

Levels of Service

The National Park and Recreation Association (NPR A) recommends Level of Service Standards associated with park and recreational facilities for communities in order to achieve an adequate number and type of facilities per population. *Table 40* illustrates these recommendations.

Table 40: National Park and Recreation Association's Suggested Level of Service Standards for Communities

<u>Park Type</u>	<u>Suggested Area Of Service</u>	<u>Suggested Size</u>	<u>Suggested Community Needs</u>
Mini / Pocket Park	<0.25 mile radius	2 acres or less	0.25-0.50 acres per 1,000 population
Neighborhood Park	<0.50 mile radius	5 to 20 acres	1.0-2.0 acres per 1,000 population
Community Park	1-2 mile radius	25 to 100 acres	5.0-8.0 acres per 1,000 population
Regional Park	≥5.0 mile radius or more	50+ acres	20.0 acres per 1,000 population
Linear Parks, Greenways and Trails	Varies	Varies	1 mile per 1,000 population

Source: National Park and Recreation Association (NPR A)

Dauphin Island's abundance of natural resources, including its four gulf front beaches, makes it a tourist destination for visitors from across the Nation. The development and/or expansion of park and recreational facilities has continued over the past decade on the Island to accommodate future populations. The sensitive ecosystems of the Island have led to the development of many conservation areas and wildlife sanctuaries with public access, trails, and passive open space. For these reasons, the Town is fortunate to have an abundance of parks and recreational facilities for resident and tourist populations that exceed the National Parks and Recreation Associations suggested standards.

Table 41 shows a listing of current parks and facilities, current need based on current population, and future need based on future population projection.

Table 41: Park Inventory and Needs

Mini/Pocket Parks	Acres	Facilities	Existing Acres	Current Need	2030 Additional Need
Green Park	2	Gazebo, park benches, swings, picnic tables			
Quarles Park	0.75	Skate park			
D'Olive Park	N/A				
Aloe Bay Landing Park	0.6	Rocky waterfront, picnic table			
Pryor Park	0.2	Benches for bird watching			
Audubon Park	N/A				
Bayou Heron Park	0.8	Bay front, benches and small pier			
Magnolia Park	0.50	Picnic tables, benches, porch swing			
Sandpiper Park	N/A				
Calumet Park	2	Park benches, pavilion			
Goat Tree Reserve	1.2	Migratory bird refuge, walking trails			
Lafitte Bay Park	N/A				
Total Acreage	8.05		8.05	0.6	0.8
Neighborhood Parks*					
Jefferies Park	4.6	Waterfront views			
Steiner Property	12	Wetland conservation area			
Tupelo Gum Swamp	11	Wetland habitat			
Gorgas Swamp	10	Protected wetland and bird watching area			
Total Acreage	37.6		37.6	2.4	3.2
Community Parks					
Salt Creek Park	4.4	Playground, gazebo, benches and picnic tables			
Cadillac Square Park	5.5	Picnic tables, restrooms, farmer's market, social gatherings locale			
East End Landing	25	Fishing, waterfront views			
Dauphin Island Marina		Boat slips, charters, bait store, fuel and repair			
Saw Grass Point Salt Marsh	35	Wetland area, bird watching, pier			
Cedar Point	5	Fishing pier, boat launch, bait & tackle store			
Little Billy Goat Hole	4	Boat launch, picnic tables, gazebo, pier			
Total Acreage	78.9		78.9	9.6	13.1

**DAUPHIN ISLAND
Comprehensive Plan**

Parks, Recreation, and Events

Regional Parks	Acres	Facilities	Existing Acres	Current Need	2030 Additional Need
West End Beach	75	Beach, volleyball, beach watercraft & chair rental			
Dauphin Is. Public Beach And Pier	163	swimming, tiki bar, pavilion, swimming, beach, restrooms, playground, tables, rentals			
Isle Dauphine Golf Club	168	18-hole golf course, clubhouse, restaurant, pool, tennis courts, beach			
Penalver Park	2	Conservation and bird watching area, green space			
Indian Shell Mounds Park and Trail	12	Six (6) mounds, walking trails, bird watching area, benches and pond			
Audubon Bird Sanctuary	164	Nature trails, boardwalks, lake, pine forest, beach, piers, observation decks, handicap acc.			
Dauphin Island Campground	45	150 campsites, store, pavilion, grills, playground			
Historic Fort Gaines	16	Museum, giftshop, exhibit halls, special events			
Dauphin Island Sea Lab and Estuarium	10	Public aquarium, boardwalks, giftshop, cafeteria			
Total Acreage	655		655	24	32
Trails					
Dauphin Island Pedestrian/Bike Trail	7 mi.	Pedestrian walking and biking			
Audubon Sanctuary Trails	N/A	Natural resource observation areas			
Indian Shell Mound Trails	N/A				
Penalver Park Trails	N/A				
Alabama Coastal Birding Trail	N/A	Over 50 loop trails for bird and butterfly watching			
Total Mileage	12		12	1.2	1.6

