

Community Facilities



SECTION 11 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Introduction

Community facilities and services are necessary to maintain the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens. The general quality of life in the community can be measured by the integrity and availability of these facilities and services. High quality community facilities add to the ability of the City to attract and maintain industries as well as residents. Available services also promote the protection of citizens through the provision of adequate fire and police, in addition to recreational opportunities.

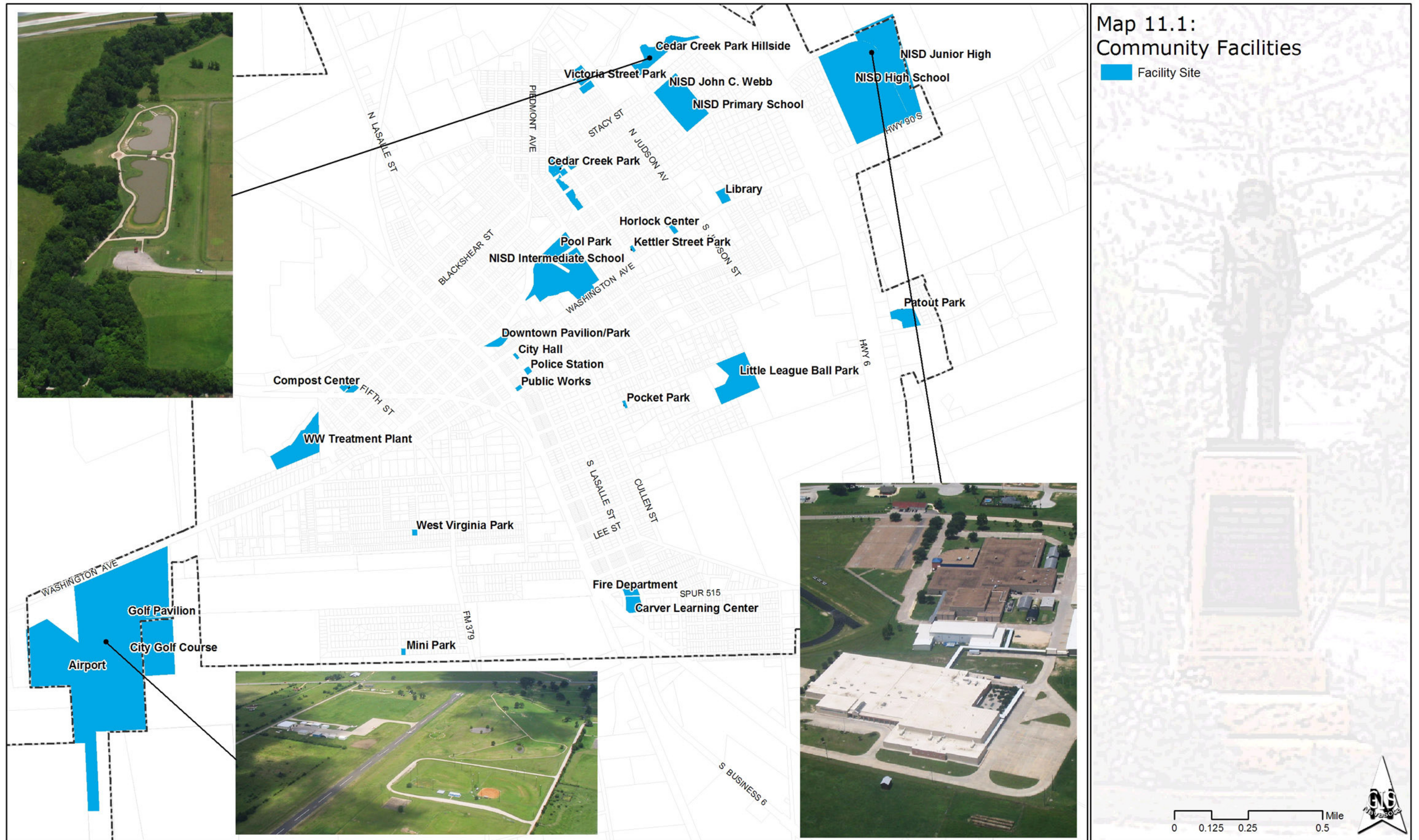
Community facilities in Navasota are dispersed throughout the City. The primary facilities and public services include the municipal government, police services, fire services, parks and recreation, schools, and health services (Map 11.1). Although some of these service providers are not under the authority of Navasota's municipal government, an analysis of them is included.

