

## FORECAST

Population is the basis for all phases of planning. The number of school children, the vehicular traffic, amount of sewage and solid waste, and the number of housing units are all directly related to the population of the community. Thus a city plan addressing future land use, traffic circulation, housing needs, potential shoppers and size of labor force must be based upon an anticipated population.

It is well to remember that an exact forecast year or specific time-table of population or economic growth is less significant than the occurrence of the growth itself. For it is the impact of the various segments of the economy and population upon each other which must be anticipated.

It should also be noted that forecasts based on historic change reflect historic trends in the annexation policies of Butler. Therefore, the population forecasts cannot consider specific future annexations but generally do reflect those annexations occurring over the projection period. For this reason, the Butler population for a particular forecast year should be within the City as an entity, but not necessarily completely within the current corporate limits. It is for this reason too that a planning area is designated. The planning area will reflect total urban growth, whether it occurs within the City or in the suburbs.

The population forecast trends for the city, planning area and the county presented in this update are extensions of the population projections cited in the 1968 Comprehensive Plan. After reviewing many methods of population projection it was the concensus of the planning study committee that due to the timing of the development of facilities the growth projections are still valid even though they have been delayed. The 1968 Plan considered past trends and then current social and economic factors which prevailed in the community. Butler's present economic potential appears good based on the following characteristics of the community:

1. Good access to transportation networks: highway, rail and air, which enhances Butler's ability to attract new industry.
2. Availability of industrial sites within an industrial park, which has been provided with city services.
3. Stable work force.
4. Recent expansion of several local industries.
5. Butler's existence as the trade center for the area, plus being the center of government for the County.
6. Strong agricultural base of Bates County.
7. Butler's attraction of area farmers and other residents upon their retirement because of the amenities the city provides.

with the increasing urban development. The improvement of the Central Business District should tend to increase residential development within Butler, within easy travel distance of a wide assortment of retail sales and services. The overall impact of these improvements should be an increase in Butler's population from the 1980 figure of 4,107 to a 2000 figure of 9,300 residents, refer to the *Population Growth Forecasts* table.

The portion of the Planning Area which is currently outside of the Butler City Limits consists almost entirely of rural farming development. And it has been shown that historically the number of residents within this area has declined steadily. Throughout the planning period the physical area within the Planning Area but outside of Butler should remain largely rural.

#### Forecast for Bates County and its Component Areas

It is often the case that changes will occur in an area which will cause growth in population which cannot be accounted for solely through projections based on historic trends. If new stimuli for growth are provided, the population of an area may grow out of proportion to historic trends. In Butler, this is exactly what is happening. Therefore, to time comprehensive planning to conservative forecasts which would be equaled in a very short time would result in rapid obsolescence of the Plan.

The new stimuli to growth of Butler which cannot be apparent in an analysis of historic trends are: (1) the improvement of U.S. Highway 71 between Butler and the Kansas City SMSA; (2) the sewer system; (3) the completion of the Henry S. Truman Reservoir, Butler is conveniently situated mid-way between Kansas City and the Reservoir; (4) active Industrial Development Corporation; (5) an active Planning Commission; and (6) progressive business owners in the central business district. These factors should combine during the projection period to make Butler an increasingly attractive residential and business community.

The stimuli to growth listed above should all interact to make Butler experience growth during the current planning period. The improved highway will increase the feasibility of workers commuting from Butler to the Kansas City Metropolitan Area to places of employment. At the same time it will provide ease of commuting for shopping and recreation. The new sewer system will provide adequate residential, commercial, and industrial development areas. The presence of the recreational area within easy driving distance will stimulate residential development within the immediate urban vicinity of Butler for persons working in Kansas City and desiring reasonably close recreation facilities. It will also provide new economic stimulus for the area. The IDC will actively seek industries to provide new jobs which will bring into the city the younger families that contribute to natural population increases. The City Planning Commission has been very active since its inception and because of this Butler has gained aesthetically and fiscally, eg. CDBG, housing, industrially, etc. The Central Business District revitalizations also serve to attract and hold many residents within the Butler area, and provides attractive locations for new businesses. The combined impact of these new stimuli should be rapid economic and residential expansion within Bates County. The *Population Trends* table illustrates the overall impact of these growth stimuli to the future population of the various components of Bates County. The forecasts are described below.