Source: National Park and Recreation Association (NPR-A) & SARPC Calculations
 Note: Estimated 2030 population of 1,638 was used to calculate demand.

Community Goals

The following goals, associated with park and recreational facilities and events, were identified by the community and presented in the Strategic Plan.

- Plan and implement an environmentally-sound, integrated strategy for the Island to best capitalize on its innate beauty and bounty of cultural and natural resources in order to promote sustainable forms of tourism and create a unique destination for visitors. This includes taking advantage of many of the Island's assets such as, Audubon Bird Sanctuary, Fort Gaines, Dauphin Island Sea Lab & Estuarium, Dauphin Island Campgrounds, fishing piers and boat launches, and Ferry Landing to enhance the Island's economy.
- Expand and support eco-tourism opportunities and businesses to better capitalize on the Island's resources without resulting in an adverse impact to the social or physical environment or quality of life of the Town's residents. Applicable eco-tourism businesses would include watercraft rentals, scuba diving shops, bicycle/moped rentals, water taxis, charter fishing, seafood markets, bait and tackle shops, etc.
- Maintain, improve, and expand current park and recreational facilities and events on the Island. This includes the development of additional public water access facilities for boats and pedestrians along the Island. This could also include the preservation, restoration, and new development of a working waterfront that includes boat slips, boat launches, boardwalks, commercial and recreational fishing amenities, and watercraft rentals. The intent is to create a waterfront that is equally accessible to all and not developed in any way as a "gated community".
- Plan and develop an alternative means of public transportation to move residents and tourist around the Island to the many identified park and recreational facilities and events.
- Plan and develop strategies for parking facilities to accommodate tourist traffic associated with recreational facilities and events that would alleviate traffic congestion, not adversely impact or over-burden the existing natural resources that are the basis of most of the attractions, and serve as a revenue source for the Town. This would include facilities for cars, boat trailers, and water boat traffic.

Recommendations and Strategies

By implementing the recommendations and strategies below, the Town will achieve the community identified goals and be closer to obtaining their vision for Dauphin Island's future by the year 2030.

1. To achieve an overall harmonious inventory of facilities and amenities, recreational providers should meet regularly to establish future goals and discuss upcoming projects. Entities should research partnerships for future projects and funding opportunities through local contributions and grant opportunities to achieve the overall goals of the community.
2. Upgrade the existing parks and recreational facilities through continued maintenance and installation of new equipment, services, and amenities to accommodate the Island's resident and tourist populations. This should include new and approved playground equipment like the structure at Salt Creek Park, additional park benches and lighting at many facilities, including

