

## Chapter 5: Public Facilities and Services

### Sanitary Sewer Service

The Rockaway Beach Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility provides sanitary services to all areas within the city limits as well as the communities of Bull Creek and Merriam Woods. Before the regional facility came on line in 1998, wastewater was treated at the Branson wastewater plant. The construction of the facility was funded by the City and loans secured by the Taney County Sewer District. Following final payment, the Taney County Commission transferred ownership of facilities, systems and sewer easements in these areas to Rockaway Beach. The facility was built with a design capacity of 150,000 gallons per day in the City. Present usage in Rockaway Beach averages 115,000 gallons per day.

The wastewater treatment plant is located off of Boys Camp Road in the western section of the City. The treatment plant itself consists of two oxidation ditches, two clarifiers, one sand filter, holding tanks and an ultraviolet disinfection system. Two lift stations, eight grinder stations and a sewer collection system comprise the remainder of the complete wastewater system. Most of the sewer collection system was constructed in 1998 and is in fair condition while infiltration and inflow are not excessive. The system is monitored by an automated Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system using remote terminal units at geographically distributed sites and allows the facility to be staffed for only four to six hours a day.

### Water Service

The City of Rockaway Beach provides water service to all development within the corporate limits. The City draws water from two wells. Well #2 is located at Lake St. and Highway 176/Beach Boulevard. Well #2 was built in 1952 and drilled to a depth of about 700 feet. Well #3 was completed in 1975 at a depth of 1100 feet and is located in Holly Circle in the northern portion of the City. These wells have a combined pumping capacity of almost 385 gallons per minute. The water is chlorinated before pumping into the distribution system. Water towers in the City provide a storage capacity of 200,000 gallons.

### Storm Water Management

All parts of the City were developed with no or minimal drainage systems. Storm water runoff is primarily conveyed through natural drainage ways and open graded ditches.

## Electric and Gas Utilities

White River Valley Electric Cooperative provides electricity service to Rockaway Beach. Electricity is delivered through 69 KV lines that loop around the City, of which 85% is generated through coal fired power plants within the State of Missouri. Five percent of the electricity provided by White River is generated at a small hydroelectric plant in Springfield, Missouri. The Cooperative does have the capacity to extend service into currently unserved areas of the City as development occurs, including placing service lines underground.

Natural gas service is currently not available to Rockaway Beach. Private propane tanks supply gas service in all areas of the City. Larger tanks are filled by independent suppliers while smaller tanks are available at convenience stores and big box retailers like Wal-Mart and Home Depot.

## Solid Waste Disposal

The City of Rockaway Beach contracts with private service providers for refuse collection and disposal as well as recycling programs in the City. The current contract for service is in place with Allied Waste Services.

## Fire Protection Services

Western Taney County Fire Protection District has provided firefighting and emergency services within the Rockaway Beach city limits for 26 years. Station 2 of the Taney County Fire Protection District was built at 4159 State Highway 176 less than half of a mile to the east of the intersection of State Highway EE in the northwestern city boundary. Personnel include a fire captain and eight volunteer firefighters. Station 2 apparatus includes one pumper, a tanker, one brush truck and a rescue trailer. Under the apparatus floor is a 30,000 gallon tank that can be used through a dry hydrant adapter in front of the building. The Western Taney County Fire Protection District has mutual aid agreements with the cities of Forsyth, Hollister and Branson as well as the Central Taney County Fire Protection District. Currently, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating for the western district is five (5).

The Insurance Services Office surveys communities on a regular basis to determine the Public Protection Classification for the fire protection services protecting the community. The Public Protection Classification is used to gauge the ability of a local fire department to respond to fires. A classification of 1 to 10 is then assigned based

upon the results of the survey. Class 1 is the best rating, and Class 10 is basically an indication of no fire protection. The ISO Public Protection Classification is used by the Insurance industry in determining insurance premiums for many properties within the community.

## Law Enforcement

Basic law enforcement services are provided by the Rockaway Beach Police Department. The Department is currently staffed by a police chief, one deputy and volunteer reserves as needed. Departmental resources provide coverage for traffic safety services, patrolling and response to crime-related incidents. Mutual aid agreements with law enforcement in Merriam Woods and the Taney County Sheriff's Department provide extended coverage and capability for most public safety services around the clock. There are no provisions for specialized departments such as animal control at this time, which is a public safety need that must be addressed.

## Communications

The land line telephone service provider in Rockaway Beach is CenturyLink. CenturyLink and SuddenLink provide high speed internet at file transfer speed of 10 megabits per second. Rockaway Beach enjoys coverage from many national wireless telecommunications service providers.

## Schools

There are no public schools within Rockaway Beach. According to City records, most of the school age children in Rockaway Beach are enrolled in the Branson R-IV school district while a very few are enrolled in the Forsyth R-III school district. There were 108 students attending Branson schools in 2008 and a slight increase to 111 in 2009.

## Parks and Recreation

The City of Rockaway Beach maintains park space along the lakefront adjacent to the Lake Taneycomo public access boat ramp along with the earthen fishing pier in the lake. The City is working to develop Empire District Electric Company property within the city limits and along the lakefront in the western part of the City. Elements of the Empire District Electric Park Plan consist of a new recreational sports field, activity center, playground and RV park. The plan also includes a trail project to connect recreational amenities to natural glade and wetlands around Mallard Bay. Providing

trail access to these natural areas will raise knowledge of the environment, serve as an educational opportunity and encourage further protection of these resources function and value through proper management and public awareness. The trail project includes a crossover replacement bridge for a previous pedestrian connection that has been gone for 20 years from the Empire District Electric property to the downtown lakefront.