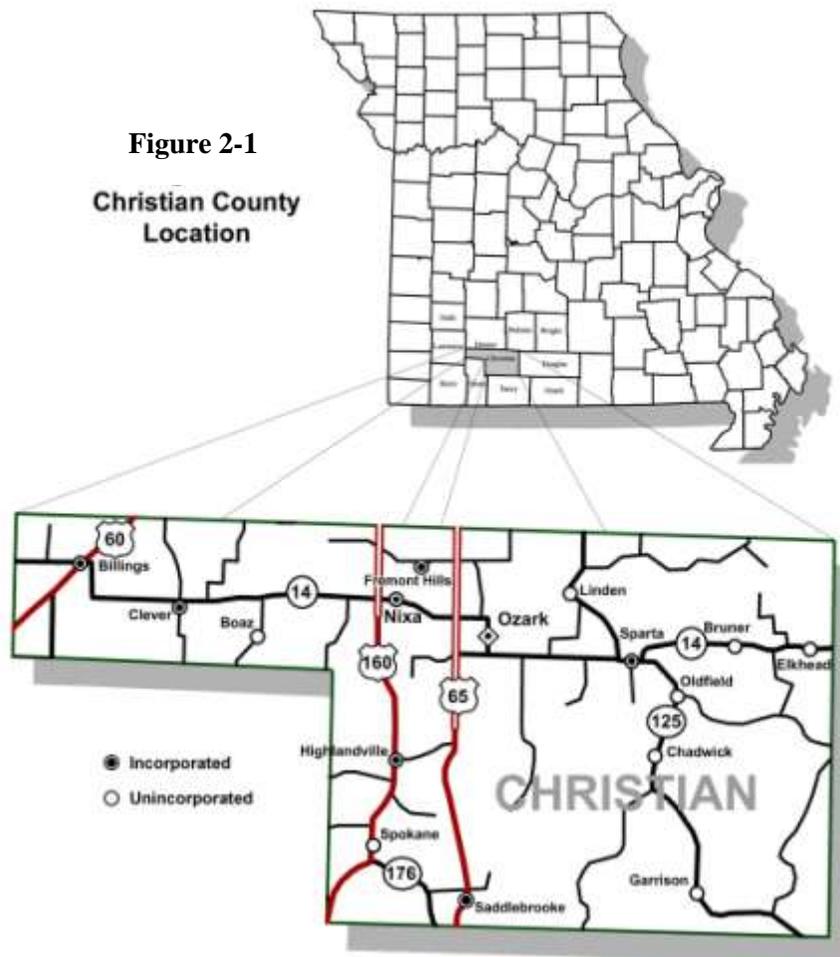


Part II: Community Profile

Location

Christian County covers approximately 564 square miles in Southwest Missouri and is bordered by Greene, Lawrence, Stone, Taney, Douglas, and Webster Counties. Though Christian County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Missouri and is considered part of the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area (Greene, Christian, Dallas, Polk and Webster Counties), the southern part of the county is predominantly rural in character.

Incorporated communities include the Village of Saddlebrooke and the cities of Billings, Clever, Fremont Hills, Highlandville, Nixa, Ozark, and Sparta. Of these cities, Nixa and Ozark are the largest with estimated 2008 populations of 18,829 and 18,095, respectively. Saddlebrooke, which incorporated in 2002, is the smallest community with an estimated population of 72.



Development History

When the first European trappers and hunters entered the Southwest Missouri region in the early 1800s, the Christian County area was occupied by the Osage Indians. The region passed from the control of the Osage to the Spanish and French until it became a territory of the United States through the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 (Christian County Centennial, 1959, p. 1). Henry Rowe Schoolcraft explored the region in 1819 and the first permanent settlers arrived within two years. The area's rivers served as the avenues for exploration and focal point for the development of the first permanent communities, such as the City of Ozark, which developed along the banks of Finley Creek. Created from territories of Greene, Taney and Webster counties, Christian County was formally organized as a county by an act of the Missouri Legislature on March 8, 1859 (Christian County Centennial, 1959, p. 2). Ozark was selected as the county seat because of its central location and accessibility.

Trade roads and the advent of the railroads brought new settlement patterns and economic growth to Christian County in the later 1800s. The railroad utilized the area's timber reserves for tie production and industry. While Chadwick and Ozark became shipping centers for agricultural products to and from southern Missouri and northern Arkansas, Sparta became a center for shipping railroad ties and timber. Growth of the City of Billings, located in the fertile agricultural area in the western panhandle of Christian County, was also spurred by the extension of the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad through the area. The communities of Nixa and Clever developed along road/trade routes. Nixa developed at the intersection of the Wilderness Road leading south from Springfield and a road leading west (currently Missouri Highway 14) from the Ozark area. Clever developed as a trading post along the Old Wire road, a principal road west of the Mississippi River running from St. Louis to the southwest United States.

Through the late 1800s to early 1900s, the area's agricultural base spurred related agricultural businesses, ranging from grist milling to cheese production to vegetable canning. A decreasing demand for the area's grain crops, fruits and vegetables after the Great Depression resulted in a shift to beef and dairy cattle production as the dominant agricultural sector activity.

The primary catalyst to the county's growth and economic diversification in the later half of the 20th century has been proximity and improved road linkages with Springfield to the north. Rapid industrial growth in the Springfield area during the 1960s and 1970s provided employment opportunities within commuting distance for Christian County residents. During the 1980s, the county continued to attract new residents, many who desired to live in a more rural atmosphere but within close proximity to the amenities of the Springfield metropolitan area.

Today, Christian County exhibits a more diversified economic base with a pattern of development influenced by its location between the Springfield metropolitan area to the north and the Branson/Tri-Lakes area to the south. The growth of the tourism and recreation economy in the Branson area since 1990 has served as a catalyst for rapid

population growth and new residential and commercial development. Transportation system improvements to the Springfield-Branson corridor over the past decade have also spurred the in-migration of residents who are within commuting distance of employment centers in Springfield and the Branson/Tri-Lakes area. Northern Christian County is quickly urbanizing with residential and service/convenience commercial activities. The southern portions of the county remain relatively undeveloped, due principally to large acreages in the Busiek State Forest and the Mark Twain National Forest.

Form of Government

Missouri is divided into 114 counties and the City of St. Louis by the Revised Statutes of Missouri (RSMo) §46.040. Counties are political subdivisions of the State “for governmental, political, and public purposes” (Freyermuth, n.d.) and have a wide range of governmental responsibilities. The Missouri legislature has established four classes of counties, based on the assessed valuation of real and personal property (Freyermuth, n.d.; RSMo §48.820). Christian County is classified as a second class county and is governed by a three-member Commission. Under the provisions of RSMo §49.010, counties are divided into two districts of nearly equal population. Each district elects one commissioner and the presiding commissioner is elected by the county as a whole. Commissioners serve four-year terms.

There are currently two classes of cities in Missouri--third and fourth class cities, as well as villages and home rule charter cities (Freyermuth, n.d.). Fourth class cities are those with populations greater than 500 but less than 3,000 inhabitants. Villages/towns are incorporations with less than 500 inhabitants (RSMo §72.050). There are eight municipal subdivisions within Christian County, including the recently incorporated Village of Saddlebrooke and the cities of Billings, Clever, Fremont Hills, Highlandville, Nixa, Ozark, and Sparta. All of the cities are incorporated as fourth-class cities.

Villages are regulated under RSMo §80 and are governed by a board of trustees. The board elects a presiding officer (chair) and a clerk, and appoints the village’s officers. Fourth class cities are regulated by RSMo §79. Such cities may have the mayor/board of aldermen or mayor/city administrator/board of aldermen form of government. The mayor presides over the board but may vote only to break a tie. Table 2-1 lists the incorporated communities in Christian County, government form, and meeting dates.

The settlement of Spokane is classified by the U.S. Bureau of the Census as a Census-Designated Place (CDP) for statistical reporting purposes. CDPs are delineated to provide data for concentrations of population in identifiable areas that are not incorporated under the laws of the state. Statistical information is provided in this plan for Spokane; however, Spokane is under the governance of Christian County.

Local Government	Form of Government	Meeting Dates
Christian County	Commission	Mon and Thurs
Billings	Mayor/Aldermen	2 nd Thurs, 7 p.m.

Clever	Mayor/Aldermen	2 nd Mon, 6:30 p.m.
Fremont Hills	Mayor/Aldermen	3 rd Thurs, 6:00 p.m.
Highlandville	Mayor/Aldermen	2 nd Tues, 7:00 p.m.
Nixa	Mayor/City Administrator/Council	2 nd Mon, 7:00 p.m.
Ozark	Mayor/City Administrator/Aldermen	1 st and 3 rd Mon, 7:00 p.m.
Saddlebrooke	Chairman/Trustees	As Needed
Sparta	Mayor/Aldermen	2 nd Tues, 6:30 p.m.

Physical Characteristics

Geology and Physiography

Christian County is situated on the Springfield Plateau and the Salem Plateau, subdivisions of the Ozark Plateau physiographic region. Most of the northern portion of Christian County is located on the Springfield Plateau while the southeastern portion of the county lies on the Salem Plateau. The Eureka Springs Escarpment, a narrow belt of hills, crosses the county from the northeast to the southwest and separates the Springfield Plateau from the Salem Plateau.

The county's topographic landscape ranges from the gently rolling hills of the Springfield Plateau to the rugged bluffs, ridges, and deep valleys characteristic of the Salem Plateau. Elevation ranges from 1,590 feet mean sea level in the northeast portion of the county to 830 feet mean sea level in the southeast where Swan Creek enters Taney County.

Much of Christian County is considered a sensitive karst region. Karst topography occurs in regions underlain by calcium-rich limestone or dolomite bedrock. Calcium is easily dissolved by carbonates in the air and surface waters that enter fractures and joints in the bedrock. Sinkholes, caves and losing streams are produced, which after time form a vast underground drainage network connecting surface water with underlying groundwater. Karst features represent a threat to groundwater quality as surface pollutants can easily enter the groundwater system with little filtration.

Christian County has numerous sinkholes ranging in size from a few yards in diameter to several acres in area. The most extensive region of sinkholes lies just north and west of the City of Nixa. The largest sinkholes in this area are the Aven and Deffenderfer Sinks. The north central and northwestern parts of Christian County are classified by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources as a sensitive area for well construction due to the karst topography (Southwest Missouri Council of Governments, 1993).

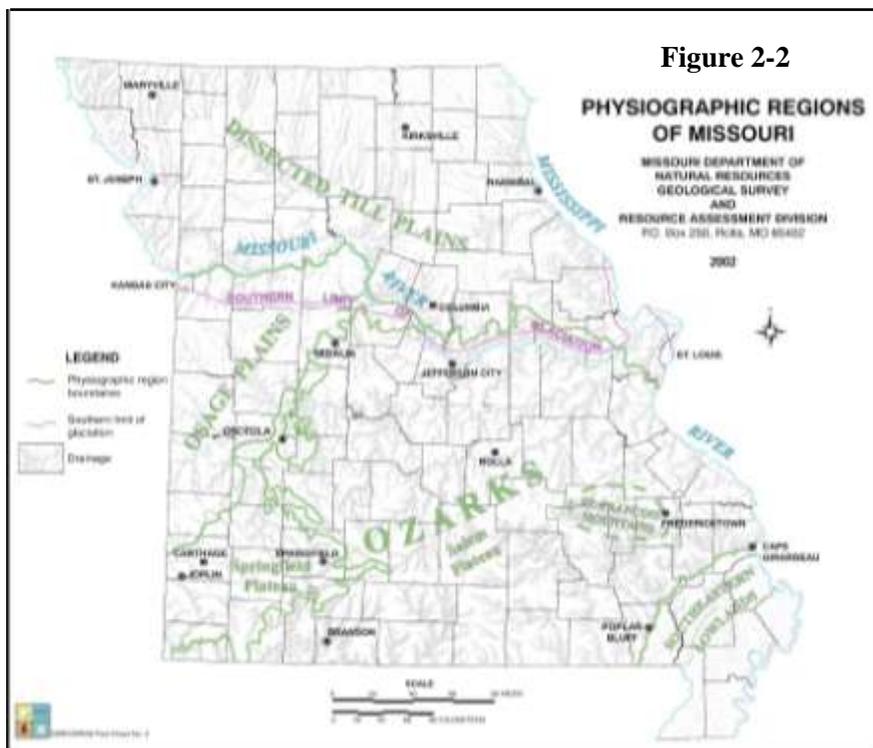
Another prevalent karst feature found in Christian County is caves. Over 140 caves have been identified and documented in the county. Caves are found in limestones and dolomites, with most located in the Mississippian aged Burlington and Pierson limestones and a few in the Ordovician aged Cotter dolomites (Porter and Thompson, 1975).

Christian County is underlain by Mississippian and Devonian age limestones, dolomites, shales, siltstones and sandstones. The Eureka Springs Escarpment forms the boundary between the Mississippian age limestones of the Springfield Plateau and the Devonian age limestones of the Salem Plateau. The most prominent rock formations in Christian

County are the Cotter, Northview, Reeds Spring/Elsey, and Burlington/Keokuk Formations.

The Cotter Formation, consisting of dolomite, is the oldest and most deeply buried rock unit. A sandstone unit within this formation furnishes small amounts of groundwater that recharge many springs in the valleys of southern Christian County.

The Northview Formation, consisting of shale and siltstone, is a divider between shallow and deep groundwater in the county. The shale portion of the Northview Formation acts as an aquatard or barrier to the percolation of water, allowing for the formation of springs and seeps at the top of the formation. Due to the shallow percolation of waters, well water from aquifers in the Northview Formation is prone to contamination from surface pollutants. The Reeds Spring/Elsey Formation is comprised of alternating layers of limestone and chert. This formation is found in all areas of the County, but occurs mainly on the hillsides along the James River and Finley Creek. Burlington/Keokuk limestone, the upper most layer of bedrock, underlies much of the county. The formation outcrops in the northern stream valleys and central portion of the county.



There are four main structural features within the county, formed through the deformation of bedrock by uplifting and faulting. These include the Chesapeake, Sac River, Ponce de Leon, and Highlandville Faults. The Chesapeake Fault runs from the Lawrence-Christian county line west of Billings and extends in a southeasterly direction.

The Sac River Fault parallels the Chesapeake Fault and runs from just north of the City of Nixa to where the James River crosses the Greene-Christian county line. Breccia, very porous rock composed of coarse fragments, is common along this fault. Surface water and pollutants can easily pass through the brecciated material, creating potential for groundwater contamination (McCracken, 1972). The Ponce de Leon Fault is located principally in Stone County, but extends east-southeasterly into the extreme southwest corner of Christian County, south of Spokane. The Highlandville Fault runs from the Stone-Christian county line, northwest of Highlandville, in a southeasterly direction to approximately U.S. Highway 65.

Hydrology and Drainage

Christian County lies within the Osage River Basin, the Upper White River Basin, and the Spring River Basin. A small portion of the western panhandle of Christian County, including the City of Billings, lies within the Sac River watershed, which drains northwest to the Osage River. Also, a small portion of the panhandle area west of MO Highway 13 and south of the City of Billings lies within the Spring River Basin. The Spring River drains in a northwesterly direction to east of the City of Asbury in Jasper County then southwest into Kansas and to the Grand Lake of the Cherokees in Oklahoma. Most of Christian County lies within the James River Basin and the Bull Shoals Lake Basin, sub-basins of the Upper White River Basin (Figure 2-3).

The northern third of the county is located in the James River Basin. From its headwaters in Webster County, the James traverses nearly ninety-nine miles through southern Greene County and Christian County, flowing in a southerly direction to where it is impounded in Table Rock Lake in Stone County. Major tributaries to the James flowing in Christian County include Finley Creek, Flat Creek, Terrell Creek, and Wilson's Creek.

There are four intermittent streams with permanent pools located in the Christian County portion of the James River Basin. "Intermittent" refers to a stream that has intervals of flow interspersed with intervals of no flow. These streams include Stewart Creek, Terrell Creek, and two unnamed laterals to Finley Creek. There are also 62 losing stream reaches. Losing stream reaches, a feature of karst topography, means the surface water goes underground (Kiner and Vitello, n.d.).

