



## SECTION 7

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES & UTILITIES

Romeoville provides a full range of services to the community including: municipal government; public safety; refuse collection; snow and leaf removal; transportation management, such as traffic control, street parking, and road maintenance; building inspections and code enforcement; community development; community relations; licenses and permits; water, sewer, and stormwater management systems; parks, recreation, and cultural activities; general administration. It is this collection of facilities, utilities, and services that ensure a high quality-of-life for residents, support for business and property owners, and maintenance of public infrastructure. Community facilities and utilities are summarized on the map in Figure 7.4.

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Romeoville Village Hall is located on the municipal campus at 1050 West Romeo Road, which is a combined space housing Village departments and shared with the Police Department. Village Hall houses the offices of the Mayor, Village Clerk, Village Trustees, Village Manager, Assistant Village Manager, and Human Resources Manager, as well as the following Village Departments: Building, Code Enforcement, Community Development, Economic Development, Finance, Fire, Fire Academy, Planning & Zoning, Police, Public Works, Parks & Recreation, and Village of Romeoville TV, which is a not-for-profit community group that works in partnership with the Village. The Village's various Commissions and Committees also utilize space at Village Hall for meetings and resources.

The current Village Hall opened in 2010 after a space needs analysis was conducted in FY2006 to assess the need for new facilities to accommodate current and future Village employees. The space needs analysis also evaluated the facility needs for the Police Department. At the time of the analysis, Village departments and services were dispersed across several locations and buildings that totaled approximately 32,000 sq ft and housed 288 employees. As of the end of FY2015, the combined Village Hall and Police Department covers about 118,000 sq ft of space and accommodates 312 employees.





## POLICE PROTECTION

The Romeoville Police Department provides public safety to people and property across the community. The Police Station is located within the Village's municipal campus along Romeo Road, moving into the 118,000 sq ft facility in 2010 and sharing a combined space with Village Hall. Prior to moving into its current station, the Village conducted a space needs analysis for all municipal operations, including police, in FY2006 with results indicating that the Police Department was in need of additional space to accommodate its operations. At the time of the space needs analysis, the Police Department was operating out of 11,400 sq ft.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING

As of the end of FY2015, the Police Department managed a staff of 97 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, with 74 accounting for general operations and 23 representing administration and support services. Police staffing has increased by six (6) FTE employees since FY2006. The Police Department operates 37 patrol units covering six (6) zones; for comparison, the same number of zones were covered by 44 patrol units in FY2006.

### POLICE SERVICES & PROGRAMS

To protect and educate the community, the Police Department offers a variety of services and programs, which can be classified in the general categories described on the right.

## EMERGENCY DISPATCH

When the new Village Hall and Police Station opened in 2010, the Police Department began operating a new state-of-the-art communications center and handling dispatch for the Romeoville Fire Department for the first time in the department's history. Emergency dispatch is part of the Will County 911 system. Served 24/7 by highly trained professionals, the communications center handles all 911 calls for emergency service, monitors fire alarm systems within the Village, and utilizes the Will County Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) software to dispatch units to incidents. While the Police Department communication center has served the Romeoville community well, dispatch centers in the region are currently pursuing a move towards consolidated sites to help save on personnel costs.



*The Romeoville Police Department added bike patrols to enhance community relations, as well as promote environmental sustainability and cost savings.*

## POLICE SERVICES & PROGRAMS

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Police officers and support staff provide general public safety to Romeoville through its 37 patrol units. The Police Department is dedicated to the protection of life and property in Romeoville, including public education and support of community policing programs.

### CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Police Department took over jurisdiction of the Village's Code Enforcement Division in 2002. Customary code enforcement issues and Village ordinances that the Police Department manage include, but are not limited to, the following: rental property inspections, trash collection, outdoor storage, political signs, parking, and property maintenance.

### COMMUNITY POLICING

The reduction of crime through enhanced relationships with Romeoville citizens is a fundamental philosophy of the Police Department. Part of this philosophy is providing easy communication channels for community members to conveniently and confidentially provide information to the police. Community-based programs aimed at educating the public include the Citizens and Youth Police Academy, D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. programs, car seat installations, and Village Safety Town. Social service programs include a special needs database, prescription drug collection, resident medical program, senior advisory council, and vacation checks.

### CRIME FREE HOUSING

Starting on January 1, 2017, the Village will begin full enforcement of its Residential Rental Property Licensing and Crime Free Housing Ordinance, which was enacted to establish a crime prevention program that aims to reduce crime, drugs, and gang activity in residential rental units. Under the program conditions, owners and landlords must comply with the following requirements: (1) pay an annual residential rental license; (2) attend a mandatory crime-free housing seminar; (3) run a criminal background check on all prospective tenants; and (4) provide tenants with a mandatory crime-free lease/rental agreement addendum that informs tenants of the types of criminal activities that are grounds for initiating eviction proceedings.

### SOCIAL SERVICES

The Police Department has a licensed full-time clinical social worker on staff offering free counseling services to residents. The social worker is able to assist with matters regarding family counseling, domestic violence, and drug abuse. All services are strictly confidential.

## FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection for the Village is provided by three entities: Romeo-ville Fire Department, Lockport Township Fire Protection District, and Lemont Fire Protection District. In particular, the mission of the Romeo-ville Fire Department is to provide the fire protection, emergency medical, and rescue services to the community.