Municipal Government

The Navasota Municipal Government has approximately 85 full-time staff members and employs an additional 30 employees on a part-time basis. The part-time jobs are seasonal, mainly provided during the spring and summer months. The municipal government occupies a total of six buildings for day-to-day operations. The majority of the municipal buildings are located in Downtown Navasota. Navasota's municipal government consists of five City departments, which include: Police, Fire, Public Works Administration, City Hall Administration, and Library personnel.



Navasota City Hall



Navasota's human and physical resources compare favorably to nationally accepted standards. According to the book Municipal Benchmarks, a 10% turnover ratio is the nationally accepted standard concerning City employment. During the 2003 fiscal year Navasota had a turnover ratio of 7.2%, which places the City slightly ahead of the national rate.

Navasota's physical resources are adequate for a municipality of its size. However, with the potential for increased staff in the future, more space may be needed. Listed below are the primary municipal buildings of Navasota as well as their addresses.

- City Hall, 202 East Washington Avenue;
- Library, 1411 East Washington Avenue;
- Police Department, 204 East McAlpine Street;
- Public Works, 221 South Railroad Street; and
- City Garage, 520 Malcomn Street.

Police Services



Navasota Police Department

The Navasota Police Department is located at 204 East McAlpine Street. The staff consists of 18 sworn officers including the Chief of Police. Other employees include two secretaries, one judge, two clerks, and one animal control officer. The department currently operates

four 8-hour shifts per day. The shifts are 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., and 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. The department is currently understaffed and plans to switch to 10-hour shifts once a full staff exists. The department uses nine police vehicles, with the units ranging in age from 2 to 4 years old.

Assistance is also provided by the Texas Department of Public Safety, which has four officers serving Navasota. The Grimes County Sheriff's Department provides assistance with thirteen sheriff's deputies. Other agencies that support the Navasota Police Department include:

- The Texas Rangers;
- The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission;
- The Texas Attorney General's Office;
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation; and
- The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The Navasota Police Department plays a role in community education within the City. It is currently in the process of setting up a Citizens Police Academy and Youth Mini Academy for the fall of 2004. In addition, a process has been started to create a Neighborhood Watch program within the City.

Based on 1999-2002 statistics, the Navasota Police Department handles an average of 284 cases yearly. Table 11.1 provides the crime statistics for the City of Navasota and Grimes County based on a rate per 100,000.

Table 11.1: 2002 Crime Statistics

Agency	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Navasota	14.1	28.2	28.2	296.2	1198.7	3342.3	155.1
Grimes County	22.8	11.4	5.7	102.8	611.1	919.5	125.6

Texas Department of Public Safety 2002 ONLINE

Based on FBI Uniform Crime Reports, an average of 2.3 sworn officers should be available for every 1,000 residents (FBI 2002 ONLINE). For cities with a population less than 10,000, the average is 3.2 sworn officers per 1,000 residents. With a population of approximately 7,000 and 18 sworn officers, the current ratio for the City of Navasota is 2.57 officers per 1,000 residents. Navasota meets the general national average, but in order to meet the FBI supported standards, four more

sworn officers would need to be employed. The department is currently seeking to increase the number of sworn officers within the City.

Fire Services

The Navasota Fire Department is located at 1500 South LaSalle Street. The Fire Department serves 200 square miles. A total of 263 fire incidents occurred in 2003. The department has three full-time firefighters, two part-time firefighters, and thirty volunteer firefighters. Each full-time firefighter works a 24-hour shift followed by 48 hours of off-duty. This rotation is common among cities in the United States (Ammons 2001, p. 141).



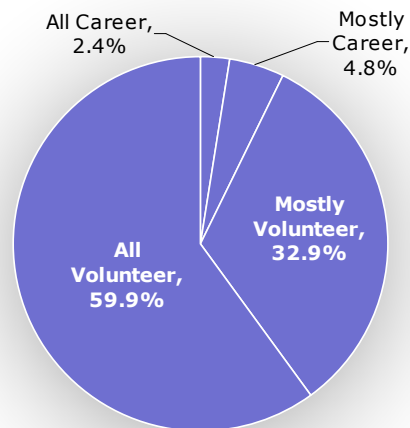
Navasota Fire Department

All full-time firefighters are Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certified as required by law. The department provides assistance to EMS operators, but does not provide stand-alone EMS services. The department is capable of handling a 500-acre wildland/urban interface fire, but as a safety precaution requests assistance from other departments such as the Brazos County Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Department provides community education through outreach programs held at Navasota ISD schools.

A total of 10 pieces of equipment are available for fire protection for the City of Navasota ranging from a large utility vehicle to heavy rescue vehicles. The average age of rescue vehicles is 5 to 6 years, while the department's first line of defense vehicles are 2000 year models or newer. The fire department facility and vehicles are in good condition and meet National Fire Protection Association standards.

