due to its improvement of fire services which included added personnel and equipment, a new fire station, and a new ladder truck. Helena is served by three front line engine companies which are equipped with advanced life support equipment and one ladder company which is crossed manned at Station 2. Station 2 responds to residential and commercial structure fire and alarm calls on the ladder truck while using the engine to respond on all other calls. The Helena Fire Department is an all hazards department, besides fire suppression services, the Helena Fire Department provides advanced life support medical services, swift water rescue, technical rescue and all personnel are certified Hazardous Material Technicians. Regional Paramedical Services provides medical transportation.

Fire Station Number 1 is located at the Helena Municipal Building. It houses the Fire Chief and the Fire Marshal's offices, an engine company, a staff vehicle, and an off road vehicle. Due to the fact that the Municipal Building has cramped quarters for all occupants, Fire Station Number 1 should be moved near its current location to a larger facility which could house the ladder company and an additional engine company along with allowing the administrative staff to have the office space necessary to function. The Fire Marshall is currently sharing the shift office with the on duty personnel due to the City Clerk moving into the Fire Marshal's office.

Fire Station Number 2 is located at the corner of Highway 52 West and Oak View Lane. It houses the training facility and public education office. An engine company, a ladder truck, the Special Ops/Command trailer and the Shift Commander are situated here. The Special Ops/Command trailer houses our swift water, technical rescue and Haz-Mat equipment along with a command and control area. This station is the central hub of the fire department facilities.

Station Two is in need of several improvements to house the growing amount of equipment we currently have and will obtain as the city grows. With the 3 bays in the engine room housing apparatus that are used for emergency response, there is nowhere to park reserve and special use apparatus (Special Ops/Command trailer and its prime mover) in a protected area. The Special Ops/Command trailer and its prime mover currently sit unprotected in the lower parking lot. The addition of another bay on the engine room and a covered parking area in the lower parking lot is needed. Also, Station 2 serves as the central supply and storage area of all EMS equipment and supplies along with spare firefighting turnout gear and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus so a dedicated storage building for gear and equipment would be a great improvement.

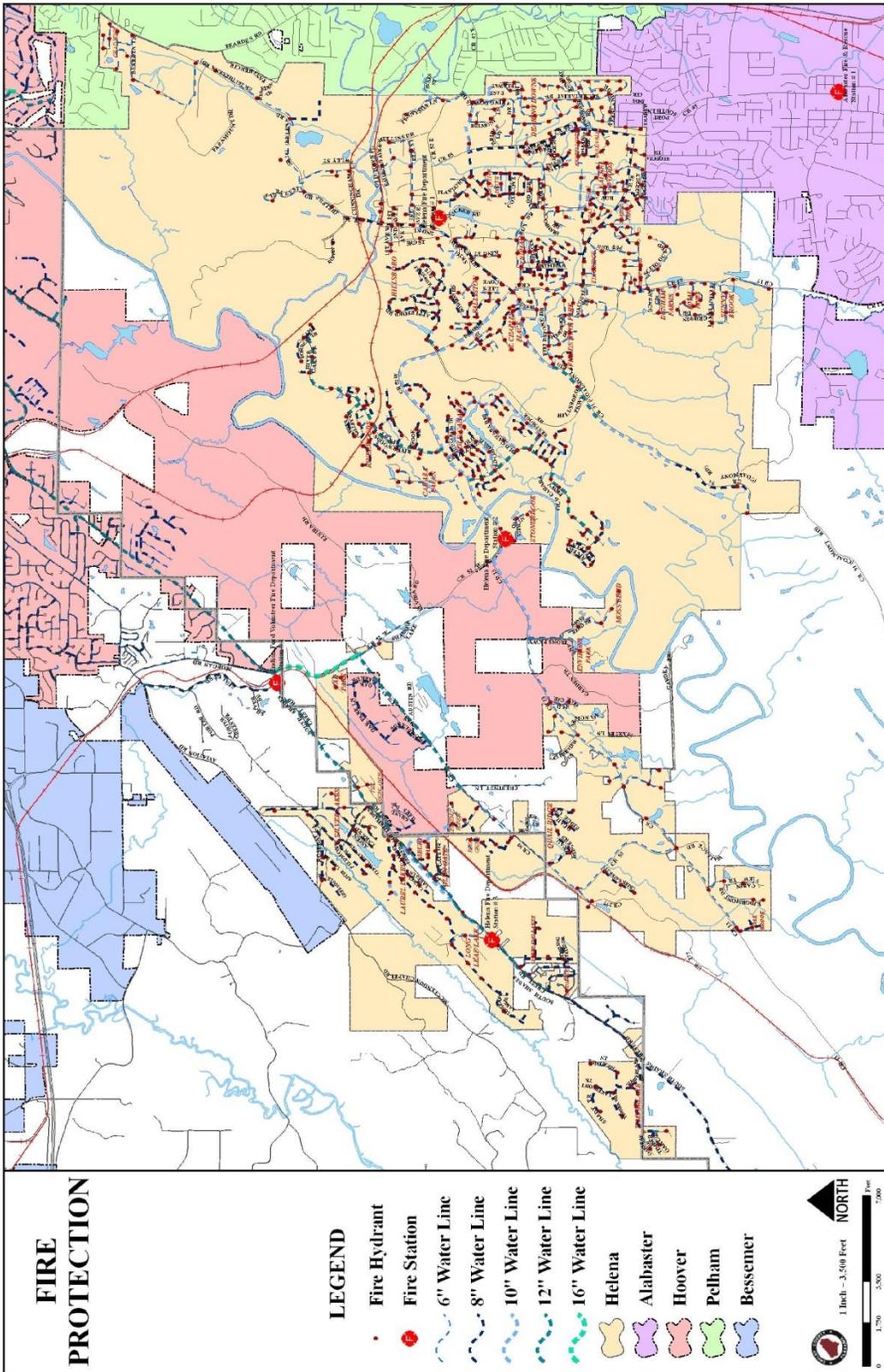
Fire Station Number 2 is located at the corner of Highway 52 West and Oak View Lane. It houses the training facility and public education office. An engine company, a ladder truck, a reserve engine, and a staff vehicle are situated here.