- the Dauphin Island Pedestrian/Bike Trail. Increased landscaping with native vegetation should also be accomplished at several facilities.
3. Research funding opportunities for the continued conservation and preservation of the natural resource based facilities. This includes wetland restoration projects, beach re-nourishment projects, and dune restoration projects. This also includes the development and distribution of educational material to park and recreational facility users emphasizing the importance of the soft use and maintenance of these resources.
 4. Research and pursue potential funding sources for park and recreational acquisitions, developments and improvements such as ADECA Recreational Trails Program and ALDOT Transportation Enhancement Program, ALDOT Scenic Byways and Corridors Program and EDA Economic Development Programs. This could include the establishment of canoe/kayak trails through various parks to explore Sand Island or Mobile Bay.
 5. Develop a new recreational facility for water access in the Aloe Bay region of the Island to create a working waterfront marina/harbor that supports recreational boating, recreational and commercial fishing, and includes boat slips, boat launches, pedestrian boardwalks, observation decks, fishing pier, and associated commercial and residential facilities to accommodate resident and tourist populations. Link the new facility to the rest of the Island via the new shuttle buses. Provide adequate parking facilities for cars, boats, and trailers.
 6. Develop a new recreational facility for water access in the area of Ferry Landing if possible, or other areas of the Island that would be ideal for the creation of a working waterfront marina/harbor. The facility would support recreational boating, recreational and commercial fishing, and includes boat slips, boat launches, pedestrian boardwalks, observation decks, fishing pier, and associated commercial facilities to accommodate resident and tourist populations. Also, investigate the opportunity to develop a municipal commercial fee based loading/unloading dock in the Billy Goat Hole region. Link the new facility to the rest of the Island via the new shuttle buses. Provide adequate parking facilities for cars, boats, and trailers.
 7. Acquisition and development of public parking facilities to accommodate tourist traffic from cars, boats, and trailers that implements nominal user fees. These facilities could be adjacent to identified recreational facilities and linked to the rest of the Island via the public transit shuttle buses. These efforts could also include working more closely with individual property owners, including the Mobile Jaycees, to utilize their facilities during special events.
 8. Develop an Island brand, such as *A Rare Find, Nature's Crossroads, or Village by the Sea*, and create marketing tools such as brochures, commercials, promotions, and ads to increase the exposure of the Island's parks and recreational facilities. Target audiences would include beach vacationers, outdoor exploration enthusiast, boaters, fisherman, and passive types of recreational uses such as birding. The intent is to label Dauphin Island as quiet sea-side community that is a tourist destination for quality natural resources. This includes developing a map of the parks and recreational facilities on the Island and a calendar of annual events and festivals.
 9. Develop additional annual Island events and festivals for resident and tourist populations. These could include dockside seafood markets, bicycling events, oyster festival, musicals/concerts and plays on the lawn at Calumet Park or at Fort Gaines, and a coastal heritage festival.
 10. Consult with Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board to develop a plan and strategy for the future use of the Dauphin Island Fishing Pier. The pier is currently landlocked due to shoreline accretion, but is available for public use.
 11. Consult with Dauphin Island Property Owner's Association regarding possible rehabilitation of the Isle Dauphine Golf Club complex to stimulate local economy.

12. Coordinate with the Dauphin Island Elementary School and Mobile County Board of Education to rehabilitate and expand the sports field located at the school to provide more sports related opportunities for the youth of the Island.
13. Encourage community and business participation, funding, and volunteer work with the Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce, Dauphin Island Foundation and other similar entities. These entities need the assistance of the Island community to support their efforts to improve the overall quality of life for Island businesses and residents.

Chapter 8

Community Facilities and Services

A community requires a wide variety of facilities and services to ensure basic health and safety needs are met. These services also insure a high quality of life and a sustainable economy. This chapter provides an inventory of community facilities and services currently offered in the Town of Dauphin Island and identifies services and facilities needed to accommodate the Town's future population and business activities. Recommendations and strategies are proposed to accomplish community goals, identify service and facility deficiencies, and plan for future growth.

Current Inventory

Listed below are community facilities and services located within the Town of Dauphin Island and its associated planning jurisdiction. Some facilities and services are authorized and financed by the Town of Dauphin Island and some by other public or quasi-public entities. Others are owned and operated by private entities.

Community Buildings and Spaces

Dauphin Island Town Hall

The Dauphin Island Town Hall is a wooden three story building located at 1011 Bienville Boulevard, see *Figure 59*.

The building houses the Council Chambers, the Mayor's office, the Town Clerk's office, Business License and Permits Departments, Special Projects Department, Accountants and/or Financial Management office, Event Planner's office, Court Clerk/Court Magistrate, Building Inspector/ Zoning Enforcement Officer, and the Planning & Safety Coordinator. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:00 am to 5:30 p.m. The council chamber is the location of the Town's Council Meetings, Planning Commission Meetings, Board of Adjustments Meetings, and municipal court. The Mayor, Town Clerk, and the various department heads administer day-to-day operations of the municipality.

