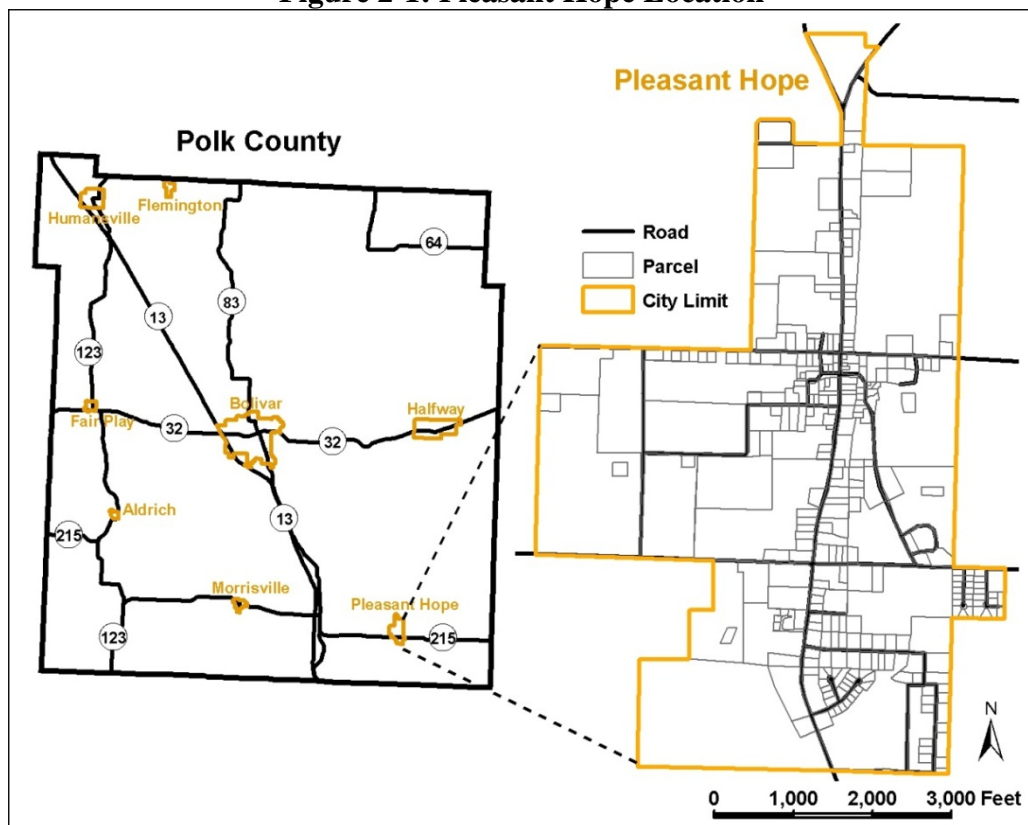


Community Profile

Community Location

The City of Pleasant Hope is located in the southeastern corner of Polk County in the southwest Missouri Ozarks region. The city is part of the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and is situated approximately 15 miles north of Springfield in Greene County and approximately 14 miles southeast of the City of Bolivar, the Polk County seat. Pleasant Hope is developed along the intersection of two state highways, Highway 215 and Highway H. Highway 215 provides east-west access to Pleasant Hope, including connectivity to Highway 13 and Bolivar to the northwest and I-44 and Springfield to the south. Highway 215 also provides connectivity to U.S. Highway 65 nine miles east of Pleasant Hope. Highway H provides direct north-south access between Springfield and Pleasant Hope (see Figure 2-1).

Figure 2-1: Pleasant Hope Location



Historical Overview

Although the first white settlers may have arrived in the 1820s, records of the first settlers in Polk County date to 1832-33 with Ezekiel Campbell, W.C. Campbell and others from Tennessee settling in what is now the Bolivar area. The area's clear streams, abundance of wild game and fertile soils made the Polk County area attractive to the early settlers. Polk County officially became a Missouri county in 1835.