The Fire Department is considered a “Mostly Volunteer” type of department, which means up to 50% of the department’s staff members are career firefighters. Despite this label, Figure 11.1 shows that Navasota employs more career firefighters as a “Mostly Volunteer” type of department than the majority of fire departments within its population range. The other departments within the population range are mostly classified as “All Volunteer” department types.

Figure 11.1: Fire Personnel by Type



FEMA U.S. Fire Administration 2002

Table 11.2 shows that Navasota also meets equipment standards for a city of its size as compared with the national average.

Table 11.2: Fire Department Equipment and Facilities

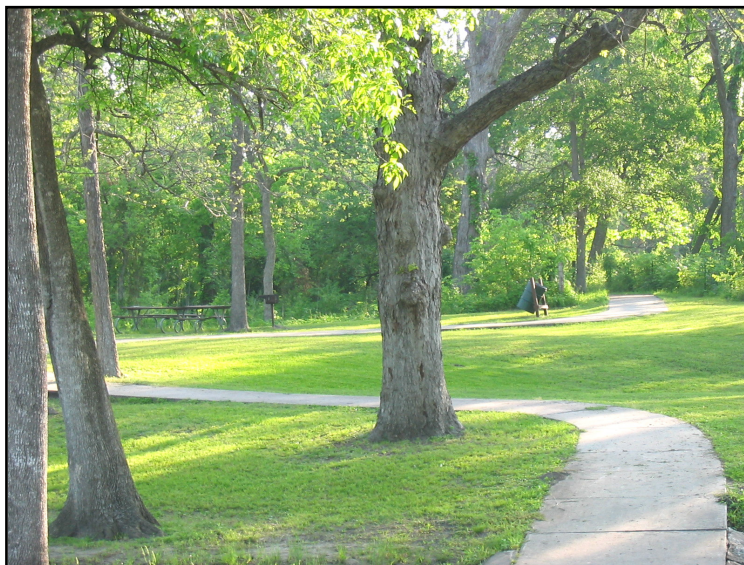
	Number of Pumpers per Population	Number of Aerial Apparatus per Population	Number of Fire Stations per Population
National Average	1 per 3,800	1 per 41,700	1 per 5,700
Navasota	2 per 7,000	1 per 7,000	1 per 7,000

Ammons 2001, p. 147

Parks & Recreation

The City of Navasota provides six pocket parks, five neighborhood parks, two community parks as well as four athletic facilities. These classifications were determined by the City of Navasota. The athletic facilities include a nine-hole golf course, little league fields, and soccer fields. The City manages roughly 125 acres of parkland. The park system is primarily located along the Cedar Creek corridor,

which travels through Navasota. These parks are connected by a Nature Trail that ties the northeast area to Downtown Navasota. This linear park trail system was developed along the Cedar Creek Corridor utilizing funds from a Texas Parks & Wildlife Recreation grant. The trail is paved throughout most of the parks. It also connects different areas utilizing streets and sidewalks through Navasota.



Cedar Creek Trail

In addition to the parks along Cedar Creek, there are also several neighborhood and pocket parks in the southern area of the City. The park sizes range from the smaller quarter acre pocket parks to the golf course at 64 acres. The largest traditional style park in the City is Austin/Stacey Park, which is located close to the



Playground Equipment

Cedar Creek. The parks offer a wide range of amenities to visitors. These amenities are categorized by park type in Table 11.4. The amenities include picnic tables, playgrounds, trails, basketball goals, volleyball courts, fishing structures, ponds, pavilions, a swimming pool, tennis courts, and soccer fields.

The Navasota park system approaches the minimum level of park acreage standards listed in the Municipal Benchmarks book. The national standards determine the amount of parkland needed based on the population of a city (Table 11.5). The National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) has guidelines for cities. They have identified three different types of “core” parkland that should be

Table 11.4: Navasota Existing Recreational Facilities

	Pocket Parks						Neighborhood Parks					Community		Athletic Facilities			
	Austin / Stacey	Duke	Heritage Meadows	Ketchum	Police Station Park	Manley	Virginia	Cleveland	Victoria	Hillside	Rivers Patout	Horst Pavilion	City Pool	Golf Course	Little League	A. Horst Park	RV Soccer
Total Acreage		0.25	0.25	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.5	1.5	1.75	4	3.05		1	64	3	5	3
Baseball Fields																1	
Basketball Goals									2	2							
Driving Range														✓			
Fishing Structure										✓							
Golf Holes														✓			
Group Pavilion												✓					
Picnic Tables	2	✓		✓					4	5	2	✓	1				
Playground Areas		1	1	1		1	1	1	1			1					
Pond										✓	✓						
Practice Field																1	2
Soccer Fields															3	2	4
Softball Fields													1				
Swimming Pools																2	
Tennis Courts	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓						
Trail (Walk/Bike)									1			1					
Volleyball																	

provided. Cities should support miniparks, neighborhood parks, and community parks. Table 11.5 displays the different requirements for each type of park.

