

Appendix A: Background and Context

Community Profile

Profile summaries of existing conditions and trends were prepared as a foundation for the Master Plan process. Profile summaries are provided for the following topic areas: Land Use; Population; Housing; Economy; Transportation; Community Services and Facilities; Parks, Recreation, and Resources; and Schools, Education, and Cultural Facilities. A brief overview of topics addressed is provided below.

Land Use

Provides an overview of existing land use and development capacity for the City of Riverton and its Influence Area.

Population

Provides an overview of current population characteristics, as well as past growth rates and future growth projections.

Housing

Provides a summary of housing mix, trends, projections, and future housing needs of the community.

Economy

Provides an overview of the current economic health of the city and its potential for job growth in the future.

Transportation

Provides a summary of different modes of transportation being utilized in Riverton and a discussion of key trends.

Community Services and Facilities

Contains facts and figures about the city's police, medical, recycling and solid waste services and identifies improvements are being planned for the future.

Parks, Recreation, and Resources

Provides a summary of the city's current parks level of service and cultural resources and identifies opportunities the city has to expand its existing system over time.

Schools, Education, and Cultural Facilities

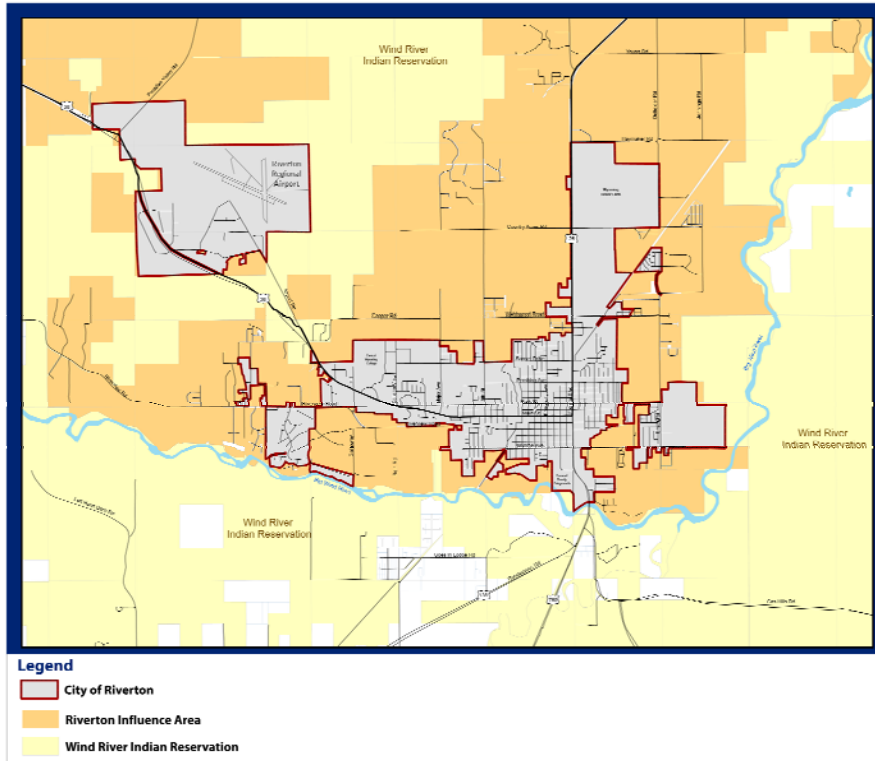
Contains facts and figures related to area schools including school type, enrollment, and test scores.

Land Use

Planning Area Overview



FIGURE 1: RIVERTON PLANNING AREA



The planning area for the Riverton Master Plan is comprised of the incorporated City of Riverton and its Influence Area, as defined on the map above. The planning area consists of 22,566 acres: 6,251 acres within the incorporated city limits and 16,315 acres immediately around the city not part of Wind River Indian reservation.

City of Riverton

The City of Riverton consists of 6,251 acres. Of that total:

- 2,249 acres are currently developed or have development applications pending.
- 2,794 acres are in active use for parks, schools, utilities, and other major public facilities.
- 1,208 acres are comprised of vacant lands, agricultural uses, and right-of-way.

Influence Area

- There are 16,315 acres of public and private land in the immediate vicinity of the city that are not part of Wind River Indian Reservation. This area is referred to as the "Influence Area" for the city.

KEY TRENDS

Riverton City Limits

- Approximately 95% of the land in the incorporated city limits is already developed.
- Despite the fact that Riverton is nearly built out, a substantial portion of the city's projected housing need in the next 10-20 years could be accommodated on vacant or agricultural lands within the existing city limits.
- However, some new growth will likely need to occur outside of existing city limits in the Influence Area.

Influence Area

- The Influence Area contains approximately 16,315 acres, the majority (73%) of which is currently in agricultural use.
- Lands within the Influence Area are located in unincorporated Fremont County, which does not have zoning.
- The amount of land within the Influence Area needed to accommodate future residential growth will be dependent on a variety of factors, including housing types and densities, market demand, and property owner willingness to sell.