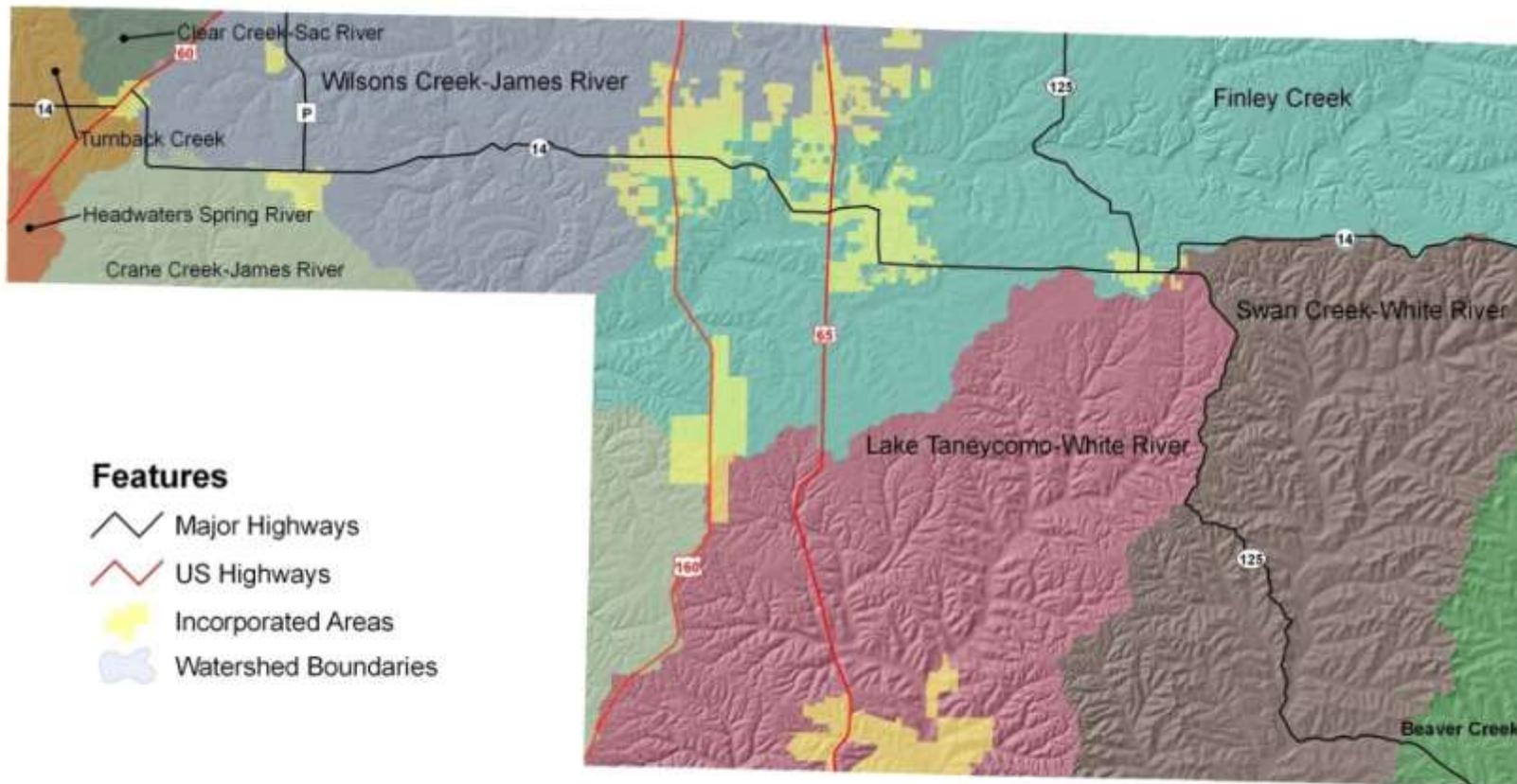
The cities of Fremont Hills, Highlandville, Nixa, and Ozark are located in the James River Basin. Finley Creek flows through the center of the City of Ozark and has caused major flooding in past high water events. Rapid urbanization is occurring in the James River Basin area between the City of Springfield in Greene County and Nixa and Ozark in Christian County.

Portions of the county are within the Bull Shoals Lake watershed, which is a subdivision of the Upper White River Basin. The watershed lies on the Salem Plateau, with a small portion of the northwestern edge of the watershed on the Springfield Plateau. Major Christian County tributaries in the Bull Shoals Lake watershed include Swan, Bull and Bear Creeks, which flow in a southerly direction. There are two intermittent streams in

the watershed, an unnamed tributary to the West Fork of Bull Creek and an unnamed tributary to the Woods Fork of Bull Creek. Most of the Bull Shoals Lake watershed is rural, including sizeable acreage in the southern and eastern portion of Christian County in the Mark Twain National Forest. None of the streams and creeks in the watershed flow through incorporated communities in Christian County. Predominant agricultural activity in the watershed is cattle production.

Finley Creek is the only stream or tributary flowing through any of the incorporated communities in Christian County. The smaller streams and creeks mainly affect low water bridges on county roads and low-lying agricultural lands.

Figure 2-3: Christian County Watersheds



Prepared by: David Faucett
Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Date: 11/10/2009
Source: Missouri Spatial Data Information Service

Climate and Weather

Christian County has a continental climate characterized by mild winters and hot summers. The average annual temperature is in the mid fifties, with an average summer temperature of 76°F and the average winter temperature of 34°F. Average annual precipitation is approximately 39 inches with about 60 percent or 24 inches falling between April and September. The area has an average growing season of 192 days, with the first killing frost occurring around October 23rd and the last killing frost of spring around April 14th. Prevailing winds are generally from the south-southwest with an average velocity of eight to ten miles per hour (Kiner and Vitello, n.d.).

Thunderstorms occur primarily in the summer months. The region has experienced numerous destructive tornadoes, with nearly 1,000 tornadoes touching down within a 125-mile radius of Springfield since 1950.

Demographics

Population Growth Trends

Christian County has experienced rapid growth since the 1970s, far outpacing the rate of growth for the State of Missouri and the United States. The county's rate of growth has been explosive since 1990, with population increasing from 32,644 in 1990 to 54,285 in 2000, a 66.3 percent rate of growth. In-migration overwhelmingly accounts for the county's rapid increase in population. The county's rapid growth rate is continuing, with population estimated at 75,479 in July 2008, a change of 39 percent in the eight years from 2000 to 2008. In 2008, Christian County was ranked as the fastest growing county in Missouri, based on percent change in population, and the fourth fastest growing county in terms of actual population increase.

Both the urban and rural populations in Christian County have increased since the 1970s. Since 1990, however, population in the incorporated communities has increased far more than the rural population. In 1990, population in incorporated communities accounted for 34.9 percent of total county population, increasing to 48.8 percent of population in 2000 and 56.3 percent of total population in 2008. Between 1990 and 2008, the county's incorporated population increased by 31,077 persons, as compared to an increase of 11,758 persons in the unincorporated areas. The rapid increase in urban population is primarily attributable to exceptionally rapid growth in the cities of Nixa and Ozark, with 2008 populations estimated at 18,829 and 18,095, respectively. Ozark and Nixa were ranked respectively as the ninth and thirteenth fastest growing cities in Missouri in 2008.

The greatest concentration of growth and population density in Christian County is occurring in the urbanizing corridors between Springfield and Nixa along U.S. Highway 160 and along the U.S. Highway 65 corridor between Springfield and Ozark. The outward spread of urbanization from the Springfield metropolitan area has transformed the rural character of the county and is blurring the urban/rural interface in north central Christian County (see Figure 2-4).

Table 2-2: Population Change, 1990-2008

Jurisdiction	1990 Population	2000 Population	Change 1990-2000	% Change 1990-2000	2008 Population	% Change 2000-2008
Christian Co.	32,644	54,295	21,641	66.3	75,479	39
Billings	911	1,091	180	10.3	1,118	2.5
Clever	580	1,010	430	74.1	1,634	61.8
Fremont Hills	201	597	396	197.0	612	2.5
Highlandville	--	872	--	--	911	4.5
Nixa	4,707	12,124	7,417	157.6	18,829	55.3
Ozark	4,243	9,665	5,422	127.8	18,095	87.22
Sparta	751	1,144	393	52.3	1,199	4.8
Incorporated Population Total	11,393	26,503	15,110	132.6	42,470	60.25
Unincorporated Population Total	21,251	27,792	6,541	30.8	33,009	18.81

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Summary File 1, Census 1990, 2000. Annual Estimates of the Population for Incorporated Places in Missouri, July 1, 2008.*

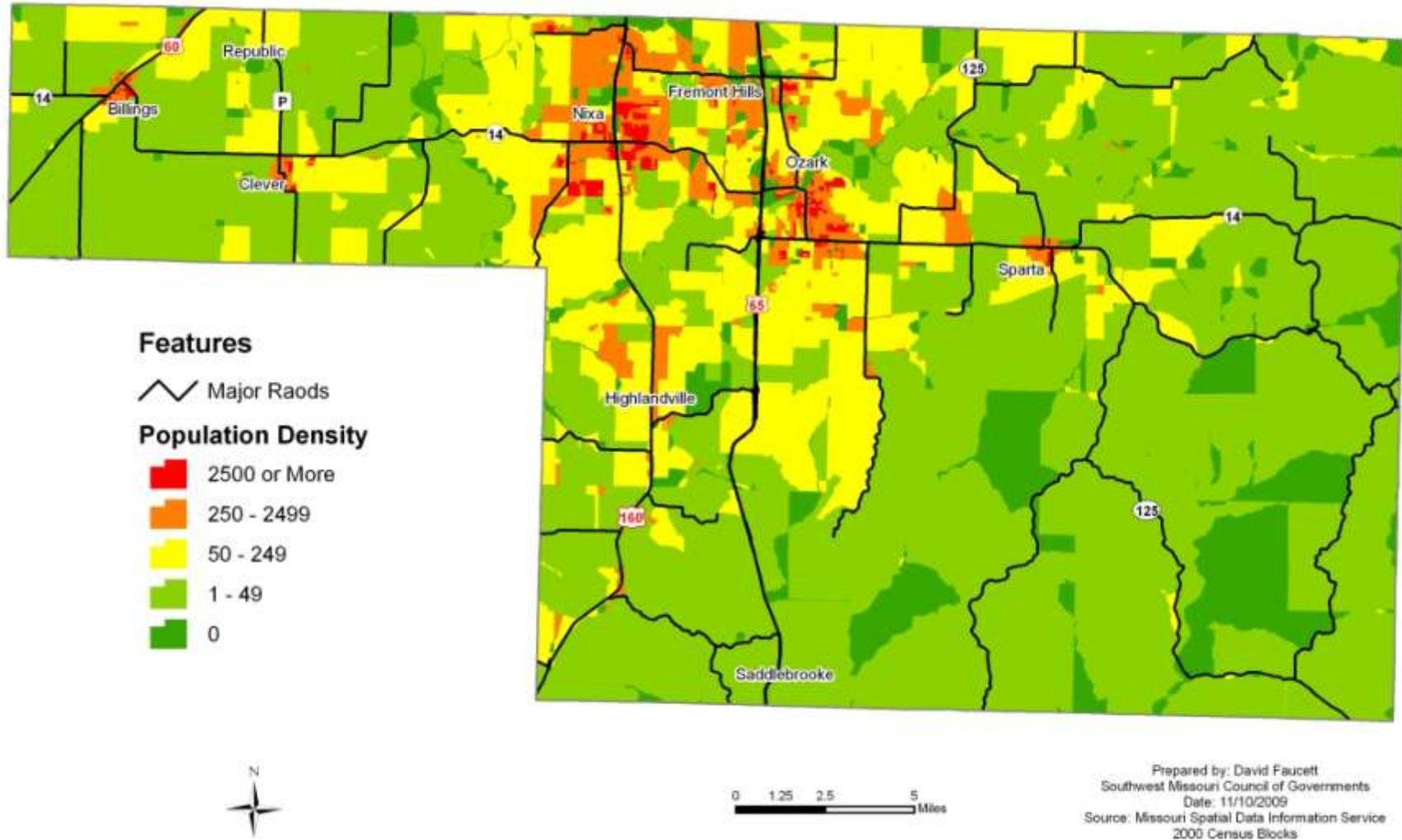
Age Characteristics

Christian County's population is dominated by two age groups; the youth population under the age of 19 accounts for 28.2 percent of the population, while the 25-54 age group represents nearly 45 percent of the population. The age characteristics of the population reflect the aging of the baby boom generation and the in-migration of middle age workers and families attracted by quality of life factors such as land and housing costs, quality of schools and access to nearby employment centers.

Table 2-3: Christian County Age Specific Population, 2008				
Age Cohort	Total Males	Total Females	Total Population	Percent of Total
Under 5	2,944	2,730	5,674	7.5
5 - 9	2,818	2,632	5,450	7.2
10 - 14	2,779	2,653	5,432	7.2
15 - 19	2,456	2,305	4,761	6.3
20 - 24	2,185	2,516	4,701	6.2
25 - 34	6,267	6,647	12,914	17.1
35 - 44	5,133	5,388	10,522	13.9
45 - 54	5,075	5,170	10,245	13.6
55 - 64	3,515	3,852	7,367	9.7
65 - 74	2,191	2,405	4,596	6.1
75 - 84	1,172	1,625	2,797	3.7
85+	333	688	1,021	1.4
Total	36,868	38,611	75,479	100.0
Median Age			34.1	

Source: Missouri Census Data Center. 2008 Population Estimates by Age

Figure 2-4: Christian County Population Density, 2000



Of the municipalities in Christian County, the Spokane CDP (Census-Designated Place) has the largest percentage of population under the age of 18, while the City of Billings has the greatest percentage of population aged 65 and older.

Christian County's median age increased slightly between 1990 and 2000, due in part to the natural aging of the baby boom population. However, the county's median age of 34.5 year in 2000 was lower than that of surrounding counties, the State of Missouri (36.1 years) and the nation (35.3 years) for the same period.

Jurisdiction	Total Population	Percent Under 18	Percent 18 - 64	Percent 65 and over	Median Age
Christian County	54,295	27.8	61.6	10.6	34.5
Billings	1,091	26.9	58.7	14.4	34.1
Clever	1,010	31.4	57.4	11.2	31.0
Fremont Hills	597	23.6	67.0	9.4	43.0
Highlandville	872	28.7	64.3	7.0	33.9
Nixa	12,124	28.4	60.2	11.4	31.9
Ozark	9,665	28.9	61.3	9.8	29.8
Sparta	1,144	30.9	54.8	14.3	32.4
Spokane CDP	133	42.1	52.6	5.3	28.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Summary File 1, Census 2000.*

Race

Christian County's population is primarily White, with minority populations representing 1.1 percent of the total population in 2000. Hispanics make up 1.3 percent of the total population. The City of Ozark has the highest percentage of Hispanics (1.7 percent), while Billings has the lowest percentage (0.1 percent).

Jurisdiction	Percent of Total Population							
	Race							Hispanic or Latino (any race)
	One Race						Two or More Races	
	White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	Some Other Race		
Christian County	98.9	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.4	1.1	1.3
Billings	99.2	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.1
Clever	98.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.9
Fremont Hills	99.3	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.7	0.8
Highlandville	98.6	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.4	0.9
Nixa	99.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.3	1.0	1.3
Ozark	96.4	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.6	1.6	1.7
Sparta	96.5	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.3	1.7	1.2
Spokane CDP	97.7	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Summary File 1, Census 2000.*

Income Characteristics

In 2008, the estimated median household income in Christian County was \$49,868, slightly higher than that of the State of Missouri (\$46,408), but lower than the United States (\$52,175). The 2008 estimated per capita income for Christian County, \$22,992, is lower than state and national figures.

Income	Number of Households	Margin of Error	Percent of Total	Margin of Error
Less than \$10,000	1,184	+/-248	4.4	+/-0.9
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,407	+/-306	5.2	+/-1.1
\$15,000 to \$24,999	2,734	+/-708	10.1	+/-2.6
\$25,000 to \$34,999	3,518	+/-815	13	+/-3.0
\$35,000 to \$49,999	4,733	+/-1,056	17.5	+/-3.9
\$50,000 to \$74,999	5,968	+/-888	22	+/-3.2
\$75,000 to \$99,999	3,641	+/-486	13.5	+/-1.8
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2,834	+/-634	10.5	+/-2.3
\$150,000 to \$199,999	627	+/-221	2.3	+/-0.8
\$200,000 or more	415	+/-171	1.5	+/-0.6
Total Households	27,061	+/-598	100	--
Median Household Income	49,868	+/-2,394	--	--
Per Capita Income	22,992	+/-878	--	--

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.

The county's percentage of population living below the poverty level decreased slightly between 1989 and 1999. However, the percentage of population below the poverty level in 1999 was higher than that of the state or nation. In 1999, 4,869 persons, or 11.0 percent of the population in Christian County were below the poverty level, in comparison to 8.5 percent for Missouri and 8.1 percent for the United States.

