



Northwest Georgia Prospers! Regional Plan 2019-2023



Northwest Georgia Regional
Commission

12/20/2019

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Update 2019-2023

December 20, 2019



Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
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Front Cover Photos, clockwise from top right: Last Stop Gift Shop, Rome; New Echota Historic Site, Calhoun; Amphitheater, Rockmart; Downton Dalton; Sloppy Floyd State Park, Summerville; Downtown Blue Ridge, photo credit City of Blue Ridge; Appalachian Regional Port, Eton; Chattooga Co. Courthouse; Center: Gordon County Administration Building; Praters Mill, Whitfield Co.

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Acknowledgements

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The Regional Plan Update Technical Advisory Committee includes the Regional Planning Committee, a Standing Committee of the Council, with other appointed Council members, regional representatives, and NWGRC Staff.

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Stakeholders attended one or more meetings in which they were asked to give input into the regional plan, were interviewed for the plan, or were otherwise instrumental in developing the plan.

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December 2018 Public and stakeholder meeting, Calhoun.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

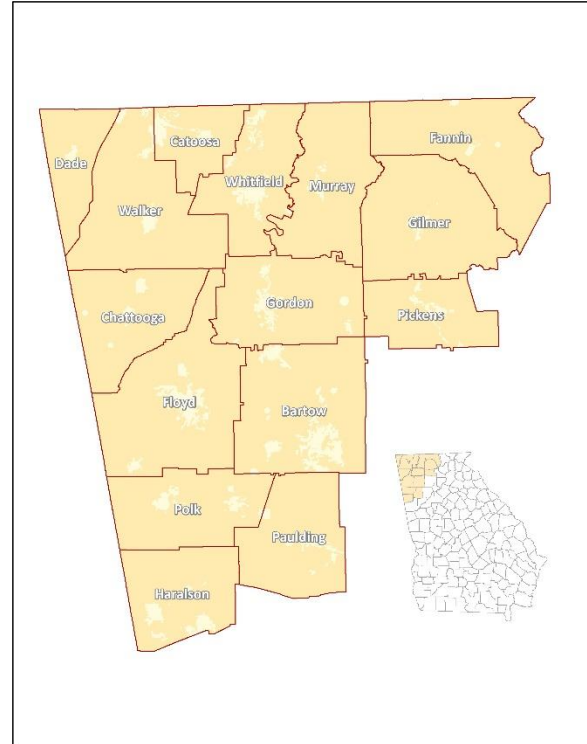
1.1 REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The Northwest Georgia region includes fifteen counties and forty-nine cities, along with many unincorporated communities. The region is bordered on the west by Alabama and the north by Tennessee, and to the south by the Atlanta Regional Commission. With proximity to both Chattanooga, Tennessee and Atlanta, Georgia metropolitan growth patterns affect the cities and counties closest to these urban areas. However, outside developed areas, much of Northwest Georgia remains rural with agricultural and forested lands predominate.

The region shares many layers of history and culture which are preserved today in buildings, sites, and parks, with many sites yet to be protected. Native American history and culture predates European settlement in northwest Georgia, with the Mississippian culture from 1000 AD to 1550 AD establishing a large presence on the Etowah River. Several thousand Native Americans lived at this religious, cultural and economic center, which is now preserved as the Etowah Indian Mounds Georgia State Historic Site just outside what is now Cartersville. Later nations included the Creek confederacy, descendants of the western Mississippian culture, and the Cherokee. The Cherokee were removed under the Treaty of New Echota by federal troops to Oklahoma in 1838 and 1839 from north Georgia along grueling routes that are known as the Trail of Tears. Nine historical sites associated with Native American presence in the region have been identified and listed on the National Register. The capitol of the Cherokee government, New Echota in Calhoun, is a State Historic Site as is the Chief Vann House in Chatsworth, built in 1804 by Cherokee leader James Vann.

Other historical events in the region include the Civil War campaigns of Chattanooga and Atlanta, including the Battle of Chickamauga. The Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Battlefield just outside of Fort Oglethorpe preserves this national site. Fort Oglethorpe itself was the home of the 6th Cavalry and the Women’s Army Corps between 1902 and 1947 before becoming the City of Fort Oglethorpe in 1949.

A region rich in natural and environmental resources, Northwest Georgia’s ridges and valleys, mountains and creeks form an eye-catching viewshed at every point. Beautiful views from Sand Mountain, Lookout



Northwest Georgia Region.



John Ross House, Rossville Georgia. Photo credit City of Rossville.

Mountain, Taylors Ridge, Dug Gap Mountain, Cohutta Mountain and the Blue Ridge Mountains showcase the varied topography of the region. Many highways, and railroads, follow historic travel routes through the mountains and valleys. The reclaimed railroad bed now forming the Silver Comet Trail connecting Atlanta to the Chief Ladiga Trail in Alabama will continue to be a regional asset. More connections to the trail are sought from Cave Spring in Floyd County, from Atlanta and from Chattanooga. Downtowns that can connect to natural resources in the region will benefit from the investment that outdoor tourism brings. Historic downtown areas also attract offices, retail and restaurants, brewpubs and even light industry, as well as residential and mixed uses, creating vibrancy to support local business.



Silver Comet Trailhead, Rockmart

Connecting more people with the water, parks, forests, history and culture of Northwest Georgia is the vision of this plan, both visitors and residents, across a wide range of ages and abilities. Easier and better access for canoeing and kayaking, hiking and biking give people a chance to feel and hear and see the beauty of nature around them. Cities and counties are also focused on transportation options including public transit and safe walking and biking paths that connect to places people need to go such as healthcare, education, and public services, to improve mobility for everyone.

1.2 NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Mission Statement: To improve the quality of life for every Northwest Georgia resident, through orderly growth, conservation of the region’s natural and historic resources, and care and development of the region’s human resources.

Proudly serving the Counties of Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker, and Whitfield, the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission is a multi-county organization consisting of 15 Northwest Georgia counties and 49 municipalities. Major responsibilities of the Regional Commission include: (1) implementation of the Georgia Planning Act of 1989; (2) administration of the Area Agency on Aging; (3) administration of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; and (4) providing planning and development assistance to member governments in areas they could not otherwise afford.

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission assists member local governments with implementing the Georgia Planning Act of 1989. Local comprehensive plans address community needs and objectives for economic



Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan Stakeholders meeting.

development, community facilities, natural and historic resources, housing, and land use. Plans must be updated every ten years. The NWGRC encourages counties and municipalities to work together to identify common problems and opportunities and to seek countywide solutions through joint plans. Economic Development, Transportation, Historic Preservation, Land Use, Comprehensive Planning, and other services are implemented in partnership with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

History

During the late 1950's, Mr. T. Harley Harper and Mr. Fred F. Starr traveled Northwest Georgia promoting the idea of regional cooperation and planning. The area-wide organization, the Coosa Valley Planning and Development Association, began on May 7, 1959, with a regional conference at Berry College in Rome, Georgia, which was held to discuss problems and opportunities of the Coosa Valley area with over 400 leaders attending. The Association represented Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Floyd, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Polk, Walker and Whitfield Counties.

In June, 1960 the Association became a formal staffed organization under the Georgia General Planning and Enabling Act of 1957, the Coosa Valley Area Planning and Development Commission (APDC). State funds and per capita dues provided for official staff members, Mr. Sidney Thomas and Mrs. Barbara M. Snead. The Coosa Valley APDC was the first multi-county organization of its type in Georgia and has served as the model for other areas in the State and nation. There are now twelve such multi-county organizations in Georgia. The agency's name was changed to the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center (RDC) as a result of the Georgia Planning Act of 1989.



NWGRC Council Meeting, Regional Plan Update February 2019

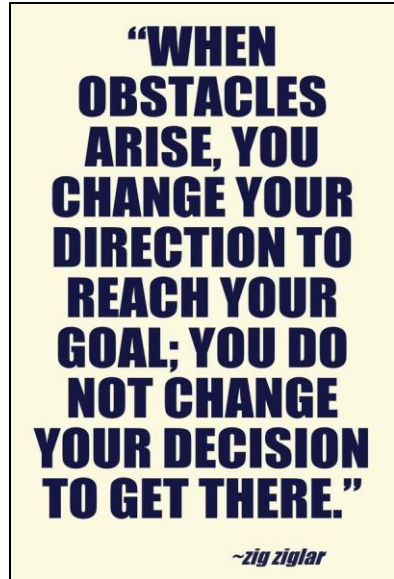
As of July 16th, 2009, the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center and the North Georgia Regional Development Center were merged to form the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission. The Regional Commission now includes a total of 15 counties and 49 cities.

1.3 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND OF THE REGIONAL PLAN

In keeping with the original purpose of the organization, the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission is charged with developing a long term plan for the region which identifies regional goals, needs, and an implementation program including a five year work program for the region. The Regional Plan aligns with the Regionally Important Resource Plan and local Comprehensive Plans, as well as state plans and those of surrounding Regional Commissions (Georgia Mountains Regional Commission to the east, Atlanta Regional Commission to the southeast, and Three Rivers Regional Commission to the south). The Purpose of the Regional Plan is to involve all segments of the region in developing a vision for the future of the region, ensuring the plan is representative of the entire region, to provide a guide for local elected officials and staff, and to identify priority needs and opportunities in the region, and the

assistance needed to meet those needs. The Regional Plan is updated annually, but every five years, a complete update is performed to determine what new needs should be addressed.

In Fall 2018, the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council began the update process for the Regional Plan. The NWGRC Council served as the Regional Plan Steering Committee, which prepared the Regional Plan with input from the Technical Advisory Committee of Council members and NWGRC staff, invited stakeholders, and members of the public through a public planning process. In Spring 2019, the What Northwest Georgia Needs Most? Regional Survey garnered 1,860 responses and helped identify priorities for the region. The Regional Plan is prepared according to the Department of Community Affairs' 2017 Regional Planning Requirements and is divided into the following sections.



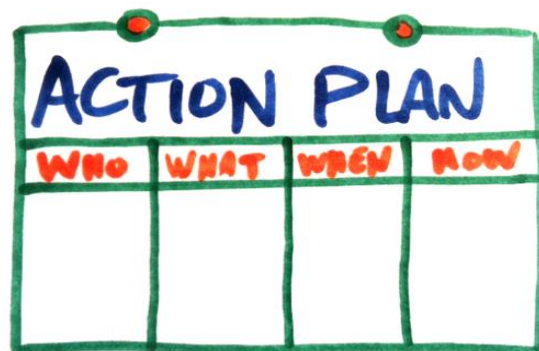
Regional Goals and Policies

The Regional Goals section sets goals which lay out the desired results of regional actions, and which align with state planning goals, in economic development, natural resources, transportation, and other key planning focus areas. This section also includes policies which provide a guide for actions and projects not specifically listed the work program of the regional plan, and which also serve as a guide for local decisions. The goals and policies for Northwest Georgia are illustrated by three maps which show projected land uses (developed, developing, and rural) through 2040, areas of conservation and development, and areas where more attention may be needed to ensure good development or redevelopment occurs. Together the goals, policies, and maps form the vision for where Northwest Georgia, and the Regional Commission, will direct their efforts in the coming years.