Sources:

Current Zoning Map (Clarion Associates, City of Riverton, Fremont County Assessor's Data, 2008); Fremont County Tax Assessment Records; Fremont County Housing Study (2008), Land Capacity Analysis Map (Clarion Associates, August 2008)

- In the Influence Area, only 4,347 acres (27%) are currently developed or actively used for public purposes.

Existing Land Use

Ownership

- Nearly half (45%) of the land in the City of Riverton is public/quasi-public. The remaining 55% is privately owned.
- The high proportion of public lands in the city is largely attributable to Central Wyoming College, the State Honor Farm, the airport, and the Rendezvous site.
- By contrast, almost all (96%) of the land in the Influence Area is private, with only 4% in public/quasi-public ownership.

Existing Land Use

- Public/Quasi-public (41.8%) and parks and open space (2.9%) uses comprise roughly 45% of the city's total land area.
- The next largest uses are low-density residential (9.7%), rural residential (7.7%), and agriculture (7.4%).
- In the unincorporated Influence Area, agriculture is the single largest use (71.2%) followed by rural residential development (19.1%).
- In both the city and the Influence Area there is very little vacant land not being used for some other purpose.

Table 1: Existing Land Use in the Riverton Planning Area

LAND USE	CITY OF RIVERTON		INFLUENCE AREA	
	ACRES	%CITY TOTAL	ACRES	% IA TOTAL
RESIDENTIAL				
Rural Residential (0.25-1 du/ac)	479	7.7%	3,116	19.1%
Low Density Residential (2-6 du/ac)	606	9.7%	100	0.6%
Medium Density Residential (7-16 du/ac)	252	4.0%	36	0.2%
<i>Residential Subtotal</i>	1,337	21.4%	3,252	19.9%
COMMERCIAL/EMPLOYMENT				
Commercial	298	4.8%	78	0.5%
Office	27	0.4%	2	0%
Industrial	576	9.2%	414	2.5%
<i>Commercial/Employment Subtotal</i>	901	14.4%	494	3.0%
OTHER				
Parks and Open Space	184	2.9%	39	0.2%
Public/Quasi-Public	2,610	41.8%	549	3.4%
Agriculture	465	7.4%	11,615	71.2%
Approved/Pending Development	11	0.2%	13	0.1%
Vacant	103	1.6%	353	2.2%
Right of Way	640	10.2%		0%
<i>Other Subtotal</i>	4,013	64.2%	12,569	77.0%
Total	6,251	100%	16,315	100%

Source: Fremont County Tax Assessment Record, City of Riverton, Clarion Associates, 2008

Table 2: Existing Land Use in the Riverton Planning Area

DEVELOPMENT STATUS	CITY OF RIVERTON		INFLUENCE AREA		PLANNING AREA TOTAL	
	ACRES	% TOTAL	ACRES	% TOTAL	ACRES	% TOTAL
Developed	5,672	90.7%	4,334	26.6%	10,006	44.3%
Approved/Pending Development	11	0.2%	13	0.1%	24	0.1%
Agricultural	465	7.4%	11,615	71.2%	12,080	53.5%
Vacant	103	1.6%	353	2.2%	456	2.0%
	6,251	100.0%	16,315	100.0%	22,566	100.0%

Source: Fremont County Tax Assessment Record, City of Riverton, Clarion Associates, 2008

Vacant and Developed Lands

- Land within the incorporated city is almost completely developed (95% when include Honor Farm from agricultural acreage), though this figure does not consider redevelopment potential within the city limits.
- The most significant new development potential for the city comes from the agricultural land supply in the Influence Area. The amount of agricultural land in this area is over 12,000 acres, almost twice the size of the existing city.

Development Capacity

A development capacity analysis was conducted to estimate how much development the city could accommodate in the future. The analysis uses the following conditions and assumptions:

- **Available Land Supply:** vacant and agricultural lands in the city, a total of 568 acres.
- **Zoning of Undeveloped Lands:** current zoning was used to calculate development potential of land in the city.

City of Riverton Capacity

- The city could potentially add 1,519 new housing units on 524 acres of residentially or agriculturally-zoned land, assuming an average density of approximately 3 dwelling units per acre.
- It could also add 690,535 square feet of employment space on the 89 acres of vacant non-residential land.

Influence Area Capacity

- Since the County does not have zoning, undeveloped lands in the Influence Area were not calculated as part of the analysis.
- However, with nearly 12,000 acres of private land that could potentially develop and a need for between 600 and 1,000 acres of additional land for residential development, this potential capacity is an important factor in the city's future.

