

**P U B L I C
F A C I L I T I E S P L A N**

Section Six

Comprehensive Plan 2009

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INTRODUCTION

The Public Facilities element of the this *Comprehensive Plan 2009* addresses the expectations a community's residents have regarding certain public services and the facilities that are needed to provide these services. Public buildings that house the various governmental and service functions of a municipality are generally of two types:

- (1) Those requiring a nearly central or common location and which serve the entire municipal area; and
- (2) Those serving segments of the community on a service area basis.

The City Hall is an example of a public building that serves the entire community, while a fire station represents a public building that has a service area relationship to the community.

The demand for public building space at all levels of government normally increases as the population served grows, and as the level of service expands. As a general rule, as communities grow in size, increased levels of service are generally required by its citizens. The service level that exists today will likely need to be increased in the future. The City now has 34 full-time municipal employees, with a current estimated population of 4,509. Once the City reaches its ultimate capacity of 6,687, it will need approximately 50 employees and/or service providers, including independent contractors, may be required to accommodate the essential municipal functions, including fire, police and emergency services. Generally, increases in the population also lead to increases in the demand for higher levels of service. Additional office space will be needed to accommodate the additional employees and to replace or expand existing municipal facilities as the City grows and continues to reach its ultimate capacity.

EXISTING PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

It is appropriate to review the status of existing structures that the City has allocated for the provision of serving citizens as a basis for determining the future changes and additions that will likely be required in the future. **Plate 6-1** shows the location of the City Hall and the fire station within the City of Bee Cave. The following sections are a general evaluation the existing buildings and facilities.

CITY HALL

The City broke ground for a new City Hall facility in 2006, and the facility was completed in 2007. The building is a two-story structure of nearly 30,000 square feet. The facility contains all of the City's administrative offices and the City Council chambers, in addition to a 5,000 SF public library, 5,000 SF of community space available to the public, and 9,500 SF of expansion area.



The extensive landscaping features natural vegetation as well as several fountains and a large pond nearby.