Needs and Opportunities

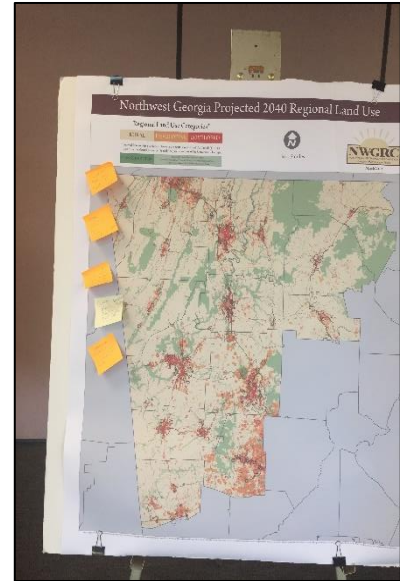
Northwest Georgia has needs and opportunities that are shared across the region; for example the entire region would benefit from improved broadband access and speeds, and all can benefit from the opportunity afforded by the Appalachian Regional Port, the inland port recently opened to directly connect with the port of Savannah by rail. These needs and opportunities were identified by the Steering Committee, stakeholders through a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis. NWGRC staff also evaluated consistency with Quality Community Objectives, analysis of data and information, and analysis of areas requiring special attention such as Urban Redevelopment Areas. The prioritized list of Needs and Opportunities focuses on efforts of the Regional Commission in



partnership with local governments and authorities, regional groups such as the Resource Conservation and Development Councils, and state and federal agencies.

Implementation Program

The implementation program for the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan includes minimum and excellence standards for the fifteen counties and forty-nine cities of the region, that identify requirements and best practices that will ensure the region will meet its stated goals and to address the identified needs and opportunities. For example, Buy Local programs to support small businesses is an excellence standard that will help Northwest Georgia meet its Economic Development goal, “Implement NWGA Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; support diverse business/ industry.” The Implementation Program also includes the Regional Work Program, a listing of specific activities the Regional Commission will undertake in the next five years to address the priority Needs and Opportunities. The Implementation Program includes a Report of Accomplishments on the 2014-2019 Work Program of the NWGRC.



Regional Land Use Map with Stakeholder Comments.

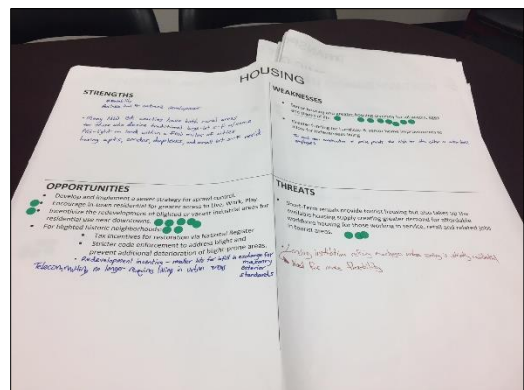
Appendices

The appendices provide more detailed analysis supporting the Priority Needs and Opportunities, including the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis; the analysis of consistency with Quality Community Objectives; the Spring 2019 Regional Survey results; the Data and mapping supplement with regional demographic, economic and community data; and the Stakeholder Involvement Report of public and stakeholder participation.

1.4 STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

The Northwest Georgia Regional Council (elected officials from the fifteen counties and 49 cities of the region) provided oversight to the development of this update. A Technical Committee of Council members and regional representatives, and NWGRC staff, gave directed input.

The Technical Advisory Committee made recommendations to the list of stakeholders prepared by staff, which included regional representatives of state agencies, community and business leaders as represented by Chambers of Commerce and Development Authorities, local elected officials and key staff for each city and county in the region, Area Agency on Aging and Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA) leaders, THRIVE2055 three-state planning and development initiative, neighboring Regional Commissions, North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, USDA NRCS, Shorter University, Dalton State College, Georgia Highlands, Georgia



SWOT Worksheet with dots prioritizing needs.

Northwestern Technical College, Coosa River Basin Initiative, The Nature Conservancy, Tallatoona Community Action Partnership, Whitfield College and Career Academy, Chattahoochee Technical College, Georgia EPD, Georgia DOT District 6, Carpet and Rug Institute, and Georgia Department of Labor as well as the Region's DCA and Department of Economic Development Representatives. Each of these representatives was invited to the December 18th 2018 meeting in Calhoun, the most centrally located meeting.



Regional Plan Stakeholders Meeting, Ellijay, 2019.

Three public meetings were held around the region in Calhoun, Ellijay, and Rock Spring (Walker County) to which elected officials and staff and regional leaders were invited. Each meeting was advertised in newspapers of record, via NWGRC website and Facebook, and shared by local governments and Chambers of Commerce.

Targeted stakeholder input was sought during a March 2019 Georgia Planning Association/ GAZA regional workshop and the April 2019 North Georgia Water Partnership meeting.

Three public hearings were held, one in Fall 2018 to begin the update and two in Spring 2019 on the draft plan. Each hearing was held at the Gordon County Agricultural Center, in Calhoun.

The plan was adopted by resolution of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council, pending final approval by Georgia Department of Community Affairs, October 17, 2019.

1.5 REGIONAL SURVEY

In Spring 2019, What Northwest Georgia Needs Most? A Regional Survey for smartphone and web responses was sent to over 150 local government leaders and NWGRC Council members, promoted on the NWGRC website and Facebook page and by local media, and linked, hosted, or sent out by many local governments and school systems; the survey garnered 1,860 responses.

Participants weighed in on industrial development [location along commercial highways (58.6%) and restricting truck traffic from residential streets (49.8%)], overall community appearance (52% said litter was common, and 35% saw growth in blighted property); and internet (33% said speed of available internet was inadequate).

The following were priorities: Local funding for preservation of historic resources (72%), lack of high-quality rental units (45%) and workforce housing (41%), blighted housing (41%), transit availability (47%) and local shopping (67%).



1.6 REGIONAL VISION AND GOALS

Vision

The Northwest Georgia Regional Plan guides development and conservation of land, resources and infrastructure; improves access to economic opportunity, housing, outdoor recreation and basic infrastructure; builds education pathways to meet employer needs and residents' goals; provides coordination and funding assistance; and improves Northwest Georgia's health and prosperity.

Goals



Natural Resources Protect our unique environment, history, cultural resources

Land Use Guide growth in conjunction with local land use plans and policies; encourage redevelopment

Economic Development Implement NWGA Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; support diverse business/ industry.

Community Facilities/ Services Ensure infrastructure, services meet economic development, land use, service delivery needs

Traditional Infrastructure Ensure communities have adequate basic infrastructure (2017 CEDS).

Transportation Provide coordinated transportation planning for access to work, health, education

Housing Improve housing conditions and access to variety of safe housing types, costs

Human Capital Improve workforce skills, access to education and workforce services (2017 CEDS).

High Speed Internet Increase coverage and accessibility of high-speed internet throughout region

Local/ Regional Coordination Coordinate local, state efforts; work across boundaries to meet needs

1.7 PRIORITY NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

In Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 the Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee of the NWGRC Council prepared a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis which combined with public and stakeholder input and data from other regional and state plans to develop the following priority needs, strategies and actions. The Spring 2019 What Northwest Georgia Needs Most survey results also informed the SWOT analysis and the final list of needs and opportunities.

Economic Development

Priority: Ensure infrastructure is in place across region to meet needs of existing, new business and industry.

Strategy: Implement regional and local plans and strategies to support job creation/ retention and private investment

Actions:

- Assist 3-5 communities as identified annually to improve or expand infrastructure to support economic development through technical assistance, grant writing, land use planning, data collection, and document/plan updates
- Update the Northwest Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- Assist 1-2 sites/year with Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) certification and Broadband Ready certification

Priority: Focus on improvement of skills for jobs in Northwest Georgia (training and skill development for the jobs and industries in our region).

Strategy: Improve local and regional partnerships between industry/ business, workforce development providers, and educational institutions both K-12 and post-secondary, and community leadership.

Actions:

- Develop and implement education, training and employment opportunities for unemployed/ underemployed individuals in Northwest Georgia; provide leadership training and work ready skills for ages 14-21
- Update 2014 Northwest Georgia Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Plan; prepare plan of action to identify 5-6 top priorities for region; provide technical assistance to implement

Priority: Improve competitiveness of Northwest Georgia to attract and retain business, industry

Strategy: Provide planning and funding assistance to increase economic competitiveness in coordination with state and federal agencies

Actions:



Georgia DCA Appalachian Regional Commission check presentation with NWGRC, Waco WPCP improvements.

- Assist Gilmer Co., Rossville, Floyd Co., Polk Co. (designated federal Opportunity Zones) to develop a prospectus, market/ promote available sites and buildings, and determine public infrastructure investments needed
- Identify 2-5 businesses each year to provide technical assistance to expand operations including assessment of need, preparation of loan packages and financial planning in partnership with SBDC, SBA, EDA and lending institutions



Reynolds Bend Kayak, photo credit Etowah River Trail.

Healthy Communities

Priority: The region lacks access to healthy food options; high poverty rates contribute to unhealthy lifestyles (high cost of fruits and vegetables, organic food, lack of health insurance for wellness visits)

Strategy: Expand agritourism and agribusiness opportunities; invest in local food systems

Actions:

- Hold regional agritourism and local food resource workshop
- Review and update 2013 North Georgia Local Food Assessment and local plans; prepare short term action plan to address priority needs in developing local food systems and provide technical assistance to implement
- Develop Highway 27 local food and agritourism trail



Riverwood Housing, Rome.

Housing

Priority: There is a lack of safe, affordable housing and a lack of mid to high range housing investment in downtowns

Strategy: Incentivize redevelopment of blighted or vacant areas for residential use; provide assistance for range of local government housing needs

Actions:

- Survey local governments on housing, redevelopment and blight reduction needs; Hold Housing Workshops with speakers, program developed to address identified needs
- Conduct a regional inventory of housing needs; prepare action plan and identify resources to address priority areas & needs; provide technical assistance to implement.
- Assist 1-2 communities/ YR to apply for GA Initiatives for Community Housing (GICH), prepare housing inventories and implement action plans
- Survey counties and cities to determine interest in circuit-riding or shared assistance for code enforcement and related assistance

Natural Resources

Priority: More people need to connect with Northwest Georgia's natural resources so they will enjoy and protect its diversity and beauty

Strategy: Identify, protect, preserve and promote identified Regionally Important Resources

Actions:

- Update the Regional Resource Plan per Section 110-12-4-, 02(4) of Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs; develop short term action steps for regionally significant resources
- Implement RIR plan: Develop publicly accessible GIS database and maps highlighting region's historic, cultural and natural assets



Sloppy Floyd State Park.

Strategy: Promote trails, greenways and blueways; Improve safety, visibility, and access to trails and blueways and add access points

Actions:

- Identify needed improvements to safety and accessibility of trailheads/ put-ins on Pinhoti Trail, Etowah River, Appalachian Trail, and other river and trail corridors in region; provide planning and grantwriting assistance to make needed improvements
- Implement the Northwest Georgia Greenspace Conservation Greenway Plan.
- Assist 3-5 local governments/ year to assess, update and implement local recreation plans through planning and grantwriting



Adairsville Depot.