Helena Fire Station Number 1

In the future, As the Hillsboro development grows south of Highway 52 West and north of the railroad tracks, two new fire stations along with associated engine companies and staff vehicles will be needed to serve the population. One of these stations would be the re-located Station 1 which we would like to see in the area of Hwy 17 between Hwy 58 and Hillsboro Pkwy. The other station would need to be on the by-pass or in the area of the Sports Complex. The station that is built in the area of the Sports Complex would not only cover the new development on the north side of town, but would also alleviate the problems incurred by Station 1 in trying to cross the railroad tracks which are increasingly blocked by trains, both moving and stationary. A mutual aid agreement allows Pelham to respond to such calls as needed from its fire station off State Route 261/Helena Road.

Fire Station Number 3, which was constructed in Jefferson County, is located near the intersection of South Shades Crest Road and Laurel Lakes Drive. The station houses an engine company and a staff vehicle.





Helena Fire Station Number 3

Table 17 Fire Department Vehicles and Equipment				
Vehicle/Equipment	#	Year	Make/Model	Condition
Fire Truck	1	1996	Spartan/Quality	Fair
Fire Truck	1	1996	Pierce Sabre	Poor
Fire Truck	1	2000	Pierce Sabre	Fair
Fire Truck	1	2008	Ferrara/Spartan	Good
Ladder Truck	1	1993	Pierce/TeleSquirt	Fair/Poor
Off Road Vehicle	1	2006	Polaris Ranger	Good
Prime Mover Chassis (<i>needs a bed</i>)	1	2000	Ford F450	Fair
Special Ops/Command Trailer	1	2014	Pace America	Excellent
Utility Vehicle	1	1999	Dodge Pickup	Fair
Chief Vehicle	1	2003	Ford Crown Victoria	Fair
Shift Commander Vehicle	1	2004	Chevrolet Suburban	Fair
Staff Vehicle	1	1996	Chevrolet Suburban	Fair
Chiefs Vehicle	1	2011	Chevrolet Tahoe	Excellent
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	10		Surviveair Warriors	Good
Self-contained Breathing Apparatus	20		Surviveair Panthers	Good
Thermal Imager	2		Bullard T3	Fair
Thermal Imager	1		Bullard Commander	Poor
Ladder Truck (<i>purchased new</i>)	1	2013	HME 78 foot	New
Special Operations Vehicle	1	2016	Dodge 5500	New