Located at a crossroads trading point, the Pleasant Hope area was first referred to by local residents as Lick Skillet and then Pin Hook (Moser, *A Directory of Towns, Villages, and Hamlets, Past and Present of Polk County, Missouri*). As population continued to grow in Polk County, a Presbyterian school, the Pleasant Hope Academy, was constructed in 1849. The community eventually took its name of Pleasant Hope from the Academy.

The first homes in Pleasant Hope were built in 1851 by J.B. Kerr and J.W. Smith, followed by a home built by W.D. Cowden and a fourth by W.R. Saye in 1852. A general store and post office opened in 1851. W.D. Cowden erected a carding machine in 1853 and ran a store with his brother between 1856-1961. Cowden also operated a store for M. M. McClure and Company of Springfield until 1865. The first blacksmith shop was run by J.B. Kerr, with a second by W.R. Patterson in 1860. By 1889, Pleasant Hope was a thriving community with a grocery store, drug store, blacksmith shop, wagon-maker's shop and flour mill. The Pleasant Hope settlement had a population of approximately 300 at the time, with an economy based on the region's agricultural production.

During the first half of the 20th century, Polk County and most of its smaller communities and settlements lost population, with the county's total population decreasing from 23,255 in 1900 to 13,753 in 1960. Pleasant Hope incorporated as a village in 1946 and is first documented in the 1950 Census with a population of 174. Pleasant Hope became a 4th class city in 1980 with a Census count population of 354.

Over the past few decades, Pleasant Hope has remained primarily a rural but suburban community with residents commuting to Springfield or other communities such as Bolivar, for employment and major retail services. Pleasant Hope does have several thriving businesses serving the local population and over the past decade has made

concerted effort to attract new business and industry offering local employment opportunities. As resources permit, the city has also embarked on improving community facilities, services and amenities to serve its residents while creating an environment attractive to new residential development. The recent improvements to the city park, the installation of the first phase of the city’s greenway trails plan, opening of the farmer’s market, and street paving improvements all contribute to the city’s focus on its future.

Demographics

General Population Trends

Historical Census data show that Pleasant Hope has experienced slow but continuous population growth since its incorporation as a village, with population increasing from 174 in 1950 to 614 in 2010. Table 2-1 presents population change for Polk County, its incorporated communities, and the State between 1990 and 2010. From the time of its incorporation, Pleasant Hope experienced its greatest population increase during the 1990s; population increased from 360 in 1990 to 548 in 2000, a growth rate of 52.2% over the decade. Pleasant Hope’s 2010 population of 614 represents a slower rate of change over the 2000 decade, increasing by an average annual rate of 1.2%.

As also illustrated in Table 2-1, there has been no consistent trend of population increase in all of the incorporated communities in Polk County between 1990 and 2010 with the exception of Pleasant Hope, Morrisville and Bolivar. Other communities have either experienced nearly the same population totals or a decade of population out-migration during the twenty year period. Located in the southeastern corner of Polk County, Pleasant Hope is within easy commuting distance to employment centers in Bolivar to the northwest and Springfield to the south. The city has attracted population desiring a small town/rural quality of life, yet within close proximity to the amenities of an urban environment.

Table 2-1: Population Change, 1990-2010

Jurisdiction	1990 Population	2000 Population	2010 Population	% Change 1990-2000	% Change 2000-2010
Pleasant Hope	360	548	614	52.2	12.0
Aldrich	76	75	80	-1.3	6.7
Bolivar	6,845	9,143	10,325	33.6	12.9
Fair Play	442	418	475	-5.4	13.6
Flemington	141	124	148	-12.1	19.4
Halfway	171	176	173	2.9	-1.7
Humansville	1,084	946	1,048	-12.7	10.8
Morrisville	293	344	388	17.4	12.8
Polk County	21,826	26,992	31,137	23.7	15.4
Missouri	5,117,073	5,595,211	5,988,927	9.3	7.0

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Census 1990, Census 2000, Census 2010, SF-1.

Age Structure

The age composition of Pleasant Hope's population indicates that the majority of population is composed of younger to middle age families with school age children. The age groups of 25-34 and 35-44 represented 30.6% of the city's total population in 2010, as compared to 22.2% for Polk County and 25.4% for the State. Pleasant Hope also had a proportionally higher share of school age children than Polk County or the State, with the 5-17 age group accounting for 20.4%, 18.2% and 17.2% of total population in 2010, respectively.