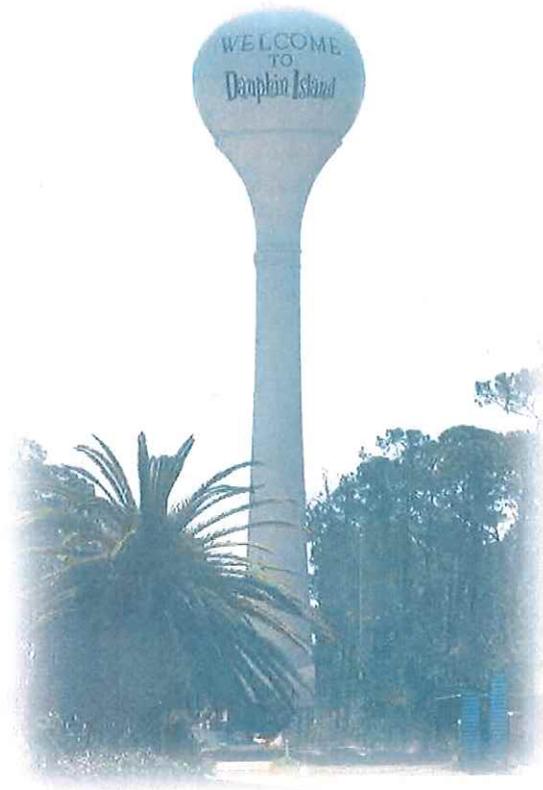


Figure 59: Dauphin Island Town Hall



Source: SARPC

At the present time, the Town has 31 full-time employees and 11 part-time employees. Town Hall was renovated in 2007 and adequately accommodates all Town staff and all employees, therefore there is no immediate need for expansion or rehabilitation of the structure.

The Town of Dauphin Island incorporated in November 1988 and adopted powers and functions of their governing body under the Town's Charter. The Town consists of a mayor and five council members elected at large. The Town Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Dauphin Island Town Hall. The Town Council has an Agenda Workshop on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m., prior to each Town Council Meeting. The Town of Dauphin Island also has an appointed nine member Planning Commission and a five member Board of Adjustments. The Planning Commission meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month and the Board of Adjustments meets, if needed, the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Dauphin Island Municipal Court is held at Town Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. It is a court of limited jurisdiction and hears misdemeanor cases only. All other offenses are heard in the Mobile County Circuit Court. Cases that may be heard at the Town of Dauphin Island Municipal Court are traffic violations, Town Ordinance violations, domestic violence, alcohol and drug violations, and any other violations of state or local laws that are defined as misdemeanors.

Dauphin Island Post Office

Figure 60 shows the Dauphin Island Post Office, located at 1011 LaVente Street. The building is 2,784 square feet and has 1,600 post office boxes with approximately 1,200 of those boxes rented.

Figure 60: Dauphin Island Post Office



Source: SARPC

Dauphin Island Parks and Public Spaces

The Island boasts over 50 parks and recreational spaces for residents and tourists. These facilities are owned and operated by the following: the Town of Dauphin Island, the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board, the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc., the Property Owners Association, and/or the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Parks, Recreation, and Events Chapter of this Plan assess the current parks and recreational spaces and identifies future needs to serve the growing population.

Parks and recreational spaces owned and operated by the Town are maintained by the Town's Public Works Department. This Department oversees all the landscaping and maintenance including property upkeep, grass cutting, equipment repair and upgrade, and preparation activities for annual events.

Public Safety

Town of Dauphin Island Police Department

The Town of Dauphin Island Police Department is a 2,500 square foot facility located at 1017 Desoto Avenue. The Department is administered by the Chief of Police who oversees sworn

officers, dispatchers and public safety officers. Dauphin Island’s Police Jurisdiction begins at the north end of Dauphin Island Bridge and covers the entire Island. The Dauphin Island Police Department follows the State Personnel Policy regarding the hiring and training of sworn officers and personnel.

The Dauphin Island Police Department conducts background checks, interviews, physical examinations, and drug screens on all potential new hires according to State and Town Policy. All police officers must be certified by the Alabama Police Officer’s Standards and Training Commission (A.P.O.S.T.C.). Numerous officers currently employed hold additional certifications such as firearms instructors, “Taser” instructors, death and crime scene investigators, and traffic homicide investigators.

The Dauphin Island Police Department possesses eight marked vehicles that are regularly used for patrol on each shift. The two un-marked vehicles are assigned to the Chief and the Supervisor. All marked vehicles are equipped with the standard police package which includes radar, video cameras, emergency lights, sirens, and other basic equipment. Most of the marked vehicles also have portable breath testers and shotguns. Dauphin Island also has a “Stinger” spike system for deflating tires of fleeing vehicles. Back-up assistance in an emergency is available from the Mobile County’s Sherriff’s Department.

The Dauphin Island Police Department uses the Mobile County CAD system, which enables the Department to communicate with State and County Departments. The Dauphin Island Police Department has a ratio of one police officer per 137 citizens. The Police Department receives most of its funding through the General Fund as well as State and Federal Law Enforcement grants to assist with equipment purchases and specialized training.