Priority: Preserve irreplaceable historic and cultural resources through inventory, citizen engagement, planning and funding assistance

Strategy: Identify and preserve historic and cultural resources

Actions:

- Prepare National Register preliminary determinations and nominations for regionally significant historical assets (Grant Farm, LaFayette, Tunnel Hill, Cohutta/ St Andrews Chapel, Dallas Historic District, Cedartown Historic District, others)
- Digitize historic resources including National Register listings, historic resource surveys
- Assess region's CLGs to determine assistance needed to maintain eligibility; provide technical assistance to update historic preservation ordinances

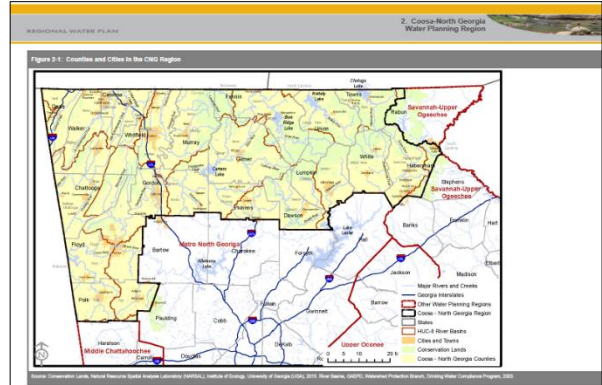
Priority: Maintain surface and groundwater quality in region to meet federal and state regulations

Strategy: Apply for funding to improve water quality, manage stormwater, restore streambanks, and protect water resources in the region

Actions:

- Implement Dykes Creek Watershed Management Plan to delist Dykes Creek

- Work with McCaysville and Fannin County on bank stabilization on Toccoa River and watershed restoration in Toccoa River watershed
- Apply for funding to prepare Dozier Creek Watershed Management Plan
- Apply for funds to assess, improve water quality in Fannin County/ McCaysville, Floyd Co. (Lower Oostanaula River), other watersheds
- Implement the 2019 Woodward Creek Watershed Management Plan to delist
- Promote culvert inventory/ replacement for improvement in stormwater, water quality and ecology
- Hold regional workshop and assist 2-5 local governments/ year to prepare asset management plans, and with grant writing to implement the plans
- Support and participate in the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership.
- Update and Implement Regional Water Plans and related studies including the Grid Transmission Study and Redundancy and Emergency Interconnectivity Study
- Assess and prioritize region’s 303D listed streams



Coosa-North Georgia Water Planning Region.



2019 Annual Meeting, North Georgia Water Resources Partnership.

Land Use

Priority: Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans and that balances conservation with development needs

Strategy: Assist local governments to comply with current Georgia Zoning Procedures Law (O.C.G.A. 36-66-1, et seq.; 36-67-1, et seq.; and, 36-67A-1, et seq. as amended) and provide necessary technical assistance.

Actions:

- Develop program of land use and zoning assistance by assessing and prioritizing local assistance needs; provide review and technical assistance to 2-5 local governments yearly to update ordinances and maps
- Assess planning and zoning training needs annually and provide regional training

Whitfield County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2019-2023

DOWNTOWN

The Downtown character area includes Dalton's central business district and is made up of a mixture of uses such as commercial, government, religious, residential and industrial. Goals of the character area include encouraging a mix of uses to create vitality, reinforcing the area's role as a central business district and local activity center, and respecting and promoting the established development pattern of the downtown core. This character area includes the Downtown Dalton Historic District, which is regulated by a design review process and is eligible for building rehabilitation assistance under the Façade Grant Program. Downtown Dalton is supported by an active Main Street Program and Downtown Development Authority and was the focus of the City's 1999 Streetscape Master Plan, 2001 Dalton Quality Growth Resource Team Report (Georgia Department of Community Affairs), and has been a foundational focus throughout the current Believe Greater Dalton Initiative with the goal of creating a regional destination downtown with a live, work, play atmosphere.

Development Pattern

The development pattern should seek to:

- Reinforce traditional pedestrian-scaled development patterns, including building placement, lighting, site features, sidewalk use and amenities, traffic patterns, etc.

Pedestrian friendly streetscapes should be expanded throughout the downtown and downtown fringe areas

Downtown Dalton provides for a mix of uses including: retail shops, offices, professional services, and most recently residential

Excerpt from 2018 Whitfield County Joint Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element.

Planning and Local Government Assistance

Priority: Prepare and Implement Comprehensive Plans in accordance with the Georgia Planning Act and DCA planning requirements

Strategy: Assist local governments to update their comprehensive plan and service delivery strategy, to implement projects and initiatives in the comprehensive plan, and to apply for PlanFirst designation.

Actions:

- Update comprehensive plans (Chattooga, Catoosa, Walker, Haralson, Polk, Bartow, Dade, Gordon, Fannin, Pickens, Whitfield, Murray, Gilmer, assist as needed for Floyd and Paulding)
- Assess readiness and assist communities with PlanFirst applications
- Meet with 15 communities/ year to review the comprehensive plan, regional plan



Bartow Comprehensive Plan Open House, 2017.

Priority: Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans

Strategy: Update the Regional Plan according to Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning

Action: Update and Implement the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, 2013-2033.

Priority: Provide resources to assist local governments to meet growth, reinvestment, rural needs

Strategy: Provide training and technical assistance on local planning, development needs

Actions:

- Assist local governments with reminders of reporting requirements
- Digitize legacy Developments of Regional Impact
- Provide local plan reviews, environmental, historic reviews, coordinated project review
- Develop training and outreach materials, media, promotion and branding for Regional Commission services and assistance and for local governments



Appalachian Regional Port, Murray County

Transportation

Priority: Provide safe, efficient movement of people and goods through Northwest Georgia to enhance economic growth;

Strategy: Improve coordination between local governments, GDOT, MPOs and federal agencies to implement regionally significant transportation projects

Actions:

- Coordinate with federal and state transportation agencies, the Atlanta Regional Commission (Atlanta MPO), Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO,

Greater Dalton MPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO, and local governments to determine regional priorities.

- Assess east-west routes and connections between routes in Region for flow, traffic volume, travel times to reach key destinations
- Participate in state and regional transit planning
- Conduct FHWA Nat'l Economic Partnership Grant freight, truck parking study for THRIVE region (includes Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray Counties as well as TN, AL)



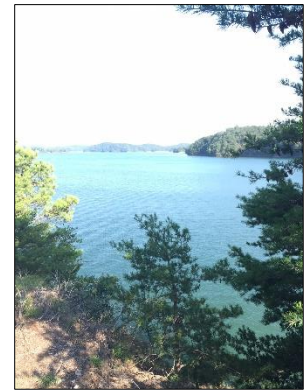
Silver Comet Trail, Rockmart.

Priority: Improve connectivity of bike and pedestrian pathways throughout the region

Strategy: Implement bike & pedestrian safety plans, GA Bicycle/ Pedestrian Safety Action Plans, Safe Routes to School, implement Complete Streets design

Actions:

- Incorporate all local bike/ ped plans into a regional database; identify favorable connection corridors between bike/ ped infrastructure
- Assist local governments to prepare for regional TSPLOST/ TIA referendum: Reconvene TIA roundtable; hold regular meetings; assist with development of priorities, project list and data; Citizen Review Panels
- Assist local governments with preparation and implementation of bike and pedestrian plans including grant writing assistance; facilitate Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia.
- Provide education and conduct walk audits through Safe Routes to School and assist schools to implement audits



Carters Lake.

Strategy: Develop more trails and trails systems that connect to parks, neighborhoods, retail centers, libraries, workplaces and downtowns

Actions:

- Implement the Cave Spring to Cedartown Trail Study
- Implement NW GA Feasibility Study for Bikeway & Pedestrian Multi-Use Trails

Broadband

Priority: Improve broadband, telecommunication services

Strategy: Partner with the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, local governments, providers, and other agencies and initiatives, and participate in the Georgia Broadband Ready Program.

Actions:

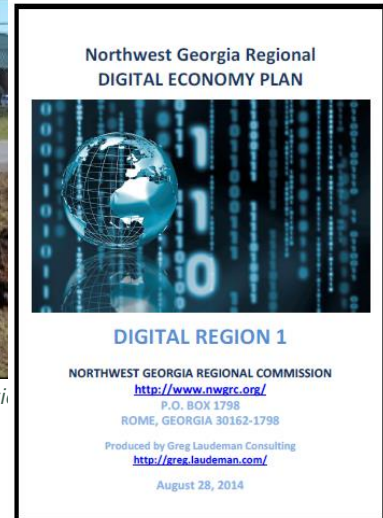
- Assist communities to apply for Broadband Ready designation
- Assist local governments to amend their comprehensive plans to include the Broadband Element
- Review, update and implement the 2014 Northwest Georgia Digital Economy Plan; identify key priorities for region and implement through Regional Broadband Committee, staff assistance
- Regional Broadband Committee of NWGRC Council: Identify Level of Service, speed, gaps in infrastructure, for residential, commercial, health, education and public need, including small cell technology connectivity, providers
- Regional Broadband Committee of NWGRC Council: Partner with Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, NTIA, and providers to develop regional plan of action to improve broadband deployment across region

Strategy: Assess needs regarding 5G, provide assistance and resources

Action: Assess 5G needs and provide assistance including development of ordinances and procedures, provide information and resources to NWGRC Regional Council



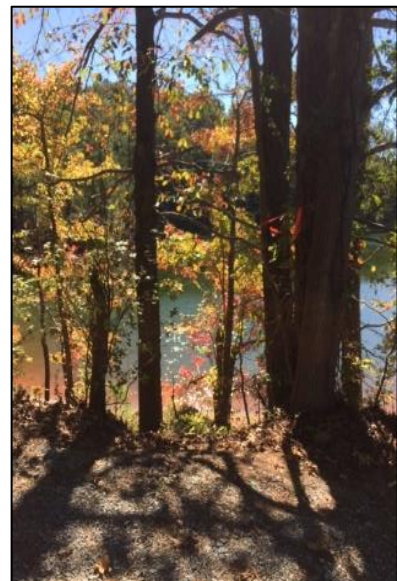
AVFN fiber installation



2 REGIONAL GOALS

2.1 VISION STATEMENT

The Northwest Georgia Regional Plan guides the region's development and conservation of land, resources and infrastructure; helps align local, regional and state planning and funding; expands access to economic opportunities, adequate and safe housing, outdoor recreation and basic infrastructure; supports education pathways and programs that meet the region's needs and residents' goals; supports intergovernmental coordination; and improves Northwest Georgia's opportunities for health, economic growth, and prosperity.



Bartow County Carver Park.