### FIRE STATIONS

Romeo-ville Fire Department primarily covers the northern and eastern sections of the Village, while Lockport Township Fire Protection District serves the southern and western sections. The service boundaries of Lemont Fire Protection District does not overlap with Romeo-ville's municipal boundary, but the district serves the Village's far northeast side. The fire districts are shown in Figure 7.5.

As described in the graphics below, Romeo-ville Fire Department manages three fire stations within municipal limits, which are all located between Route 53 and Weber Road and north of Romeo Road/135<sup>th</sup> Street. Lockport Township Fire Protection District manages two fire stations within Romeo-ville's municipal limits: First Station #3 at 390 N. Weber Road and Fire Station #5 at 332 O'Hare Drive. Both of these stations are located on the west side of Romeo-ville along or near Weber Road, with Fire Station #5 situated close to Lewis University Airport. Lemont Fire Protection District provides fire protection service to Romeo-ville via Fire Station #3, which is located at 10801 S. Marmon Drive in Woodridge. This station is near the far northeast section of Romeo-ville with close proximity to the I-55 interchange at Joliet Road.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION & STAFFING

Romeo-ville Fire Department is currently organized by five divisions: (1) Administration; (2) Fire Prevention; (3) Operations; (4) Support Services; and (5) Shifts. As of the end of FY2015, Romeo-ville Fire Department is comprised of 74 highly trained, dedicated professionals providing fire, emergency medical, and special rescue services. In terms of full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing, the department has 57 FTE employees for fire and ambulance, which has fluctuated since 2006 from as low as 49 in 2013 and as high as 66 in 2008 and 2009.

Daily staffing of the department is typically 14 members on duty operating two fire engines, one ladder truck, and two advanced life support ambulances. While the senior staff is comprised of full-time personnel, the composition of the department is mixed between full-time career personnel (five per shift) and part-time personnel (nine per shift). Shifts are assigned as 24 hours on-duty and 48 hours off-duty. A full-time Fire Marshal/Assistant Chief directs the Fire Prevention Bureau, which is located in Village Hall. The Fire Marshal is supported by a public education officer and a full-time clerk.

### SERVICE & RESPONSIBILITIES

Response times generally meet national averages. However, construction and road closures often hinder responses. With fire protection service from the Lockport Township and Lemont Districts, as well as other fire districts in the vicinity, the Romeo-ville Fire Department is supported by robust mutual aid. Romeo-ville Fire Department has a current fire insurance classification of 4, which is based on the Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating scale of 0 to 10, with 1 being the best.



**FIRE STATION #1**

Fire Station #1 is located at 18 Montrose Drive near the northwest intersection of Route 53 and 135<sup>th</sup> Street. Construction of a new Fire Station #1 began in FY2015-16 on its current site at an estimated cost of \$4.3 million, with an official ribbon cutting in August 2016. The Village previously purchased property in 2009 to construct this new station but will repurpose that property for another use instead.



**FIRE STATION #2**

Fire Station #2 is located in the Marquette Business Park at 1321 Enterprise Drive, which is west of Route 53 where it transitions to Joliet Road and approaches the I-55 interchange. This station was remodeled in 2004.



**FIRE STATION #3**

Fire Station #3, which was built in 2008, is located at 698 N Birch Lane, which is the station closest to Weber Road and properties on the west side of the Village.



Romeoville Fire Department performs over 500 fire inspections annually for businesses, schools, and religious institutions. In addition to offering various CPR and public education classes, Romeoville Fire Department operates a Fire Academy that provides training programs relating to fire and rescue, hazardous materials, EMT/EMS, CPR, and officer training.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Romeoville Emergency Management Agency (REMA) is responsible for providing emergency services in the event of a disaster in the Village. REMA is located on the southwestern section of the Village at 195 S Budler Road, which is a separate site from the Fire and Police Departments. Organized as a volunteer organization, REMA has thirty (30) volunteers, with the coordinator being the only paid position. A dedicated group of emergency responders provide REMA with a variety of services to the community including:

- ☐ Traffic control
- ☐ Severe weather spotting
- ☐ Operation of the Village outdoor warning siren system
- ☐ Emergency lighting
- ☐ Search and rescue team
- ☐ Flood response and dewatering
- ☐ Special event details
- ☐ Public awareness and training
- ☐ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training
- ☐ Emergency Operations Center operations

## PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

Romeoville is served by an extensive system of parks, open space, and recreational facilities, including natural areas that add to the unique character of the community. These amenities offer residents and visitors with opportunities that promote healthy exercise, social interaction, respect for the natural environment, and alternative modes of transportation, including walking and biking.

### PARKS & RECREATION

The Romeoville Parks and Recreation Department provides quality recreational facilities and programs to the community through a network of classes, programs, athletic leagues, and community events that cater to all age groups. From large recreational facilities to parks of various sizes and amenities, the department offers a wide range of facilities, spaces, programs, and equipment that meet a diversity of recreational, educational, and social needs.

The department operates two major recreational facilities in the community: the Recreation Center and Edward Hospital Athletic and Event Center. Located at 900 W. Romeo Road, the Recreation Center includes a fitness center, indoor playground, and a variety of indoor/outdoor rental spaces, including a community room, meeting/event spaces, gymnasium, and pavilion. The second facility, Edward Hospital Athletic and Event Center, opened in Uptown Square in March 2014. The 75,000 sq ft state-of-the-art indoor complex provides facilities and spaces that accommodate a range of sports including baseball/softball, basketball, football, volleyball, lacrosse, and golf. Community rooms provide spaces for parties and meetings.