Table 3: Development Capacity (City of Riverton)

CURRENT ZONING		CITY OF RIVERTON				
		2008 EXISTING DEVELOPMENT	POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT		TOTAL BUILDOUT ³	
	AVG. DU/AC.	ACRES	ACRES	UNITS	ACRES	UNITS
Residential BGA (BGA)	1.00	814	164	139	978	139
Residential A (RA)	4.00	207	17	43	224	43
Residential B (RB)	6.00	608	243	826	672	826
Residential C (RC)	8.00	57	100	510	57	510
Mobile Home Park (MHP)	8.00	120		0	120	0
Residential Planned Unit Development (PUD)	6.00	28			28	0
<i>Residential Subtotal</i>		1,834	524	1,519	2,079	1,519
COMMERCIAL/EMPLOYMENT	FAR	ACRES	ACRES	SF	ACRES	SF
General Commercial (C-1)	0.25	193	33	305,465		305,465
Commercial Highway (C-H)	0.25	267	0	0	267	0
Planned Neighborhood Shopping (C-P)	0.25	2		0	2	0
Office and Institution (C-O)	0.35	205	10	129,591	215	129,591
Light Industrial (I-1)	0.15	536	46	255,479	582	255,479
Heavy Industrial (I-2)	0.15	50		0	50	0
<i>Non-Residential Subtotal</i>		1,253	89	690,535	1,116	690,535
OTHER		ACRES	ACRES		ACRES	
Agriculture ⁵		834			834	
Airport		1,338				
Right of Way		640			640	
Vacant						
<i>Other Subtotal</i>		2,812			2,812	

Sources: Current Zoning Map (Clarion Associates, City of Riverton, Fremont County Assessor's Data, 2008); Fremont County Housing Study (2008), Land Capacity Analysis Map (Clarion Associates, August 2008)

Notes:

¹Existing Development is based upon Current Zoning Map acreages and average densities by categories.

²Potential Development is defined as those properties with an existing land use of agricultural or vacant that are zoned for future development. Average densities were then assigned to each Zoning Category and applied to available acreages to determine future development potential.

³Total Buildout represents the sum of existing and potential development in the City of Riverton. Due to lands within the Influence Area being unzoned, future uses have not been assigned, but total acres of land with potential for future development are noted (agricultural lands).

⁴Development potential reduced by 15% to allow for development efficiencies.

⁵The City of Riverton contains approximately 1,174 acres of land zoned for Agriculture. Of those 1,174 acres, 834 acres are occupied by the Honor Farm, which is assumed to remain agricultural. The remaining 340 Acres zoned for Agriculture within the City of Riverton were assumed to be developed under one of two residential designations, 209 acres under the Residential B designation and 100 acres under the Residential C designation.

Population

Overview

- **Total Population:** Riverton is home to 9,728 people (2007).
- **Past Growth Rates:** The city recovered from a slight population loss in the late 1980s to grow by 1% from 1990-2000. The city's growth increased further in this decade, growing over 4% from 2000-2006.
- **Future Growth Projections:** The city expects to see rapid growth (20%) in the next seven years, largely related to the energy sector. This would mean 2% growth each year, comparable to what was experienced during the boom of the 1970s.

Year	Population	CAGR
1970	7,995	----
1980	9,562	1.81%
1990	9,202	-0.38%
2000	9,310	0.12%
2006	9,728	0.74%
2015*	11,697	2.07%

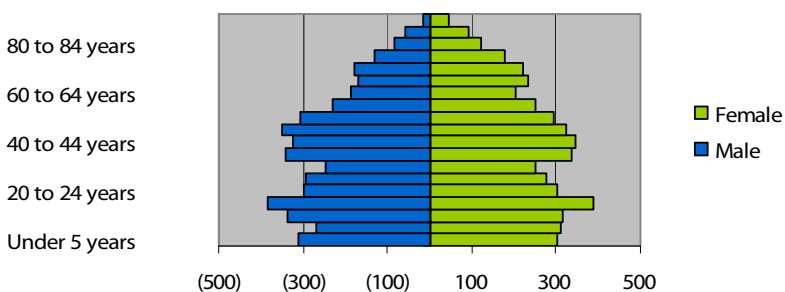
Source: US Census for all years except 2015.

*2015 population is derived from the projected housing demands in the Fremont County Workforce Housing Assessment and multiplying the number of units by the average household size at the 2000 census. This value was then added to the 2006 value.

Age, Race, and Gender

- **Median Age:** The median age in Riverton is 37.8 years. This is slightly older than the county (37.7 years) and also older than the state overall (36.2 years).
- **Race:** The population of Riverton is predominantly white (86.8%). The next largest minority populations include Native American (8.1%) and Hispanic (2.6%).
- **Gender:** The gender breakdown is 52% female and 48% male.

Riverton Population by Age and Gender



KEY TRENDS

Population

- Riverton has grown faster than projected – already exceeding projected levels for 2010.
- Riverton is expected to add nearly 2,000 people by 2015.
- The ability of the community to offer housing choice to new employees, particularly in the energy sector, will contribute to their choosing to stay in the community for the long term

Income and Poverty

- **Median Household Income:** \$31,531*
- **People in Poverty:** Nearly 15.7% of the Riverton population lives below the poverty line. These tend to be working age adults (53.7%) and children under 18 (35%).

*Note: Updated data pending, to be added when available.