Table 2-2: Age Characteristics, 2000 - 2010

Age Group	Pleasant Hope				Polk Co.	Missouri
	2000		2010		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Under 5 years	38	6.9	41	6.7	6.4	6.5
5 to 9	46	8.4	60	9.8	6.6	6.5
10 to 14	53	9.7	41	6.7	7.0	6.6
15 to 17	32	5.8	24	3.9	4.6	4.1
18 to 19	18	3.3	19	3.1	3.9	2.9
20 to 24	43	7.8	34	5.5	7.7	6.9
25 to 34	79	14.4	101	16.4	10.7	12.9
35 to 44	84	15.3	87	14.2	11.5	12.5
45 to 54	70	12.8	81	13.2	14.1	14.8
55 to 59	13	2.4	40	6.5	5.8	6.5
60 to 64	14	2.6	27	4.4	5.6	5.6
65+	58	10.6	59	9.6	16.1	14.0
Total	548	100.0	614	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census 2000, Census 2010, Summary File 1.*

Changes in age characteristics reflect not only in-migration of a younger working age population with children, particularly the 25-34 age group, but also out-migration of retirement age population. Both Polk County and Missouri have experienced an increase in the percentage of retirement age population, due to the natural aging of the baby boom generation. However, Pleasant Hope’s retirement age population increased by only one person over the 2000s decade, indicating an out-migration of persons in this age group. In 2010, only 9.6% of the city’s total population was accounted for by the 65+ age group, compared to 16.1% for Polk County and 14% for Missouri. Although Pleasant Hope does have senior housing, the community does not have a range of other assisted living facilities or retirement housing typically found in larger urban centers such as Springfield.

Age Dependency Ratio

The dependency ratio is a measure that reflects the impact of age structure on the productivity of a population. The age dependency ratio is used to indicate the number of dependent non-working population that the working age population must support. The ratio assumes that everyone under 15 and over 65 years old is dependent on others within the community.

Table 2-3 shows that Pleasant Hope’s dependency ratio is 35.6 %. This means for every 100 working age people there are 35.6 dependents. Pleasant Hope’s 2010 total dependency ratio is lower than the State’s (50.7) and considerably lower than Polk County’s (56.7). The city’s significantly lower percentage of retirement age population and correspondingly lower elderly dependency ratio accounts for this difference.

Table 2-3: Age Dependency Ratios, 2010

Age Group	Pleasant Hope	Polk County	Missouri
Youth (0-14) Dependency Ratio	34.4	31.4	29.6
Elderly (65+) Dependency Ratio	14.3	25.3	21.1
Total Dependency Ratio	48.7	56.7	50.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census 2010, Summary File 1.*

Median Age

The median age is the most reliable and widely used index of age composition that measures central tendency. The median age divides groups into equal size. In 2010, Pleasant Hope had a lower median age (33.5 years) than Polk County (37.8 years) and Missouri (37.9 years). As shown in Table 2-4, median age in each jurisdiction has increased since 2000; however, Pleasant Hope's lower median age than that of both Polk County and the State in 2010 supports the observation that the city has a comparatively larger percentage of younger families and a lower percentage of retirement age population.

Table 2-4: Median Age Trends, 2000 - 2010

Jurisdiction	2000			2010		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Pleasant Hope	30.2	27.0	33.5	33.5	32.0	35.0
Polk County	35.0	33.8	36.0	37.8	36.0	39.0
Missouri	36.1	34.8	37.4	37.9	37.0	39.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census 2000 SF1*; *Census 2010 SF1*.

Race and Ethnicity

As displayed in Table 2-5, the 2010 populations of Polk County and all incorporated communities are predominantly White. This pattern of limited racial diversity is common throughout southwest Missouri, although the Hispanic population has increased rapidly throughout the region since 1990. In Pleasant Hope, 3.4% of the population identified as Hispanic or Latino (of any race) in 2010, a slight increase over 2.4% of the city's population in 2000.

