

## **INTRODUCTION**

The City of St. Francis has recognized the need to develop a Comprehensive Plan as a means of addressing and accommodating the community's future growth and development. The Background portion of the Comprehensive Plan introduces the City of St. Francis, its location, and the history of the community. This portion of the Comprehensive Plan also identifies the policies and objectives of the community and its residents, introduces the Planning Area Designations of the city, and outlines the growth that has been forecasted by the Metropolitan Council. The policies established will help the community address a broad base of land use and development issues. With the help of a solid information and policy base, decision makers can evaluate and prioritize proposals for the community while fulfilling the City's long term goals and objectives.

## **COMMUNITY LOCATION**

St. Francis is located in the northernmost section of Anoka County, 12 miles north of Anoka and approximately 25 miles northwest of Minneapolis. The community can be accessed in a north southerly direction by State Trunk Highway 47 and County Road 24 in an east westerly direction.

## **COMMUNITY HISTORY**

In 1855, Dwight Woodbury started a saw mill on the Rum River at the site of present day downtown St. Francis. Early settlers such as George Armsby, E. Fowler, and Ezra Randall made land claims in the area shortly thereafter. Woodbury then added a grist mill and a hotel to his operation. Soon a new village known as St. Jonathan, Old Jonathan, or most prominently Otona developed near the site. The township was named St. Francis, for the original name of the Rum River and was formally organized in 1857. That same year, school classes began to be held in the Fowler house. C. C. Streetly built the first store in 1860. A bridge was built over the Rum River near the mill in 1864. A post office, creamery, and cemetery followed in 1866. A corn canning plant was added in 1893.

The community was an active center for milling lumber and flour in its early days. In the late 1880s, the population of St. Francis was almost 500, and the population actually held near that number until the 1960s. In 1923, the flour mill closed. Development of St. Francis in its early days suffered from the loss of the railroad as trade went to better transportation centers. There were also two major fires in 1933 and 1947. From 1930 until 1960, agriculture was the community's economic mainstay.

During the late 1960's, St. Francis began to attract more residents and over the next few decades grew significantly. The community was incorporated in 1974, and with the assistance of a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Farmer's Home Administration, the City constructed and began operating a municipal sewer and water system. These systems attracted quality development into the area. By 1980, the population had grown from 897 to 1,184, and by 1990, the population had grown 117%

to reach a total of 2,538 residents. Growth continued through the 1990s and 2000s and has been particularly dramatic in the past years. Today, the population is between 7000 and 8000 people. New subdivisions have been platted along the southern and eastern areas of the town center. Its small town character, its schools and accessible location has attracted and continues to attract new residents.

## **DEVELOPMENT HISTORY**

The cultural and commercial heart of the City is located adjacent to the Rum River North County Park and its transportation and commercial corridors are along Bridge Street and Highway 47. Prominent historic sites and resources are located in the town center: The Rum River Inn, the H.G. Leathers Home, and Woodbury Park. The Downtown District also contains multi-family and single family uses, some of which date back to the turn of the century. More recently, commercial development along Highway 47 has begun to capture the traffic on the well-traveled arterial.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING DESIGNATIONS**

In the *2030 Regional Development Framework*, municipalities are identified according to their regional planning area designation. The planning area designation and related policies identify the Metropolitan Council's expectations for the amount, location, and standards for development. The community's designation therefore guides local plans, policies, and forecasts.

A community's planning area designation is based on its geographic location, amount of land available for development, existing development patterns, planned land uses, and availability of infrastructure. Roughly half of the 3,000 square miles in the seven-county Twin Cities area are rural. That includes cultivated farmland, nurseries, tree farms, orchards and vineyards, scattered individual home sites or clusters of houses, hobby farms, small towns, gravel mines, woodlands, and many of the region's remaining important natural resources. The Metropolitan Council has designated St. Francis as a "Rural Center" and as "Diversified Rural." The Metropolitan Council's *Planning Areas* map is found on page 1-4.

### **Strategies for Rural Areas**

The following three strategies have been provided by the Metropolitan Council for rural areas:

- Support rural growth centers in their efforts to concentrate growth as a way to relieve development pressure in rural parts of the metropolitan area.
- Provide technical and/or financial support for wastewater services in rural growth centers where feasible.
- Support development in rural areas in clusters or at low densities to preserve these areas for future growth and to protect the natural environment.

### **Rural Centers**

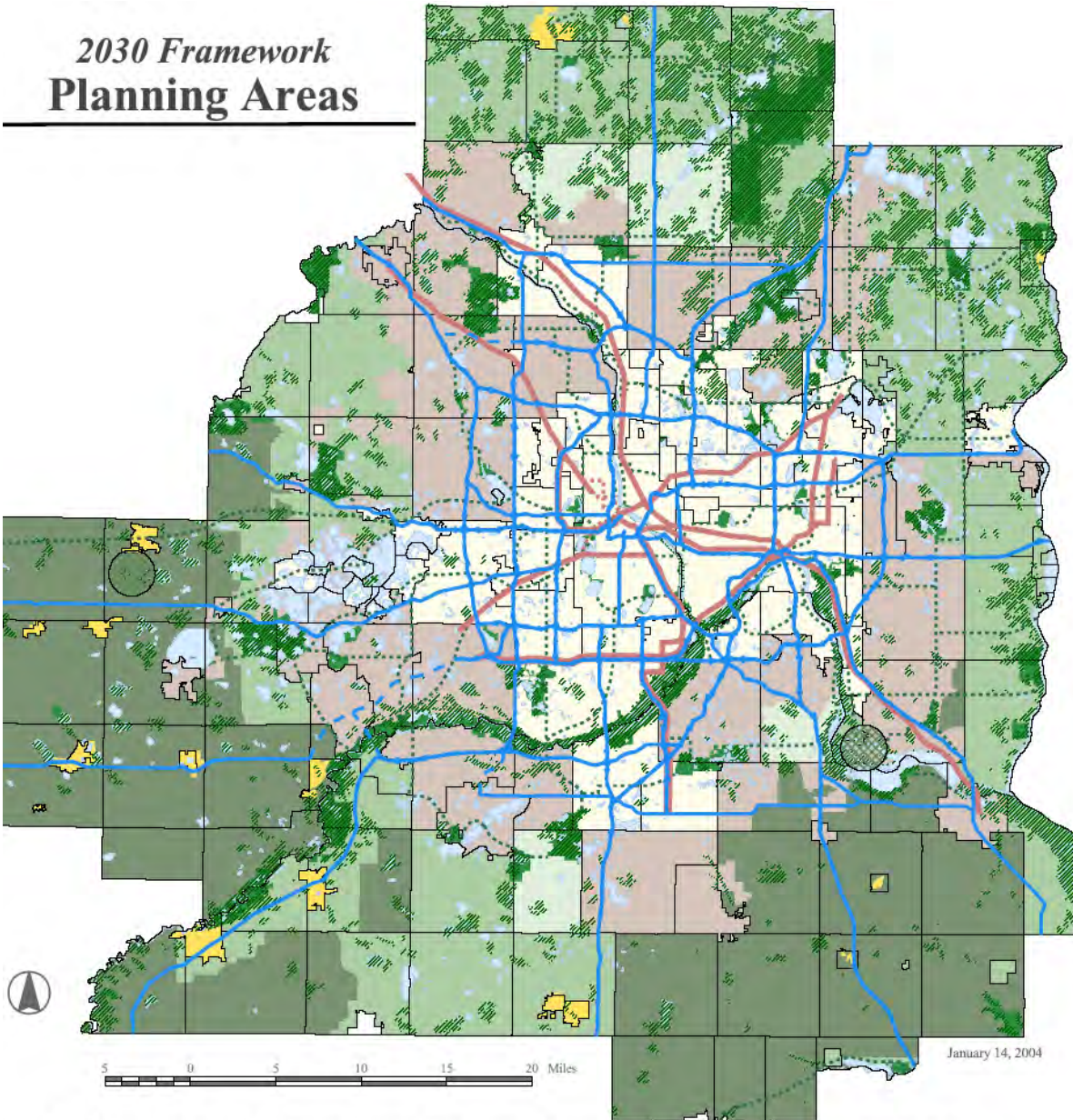
**Rural Centers** are the small towns located throughout the rural area. Rural Centers generally include residential neighborhoods surrounding a center that provides basic consumer services and community activities. These are older communities; many of them established more than a century ago, to serve surrounding farms. Growth in Rural Centers offers the opportunity to take advantage of existing infrastructure, provides municipal services as an alternative to individual wells and septic systems, whose continued proliferation causes environmental concerns, and provides more households with the opportunity for small-town living.