Table 42 illustrates the Uniform Crime Report Data for Dauphin Island from 2005 to 2011. This data is what federal and state funding entities evaluate when determining a community’s eligibility for law enforcement and community safety funding. This data can also be used to identify growing crime rates in police jurisdictions and the overall safety of communities.

Table 42: Dauphin Island Uniform Crime Report Data 2005-2011

Crime Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Assault	2	2	0	0	5	3	19
Burglary	11	7	5	24	20	27	9
Theft	8	17	3	39	49	28	33
Vehicle Theft	4	0	1	2	1	2	2
TOTAL	26	27	9	66	73	60	63

Source: Dauphin Island Police Department

According to Table 42, 2008 and 2009 exhibited increased reports of crime in comparison to other years. The years with the next highest reported crimes were 2010 and 2011 with totals being 60 and 63. The year with the least amount of reported crime, less than 10, was 2007.

Overall, Dauphin Island's uniform crime index is extremely low compared to other communities. However, it is important to note the recent increase in crime on the Island and determine what factors possibly influenced the increase and what resources should be implemented to reduce future crime rates. The current year round resident population estimate for the Town is 1,238. This does not include the influx of tourist, mostly in the spring and summer, that more than double the population of the Island.

The current service capacity of the Dauphin Island Police Department should be assessed to determine if the current staff can adequately service the resident and tourist population or if new officers, patrol units, or other equipment is needed. Future population projections for the Island's resident population project a future 2030 population range between 1,333-2097. There could be an increase of 859 residents from now to 2030. The Police Department will need to expand over time to accommodate the projected future growth.

Town of Dauphin Island Public Safety Officers

The Town of Dauphin Island has currently established a new public safety initiative with the employment of additional Public Safety Officers on the Island. These individuals are not sworn police officers, but are Town employees that report and take orders from the Town under the guidance of the Dauphin Island Police Department (DIPD) and Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue (DIFR). These individuals are responsible for a wide variety of fire/EMS and law enforcement duties including:

- Responding to all medical calls to assist DIPD and DIFR.
- Checking and maintaining DIFR apparatus every morning and being familiar with all the equipment, including medical tools and their use.
- Being familiar with gas monitoring equipment and operating guidelines.
- Using the Incident Management System and maintaining ICS certification.
- Participating in public education.
- Enforcing municipal ordinances as directed by the Chief of Police such as parking tickets and environmental patrol.
- Assisting all DIPD sworn officers as directed by the Chief, including traffic responsibilities associated with the school zone.

Town of Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue, Incorporated

Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that provides fire protection, technical rescue, and advanced medical life support services under a non-written agreement with the Town of Dauphin Island. Fire and Rescue, Inc. has an annual budget of approximately \$90,000. These funds are generated by a \$3.00 monthly fee on each water meter and a \$15.00 yearly fee on unimproved lots. Fire and Rescue, Inc. also receives funding from grants and donations.

Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue, Inc. has one fire station located at 1020 Chaumont Avenue, see *Figure 61*. The fire

Figure 61: Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue



Source: SARPC

station houses two Class A fire trucks (1988 & 1996), two advanced life support ambulances (1988 & 1996), 2 multipurpose UTVs and 1 4x4 brush truck (2005).

There are currently 16 volunteer members of Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue. The Fire Department offers volunteer positions only with all of the volunteer training done in-house. Fire and Rescue, Inc. answers approximately 150 medical calls, 20 fire calls and 30 miscellaneous calls on an annual basis. Live fire training is done by using a mobile fire training facility.

Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue, Inc. was last evaluated in 2002 and currently possesses a Class 6 Fire Rating. A facility's Fire Rating is determined by performance standards and criteria, such as the number and placement of fire hydrants, the number and staffing of firehouses, and the number and type of fire protection such as public alarm systems. To obtain a lower Fire Rating for the Town of Dauphin Island, the Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue, Inc. has been advised to purchase a ladder truck, open one or two more stations and improve radio communications, pre incident planning and hydrant inspections.

As the Island's resident and tourist populations increase, Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue, Inc. will also need to increase their service capacity to the community. This will include increasing the number of personnel, trucks and equipment available to adequately serve the Island.