Sources:

2000 US Census
Fremont County Workforce
Housing Assessment (2008)

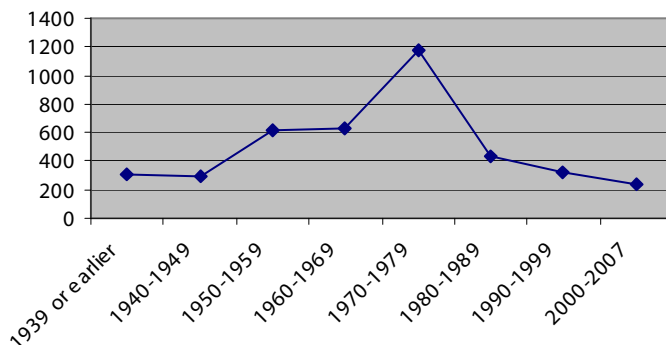
Housing

Overview



- **Total Households:** Riverton had 3,816 households at the 2000 U.S. Census, or 28% of all households in the County.
- **Average Household Size:** Riverton had an average household size of 2.33 people, smaller than in Fremont County (2.58) and the state (2.48).
- **Occupancy:** Sixty percent (60%) of the housing in Riverton is owner-occupied, 30% is renter-occupied, and 10% is vacant.
- **Median Home Value:** \$138,112 (2007)
- **Average Rent:** \$507/mo (2007)
- **Housing Affordability:** Nearly 12% of homeowners and 30% of renters pay more than 30% of their monthly income towards housing costs.
- **Age of Housing Stock:** The median year of construction for housing in Riverton is 1970. Eighty four percent of the housing in Riverton was constructed before 1980.

Residential Construction Trends



Housing Mix and Construction

- **Housing Variety:** The housing in Riverton is fairly diverse, with only 60% single-family homes and nearly 23% apartments and 10% mobile homes.
- **Senior Housing:** 37% of the apartment rental market is senior housing.

KEY TRENDS

Home Values

- Riverton has seen a 66% increase in home values over in the past eight years (8.25%/yr).

Future Needs

- Riverton is expected to need 1,237 new single family homes and 317 new apartments by 2030.

Workforce Housing

- Currently, hotels/motels serve as temporary living quarters for workers and others unable to obtain other housing.
- Two apartment complexes could potentially add 120 new apartment units over the next 1-2 years.

Infill Potential

- There are an estimated 280 vacant lots in existing Riverton neighborhoods that offer infill potential.

Sources:

2000 US Census
Fremont County Workforce
Housing Assessment (2008)

Table 1: Ownership Status of Occupied Housing Units

Housing Type	Owner Occupied	% Total Occupied	Renter Occupied	% Total Occupied
Single Family	2,157	82.8%	449	17.2%
Townhomes	99	70.7%	41	29.3%
Duplex	6	4.4%	129	95.6%
Apartments	7	0.7%	976	99.3%
Mobile Homes	296	70.1%	126	29.9%
Total Housing Units	2,565	59.8%	1,721	40.2%

Fremont County Workforce Housing Assessment, 2008

- **Condition of Housing:** The Fremont Workforce Housing Assessment found:
 - 40% of single-family homes are in need of some degree of rehabilitation to address observable structural repairs to the exterior of the home.
 - The majority of apartments in the city were constructed prior to 1970 and tend to suffer from deferred maintenance.
 - The majority of mobile homes in mobile home parks are in need of some level of upgrade or rehabilitation.



Housing Trends and Projections

- **Fremont County Growth:** The majority of Fremont County housing growth since 2001 has occurred in rural areas. Prior to 2002, there were only 1,925 lots in 86 subdivisions in the county. That number has ballooned 51% since then to 2,907 lots in 237 subdivisions. 1,470 of these lots are still undeveloped.
- **Recent Development Trends:** The city added 245 units from 2000-2007, with 2006 representing the peak. While single-family construction in 2007 and 2008 has been on the decline, there is currently a 40-unit apartment project under construction and another 80-unit project in the planning phases.
- **Future Housing Needs:** It is anticipated that the city will need an additional 611 single-family units and 234 apartment units by 2015. With 120 apartment units at various planning and development stages, the city would only need to add 114 more apartment units to meet this projected need.
- **City Development/Infill Potential:** The city has limited greenfield land remaining to accommodate new residential growth within the existing city limits. However, there is significant infill potential. Preliminary assessments estimate approximately 280 vacant lots exist in existing neighborhoods.

Economy

Overview

- Riverton is the trade center for west central Wyoming.
- The city is also the agricultural center of the county and plays host to the only livestock auction service in a 250 mile radius.
- Tourism is a large economic driver for the city and helps support local retail in the downtown. See the Parks, Recreation and Resources profile for a description of Riverton’s events and attractions.
- The largest employment sectors are education and health services and retail, as indicated by the table below, comprising approximately 45% of Riverton’s employment.
- Energy sector employment has played an increasing role in the local economy not reflected in 2000 census numbers.

Top 10 Employers	Type	Employees
School District 25	Education	450
Wal-Mart	Retail	275
Central Wyoming College (CWC)	Education	228
Riverton Memorial Hospital	Healthcare	218
Community Entry Services	Social Services	120
City of Riverton	Government	117
Pertech	Manufacturing	90
Safeway	Grocery	85
BTI	Trucking	78
K-Mart	Retail	75

Source: Riverton Chamber of Commerce

Employment by Sector	% Total Employment	Average Median Wage
Transportation Warehousing	4.5	\$29,840
Information	2.7	\$29,835
Construction	6.4	\$28,150
Education & Health Services	29.8	\$27,413
Mining, Ag, Forestry & Fisheries	4.7	\$27,389
Professional & Business Services	5.2	\$25,843
Public Administration	6.2	\$25,572
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	3.2	\$23,478
Services	7.5	\$22,103
Manufacturing	4.3	\$21,631
Wholesale Trade	3	\$19,603
Retail Trade	14.4	\$16,694
Leisure & Hospitality	8.2	\$13,439
Overall Average Median Wage		\$23,922

Source: Riverton Chamber of Commerce



KEY TRENDS

Economic Health

- Riverton’s economy in 2008 is strong. The growing energy industry in the state is having impacts on Riverton’s housing supply and is increasing demand for services.
- The community wants to plan for a diverse and sustainable economy to be prepared for the “downside” of an economic boom.