### **Diversified Rural Communities**

The sparsely developed parts of the region are considered **Diversified Rural Communities** that host the widest variety of farm and non-farm land uses. They include a mix of a limited amount of large-lot residential and clustered housing, agriculture, and facilities and services requiring a rural location.

By continuing the diversified rural land use pattern, the costs of extending infrastructure are saved, the natural environment is protected, and groundwater aquifer recharge areas are provided. Currently, land located in the Diversified Rural Communities are not needed for urban development, but should be preserved for post-2030 development. Therefore, only limited growth is forecast for this planning area. Wastewater services to these areas will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine feasibility.

**2030 Framework  
Planning Areas**



**NOTE:** Please refer to the Comprehensive Plans Composite map or the Regional Systems maps for the most recent information. These maps are available at the Metropolitan Council Data Center (651) 602-1140.

Geographic Planning Areas		Additional Information	
<b>Urban Planning Areas</b>	<b>Rural Planning Areas</b>	Regional Natural Resource Areas (includes Terrestrial and Wetland Areas) SOURCE: Metro DNR in coordination with the Metropolitan Council	Regional Trail
Developing Area	Rural Center	Regional Park	Transit 2025 Corridor
Developed Area	Agricultural	Proposed Regional Park	Principal Arterial
	Diversified Rural		Open Water
	Rural Residential		



**FORECASTS FOR GROWTH**

As part of the *Regional Development Framework*, the Metropolitan Council provides forecasts for population, households, and employment for each community in the Metropolitan Area. The forecasts are intended to serve as a foundation for the rest of the Comprehensive Plan, which is why it is important to begin the Comprehensive Plan with the forecast of these figures.

The Metropolitan Council’s forecasting methodology considers historic trends, 2000 census data, current demographic data, annual monitoring of building permits and employment data, and local comprehensive plans. Appendix A of the *2030 Regional Development Framework* provides detailed information on the methodology used in preparing the regional forecasts.

As the table illustrates, the population is forecasted to increase from 4,910 in 2000 to 12,800 by 2030, which is a 161 percent increase. Households are forecasted to increase from 1,638 in 2000 by 5,000 in 2030, which is a 205 percent increase. Employment is expected to increase from 1,247 to 2,220 in the 30-year period, which is a 78 percent increase.

<b>Metropolitan Forecasts: St. Francis 2000 - 2030</b>			
Year	Population	Households	Employment
2000	4,910	1,638	1,247
2010	7,700	2,800	1,630
2020	10,400	4,000	1,900
2030	12,800	5,000	2,220

Sources: U.S. Census; Metropolitan Council *2030 Regional Development Framework* (January 9, 2008)

**NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY**

Effective land use planning requires a comprehensive understanding of the physical features, natural resources, and environmental limitations of the land. Appropriate uses for the land are determined through an inventory of the geology, topography, soils, slopes, wetlands, and vegetation.

St. Francis contains a wide range of topography, from nearly flat to gently rolling to steel land with short irregular slopes. Interspersed through the City are several marshes and peat depressions. The City also contains a natural drainage system consisting of streams, drainage ways, the Scenic Rum River, ponds, and wetlands. Floodplain areas are also present throughout the City. Coniferous and deciduous forests exist throughout the City, most densely on the west side. The Significant Natural Resource Areas map indicates areas of limited, moderate, and high ecological importance within the City.

**Protect and Conserve Natural Resources**

The City of St. Francis has strong natural resources: a local and a Regional County Park System, the Scenic North Rum River, the Department of Natural Resources Bethel Wildlife Management District, and many DNR protected wetlands. The City intends to continue protecting these natural features and encourage developments that protect and are sensitive to protection of these features. Where feasible, the City will encourage open space/clustered development features to enhance the overall project quality and as a result, raise the quality of living for the entire community.






**TOPOGRAPHY**

St. Francis contains a wide range of landscapes from nearly flat to gently rolling to steep land with short irregular slopes.

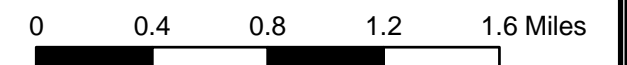
**SOILS**

Four soil associations are contained within St. Francis, ranging from poorly drained to well drained. The City contains some Class II soils, but does not have any Class I, prime agricultural soils. Class II soils have some limitations in terms of potential prime farmland that reduce the choice of plants or require moderate conservation practices. One-third of the land is unsuitable for urban development due to steep slopes, floodplains, wetlands, and deep organic soils.

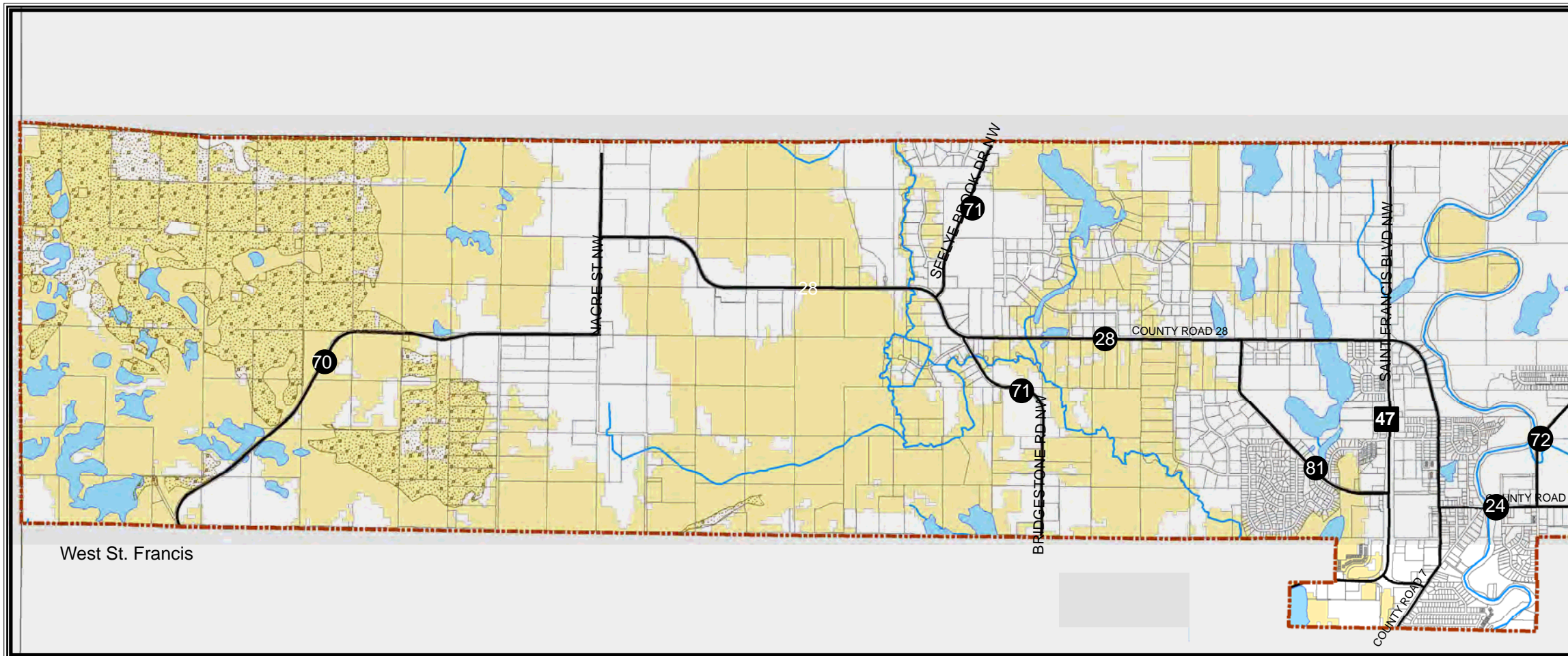
## Significant Natural Resource Areas

-  Regionally Significant Ecological Areas
-  Aggregate Resources (1997)
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Protected Waters
-  City Boundary
-  Parcels