Public Works

The Town of Dauphin Island maintains many of the community's services and utilities through the Department of Public Works see, *Figure 62*. The Public Works Department is responsible for the repair, cleaning and maintenance of streets, alleys, parks, drainage ditches and other Town rights-of-ways and is charged with the overall attractive appearance of the Island. Specific areas of responsibility include: cleaning streets and drainage ditches, park maintenance, trash collection, vehicle and equipment maintenance, landscaping, tree cutting, and grass cutting in the right-of-way, animal control, maintenance and general repair to public buildings and spaces including public restrooms, street and public space lighting upkeep and maintenance, implantation of special projects such as beautification initiatives, disaster recovery, bike and pedestrian trail maintenance and improvements, holiday/annual event decorations and maintenance, repair, and improvements to public boat launch areas. These services are funded from the general tax revenues from the Town.

***Figure 62: Dauphin Island
Department of Public Works***



Source: SARPC

The Town of Dauphin Island's Department of Public Works is located at 404 Lackland Street in the building known as "Old Town Hall". Their hours of operation are 7:00 AM until 3:30 PM Monday through Friday. They are also on call for any emergency situations that arise on the Island. There are currently no plans to expand the facility, staff, or community services of the Department of Public Works. However, as the Island's population increases, upgrades to the facility and equipment will be necessary to adequately service the Island.

Roads and Sidewalks

The Public Works Department is responsible for all streets, sidewalks, signage, drainage and right-of-way maintenance. There are over 40 miles of paved streets within the municipal limits, all maintained by the Town. The State Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining the Dauphin Island Bridge. The Town funds maintenance and improvements with general tax revenues in addition to support from Mobile County and the Alabama Department of Transportation.

Drainage Infrastructure

The drainage system serving the Town of Dauphin Island is basic and consists of open earthen ditches with culverts serving roads and driveways. Due to the sensitive ecosystem of the Island and its associated marshes and wetlands, this type of drainage infrastructure is preferred. Flooding events are frequent during heavy rainfall and high tide, which can result in flooded roadways.

The Town of Dauphin Island has taken steps through grant opportunities to improve the drainage systems through residential areas of the Island where flooding presents a concern for the health and safety of residents. The Town of Dauphin Island should develop a long-range drainage plan that addresses current drainage issues of the Island and proposes strategies that remedy flooding problems while potentially enhancing the ecological integrity of the wetlands, marshes and other critical habitat.

Water & Sewer

The availability and quality of drinking water and the proper treatment and disposal of human waste are essential for every community's future growth and development. The Dauphin Island Water and Sewer Authority (DIWSA) is the public supplier for water and sewerage services for all residents and businesses of Dauphin Island. Water distribution and sewage collection piping extends the length and width of the island with service available to every recorded lot. The system currently serves approximately 2,000 households and businesses. The average water demand is 450,000 gallons per day with a peak demand of near 1,000,000 gallons per day while the waste water system collects and processes approximately 440,000 gallons per day.

DIWSA updated its drinking water production and delivery systems in 2010 to 11 potable water wells and 2 reverse osmosis treatment plants that can produce 1.3 million gallons of drinking water per day. Well water is treated to remove suspended particulate and dissolved matter, is aerated, pH adjusted and disinfected, and stored in two 1 million gallon ground storage tanks. For distribution to the public, the water is pumped into the 100,000 gallon landmark water tower located at the intersection of Lemoyne Drive and Bienville Boulevard, see *Figure 63*. DIWSA currently does not have any interconnections to facilitate the purchase or sale of water to or from the mainland to the Island.

A dual wastewater treatment facility processes waste before discharging into the Mississippi Sound or the golf course lake. The majority of the DIWSA sewage collection and pumping system was put into place in 1984 with portions being installed in the early

Figure 63: Dauphin Island Water Authority elevated storage tank.



Source: SARPC

1960's; the current wastewater treatment plant was built in 2002. The sewage collection and pumping system is in dire need of repair, and the treatment plant is in need of recoating and upgrades.

The Dauphin Island Water and Sewer Authority recently built a new 960 GPM Reverse Osmosis Treatment Facility. The new facility has doubled the current water capacity, improved water quality and increased the static water pressure for the Town of Dauphin Island.

Other Private Services

The Alabama Power Company provides electrical service to the residents and businesses of the Island. Comcast Cable Company provides cable television to the Island. Centurylink Incorporated provides telephone and internet service to the Island. The need exists for improvements to be made to telephone land lines and cell phone services as well as quicker response time to power outages on the Island.