The 2007 poverty rate in Christian County was 10.4 percent which was lower than that of the state (13.3 percent). The poverty rate among children (15.3%) was lower than that of the state (18.4%). In 2007, 30.2 percent of children in Christian County were enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program, compared to 41.7 percent statewide.

Educational Attainment

The educational attainment level of Christian County's population has increased since 1990. Census 2000 data indicate that 51.7 percent of the population 25 years and older have education beyond a high school diploma or equivalent. Of this number, over 20 percent have a college or professional degree. Table 2-7 presents the change in educational attainment of Christian County's population aged 25 and older between 1990 and 2000. Table 2-8 lists educational attainment by jurisdiction in 2000.

Education Level	1990	2000	Percent Change 1990-2000	Percent of Population Age 25+	
				1990	2000
College Graduate or Professional Degree	2,556	7,277	184.7	12.5	20.9
Some College-No Degree	4,171	8,759	109.9	20.3	25.2
Associate Degree	736	1,965	166.9	3.58	5.6
High School Graduate Equivalent	8,260	11,876	43.8	40.3	34.1
Grades 9-12, No Diploma	2,857	3,572	25.0	13.9	10.3
Less than 9 th Grade	1,938	1,341	-30.8	9.4	3.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Summary File 3, Census 1990, 2000.*

Jurisdiction	Less than 9 th grade	9 th -12 th grade, no diploma	High school graduate	Some college, no degree	Assoc. degree	BA/BS degree or higher	Percent high school graduate or higher	Percent BA/BS degree or higher
Christian County	1,341	3,572	11,876	8,759	1,965	7,277	85.8	20.9
Billings	37	81	299	160	20	88	82.8	12.8
Clever	40	73	254	147	21	82	81.7	13.3
Fremont Hills	3	19	68	109	22	213	94.9	49.1
Highlandville	24	99	253	118	26	27	77.5	4.9
Nixa	175	705	2,434	2,284	379	1,680	88.5	21.9
Ozark	352	510	1,669	1,605	433	1,434	85.6	23.9
Sparta	66	141	299	146	17	29	70.3	4.2
Spokane CDP	0	6	24	19	0	12	90.2	19.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Summary File 3, Census 2000.*

Household Characteristics

In 2000, over 75 percent of all households in Christian County were family households. However, married couples with children under 18 represented 31 percent of the total households in Christian County. Single person households accounted for 19 percent of all households. Table 2-9 describes household characteristics for the county, municipalities and census designated places at the time of the 2000 Census.

Jurisdiction	Total Households	Family Households			Non-Family Household	Single Person Household	Average Household Size
		Total Family	Married Couple w/ children under 18	Single Parent w/ children under 18			
Christian County	20,473	15,893	6,369	1,688	4,580	3,893	2.63
Billings	459	312	98	51	147	136	2.40
Clever	379	280	123	32	99	87	2.60
Fremont Hills	235	209	76	10	26	24	2.67
Highlandville	323	263	86	35	60	48	2.72
Nixa	4,679	3,492	1,373	482	1,187	968	2.56
Ozark	3,739	2,714	1,129	419	1,025	854	2.57
Sparta	454	307	86	70	147	134	2.47
Spokane CDP	32	32	32	0	0	0	3.50

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Summary File 1, Census 2000.*

Economy, Employment, and Industry

Labor Force Characteristics

Christian County's labor force has increased greatly since 1990, growing from 16,686 persons in 1990 to 28,763 persons in 2000, a 72.4 percent increase over the decade. This compares to an 11 percent increase in the labor force for the State of Missouri during the same period. The county's average 2008 labor force was 37,631 persons.

The June 2009 unemployment rate (per BLS, preliminary and not seasonally adjusted) was 8.1 percent, compared with 9.5 percent statewide. According to Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) estimates, in 2007 there were 30,920 jobs in Christian County. Construction accounted for more than 15.3 percent of the total jobs (4,731). Retail trade (4,179), other services, except public administration (2,520) and local government (2,330) were the next largest industries for the county.

Table 2-10 lists employment by industrial sector in 2008, derived from the Census 2006-08. It should be noted that this reflects employment for persons residing in Christian County, not place of employment. The following section on Primary Industries (Table 2-11) provides information on businesses located in Christian County and employees.

Industry	# Employed	Margin of Error	Percent of Total	Margin of Error
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	383	+/-239	1.00%	+/-0.6
Construction	3,149	+/-516	8.40%	+/-1.4
Manufacturing	3,300	+/-478	8.80%	+/-1.3
Wholesale trade	1,721	+/-391	4.60%	+/-1.0
Retail trade	5,567	+/-658	14.80%	+/-1.7
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	2,029	+/-340	5.40%	+/-0.9
Information	971	+/-328	2.60%	+/-0.9
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	2,629	+/-456	7.00%	+/-1.2
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	3,113	+/-461	8.30%	+/-1.2
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	7,915	+/-693	21.00%	+/-1.8
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation, and food services	3,637	+/-529	9.70%	+/-1.4
Other services, except public administration	1,802	+/-477	4.80%	+/-1.3
Public administration	1,415	+/-360	3.80%	+/-1.0
Total	37,631	+/-963	37,631	(X)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 - 2008 American Community Survey				

Primary Industries

Christian County has experienced significant growth in the number of business establishments over the past 25 years, increasing from 163 businesses in 1965 to 1,739 establishments in 2007 (County Business Patterns, 2007). Since 1980, the greatest growth has occurred in the service and construction sectors. However, 21.5 percent, or the majority of the earnings in Christian County, are accounted for in the retail trade sector.

The cities of Nixa and Ozark account for over half of the county's economic activity. As the number of businesses increase inside the county, people may be working closer to their residence, ultimately affecting future transportation needs inside of the Christian County area.

Historically the mainstay of the county's economy, the agricultural sector, is in decline in terms of both numbers of working farms and percentage of total personal income

generated. The decline in the number of farms follows national and state trends. The number of Christian County farms decreased from 1,386 in 1997 to 1,294 in 2002, a seven percent decrease. However, the average farm size in Christian County increased.

Table 2-11: Christian County Businesses and Employees , 2007

Sector	Number of Businesses	% of Total	Number of Employees	% of Total
Forestry, Fishing, Hunting & Agriculture Support	3	.17	14	.09
Mining	2	.11	20 -100	.14
Utilities	7	.40	100	.71
Construction	384	22.08	1,969	14.03
Manufacturing	104	5.98	1,610	11.47
Wholesale Trade	88	5.06	684	4.87
Retail Trade	229	13.16	3,022	21.53
Transportation & Warehousing	54	3.10	393	2.80
Information	13	.74	20 -100	.14
Finance & Insurance	114	6.55	630	4.48
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	80	4.60	173	1.23
Professional Scientific & Technical services	138	7.93	862	6.14
Management of Companies & Enterprises	5	.28	20 -50	.14
Admin, Support, Waste Management, Remediation Services	105	6.03	451	3.21
Educational Services	8	.46	20-50	.14
Health Care and Social Assistance	109	6.26	1,199	8.54
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	26	1.49	143	1.01
Accommodation & Food Services	106	6.09	1,809	12.89
Other Services (except public administration)	159	9.14	885	6.30
Unclassified Establishments	5	.28	9	.06
Total	1,739	100.00	14,033	100 .00

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *County Business Patterns, 2007.*

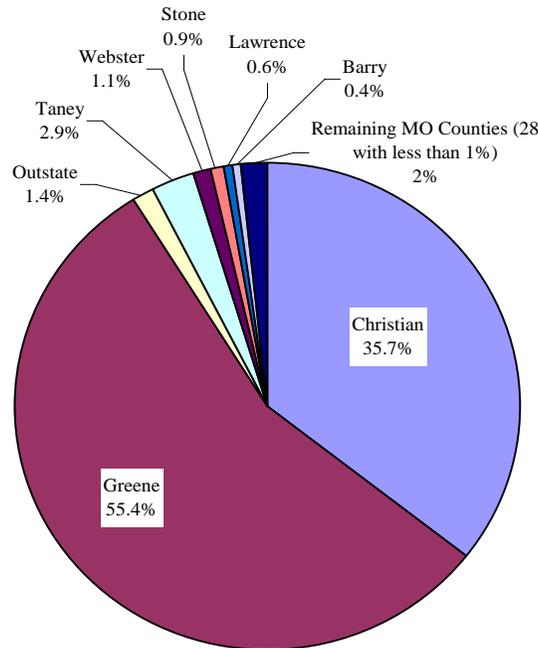
Access to Employment: In-commuting and Out-commuting

The economy of Christian County is closely related with that of the City of Springfield and the larger metropolitan area. The 2000 Census indicates that the average travel time to work for Christian County residents is 25.1 minutes. Table 2-12 indicates that 17,272 persons, or 63 percent of the employed residents, work outside of the county. Just less than 36 percent of the county's employed labor force works in Christian County, with 55.1 percent commuting to work in Springfield. Overall, 92.1 percent of the county's employed labor force works in the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which included Greene, Christian, and Webster counties at the time of the 2000 Census.

Table 2-12: Place of Employment, 2000		
Christian County Employed	Number	Percent of Total
Work in County of Residence	9,777	35.7
Work Outside County of Residence	17,272	62.9
Work Outside of State	372	1.4
Work in MSA of Residence	25,267	82.1
Work in Central City (Springfield)	13,921	55.1
Work in Remainder of MSA	11,346	44.9
Work Outside MSA of Residence	449	1.7
Work in Central City	269	1.0
Work in Remainder of MSA	180	0.7
Work Outside of any MSA	1,705	6.2
Total Employed	27,770	100.0
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. <i>Summary File 3, Census 2000.</i>		

Of those persons working in Christian County, 66.1 percent are Christian County residents, while 20.8 percent commute into Christian County from Greene County. The next largest group of in-commuters to Christian County, 3.7 percent, resides in Stone County. Although Christian County is situated between the City of Springfield (Greene County) to the north and the Branson area to the south (Taney County), in-commuting and out-commuting patterns clearly indicate a closer economic relationship between Christian and Greene counties. With the substantial commuting in and out of the Christian County, a hazard event could pose significant risks of injury or death to these commuters.

Figure 2-5: Christian County Out-Commuting Patterns



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. *Census 2000, Summary File 3*

Land Use

Existing Land Use Patterns

Patterns of land use in Christian County reflect the county's historical development as a rural, agricultural based area and reflect the more recent, rapid population growth and urbanization. Residential, commercial, industrial and institutional uses are principally concentrated in the municipalities in the northern and central sections of the county, such as the cities of Nixa and Ozark, and other smaller communities including Clever, Billings and Sparta. Since the early 1990s, rapid in-migration of population has significantly increased urbanization in the cities of Nixa and Ozark and the unincorporated areas of northern Christian County. Ozark's city limits now extend north to the Greene County line, although areas between the city's core and the northern city limits remain undeveloped. Urban land use within this area is primarily lower density residential uses with commercial and industrial activities concentrated along major transportation routes including U.S. Highways 65 and 160, MO Highway 14, and Route CC.

Single family residential uses account for the largest percentage of developed land in the county. Higher density residential uses are largely concentrated in the municipalities. Substantial clusters of commercial uses, light industrial activities and institutional uses are located around intersections of the primary transportation routes, U.S. Highways 65 and 160 intersections with Route CC and Highway 14. Substantial new commercial activity is also developing east of the Highway 65/Route F intersection in southern Ozark. The largest concentration of industrial activity, including extractive industries, is located along U.S. Highway 65, between the Greene County line and the City of Ozark.

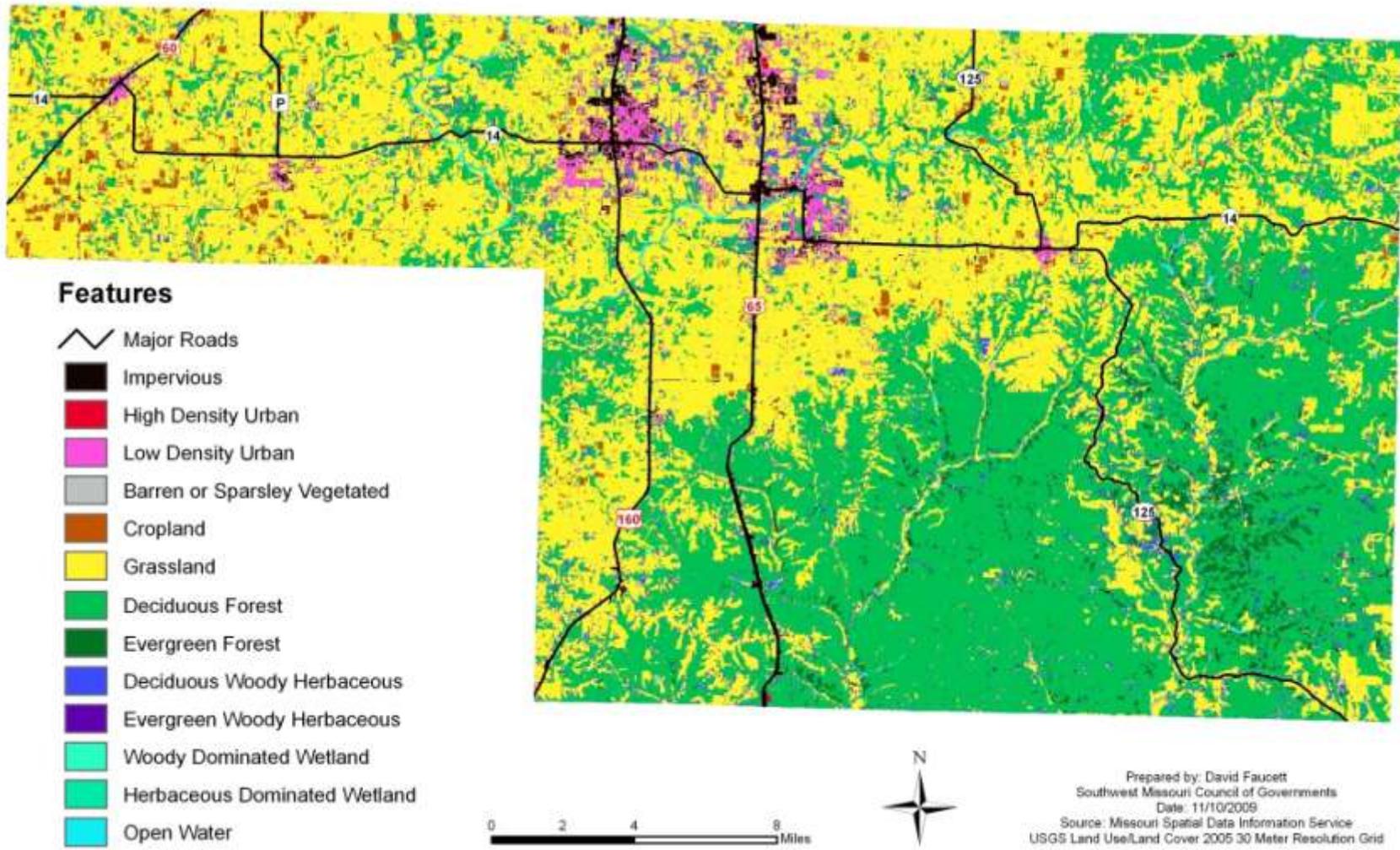
The southern portions of the county are more sparsely developed, due in large part to the more rugged topography and large acreages in the Mark Twain National Forest and Busiek State Park (southeastern section of the county). Agricultural activities are primarily accounted for by animal grazing, with the greatest concentration of activity located in the western panhandle sections of the county around Clever and Billings.

Public Lands/Use Areas

Approximately 55,170 acres in Christian County are owned and maintained by state entities. The largest amount of acreage is controlled by the Mark Twain National Forest with over 52,000 acres. The Missouri Department of Conservation manages four public land areas in the county covering 2,536 acres, with the largest acreage in the Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area. Approximately 85 percent of the total acreage is in forest or woodland. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is managed by the National Park Service. It encompasses 1,750 acres, most of which is in neighboring Greene County.

Management Areas	Ownership	Acres
Busiek State Forest & Wildlife Area	MDC	2,505
Delaware Town Access	MDC	24
Mark Twain National Forest	USFS	52,077
Ozark (Finley River Park)	MDC	1
Shelvin Rock Access	MDC	6
Wilson's Creek National Battlefield	NPS	557
MDC	Missouri Department of Conservation	
NPS	National Park Service	
USFS	U.S. Forest Service	

Figure 2-6: Christian County Land Cover



Development Trends

Christian County has experienced considerable new growth and development since 1990. While there has been an increase in commercial and industrial uses during this period, the significant majority of new development has been in residential uses. As might be expected, much of the county's new industrial and major commercial development over the past several years has occurred within the incorporated cities due to the availability of municipal water and sewage services. As noted in the preceding section, the portions of Christian County located along the growth corridor between the City of Springfield to the north and the cities of Nixa and Ozark are rapidly urbanizing with residential, commercial and institutional/public/semi-public uses. As sanitary sewer utilities are made available to these areas, continued urbanization of this northern portion of Christian County is expected.