Source: City of Helena

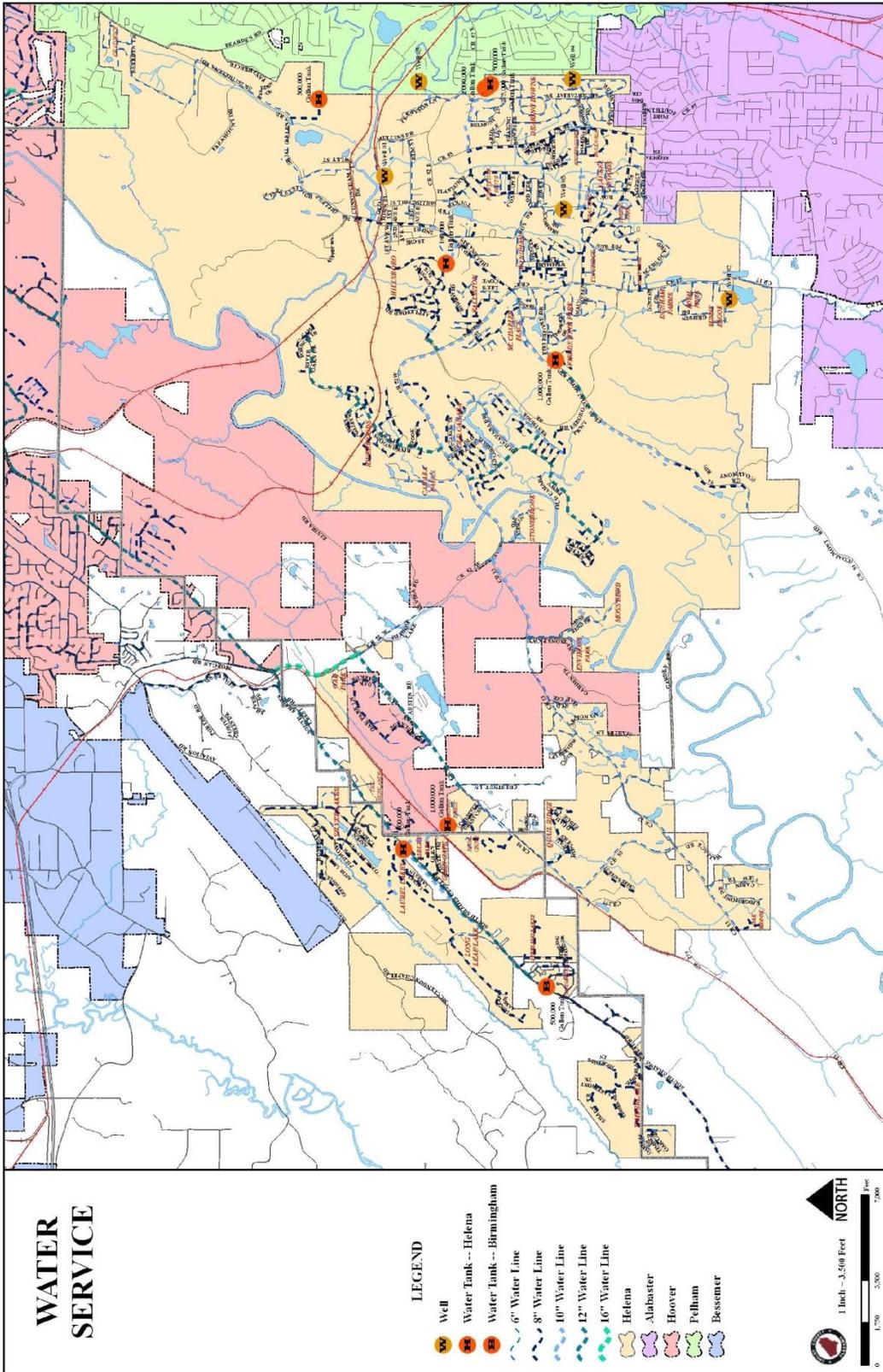
WATER SERVICE

The Helena Utility Board is one of two providers of water to Helena customers, and its main source of water comes from wells. Currently, three active wells and one backup well exist. Developed in 1987 within the Dearing Downs Subdivision, the Well #4 produces 1,300 gallons per minute (GPM). Actually located within the city limits of Pelham off Sykes Street, the newest of the wells, Well #5, pumps 600 GPM. Begun in 1977 in the Shannon Glenn Subdivision, Well #3 produces 200 GPM. Well #2 is closed. In addition, the Helena Utility Board purchases water from Bessemer Water Service to primarily provide water to residents off South Shades Crest Road. Water rates begin at \$12 for 2,000 gallons used; however residential users have a step rate increase of \$4.06 per additional 1,000 gallons used, and commercial users have a step rate increase of \$4.39 per additional 1,000 gallons used.

Major water line sizes range from 12" to 6". The Helena Utility Board maintains approximately 4.2 miles of 12" line, 11.63 miles of 10" line, 33.03 miles of 8" line, and 46.69 miles of 6" line. Water storage consists of eight water tanks. A tank farm of three tanks with a storage capacity of 2,775,000 gallons exists in Dearing Downs Subdivision; the largest tank has a 2,000,000 gallon capacity, the largest in Helena. Two 1,000,000 gallon capacity water tanks exist in Fieldstone Park Subdivision and Chestnut Forest Subdivision, respectively. Bessemer Water Service supplies the water that fills the latter tank as well as a 500,000 gallon capacity water tank just north of the latter tank at the entrance to Laurel Lakes Subdivision. Overall, storage capacity within Helena is 5,755,000 gallons.



Helena Utility Board Water Tank @ Laurel Lakes Subdivision



Within the city limits of Helena, the Birmingham Water Works provides water to subdivisions off South Shades Crest Road such as The Highlands, Silver Lakes, Asbury Parc, Glen Gate, Saddlewood, and Timberlake and off Cherokee Beach Road such as Oak Park. The water company, in relation to major lines, maintains approximately 2.58 miles of 12" line, 8.07 miles of 8" line, and 2.92 miles of 6" line, and has a 500,000 gallon capacity water tank at the intersection of South Shades Crest Road and South Crest Trail.