In 2015, Naperville-based Edward Hospital entered into a five-year agreement for exclusive naming rights to the center and 1,660 sq ft of dedicated space to provide physical therapy.

In addition to these two facilities, the Romeoville Parks and Recreation Department offers a network of 30 parks, as shown in the Park Site Map in Figure 7.1, that are generally well distributed across the Village, particularly in residential neighborhoods. In addition to Village parks, Lockport Township maintains 12 acres in three parks. In total, the Village is served with 42 acres of parkland. Each park is identified by type and recreation facilities provided in the inventory table in Figure 7.1.

Based on generally accepted standards by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Village complies with recommended parkland per 1,000 population. Parks provide a wide range of amenities, from playgrounds, sports fields, and open spaces to picnic areas, pavilions, and concessions. One of the 30 parks is a natural area, O'Hara Woods and Nature Preserve, which is located at 524 Belmont Drive near the center of town.

Programs and services provided by the Romeoville Parks and Recreation Department include childcare, preschool, day camps, open gym, and senior activities.

### OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

As for other recreational facilities, Romeoville is served by four golf courses: Big Run Golf Course on the far east side; Links at Carillon Golf Course on the west side of Weber Road; Mistwood Golf Club at the far southwestern end; and Prairie Bluff Golf Club at the far southeastern end. Only Mistwood Golf Club is located within Romeoville's municipal limits. The Prairie Bluff Golf Club is operated by the Lockport Township Park District.

### PARKS & OPEN SPACE NEEDS

While all of its recreational facilities are very well maintained, the Romeoville Parks and Recreation Department has identified approximately 40 acres at six locations for future parkland to serve active recreation needs in anticipation of future growth. In regards to fa-



### CONNECTING PARKS & OPEN SPACES

One of the goals of the Romeoville Parks and Recreation Department is to improve trail connections, particularly on the Village's west side and crossings at Weber Road.



cilities in parks, the Department's most urgent needs are for a pool, gymnastics facility, and ice rinks. The Department's ability to acquire land is due to price and developer contributions that often result in monetary impact fees rather than land dedications. Fees can be used to provide recreation facilities and for land acquisition, but high land prices have limited further purchases.

As described in the transportation portion of this report in Section 6, the Romeoville Parks and Recreation Department is one of the primary providers of trails for the community. The department seeks to better connect trails throughout the Village, especially on the west side and crossings on Weber Road. Historically, programming has been offered free of charge, but fees may need to be introduced to maintain quality level of service.





# ROMEOVILLE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT PARK SITE MAP

900 W. Romeo Rd. • Romeoville, IL 60446  
 (815) 886-6222 • [www.romeoville.org](http://www.romeoville.org)

Village of  
**Romeoville**  
 Space Community Matters

**LEGEND**  
 Landmark  
 School  
 Romeoville Park  
 School/Township Park  
 Park  
 Park Listing

The map displays the following roads and landmarks:  
 - **Roads:** Weber Road / County Road, Airport Road, Taylor Road / 143rd St., Independence Blvd. / Route 53, South Creek Pkwy, Interstate 55, Normanton Road / 127th, Romeo Road / 135th St., Macdon Ave, Key Lung Drive, N Main Drive, Heritag Place, Clain Ave, Cedar Ave, and various residential streets.  
 - **Parks and Landmarks:** Romeoville Park, School/Township Park, and various other parks and landmarks are marked with colored squares and numbered circles.  
 - **Other Features:** The map includes a legend, a scale bar, and a north arrow.

[illegible]

## SCHOOLS (PK-12)

Romeoville families are served by a network of public and private schools ranging from pre-school up through high school. The local school system is viewed as one of Village's strongest assets, making Romeoville a desirable place to live and preparing students for college, entrepreneurship, and the workforce.

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS

While the Village's municipal boundary intersects with five public school districts, schools that are physically located within Romeoville are part of only two of the districts: Plainfield Community Consolidated School District #202 and Valley View Community Unit School District #365U, with the latter covering a majority of Romeoville. The other three districts do not have schools located in Romeoville but intersect parts of the Village: a portion of the Village's far eastern is served by Will County School District #92, while a portion of the southwestern edge of the Village is served by Richland Grade School District #88A. Lockport Township High School District #205 overlaps the jurisdictions of both of these districts. The school districts are illustrated on the map in Figure 7.6.

In terms of public schools within the municipal boundary, Romeoville is served by six elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. Two of the elementary schools are part of Plainfield School District #202, while all other schools are part of Valley View Community Unit School District #365U.



Most students attend Romeoville High School, which is located along Route 53/Independence Boulevard. However, some local students living on the Village's far west side attend Plainfield East and North High Schools, and those on the far east side attend Lockport Township High School East. All four high schools are held in high regard. Romeoville High School in particular offers a range of beneficial services (e.g., printing, internships, video, advertising, etc.) to the community, along with providing a high quality education.

Wilco Area Career Center is another public school in Romeoville serving 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. With a focus on preparing high school students for college, Wilco ACC offers approved dual credit courses in conjunction with Joliet Junior College.