Solid Waste Management

Garbage pick-up service is available to residences and businesses on the Island by private companies. The Town currently does not provide any sanitation service within municipal limits or any recycling services.

Health Care Facilities

There is not a hospital located in the Town of Dauphin Island. However, there are over five hospitals located within the City of Mobile that are a 30 to 50 minute drive inland. Ambulance service and transport is available to any of these facilities from the Island in the event of an emergency.

The Town of Dauphin Island purchased a property, located at 1008 Alabama Avenue behind Town Hall, for the establishment of a medical facility on the Island by leasing the facility to a private practice, see *Figure 64*. The Town was successful in leasing the facility in 2008 to a physician who opened a basic medical clinic. However, the facility is currently not leased for these purposes and the Town is actively looking for a private medical practice to replace the previous clinic and restore basic medical service to the Island.

Figure 64: Island Health Medical Clinic



Source: SARPC

Educational Facilities and Religious Institutions

Schools

The Town has two educational institutions located on the Island, the Dauphin Island Elementary School and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

The Dauphin Island Elementary School is located on 1501 Bienville Boulevard in a one story red building located on the south side of the Island, see *Figure 65*. It is adjacent to the Park and Beach Board Public Beach. The Dauphin Island Elementary School is a public facility that is owned and operated by the Mobile County School Board.

**Figure 65: Dauphin Island
Elementary School**



Source: SARPC

The elementary school serves grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. There are five administrative staff members, six class room teachers and one reading coach. The school also has a shared speech teacher and a gifted-student teacher. For the 2011/2012 school year there are approximately 81 students currently enrolled with a maximum capacity of 132 students. The average classroom size is approximately 14 students per class. Lunch meals are cooked at Peter F. Alba Middle School in Mobile County and transported to Dauphin Island Elementary, where meals are put into warmers until lunchtime. The elementary school has a library but the current budget does not allocate for a Librarian at this time. Teachers assist their students while in the library.

After completion of the fifth grade, Dauphin Island students go to Peter F. Alba Middle School located in Bayou La Batre, approximately 17 miles inland. Students attend Alma Bryant High School located in Irvington, approximately 23 miles inland, upon completion of middle school.

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) is Alabama's premier Marine Science Education and Research Laboratory. It serves the State's 22 four-year colleges and universities through college summer courses and graduate programs. The Sea Lab also provides programs for grade school and high school students in the areas of environmental education, habitat restoration and conservation, and public outreach. The Sea Lab heads research programs ranging from biochemistry, oceanography, to paleoecology. It offers graduate courses to marine science students and also offers academic and summer programs to not only graduate and undergraduate college students but also to elementary students and teachers.

The DISL facility consists of seven instructional buildings on campus, including the Richard C. Shelby Center, coastal Alabama's first certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building, and Wiese Marine Science Hall. These buildings provide classrooms, office space, and laboratories. The Sea Lab provides student and teacher facilities, dorms, a cafeteria, and different types of housing that can accommodate up to 160 individuals. Other amenities include tennis courts, a basketball court, and swimming pool, see *Figure 66*.

The Sea Lab also features an educational public aquarium, the George F. Crozier Estuarium. It focuses on the four key habitats of the Alabama Coast: the Mobile Tensaw River Delta, the Mobile Bay, the Barrier Islands, and the Northern Gulf of Mexico. This facility is a showcase for plants, animals, and other natural resources found in the Estuary and its surrounding marine habitats. It houses a 10,000 square foot exhibit hall with live animals, a living marsh boardwalk, a gift shop and a bookstore. The Estuarium has become an increasingly popular aquarium, not only in the region but in the nation as well. It is one of only three Estuarium in the U.S.

**Figure 66: Dauphin Island Sea
Lab and Estuarium**



Source: SARPC

Churches

There are currently four churches on Dauphin Island and they are listed below. Many community functions and gatherings are held at these facilities throughout the year.

- Dauphin Island Baptist Church - 910 Chaumont Avenue
- Dauphin Island United Methodist Church - 302 Key Street
- St Edmund by the Sea Catholic Church - 827 Cadillac Avenue
- St Francis Episcopal Church - 401 Key Street

Federal, State and Local Agencies

Federal Agencies

Dauphin Island is home to two Federal Agencies, which are the U. S. Coast Guard, Dauphin Island Station and the Federal Food and Drug and Administration, Gulf Coast Seafood Laboratory.