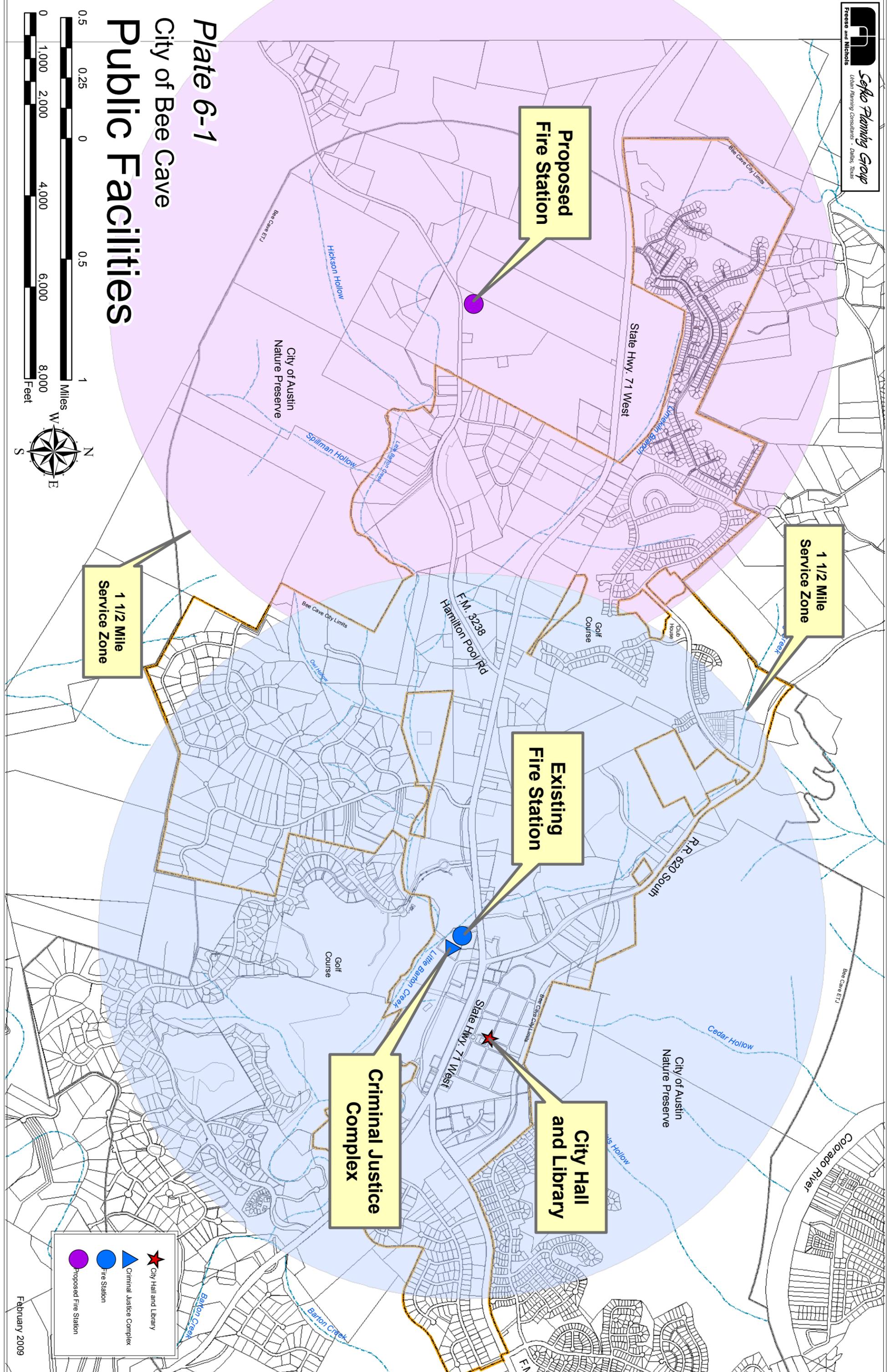
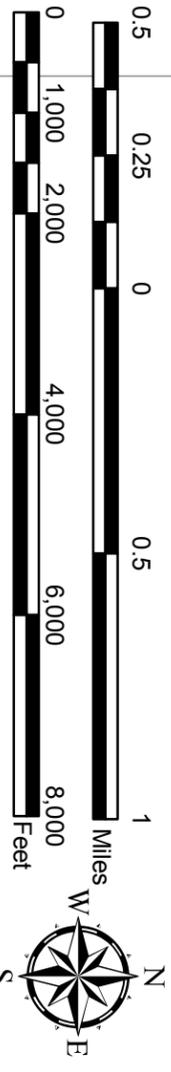
The facility is uniquely integrated within the Hill Country Galleria outdoor shopping center. Other community amenities in the immediate area include an amphitheater featuring free concerts, a pergola with seating, and a movie theater.



Plate 6-1

City of Bee Cave

Public Facilities



	City Hall and Library
	Criminal Justice Complex
	Fire Station
	Proposed Fire Station

FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The City is serviced by the Travis County Emergency Service District Six/Lake Travis Fire Rescue's Fire Station 603 located in Bee Cave. Currently, there are 6 full-time firepersons employed at Station 3, with 26 volunteers available to respond to any emergency situation in the City of Bee Cave or the surrounding area.

POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES

The City of Bee Cave Police Department is available on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with 14 officers. It is housed within the Criminal Justice Center, located south of State Highway 71 just to the west of the intersection between State Highway 71 and R.M. 620. The building is approximately 5,200 square feet and formerly served as the City Hall.



WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES

The City of Bee Cave currently has no provision for these types of services. Each individual neighborhood/subdivision provides these services independent of the City.

HISTORICAL SITES⁶⁻¹

The City of Bee Cave has many historical areas. It is important for these sites to be documented and acknowledged in order to ensure their protection from any adverse affects from development in the future. Following is a description of these sites.

6-1 Information for this section was provided by the City of Bee Cave and courtesy of Mrs. Judy Allen.

BOHLS CABINS

The Bohls family was one of the first families to settle on the land that would become the City of Bee Cave. Dietrich Bohls purchased forty acres at the confluence of Barton Creek and Little Barton Creek, and some of the original structures built in the mid-1800's still exist today. The original group of cabins consisted of a kitchen, sleeping quarters (one building), a double crib barn, and a granary. Later, a two-room cabin was built that served as the family home.