	TOTAL ENROLLMENT			AVERAGE CLASS SIZE			MOBILITY RATE (%)											
	2011	2015	CHANGE	SC	DT	ST	SC	DT	ST	SC	DT	ST	SC	DT	ST	SC	DT	ST
<b>PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #202</b>																		
Creskide Elementary School (PK-5)	853	669	184 ▼	22	23	21	4	4	12									
Valley View Elementary School (K-5)	941	683	258 ▼	22	23	21	4	4	12									
<b>VALLEY VIEW COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #365U</b>																		
Martinez Middle School (6-8)	830	728	102 ▼	24	21	21	10	14	12									
Skoff Elementary School (K-5)	825	835	10 ▲	23	21	21	10	14	12									
King Elementary School (PK-5)	626	575	51 ▼	23	21	21	15	14	12									
Lukancic Middle School (6-8)	630	599	31 ▼	24	21	21	13	14	12									
Hermansen Elementary School (K-5)	690	629	61 ▼	23	21	21	12	14	12									
Hill Elementary School (K-5)	708	565	143 ▼	22	21	21	13	14	12									
<b>HIGH SCHOOLS</b>																		
Romeoville High School (9-12)	1,820	1,894	74 ▲	18	21	21	16	14	12	90	88	88	93	85	83	38	36	46
VALLEY VIEW CUS DISTRICT #365U																		
Lockport Township High School (9-12)	3,795	3,670	125 ▼	22	22	21	6	6	12	92	92	88	83	83	83	60	60	46
LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP HS DISTRICT #205																		
Plainfield East High School (9-12)	1,807	2,163	356 ▲	22	23	21	3	4	12	96	94	88	96	94	83	49	49	46
PLAINFIELD CCS DISTRICT #202																		
Plainfield North High School (6-12)	1,871	2,273	402 ▲	23	23	21	2	4	12	97	94	88	96	94	83	61	49	46
PLAINFIELD CCS DISTRICT #202																		

**FIGURE 7.2**  
**Enrollment, Class Size & Graduation Rate Trends in Local Schools**

Source: [www.illinoisreportcard.com](http://www.illinoisreportcard.com), 2015 data

#### ABBREVIATION KEY

SC = School  
DT = District  
ST = State



### PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Local students are also served by two private schools: Romeoville Christian Academy and St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic School. Both schools serve PK-8 students with athletics and extra-curricular activities similar to public schools.

### SCHOOL TRENDS

Trends in enrollment, average class size, and mobility rate are summarized for all schools are summarized in the table in Figure 7.2. The table provides data on graduation rate, freshmen on track, and college readiness for the three high schools attended by local students.

Based on the trends in the table, Beverly Skoff Elementary School and Romeoville High School were the only schools in Romeoville that did not experience a decline in total enrollment between 2011 and 2015. In fact, half of the six elementary schools experienced declines of 100 or more students since 2011. Both middle schools also saw a decline in enrollment, with one declining by 100+ students. Class sizes at all schools are slightly higher than the State average.

Student mobility rate is an indicator of students transferring to different schools, excluding graduates. All schools within Valley View Community Unit School District #365U, which covers a majority of Romeoville, have high mobility rates, with five of seven schools meeting or exceeding the State average (12%). For comparison, the two elementary schools located in Romeoville and in Plainfield Community Consolidated School District #202 have mobility rates that are significantly less than the State average. In terms of high schools, Romeoville High School has a mobility rate of 16%, while Lockport Township High School East and Plainfield East High School are considerably lower at 6% and 3%, respectively.

While the enrollment at Romeoville High School increased by 74 students since 2011, Plainfield East High School grew considerably with 356 more students. Lockport Township High School East experienced a decline in enrollment, though. All three high schools have high graduation rates that exceed the State average (88%). While

### CHALLENGES IN A STRONG SCHOOL SYSTEM

*While the school system in Romeoville is highly regarded, it does have its share of challenges, like reversing declining enrollments, maintaining manageable class sizes, and better preparing students for college.*



Romeoville High School has a Freshmen On Track score (93.2%) that exceeds the State average (83.4%), the school's College Readiness score (38%) is lower than State average (46%). The other two high schools have College Readiness scores that exceed the State average. Even though the Freshmen On Track score is viewed as a key predictor for high school success, this does not necessarily correlate to a high College Readiness score, which is typically measured by a combined ACT score of 21 or higher and classified as being ready for college coursework.

### CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

With declining enrollments and mobility rates meeting or exceeding the State average, there is a challenge to retain students and ensure average class sizes stay manageable. This presents opportunities for schools to explore investments to improve facilities, curricula, and other elements that factor into a family's decision to transfer their child to a different school.

At the high school level, there is an opportunity to address the discrepancies between a high Freshman On Track score and a below average College Readiness score at Romeoville High School. While the school's graduation rate exceeds the State average, there seems to be some challenge in preparing graduates for college coursework. Solutions could entail collaboration with the three local universities/colleges to gain a clearer understanding of academic expectations at the college level and foster the knowledge and skills throughout high school to prepare graduates for the transition to college.