The Helena Utility Board releases an Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, a copy of which is shown as Appendix A of this document.



Birmingham Water Works South Crest Water Tank

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE

At a length of almost 200 miles, the Cahaba River is Alabama's longest free-flowing and most ecologically diverse stretch of river. According to biologists, it shelters more fish species per mile than any other river in the country. In 2006, a total maximum daily load (TMDL) study completed by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) concluded that designated uses of several segments of the Cahaba River were impaired, primarily due to siltation and eutrophication associated with excessive nutrient loading. To restore and protect the water quality of the Cahaba River, municipal wastewater treatment plants that discharge into this water body are faced with extremely low effluent nutrient requirements, specifically total phosphorus. Discharging into Buck Creek, a tributary of the Cahaba River, the Helena Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is one such facility that must undergo significant capital improvements to improve its treatment capability and reliability in order to meet these requirements.

Currently required to reduce effluent total phosphorus (TP) to 0.20 mg/L, the ultimate treatment level for TP at the Helena WWTP will be 0.043mg/L in April, 2022. In addition to the new permit requirements for total phosphorus, the Helena WWTP is also required to reduce effluent

total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN) to the lowest levels in the State; a challenge that, historically, has proven problematic and has led to the current consent order.

The first task to be completed before developing a solution to improve treatment capabilities was to assess the current condition of the WWTP. Garver's Water Team developed a WWTP Facilities Plan for Helena which included a plant-wide evaluation of existing treatment process; identification of any shortcomings within those processes, and prioritizing of areas to be considered for future replacement or upgrades.

Phase 1 improvements consist of rehabilitated secondary clarifiers and new tertiary filters to enhance the solids removal capabilities of the treatment facility. An online orthophosphate system, in conjunction with rapid mix and flocculation facilities, will allow for optimum coagulate dosage to ensure the necessary amount of chemical is added and not overfed. This will translate into cost savings resulting from reduced excess chemical usage. In addition to the plant improvements associated with nutrients, the existing ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system will be replaced with a more robust and reliable UV disinfection process.

Construction of Phase 1 improvements began in October 2015 and have a target completion date of April 2017.

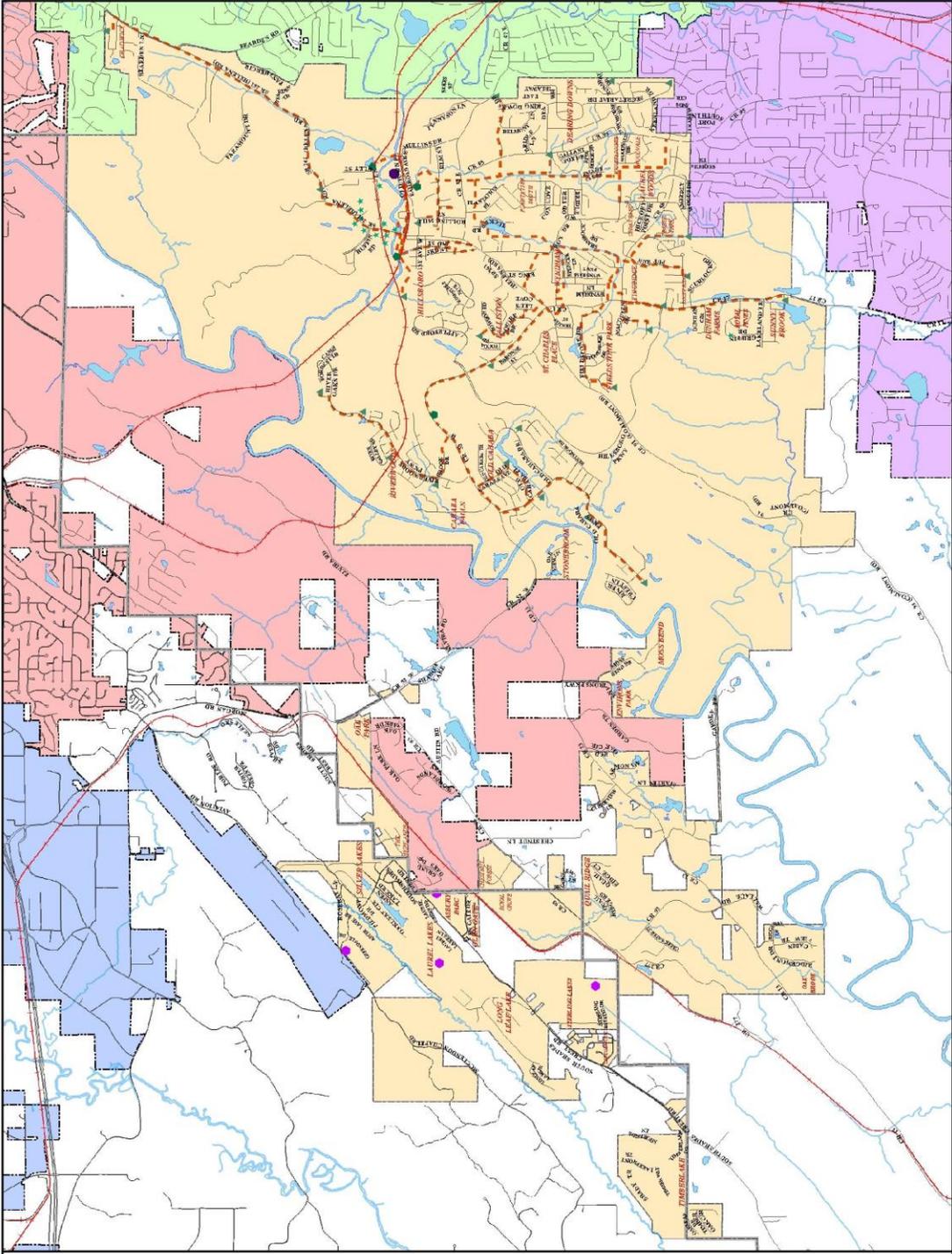
Not all of the city limits of Helena are covered by public sanitary sewer service. Primarily, all of the developments -- residential, commercial, and industrial -- east of the Cahaba River fall within the sanitary sewer service area managed by the Helena Utility Board. A few areas still are served by septic tanks on the east side of the Cahaba River. The recent additions to the sanitary sewer service area have been restricted to the subdivisions of Riverwoods, Old Cahaba, and Hillsboro. Helena has no plans in the future to provide sanitary sewer service west of the Cahaba River.