2.2 REGIONAL GOALS

- Natural Resources: Identify, conserve and protect our unique environmental, natural, historic and cultural resources; promote efficient use of water, protect environmentally sensitive areas, increase visibility and access.
- Land Use: Maps of conservation and development areas and areas requiring special attention are used to guide growth along with local land use plans and policies; encourage redevelopment and infill.
- Transportation: Provide coordinated transportation planning for access to work, housing, healthcare and education
- Economic Development: Implement NWGA Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and local economic development plans. Encourage development or expansion of diverse businesses and industries.
- Community Facilities and Services: Ensure infrastructure and services meet economic development, land use, and service delivery needs; maximize use of existing infrastructure.
- Traditional Infrastructure: Ensure communities have adequate basic infrastructure to implement their community and economic development objectives (2017 CEDS).
- Housing: Improve housing conditions and access to safe, affordable, inclusive, and resource-efficient housing at a variety of price points and diverse housing types.
- Human Capital: Improve workforce skills and access to education; Provide needed workforce services (2017 CEDS).
- High Speed Internet/ Telecommunications: Increase coverage and accessibility of high-speed internet throughout region
- Local and Regional Coordination: Provide coordination of efforts between local governments and state agencies; work across boundaries to meet needs



Appalachian Regional Port, Murray County (photo credit GA Ports Authority)

2.3 REGIONAL POLICIES

The Regional Policies are guidelines that provide direction to regional leaders for making decisions consistent with the Regional Vision or that address Regional Issues and Opportunities. The Regional Policies are categorized by planning elements such as economic development or land use, which also categorize the Regional Needs and Opportunities and Regional Work Program.

Economic Development

GP1.1 We will support programs for retention, expansion and creation of businesses and industries that are a good fit for our economy in terms of job skill requirements and linkages to existing businesses.

GP1.2 We will make educational and training opportunities readily available to all residents to enable them to improve job skills, adapt to technological advances, or pursue life ambitions.

GP1.3 We will target reinvestment to declining, existing neighborhoods, vacant or underutilized sites in preference to new economic development projects in previously undeveloped areas.

GP1.4 We will take into account impacts on infrastructure and natural resources in our decision making on economic development projects.

GP1.5 We will encourage the development of downtowns as vibrant centers of the region's communities in order to improve overall attractiveness and quality of life.



Shaw Create facility, Cartersville.

Housing

GP2.1 We will strive to eliminate substandard or dilapidated housing in our region's communities.

GP2.2 We will encourage development of housing opportunities that enable residents to live close to their places of employment.

GP2.3 We will support and promote an adequate range of safe, affordable, inclusive, and resource-efficient housing in our region's communities.

GP2.4 We will increase opportunities for low-to-moderate income families to move into affordable owner-occupied housing.



Blighted housing example.

Natural and Cultural Resources

GP3.1 We will encourage new development to locate in suitable locations to protect scenic and natural resources, environmentally sensitive areas, or significant historic or archaeological resources from encroachment.

GP3.2 We will ensure safe and adequate supplies of water through protection of ground and surface water sources.

GP3.3 We support the protection and revitalization of historic areas in our region's communities.

Community Facilities and Services

GP4.1 Our region's communities will make efficient use of existing infrastructure and public facilities to minimize the need for costly new/expanded facilities and services.

GP4.2 Developing recreational facilities, greenspace is important to our region's communities.

GP4.3 We will promote enhanced solid waste reduction and recycling initiatives.

GP4.4 We will strive to ensure that all the region's residents, regardless of age, ability, or income, have access to critical services.



Fort Wayne Historic Site, Resaca.

Intergovernmental Coordination

GP5.1 We will seek opportunities to share services and facilities with neighboring jurisdictions when mutually beneficial.

GP5.2 We will work jointly with neighboring jurisdictions on developing solutions for shared regional issues (such as growth management, watershed protection).

GP5.3 We will consult other public entities in our area when making decisions that are likely to impact them, and we will provide input to other public entities in our area when they are making decisions that are likely to have an impact on our jurisdiction.

Transportation

GP6.1 We will make decisions that encourage walking, biking, car-pooling, and other alternative transportation choices.

GP6.2 We will target transportation improvements to support desired development patterns for the region.

Land Use

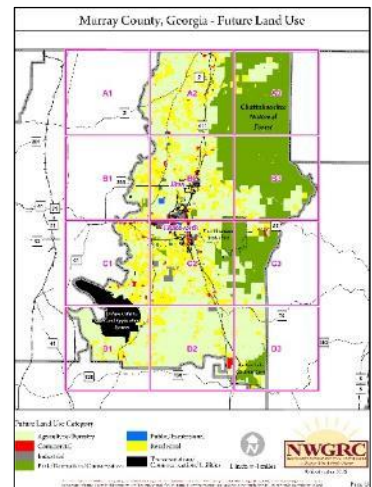
GP7.1 Our region's communities will use land efficiently to avoid the costs and problems associated with urban sprawl.

GP7.2 We will strive to preserve the rural character of our region and to provide the opportunity for agricultural and forestry activities to remain a vital part of the region.

GP7.3 We encourage development that is sensitive to the historic context, sense of place, and overall setting of communities.

GP7.4 We are committed to redeveloping and enhancing existing commercial and industrial areas in preference to new development in previously undeveloped areas.

GP7.5 We will promote the protection and maintenance of trees and green open space in all new developments.



Murray County Future Land Use, 2018.

2.4 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MAPS AND NARRATIVE

2.4.1 Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Regional Land Use

The Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Regional Land Use Map (Figure 1) illustrates desired future land use patterns for the region. These patterns are described in terms of rural, developing, and developed areas following Section 110-12-6-.03(2)(c)1 of the Department of Community Affairs' Regional Planning Requirements. Developed areas are largely built-out with a high percentage of impervious surfaces and utilities in place; this category includes downtowns, dense housing, and industrial and commercial areas. Developing Areas include future growth areas which may outpace the extension of sewer and other infrastructure. Rural Areas include forests, agricultural land, greenspace, large lot housing, utility easements, and lakes.



Northeast Paulding County, Developing.

The Developed, Developing, and Rural areas were initially mapped using the categories identified in Georgia Land Use Trends (GLUT) land use projections, provided by University of Georgia Natural Resources Spatial Analysis Lab (NARSAL). These projections of land cover patterns through 2040 are based on most recent 2015 land use data. The land use data and projections, released for use in Spring 2019, were obtained from Landsat satellite images. The complete grouping of land use categories is in the Appendix. The GLUT data was used mostly for reference, but in some cases was used to estimate developing areas where the comprehensive plan did not indicate growth.



Paulding County Richland Creek Reservoir in construction.

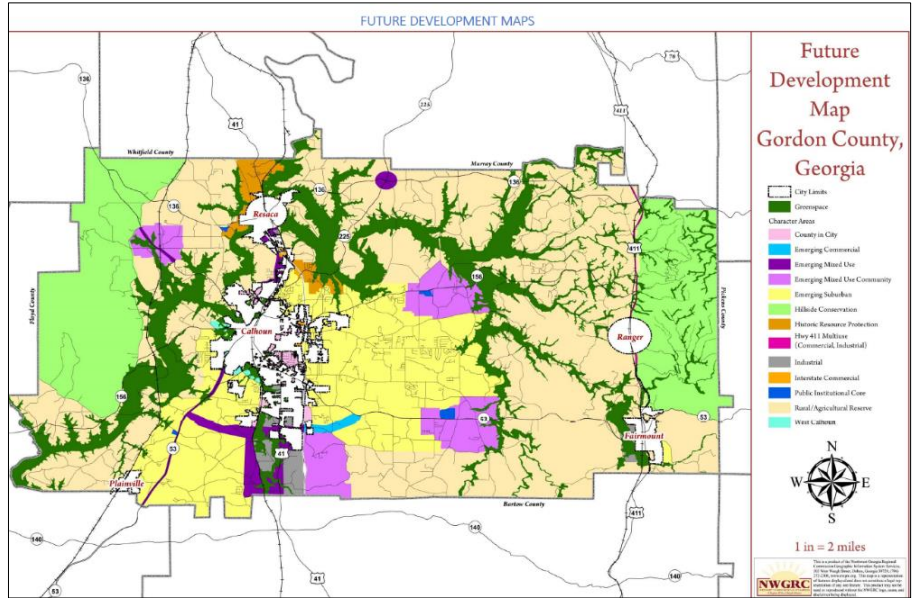
After reviewing the GLUT data to get an understanding of broad-based, actual regional land use patterns and trends, staff analyzed the Future Development or Future Land Use Maps from each government's most recent joint comprehensive plan to indicate areas of increasing density as well as areas expected to remain rural. They combined information from the GLUT map, on-the-ground knowledge of the region, and the comprehensive plans maps to create the Regional Land Use Map. This combined effort resulted in a broad-brush picture of regional trends.



Highway 53 Commercial, Calhoun.

Please see the Appendix for the table, “Source of Information for Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Land Use Map.”

Developed. Areas that exhibit urban type development patterns (i.e., medium to high density residential, commercial and industrial development, etc.) and where urban services (i.e. public services of water, sewer, etc.) are provided. For most larger cities in the region, everything within the city limits was designated Developed, excluding large areas of greenspace or conservation. Outside the cities, areas were designated as Developed when the land use category or character area was Industrial, Mining, or College, unless an industrial site was an isolated area. To use



Example of Gordon County's Future Development Map

Gordon County as an example, character areas receiving the Developed designation include County in City (urban county islands in Calhoun), Industrial, Interstate Commercial, and Public Institutional Core.

Developing. Areas that are expected to become urbanized and will require provision of new urban services (i.e. public services of water, sewer, etc.) during the planning period. Because most of the land inside cities was designated Developed, it follows that many areas just outside city limits would be Developing. This includes many suburban areas. Outside city limits, Character Areas/ Future Land Use designated as Developing include: Suburban Residential/ Suburban Neighborhood, Emerging Suburban, Commercial, Emerging Commercial, Mixed Use Commercial. For example, the Regional Land Use map shows the following Gordon County character areas as Developing: Emerging Commercial, Emerging Suburban, Emerging Mixed Use, and Hwy 411 Multiuse.

Rural. Areas not expected to become urbanized or require provision of urban services (i.e. public services of water and sewer, etc.) during the planning period. These areas are characterized by sparsely developed non-urban areas where the land is used for farming, forestry, very low density residential or open spaces. Based on Future Development and Future Land Use maps and staff assessment, Rural areas include Low Density Residential,



Rural Gordon County.

Park/Recreation, Agricultural/Forest, Conservation, Rural Area, Crossroad Community, Rural Residential, Rural Estate, Preserve. Some of the region's small towns that consist mostly of housing and have no downtown area were mapped as Rural. In the Gordon County example, the Greenspace and Hillside Conservation character areas and towns of Plainville, Ranger, and Resaca are mapped as Rural.

Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Regional Land Use

As opposed to traditional land use maps, which often feature ten or more categories, the Regional Land Use Map classifies the type of development desired in the future into one of three Regional Land Use Categories:

RURAL	DEVELOPING	DEVELOPED
Not expected to become urbanized or require provision of urban services within the next 20 years	Expected to become urbanized and will require provision of new urban services within the next 20 years	Exhibits urban type development patterns and urban services are already being provided

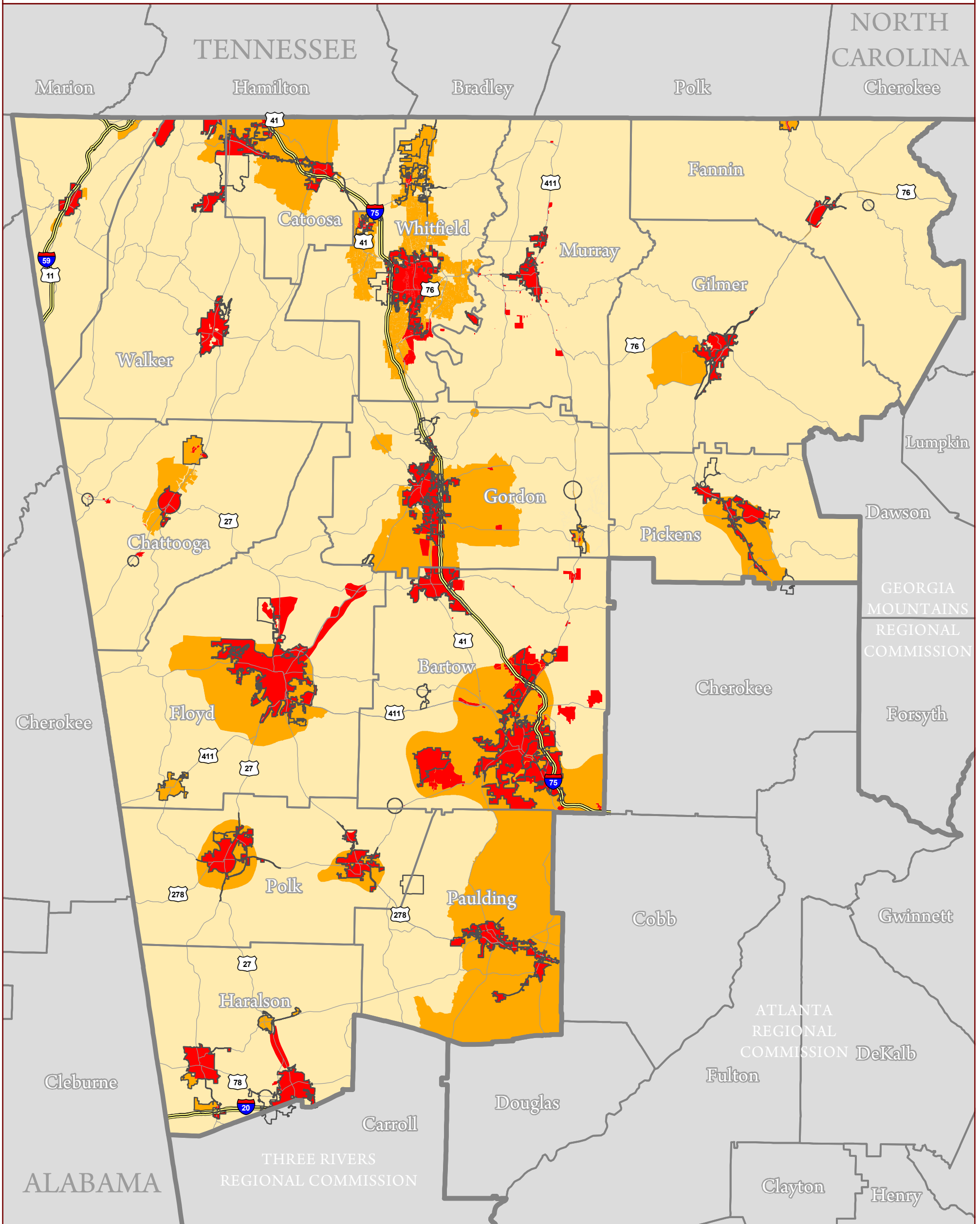
Interstate	Highways	City Boundary	County Boundary	Regional Commission Boundary
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1 in = 8 miles



November 2019



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FIGURE 1: NORTHWEST GEORGIA PROJECTED 2040 REGIONAL LAND USE MAP

2.4.2 Northwest Georgia Conservation and Projected 2040 Development

The Conservation and Development Map identifies Conservation Areas, which are areas to be preserved in order to protect important regional resources or environmentally sensitive areas of the region. Layers included in the conservation area include the Southeastern Ecological Framework, as well as Groundwater Recharge Areas, Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Civil War Battlefields, Trail Corridors, Protected River Corridors and Protected Mountains. These are priority areas taken from the Regionally Important Resource Plan, approved and adopted by the Northwest Georgia Regional Council on January 19, 2012, with minor updates to resource boundaries.

Northwest Georgia Conservation and Projected 2040 Development

Regional Land Use Categories

RURAL DEVELOPING DEVELOPED

CONSERVATION Southeastern Ecological Framework (which include Public Lands such as National Forest, State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas), Civil War Battlefields, State Historic Sites, Trail Corridors, Groundwater Recharge Areas, Protected River Corridors, Protected Mountains

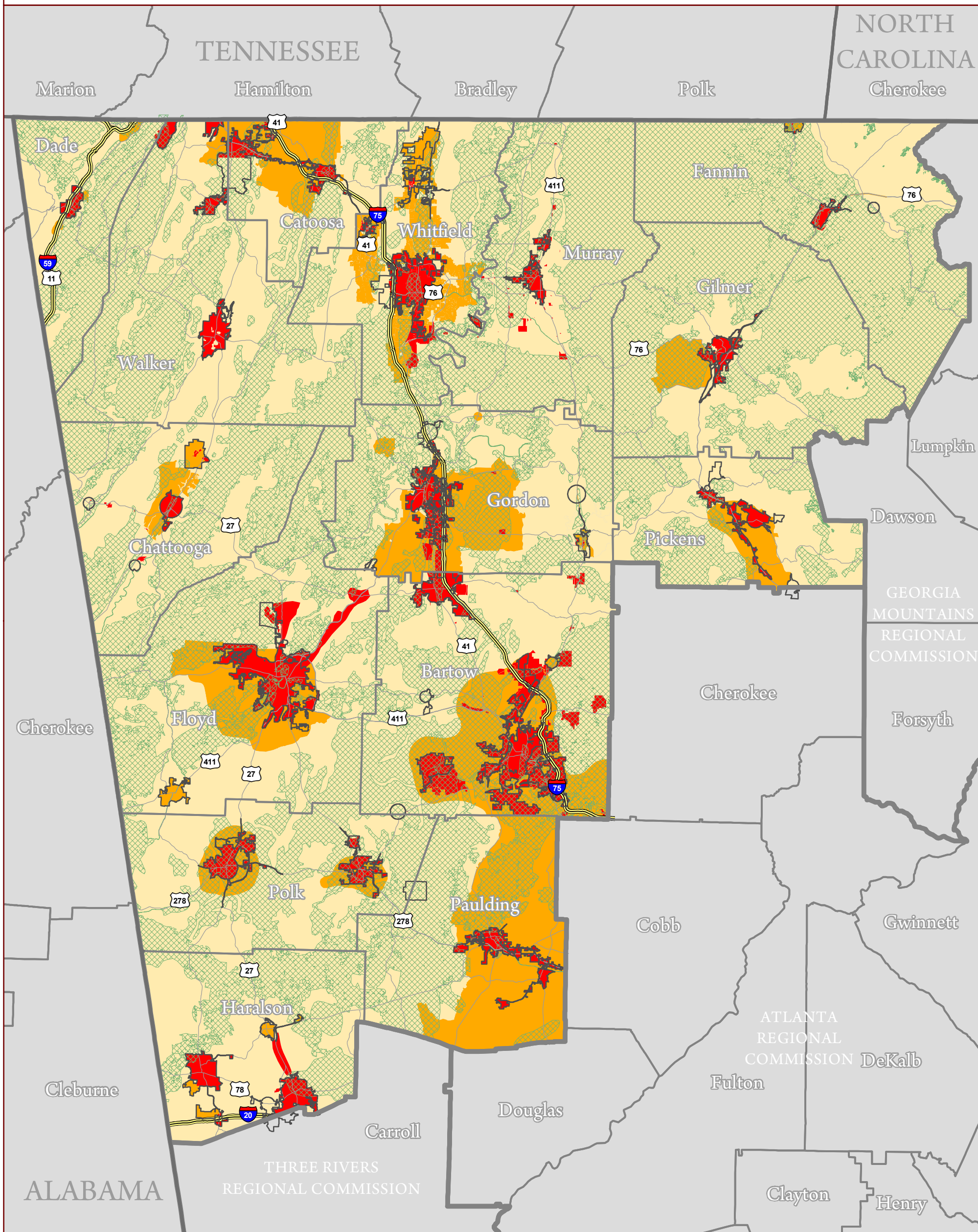


1 in = 8 miles



November 2019

Interstate Highways City Boundary County Boundary Regional Commission Boundary



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FIGURE 2: NORTHWEST GEORGIA CONSERVATION AND PROJECTED 2040 DEVELOPMENT MAP

2.4.3 Areas Requiring Special Attention in Northwest Georgia Defining Narrative

Areas Requiring Special Attention are areas that may need targeted monitoring and mitigation due to potential development conflicts or opportunities for economic growth; the narrative defines specific strategies for managing each area. These include Threatened Regionally Important Resources, Areas of Rapid Development, and Areas of Redevelopment. The Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Regional Land Use Map and Northwest Georgia Conservation and Projected 2040 Development Map, and other sources including American Community Survey and Census data, Urban Redevelopment Plans, Georgia Department of Community Affairs data and shapefiles and staff knowledge, were used to prepare the map of Areas Requiring Special Attention.



*Morganton Point Recreation Area on the Chattahoochee National Forest, Fannin County
Photo credit Fannin County Comprehensive Plan*

1. Threatened Regionally Important Resources

These are areas where significant natural or cultural resources in Northwest Georgia are likely to be impacted by development. This map carries over the Conservation Areas from the Conservation and Development map. The Conservation Areas include the Southeastern Ecological Framework and priority conservation areas identified in the 2012 Regionally Important Resource Plan including Civil War Battlefields, Groundwater Recharge Areas, Protected Mountains, Protected Rivers, Trail Corridors, and Wildlife Management Areas. Areas where the conservation areas and the developed and developing areas overlap are shown as Threatened areas.



Photo Credit, Georgia DNR.

Assessment of Vulnerability

Southeastern Ecological Framework

The original Southeastern Ecological Framework (SEF) was developed for the Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 by the University of Florida between 1998 and 2001. The purpose of the SEF was to develop a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapped data set of ecologically important areas that could be connected across a region. The SEF was created with data and information from the 1992 National Land Cover Database (NLCD) by defining priority ecological areas (PEAs), or areas of highest



*Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park,
Photo Credit NW GA RIR plan.*

ecological significance. These include wetlands, other classifications of green and open space, US Fish and Wildlife critical habitat, parks (national, state, county, local), national forests and monuments, and mature forest. Overlapping incompatible land uses such as urban, commercial and high residential density, high road density, and borders of these areas, were removed from these areas. This resulted in the PEAX grid which includes the Priority Ecological Areas and excludes highly developed areas. This grid forms the Southeastern Ecological Framework for Northwest Georgia, and is used to develop conservation recommendations to maintain regional ecological integrity and biodiversity.