## HIGHER EDUCATION

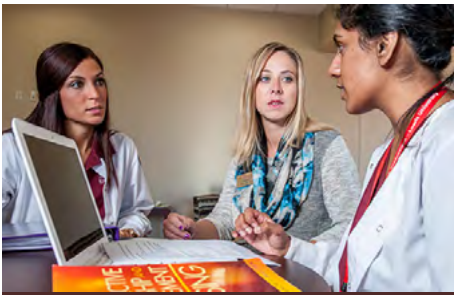
Romeoville is home to three institutions of higher education: Lewis University, Rasmussen College, and Joliet Junior College North Campus. All three institutions provide a local option for local high school students or adults seeking to pursue a college degree or certificate in a variety of disciplines. With a strong industrial base forming the backbone of its local economy, the three schools provide opportunities to prepare Romeoville students and adults for the workforce. There is support to attract higher skilled jobs to the community, which would encourage the three universities/colleges to advance their programs and curricula to better prepare graduates for an evolving workplace. Lewis University is the only institution of the three that provides student housing options, with the other two schools each serving a commuter student base.

## LIBRARIES

The Village is served by the Romeoville Branch of White Oak Library, which is located at 201 W. Normantown Road in Uptown Square. Initially opening in 2006 in the old Fountaindale Public Library District's Romeoville Branch building, White Oak Library purchased

Fountaindale's old Romeoville branch library in 2011 to conduct a \$6.2 million renovation. As the home of White Oak Library District's administrative and technical services departments, the 48,000 sq ft renovated facility provides spaces for adult, teen, and children's collections, as well as public computers, a teaching computer lab, a quiet reading room, and community meeting rooms. Prior to the 2011 renovation, the Romeoville Branch was part of two separate building bond referendums that would have authorized construction of new library facilities for the White Oak Library Branches in Romeoville, Crest Hill, and Lockport. Both ballot measures failed, thus leading to the 2011 renovation, which received a 2013 Silver Award from the Association of Licensed Architects.

Based on the White Oak Library District's 2016-21 Strategic Plan, strategies relating to the Romeoville Branch include: expanding the Spanish language collection to serve as a model for the Crest Hill and Lockport Branches; boosting the amount of library card holders; pursuing funding and grants for district operations; creating and staffing a digital creative space; repairing the building's roof sometime after 2020; and resurfacing the parking lot by 2021.



### LEWIS UNIVERSITY

Lewis University is a private Roman Catholic and Lasallian university with 2016 enrollment of about 6,800 students, including 4,613 undergraduates and 1,960 post-graduates. Undergraduates have access to over 80 majors and programs of study, while post-graduate students may pursue 22 programs of study. Working adults may enroll in accelerated programs. The Lewis University campus is located along IL Route 53 just north of Renwick Road.



### RASMUSSEN COLLEGE

With one of the 23 campuses in its network located in Romeoville, Rasmussen College is a for-profit private institution providing a mix of in-person classes, online courses, accelerated options, and flex schedules for undergraduate programs in health science, business, justice, nursing, surgical tech, technology, and design. Students may receive associate's and bachelor's degrees. Rasmussen College is located on the Village's northwest side right off of the I-55 interchange at Weber Road.



### JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

With its main campus located in neighboring Joliet, Joliet Junior College is a public community college with its North Campus in Romeoville. The Romeoville Campus offers credit and non-credit courses for a variety of programs that are required for an Associate in Arts transfer degree. Programs include a range of disciplines, including biology, chemistry, CISCO networking, computer skills, photography, and nurse assistant training. The college also offers GED, ESL, and life-long learning classes. The Romeoville Campus is located near the southeast intersection of Weber Road and Romeo Road.

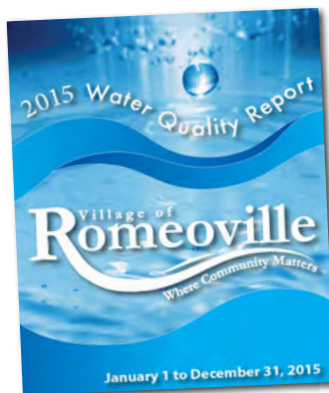
## UTILITIES

The Village's Public Works Department, located along IL Route 53 and north of Romeo Road, manages the public water, sewer, and stormwater utilities in Romeoville. The Village contracts with Waste Management to handle solid waste and recycling. Electricity, gas, and telecommunications are managed by private third party companies. As the Village plans for future growth management and development, it will be imperative to ensure utilities infrastructure are in place and serviceable to accommodate new development and potential areas of growth. This may involved strengthening partnerships with third party companies, including Waste Management, ComEd, Nicor, and telecommunications companies.

### WATER & SEWER

Public Works manages water and sewer service to residential and commercial properties throughout the Village. This includes 159 miles of water mains and 8 miles of sanitary sewer lines, which has remained steady since 2006. As of FY2015, an annual 5% increase in water and sewer rates was implemented to ensure adequate levels of utility service is provided to residents and businesses. While rates are monitored on a yearly basis, the Village anticipates that the 5% increase will decrease to 3% starting in FY2017. In addition, the recent growth in industrial and commercial development in Romeoville has had a positive impact on municipal revenues accrued by water and sewer fees, as well as sales and utility taxes and business licenses.

The Village presently provides over 3.8 million gallons of water per day to over 50,000 residents in Romeoville and nearby service areas, which amounts to over 1.4 billion gallons per year. The Village recently allocated \$25 million for recent water system improvements. The Village prepares annual drinking water quality reports that summarize the results of monitoring and testing of the local water supply to ensure public health safety.