POPULATION GROWTH FORECASTS

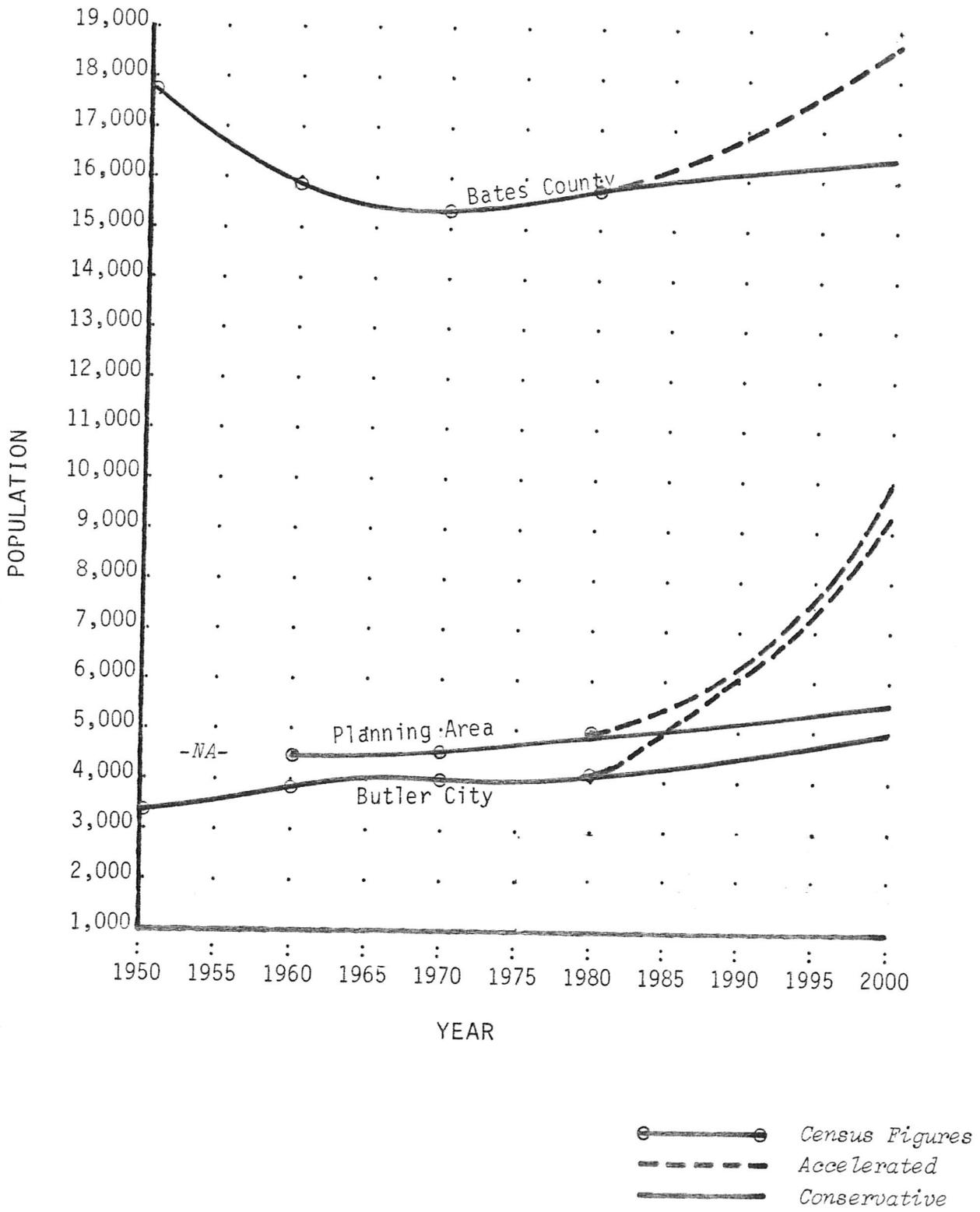
A - Accepted Accelerated Growth Forecasts - Ratio Method

B - Conservative Growth Forecasts - Trendline Method

<u>Area</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>
Bates County	15,905	15,468	15,873	16,200 16,000	16,800 16,200	17,700 16,350	18,700 16,500
Mt. Pleasant Twp. (Planning Area)	4,484	4,647	4,863	5,400 4,900	6,200 5,150	7,600 5,350	9,800 5,600
Rural Bates Cty. (County less Mt. Pleasant Twp.)	11,421	10,821	11,010	10,800 11,100	10,600 11,059	10,100 11,000	8,900 10,900
Butler City	3,791	3,984	4,107	5,050 4,300	6,100 4,500	7,500 4,700	9,300 5,000
Planning Area less Butler	693	663	756	350 600	100 650	100 650	500 600

Source: 1968 Butler Comprehensive Plan  
Kaysinger Basin Regional Planning Commission  
U.S. Census of Population (1980)

# POPULATION TRENDS



The Planning Area will feel the primary impact of these growth forces. Growth is now centralized within the Planning Area, and should occur with increasing rapidity over the projection period. The above mentioned factors should combine to hasten movement of the rural population to the major urban center of the County. Therefore, between 1980 and 2000, the population of the Planning Area could more than double, rising from 4,863 to 9,900 residents.

As noted earlier in this report, Butler comprises the major urban portion of the Planning Area. This situation should continue to exist with Butler rising from 84.5 percent of the Planning Area to 94.8 percent. It is also assumed that the annexation policies of the City will keep pace.