Although public sewer lines do not cross the Cahaba River, septic tanks are not the only means of treating wastewater within the western areas of the city. Private package plants, which are pre-manufactured treatment facilities used to treat wastewater in small communities, exist within four subdivisions off South Shades Crest Road. Even though Silver Lakes and Laurel Lakes subdivisions each have a package plant, not all houses are connected and thus the unconnected houses remain on septic tanks. All of the houses within Sterling Lakes and Asbury Parc subdivisions are connected to a package plant in their respective subdivisions. All future residential and non-residential developments west of the Cahaba River should be required to have package plants.

Initially, the Helena WWTP could treat only 1.25 million gallons of wastewater per day, but an additional facility was constructed adjacent to the first plant to handle Helena's growth. Currently the treatment plant handles, on average, 1.5 to 2 million gallons of wastewater per day. With the addition of the new treatment facility which is capable of handling up to 3.7 million gallons of wastewater per day, Helena now has ability to treat 4.95 million gallons of wastewater per day. The redesign and expansion of the WWTP plant has provided Helena with the ability to handle the anticipated build out of all planned residential developments on the east side of the Cahaba River.

Residential sewer rates begin at \$16.50 for the first 2,000 gallons of water used with a step rate increase, per additional 1,000 gallons, of \$2.98, and commercial sewer rates start at \$17.00 for the first 2,000 gallons of water used with a step rate of \$3.30 per additional 1,000 gallons used.

Table 18 HELENA WATER & SEWER RATES <i>Effective October 2015</i>				
	Code	Minimum Cost	Minimum Gallons	Step Rate
Water:				
Residential	100	\$13.00	2,000	\$ 5.00
Commercial	150	\$13.00	2,000	\$ 5.33
Sprinkler	100	\$ 6.00	2,000	\$ 5.00
Residential Exempt	101	\$12.53	2,000	\$ 4.55
Commercial Exempt	151	\$12.54	2,000	\$ 5.16
Sewer:				
Residential	200	\$16.50	2,000	\$ 4.00
Commercial	250	\$17.00	2,000	\$ 4.32
<i>Source: City of Helena</i>				



SANITARY SEWER SERVICE

- LEGEND**
- ★ Single Dwelling Pump Station
 - ▲ Secondary Pump Station
 - Main Pump Station
 - Package Plant
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - Sewer Lines
 - Helena
 - Alhambra
 - Hoover
 - Pelham
 - Bessemer

1 Inch = 3,500 Feet

0 1,750 3,500 Feet

NORTH



STREETS AND SANITATION

The Helena Streets and Sanitation Department currently provides yard debris pick-up on a weekly basis at a rate of \$7 per month, for annual subscribers, for a one-time pick-up at a minimum rate of \$20. The City does not provide commercial dumpster service and each business must contract individually for private dumpster services. Residential household waste and recycling is provided by Republic Services who provides both garbage and recycle containers and bills residents on a quarterly basis. Collected garbage ultimately lands in the Shelby County Landfill between Calera and Columbiana where disposal rates are \$22 a ton.