In general, the development pattern throughout the southern half of Christian County is one of very low density residential on scattered lots or small subdivisions. Density levels increase in close proximity to the cities. Figures 2-7 and 2-8 below were taken from the 2009 update to the Christian County Comprehensive plan and depict future land-use in the county and the urban service areas of Nixa and Ozark.

Figure 2-7: Christian County Future Land-Use Map

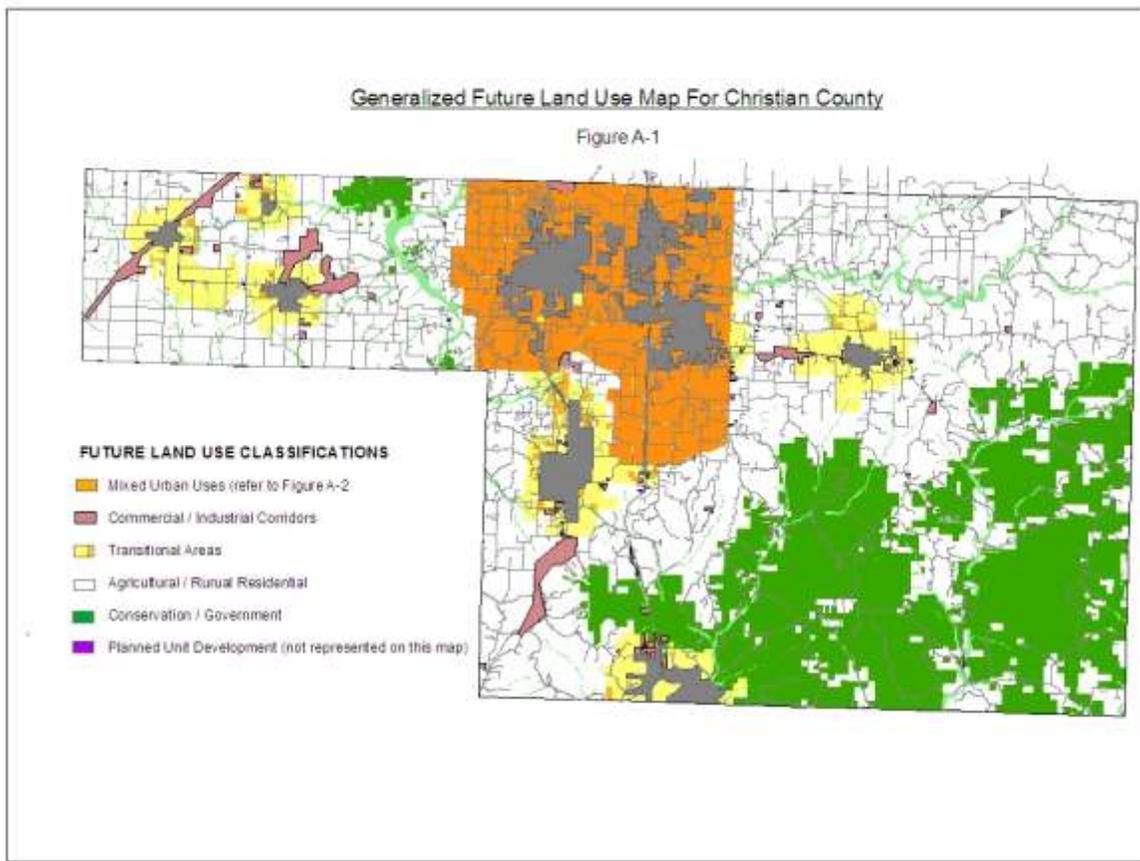
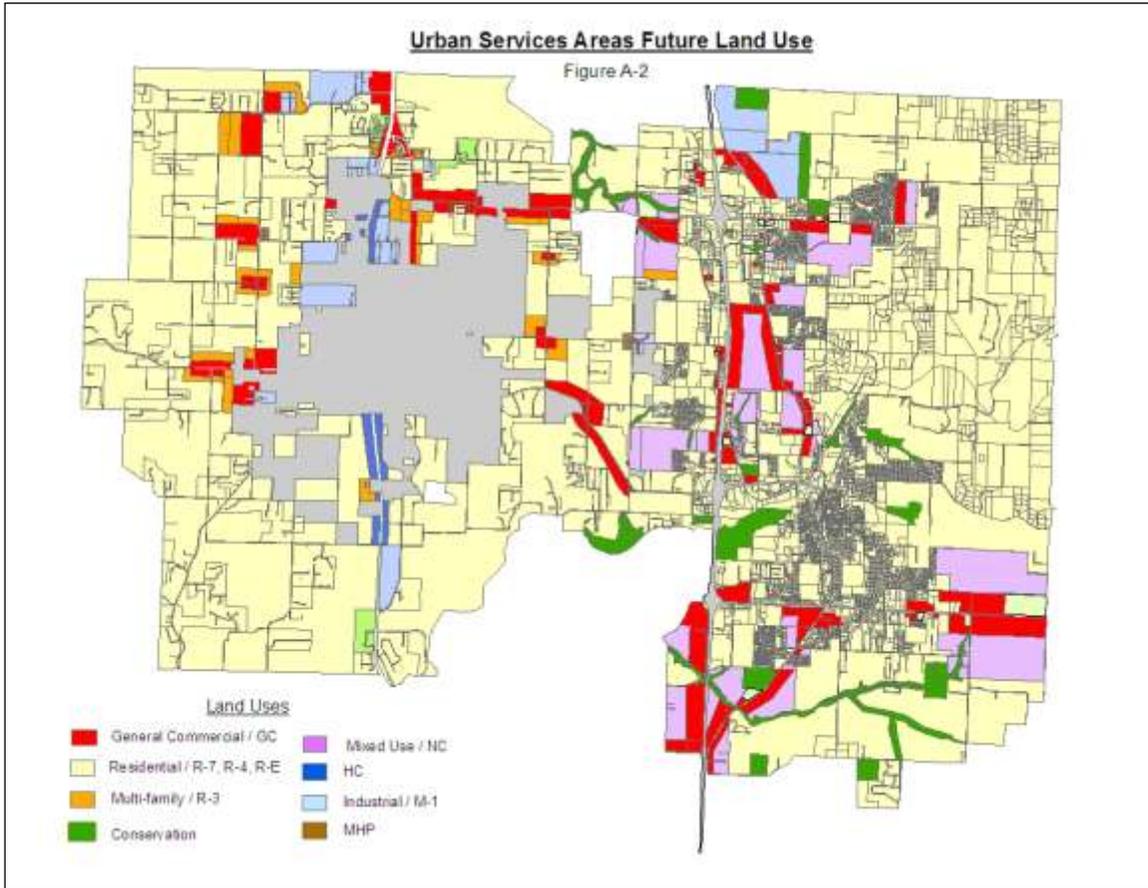


Figure 2-8: Nixa and Ozark Urban Service Area Future Land-Use



Housing

The number of housing units in Christian County has nearly doubled since 1990. Much of this growth was in the unincorporated areas, but several cities within the county also experienced significant growth. Nixa’s housing units increased from 1,899 in 1990 to nearly 5,000 in 2000, while Ozark saw housing units grow from 1,649 to 3,853 during this time. The number of renter occupied units increased substantially during the 1990s as well. Renter occupied units in the unincorporated areas grew from 1,231 to 1,565 units, an increase of only 334 units. However, approximately 1,000 rental units were added to the housing stock in both Nixa and Ozark during the 1990s decade.

Table 2-14: Christian County Housing Characteristics, 2008

Total Housing Units	29,455
Total Owner-Occupied Units	20,276
Total Renter-Occupied Units	6,785
Total Vacant Units	2,394
Vacancy Rate	8.1%
Median Value Owner-Occupied Units	\$144,600
Median Gross Rent	\$682
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey	

Over 76 percent of housing units in the county are single family. Mobile homes, which account for over 12 percent of the housing stock, are located throughout the county.

Multi-family units, which are primarily concentrated in the cities and the urbanizing areas in northern Christian County, represent over 12 percent of the housing stock. New housing development is continuing at a rapid pace in the northern section of the county.

Housing Units in Structure	Number	Margin of Error	Percent of Total	Margin of Error
Total Housing Units	29,455	+/-165	100	--
Single Family Units	24,059	+/-872	81.7	+/-2.9
2-4 Units	1,712	+/-563	5.8	+/-2
5 - 50 or More Units	1,752	+/-611	6	+/-2.1
Mobile Homes	1,932	+/-341	6.6	+/-1.2
Other	0	+/-147	0	+/-2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey.

Table 2-16 lists mobile home parks located in Christian County. However, these parks represent only a fraction of the mobile homes located within the county. Numerous individual mobile homes, or smaller clusters of homes, are situated on lots throughout the rural areas of the county as well as in locations in some of the incorporated communities.

Mobile Home Park	Address	City	Telephone
English Village Park	Hwy 160 and CC	Nixa	(417) 725-2646
South Oaks Mobile Home Park	Hwy 160 S	Nixa	(417) 725-2441
Twin Ridges Mobile Home Park	331 E Lindbergh Rd.	Nixa	(417) 725-1390
Ozark Valley Mobile Home Park	909 N 9 th St.	Ozark	(417) 581-8651
Wheelers Mobile Home Park	W. Henry & Highlandville Rd.	Highlandville	(417) 830-7218
EE Mobile Home Park	Hwy EE & Drock Circle	Highlandville	
Hwy 160 RV Park	Hwy 160 South	Highlandville	(417) 443-6000
Countryside Manor	2151 Longview	Ozark	
Kirkwood Mobile Home Park	W. Windsor Drive	Ozark	

Source: Missouri Mobile Home Communities. <http://www.mobilehome.net/communities/mo/>, City of Highlandville, City of Ozark.

Transportation Infrastructure

Roads

Roads in Christian County are maintained by several different public entities, including city, county and state government, and several special road districts. The Missouri Department of Transportation is responsible for state highways. The Christian County Road and Bridge Department is responsible for maintaining county roads within the

Common 1 and Common 2 road districts and the municipalities are responsible for local roads within their respective jurisdictions. Numerous roads throughout the county are maintained by nine separate special road districts including: Billings, Garrison, Nixa, Ozark, Selmore, South Sparta, and Stoneshire. The special road districts each have their own Board of Commissioners which are responsible for establishing road standards and maintenance within their districts. The Ozark and Billings special road districts maintain their own equipment, but the other seven special road districts contract out for all road services.

The primary east-west traffic route through Christian County is MO Highway 14, which connects the cities of Billings, Clever, Nixa, Ozark and Sparta in the northern portion of the county. U.S. Highway 60 runs through the northwestern panhandle section of the county, linking Billings with small communities in southwestern Greene County and Springfield. Primary north-south arterials linking Christian County with Springfield to the north and the Lakes area to the south include U.S. Highway 65 and U.S. Highway 160. Highway 125 is also an important north-south collector serving the rural areas of central and eastern Christian County.

Airports

Christian County is served by the Springfield-Branson Regional Airport located in the northwest section of Springfield. A new privately owned airport in Branson began commercial flights in May of 2009. This new development provides low-cost flights to over 50 destinations and serves Christian and surrounding counties. Branson is located south of Christian County along Highway 65.

Public Transportation

No municipal public transportation services operate in Christian County with the exception of OATS, Inc., which provides specialized route transportation services on a request or limited route basis to anyone regardless of age or income. Days of the week and times of transit to specific towns are available through the internet or by calling an OATS driver in the county. Appointments for pick-up are also made by contacting the driver.

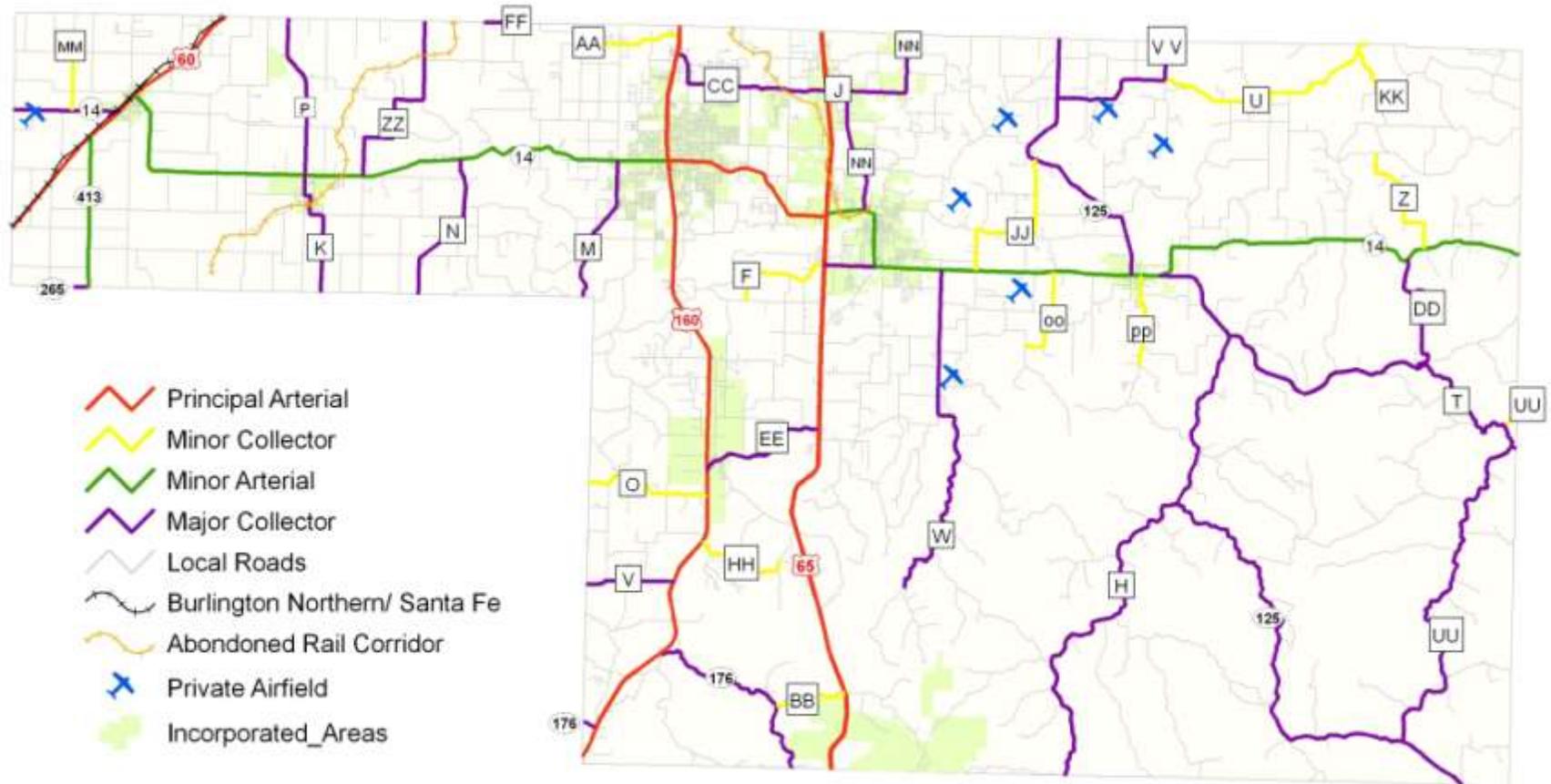
Railroads

One operating railroad line runs through the panhandle of Christian County. The line which parallels U.S. Highway 60 is a main freight line of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad.

MoDOT Maintenance Facilities

The Missouri Department of Transportation has one maintenance facility in Christian County. The regional facility is located in Ozark, south of the intersection of Missouri Highway 14 and Business U.S. Highway 65. It consists of a maintenance building, cold storage, and a salt dome. The Ozark facility also has a grader, a loader, and a distributor. Currently, there is another maintenance building on Highway K in Clever, however; there are plans to close this facility and move all operations to Ozark.