Future Job Growth

- JobCorps, a federal facility, will provide 100 jobs by 2011 and training courses for 500 students.
- Energy-related job development is anticipated to continue to be strong through 2015 as several active energy companies continue exploration, drilling, and business development phases.

Sources:

2000 US Census
 Fremont Workforce Housing Assessment (2008)
 Riverton Chamber of Commerce

Future Job Growth

- JobCorps, a federal facility, will provide 100 jobs by 2011 and training courses for 500 students.
- Energy-related job development is anticipated to continue to be strong through 2015 as several active energy companies continue exploration, drilling, and business development phases.

Retail and Downtown

- **Riverton Business Mix:** The regional retail destination for central Wyoming, Riverton offers a range of goods and services including arts, farm/ranch supplies, clothing, jewelry and specialty gifts, and outdoors equipment.
- **Business Districts:** Riverton has two principal business districts:
 - **Downtown:** The downtown business district is focused along Main Street between Federal and Fifth Street.
 - **North Federal:** The North Federal business district extends the length of Federal within Riverton’s city limits and offers a range of goods and services.
- **Recent Investment in the Downtown:** Downtown Riverton recently received significant investment to improve the streetscape, including: new sidewalks with decorative elements, landscaped center medians, benches, street trees, and flower planters.

Economic Development

- The **Strategic Plan for Economic Development** defines five main goals for Riverton’s economy:
 1. Retaining and expanding business,
 2. Expanding infrastructure and essential services,
 3. Promoting training and education programs,
 4. Promoting and encouraging government cooperation,
 5. Responding to business opportunities that provide sustainable jobs.
- Key players planning for Riverton’s economy include (but are not limited to): The City of Riverton, Fremont County, IDEA, Inc. (An Economic Development Organization), REEDA, Chamber of Commerce, Work Force Center, Wind River Visitors Council, Airport Board, and industry.

Transportation

Streets

- The Riverton Master Street Plan classifies Riverton's Arterials (U.S. Highway 26/W. Main and U.S. Highway 26/N. Federal), Collectors, and Sub-Arterials within the Urban Systems Boundary. Because of the emphasis on the east-west and north-south arterials, traffic bottlenecks are severe on N. Federal and W. Main Street.
- The City of Riverton has 68.07 miles of streets and 14.18 miles of alleys within the city limits that the Streets and Alleys employees maintain.
- In the downtown area, Riverton has been replacing older streets and replacing them with street sections with bike lanes and sidewalks.



Transit

Wind River Transportation Authority

Wind River Transportation Authority offers a variety of services in and around Fremont County and Central Wyoming. This includes fixed bus routes (Local Transit), airport shuttles, and special group excursions. The fixed route morning and afternoon bus service allows for commuting to jobs, schools and Central Wyoming College.

Public Transportation Service for Riverton (RPTS)

The Riverton Senior Center offers the Public Transportation Service for Riverton (RPTS). RPTS brings riders into Riverton to shop for groceries, go to medical appointments, beauty shop appointments, to the Senior Center, meet with friends, and other activities. Expanded service includes a "medi-bus" that takes people to dialysis treatment, cardiac rehab, and therapy in nearby Lander.

Recreational Paths and Trails

There are approximately 8 miles of recreational paths within the city. A significant portion of this mileage has come from the city's Rails to Trails program which bisects the community from southwest to northwest and includes an arboretum along its length which showcases tree species suitable to Riverton's climate. An off-street trail also follows Highway 28 from the Wind River south to the Wind River Indian Reservation. Opportunities for future connections will be identified as part of the master plan process.



KEY TRENDS

Traffic Counts

- Average daily traffic counts along Federal Boulevard in 2007 ranged from 9,416 on the north end of town to 22,331 at the intersection of Federal and Main.
- Traffic counts on Main Street range from 6,911 west of town to 14,553 at the intersection of Main and 8th.
- Riverton's limited east-west street connections increase traffic pressures on Federal and Main.

Roadway Improvements

- Riverview Road is a county and city road that is in need of significant upgrades for safety purposes. This effort will require cooperation between the city, county, and WYDOT.
- North Federal Boulevard is slated for reconstruction by WYDOT in 2013.

Recreational Paths and Trails

- Riverton is working toward a connected bike lane and sidewalk system—providing "complete streets"—as it builds new and replaces old collector streets.

