

## *Rolla Comprehensive Plan Update, 2005*

### **COMMUNITY ANNEXATION HISTORY MEMORANDUM 1/12/2005**

According to the 1974 booklet “The Story of Rolla, Missouri”, three events coalesced resulting in the founding of Rolla and its incorporation in 1861. The first action was the organization of Phelps County with Rolla as the County Seat. The second was the dedication of 50 acres by promoter Edmund W. Bishop to the County for the original town-site. The third event, and probably the most important of the three, was the construction of the Pacific Railroad with its temporary terminus in Rolla. A fourth early development of similar importance to the railroad, in terms of Rolla’s future economy, growth, and character, was the founding of the Missouri School of Mines in 1870 after an intense “bidding war” with several other communities. From the original 50-acre donation until 1928, the community added just 1,107 acres (please refer to Table 1).

A fifth event of significant importance to Rolla’s future followed in 1931 with the dedication of the transcontinental highway Route 66. Rolla’s economy added a new element as business districts grew to accommodate the traveling public. A review of the Rolla Annexation History map reveals a logical tendency for annexations to be influenced by improving transportation corridors. WWII and the baby boom that followed produced a need for more residential subdivisions and Rolla’s annexation pattern reflected community growth primarily to the east/southeast from the older parts of Rolla and south along U.S. Highway 63. From 1990 to the present, much of Rolla’s residential growth and annexation has been to the south.

**TABLE 1  
Rolla Annexation History**

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	<u>Area Annexed</u>	<u>Total City</u>
<b>Original Town 1861-1902</b>	206 acres	206 acres
<b>1903 – 1928</b>	951	1,157
<b>1929 – 1948</b>	625	1,782
<b>1949 – 1969</b>	1,530	3,312
<b>1970 – 1989</b>	1,950	5,262
<b>1990 – 1999</b>	1,929	7,191
<b>2000 – 2004</b>	237	7,427

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Source: Rolla Community Development Department.

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