Figure 2-9: Christian County Transportation System



Prepared by: David Faucett
Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Date: 1/4/2009
Source: MSDIS, MoDOT 2007 Planning Data

Utilities

Water Supply/Services

Groundwater is the source of drinking water in Christian County. There are 31 active community water systems in Christian County, including the municipal water systems. Each of the municipalities operates its own water system, with the exception of Fremont Hills which receives its water from the City of Ozark. Both Nixa and Ozark also serve some developments outside of their city limits. In addition to these community water systems, there are four non-transient, non-community water systems serving a total of approximately 355 persons (schools, day care, etc) and six transient non-community water systems serving patrons at facilities such as campgrounds, convenience stores and restaurants in the county (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Safe Drinking Water Information System*). See Appendix D for definitions of water systems derived from the *Safe Drinking Water Information System*.

Wastewater Treatment Systems

All of the incorporated communities in Christian County provide municipal wastewater treatment for their residences and businesses. In addition, many developments have on-site wastewater treatment systems. However, use of septic tanks for wastewater disposal is common throughout rural areas of the county. Currently, there are 154 wastewater treatment systems in Christian County that are permitted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, including the eight municipal systems (MDNR, *State Operating Permits*).

Electric Service

Several entities provide electric service in Christian County. The City of Nixa operates its own electric utility. Other utility companies serving Christian County include the Webster Electric Cooperative, White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Empire District Electric Company, and Ozark Electric Cooperative. The electric service providers are not restricted to individual geographic service areas and many companies provide service within the same general area.

Telephone Service

Telephone service in Christian County is provided by CenturyLink and SBC. CenturyTel provides telephone service and DSL Internet service to Ozark, Highlandville, Sparta, Saddlebrooke, and a small portion of Fremont Hills. SBC provides telephone and DSL service to Nixa, Billings, Fremont Hills, and Clever.

Natural Gas Service

Missouri Gas Energy provides natural gas service to the cities of Nixa, Ozark, Billings and Clever, as well as the unincorporated area of the county along Highway 160, between

the Greene County line and Nixa. A newly annexed 50 acre tract in northeast Fremont Hills will also be served with natural gas. Springfield City Utilities also provides natural gas service in northern Christian County.

Underground Utilities

All of the utility service providers noted in the previous sections have underground lines running through Christian County. The Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline runs west through Christian County carrying natural gas. City Utilities of Springfield also has a pipeline running through the county. Each utility has its own emergency operations plan. The locations of the underground lines are not disclosed in this plan for security reasons.

Table 2-17: Christian County Utility Service Providers		
Utility Provider	Address	Telephone
<i>Electric Service</i>		
City of Nixa	707 W Center Circle Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-3229
Empire District Electric Company	201 W Brick St Ozark, MO 65721-9132	(417) 581-7575
Ozark Electric Cooperative	Highway AA Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-5160
Webster Electric Cooperative	1034 Spur Drive Marshfield, MO	(417) 859-2216
White River Valley Electric Cooperative	State Highway 14 Ozark, MO 65721	(417) 485-6012
<i>Natural Gas Service</i>		
Missouri Gas Energy	207 Pine Street Ozark, MO 65721	(800) 582-1234
Missouri Gas Energy Corporate Office	3420 Broadway Kansas City, MO 64111	(800) 582-1234
Springfield City Utilities	301 E. Central Springfield, MO 65802	(417) 863-9000
<i>Telephone Service</i>		
CenturyLink	100 CenturyTel Drive Monroe, Louisiana 71203	(800) 201-4099
SBC	--	(800) 464-7928

Solid Waste Disposal

Christian County is a member of Solid Waste Management District "O" which is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the plan for solid waste disposal and reduction of the waste stream from the district, which also includes the counties of Dallas, Greene, Polk and Webster. There are no solid waste disposal sites in Christian County. Disposal services are provided by private companies, with wastes taken to landfills in other counties.

Christian County does have a county-wide recycling program, with the recycling center located at 1300 W. Hall Street in Ozark. Mobile bins are also located in other municipalities.

Key Community Facilities and Services

Law Enforcement

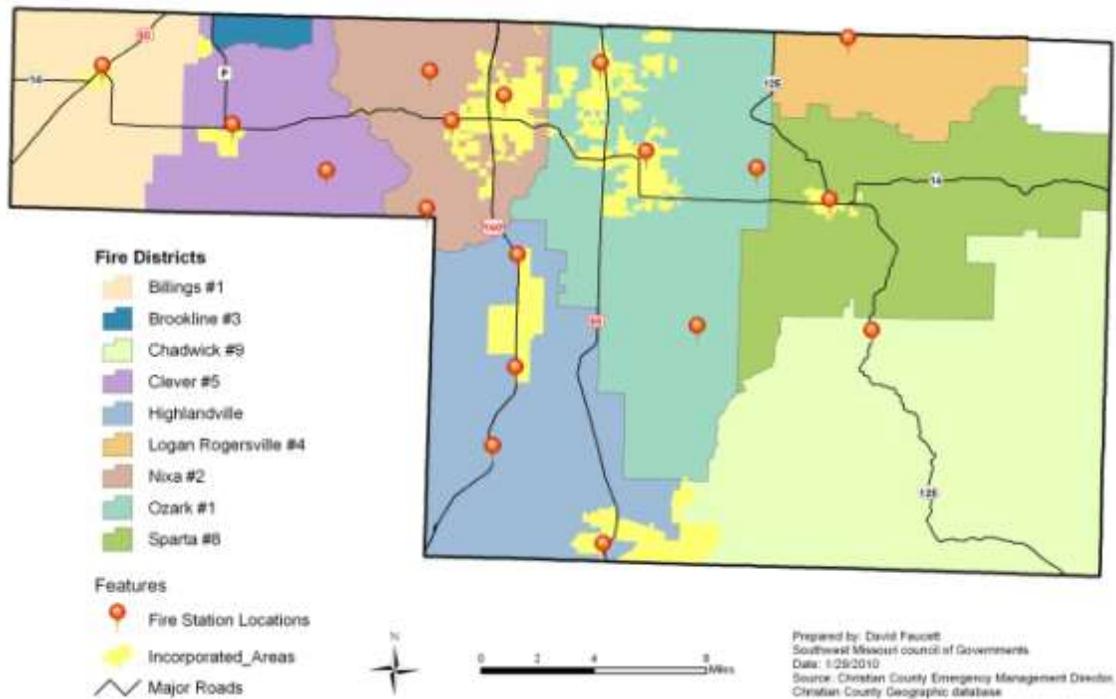
Law enforcement in Christian County is provided by the police departments in the various cities and by the Christian County Sheriff's Department. The cities of Nixa and Ozark have 24-hour coverage, while the cities of Billings, Clever, Highlandville, and Sparta have less than 24-hour coverage and rely upon assistance from the county's Sheriff's Department. Fremont Hills and Saddlebrooke do not have their own police departments and rely upon the Christian County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services.

The Sheriff's Department office is located in the Christian County Judicial Center in Ozark. Specific law enforcement capabilities and staffing are detailed only in the Supplement to the *Christian County Emergency Operations Plan*.

Fire Protection

Christian County is served by eight fire protection districts with facilities located in the county. All of these districts are tax supported districts and all have mutual aid agreements with surrounding districts, with assistance provided on a request basis. In addition to the eight fire protection districts, a small portion of western Christian County is served by the Brookline Fire Protection District. The Fire Protection Districts with facilities in Christian County are listed below. Specific staffing, equipment and response capabilities are included in the Supplement to the *Christian County Emergency Operations Plan*.

- Billings Fire Protection District
- Chadwick Rural Fire Protection District
- Clever Fire Protection District
- Highlandville Rural Fire Protection District
- Logan/Rogersville Fire Protection District
- Nixa Fire Protection District
- Ozark Fire Protection District
- Sparta Fire Protection District

Figure 2-10: Christian County Fire Districts and Fire Station Locations

E-911 Emergency Communications

Christian County has an E-911 system in place that covers all areas of the county with the exception of the City of Nixa, which has its own E-911 system. The E-911 Communications Center, located in Ozark, dispatches the Christian County Sheriff's Department as well as fire and police for the communities of Billings, Clever, Highlandville, Ozark, Sparta and Chadwick. The Nixa E-911 communications system is operated through the Nixa Police Department. The system serves the City of Nixa and the Nixa Fire Protection District which covers approximately 56 square miles. The *Christian County Emergency Operations Plan* designates the shared primary responsibility of Communications and Warning to the county E-911 and Nixa E-911 systems.

Medical Facilities

There are no hospitals located in Christian County. However, several hospitals are located within relatively close proximity to different areas of the county. Cox South and St. John's are located in Springfield, a short distance for residents in northern Christian County. Both are primary care facilities and St. John's is the only Level 1 Trauma Center in the region. Skaggs Community Hospital is located in Branson and serves southern

Christian County. Residents in the panhandle section of the county are near St. John's Hospital-Aurora and Cox Hospital-Monett. Medical clinics located in Christian County are listed in the following table:

Medical Facility	Address	City	Telephone
Cox Health Center Nixa	411 N. McCroskey	Nixa	(417) 269-2227
Nixa Family Walk-in Clinic	103 N. Old Wilderness Rd.	Nixa	(417) 724-0308
OCH Christian County Clinic	105 S. Ridgecrest Ave	Nixa	(417) 725-8250
St. John's Clinic	202 West St.	Nixa	(417) 725-5330
Christian County Health Department	301 E. Brick	Ozark	(417) 581-7285
Cox Health Center Ozark	506 South St.	Ozark	(417) 269-2215
Ozark Family Walk-In Clinic	1500 W. Highway J	Ozark	(417) 890-5550
St. John's Clinic-Family Medicine	1106 W. Jackson	Ozark	(417) 581-3548
Sparta Health Clinic	7491 State Hwy 14	Sparta	(417) 634-3000
Bridges Medical Services at Sparta	155 Village Dr.	Sparta	(417) 634-4203

Ambulance Services

Ambulance services for Christian County, with the exception of the western panhandle area (Billings and Clever area), are provided by a tax supported district. This district is served by Cox Ambulance--Christian County which has bases in Ozark, Nixa and Sparta. The Billings and Clever area is served by multiple providers, including Cox and St. John's Paramedics. Air Ambulance is provided by St. John's Life Line and Cox Air Care. Both air ambulances serve all of Christian County.

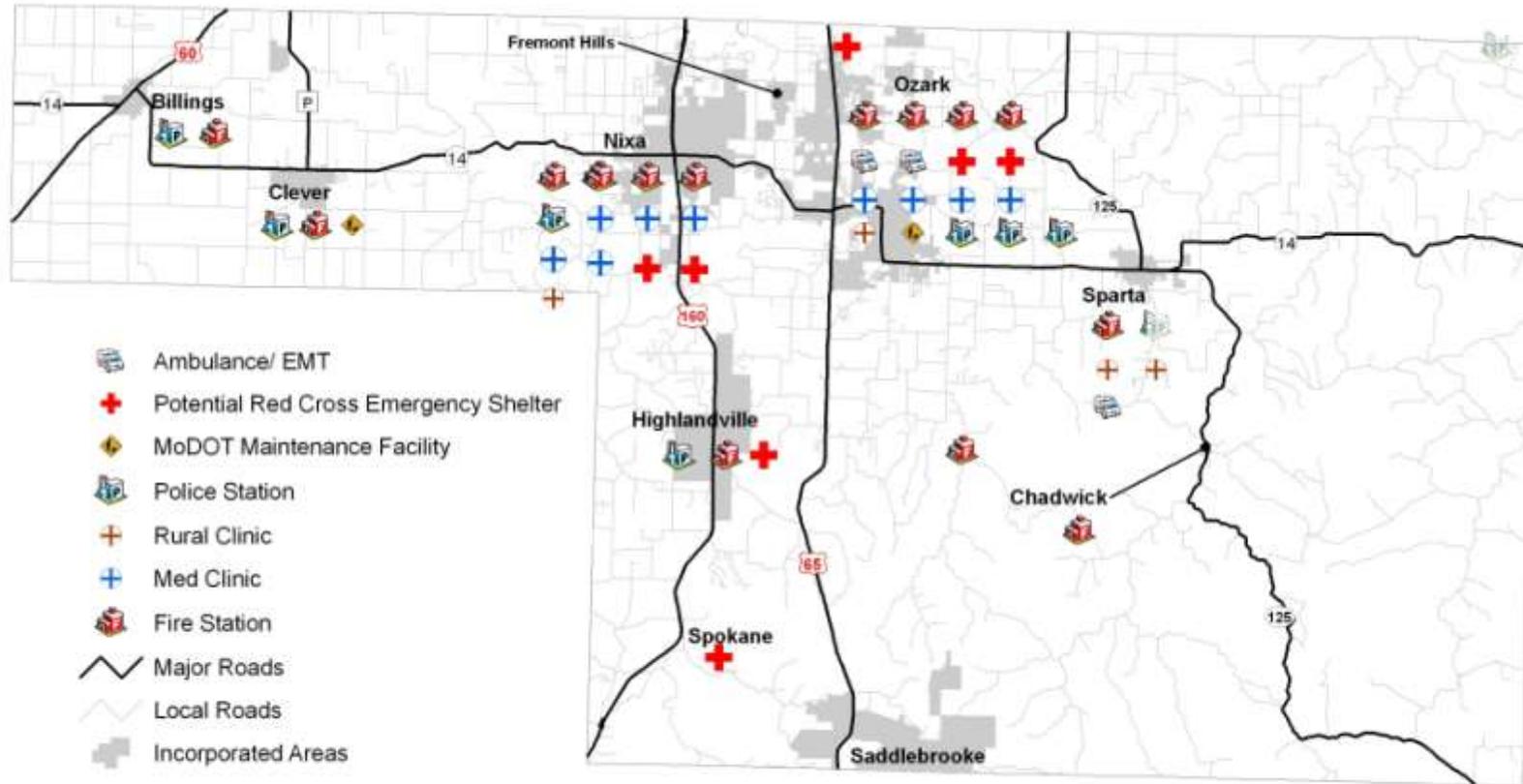
Ambulance Service	Address	Telephone
<i>Ground Ambulance</i>		
Cox Ambulance Service	1423 N. Jefferson Springfield	(417) 269-3773
Cox Ambulance Service, Christian County	PO Box 22 Ozark	(417) 485-6175
Cox Ambulance Service, Sparta	341 North Ave. Sparta	(417) 634-4888
Cox Paramedics-Republic	838 Illinois Ave. Republic	(417) 269-7999
St. John's Paramedic and Ambulance Service	2030 S. National Springfield	(417)820-8620
<i>Air Ambulance</i>		
St. John's Life Line	1235 E. Cherokee Springfield	(417) 820-2300 (800) 433-5433
Cox Air Care	1423 N. Jefferson Ave. Springfield	(800) 333-5269

Other Key Facilities/Services

Other key services essential during natural disasters include the services provided by the American Red Cross-Greater Ozarks Chapter, located at 1545 N. West Bypass in Springfield, Missouri. The Greater Ozarks Chapter's Disaster Action Team is available 24 hours a day, every day, to respond to disasters. Disaster relief through the Red Cross focuses on disaster-caused emergent needs of shelter, food, clothing and health. The Greater Ozarks Chapter also works with city, county and state emergency management agencies on disaster preparedness and training. The Chapter has ongoing efforts to recruit and train volunteers as well as secure resources for shelter, communications and supplies (American Red Cross, Greater Ozarks Chapter, <http://www.redcross-ozarks.org>).

The Chapter maintains records of institutions and organizations in each county that have submitted survey forms which provide information on the physical facility and capabilities to function as an emergency shelter (i.e. available space, number of restrooms, kitchen facilities, etc.) and that would be willing to enter into written agreement for use of the facility for a designated need determined by the Red Cross after a disaster event. When a disaster occurs, the Red Cross contacts these entities as necessary to inspect the facility and then enter into agreement for use of the facility. Information on facilities that may be potential Red Cross emergency is on file with the Greater Ozarks Chapter. The communities in which these potential emergency shelters are located are noted on Figure 2-11.

Figure 2-11: Christian County Key Facilities



Prepared by: David Faucett
Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Date: 1/11/2009
Source: MSDIS, Christian County Parcel Data

Government Buildings

Government structures include county and city government offices, fire protection and law enforcement facilities, community centers, public works and maintenance facilities, state and federal facilities, and other district entities serving the public. Table 2-20 lists the various government buildings in Christian County.