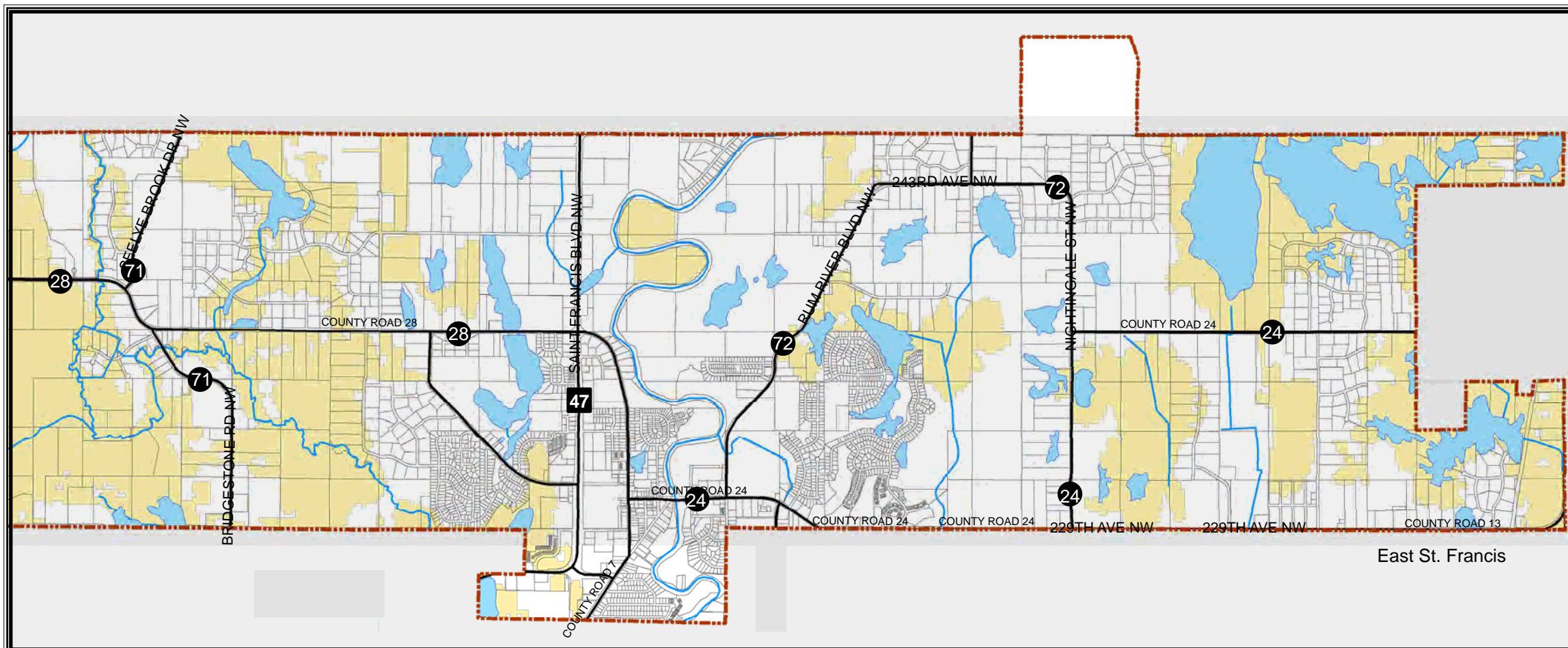
Individual forest, grassland, and wetland models were integrated to identify and rank the regionally significant natural resource areas. Ranking is determined by examining important ecological attributes of the natural resource patches including size, shape, cover type, diversity, and adjacent land use.



Source: Anoka County GIS; Minnesota DNR; Met Council; Bolton and Menk, Inc; Northwest Associated Consultants  
Date: April 2009






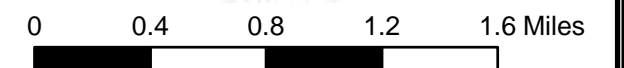
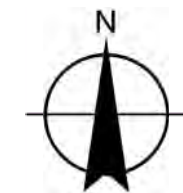
West St. Francis



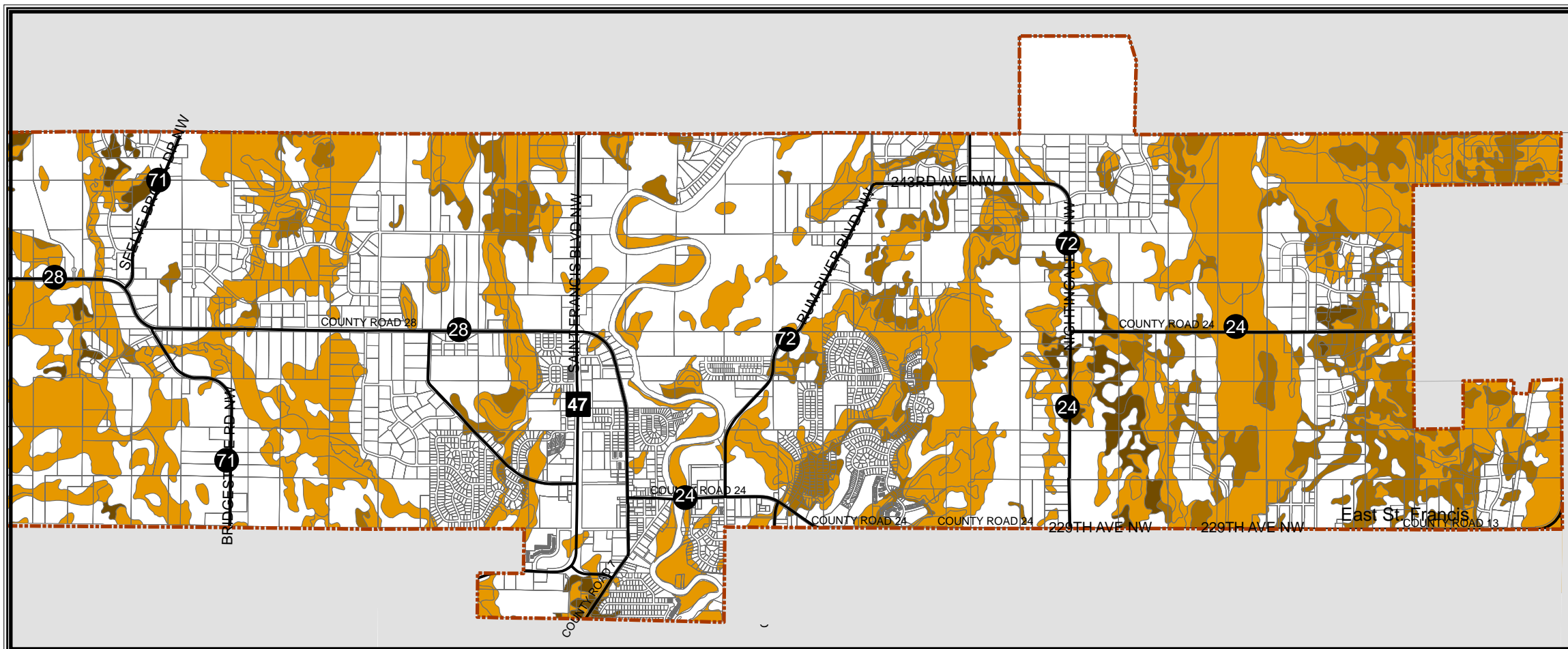
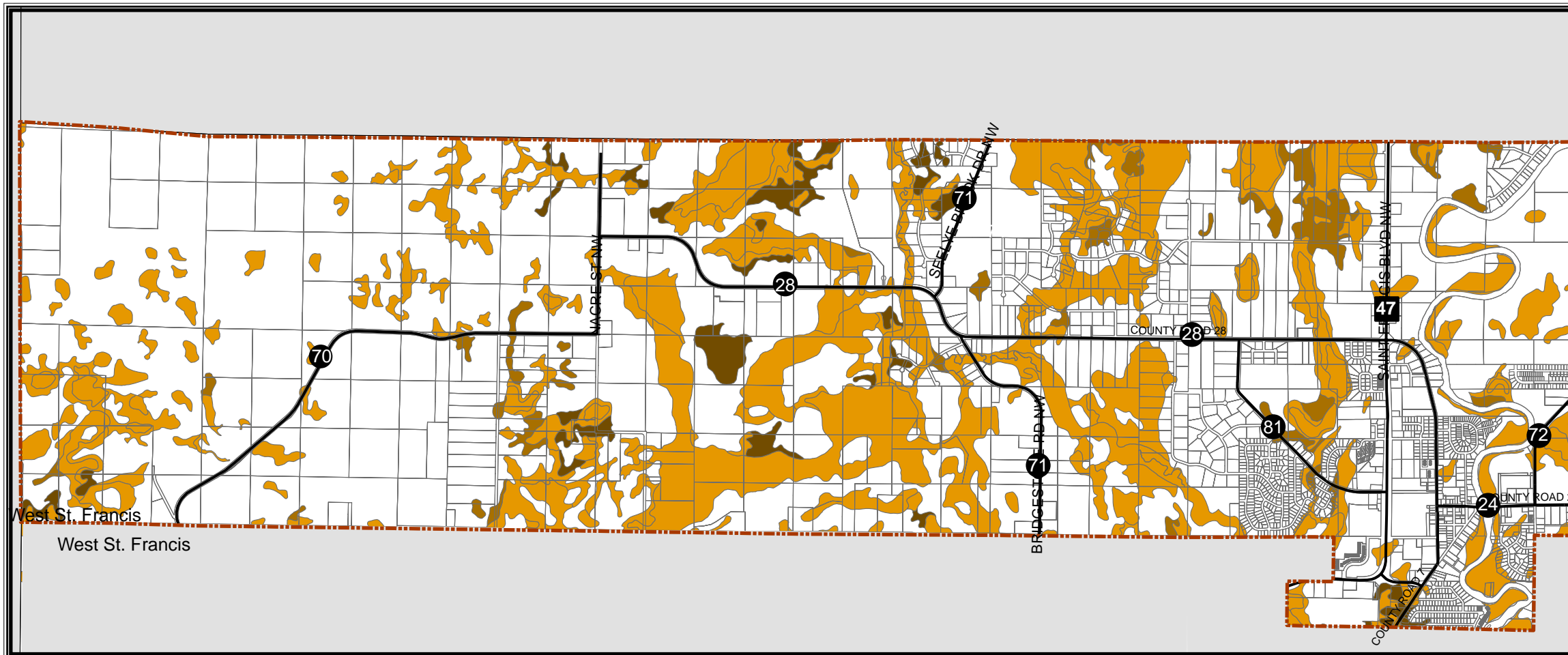
East St. Francis