LALLIER STORE (THE OLD POST OFFICE)

Carl Beck built this store at the corner of what are now State Highway 71 and Hamilton Pool Road. This was done in 1873 in order to provide settlers with necessary supplies. The store also served as the local post office; needing a name for his post office, Mr. Beck thought about the bees in the banks of the creek behind his property, and of the bee hives (or caves) that the bees would build in the eaves of local buildings. As a lark, he named the post office for the surrounding area he called "Bee Cave". Other business ventures conducted on this property included the operation of a cotton gin and the establishment of a cigar factory. Mr. Beck's daughter and son-in-law (Carl Lallier) later bought the store, renamed it for their own family, and continued to run it until the late 1940's.

BEE CAVE SCHOOLHOUSE

One of the first schools in the area was a rock schoolhouse built in 1882, and had only about 5 or 6 students at one time. This original rock schoolhouse still remains on Hamilton Pool Road. It was determined, however, that the area needed a more substantial building in order to provide education to local children. Mr. Fredrick Freitag donated a piece of property expressly for this purpose in 1880. In the 1890's, a small frame yellow-painted school was built at the intersection of what are now State Highway 71 and R.M. 620. This schoolhouse became known around the area as the "Yellow Schoolhouse". The first families that settled in the Bee Cave area, namely the Pechts, Lalliers, Longs, Bohls, and Heffingtons, sent their children to this school.

A new schoolhouse was constructed in 1926 on the same piece of property, facing a different direction. Classes continued to be held within this facility until the area schools were consolidated

in with the Dripping Springs School District in 1947. The Bee Cave Association cared for the building until the 1970's, during which time it served various civic purposes, including a citizen center, community center, and polling location. It has been restored and is now under the care of the Western Historical Society.

BEE CAVE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Bee Cave Baptist Church was established in 1925, although services were held in the "Yellow Schoolhouse" until the permanent building was available for services on January 16, 1927. A new structure was built around the existing church in 1948, with the significant addition of a bell tower. In 1984, the church was remodeled, and the bell tower was replaced with the steeple that can be seen there now. The Bee Cave Baptist Church continues to have a strong presence within the City of Bee Cave today.

FUTURE BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

Most public buildings tend to be fairly long-term investments, and therefore, they should be initially scaled to meet the needs of the community; however, the need for future expansion of these facilities should be anticipated and therefore incorporated into their development. The following is an estimate of future public building and service facility needs projected for the future based upon the estimated potential population of the City of Bee Cave.

FIRE PROTECTION

As with police protection, with continued growth within the City, additional fire protection may become necessary. The area able to be served by one fire station is generally accepted to be a radius of approximately one-and-one-half miles from the fire station itself. Referring to **Plate 6-1**, areas of the City's ETJ would benefit from the construction of another fire station along Hamilton Pool Road due to the fact that western portions of the City ETJ area are out of the accepted range of service. City officials should closely monitor the areas of development, and should work closely with the Hudson Bend Fire Department to establish any necessary additional facilities in locations that provide easy accessibility to residential land uses.

MUNICIPAL BARN FACILITY

If police protection and/or fire protection services are added to the existing services provided by the City, it is likely that the City will need a facility in order to support the provision of such services (i.e., storage of vehicles, roadway maintenance equipment). The City will need to consider the cost of both buying property for and the construction of such a facility.

CONCLUSION

Changes in technology and operational methods often modify the spatial needs of municipal employees as time progresses, and the City should respond to the needs of its employees and citizens. It is recommended that the City establish a detailed public facilities plan. Evaluations of existing services and structures should be conducted to determine if expansion or creation of services or structures is necessary to accommodate the increased population. Some communities have jointly developed certain public buildings and services, such as fire protection services, police protection services, and animal shelters. The City should consider this option because of its many advantages, including the lower initial cost for the establishment of services and the fact that Bee Cave is not likely to require the provision of some services solely within the City itself.

These recommendations are intended to provide general guidance; however, citizen opinion should be taken into account, and detailed architectural evaluation should be undertaken prior to initiating the design of any new facility or modification of any existing public facility.