U.S. Coast Guard-Station Dauphin Island

Station Dauphin Island was established on Dauphin Island in November 2001. The station building has over 12,336 square feet of work and living space and is located at 251 Aquarium Drive, directly behind the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. The Station's Area of Responsibility (AOR) is approximately 1,380 square miles of inland and coastal waterways, including all of Mobile Bay, east and west to the state borders of Florida and Mississippi. The station has two 41-foot utility boats and two 25-foot SAFE boats and regularly provides boat operations in support of Coast Guard Aviation Training Center's training program. Other responsibilities include Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Recreational Boating Safety and Port Security.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration-Gulf Coast Seafood Laboratory (USFDA-GCSL)

The FDA Gulf Coast Seafood Laboratory is located at 1 Iberville Drive on Dauphin Island. The Lab serves as the Federal Division of Seafood Science and Technology on the Gulf Coast. The FDA is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety, tobacco products, dietary supplements, prescription and over-the-counter pharmaceutical drugs and other medicines. More information about the FDA-GCSL can be found on the agencies website at www.fda.gov.

State Agencies

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)-Marine Resources Division

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) is the state agency responsible for the conservation and management of Alabama's natural resources, including state parks, state lands, wildlife and aquatic resources. The department consists of five divisions: Marine Police, State Lands, State Parks, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and Marine Resources. The Alabama Marine Resources Division manages Alabama's marine fisheries resources with assessment and monitoring, applied research, and enforcement programs. The division office on Dauphin Island is located at 2 North Iberville Drive.

Local Agencies

Dauphin Island Foundation

The Dauphin Island Foundation is an organized corporation whose efforts are exclusively charitable, scientific, literary and educational. Their purpose is to facilitate communications and collaborations between entities on Dauphin Island, to protect the environment and to promote projects and activities that enhance life on the Island. Located at 1101 Bienville Boulevard on Dauphin Island, the Foundation was established in 1991 and is operated by a 21 member Board and a group of volunteers, with assistance provided by the Auburn University Economic Development Institute. More information about the Foundation can be found on-line at www.difoundation.org.

Community Goals

The following goals, associated with community facilities and services, were identified by the community and presented in the Strategic Plan.

- Develop a transparent form of government operations which allows for public involvement while forming partnerships with the Dauphin Island Property Owners Association, Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board, Dauphin Island Water and Sewer Authority and Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue, Inc. to ascertain a united approach for the community's management and sustainability.
- Increase the amount of community services and public facilities the Town provides to its residents, specifically those that promote community involvement and quality of life.
- Provide better garbage disposal and recycling facilities and services on the Island.
- Increase police protection on the Island during peak tourist season.
- Improve storm water regulations associated with construction to prevent adverse runoff into wetlands and marshes.
- Improve medical and emergency response times to the Island.
- Improve fire protection to the Island.

Recommendations and Strategies

Below are recommendations for future improvements to strive to achieve by the year 2030:

1. Improve and upgrade the aging wastewater collection system and treatment plant and continue the upgrades to the water treatment and distribution system for Dauphin Island by supporting Dauphin Island Water and Sewer Authority's initiatives to improve their current infrastructure with grant funds from one or more state and/ or federal agencies.
2. Develop and construct a Dauphin Island Community/ Senior Citizens Center for public meeting and assembly.
3. Seek assistance from the Alabama Department of Community Affairs (ADECA)-Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety (LETS) Program for support to the Town's Police Department. Potential grant funding could include new equipment, patrol cars, and specialized training.
4. The Town and Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue should collaborate on ways to improve the overall health and safety needs of the community, which could include funding, equipment, personnel, etc.
5. Improve the visual appearance of Town property with landscaping, infrastructure improvements, signage, lighting and street furniture. This can be accomplished, in part, with grant funds from

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- agencies such as the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) Corridor Enhancement Programs and the ADECA.
6. Work closely with the Mobile County Board of Education to assess the current and future needs of the Dauphin Island Elementary School. Maintain exceptional quality of education through continued monitoring and support.
 7. Update the Town of Dauphin Island's Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to encourage impervious surfaces and improvements to storm water management policy.
 8. Develop and implement a Storm Water Master Plan for the Town of Dauphin. This plan should provide solutions to flooding.
 9. Coordinate with Dauphin Island Police Department and Homeowner's Association to implement additional security measures to accommodate citizens' protection needs, based on Crime Report Data from *Table 42*.
 10. Coordinate with and encourage utility companies to provide improved services and response times.

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