Table 2-20: Government Buildings in Christian County	
Structure	Location
<i>Christian County</i>	
Christian County Courthouse	100 W. Church, Rm 100, Ozark
Christian County Planning and Zoning/Building Inspections Dept.	204 W. Elm Street, Ozark
Christian County Judicial Center	110 W. Elm, Ozark
Christian County Health Department	301 E. Brick, Ozark
Christian County Recycling Center	1300 West Hall, Ozark
Christian County Western Road District	1271 Westside Blvd, Nixa
Christian County Eastern Road District Barn	1 mile east of Sparta on MO 14
Christian County Library	1005 N. 4 th Avenue, Ozark
<i>Billings</i>	
City Hall and Police Department	251-253 NE Elm Street
U.S. Post Office	109 NE U.S, Hwy 60
Fire District, Main Facility	Corner of Washington and Pine
Special Road District Building	306 NE. Main St.
<i>Bruner</i>	
U.S. Post Office	13547 State Hwy 14 E.
<i>Chadwick</i>	
Fire Protection District	Hwy. 125
U.S. Post Office	6409 State Hwy 125 S.
<i>Clever</i>	
City Hall/Police Station	304 S. Clarke Ave.
U.S. Post Office	209 Clarke Ave.
Fire Station	408 Elm St.
<i>Fremont Hills</i>	
Sewage Treatment Plant	100 Blue Jay Way
<i>Highlandville</i>	
City Hall	216 Kentling Ave.
Fire District Headquarters/Station No. 1	1162 Glossip Ave.
U.S. Post Office	299 Kentling Ave.
<i>Nixa</i>	
City Hall	1010 N. Eaglecrest
Police Department - Government Center	1010 N. Eaglecrest
Public Works - Government Center	1010 N. Eaglecrest
Community Center	701 N Taylor Way
City Utilities	707 W. Center Circle
Fire District Headquarters/Station No. 4	301 S. Nicholas Rd.
Fire Station No. 1	711 N. Main

Table 2-20: Government Buildings in Christian County	
Structure	Location
Composting Facility--Treatment plant site	972 S. Old Riverdale Road
Recycling Center	1093 Eagle Crest Drive
Water Sample Processing	972 S. Old Riverdale Road
Storage Facility (old Parks Dept. building)	Hwy 14 Main Street
U.S. Post Office	404 W. South Street
<i>Oldfield</i>	
U.S. Post Office	2838 State Hwy. 125 S.
<i>Ozark</i>	
Ozark City Hall	205 N. 1 st Street
Ozark Police Department	201 E. Brick
Ozark Fire Station 1	604 N. 3 rd Street
Ozark Fire Station 2	5401 N. 22 nd Street
Ozark Fire Station 3	4545 State Highway W
Ozark Fire Station 4	175 Pippenville Road
Ozark Parks Department & FEMA Room	1530 W. Jackson
Sewage Treatment Plant	N 22 nd Street
U.S. Post Office	1450 W. Jackson
Elk Valley Waste Treatment Facility	2979 McClean Road
Ozark Technical College & FEMA Shelter	3369 W. Jackson
<i>Sparta</i>	
City Hall	131 North Ave.
Public Works Garage	
Fire Protection District	160 South Ave.
U.S. Post Office	7060 State Hwy 14E.
<i>Spokane</i>	
U.S. Post Office	745 Spokane Rd.
<i>Other Government Facilities</i>	
University of Missouri Extension Center	105 N. 2 nd St., Ozark
USDA Service Center	1786 S. 16 th Ave., Ozark
Missouri Dept. of Social Services-Children's Division	4715 Towne Centre Dr., Ozark
MoDOT Maintenance Facility	Business Hwy. 65, south of Hwy. 14, Ozark
MoDOT Maintenance Facility	Highway K, Clever

Centers of Large Population Concentration

This section inventories facilities that concentrate large groups of people together in a single location or area and that may require attention for advance notification of possible disaster, disaster mitigation, or disaster response. Such facilities include schools, large employment centers, commercial centers, major recreation attractions, and facilities that serve special needs populations.

Education Facilities

Elementary and Secondary Schools

Thirteen public school districts serve a rapidly growing school-aged population in Christian County. Seven school districts with facilities located in Christian County include Billings, Chadwick, Clever, Nixa, Ozark, Sparta, and Spokane. Six other school districts serve a few students from Christian County, but do not have facilities in Christian County. These districts include Ava, Bradleyville, Fordland, Marionville, Republic and Rogersville. There is also one private school, the Faith Christian School, located in Spokane. The Ozark R-VI and the Nixa R-II districts serve by far the largest number of students, with enrollments of 4,998 and 5,742 for the 2009 - 2010 year, respectively. Figure 2-13 displays the school district boundaries while Table 2-21 notes the schools and facility occupancy counts for the 2009 - 2010 year.

Figure 2-13: Christian County School Districts

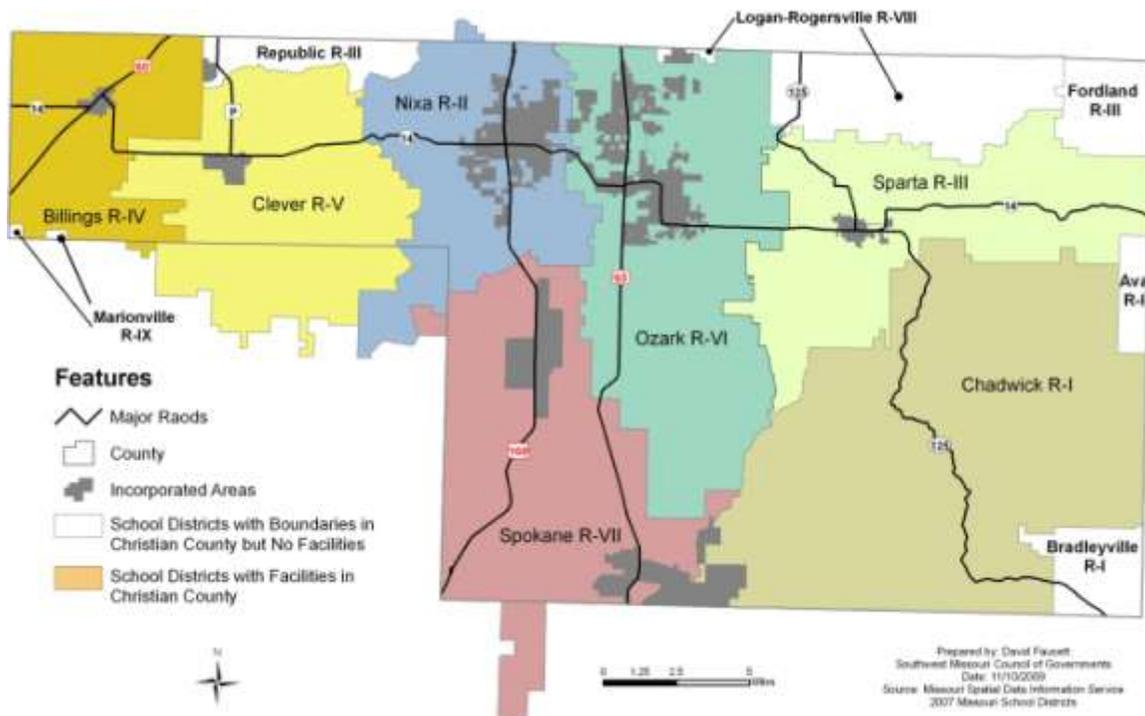


Table 2-21: Schools in Christian County			
Facility	Address	City	Occupants
Public Schools			
Billings R-IV	118 W. Mt. Vernon	Billings	523
Billings Senior High	118 W. Mt. Vernon	Billings	239
Billings Elementary	118 W. Mt. Vernon	Billings	284
Chadwick R-I	7090 State Hwy 125 S.	Chadwick	267
Chadwick High	7090 State Hwy 125 S.	Chadwick	126
Chadwick Elementary	7090 State Hwy 125 S.	Chadwick	141
Clever R-V	103 S. Public Avenue	Clever	1,073
Clever High	6800 State Highway 14 W.	Clever	264
Clever Middle School	103 S. Public Avenue	Clever	278
Clever Elementary	103 S. Public Avenue	Clever	366
Clever Upper Elementary	103 S. Public Avenue	Clever	165
Nixa R-II	205 North Street	Nixa	5,742
Nixa Senior High	205 N. Street	Nixa	1,576
Nixa Middle	205 N. Street	Nixa	847
John Thomas Elementary	205 N. Street	Nixa	389
Espy Elementary	205 N. Street	Nixa	486
Century Elementary	205 N. Street	Nixa	470
Nicholas A. Inman	205 N. Street	Nixa	565
Matthews	205 N. Street	Nixa	580
Main Street	205 N. Street	Nixa	456
High Pointe Elementary	205 N. Street	Nixa	373
Ozark R-VI	302 N. 4th Ave.	Ozark	4,998
Ozark High	1350 W. Bluff Drive	Ozark	1,548
Ozark Jr. High	1109 W. Jackson	Ozark	846
South Elementary	1250 W. South St.	Ozark	665
Upper Elementary	3600 N. Hwy. NN	Ozark	847
East Elementary	2449 E. Hartley	Ozark	630
North Elementary	3608 N. Hwy. NN	Ozark	462
West Elementary	3105 W. Hwy CC	Ozark	663
Sparta R-III	217 Division St.	Sparta	817
Sparta High	217 Division St.	Sparta	225
Sparta Middle	217 Division St.	Sparta	191
Sparta Elementary	522 State HWY 125 N	Sparta	401
Spokane R-VII	1123 Spokane Rd.	Spokane	840
Spokane High	1123 Spokane Rd.	Spokane	252
Spokane Middle	1130 Spokane Rd.	Spokane	180
Highlandville Elementary	223 Kentling Ave.	Highlandville	453
Private Schools			
Faith Christian School	P.O. Box 304	Spokane	51
Source: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, http://www.privateschoolreview.com/county_private_schools/stateid/MO/county/29043			
* Includes enrollments and certified staff for the 2009-2010 year.			

Ozarks Technical Community College Richwood Valley Campus

Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) was founded April 3, 1990 when the residents of Springfield and thirteen surrounding public school districts voted to establish a "community technical college." Established in 1991, OTC's enrollments have significantly exceeded early projections, growing from 1,200 students in 1991 to an enrollment of 8,959 in the fall of 2004 (Marion, p. 1).

To keep pace with demands for program offerings, facility needs, and projected continued, rapid population growth, OTC purchased a 78 acre site for development of a South Campus, located north of Highway 14 and west of U.S. Highway 65 in Ozark. Now known as the Richwood Valley Campus, Phase I of the South Campus project was completed with the development of basic infrastructure and construction of a Life Science and Technology Center located at 3369 W. Jackson St. in Ozark. Subsequent phases have also been completed with the addition of a FEMA approved storm shelter and the development of a greenway trail segment. Students can earn an A.A. transfer degree or an A.A.S. in Business and Marketing. Through collaboration with Drury University, students may also complete a Bachelor's degree here.

With the opening of the South Campus facility, OTC will become one of the largest centers of population concentration in Christian County. As of January 2010, enrollment at the Richwood Valley Campus was 915 students, an increase of nearly 19 percent over the previous year.

Figure 2-14: Life Science and Technology Center at the Richwood Valley Campus



Commercial/Recreation Centers

Other larger concentrations of structures and population include shopping areas, recreation facilities and institutional/semi-public uses such as churches. The Ozark Community Center (The ‘OC’) at 1530 W. Jackson Street provides Christian County with community rooms, 2 basketball courts, wet and dry locker rooms, lap swim pool, recreational pool, fitness center, indoor track, rock climbing, and a café. There are no regional shopping malls located in Christian County. However, key clusters of retail commercial activities are located in Nixa along U.S. Highway 160 and Missouri Highway 14. The City of Ozark also has substantial concentrations of retail commercial activities at U.S. Highway 65 and Missouri Highway 14 as well as near U.S. Highway 65 and Route J. A major concentration of commercial uses, including a Wal-Mart Supercenter, has recently developed west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 65 and Route F in southern Ozark.

Other free-standing facilities have the capacity to draw hundreds to thousands of patrons. Price Cutter Ballpark and James River Assembly of God along U.S. Highway 65 in northern Christian County draw hundreds to thousands of visitors for regular and special events. Ozark International Raceway located along Highway U northeast of Ozark also has the capacity to draw hundreds to thousands of visitors for events. The raceway is open from June to November and attracts hundreds of guests on weekends. During September the raceway attracts 4,000 to 4,500 on weekends for special events. Fremont Hills Golf Course, which is located in Fremont Hills, also has the capacity to draw several hundred people depending on the event that is being held.

Major Employers

Industries and businesses in Christian County that employ 50 or more persons are listed in Table 2-22. The Nixa and Ozark School Districts are also among the largest employers in the county, but employees are located in the different facilities throughout the districts. Those school facilities with 50 or more employees are included in Table 2-22. Due to the rapid growth in Christian County, this list may not be all-inclusive.

Facility	Address	City	Employees
Alliance Bus Co.	1083 W Kathryn St	Nixa	50
Ample Industries Inc.	1101 Eaglecrest St	Nixa	60
Applebee's Neighborhood Grill	412 N Old Wilderness Rd	Nixa	60
Baptist Home	1625 W Garton Rd	Ozark	68
Bass Pro Inc.	517 W Kathryn St	Nixa	60
Billings School District	118 W Mt. Vernon Rd	Billings	75
CBS Cabinets	882 W Tracker Rd	Nixa	61
Century Elementary School	732 E North St	Nixa	60
Chadwick Reorganized School	7090 State Highway 125 S	Chadwick	65
Christian County Enterprises	825 W Enterprise Ln	Nixa	96
Christian County Family Services	4715 N Town Centre Dr.	Ozark	50
Christian Healthcare	1104 N. Main St.	Nixa	70

Facility	Address	City	Employees
Clever Reorganized School District	103 S Public Ave	Clever	135
Clever R-V High School	103 S Public Ave	Clever	105
Diversified Plastics Corp.	108 W. Mt. Vernon St.	Nixa	350
Doctor's Hospital Clinic	105 S Ridgecrest Dr	Nixa	75
East Elementary School	2449 E Hartley St	Ozark	50
Emerson's Towing	106 N. Main St.	Nixa	60
Fremont Hills Country Club	1953 Fremont Hills Dr	Nixa	50
Healthport	2160 N Fox Hollow Dr.	Nixa	400
Heavy Duty Rebuilder Supply	1250 W Liberty Ave	Ozark	50
James River Assembly	6100 N 19th St	Ozark	50
JMRL Sales & Service	3751 N 21st St	Ozark	75
John C Thomas Elementary	312 N Market St	Nixa	50
Lambert's Café	1800 W State Highway J	Ozark	200
Life Enhancement Village	1111 Care Ave	Nixa	50
Lowe's	1800 W Marler Ln	Ozark	100 - 249
Mathews Elementary School	605 S Gregg Rd	Nixa	55
McDonalds	401 N 21st St.	Ozark	120
McDonald's	401 W Mt. Vernon St	Nixa	90
Micro Innovations Inc.	2160 N. Fox Hollow Dr.	Nixa	220
Millwood Golf & Raquet Club	3700 E Millwood Dr	Ozark	75
MTS	1231 W Liberty Ave	Ozark	70
Murfin's Market	604 E South St	Ozark	50
Nixa City Park	701 N Taylor Way	Nixa	55
Nixa Junior High School	205 North St.	Nixa	110
Nixa Public High School	514 S Nicholas Rd	Nixa	100
OCH Christian County Clinic	105 S. Ridgecrest Ave.	Nixa	50
Ozark City Hall	205 N. 1st Ave.	Ozark	100
Ozark City Police Dept.	201 E. Brick St.	Ozark	50
Ozark Community Center (The 'OC')	1530 W. Jackson	Ozark	50
Ozark Elementary South School	1250 W South St	Ozark	70
Ozark High School	1350 W Bluff Dr	Ozark	95
Ozark Junior High School	1109 W Jackson St	Ozark	55
Ozark Nursing & Care Center	1486 N Riverside Rd	Ozark	60
Ozark V-I School District Office	302 N 4TH Ave	Ozark	55
Ozark Riverview Manor	1200 W. Hall St.	Ozark	110
Ozark R-VI Early Childhood	202 N 4TH Ave	Ozark	50 - 99
Ozark Upper Elementary	3608 N. State Highway NN	Ozark	60
Price Cutter Plus	400 N Massey Blvd	Nixa	80
Rehab Care Group Century Pines	709 E McCracken Rd	Ozark	50 - 99
Riverview Residential Place	1200 W. Hall St.	Ozark	110
Ruby Tuesday	715 McCrosky St	Nixa	59
Simclair Interconnect Technologies	1624 W Jackson St	Ozark	95
Snyder Equipment Company	1375 W Snyder Blvd	Nixa	50
Southwest Materials	2340 W State Highway CC	Ozark	150
Sparta High School	217 Division St	Sparta	50
Spokane Reorganized School	167 Kentling Ave.	Highlandville	130

Facility	Address	City	Employees
Springfield Marine Corp.	715 W Enterprise Ln	Nixa	100
Third Street Sportswear Mfg	1106 S 3rd St	Ozark	120
Thomas Elementary School	312 N Market St	Nixa	50 - 99
Tracker Marine	3630 N 21st St	Ozark	112
Upper Elementary School	3600 N State Highway NN	Ozark	70
Village Inn	850 N 17th St	Ozark	62
Wal-Mart Supercenter	1102 N Massey Blvd	Nixa	350
Wal-Mart Supercenter	2004 W Marler Ln	Ozark	348
West Elementary School	3105 W State Hwy CC	Ozark	43

Source: <http://0-www.referenceusa.com.www.coolcat.org/UsBusiness> 11/20/2009

Senior Centers

Table 2-23 provides information for the three senior centers are located in Christian County. These centers offer many services to seniors, including meals, recreation, medical services, social events, educational enrichment classes, and advocacy assistance.