The Streets and Sanitation Department is comprised of a chief, five (5) fulltime employees, and one (1) part time animal control officer. Its vehicles include the following:

Table 19				
Streets & Sanitation Department Vehicles and Equipment				
Vehicle/Equipment	#	Year	Make/Model	Condition
Zero Turn Mowers	2	2015		Excellent
Single Axle Utility Trailer	1	2015		Excellent
Brush Truck	1	2009	Kenworth	Average
593 Tractor	1	2008	Massey Ferguson	Average
Garbage Truck	1	2007	Freightliner	Fair
4x4x Pick-up Truck	1	2004	Ford 150	Average
3500 Dump Truck	1	2003	Chevrolet 3500	Average
Pick-up Truck	1	1997	Ford 150	Average
Pick-up Truck	1	1995	Dodge Dakota	Average
54" Bush Hog	1	1994		Average
Utility Truck	1	1994	Chevrolet 2500	Average
Dump Truck	1	1987	Ford F-800	Poor
Dump Trailer	1	1989	8000 lb.	Fair
Gator	1	1989	John Deer	Average
Tractor	1	1989	Ford 46/30	Fair
310 Tractor	1	1986	John Deer	Fair
2 ½ ton Dump Truck	1	1984	Ford	Fair
Tandem Axle Utility Trailer	1	1980		Fair
Tandem Axle Utility	1			Poor
Single Axle Utility	1			Average
Metal Dump	1			Poor

Source: City of Helena

LIBRARY

The Jane Boyd Holmes Public Library, which is a 6,600 square foot building and a member of the Harrison Regional Library System, is located on Tucker Road behind the Helena Municipal Building. Staff consists of four full time employees, and the library is open every day except for Sunday. Helena's library is currently open six days per week and provides additional services such as a meeting room, internet access, facsimile, print, and self-service copy services.

In 2015, the library had a print inventory, which includes books, newspapers, and magazines, of 25,763 items and a non-print inventory, which consists of videos, books on CDs/tapes, DVDs, and music CDs, of 10277 items; the non-print collection is one of the largest and most diverse of any library within the Harrison Regional Library System.

Due to the continuous increase in population and circulation, the library needs to be replaced with a larger facility that provides more inventories and meeting space. Staff will need to be added and hours will need to be extended. Expenditures for the library will need to be boosted.

In 2014, The Helena City Council designated a piece of property close to Helena High School for a future library. Work is being undertaken through a variety of departments to achieve this goal.



Jane Boyd Holmes Public Library

PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and recreational facilities within the city limits of Helena include Amphitheater Park, Cahaba Lily Park, Helena Community Center, Helena Sports Complex, Joe Tucker Park, and Sonny Penhale Park.

Sonny Penhale Park's amenities include lighted baseball fields, lighted soccer fields, and lighted softball fields. Joe Tucker Park's amenities include a lake for fishing, lighted baseball fields, lighted tennis courts, picnic areas, pavilions, playgrounds, and a lighted walking trail. Cahaba Lily Park's amenities include picnic areas, pavilions, a playground, and lighted walking trails. Helena Sports Complex has lighted baseball fields and a football field. Helena Community Center houses a basketball gymnasium, an indoor walking track, conference rooms, classrooms, and banquet rooms. Amphitheater Park's amenities include trails, fishing, canoeing, a playground, and a stage for musical concerts and movies.

The Parks and Recreation Department with a staff of 5 full time employees who oversee the following sports programs for Helena's youth: baseball, softball, football, basketball, soccer, cheerleading and tennis.

City property abuts the southern boundary of Joe Tucker Park. This land along Lee Brook needs to be incorporated into the existing park and used for passive activities such as walking trails with picnic tables and pavilions. Additional tennis courts are needed as part of Joe Tucker Park. An outdoor disc golf course intertwined in Joe Tucker Park is a feasible project given the land available at Joe Tucker Park. The Joe Tucker Park press box/concession stand needs to be renovated or re-built.

With the land that the City has available at the Helena Sports Complex, the complex should be expanded to include an outdoor basketball facility, fields exclusively used for soccer and football. The Helena Sports Complex needs a concrete surface installed at the new athletic field. The walkway would run from the parking lot to both sides of the athletic field for better traffic flow as well as for drainage during weather. Such expansion would open the possibility to attract regional, state, and national tournaments. Buck Creek Park is proposed to be built south of the Liberty Heights subdivision between the railroad track and Buck Creek.