### Soil Drainage

-  Poorly Drained
-  Somewhat Poorly Drained
-  Very Poorly Drained
-  City Boundary



Source: Anoka County GIS; Minnesota DNR;  
Bolton and Menk, Inc; Northwest Associated Consultants  
Date: April 2008





**VEGETATION**

The City of St. Francis contains numerous natural vegetation within its boundaries. There is a significant amount of forest land dispersed throughout the City, with the majority of it located in the western portion of the City. Grasslands are concentrated mainly in the middle of the City. Wet meadows and marsh areas are dispersed throughout the City, especially in the mid and northeast portions of the City. There are only a few large crop farms.

**WATERSHEDS**

The City of St. Francis is located within the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO). The URRWMO is a joint powers organization including the Cities of St. Francis, Oak Grove, Burns Township, and portions of the City of East Bethel, and a small corner of the City of Ham Lake. The Watershed Management Organization Board is made up of representatives from each of these cities and townships.

This organization seeks to maintain the quality of area lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, and other water resources across municipal boundaries. Resources of particular importance to the URRWMO include the Rum River, Seelye Brook, Ford Brook, Cedar Creek, and numerous ditches that drain to the Rum River. This stretch of the Rum River is designated as a state Scenic and Recreational Waterway. Lake George and East Twin Lakes, the primary recreation lakes in the watershed, are also of high priority, in addition to many smaller lakes and wetlands.

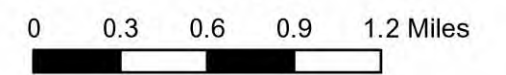
**LAKES, RIVERS, AND WETLANDS**

According to the United States Census Bureau, the City has a total area of 23.7 square miles, of which, 23.3 square miles of it is land and 0.4 square miles of it (1.73%) is water. Throughout the City are several marshes, peat depressions, and swamp areas. There is also a natural drainage system consisting of streams, drainage ways, the Scenic Rum River, ponds, and wetlands. Along with these areas, floodplain areas also exist within the City limits, following the route of the Rum River and two other areas to the east.

The Rum River runs north/south through the central area of St. Francis, offering scenic views and recreational opportunities. The Rum River is State-designated as a Scenic River. In the center of the City, the Rum River basin is part of a regional park system. There are several DNR protected waters and wetlands within the City of St. Francis. The Water Resources map illustrates those waters.

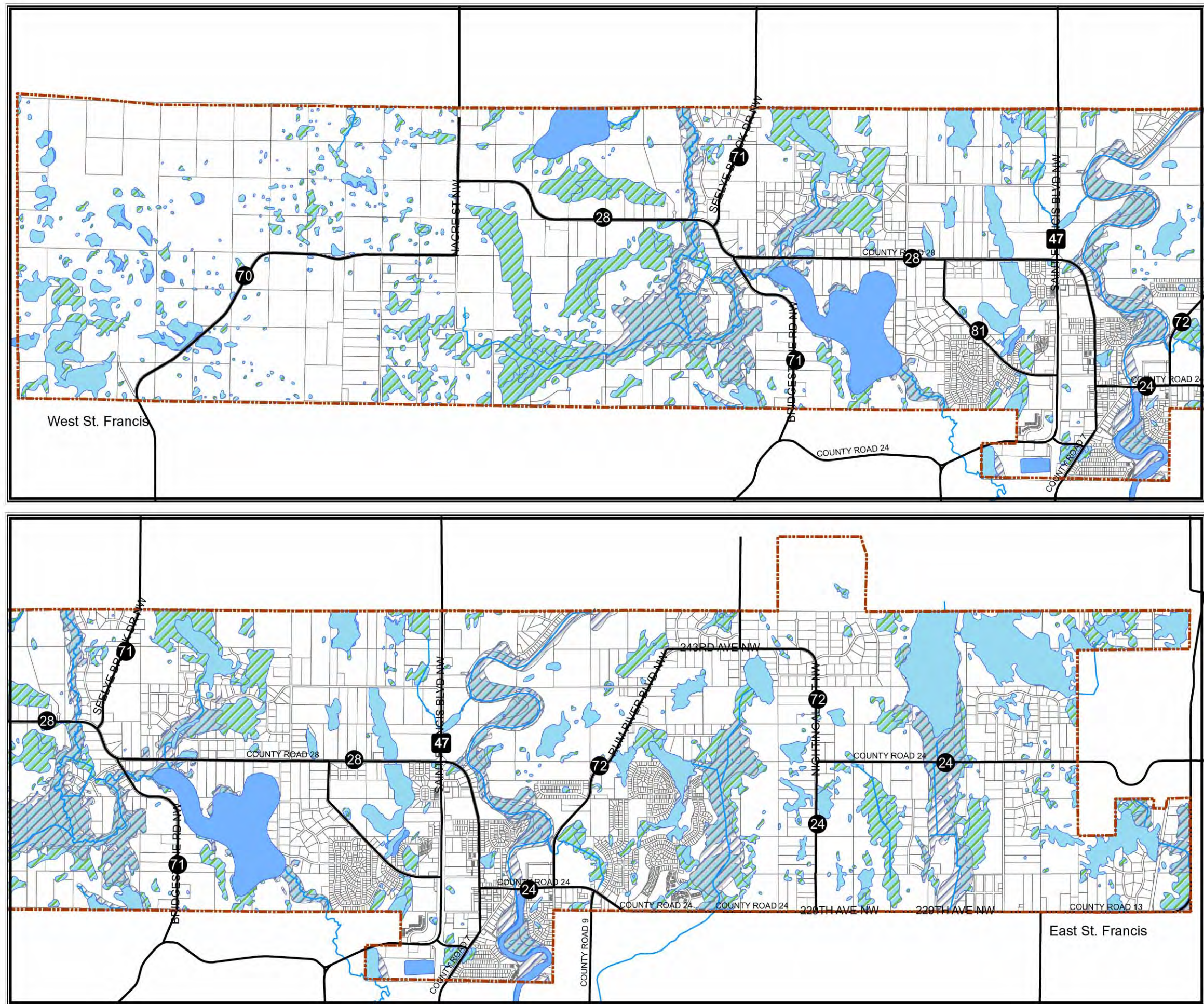
### Water Resources

-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  Other Water Sources
-  City Boundary
-  Wetlands
-  FEMA Floodway