The City of Navasota has an approximate population of 7000. The benchmarks indicate cities should have at least 6.25 to 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. Based on Navasota's population the City should provide 42.43 to 71.28 acres of parkland. Currently, Navasota has 36.78 acres. This number does not include the golf course property because it is not identified as a traditional parkland use according to the NRPA.

The City does not sponsor or administer a significant number of recreational programs. The primary programs revolve around the City pool, where swimming lessons and water aerobics are offered. Other City sponsored recreational programs include little league baseball and softball. The primary recreational amenity offered by the private sector is Pecan Lakes Golf Course, an 18-hole golf course located at southwest side of the City.



Navasota Swimming Pool

Table 11.5: Neighborhood and Community Park Acreage Standards

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acre per 1,000 population	Desirable Size Characteristics
Minipark	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group, such as tots or senior citizens	Less than ¼ mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5 acres	Within neighborhoods & in close proximity to apartments, town house development, or housing for the elderly
Neighborhood Park / Playground	Area for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc	¼ to ½ mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood)	15+ acres	1.0 to 2.0 acres	Suited for intense use; easily accessible to neighborhood population – geographically centered with safe walking & bike access; may develop as a school - park facility
Community Park	Area of diverse environmental quality; may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, swimming pools, an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, sitting, picnicking	Several neighborhoods 1 to 2 mile radius	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0 acres	May include natural features, such as water bodies, & areas suited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhood served

Ammons. D. N. Municipal Benchmarks. (2001). Second Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA, Sage

Educational Facilities

The school system in Navasota consists of six educational facilities serving over three thousand students. The Navasota Primary School, located at 1605 Neal Street, serves Pre-Kindergarten through first grade and has 554 students. John C. Webb Elementary, located at 1604 Stacey Street, administers to second and third grade students comprising a total of 446 students. Navasota Intermediate, located at 203 Brosig Street, serves fourth and fifth grade students making up a population

of 465. Navasota Junior High, located at 9038 Highway 90 South, serves 668 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. Navasota High School, located at 9238 Highway 90 South, serves ninth grade through twelfth grade and has 837 students (Table 11.6). The Carver Learning Center serves as an alternative learning center for students sixth through twelfth grade. The Center offers programs in adult education as well as English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.



Navasota Junior High School

Table 11.6: Number of Students per Educational Facility

School	Number of Students
Navasota Primary	554
John C. Webb Elementary	446
Navasota Intermediate	465
Navasota Junior High	668
Navasota High School	837
The Carver Learning Center	65
Total	3035

There is one private school in Navasota, located on Highway 6, which serves twenty-three students ranging from Kindergarten through eighth grade. The ratio of students per teacher for Navasota ISD is 13.0, which is better than the national average of 16.5 students per every certified teacher.

Health Services

The existing health services of Navasota include the Grimes St. Joseph Health Center, the Navasota Medical Center, three dentists' offices, and an optometrists'

office. The Grimes St. Joseph Health Center, located at 210 Judson Street, is a critical access facility with numerous services. The Center provides care for approximately 450 to 500 patients in the emergency room each month. Information for Grimes St. Joseph Health Center is listed in table 11.7.



Table 11.7: Grimes County St. Joseph Information

Number of Beds	25.0
Dieticians	1.0
Inhalation Therapists	1.0
Licensed Nurses	7.5
Occupational Therapists	1.0
Physical Therapist	1.0
Registered Nurses	9.0
Registered Pharmacist	0.5

(Number of employees is given as equivalent to full-time status)

The Health Center also has a Behavioral Health Unit, which provides short-term care for adult psychiatric patients. Four physicians' offices are located at the Navasota Medical Center and three in the Navasota Professional Building. There are currently three Dentist's offices, that each currently serve approximately one third of Navasota's population. There are currently no orthodontists permanently located in the City, however one such physician visits Navasota each week from College Station. There are currently no ophthalmologists' offices, however there is one optometrist. Due to Navasota's close proximity to College Station, many patients visit facilities and physicians in the College Station/Bryan area.

Sources:

Ammons. D. N. Municipal Benchmarks. (2001). Second Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA, Sage Publishing.
 City of Navasota Comprehensive Parks Plan (1999).
 Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). (2002). Uniform Crime Reports: Crime in the United States – 2002.
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 Texas DPS websites: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us>