In 2011 the Village entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Bolingbrook, Homer Glen, Woodridge, and Lemont to form the Northern Will County Joint Action Water Agency (JAWA), which is a municipal corporation empowered to provide adequate supplies of water on an economic and efficient basis for member municipalities, public water districts, and other incorporated and unincorporated areas in Will County. Among other issues, JAWA is assessing long term water sources in the region, with the water aquifer supply being a point of concern that could have impacts on growth and economic development.



The Village recently completed a \$36 million wastewater consolidation and expansion project to increase sewer treatment capacity and adhere to EPA requirements. This project expanded capacity from 6.0 MGD (millions of gallons per day) to 7.5 MGD. The Village also allocated \$10 million to improve sanitary and sewer lining and inflow/infiltration infrastructure.

### STORMWATER

The Village provides 140 miles of storm sewer lines, which has remained steady since 2006. In addition, the Village has invested about \$2 millions in recent stormwater management infrastructure improvements, including purchasing properties to enhance stormwater management in areas in need like Uptown Square. For example, the Village converted the old Good Shepard property in Uptown Square into a stormwater detention pond. Based on its FY2015 Audit Report, the Village anticipates allocating \$50 million, particularly via the Downtown TIF District, on capital improvement projects in the Uptown Square area, including improvements to stormwater infrastructure, landscaping, and roadways.

### ELECTRICITY

Electricity service for residential and commercial users is generally provided by ComEd. However, homes and businesses have an alternative option through a fixed price electricity supply contract with Homefield Energy, which was negotiated by the Will County Electric Aggregation Group. This fixed price contract is intended to provide electricity cost savings compared to purchasing electricity from ComEd. Across Will County, participating residents and businesses have collectively saved about \$30 million since 2012. The average household in the program has saved more than \$400 over the past four years. Based on ongoing price comparisons and approvals from the Illinois Commerce Commission, it was determined that the contract, which expires in September 2017, will not provide any savings in its final year in comparison to the ComEd supply rates. As a result, customers who entered into this electric aggregation program reserve the right to return to ComEd or any other electricity supplier before the contract expires without an early termination fee.



## GAS

Nicor Gas provides gas service to homes and businesses in Romeoville. Some residential and commercial users beyond the Village may use private gas sources, such as propane or electric. Nicor formerly operated a reporting center in Romeoville, before moving it elsewhere with little impact on the Village. As the community matures and considers new development, Nicor works closely with the Village to monitor and enhance its capacity to provide reliable gas service, particularly modernizing gas utility lines and infrastructure. Older sections of town may have old steel gas mains that may be eligible for replacement with copper gas service. The Village's role in the process includes notifying utility companies of any rezonings to accommodate for infrastructure. The Village can also coordinate infrastructure updates or improvements by piggybacking them with planned road reconstruction projects or new development.

## SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

The Village maintains a contract with Waste Management to handle solid waste and recycling for residences and businesses in Romeoville. Waste Management offers the following services: residential recycling cart service; spring and fall cleanup weeks to dispose of bulk items; general bulk item pickup; "white goods" pickup (e.g., electrical items like refrigerators, washers, dryers, water heaters, dishwashers, small AC units, dehumidifiers, etc.); and yard waste. Romeoville's Public Works Department serves as a dropoff site twice a month for electronics recycling.

The Village participates in a regional program to discard hazardous materials, such as household cleaners, drain openers, oil-based paints; solvents; insecticides and herbicides; flammables; automotive fluids; fluorescent fixtures; batteries; and unknown hazardous

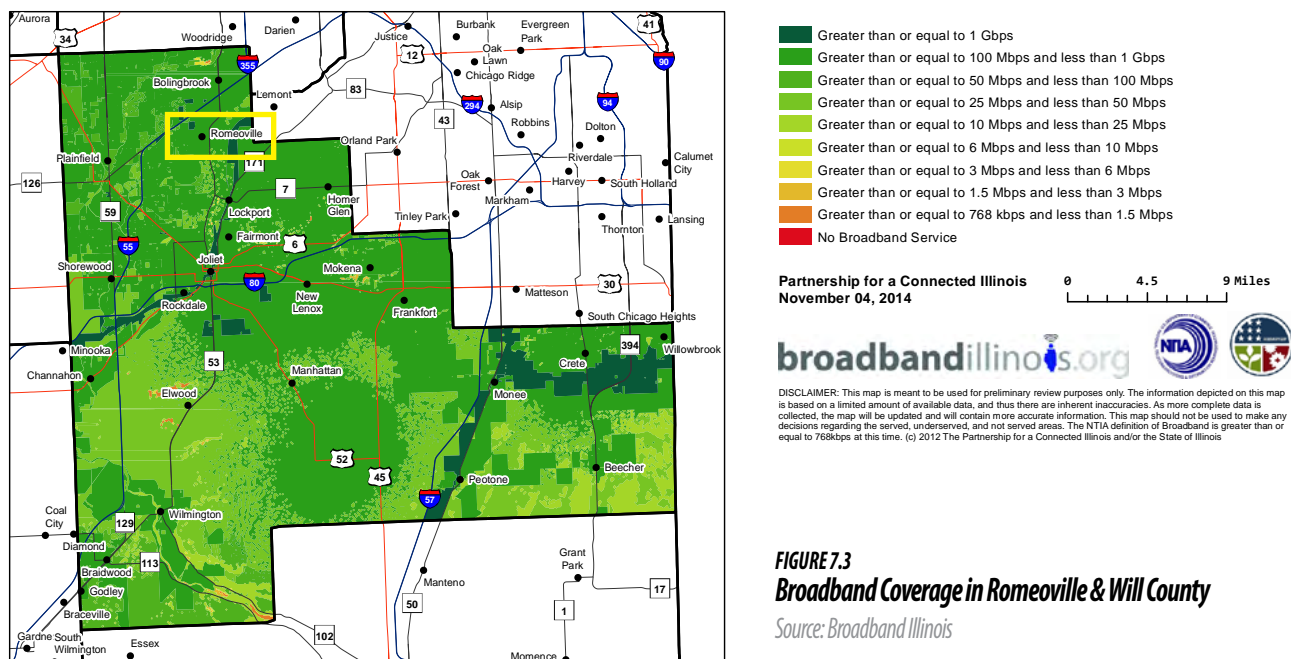
substances. The City of Naperville's Public Works Department serves as a dropoff site on weekends.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Access to high quality internet/broadband technology is important to Romeoville to ensure families, students, and businesses are able to launch and manage web-based applications in their homes, at school, in their businesses, or on the road using mobile devices. High quality internet/broadband technology is also important to attract new businesses who may rely upon this connectivity to their customers, colleagues, and suppliers. It is anticipated that the telecommunications network serving the Village will be regularly updated with innovative technology and infrastructure to maintain quality service to residents and businesses, as well as serve as a selling point to new businesses seeking to possibly locate in Romeoville.