Source: Anoka County GIS; Minnesota DNR;  
Bolton and Menk, Inc; Northwest Associated Consultants  
Date: April, 2008

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**SOCIAL INVENTORY**

The purpose of the Social Inventory is to identify past trends, to document the current conditions, and to help identify issues for establishing a hierarchy of planning policies.

The City of St. Francis has continued to experience significant growth since the last Comprehensive Plan Update, which was conducted in May of 2000. The growth that the City is currently experiencing is expected to continue and, as such, the City’s Comprehensive Plan becomes even more important in order to manage this growth. St. Francis’s profiles, as well as surrounding communities’ and Anoka County’s profiles, will be evaluated in order to compare changes that the City is experiencing compared with the surrounding region.

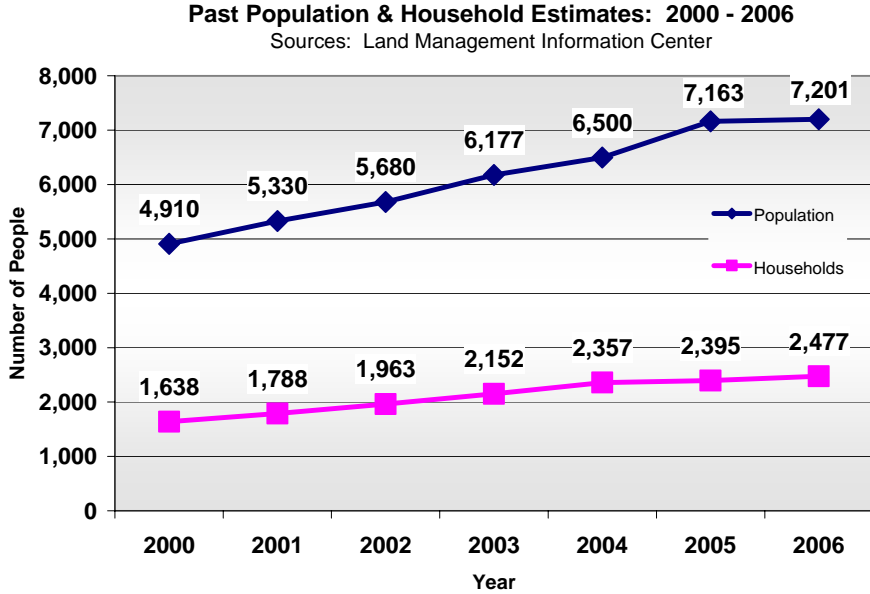
**GROWTH TRENDS**

The following table illustrates past statistics for the population, number of households, average households size, and employment for the City of St. Francis from 1970 through 2000.

<b>Historical Population, Households, &amp; Employment Information 1970 to 2000</b>				
Year	Population	Households	Household size	Employment
1970	897	240	3.74	270
1980	1,184	355	3.34	335
1990	2,538	760	3.24	793
2000	4,910	1,638	3	1,247

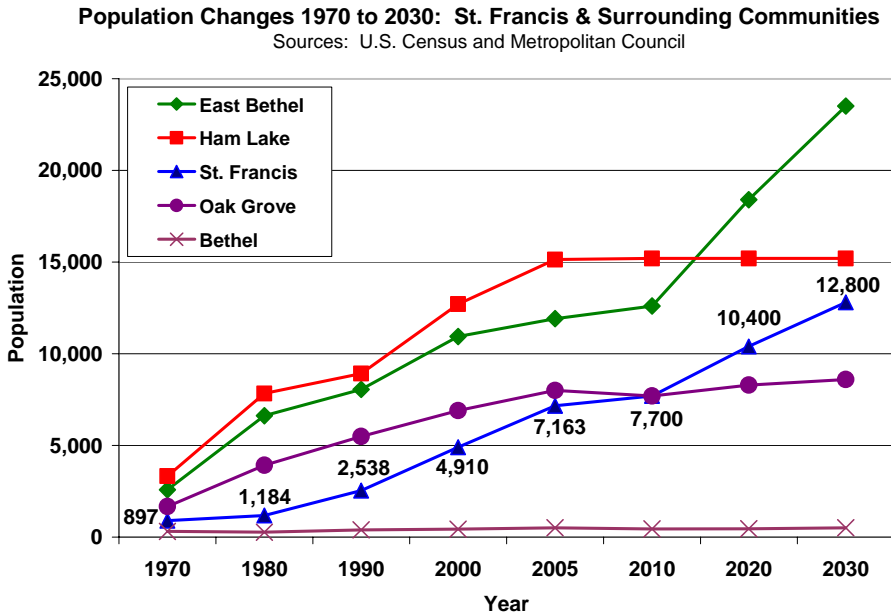
Sources: U.S. Census and Land Management Information Center

The following table indicates the changes in population and number of households in St. Francis from 2000 through 2006. As the line graph indicates, both have steadily increased from 2000 through 2006. The population of St. Francis increased by 46.66 percent in that time period. The City had an actual increase of 2,291 people, growing from 4,910 in 2000 to 7,201 in 2006. The number of households increased from 1,638 in 2000 to 2,477 in 2006. This was a 51.22 percent increase.



The statistics in the following table illustrate the trends in population within St. Francis and surrounding cities, starting in 1970 and projected until 2030. St. Francis experienced a steady increase in population between 1970 until the present, growing from 897 people to 7,163 people. It appears that it is expected to experience somewhat of a slower paced growth rate until 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, it is expected to grow from 7,700 to 10,400, which is a 35 percent increase in population.

The City of Ham Lake has experienced relatively consistent population growth until the present time, and is projected to plateau from now until 2030. The City of East Bethel, on the other hand, is projected to increase in population drastically between 2010 and 2030, growing from approximately 13,000 to approximately 23,500 people by 2030, exceeding the population of all other four communities in this table.



The following table illustrates annual building permits issued for new home construction from 2000 through 2007. During this period, St. Francis added 1,190 new housing units. The number of permits issued for residential dwelling units peaked in 2002, with 206 permits being issued. In 2003, 201 permits were issued for dwelling units. Over the four year period from 2002 to 2006, the number of permits issued decreased by 76% from 206 to 50 permits per year.

<b>St. Francis: Building Permits Issued For Residential Dwelling Units</b>			
<b>2000 to 2007*</b>			
Year	Number of Permits	Annual Change	% Change
1999	167		
2000	171	4	2.34%
2001	150	-21	-14.00%
2002	206	56	27.18%
2003	201	-5	-2.43%
2004	113	-88	-43.78%
2005	107	-6	-5.31%
2006	50	-57	-53.27%
2007	25	-25	-50.00%

Source: City of St. Francis

Using this building permit data, the local population and household counts are estimated through 2007. These figures assume 100% occupancy in the new housing units. These figures also assume a declining household size that drops at a rate to meet the State Demographer’s estimate of 2.98 persons per household in 2005, and the Metropolitan Council’s estimate of 2.75 persons per household in 2010.