Helena Community Center

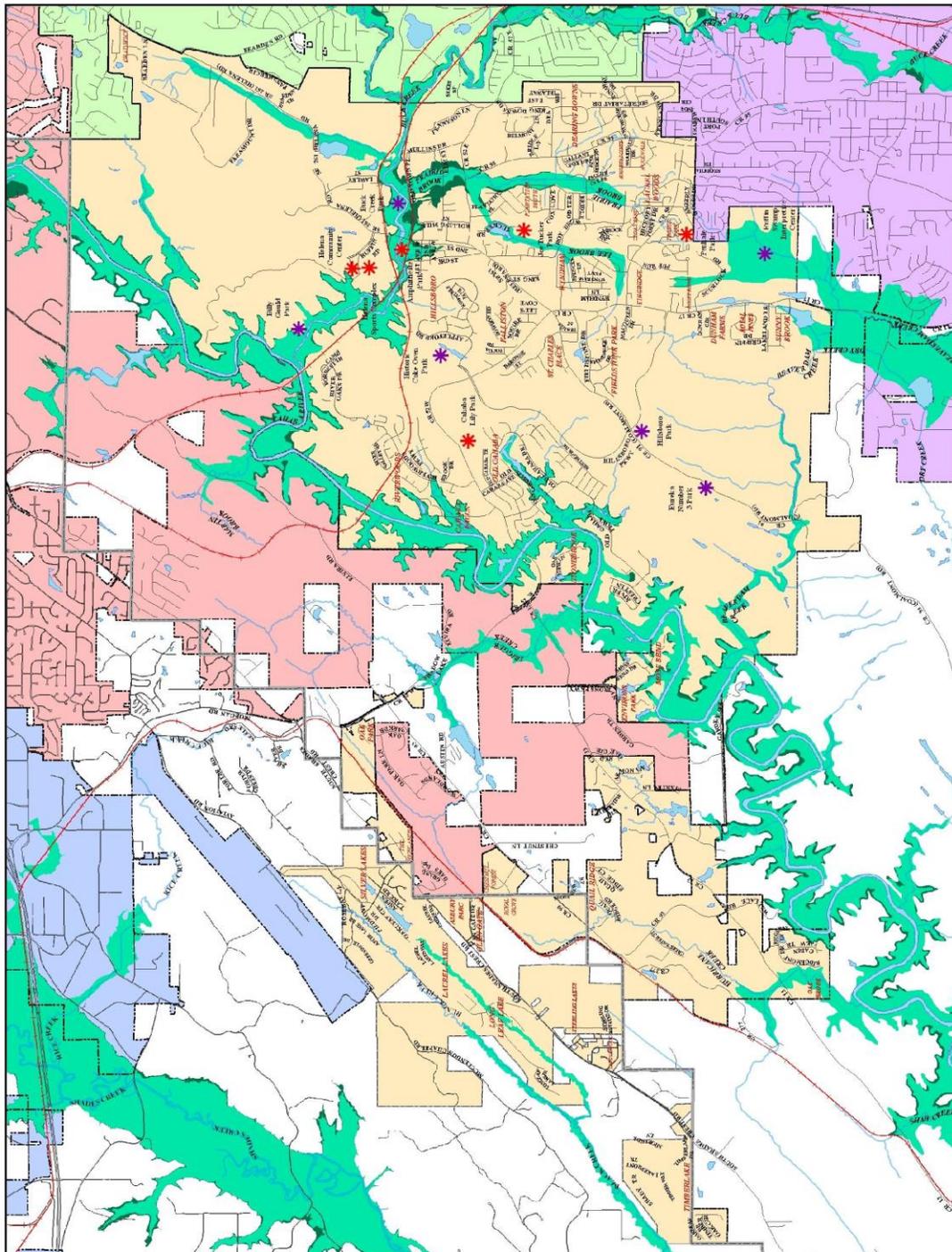
Penhale Park needs major refurbishing of its turf surfaces. An irrigation system needs to be installed at Penhale Park to allow for improved maintenance and increased longevity of its turf surfaces. The press box/concession areas needs to be completely rebuilt to better utilize the services needing to be provided.

The development of Hillsboro will allow for the construction of the Hillsboro Park and the Eureka Number 3 Park in Hillsboro South. To the west of Hillsboro, old coke ovens still exist and a passive park could encompass this historic site. Within Hillsboro North, the City owns property with more coke ovens where the Billy Gould Park is proposed to be built. As Hillsboro South fills in, the need for another sports complex and community center will be needed. In fact, the Helena Community Center has already been experiencing capacity problems during peak times without even a quarter full Hillsboro.

All of Helena's parks are located on the east side of the Cahaba River. Residents on the west side need active parks as well.



Amphitheater Park



PARKS

LEGEND

- Existing Parks
- Future Parks
- 100 Year Flood
- 500 Year Flood
- Helena
- Alabaster
- Hoover
- Pelham
- Bessener