Conservation Areas

Chattahoochee National Forest

These federally owned lands are managed as native forest communities of the Southeastern Appalachian Mountains for multiple uses including hiking, hunting, fishing, and timber extraction and to provide beneficial water flows. The National Forest covers parts of Chattooga, Fannin, Gilmer, Murray, Whitfield and Walker Counties and includes three Wildlife Management Areas and two Wilderness areas, Rich Mountain and Cohutta. The Cohutta Mountains comprise the largest wilderness area in the Eastern US when the adjacent Big Frog Wilderness Area in Tennessee is included.



New Echota Councilhouse.

Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites

The State Parks are managed to preserve natural forested areas for outdoor recreation such as camping and hiking. Four state parks are located in the Northwest Georgia Region. Five State Historic Sites are located in the region. Chief Vann House, New Echota, and Etowah Indian Mounds preserve and commemorate Native American history and culture, while Resaca and Pickett's Mill Battlefields preserve sites in the Civil War Atlanta Campaign.

State Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

The primary purpose of Wildlife Management Areas is to support wildlife conservation in the state and allow public access to hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreational activities. There are nine state-owned WMAs across the region: Arrowhead, Conasauga River, Coosawattee, Crockford-Pigeon Mountain, JL Lester, Paulding Forest, Pinelog, Sheffield, and Zahnd. The state also manages the wildlife around Carter's Lake on the Coosawattee-Carter's Lake WMA on US Army Corps of Engineers land.



Chief Vann House, Murray County, photo credit Georgia DNR.

Civil War Battlefields

The Northwest Georgia region preserves evidences of two Civil War military campaigns, the Chickamauga Campaign in the far north and northwest of the Region, and the Atlanta Campaign in a swath roughly following the old Western and Atlantic Railroad from Catoosa County to the southeast corner of Bartow County. The Chickamauga Battlefield in Catoosa and Walker Counties has been preserved as the part of the National Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park since 1890, the first such park in the country.



Pickett's Mill Battlefield, Photo Credit NWGA RIR.

In 1990, the U.S. Congress appointed the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) to identify the most important and most threatened battlefields. These include Tunnel Hill, Rocky Face Ridge, Mill Creek Gap, Dug Gap, Resaca, Adairsville, Cassville, Dallas and Pickett's Mill. Resaca and Pickett's Mill are now State Historic Sites. Part of Dallas Battlefield is now protected as a city park. Those battlefields are mapped as conservation areas.

Trail Corridors

There are a number of established trails in the region that can provide connectivity between greenspace areas, even if they are located some distance from one another. Key trails in the region are the Pinhoti, Silver Comet, and Benton Mackaye Trails, as well as a short segment of the Appalachian Trail.



Pinhoti Trail marker, photo credit Wikipedia.

Protected River Corridors

Protected Rivers, as defined under the Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria adopted by Georgia Department of Natural Resources includes any perennial river or water course with an average flow of at least 400 cubic feet per second. The Chattooga, Conasauga, Coosa, Coosawattee, Etowah, Oostanaula, Tallapoosa, and Toccoa Rivers meet this criterion in a portion of their waters. The Department of Natural Resources states rivers of this size are of vital importance to the State of Georgia in that they help preserve those qualities that make a river suitable for habitat for wildlife, a site for recreation, and a source for clean drinking water. These river corridors also allow the free movement of wildlife from area to area within the state, help control erosion and river sedimentation, and help absorb flood waters. The environmental quality of the river corridors is also highly vulnerable to unregulated development and potential runoff from agricultural activities. For example, the Etowah River is a historically important river; the Etowah Valley Historic District in Bartow and Floyd Counties is one of the largest on the



Fish weir on Etowah River at Etowah Indian Mounds, Cartersville, photo credit Etowah River Water Trail.

National Register, extending along the Etowah River Valley from the Allatoona Dam to Rome, meant to protect ancient Native American archaeology from unreviewed development.

Protected Mountains

Mountainous areas are defined as crests, summits, and ridges characterized by steep slopes and high elevations. The Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Planning Criteria require that local governments identify and map mountain slopes with a percentage slope of twenty-five percent (25%) or greater for at least 500 feet horizontally, which are at an elevation of 2,200 feet or above. The only mountains exceeding 2,200 feet in elevation in Northwest Georgia are in Fannin, Gilmer, Murray and Pickens Counties. Areas of steep slopes preserved in their natural state provide scenic views and viewpoints, as well as contributing to open space in the region.



Fort Mountain from Veteran's Park, Murray Co.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

These recommendations may add value to proposed developments and reduce impact on the listed resources.

- Comply with all federal, state, and local legislation for the protection of State Vital Areas (groundwater recharge area, water supply watersheds, and wetlands).
- Retain existing vegetation and topography wherever possible.
- Use natural features for storm water control whenever possible.
- Consider more than minimum required buffers wherever possible.
- Minimize the amount of impervious surface by using alternative materials and designs.
- Take advantage of clustering and greenspace development options wherever they are permitted in development regulations.
- Limit clearing, grading, and soil disturbance where possible to areas where it is required for construction.
- When establishing new agricultural uses, consult with the County Extension Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service,

Green Infrastructure

The Town of Braselton completed rain gardens and impervious parking lots on recent construction sites to reduce impervious surfaces and filter runoff.

Stormwater Improvements, photo credit Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

and the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission to identify and implement best management practices.

- When establishing new forestry uses, consult with the Georgia Forestry Commission to identify and implement best management practices.



Fenced Stream Crossing for livestock, photo credit USDA NRCS

General Policies and Protection Measures

- Ensure that local regulations meet or exceed minimum State and federal requirements for the protection of State Vital Areas.
- Ensure that development ordinances prohibit or limit the placement of structures in flood prone areas.
- Institute an incentive-based conservation easement program to lessen development in ecologically sensitive areas.
- Adopt ordinances to enable cluster and greenspace development.
- Assist landowners and developers in implementing appropriate development and best management practices.
- Provide infrastructure, particularly sewer, to areas of residential development where septic systems may be aging or failing, and where possible, site large or dense residential developments in areas where sewer service is available or planned.
- Adopt an Ordinance to Protect Groundwater Recharge Areas modeled on DCA's Environmental Planning Criteria Model Land Use Management Code §2-1 Groundwater Recharge Areas.
- Adopt a Water Supply Watershed Protection Ordinance modeled on DCA's Environmental Planning Criteria Model Land Use Management Code §2-2 Water Supply Watersheds.
- Adopt a Wetlands Protection Ordinance modeled on DCA's Environmental Planning Criteria Model Land Use Management Code §2-3 Wetlands.

Quality Community Objectives to be Pursued

- Resource Management
- Efficient Land Use
- Local Preparedness
- Regional Cooperation
- Transportation Options

Appropriate Land Uses

These environmentally sensitive areas may be found within a variety of land uses including agricultural, forest, parks/recreation/conservation/greenspace, residential, commercial, industrial, and public/institutional among others. The value of the areas lies in their contribution to the surrounding area



Spring Creek Wetlands Preserve, photo credit Dalton Utilities.

and the region whether providing clean drinking water, stormwater control, connectivity to the natural environment, or wildlife and fish habitat. For this reason, additional protection of these resources is recommended within all land uses.

2. Areas of Rapid Development

These are areas where rapid development or change of land uses are likely to occur, especially where the pace of development has and/or may outpace the availability of community facilities and services, including transportation.

Assessment of vulnerability

These most rapidly developing areas may be at risk for loss of environmental features, including wetlands, natural stormwater buffers and treatment areas, natural topography, tree canopy, wildlife, and prime or active agricultural land. These areas are seen in Catoosa County, Bartow County, Walker County (northernmost, Rossville area, which was based on GLUT data and staff assessment), Paulding County, Floyd County, Pickens County (emerging suburban) and Gordon County, and are the same areas shown as Developing on the Regional Land Use map.

In these rapidly growing areas, infrastructure may fall behind the pace of development, and there are known environmental, historic or cultural resource areas which should be protected. For example, the Etowah Valley Historic District in Bartow and Floyd Counties is one of the largest on the National Register, extending along the Etowah River Valley from the Allatoona Dam to Rome. This district that includes ancient Native American history and culture, and much of which is currently in agriculture, overlaps anticipated areas of rapid development between Cartersville, Euharlee, and Emerson. Some development has already occurred, as seen in the Waterford Development (pictured) on the Etowah River near the Etowah Indian Mounds State Park.



Waterford Subdivision on banks of Etowah River, Cartersville.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

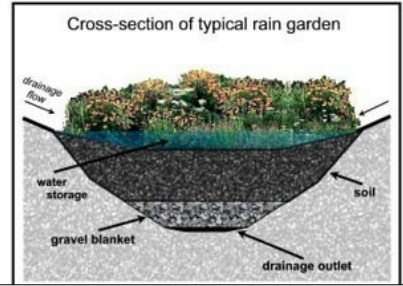
- Comply with all federal, state, and local legislation for the protection of wetlands and stream buffers.
- Retain existing vegetation and topography wherever possible.
- Locate all construction as far as possible from water resources, including flood prone areas and wetlands.
- Use natural features for storm water control whenever possible.
- Exceed minimum required buffers wherever possible.
- Minimize the amount of impervious surface by using alternative materials and designs.
- In any development, preserve topographical and hydrological features and cultural and historic resources to the greatest extent possible.
- Limit the proportion of impervious surfaces, including roofs, in developments.

- Install pervious pavement whenever possible to allow water infiltration into the soil, and limit street width

Plant a Rain Garden!

Planting a rain garden reduces pollution while giving you a garden that is easy to maintain and needs little or no watering. A rain garden on your property can conserve water and help protect our waterways at the same time. All you need is a little imagination and some space on your property to build a rain garden.

A rain garden receives stormwater runoff water from roofs or other hard surfaces such as driveways and holds or



City of Rome Stormwater webpage.

- and length to the minimum possible within development regulations.
- Construct vegetated swales in preference to tiles and drainage pipes wherever possible.
- Take advantage of clustering and greenspace development options wherever they are permitted in development regulations.
- Limit clearing, grading, and soil disturbance to only those areas required for construction.
- Construct bioretention areas or rain gardens in parking lot islands and in residential areas.
- When establishing new agricultural uses, consult with the County Extension Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission to identify and implement best management practices.
- When establishing new forestry uses, consult with the Georgia Forestry Commission to identify and implement best management practices.



**GEORGIA-ALABAMA
LAND TRUST**

General Policies and Protection Measures

- Ensure local regulations meet or exceed minimum requirements for wetlands, stream buffers.
- Ensure that development ordinances prohibit or limit placing structures in flood prone areas.
- Institute an incentive-based conservation easement program to lessen development in ecologically sensitive areas.
- Adopt ordinances to enable cluster, greenspace development.
- Assist landowners and developers in implementing appropriate development practices.
- Adopt an Ordinance to Protect Groundwater Recharge Areas modeled on DCA's Environmental Planning Criteria Model Land Use Management Code §2-1 Groundwater Recharge Areas.
- Adopt a Wetlands Protection Ordinance modeled on DCA's Environmental Planning Criteria Model Land Use Management Code §2-3 Wetlands.