<b>St. Francis: Population and Households</b>				
<b>Based on Building Permit Data 2000 to May, 2007</b>				
Year	Residential Building Permits	Households	Population	Household Size
2000 Census	N/A	1,638	4,910	3
2000 Year End	171	1,809	5,427	3
2001	150	1,959	5,857	2.99
2002	206	2,165	6,473	2.99
2003	201	2,366	7,074	2.99
2004	113	2,479	7,387	2.98
2005	107	2,586	7,706	2.98
2006	50	2,636	7,723	2.93
2007	25	2,671	7,719	2.89

Source: City of St. Francis; Metropolitan Council ; State Demographer; NAC, Inc.

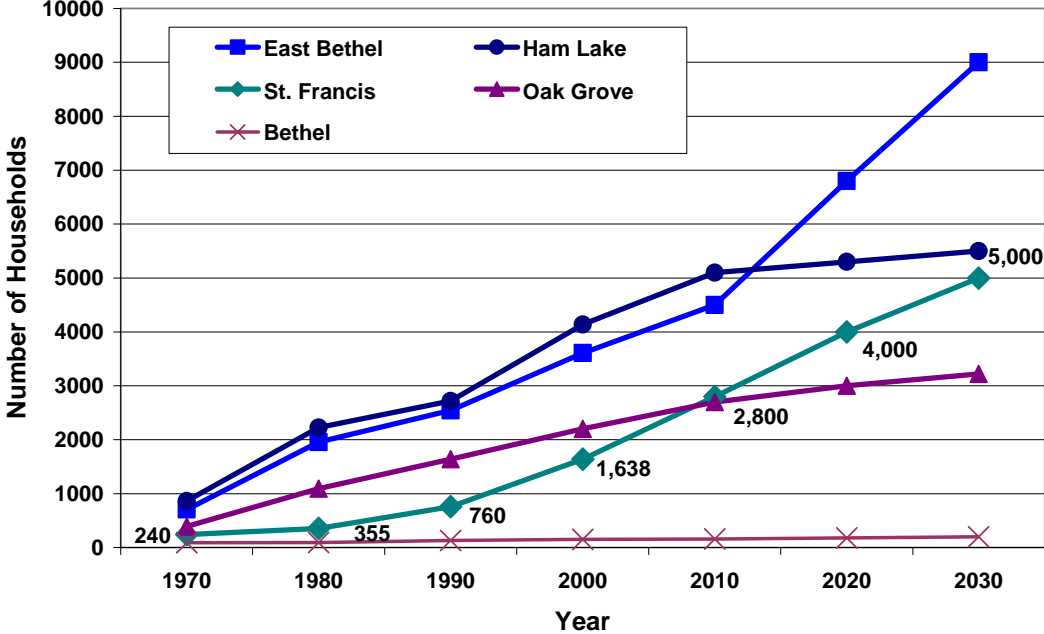
These local estimates for population and household counts exceed the State Demographer’s estimates for 2005. On the other hand, the local forecasts are just under the Metropolitan Council’s forecasts for 2010.

**HOUSEHOLDS**

In looking at the data for St. Francis since 1990, the number of households has steadily increased, while the number of persons per household has slightly declined. This is likely reflective of an increase in persons age 65 and over. It also reflects the natural trend of people having fewer children and the dynamics of the modern family.

**Prior and Forecasted Number of Households:  
St. Francis & Surrounding Communities**

Sources: U.S. Census & Metropolitan Council



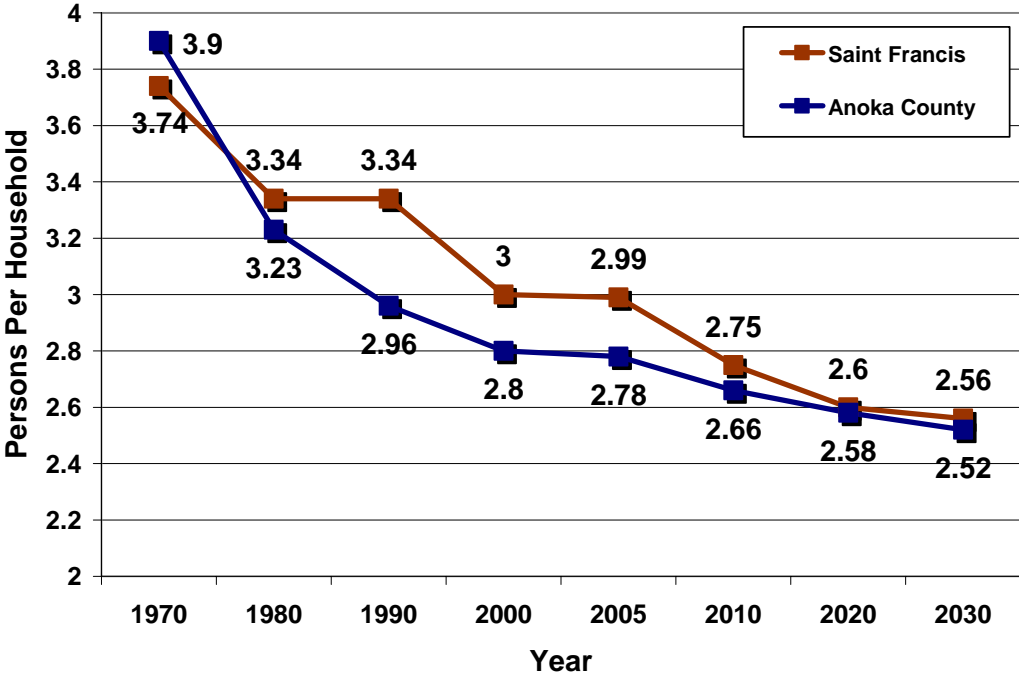
The following graph compares the number of persons per household in St. Francis and Anoka County, estimated from 1970 and forecasted until 2030. The number of persons per household in St. Francis has decreased from 3.74 in 1970 to 3.00 in 2000, which is a 20% decrease over the 30 year period. Over this same 30 year period, Anoka County experienced a 28% decrease in the number of persons per household, going from an average of 3.9 in 1970 to 2.8 persons per household in 2000.

Anoka County’s average number of persons per household was greater than St. Francis in 1970, but St. Francis has exceeded and is expected to exceed Anoka County’s numbers until 2020, at which point, the City and county’s household sizes become relatively even with each other.

The number of persons per household in St. Francis and Anoka County are both forecasted to continue to decrease quite steadily until 2030. The Metropolitan Council has forecasted that by 2030, the average number of persons per household in St. Francis will be 2.56, which is a 15% decrease from 2000. Anoka County is forecasted to experience a 10% decrease from 2000 to 2030 in the number of persons per household.

**Changes in Household Sizes 1970 to 2030:  
St. Francis & Anoka County**

Sources: U.S. Census & Metropolitan Council



The 1990 and 2000 Census both provide a demographic profile of the households in St. Francis as illustrated in the following table. The total number of households increased extensively over the ten year period. The total number of households in 1990 was 760; by 2000, the total number of household rose to 1,638. This was a 116% increase.

In 1990, 479 households contained at least one child, and 346 of those households included a married couple. In 2000, the number of households with at least one child rose considerably by 84% to 883 households. The total number of non-family households with children increased from 3 in 1990 to 14 in 2000.

The total households without children rose significantly from 1990 to 2000. In 1990, there were 283 households without children, and in 2000, there were 755 households without children. This was a 167% increase over ten years.

