

INTRODUCTION

The amount and general type of potential growth and/or improvement for Clifton is mostly predicated on its population size, composition, and spatial distribution. The population size expresses the overall dimensional requirements of the physical environment, and serves as a basic benchmark by which to estimate and categorize the spatial demands for various land uses. When the element of time is introduced, and future trends in population size are estimated, a rational basis is formed for approximating the timing, sizing, and extent of future public and private improvements. It is especially important to emphasize that holding capacity projections and facility planning require an understanding of the timing and distribution of future population patterns. In short, projected population demand is the rational basis for sizing infrastructure and establishing the timing of capital expenditures. Suffice it to say, cities cannot properly budget for service delivery without a basic knowledge of its population trends.

POPULATION TRENDS

As indicated in Table 2.1, the population of Clifton has steadily increased since 1940. The current population estimate of 3,805 persons is extrapolated from Texas Water Development Board forecasts which foresee an increase of approximately 450 persons in Clifton during the decade of 2000 to 2010. Details regarding population levels in Clifton are shown in Table 2.1.

TABLE 2.1
CITY OF CLIFTON
POPULATION GROWTH

YEAR	POPULATION
1940	1,732
1950	1,837
1960	2,335
1970	2,578
1980	3,063
1990	3,195
2000	3,542
2005	3,671 *
2006	3,805 **

U.S. Bureau of the Census

* Texas State Data Center Estimate

** Extrapolated from TWDB estimates

A modest rate of population growth is anticipated for Clifton through the planning period. This assumption is based upon forecast data prepared for Bosque County by the Texas State Data Center (TSDC). According to TSDC data, which is based upon an extensive cohort-survival population forecasting model which examines both in/out migration and natural fertility rates, the population of Bosque County is expected to increase by almost 17 percent over the next 20 years. With Clifton's location on State Highway 6 which is Bosque County's main travel corridor, its proximity to regional job opportunities in Waco, more affordable housing, lower land costs and much less congestion, the City's growth rate is expected to reflect the growth projected for the County. Bosque County population growth trends are detailed in Table 2.2.

TABLE 2.2
 BOSQUE COUNTY
 PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH

YEAR	POPULATION
2010	20,232
2015	21,860
2020	23,487
2025	24,923
2030	26,120

Source: Texas State Data Center

The age composition of a population provides a profile, illustrating when and where the greatest need for various types of public expenditures will be required in order to meet citizen demand. Based upon the 2000 census, the median age of Clifton’s population is 41.5 years. The census also indicates that 55.1 percent of the total population is female, compared to 44.9 percent on the male side of the equation. Since 27.2 percent of Clifton’s population is over 65 years of age and 25.0 percent is under 18 years old, the demand for City services will be diverse and must meet the needs of the elderly with consideration also for younger age groups.

In 1990, the census indicated that 91 percent of the population was White with the remainder consisting of other races. In 2000, the population composition of Clifton is shown to have slightly changed. The White portion of the population has declined to 86 percent percent with other races accounting for the rest. The single largest increase has been for Hispanic which increased from 10 percent in 1990 to over 18 percent in 2000. Some additional diversification of the population is expected as many different segments of the population chose to leave major urban areas in favor of quality suburban areas. Details are provided in Table 2.3.

TABLE 2.3
CITY OF CLIFTON

1990 vs. 2000 POPULATION COMPOSITIONS

CLASSIFICATIONS	1990		2000	
	AMOUNT	PERCENT	AMOUNT	PERCENT
WHITE	2,921	91.4	3,047	86.0
AMERICAN INDIAN	1	0.1	12	0.3
ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER	13	0.2	6	0.2
BLACK	173	5.4	119	3.4
OTHER RACE	87	2.7	358	10.1
HISPANIC ORIGIN	341	10.7	667	18.8
DISABILITY	523	16.4	628	20.5
FEMALE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	109	8.7	199	15.4

Sources: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

Year 2000 census data also provides additional details regarding ethnicity of residents. This information, while not available in this detail from previous census data, provides a greater insight into the ethnic composition of Clifton's population. The largest segment of the population is shown to be White. Details are presented below:

TABLE 2.4
CITY OF CLIFTON
POPULATION ETHNICITY

CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENT
Male	1,592	45.0
Female	1,950	55.0
Total	3,542	100.0
White	3,047	86.0
Black	119	3.0
American Indian/Alaskan Native	12	0
Asian	6	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Black/African American & White	9	0
American Indian/Alaskan Native & White	6	0
Asian & White	0	0
Asian & Black	2	0
American Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African American	1	0
Other	340	10.0
Total	3,542	100.0

Note: Those showing zero have none or less than 1%

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Population projections provide the most basic planning assumptions required for strategically meeting future public needs. Any change in population trends is affected by birth rates, death rates, and migration. Because an accurate manner of recording this data has not yet been devised, population projections must be based on potential for growth, local and regional trends, and economic conditions. Five significant assumptions specific to Clifton help form the basis from which to project future population levels, and are listed below:

1. *Clifton commercial/industrial base will remain stable or increase slightly.*
2. *Clifton will provide an appropriate level of basic services to its existing and future citizenry, such as water, sewer, and community facilities.*
3. *Clifton will gain some out migration from larger urban areas causing the local population to realize some increase.*
4. *Clifton will benefit from proximity to the State Highway 6 travel corridor.*
5. *The Central Texas "Directions for Growth" prepared by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts anticipates significant growth in the economy which will feed some population growth for the area (see Appendix 2.1). The report states that competitiveness will be crucial to attracting the higher tech business development that might be attracted to this area.*

The total population of Bosque County is projected by the Texas State Data Center to grow by almost 23 percent during the next 25 years. It is assumed that Clifton will also experience growth if the local and regional economies remain stable.

In developing the population projections for the city of Clifton, past and current population data were reviewed along with the projected population growth rate developed by the Texas State Data Center for Bosque County. It is anticipated that through the planning period, the city's population will experience a growth rate of approximately 12 percent each decade. Based upon all the foregoing assumptions, the future population estimate for Clifton is depicted in Table 2.4.