Quality Community Objectives to be Pursued

- Resource Management
- Efficient Land Use
- Local Preparedness
- Regional Cooperation
- Transportation Options

Appropriate Land Uses

- Residential (Low, Medium and High Density)
- Commercial (Retail, Office, Lodging)
- Industrial
- Public/Institutional
- Parks, Trails and Greenspace
- Mixed-Use
- Agriculture, Agritourism, Agribusiness



Stream buffer restoration, photo credit USDA NRCS.

1.1.1.3 Areas of Redevelopment

Designated Urban Redevelopment Areas and Opportunity Zones (state and federal) in Northwest Georgia are identified as areas of redevelopment, as well as census blocks with poverty substantially higher than the region as a whole (40%-100% poverty). Designated Urban Redevelopment Areas and Opportunity Zones (state and federal) are areas where redevelopment and reinvestment needs have been identified including blighted buildings, vacant lands, aging infrastructure, grayfields and brownfields, and where there is potential for infill and redevelopment. Conversely, areas of substantially higher poverty may be in rural areas, suburban places, or high-density neighborhoods.



Andy's Jewelry building, 10 River Street.

Ellijay Urban Redevelopment Area example.

Quality Community Objectives to be Pursued

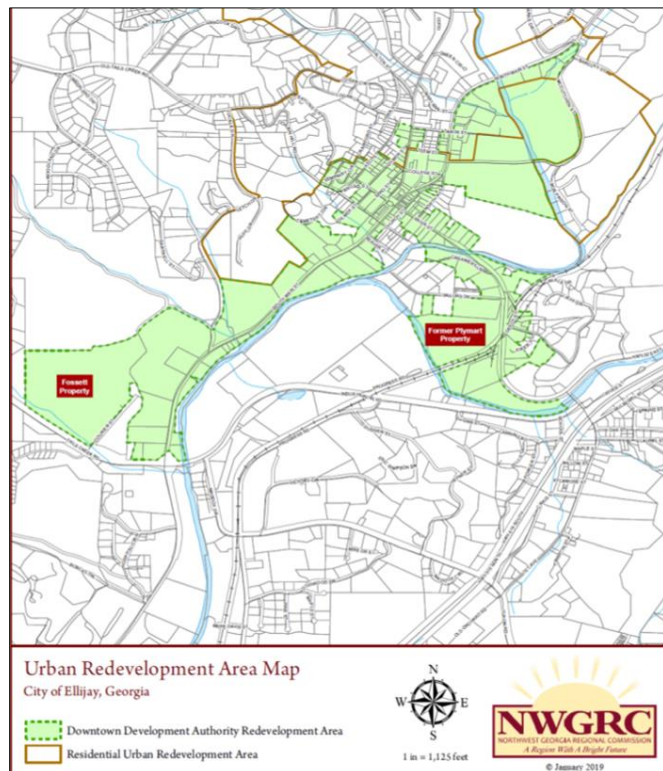
- Economic Prosperity
- Resource Management
- Efficient Land Use
- Housing Options

Appropriate Land Uses

- Commercial (Neighborhood, Retail/Office, Lodging)
- Mixed-Use
- Industrial
- Public/Institutional
- Residential (Low, Medium, High Density)
- Parks, Trails, Greenspace
- Agriculture, Agritourism, Agribusiness

Urban Redevelopment Areas

The Urban Redevelopment Act gives cities and counties in Georgia specific powers to rehabilitate, preserve, or redevelop any neighborhood or commercial area that is designated as a “pocket of blight.” Additionally, the Act allows cities and counties to formulate a workable program for utilizing appropriate private and public resources to eliminate and prevent the development or spread of pockets of blight, to encourage needed urban rehabilitation, to provide for the redevelopment of pockets of blight, or to undertake any of the aforesaid activities or other such feasible activities as may be suitably employed to achieve the objectives of this workable program. As a prerequisite to exercising these powers, the city council must adopt a resolution finding that the area constitutes a “pocket of blight” as defined by the Act and that “the rehabilitation, conservation, or redevelopment of the area or areas is necessary in the interest of the public health, safety, morals, or welfare” of the City’s residents. Urban Redevelopment Areas are mapped for Adairsville, Bartow County Lake Allatoona and Cassville-White Interchange, Ellijay, Dalton Downtown and South Commercial Corridor, LaFayette, Rome, Rockmart, Trion.



State Opportunity Zones

Local governments which undertake redevelopment and revitalization efforts in certain older commercial and industrial areas can now qualify those areas for the State’s maximum job tax credit of \$3,500 per job. The incentive, which is available for new or existing businesses that create two or more jobs, is a Job Tax Credit which can be taken against the business’s Georgia income tax liability and payroll withholding tax. The credit is available for areas designated by DCA as an “Opportunity Zone.” State Opportunity Zones have been designated in Cartersville and Adairsville (Bartow County), Cedartown (Polk County), Pickens County, Paulding County (Dallas and unincorporated Paulding), LaFayette (Walker County), Whitfield County, and Rome (Floyd County).

State Opportunity Zone Tax Credit Incentives:

- the maximum Job Tax Credit allowed under law - \$3,500 per job created
- the lowest job creation threshold of any job tax credit program - 2 jobs
- use of Job Tax Credits against 100 percent of Georgia income tax liability and withholding tax
- provides for businesses of any nature to qualify, not just a defined "business enterprise"

Federally Designated Opportunity Zones

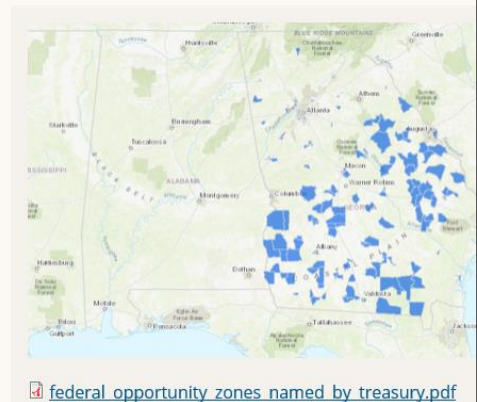
The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have designated Opportunity Zones in 18 States, including 260 census tracts in

Federal Opportunity Zones announced for Georgia

ATLANTA, GA (April 18, 2018) — The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have designated Opportunity Zones in 18 States, including 260 census tracts in the State of Georgia. Economic investment in these areas, which are some of the most distressed communities in the country, may now be eligible for preferential tax treatment. These new Federal Opportunity Zones are intended to facilitate investment in areas where poverty rates are greater than 20 percent.

“This designation will enable some of our state’s struggling communities to attract much-needed private sector investment,” said DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn. “By giving an economic shot in the arm’ to these communities, the goal is to boost investment where it’s most urgently needed.”

Georgia’s 260 zones, located in 83 counties, represent some of the most concentrated poverty in the state and are found in both rural



the State of Georgia. Economic investment in these areas, which are some of the most distressed communities in the country, may now be eligible for preferential tax treatment. These new Federal Opportunity Zones are intended to facilitate investment in areas where poverty rates are greater than 20 percent. There are five federal Opportunity Zone Census Tracts in Northwest Georgia: Rossville (Census Tract 202), Gilmer County (Census Tract 803), South Rome (Census Tracts 11 & 16), and Polk County (Census Tract 104). Some of these tracts, notably the Polk County tract, are large areas; we predict that most interest would be in or near Cedartown.

Levels of Poverty Substantially Higher than Region as a Whole

Both poverty and unemployment can indicate need to reinvest in an area. However, current unemployment for Northwest Georgia is only slightly higher than the State of Georgia, at 3.8% compared to Georgia at 3.6%. For this reason specific areas of high unemployment were not added as areas of disinvestment, as all were fairly low. The county with the highest unemployment is Murray County, at 5% due to recent closures of Mohawk carpet manufacturer; however, a GE manufacturing facility is now under construction just south of the Appalachian Regional Port in Crandall with projected employment of 100, and \$130 Million capital investment.

Additional investment in transportation, public infrastructure and services such as litter removal and neighborhood cleanups, education on health and



GE manufacturer in construction south of Appalachian Regional Port, Crandall.

safety codes, private investment and reinvestment, and greater non-profit involvement may all be indicated in areas of high poverty. Mapped areas of poverty substantially higher than the region as a whole are Census Block Groups with 40% or higher poverty from the 2017 American Community Survey. While some of these areas are large due to low population, reinvestment will likely occur in areas where population density determines a greater need. Investment in rural areas for broadband and water, sewer, and other infrastructure should be provided in a planned and strategic way to ensure costs are recouped and services are provided to areas of need.

Areas Requiring Special Attention in Northwest Georgia

The Areas Requiring Special Attention map identifies areas that may need targeted monitoring and mitigation due to potential development conflicts or opportunities for economic growth.

<p>THREATENED (POTENTIALLY IMPACTED)</p> <p>Areas where significant natural or cultural resources overlap developed and developing areas and therefore are likely to be impacted by development</p>	<p>RAPID DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Areas where rapid development is likely to occur and has or may outpace the availability of community facilities and services, including transportation</p>	<p>REDEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Areas in need of or currently experiencing redevelopment. These areas include: State & Federal Opportunity Zones, Urban Redevelopment Areas and Block Groups with 40%+ Poverty</p>
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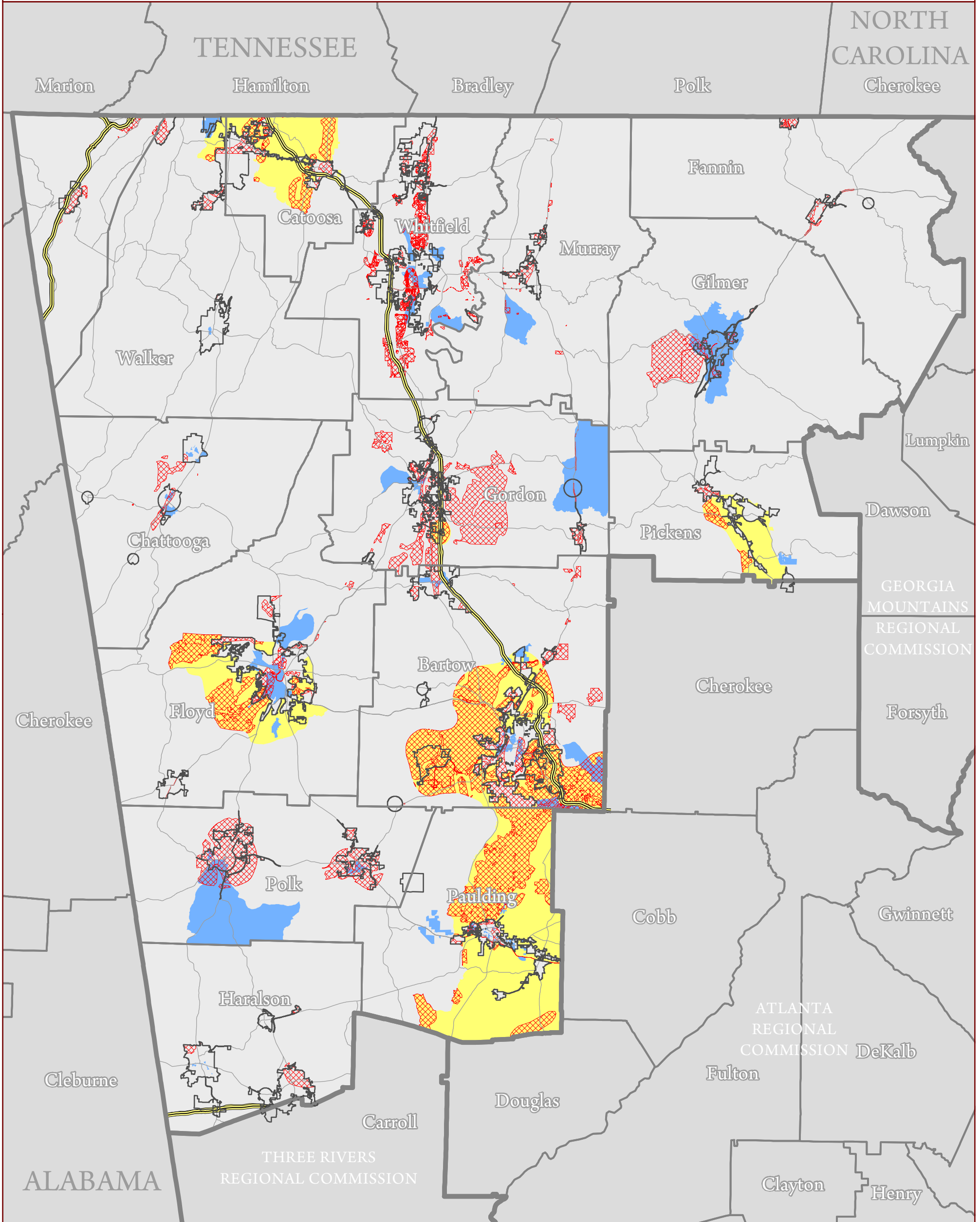
Interstate	Highways	City Boundary	County Boundary	Regional Commission Boundary
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1 in = 8 miles



