



Adopted Operating and Capital Budget FY 2009

Community Profile and Select Statistics

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ADOPTED OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FY 2009
COMMUNITY PROFILE & SELECT STATISTICS

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, was incorporated as a City in 1782, after initially being incorporated as a town in 1728. In 1912, the City became one of the first in the nation to adopt the Council-Manager form of government. The City was granted its present charter by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1942.

The City is an independent jurisdiction, and is not part of any other local government. It is responsible for its own schools, courts, and other functions as well as a full range of traditional municipal services such as police protection, fire protection, and public works. The powers and duties of the City are subject to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Commonwealth of Virginia currently prohibits cities from pursuing annexation, and the City will not expand its boundaries in the foreseeable future.

Legislative and policy-making functions reside in the governing council, which consists of a Mayor and a six-member City Council. The governing council is responsible, among other things, for passing ordinances and resolutions, reviewing and adopting the budget, appointing City committees and commissions, and appointing the City Manager, City Attorney, and the Clerk of Council. The City Manager is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the governing council, and for appointing the heads of the City's departments. The City also has separately elected Constitutional Officers, a Voter Registrar, and an elected School Board which oversee specific areas of City government. All appropriations for funds are made by the governing body.

The City's economy is based to a large degree on its strategic location along Interstate 95 approximately halfway between Richmond, Virginia and Washington, D.C. The City enjoys two major commercial development centers, Central Park and Celebrate Virginia South, which are located just west of Interstate 95. In addition, much residential development has occurred in and around the City as more and more people move to the area and commute to the major economic centers of northern Virginia. The City is also a major employment center for the region, as many people who live in surrounding jurisdictions commute not only to northern Virginia but also into the City to work.

The City also has deep historical roots, centered around the nationally recognized 40-block Historic District. The Historic District grew up around the fall line of the Rappahannock River, which empties into the Chesapeake Bay and served as a transportation corridor in the City's early years. The "Old Town" District, with its historical attractions, antique shops, restaurants, specialty retail shops, and beautifully restored homes, is an attractive tourist destination. The Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, run by the National Park Service with one of the Visitor Centers located in the City, serves to educate visitors of the tremendous Civil War battles fought in and around the City.

The City is also home to two major institutions: the University of Mary Washington and Mary Washington Hospital. The University of Mary Washington, a state-supported liberal arts university founded in 1908, serves a student population of approximately 4,000 undergraduate and 1,000 graduate students. Mary Washington Hospital is a 412-bed acute care center, owned by MediCorp Health Systems, that serves the entire north-central Virginia region. These two institutions serve as economic and community anchors for the City, and according to the Virginia Employment Commission, are the two largest employers in the City.

Those interested in learning more about the City and its various attractions may visit the City's home page: www.fredericksburgva.gov. In addition, the City has, in partnership with the neighboring counties of Stafford and Spotsylvania, a site for guests at www.visitfred.com.

SELECT STATISTICS ON THE CITY AND THE REGION

LOCAL AND REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH

Locality	2007 Provisional	2006 Final Estimate	2000 Census
Stafford County	120,387	118,949	92,446
Spotsylvania County	119,907	118,474	90,395
King George County	22,205	21,182	16,803
Caroline County	26,557	26,011	22,121
City of Fredericksburg	22,218	21,743	19,279

Source: “Estimates of Population for Virginia and Its Localities, Final 2006 and Provisional 2007,” Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, January 28, 2008.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The Virginia Employment Commission (“Fredericksburg City Community Profile” August 16, 2008) projects the City’s population to grow as follows:

	Total	% Age Under 19	% Age 65 & Over
2010	22,239	25%	14%
2020	25,116	24%	18%
2030	28,518	23%	23%

OTHER STATISTICS

Area – 10.4 square miles

Median Age – 27.3 (Commonwealth of Virginia – 35.9)¹

Median Household Income (2000 Census) - \$34,585

Number of Families Living in Poverty (2000 Census) – 408 (10.35% of total families)

Percent of Total Property Value Exempt from Taxation: 15.5%

Unemployment Rate: June 2007 – 4.3%
June 2008 – 6.4%²

¹ Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

² Source: Virginia Employment Commission, “Fredericksburg City Community Profile” August 16, 2008.

For those interested in further statistics and comparisons, the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service (www.coopercenter.org) keeps a wealth of statistical information on the Commonwealth of Virginia and its localities. The Fredericksburg Comprehensive Plan, adopted September 25, 2007, is also available on the web at www.fredericksburgva.gov, also contains a statistical section that provides background information on the community.