TABLE 2.5
CITY OF CLIFTON
POPULATION PROJECTIONS











YEAR	PROJECTED POPULATION
2010	4,035
2015	4,265
2020	4,520
2025	4,775
2030	5,060

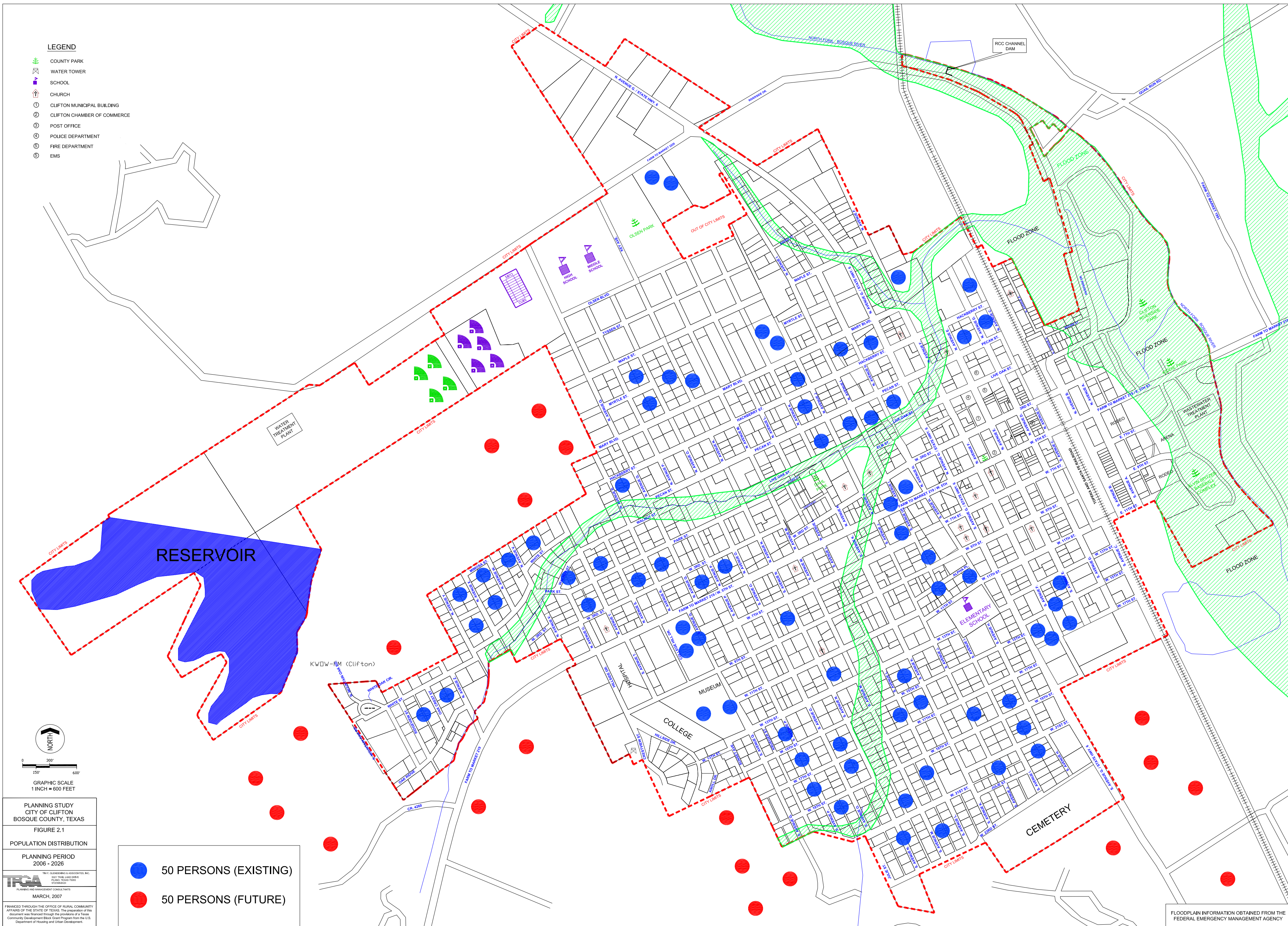
Sources: Texas State Data Center; TFGA, Inc.



It should be understood that regardless of population, the principals of good on-going planning should still be applied. The changing society, migration, and birth control can change immensely in 20 years; however, the projected population, whether reached 5 years early or 10 years late, will require basically the same number of facilities for the projected number of people. The City should set and strive to achieve goals for both the desired population levels and the facilities necessary to accommodate the resultant population demands.

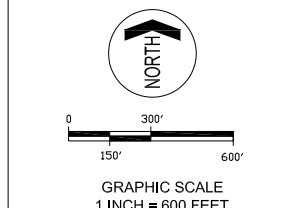
Population density is important to numerous facets of the planning program - - land use needs, utility demands, schools and parks - - all require a knowledge of population density. The demand for public facilities is sometimes created by population location, and other times the population may be the result of the presence or availability of public facilities. The Population Distribution Map, depicted in Figure 2.1, identifies the location of the existing and projected population concentrations, together with any clearly defined areas of low and moderate income persons. These population concentrations were determined from the 2002 housing survey and average household size obtained from the 2000 census. The number of future residences which will locate in specific areas is unknown due to individual preference. Therefore, the location of population densities shown could change. The total growth of the City will still require a specific amount of land area.

LEGEND

-  COUNTY PARK
-  WATER TOWER
-  SCHOOL
-  CHURCH
-  CLIFTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
-  CLIFTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
-  POST OFFICE
-  POLICE DEPARTMENT
-  FIRE DEPARTMENT
-  EMS



-  50 PERSONS (EXISTING)
-  50 PERSONS (FUTURE)



PLANNING STUDY
CITY OF CLIFTON
BOSQUE COUNTY, TEXAS
FIGURE 2.1
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION
PLANNING PERIOD
2006 - 2026
MARCH, 2007

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