As illustrated on the map by Broadband Illinois in Figure 7.3, most of the Village has high speed internet infrastructure, with the strongest broadband connectivity on the far eastern end of Romeoville east of the Des Plaines River. While this data is based on 2014 information, the Village is encouraged to continue monitoring and working with broadband service providers to enhance infrastructure in the key areas like Uptown Square, the Weber Road corridor, the Route 53 corridor, and the growing industrial areas in the Village.

Telecommunications providers include Comcast and AT&T for internet/broadband technology. Data plans, cellular phone service, and MMS/SMS messaging for mobile devices are offered by a range of vendors, from the major companies like Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile, and AT&T to budget-conscious options like Consumer Cellular, Boost Mobile, Metro PCS, and NetZero.



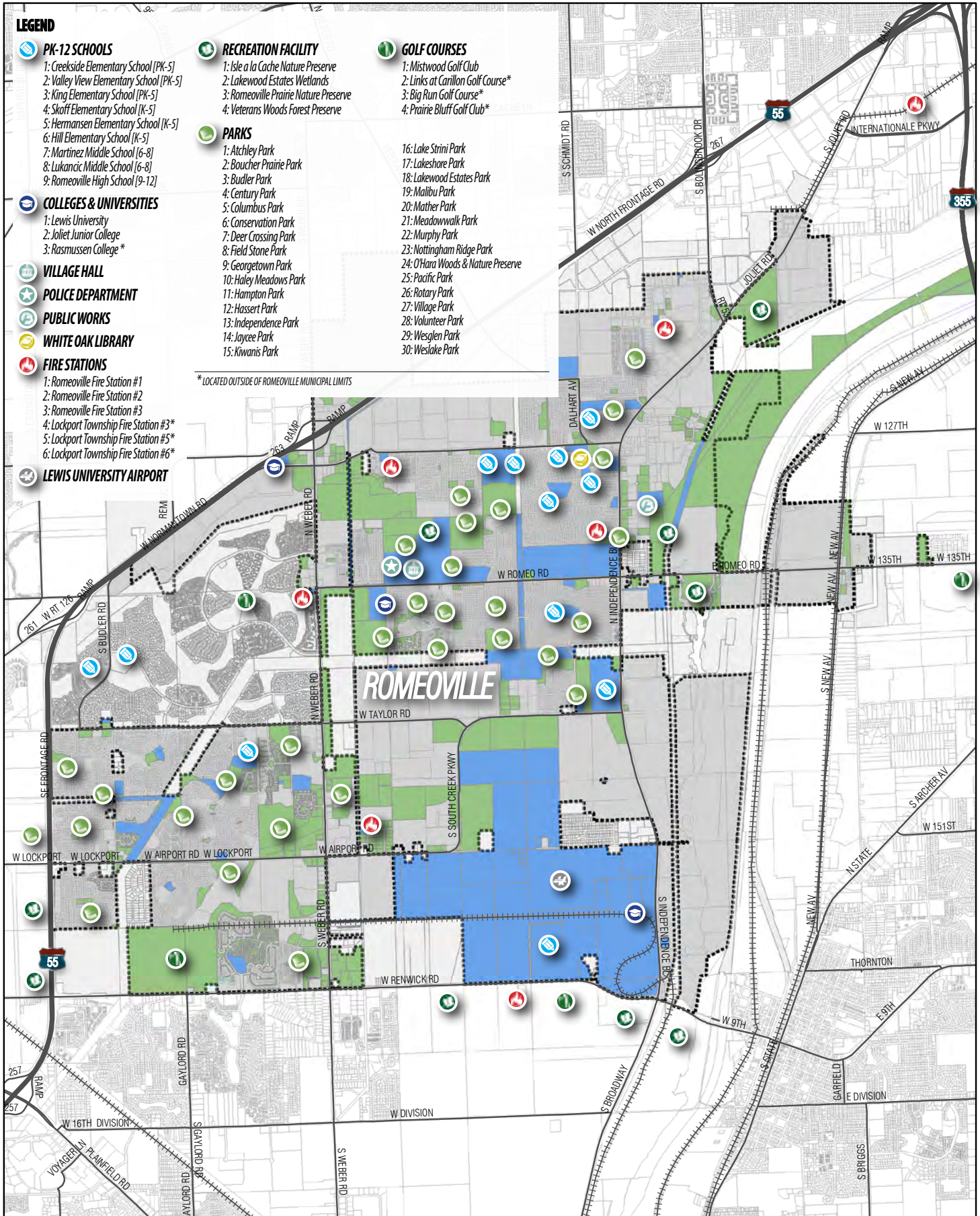
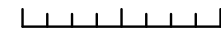
**FIGURE 7.3**  
**Broadband Coverage in Romeoville & Will County**  
Source: Broadband Illinois