<b>ST. FRANCIS HOUSEHOLD TYPES IN 1990 AND 2000</b>							
Total Number and Percentage Increase							
HOUSEHOLD TYPE	Households With Children			Households Without Children		Total Number of Households	
	1990	2000		1990	2000	1990	2000
Married Couple	346	596		157	372	503	968
Male Householder	26	78		11	141	37	219
Female Householder	102	195		14	137	116	332
<b>TOTAL FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>869</b>		<b>137</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>1,519</b>
		83%			374%		132%
<b>TOTAL NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>101</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>119</b>
		367%			4%		14%
<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>883</b>		<b>283</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>1,638</b>
		84%			167%		116%

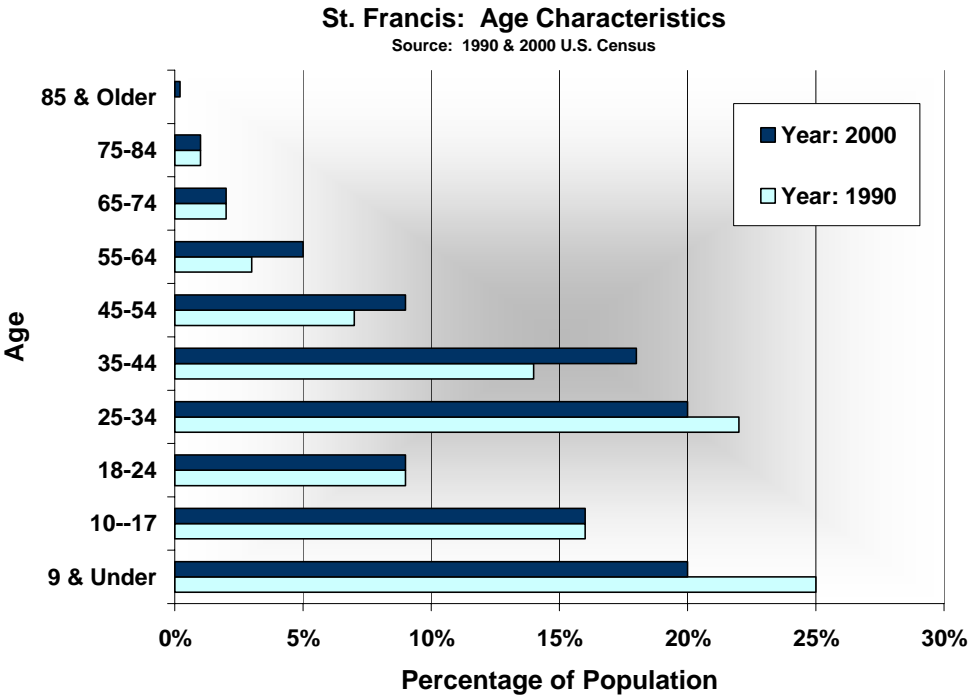
Source: U.S. Census 1990, 2000



**AGE CHARACTERISTICS**

The following table illustrates St. Francis’s percentage of population by age group. The table utilizes information from the 1990 and 2000 Census. In 1990, the nine and under age group represented the largest percentage of the population in St. Francis at 25%. By 2000, this age group was tied with the 25 to 34 year olds for representing the largest percentage of the population. Each represented approximately 20% of the population. The next largest age group in 2000 was the 35 to 44 year olds, which represented approximately 18% of the population. In 2000, just under 83% of St. Francis’s population was under 45 years old.

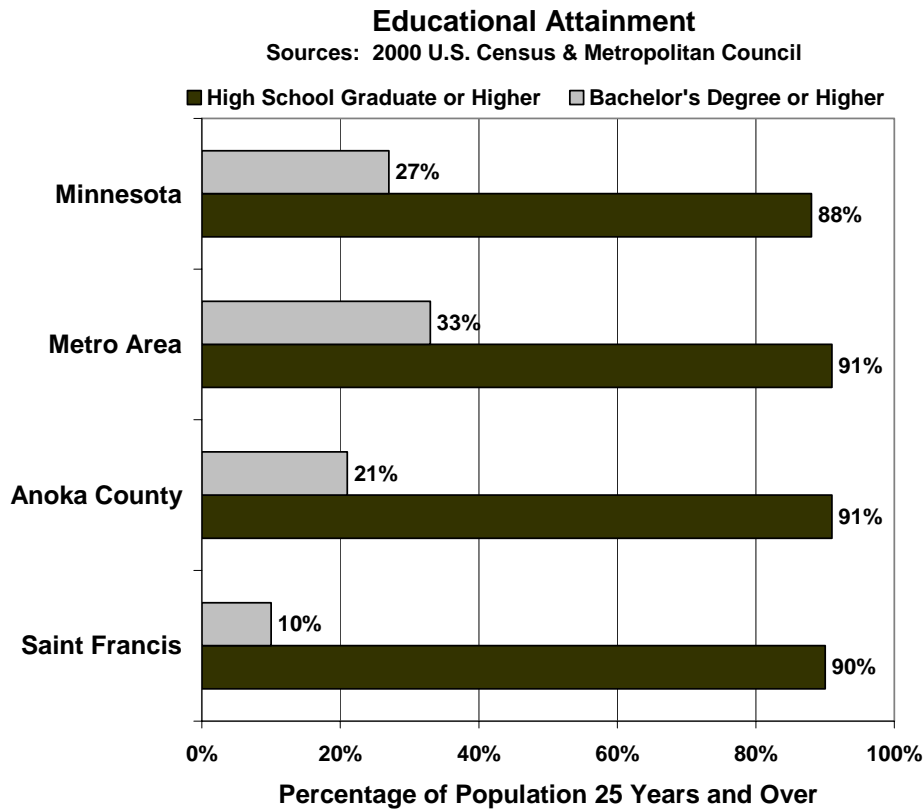
Although, a large majority of the population was under 45 years old in 2000, the younger age groups either remained steady or decreased from 1990 to 2000, with the exception of the 35 to 44 age category. On the other hand, the older age categories (45 and older) all increased in percentage of the population or remained steady from 1990 to 2000. It is expected that the retired age group will grow rapidly in the coming decade. Changes in the demographics of the City and surrounding area will have significant planning implications for the future.



**EDUCATION**

The following table illustrates education levels for the population ages 25 and over in St. Francis, Anoka County, the Metro Area, and the state of Minnesota in 2000. As indicated, approximately 90% of the City’s population has attained a high school diploma or higher. This percentage is about average with the other geographic areas compared in the graph.

However, only 10% of the City’s population has attained a Bachelor’s degree or higher. This is the lowest percentage in comparison to the other geographic areas in the table. For Anoka County, 91% of the population has obtained a high school degree or higher, and 21% have been awarded a Bachelor’s degree or higher. Overall, the Metro Area has the highest percentage of 25 and over adults that have attained a Bachelor’s degree or higher, with 33 percent.

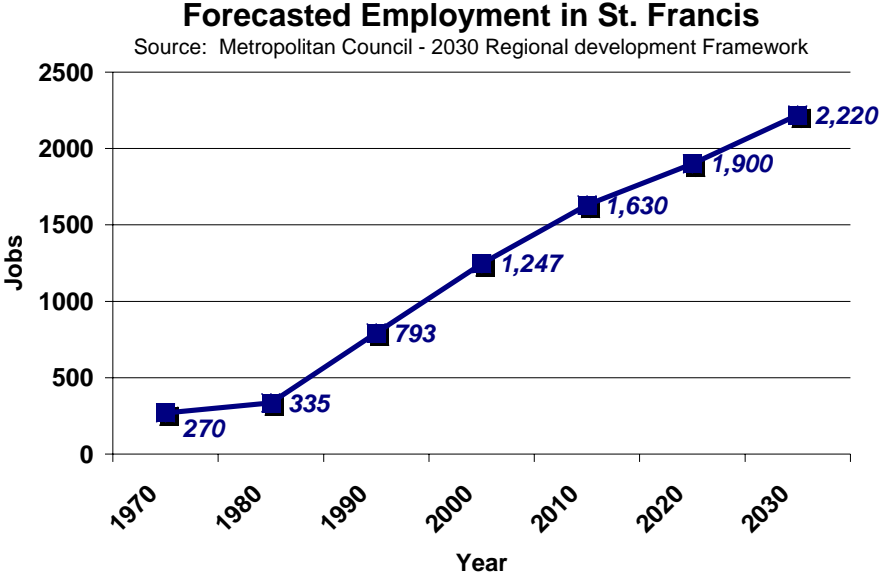


**EMPLOYMENT**

Information from the 1990 and 2000 Census regarding employment demographics for St. Francis are depicted in the table below. In 1990, there were 1,099 occupations in St. Francis. By 2000, there were 2,517 occupations. The largest percentage of employees in 1990 was employed in Manufacturing, which was approximately 32%. In 2000, the largest percentage of employees was again in Manufacturing, but the percentage had decreased to 23%. The second largest category was Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, employing 20% of the population in 2000. This category experienced the largest increase in percentage of employees compared to the other categories. The remainder of the occupations remained fairly steady in percentage comparisons.