Senior Center	Address	Telephone
Clever Older Adults Center	311 S. Clarke Ave., Clever	(417) 743-2437
Nixa Senior Citizens Center	404 S. Main, Nixa	(417) 725-2322
Ozark Senior Center	727 N. 9 th , Ozark	(417) 581-2538

Source: [Southwest Missouri Office on Aging](#)

Long Term Care and Adult Day Care Facilities

In addition to school populations, residential facilities that provide care to special needs adults and seniors should also be given special consideration for warning and evacuation during natural hazard events. Table 2-24 lists the long term care and adult day care facilities located in Christian County.

Facility	Address	Telephone	Licensed Beds
<i>Intermediate Care Facility</i>			
The Baptist Home	1625 W. Garton Road, Ozark	(417) 581-2101	33
<i>Residential Care Facility I</i>			
Christian Residential Care of Nixa	1104 N. Main, Nixa	(417) 725-1777	62
Northpark Village - Assisted Living by Americare	4449 N. Highway NN, Ozark	(417) 581-3200	27
Special Force Family Ministries	428 S. Harrison Street, Nixa	(417) 725-7917	12
The Essex of the Ozarks	5173 N. 22nd, Ozark	(417) 485-4185	12
<i>Residential Care Facility II</i>			
Bradford Court - Assisted Living by Americare	902 N. Main, Nixa	(417) 725-0177	27
Life Enhancement Village	732 S. Gregg Road, Nixa	(417) 725-5146	44

Table 2-24: Long Term Care and Adult Day Care Facilities in Christian County			
Facility	Address	Telephone	Licensed Beds
Life Enhancement Village of the Ozarks	1111 Care Avenue, Nixa	(417) 725-6680	126
Century Pines Assisted Living	709 E. McCracken Rd, Ozark	(417) 581-7278	94
Riverview Residential Place	1200 W. Hall, Ozark	(417) 581-2510	40
The Baptist Home	1625 W. Garton Road, Ozark	(417) 581-2101	30
Skilled Nursing Facility			
Christian Health Care of Nixa	1104 N. Main, Nixa	(417) 725-1777	82
Ozark Nursing and Care Center	1486 N. Riverside Road, Ozark	(417) 581-7126	120
Ozark Riverview Manor	1200 W. Hall, Ozark	(417) 581-6025	90
Adult Day Care			
ADC of Christian County	855 W. Enterprise Lane, Nixa	(417) 725-4721	22
Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.			

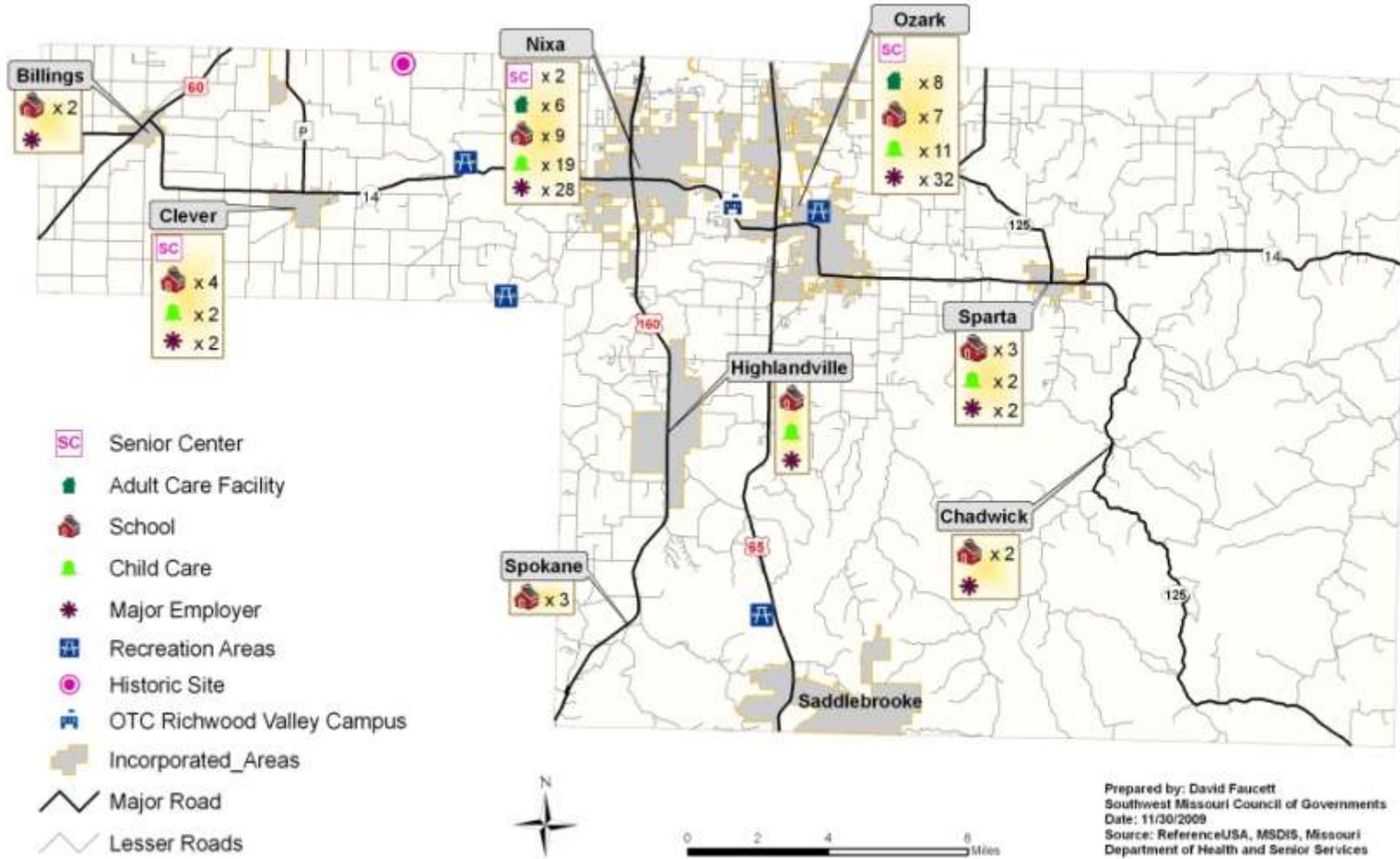
Childcare Centers

Childcare centers in Christian County are listed in Table 2-25. This list is not all-inclusive, and there may be other day care centers with concentrations of more than a few children. In addition, for security purposes, this list does not include childcare services provided to smaller groups of children in family homes.

Table 2-25: Child Care Facilities in Christian County		
Care Center	Address	Telephone
Tots Landing Inc.	245 Downing St. Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-6160
TLC Early Education & Child Care Center	4762 N. Highway NN Ozark, MO. 65721	(417) 581-0279
Ready Set Learn Daycare Center	1375 Mt. Vernon Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-5432
Puzzle Place Learning Center	1375 Mt. Vernon Suite 2 Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-5587
Nixa Headstart	406 Patricia Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 724-2920
Nixa Early Learning Center	301 S. Main Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-7400
Parents Day Out	460 W. Aldersgate Dr. Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-4949
Ozark Preschool & Circle of Friends	1517 S. 4th Ozark, MO 65721	(417) 581-6996
Ozark Headstart	2060 Airpark Rd. Ozark, MO 65721	(417) 864-3430
Ozark Early Learning Center	1602 South St. Ozark, MO 65721	(417) 581-2896
Super Start	303 E Church St Ozark, MO 65721	(417) 581-2543
Ozark Children Academy	1314 W. School St. Ozark, MO 65721	(417) 582-5437

Table 2-25: Child Care Facilities in Christian County		
Care Center	Address	Telephone
Morning Star Day Care & Preschool	113 W. Mt. Vernon Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-1043
Little Treasures Christian Daycare	252 Nicholas Rd. Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-7744
Little Sunshine Playhouse	4910 N. 21 st St. Ozark, MO 65721	(417) 581-7713
Kidzland	1740 Glossip Rd. Highlandville, MO 65669	(417) 443-0601
Kids Corner of Nixa LLC	161-N E. Highway CC Nixa,, MO 65714	(417) 724-2272
James River Assembly of God	6100 N. 19 th St. Ozark, MO 65721	(417) 581-5433
Hilltop Preschool	2850 State Highway 14 E Ozark, MO 65721	(417) 872-5100
Happy Days North	208 S. Main Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-5386
Happy Days Childrens Center	402 S. Main Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-2833
Clever R-V Preschool	103 S. Public Ave. Clever, MO 65631	(417) 743-4810
The Children's Garden Discovery School LLC	1911 Fitz Ln. Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-6899
Hopedale Baptist Church Child Development Center	5370 N. Highway NN Ozark, MO 65721	(417) 581-1795
Home Away from Home Learning Center LLC	131 Cedar St. Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 527-1991
City of Nixa Parks & Recreation at John Thomas Elementary	312 N. Market St. Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-7420
City of Nixa Parks & Recreation at Espy Elementary	220 S. Gregg Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-7440
City of Nixa Parks & Recreation at Century Elementary	732 E. North St. Nixa, MO 65714	
City of Nixa Parks & Recreation at High Pointe Elementary	900 N. Cheyenne Rd.	(417) 725-5486
City of Nixa Parks & Recreation at Mathews Elementary	605 S. Gregg Rd. Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 830-5905
Discovery Time LLC	1910 S. Selmore Ozark, MO 65721	(417) 229-3035
Creative Minds of Nixa	1881 N. State Highway CC Nixa, MO 65714	(417) 725-0490
Clever Kids Preschool & Childcare Center LLC	412 E & F Public St. Clever, MO 65631	(417) 743-0033
Country Care Child Center, Inc.	174 N Oak Ave Sparta, MO 65753	(417) 634-5366

Figure 2-15: Christian County Vulnerable Facilities



Flood Plain Management/Wetlands

Wetlands

Wetlands are not a major feature in Christian County. However, wetland habitats do exist in some areas along streams and low-lying depressions, such as the James River, Finley Creek and Spring Creek.

National Flood Insurance Program

In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in response to the rising cost of taxpayer funded disaster relief for flood victims and the increasing amount of damage caused by floods. The federal government makes flood insurance available through the NFIP to local communities that adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances or regulations to reduce flood risks to new construction in flood prone areas (Special Hazard Areas). The NFIP is self-supporting for the average historical loss year, which means that operating expenses and flood insurance claims are not paid for by the taxpayer, but through premiums collected for flood insurance policies. Christian County and the communities of Clever, Highlandville, Nixa, Fremont Hills and Ozark participate in the NFIP.

Community	NFIP Participation	Date of Entry (Emergency or Regular)	Current Effective Map
Christian County *	Y	04/01/04 (R)	04/01/04 (L)
Billings	N	-	-
Clever	Y	03/30/81 (R)	(NSFHA)
Fremont Hills	Y	9/18/2008	-
Highlandville	Y	2005	-
Nixa	Y	04/22/83 (R)	09/22/99
Ozark	Y	02/01/85 (R)	02/01/85 (M)
Saddlebrooke	N	-	-
Sparta	N	-	-
Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency. Federal Insurance Administration. <i>Community Status Book</i> . 6/15/05. http://www.fema.gov * Unincorporated areas only. (NSFHA) No Special Flood Hazard Area - All Zone C. (L) Converted to Flood Insurance Rate Map by letter. (M) Minimal flood prone, no elevation on map.			

Table 2-27 lists the NFIP policies in force in Christian County. There are a total of 56 policies in force as of November 30th, 2009 throughout the county. Of these, 13 policies are in force within the City of Ozark and 10 within the City of Nixa. The NFIP stat sheet lists no policies in force in any other incorporated area.

Jurisdiction	Policies In-force
Christian County	56
Nixa	13
Ozark	10
Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency. As of 11/30/2009 http://bsa.nfipstat.com/reports/1011.htm#MOT	

Environmental Concerns

A primary environmental concern in Christian County is preservation of groundwater quality. In addition to the municipal water systems that rely on groundwater, there are perhaps thousands of private wells drilled in the aquifer. As noted in the Physical Characteristics subsection, much of Christian County is considered a sensitive Karst region. There are numerous sinkholes, losing streams, and caves throughout the county which form an underground drainage network connecting the surface water to the groundwater system. These Karst features represent a threat to groundwater quality as surface pollutants can quickly enter the groundwater system through these conduits with little filtration. A natural disaster could result in a release of not only pollutants and toxic substances from urban development into the groundwater, but also waste materials from agricultural areas.

Protection of surface water from contaminants released during a hazard event is also of concern. Most of Christian County's rivers and streams drain to Table Rock Lake or Bull Shoals Lake. The lakes are major resources for the region and degradation of water quality from a hazard event could have significant adverse impact on the regional economy.

According to the "Registry of Confirmed, Abandoned, or Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites" from the "Missouri Registry Annual Report" for Fiscal-Year 2009, there is one former lead and zinc smelting site in Christian County. Christian County Furnace is no longer operational and is considered a historic operation from the days of lead and zinc mining in the region. According to the Registry, an investigation by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Site Assessment Unit (SAU) is planned. The Registry notes that it is common to find lead or zinc contaminants in soils, groundwater and surface water near smelter sites.

There are nine hazardous waste generators located in Christian County, including two located in Nixa and five in Ozark. All are small quantity waste generators and are registered with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Endangered Species

One plant species and one mammal species found in Christian County are designated as endangered by both the Missouri Department of Conservation under constitutional authority and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (see Table 2-28). These include the Missouri Bladder-Pod and the Gray Bat.

Common Name	Scientific Name	State	Federal
Jackrabbit, Black-tailed	<i>Lepus californicus melanotis</i>	Endangered	
Missouri Bladder-Pod	<i>Lesquerella filiformis</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Gray Bat	<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	Endangered	Endangered

Source: Missouri Department of Conservation. Missouri Fish and wildlife Information System, *Natural Heritage Database*.

Historic Properties and Archeological Sites

Two sites in Christian County are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, a unit of the National Park Service, was listed on the National Register on October 15, 1966. The Park was established April 22, 1960 to commemorate the Battle of Wilson's Creek, the site of the second battle of the Civil War and the first major battle west of the Mississippi River (National Park Service, 2002).

Listed on the National Register on October 24, 1991, is the Southwest Missouri Prehistoric Rock Shelter and Cave Sites Discontinuous Archeological District dates to the Paleo-Indian, archaic, and ceramic period between 11,000-12,999 BC and 0 BC. The property is private and federally owned and its current function is landscape and unoccupied land (site location is restricted information). The Archaeological Survey of Missouri has recorded 821 sites in Christian County. In order to protect these resources, the locations of these sites are not disclosed.

Building and Fire Codes

On August 7, 2007 residents of Christian County voted to adopt building codes which became effective March 31, 2008. The utilization and adherence to building codes in new residential and commercial structures and additions provides a notable impact in several areas of hazard mitigation which will continue to grow as the percentage of new structures built to these standards within the county increases over time. Table 2-29 notes the codes adopted by incorporated cities within the county.