1 Inch = 3,500 Feet

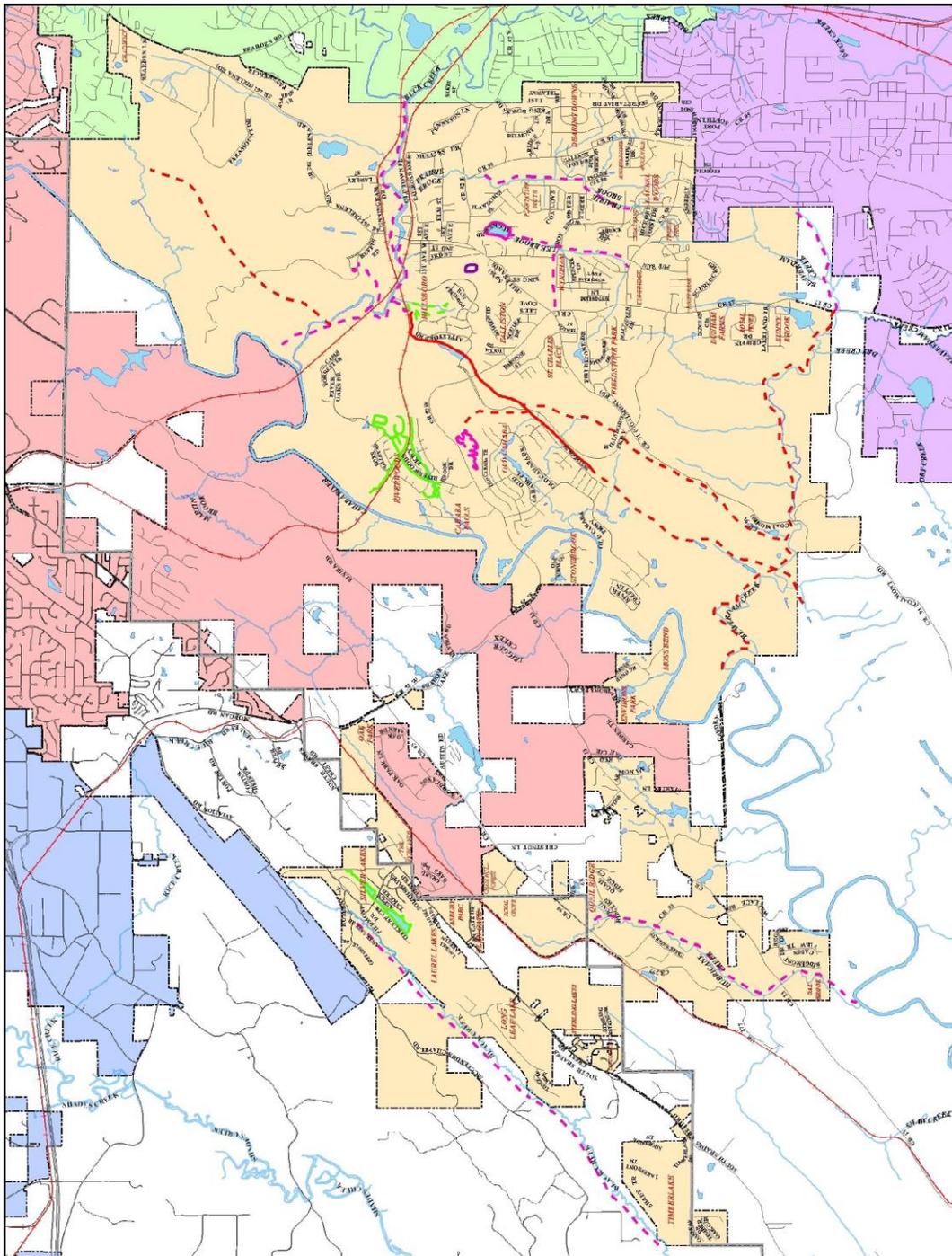
0 1,750 3,500 7,000 Feet

NORTH

Pedestrian and bicycle facilities have been built within Helena, most noteworthy being a portion of the Hillsboro Greenway built by USS with assistance from Shelby County. Future portions will be constructed as the Hillsboro Development builds out. Portions of the proposed Buck Creek Greenway are included in the current TIP, and the greenway is planned to run from the city limits with Pelham through the proposed Buck Creek Park, Amphitheater Park, connecting with the Hillsboro Greenway and the Helena Sports Complex via a spur, and continuing northward to end at the proposed Billy Gould Park. Walking trails are found within Joe Tucker Park and Cahaba Lily Park as well as an indoor walking track at the Helena Community Center. Riverwoods and Silver Lakes subdivisions have trail systems incorporated within them. Helena needs to produce a greenway master plan which covers all pedestrian and bicycle facilities to set guidelines as to the minimum standards that such facilities should adhere.



Hillsboro Greenway @ Highway 52 West



PEDESTRIAN AND/OR BICYCLE FACILITIES

LEGEND

Public Facility

- Existing (Solid purple line)
- Proposed (Dashed purple line)

Quasi Public Facility

- Existing (Solid red line)
- Proposed (Dashed red line)

School Facility

- Existing (Solid green line)
- Proposed (Dashed green line)

Subdivision Facility

- Existing (Solid blue line)
- Proposed (Dashed blue line)

Helena (Orange) Alabaster (Yellow) Hoover (Green) Pelham (Purple) Bessemer (Blue)

1 Inch = 3,500 Feet
 0 1,750 3,500 Feet
 NORTH

Final Draft

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