<b>Occupations in St. Francis</b>				
Source: U.S. Census & MN State Demographer				
	<b>1990</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>%</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	24	2%	11	0%
Construction	128	12%	386	15%
Manufacturing	347	32%	577	23%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	113	10%	505	20%
Information and Retail	131	12%	17	1%
Financial Activities	38	4%	157	6%
Professional and Business Services	34	3%	169	7%
Education and Health Services	185	17%	475	19%
Leisure and Hospitality	36	3%	101	4%
Other Services	48	4%	81	3%
Government	15	1%	38	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>100%</b>

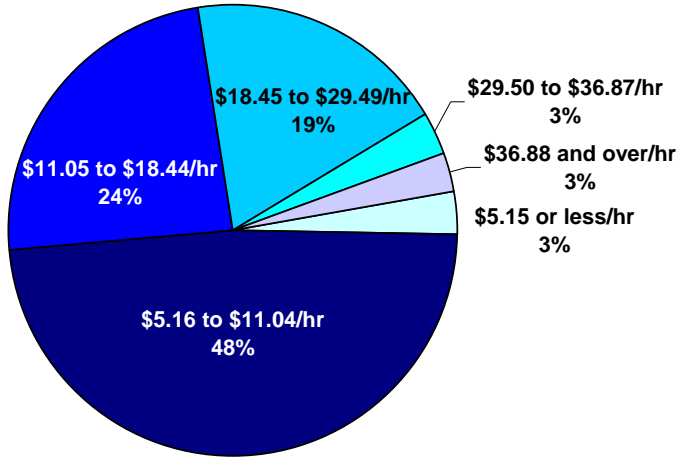
The Metropolitan Council has forecasted employment figures through 2030 for communities within the metropolitan area. The following table illustrates the figures that the Council has projected for the City of St. Francis. According to the Metropolitan Council, the City will provide 1,630 jobs by 2010. By 2030, the City will provide 2,220 jobs.



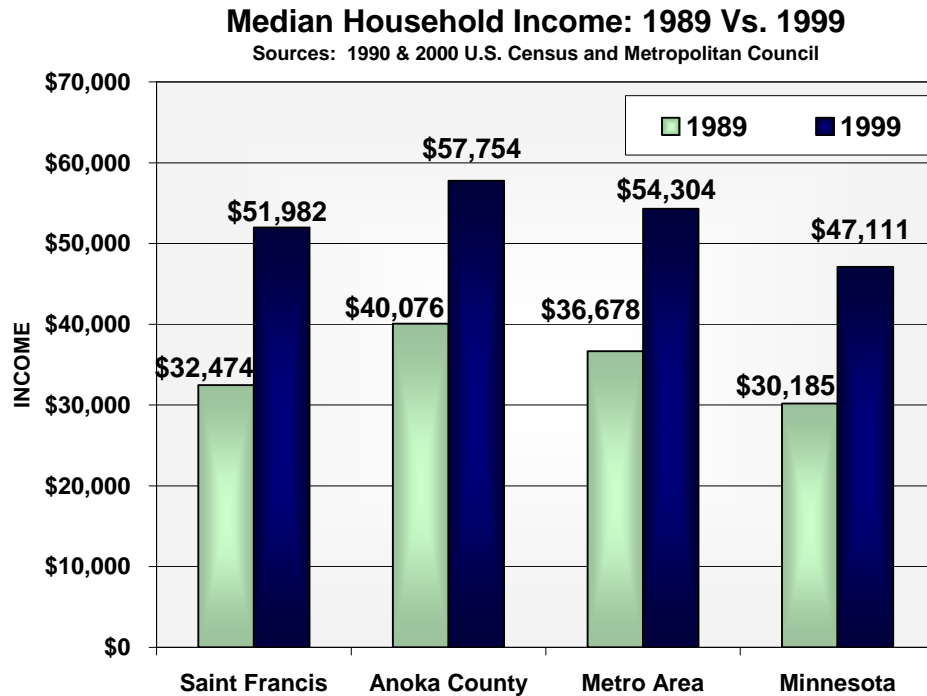
**INCOME**

The following table portrays the percentage of the wages for jobs in the City of St. Francis in 2002. The wage category that held the most jobs was the \$5.16 to \$11.04 per hour category. Almost half of the jobs in St. Francis in 2002 paid between \$5.16 per hour to \$11.04 per hour. Twenty-four percent of the jobs in the City were paying \$11.05 to \$18.44 per hour, which was the next largest wage category in 2002.

**2002 Wage Information for Jobs in St. Francis**  
Sources: MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development & Metropolitan Council



The 1900 and 2000 Census data regarding household family income for St. Francis, Anoka County, the Metro Area, and the State of Minnesota is illustrated in the following bar graph. The median household income in St. Francis in 1989 was \$32,474, which was just above Minnesota’s median household of \$30,185. By 1999, the median household income in St. Francis has risen to \$51,982, which was again above Minnesota’s median household income of \$47,111. Anoka County’s median household incomes in 1989 and in 1999 were the highest in comparison to each of the geographic regions in the graph, including the metro area.



The Census data regarding poverty levels in St. Francis compared with Anoka County are shown below. The per capita income in the City in 1989 and 1999 are both below that of Anoka County. The City has a slightly larger percentage of their population below the poverty line than Anoka County in both years also. However, the percent of population below poverty level dropped in St. Francis from 1989 to 1999, from 10.3% to 4.8%.

<b>Individuals Below Poverty Level St. Francis &amp; Anoka County: 1989 vs. 1999</b>			
	Per Capita Income	Individuals Below Poverty Level	Percent of Population
<b>1989</b>			
St. Francis	\$10,602	255	10.30%
Anoka County	\$14,554	12,701	5.30%
<b>1999</b>			
St. Francis	\$19,957	227	4.80%
Anoka County	\$23,297	12,367	4.20%
Source: U.S. Census 1990, 2000/Minnesota State Demographer			

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

The City of St. Francis provides a variety of community facilities to its residents.

**WASTEWATER, STORM SEWER, AND WATER SUPPLY**

The City of St. Francis established its own wastewater treatment facility in the 1970s. It is located on the southwest corner of County State Aid Highway 24 and State Highway 47/ St. Francis Boulevard.

The City of St. Francis water distribution system serves seven (7) percent of the total city area. The water distribution system will be expanded as growth requires. A City storm sewer system also exists within the urbanized sections of the community.

**POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION**

The St. Francis Public Safety Building is home to the St. Francis Police and Fire Departments. The Public Safety Building is located at 3740 Bridge Street.

**MUNICIPAL BOTTLE SHOP**

The St. Francis Municipal Bottle Shop is owned and operated by the City of St. Francis. Established in 1964 and completely remodeled in 2002, the Bottle Shop has been an integral part of the operation of the City. Located at the corner of Highway 47 and 233<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, the St. Francis Municipal Bottle Shop has been a key partner in the operation of the City. Store proceeds have consistently been used to help purchase needed equipment for the City.

The St. Francis Municipal Bottle Shop has been an ongoing financial supporter of public safety within the City. Since 1993, the Bottle Shop has provided just under \$200,000 for public safety equipment, including the following: \$165,500 for the St. Francis Fire Station, \$54,700 for new fire trucks, and \$30,500 for the Police Station and squad cars.

The Bottle Shop has also been a financial supporter for various recreational activities within the City. The new gazebo in Woodbury Park was financed in part by a \$18,850 contribution from the Bottle Shop. The Bottle Shop has also been the proud sponsor of the Pioneer Days Fireworks Display since 1997.

**SCHOOLS**

Independent School District 15 services the City of St. Francis and the surrounding area. The City of St. Francis contains the following schools within its borders:

- St. Francis Elementary School
- St. Francis Intermediate
- St. Francis Junior High School

- St. Francis Senior High School
- Transition 15/Oakwood Learning Center
- Cross Road School & Vocational Center

Independent School District #15 also employs a large number of workers within the St. Francis City limits.

## **CHURCHES**

The City of St. Francis is home to the following religious institutions:

- First Baptist Church of St. Francis
- St. Francis Methodist Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- River of Life
- Lighthouse Christian Center