Sources:

City of Riverton
Wind River Transportation Authority
Riverton Airport Master Plan Update (2000)
www.flightaware.com



Riverton Regional Airport

- The Riverton Regional Airport is a passenger terminal located three miles northwest of Riverton that serves the region with Great Lakes service flying daily to and from Denver.
- The airport averages 15 Aircraft operations per day, six of which are commercial flights.
- The airport had 16,000 enplanements in 2007. The Airport Board continues to work towards the expansion of service to another major market, such as Salt Lake City, in the future.

KEY TRENDS

Air Service

- The Riverton Regional Airport is a major asset to the region—the airport had 16,000 enplanements last year. Year to date numbers indicate a 20% increase over those numbers.
- Recreational trips represent a large portion of this increase—20 % of the airport's summer enplanements come from National Outdoor Leadership School's students.

Community Services and Facilities

Health and Safety

Police

- **Riverton Police** provides services police protection to the community out of city hall, 24-hours a day.
- The agency has 26 sworn officers and 14 civilian employees.
- To the extent it can, the department provides pro-active, community-oriented services, but the department would like to offer more programs and community-oriented policing.
- Riverton Police has agreements with the **Fremont County Sheriff's Office** to respond to calls outside city limits on an as-needed basis.
- Riverton's response times meet national standards. The police department would like to add cars and equipment.

Fire and Emergency Medical Services

- **Riverton Volunteer Fire Department:** 314 E Washington Ave provides volunteer fire and EMS service.
- **Fremont County Fire District** has a fully trained volunteer force in firefighting and has Emergency Medical Technicians, Confined Space Rescue Squad, High Angle Rescue Squad, and a Haz-Mat Team.
- **Fremont County Ambulance** also serves Riverton.
- **Fremont County Search and Rescue** provides specialized rescue services for local backcountry enthusiasts.

Medical

- **Riverton Memorial Hospital** is a 70-bed acute care facility with 50 member physicians and 24-hour emergency care. The award-winning health care provider serves Riverton and surrounding areas.
- The hospital offers a variety of in-patient and out-patient health care services. Mobile Health Testing Services are available at CWC.

Utilities

Gas and Electric

- **KN Energy:** Provides natural gas to residents if Riverton. System capacity for the service area is at 13,000 mcf. This far exceeds the current peak demand of 6,268 mcf.
- **Pacific Power:** Provides electricity with a base monthly rate of \$8.46/month for the first 20 kWh and 5.329 cents per additional kWh.

Water Collection and Distribution

- Riverton provides drinking water to approximately 9,900 residents inside city limits.



KEY TRENDS

Police

- Demands for police services are increasing as the community grows. Future considerations may include developing a joint facility for use by Riverton Police and the Fremont County Sheriff's office.

Medical

- Riverton's Memorial Hospital currently undergoing a \$9 million expansion and renovation to better serve the community.
- The hospital will be adding to additional operating rooms and its own oncology clinic—offering patients an alternative to being bused to Casper for treatment.

Solid Waste and Recycling

- The city's Yard Waste Program is a model for recycling. In 2007, approximately 37,000 cubic yards of collected yard waste translated into a huge savings of landfill space and dramatically cut down the number of 22-mile trips the city's garbage trucks made to the Riverton/Sand Draw landfill.

Sources:

www.trashmatters.org

<http://www.riverton.wyoming.com>

[Interviews with Riverton Memorial Hospital staff and Riverton Police.](#)



KEY TRENDS

Solid Waste and Recycling

- The Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District (FCSWDD), in cooperation with the City of Riverton, offers mulch, wood chips, compost and fertilizer for sale in bulk—all of which come from the collection of yard waste within the community.
- The City of Riverton offers residents weekly curbside pickup by type of recyclables and also provides centralized recycling stations throughout the community.
- The City of Riverton's Yard Waste program won the FCSWDD's group recycling award in 2007. Since 2002, the blue bin program has meant substantial savings to the FCSWDD by diverting 40% of the waste going into the landfills during the summer months.

- The City received an Environmental Protection Agency award in 2007 for the rehabilitation of its water treatment plant, which will keep its system in compliance with new surface water treatment requirements.
- The water treatment system consists of a Water Treatment Plant, thirteen water wells, one booster station, and five reservoirs. The five reservoirs can store as much as five million gallons of water for reserves.
- The Water Treatment Plant operates during peak times of the year (May thru Sept.). Its design capacity is 4 million gallons per day. The average production during the summer peak usage is 3.5 million gallons per day.
- The water wells are located in various locations through out the City and at the Airport. Each well produces an average of 230 gallons per minute. These wells are used primarily in the off peak season (Oct. thru Apr.) when the average demand on the system is about 1.6 million gallons per day.

Wastewater Treatment and Collection

- The Riverton Wastewater Treatment Plant was designed to treat 4.9 million gallons of waste per day. At present, the incoming waste flow averages 1.8 million gallons per day.
- The plant was built in 1986 and has averaged 95% removal of the incoming pollutants each day. The by-product of the treatment process is class A Biosolids (sludge). The Biosolids are then sold to the public as a soil amendment for lawns and gardens. The last three years, the Wastewater Treatment Plant has sold an average of 250 cubic yards per year.