Table 2-5: Race and Ethnicity, 2010

Jurisdiction	Percent of Total Population								
	Race							Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino (any race)
	One Race								
	White	Black or African American	American Indian & Alaska Native	Asian	Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	Some Other Race			
Pleasant Hope	95.4	0.0	0.8	0.3	0.0	1.3	2.1	3.4	
Aldrich	96.2	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	2.5	
Bolivar	94.8	1.5	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.7	1.8	2.5	
Fair Play	96.8	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.6	1.7	1.9	
Flemington	97.3	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	4.7	
Halfway	93.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	4.6	3.5	
Humansville	96.6	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.2	2.5	3.8	
Morrisville	94.3	1.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.3	3.6	1.8	
Polk County	96.2	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.5	1.5	2.0	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census 2010, Summary File 1.*

Households Characteristics

Household characteristics provide insight into the socio-economic conditions of a community as well as indicate potential need and demand for types of housing and various community services and facilities. As shown in Table 2-6, Pleasant Hope's family households comprised 66.7% of all households in 2010, a slight decrease from 68.4% in 2000. This percentage is lower than that for Polk County (69.6%) but higher than the State (65.3%). Nationally, the traditional household comprised of a married couple family with children has been declining for decades and Pleasant Hope, Polk County, and Missouri are following this trend. For Pleasant Hope, the percentage of married couple households with children under 18 decreased from 29.7% of total households in 2000 to 22.2% in 2010.

Table 2-6: Household Characteristics, 2000-2010

Household Type	2000		2010			
	Pleasant Hope		Pleasant Hope		Polk Co.	Missouri
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total households	209	100.0	243	100.0	100.0	100.0
Family Households	143	68.4	162	66.7	69.6	65.3
With children under 18	87	41.6	82	33.7	28.6	28.5
Married Couple family	108	51.7	123	50.6	55.8	48.4
With children under 18	62	29.7	54	22.2	20.5	18.9
Female householder, no husband present	30	14.4	30	12.3	9.3	12.3
With children under 18	22	10.5	23	9.5	5.5	7.1
Non-Family Households	66	31.6	81	33.3	30.4	34.7
Householder Living Alone	59	28.2	64	26.3	24.7	28.3
Average Household Size		2.60		3.04	2.54	2.45

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census. *Census 2000, SF1; Census 2010, SF 1.*

Table 2-6 also indicates that the city's total number of family households with children under 18 decreased from 171 in 2000 to 159 in 2010, while the number of non-family households increased by nearly the same number. While average household size has been decreasing nationally over the past two decades due to lower birth rates and aging of the population, the average household size in Pleasant Hope has increased over the past decade which supports the observation that the city is attracting younger families.

Poverty Status

In 2000, Pleasant Hope had a poverty rate of 16.7%, compared to 16.2% for Polk County and 11.7% for the State. Data on poverty status is not available from the 2010 Census. Rather, information on economic characteristics of the population for a city the size of Pleasant Hope is now estimated yearly and aggregated for a five year average through the American Community Survey. Table 2-7 shows the 2006-2010 poverty status estimates for Pleasant Hope and Polk County. As shown, Pleasant Hope's percent of population below the poverty level is 15%, a decrease since 2000. In contrast, Polk County's percentage of population below the poverty level increased to over 21%. The margin of error for the Pleasant Hope data noted in Table 2-7 is rather substantial and therefore the limitations of this data for various uses should be considered.

Table 2-7: Poverty Status, 2006-2010 Estimates

Jurisdictions	Below Poverty Level		Percent Below Poverty Level	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Pleasant Hope				
Population for whom poverty status is determined	78	+/-48	15.0	+/-8.6
Persons under 18	17	+/-18	13.3	+/-14.3
Persons 18-64	54	+/-33	15.5	+/-8.2
Persons 65 and older	7	+/-8	16.7	+/-18.0
Polk County				
Population for whom poverty status is determined	6,235	+/-726	21.6	+/-2.4
Persons under 18	2,187	+/-441	30.9	+/-6.3
Persons 18-64	3,377	+/-412	19.8	+/-2.0
Persons 65 and older	671	+/-156	13.9	+/-3.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *American Community Survey, 2006-2010 Estimates.*