FIGURE 7.4

# Community Facilities & Utilities Map

Sources: Village of Romeoville GIS; CMAP Land Use Inventory

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

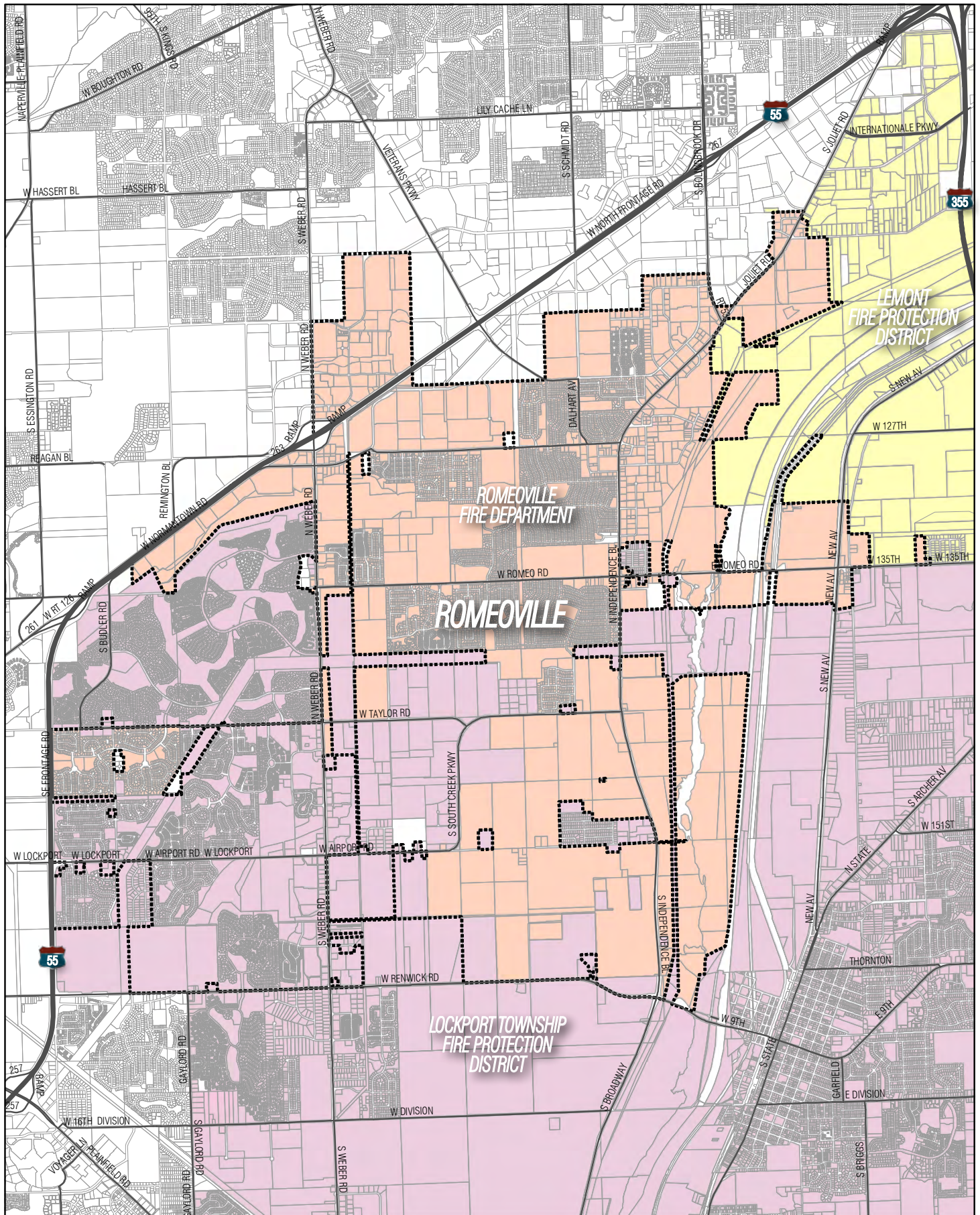




**FIGURE 7.5**  
**Fire Protection Districts Map**

Source: CMAP Land Use Inventory

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles





**FIGURE 7.6**

## School Districts Map

Source: CMAP Land Use Inventory