Water Collection and Distribution

- The Water Collection and Distribution Department is responsible for replacing curb stops, cleaning of sewer lines and manholes, sewer line and water line repairs, water meter installation and repairs, and reading in excess of 4,000 water meters each month for generation of utility bills, storm drain cleaning and maintenance, and maintenance of many miles of irrigation ditches

Sanitation: Solid Waste and Recycling

- Riverton Sanitation Department collects and transports residential and commercial solid waste, yard waste, as well as special pickups, roll-off container rental and handling, construction dumpster rental and handling, and dumpster delivery and pickup in city limits.
- Riverton is primarily served by the Sand Draw Landfill located 14 miles east of Riverton off of Gas Hill Road. The landfill is estimated to have a 20 year capacity. Potential expansion beyond the landfills existing 80 acres in the future will require a 20-year plan and additional funding sources.

Parks, Recreation and Resources

Parks and Recreation

Parks

- **Parks:** The city owns and maintains seven parks totaling 137 acres of parkland. The Rails to Trails Recreational Path also functions as a park facility with its extended right-of-way.
- **Level of Service:** The city's park acres/1,000 people ratio is 14 acres/1,000. The recommended national average is generally considered to be 10 acres per 1,000 people (according to National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA)).
- **Natural and Historic Areas:** The city is also home to two significant natural and historic areas: The Riverwalk Area, which is currently in the planning stages and the 1838 Rendezvous Site, which is home to the annual Mountain Man Rendezvous reenactment each July.

PARKS AND NATURAL/HISTORIC AREAS	ACRES	AMENITIES
PARKS		
Aspen Park	0.5	Playground
City Park	10.6	Band Shell, playground, tennis
Jaycee Park	14.4	Playground, baseball
Monroe Park	0.5	Basketball, playground
Rein Park	8.6	Baseball, playground
Sunset Park	8.5	Tennis, playground
Teter Memorial Park	2.5	Playground, basketball, baseball
Rails to Trails Recreational Path	92	Recreation path, arboretum
NATURAL AND HISTORIC AREAS		
Riverwalk Area ¹	140+	
1838 Rendezvous Site	189	

Recreation Paths and Trails

There are approximately 8 miles of recreational paths within the city. A significant portion of this mileage has come from the city's Rails to Trails program which bisects the community from southwest to northwest and includes an arboretum along its length which showcases tree species suitable to Riverton's climate. Opportunities for future connections will be identified as part of the master plan process.

Golf

The 18-hole "Riverton" course at the Riverton Country Club facility in Riverton, Wyoming features an 18 hole, semi-private golf course.

¹ The Riverwalk Area is located along the Big Wind on the south end of Riverton. The area is in the process of being transferred to the Riverton Depot Foundation for future development as a natural area for the community offering a range of outdoor activities.



KEY TRENDS

Parks

- The city has highly used and well-maintained park system, however, it does not have a long-range plan for acquisition and expansion.
- The master plan is an opportunity to assess how the parks system as a whole is meeting community needs and to determine facility needs and service levels.

Recreation

- The city is actively pursuing a Capital Facilities tax to fund and build a community recreation center within the next three years.

River and Natural Areas

- The Big Wind River, is a significant asset for the community; although access to the river is currently limited the city is taking an active effort to expand its parks system to include trail connections to the RiverWalk area as well as opportunities for historical interpretation, and passive recreation along the river.

Sources:

City of Riverton, 2008
Riverton Chamber of Commerce, 2008

See Existing Land Use Map for park, trail, and facility locations.

Recreation Facilities

- The City of Riverton does not have a full service recreation facility. Several private gyms operate in the community, and Central Wyoming College’s recreational facilities are available for community use.
- The city is actively pursuing a Capital Facilities tax to fund and build a community recreation center within the next three years.

Recreation and Events

Events include:

- Wild West Winter Carnival (February)
- Memorial Day Gun & Coin Show (May)
- Native American Powwows (June – Sept.)
- 1938 Mountain Man Rendezvous (July),
- Riverton Rendezvous (July),
- Fremont County Fair & Rodeo (July-August)
- Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Art Show and Sale (September)
- Winter Art Fair (November)

Natural and Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources

- **History/Rendezvous Community:** Riverton is the “rendezvous community” of Wyoming, because for centuries, people have chosen the Wind River Valley as a place to come together. It started with the Native Americans who felt it was a special place. Mountain men, prospectors and homesteaders followed.
- **Fremont County Fair and Rodeo:** The annual county fair is held at the Fremont County Fair Grounds in Riverton. The fair typically brings 25,000 people to Riverton during its two and half-week run every July. The fairgrounds are an important facility in the community and are used for a variety of events throughout the year.
- **Sixth Crossing Mormon Handcart Historical Site:** The Sixth Crossing Historical Site is located approximately 30 miles from Riverton and is one of several in Wyoming where the Martin and Willey handcart companies experienced tremendous trials and were rescued by the saints from Salt Lake City. These sites offer families and youth groups with an opportunity to learn and experience the hardships the handcart pioneers endured. Many visitors travel to this site each year.

Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation

- **Mountains and Outdoor Recreation:** Riverton is close to the Wind River and Absaroka mountains, offering a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities.
- **Wildlife Resources:** Fremont County and the region has abundant wildlife for viewing and hunting (moose, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, bear, wolves, hawks, and eagles.)