Table 2-29: Adopted Codes in Christian County																																	
Community	Building Code	Fire Code	Mechanical Code	Plumbing Code	Other Codes																												
Billings	BOCA	--	--	--	--																												
Clever	BOCA	--	--	--	--																												
Christian County	IBC 2006	IBC 2006	IMC 2006	IBC 2006	Architectural Review IFGC 2006 IEBC 2006 IECC 2006 NFPA 70 NEC 2005 ICC/ANSI A117.1 2003 IECAP 2006																												
Fremont Hills	IBC 2006	IBC 2006	IMC 2006	IBC 2006	Architectural Review IFGC 2006 IEBC 2006 IECC 2006 NFPA 70 NEC 2005 ICC/ANSI A117.1 2003 IECAP 2006																												
Highlandville	IBC 2006	IBC 2006	--	IBC 2006	--																												
Nixa	IBC 2006	IFC 2006	IMC 2006	IPC 2006	IECC 2000 IFGC 2006 IPMC 2000 IRC 2000 NEC 2005																												
Ozark	IBC 2006	IFC 2006	IMC 2006	IPC 2006	IECC 2000 IFGC 2000 IPMC 2000 IRC 2006 ICC/ANSI- A117.1 1998 NEC 2003																												
Sparta*	--	--	--	--	--																												
<p>Codes:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>IBC</td> <td>International Building Code</td> <td>IFGC</td> <td>International Fuel Gas Code</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ICC</td> <td>Electric Code</td> <td>IMC</td> <td>International Mechanical Code</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ICCEC</td> <td>International Code Council Admin. Provisions</td> <td>IPC</td> <td>International Plumbing Code</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IEBC</td> <td>International Existing Building Code</td> <td>IPMC</td> <td>International Property Maintenance Code</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IECC</td> <td>International Energy Conservation Code</td> <td>IRC</td> <td>International Residential Code</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IFC</td> <td>International Fire Prevention Code</td> <td>NEC</td> <td>National Electric Code</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ICC/ANSI A117.1</td> <td>Handicap Accessibility</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>* City is currently working on development of building codes.</p>						IBC	International Building Code	IFGC	International Fuel Gas Code	ICC	Electric Code	IMC	International Mechanical Code	ICCEC	International Code Council Admin. Provisions	IPC	International Plumbing Code	IEBC	International Existing Building Code	IPMC	International Property Maintenance Code	IECC	International Energy Conservation Code	IRC	International Residential Code	IFC	International Fire Prevention Code	NEC	National Electric Code	ICC/ANSI A117.1	Handicap Accessibility		
IBC	International Building Code	IFGC	International Fuel Gas Code																														
ICC	Electric Code	IMC	International Mechanical Code																														
ICCEC	International Code Council Admin. Provisions	IPC	International Plumbing Code																														
IEBC	International Existing Building Code	IPMC	International Property Maintenance Code																														
IECC	International Energy Conservation Code	IRC	International Residential Code																														
IFC	International Fire Prevention Code	NEC	National Electric Code																														
ICC/ANSI A117.1	Handicap Accessibility																																

Community Plans

Christian County Comprehensive Plan: The *Christian County Comprehensive Plan*, adopted in 1992 and updated in 2009, is a guide for the physical growth and development of the county (unincorporated areas). The plan includes several goals, objectives and policy recommendations related to maintaining the quality of the natural environment, protecting sensitive resources, and encouraging the availability of critical infrastructures in the land development process.

Christian County Emergency Operations Plan: The *Christian County Emergency Operations Plan* (EOP) establishes the organizations and procedures that enable the governments in Christian County to “save lives, minimize injuries, protect property, preserve functional civil government and maintain economic activities essential to Christian County’s survival and recovery from natural, technological, terrorism and war-related disasters” (Christian County EOP). The Plan establishes functional lines for operation and also identifies lines of succession for continuity of government during a disaster.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Christian County is a participating member of the Southwest Missouri Economic Development District and detailed information on the county is included in the District’s *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* (formerly called Overall Economic Development Program). The 2006 CEDS update includes information on the county’s demographics, environment, economy, infrastructure and other resources and sets forth goals, objectives and strategic actions to promote job creation, economic diversity and a high quality of life within the region.

Community Comprehensive/Master Plans: The cities of Billings, Clever, Nixa, Highlandville and Ozark have adopted comprehensive plans which provide background on community characteristics and conditions and which outline goals, objectives and strategies for future development of the community. Each of these communities has also adopted zoning and subdivision regulations which are the primary tools for implementing the land development and infrastructure recommendations of the plans. Although each community has its own needs and vision for the future, there is a commonality in that each plan sets forth goals and strategies for encouraging the efficient use of community resources, protecting the natural environment, and ensuring infrastructure adequate to serve new land development. Due to continued rapid growth and changing community needs, the City of Nixa recently updated its plan and the City of Ozark is currently doing so.

OTC Strategic Plan 2020: The *OTC Strategic Plan 2020* expresses the vision to be the community’s college by providing quality learning experiences that support community, workforce and personal development. Goals outlined in the strategic plan relevant for the future growth and development of Christian County include the following:

- Proposed Projects Totaling \$11,500,000:
 - Business Administration Building
 - Richwood Valley Storm Shelter
 - Greenhouse for Turf and Landscape Program
 - Landscaping and campus beautification
- Phase III of an environmentally-friendly community trail adding 2,000 linear feet of trail to the 7,700 feet completed in 2008 and 2009 (totaling 1.5 miles of trails when completed).

Community Partnerships

There are several community partnerships that bring together the public sector, private sector and citizens on issues of environmental management, growth and economic development, transportation.

- ***James River Basin Partnership (JRBP)***: The James River Basin Partnership is a coalition of local government members, scientists, educators, businessmen and citizens and other parties interested in the protection of water quality in the James River Basin. Supported by its members, this organization is actively involved in education and research on watershed management and water quality preservation.
- ***Ozarks Regional Economic Partnership (OREP)***: Communities and Chambers of Commerce in Christian County are members of the Ozarks Regional Economic Partnership, an organization of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, which focuses on activities to promote economic development opportunities and job creation in the region.
- ***Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG)***: Christian County and the cities of Billings, Clever, Nixa and Ozark are members of the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments and the Council's economic development district as designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. SMCOG's mission is to provide a forum for local governments to discuss issues of regional concern and to provide services in community development and planning to its membership.
- ***Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO)***: Christian County and the cities of Nixa and Ozark are now members of the Ozarks Transportation Organization, the transportation planning organization for the Springfield urbanized area. This entity is responsible for transportation planning and decision-making on transportation system improvements within its geographic jurisdiction.

Significant Cultural/Social Issues

Christian County has historically been a rural county with population centers and an agricultural economy tied to trade routes and the railroads for shipping the area's produce. Today, however, Christian County is an urban county. The county and several of its municipalities have experienced explosive growth for more than a decade. Rapid growth is due in large part to the county's location between employment centers in the City of Springfield and the Branson/Tri-Lakes area tourism and recreation attractions. The growth of the area's tourism industry and the rapid in-migration of population from outside of the region and state have brought increased economic prosperity to Christian County and a more diversified local economy.

However, growth has brought substantial challenges to the county and its municipalities to meet the infrastructure and public services needs of the growing population. Significant issues facing Christian County and rapidly growing cities such as Nixa and Ozark include needs for improvements to the transportation system infrastructure. The continued migration of population into the communities and outlying rural areas around these growing communities is straining the capacities of primary roads serving the county. In addition, sprawl development in outlying areas increases the challenges to provide essential services such as law enforcement, fire protection and emergency response.

Rapid urbanization of the countryside is blurring the boundaries between political jurisdictions in Christian County and increasing the need for multi-jurisdictional coordination and cooperation on decision-making affecting the development of infrastructure, delivery of services, and maintenance and efficient use of resources.

Public Awareness

Public awareness of hazard mitigation planning in Christian County was initiated with meetings held in early December 2009. Representatives from the county and the incorporated communities were invited to a meeting to learn about the benefits of developing hazard mitigation plans and the planning process. This information was further distributed through meetings with local government officials and other community stakeholders. Information on meetings to discuss and review the plan and to encourage public input was made available to the general public through the news media, including publication of meeting notices in county newspapers. In addition, information on the hazard mitigation planning process and activities underway, meeting dates, and draft elements of the plan were posted on SMCOG's website.

Media Relations

Several communications media provide news coverage for the Christian County area. Two newspapers are published in the county, the Christian County Headliner and the Nixa News-Enterprise. The Springfield News-Leader, a daily paper, also has wide delivery in Christian County. Several television stations in Springfield have broadcast

coverage in Christian County as well as a number of radio stations. Table 2-30 lists the communications media that provide information to the public, including storm or hazard warnings.

Table 2-30: Media Resources Serving Christian County			
Media	Address	Telephone	Fax
<i>Newspapers</i>			
Christian County Headliner	427 E. South Street, Ozark, MO	417-581-3541	417-581-3577
Nixa Enterprise	214 S. Village Center, Nixa, MO	417-725-3745	417-725-3683
Republic Monitor	417 US Highway 60 E., Republic, MO	417-732-2525	417-732-2980
Springfield News-Leader	651 N. Boonville, Springfield, MO	417-836-1100	417-837-1381
<i>Television</i>			
KDEB 27	2650 E. Division, Springfield, MO	417-862-2727	417-866-6397
KOLR 10	2650 E. Division, Springfield, MO	417-862-1010	417-866-6397
KSPR 33	1359 E. St. Louis, Springfield, MO	417-831-1333	417-831-9358
KYTV 3	999 W. Sunshine, Springfield, MO	417-268-3000	417-268-3364
<i>Radio</i>			
KTOZ 95.5FM	1856 S. Glenstone, Springfield, MO	417-890-5555	417-890-5050
KTTS 94.7FM	2330 W. Grand, Springfield, MO	417-865-6614	417-866-8537
KTXR 101.3 FM KWTO AM	3000 E. Chestnut Expressway, Springfield, MO	417-862-5600	417-869-7675
KADI 99.5 FM	1601 W. Sunshine, Springfield, MO	417-831-0995	417-831-4026
KWFC 89.1 FM	2316 N. Benton, Springfield, MO	417-869-0891	417-866-7525

City/Village Profiles

The following list provides a summary profile of the municipalities in Christian County. Although not an incorporated community, the Spokane CDP is also included in the list.

Billings

Total Population - 2000	1,091
Estimated Population - 2008	1,118
Classification	City-fourth class
Leadership	Mayor/ Board of Aldermen
Median household income	\$28,207
Total housing units	500
Housing unit, median year built	1970
Median gross rent	\$439
Median owner-occupied housing value	\$70,900
Master plan	Yes
Zoning regulations	Yes

Billings (Continued)

Building regulations	Yes
Including earthquake design	No
Subdivision regulations	Yes
Stormwater regulations	Yes
Floodplain management regulations	No
Water service	City of Billings
Sewer service	City of Billings
Electric service	Empire District Electric Company
Law enforcement	City of Billings
Fire protection service	Billings Volunteer Fire Department
Ambulance service	Cox Ambulance, St. John's Paramedics
Solid waste disposal	American Disposal

Clever

Total Population - 2000	1,010
Estimated Population - 2008	1,634
Classification	City-fourth class
Leadership	Mayor/ Board of Aldermen
Median household income	\$32,798
Total housing units	415
Housing unit, median year built	1981
Median gross rent	\$534
Median owner-occupied housing value	\$72,300
Master plan	Yes
Zoning regulations	Yes
Building regulations	Yes
Including earthquake design	No
Subdivision regulations	Yes
Stormwater regulations	Yes
Floodplain management regulations	Yes
Water service	City of Clever
Sewer service	City of Clever
Electric service	Empire District Electric Company & Ozark Electric Cooperative
Law enforcement	Clever Police Department
Fire protection service	Clever Fire Protection District
Ambulance service	Cox Ambulance, St. John's Paramedics
Solid waste disposal	American Disposal

Fremont Hills

Total Population - 2000	597
Estimated Population - 2008	612
Classification	City-fourth class
Leadership	Mayor/ Board of Aldermen
Median household income	\$87,863
Total housing units	232
Housing unit, median year built	1990
Median gross rent	\$595
Median owner-occupied housing value	\$244,000
Master plan	No
Zoning regulations	Yes
Building regulations	Yes (Intergovernmental agreement with Christian County)
Including earthquake design	No
Subdivision regulations	Yes
Stormwater regulations	Yes
Floodplain management regulations	No
Water service	City of Ozark
Sewer service	City of Fremont Hills
Electric service	Empire District Electric Company & Ozark Electric Cooperative
Law enforcement	Christian County Sheriff
Fire protection service	Ozark Fire Protection District
Ambulance service	Cox Ambulance Service
Solid waste disposal	Allied Waste Disposal

Highlandville

Total Population - 2000	872
Estimated Population - 2008	911
Classification	City-fourth class
Leadership	Mayor/ Board of Aldermen
Median household income	\$31,767
Total housing units	366
Housing unit, median year built	1977
Median gross rent	\$465
Median owner-occupied housing value	\$83,300
Master plan	Yes
Zoning regulations	Yes
Building regulations	Yes
Including earthquake design	No

Highlandville (continued)

Subdivision regulations	Yes
Stormwater regulations	Yes
Floodplain management regulations	Yes
Water service	City of Highlandville
Sewer service	City of Highlandville
Electric service	White River Valley Electric Cooperative
Law enforcement	Highlandville Police Department
Fire protection service	Highlandville Rural Fire Protection District
Ambulance service	Cox Ambulance Service
Solid waste disposal	Private haulers

Nixa

Total Population - 2000	12,124
Estimated Population - 2008	18,829
Classification	City-fourth class
Leadership	Mayor/ City Administrator/Council
Median household income	\$37,655
Total housing units	5,025
Housing unit, median year built	1994
Median gross rent	\$601
Median owner-occupied housing value	\$90,800
Master plan	Yes
Zoning regulations	Yes
Building regulations	Yes
Including earthquake design	No
Subdivision regulations	Yes
Stormwater regulations	Yes
Floodplain management regulations	Yes
Water service	City of Nixa
Sewer service	City of Nixa
Electric service	City of Nixa
Law enforcement	City of Nixa
Fire protection service	Nixa Fire Protection District
Ambulance Service	Cox Ambulance Service
Solid waste disposal	American Disposal-residential, Private haulers-all other users

Ozark

Total Population - 2000	9,665
Estimated Population - 2008	18,095
Classification	City-fourth class
Leadership	Mayor/ City Administrator/ Board of Aldermen
Median household income	\$34,210
Total housing units	3,918
Housing unit, median year built	1992
Median gross rent	\$501
Median owner-occupied housing value	\$91,900
Master plan	Yes
Zoning regulations	Yes
Building regulations	Yes
Including earthquake design	No
Subdivision regulations	Yes
Stormwater regulations	Yes
Floodplain management regulations	Yes
Water service	City of Ozark
Sewer service	City of Ozark
Electric service	Empire District Electric Company
Law enforcement	City of Ozark
Fire protection service	Ozark Fire Protection District
Ambulance service	Cox Ambulance Service
Solid waste disposal	BFI & Private Haulers

Saddlebrooke

Estimated Population - 2008	72
Classification	Village
Leadership	Chairman/Trustees
Median household income	N/A
Total housing units	N/A
Housing unit, median year built	N/A
Median gross rent	N/A
Median owner-occupied housing value	N/A
Master plan	Yes
Zoning regulations	No
Building regulations	Yes (Intergovernmental agreement with Christian County)
Including earthquake design	No
Subdivision regulations	No

Saddlebrooke (continued)

Stormwater regulations	No
Floodplain management regulations	No
Water service	Village of Saddlebrooke
Sewer service	Village of Saddlebrooke
Electric service	White River Valley Electric Cooperative
Law enforcement	Christian County Sheriff's Department
Fire protection service	Highlandville Rural Fire Protection District
Ambulance service	Cox Ambulance Service
Solid waste disposal	Waste Corporation of America

Sparta

Total Population - 2000	1,144
Estimated Population - 2008	1,199
Classification	City-fourth class
Leadership	Mayor/Board of Aldermen
Median household income	\$22,768
Total housing units	509
Housing unit, median year built	1980
Median gross rent	\$441
Median owner-occupied housing value	\$63,800
Master plan	No
Zoning regulations	No
Building regulations	No
Including earthquake design	No
Subdivision regulations	Yes
Stormwater regulations	Yes
Floodplain management regulations	No
Water service	City of Sparta
Sewer service	City of Sparta
Electric service	Empire District Electric Company
Law enforcement	Sparta Police Department
Fire protection service	Sparta Fire Protection District
Ambulance service	Cox Ambulance Service
Solid waste disposal	WCA Disposal

Spokane CDP

Total Population - 2000	133
Classification	CDP (census defined place)
Leadership	Governed by Christian County Commission
Median household income	\$35,417

Spokane CDP (continued)

Total housing units	46
Housing unit, median year built	1977
Median gross rent	\$498
Median owner-occupied housing value	N/A
Master plan	No
Zoning regulations	Yes - Christian County
Building regulations	No
Subdivision regulations	Yes - Christian County
Stormwater regulations	No
Floodplain management regulations	Yes - Christian County
Water service	Private wells
Sewer service	On-site wastewater systems
Electric service	White River Valley Electric Cooperative
Law enforcement	Christian County Sheriff's Department
Fire protection service	Highlandville Rural Fire Protection District
Ambulance service	Cox Ambulance Service
Solid waste disposal	Private haulers