- **Boysen River State Park:** is located 22 miles northeast of Riverton. This reservoir offers camping, fishing, boating, and other water recreation sports.
- **The Big Wind River** is a major asset of Riverton's. The river and riparian forest forms the southern edge of the community, with potential access for open space and recreation, and restoration of natural areas.

Historic Trails

- **Togawatee Trail:** Scenic highway connecting the city to Yellowstone National Park.
- **Sand Creek Massacre Trail**—The Sand Creek Massacre Trail was designated in 2006. The trail is a 600-mile link between the Wind River Reservation and the location of the Sand Creek Massacre in Colorado, where on the morning of November 29, 1864, U.S. Army soldiers brutally killed about 500 mostly women, children and elderly Arapaho and Cheyenne.

Schools, Education, and Cultural Facilities

K-12 Schools

School Facilities

- Riverton has four elementary, one middle, and one high school that are part of the Fremont County School District #25.
- Riverton also has three private schools: Smart Start Academy (PK-K, with 90 students), St. Margaret Catholic School (PK-6, with 110 students), and Trinity Lutheran School (PK-8, with 88 students).
- Riverton and the Wind River Reservation are also served by the Arapaho Charter High School, which was founded in 2005.



Enrollment

- In the 2007-2008 school year, the Fremont County School District #25 had a total enrollment of 2,422 students. At its peak, enrollment in the district was 3,000 students.
- Enrollment trends indicate a continued decline in the school age population.
- Approximately 16% of the District's population is comprised of Native American children. An academic coach is available to assist these children as they transition into the public school system.

Table 1: School Enrollment/Test Scores

SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT (2007-2008)	TEST SCORES	
		Reading	Math
Elementary			
Ashgrove Elementary	279	70%	94%
Jackson Elementary	191	61%	84%
Lincoln Elementary	273	58%	78%
Rendezvous Elementary	339	61%	73%
Middle			
Riverton Middle School	560	69%	76%
High School			
Riverton High School	780	68%	55%
Total Enrollment	2,422		
		Below Average w/ State	Below Average w/ State

Source: www.schooldatairect.org



KEY TRENDS

K-12 Schools

- School District #25 enrollment has been declining slightly in recent years, with anticipated enrollment of approximately 2,300 students in 08-09.
- The new Lincoln Elementary will be Riverton's newest public Elementary School (a replacement school). Ashgrove will also be replaced. The State Facilities Commission will locate the site.

Central Wyoming College

- CWC is an important educational facility in the community, offering a variety of courses as well as arts, theater, and recreational facilities that the larger community uses.
- CWC is currently preparing a Campus Master Plan that will address expansion needs over the coming years.
- A new Intertribal Center is planned to open at CWC in the Spring of 2010.

Sources:

www.schooldatairect.org

www.fremont25.k12.wy.us

www.cwc.edu/

Interviews with School District and CWC representatives.

See Existing Land Use Map for facility locations.

Central Wyoming College (CWC)



Started in the 1970s, CWC offers a range of courses for technical and bachelor's degrees.

- **2007-2008 Enrollment:** Approximately 2,000 students (1,400 in Riverton; 600 distance delivery)
- **Campus Housing:** Approximately 200 students live on the CWC campus during the school year. CWC is planning to add an additional 72 beds as part of its Campus Master Plan.
- **Outreach Centers:** CWC offers distance delivery to students in Jackson, Lander, Thermopolis, and Dubois.
- **Teacher to Student Ratio:** 1:16.
- **Courses of Study:** CWC offers the transfer programs for a variety of occupational areas, career and technical programs, allied health and trade, and pre-professional studies, as well as new programs in construction technology, and fire science.
- **Events at CWC:** CWC hosts 3,000+ events at the college each year, with a philosophy of making the campus open to the community and youth of the region and state. Over 150,000 people come to the campus each year to attend these events.



University of Wyoming Extension Service

Riverton is home to an office of the University of Wyoming, offering research-based information in agriculture and natural resources, consumer and family economics, community and economic development and 4-H / youth development.

Wind River Tribal College

The Wind River Tribal College provides, maintains, and operates a post-secondary institution on the Wind River Indian Reservation that includes educational, vocational, cultural and technical programs.



Arts and Culture

- **Riverton Museum** features a collection of memorabilia donated by area residents to preserve Riverton's history.
- **Wind River Heritage Center** offers a collection of natural and human history artifacts from the region and a gift shop with Native American crafts from the Wind River Indian Reservation.
- **CWC Library** collection in the Main Hall at CWC, has a collection of 40,000 books and 100,000 pieces of resource material.
- **CWC Fine Arts Center** has local artists' creations on display.
- **CWC Theater** (in Robert A. Peck Arts Center) is one of the largest state-of-the-art theaters in the state, with a capacity to seat 900 people.

Fremont County Public Library System

Riverton has a public library, the **Riverton Branch Library**, constructed in 1983. The facility contains meeting rooms, a theatre, and a carved oak Western Americana Room. The collection of books and displays is large, with reference assistance available, free Internet access, over 100 magazine titles, new books arriving daily, and over 1400 video titles.