November 2019



This is a product of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Geographic Information System Services, 503 West Waugh Street, Dalton, Georgia 30720, (706) 272-2300, www.nwgrc.org. This map is a representation of features displayed and does not constitute a legal representation of any one feature. This product may not be used or reproduced without the NWGRC logo, name and disclaimer being displayed.

FIGURE 3: AREAS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION IN NORTHWEST GEORGIA MAP

3 NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

3.1 WHAT NORTHWEST GEORGIA NEEDS MOST? A REGIONAL PLAN SURVEY

The regional plan survey containing ten questions was developed for smartphone and web responses, and distributed through direct email, distribution by local governments, Chambers of Commerce and school systems, posted on the NWGRC website and shared via Facebook. Local media also promoted the survey. Between January and March 2019, the survey garnered 1,860 responses; each county was represented. Most heavily represented was Floyd County with 18% of responses, and least was Dade County with 1% of responses. These questions help NWGRC staff prioritize needs, provide assistance to local governments, and help set policies and for the region’s plan.

The survey asked respondents to weigh in on industrial development including encouraging location along commercial highways (58.6%), restricting commercial truck traffic (49.8%), and discouraging new industrial development in agricultural or residential areas (32%).

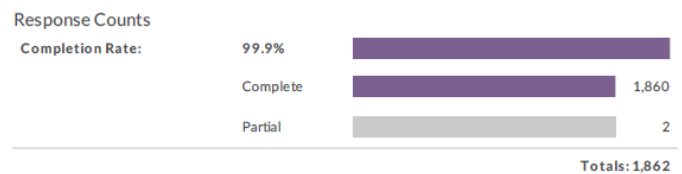
Litter, blight, and overall appearance affect community investment. While 18.2% of respondents felt their community was welcoming, more than half reported that litter was a common sight, and 35% saw growing pockets of blighted private property.

Another question asked about availability and speed of residential internet. Only a few (8%) said internet was not available; while 60% reported that internet was available and speeds were good, one in three said speed was not adequate.

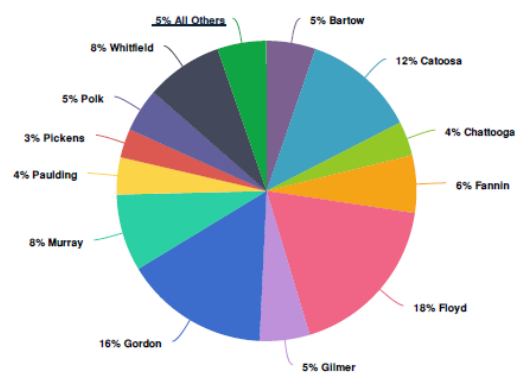
Other questions asked about the importance of preserving historic sites with 75% saying it is important. For housing, 45% reported a lack of high-quality rental units, and 40% both cited blighted properties and lack of workforce housing. Senior housing was a priority for 33%, and 26% saw dated housing stock as an issue. Almost one in five (18%) cited need for urban housing stock downtown.

One in five (20%) reported not knowing if transit was available in their community; almost half reported that it was not available (47%). Since most counties provide bus transit on a demand-response basis, this response shows that current bus transit is not well known or widely used.

Retail trade assessed whether more shopping was done locally or online, or outside the region; more than half shopped online (58%) but more than that (67%) shopped with local businesses in their county, indicating there is a great market for local retail and local products.



1. Which County do you live in?



3.2 NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BE ADDRESSED

In Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 the Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee of the NWGRC Council prepared a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis, made available for public and stakeholder input in three public meetings (December 2018, January 2019, and April 2019). Results from the Spring 2019 What Northwest Georgia Needs Most survey added to the SWOT. Staff reviewed the 2014 Regional Assessment and Agenda, the Statewide Recreation Plan or SCORP, Transportation Improvement Plans of MPOs in the region, GDOT STIP, Regional Plans of neighboring Regional Commissions, 2040 Land Use, areas of Conservation and Development, and Areas Requiring Special Attention, and data and analysis, to compile the final list of needs and opportunities.

Economic Development

Northwest Georgia’s major employment sectors are manufacturing (29%), retail trade (14%) and health care and social assistance at 13%. The Regional Survey asked, Where do you typically do the majority of your shopping? Respondents shopped more in their county of residence (67%) than online (58%) or elsewhere in northwest GA (30%), or in bordering Tennessee, Alabama or North Carolina (15%). With full employment, the region’s manufacturers are seeking skilled workers; additional workforce training for specific skills is needed.

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission prepared the 2017-2022 Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The NWGRC as the local Economic Development District develops, implements, and revises the CEDS with the CEDS Strategy Committee and funding from the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA). The CEDS identified four priority categories:



Human Capital

- **Workforce Skills:** Increase the number of residents skilled in advanced manufacturing (and middle-skill, living wage occupations) to meet current and changing needs of northwest Georgia employees.
- **Educational Attainment:** Expand the number of students in the region that are prepared for future employment in skilled and professional positions through enhanced educational opportunities and active career counseling.
- **Human Services:** Ensure appropriate human services are available to meet the needs of the region’s current and future workforce.

Community Assets

- **Tourism and Film Industry:** Increase tourism, visitor spending, and revenue earned from the film industry in northwest Georgia.
- **Quality of Life:** Enhance quality of life amenities in the region to retain talent and gain a competitive advantage when recruiting new businesses and industry.



- Housing: Ensure adequate housing is available to meet the needs of the northwest Georgia workforce, which is affordable, decent, and safe.

Essential Infrastructure

- Industrial Properties: Ensure northwest Georgia has sufficient, ready to develop industrial properties available to meet the region's current, future needs.
- Transportation: Advocate for transportation projects that are critical for regional economic development.
- High Speed Internet: Increase coverage and accessibility of high-speed internet for residential, commercial, and industrial areas, with a focus on rural areas.
- Traditional Infrastructure: Ensure communities in the region have adequate basic infrastructure to implement their community and economic development objectives.



Fort Oglethorpe Thriving Communities team members receive \$20,000 in Lyndhurst Foundation grant funds, TheChattanooga.com.

Business Climate

- Improved Business Climate: Increase entrepreneurship and innovation by supporting business development in existing, emerging sectors.

Economic Development: WHAT DO WE NEED? (Priorities)

- EDP 1 Ensure infrastructure is in place across region to meet needs of existing and new business and industry.
- EDP 2 Focus on improvement of skills for jobs in Northwest Georgia (training and skill development for the jobs and industries in our region).
- EDP 3 Improve competitiveness of Northwest Georgia communities to attract and retain business and industry

WHAT CAN WE DO? (Strategies)

- EDS 1 Implement regional and local plans and strategies to support job creation/ retention and private investment
- EDS 2 Improve local and regional partnerships between industry/ business, workforce development providers, and educational institutions both K-12 and post-secondary, and community leadership.
- EDS 3 Provide planning and funding assistance to increase economic competitiveness in coordination with state and federal agencies.

Healthy Communities

The region's poverty rates increased overall from 11% in 2000 to 17% in 2016, similar to Georgia's poverty rate which increased from 12% in 2000 to 18% in 2016 likely due to the Great Recession, December 2007-June 2009. Those over age 65 will increase by approximately 30% from 2020-2050, and those age 75 and older by 50-60% during 2020-2040. This affects transportation, housing, medical care and public policy. There are declines projected among ages 5-19 and ages 45-54 from 2020 through 2050.



Silver Comet Trail

WHAT DO WE NEED? (Priorities)

- HCP1 There is a lack of access to healthy food options; high poverty rates contribute to unhealthy lifestyles- cheap food, lack of health insurance
- HCP2 There is a need for additional resources and services for low-income, disabled, homeless individuals and those with mental health and substance abuse needs.

WHAT CAN WE DO? (Strategies)

- HCS1 Expand agritourism and agribusiness opportunities; invest in local food systems.
- HCS2 Work with local governments and community organizations to improve services to low-income, disabled, homeless individuals and those with mental health and substance abuse needs.

Housing

The 2013-2017 American Community Survey showed Paulding County has the highest home ownership at 73%, and Fannin County the lowest at 46%. Owner-occupied median home values decreased to \$129,073 from 2010-2014. More than one-third of renters (36%) were distressed, paying over 35% of their income in rent. The Regional Survey asked, What are the most relevant housing issues? Of most concern was a lack of high-end rental units (45%), lack of workforce housing (41%), blighted properties (41%), lack of senior housing and assisted living (33%), dated housing stock (26%), lack of public water and sewer (19%) and lack of downtown housing (18%), and lack of high-end housing (9%). A variety of housing types is needed.



Mustang Ridge subdivision, Fairmount

WHAT DO WE NEED? (Priorities)

- HP 1 There is a lack of safe, affordable housing at a variety of income levels and diverse housing types

WHAT CAN WE DO? (Strategies)

- HS1 Incentivize the redevelopment of blighted or vacant residential, industrial, commercial areas

Natural Resources

Northwest Georgia is a fifteen-county area covering 3,223,000 acres with many significant natural, historic, cultural and environmental resources. Resources include water supply watersheds, groundwater recharge areas, steep slopes (Gilmer, Fannin Counties), protected rivers, and wetlands, the Chattahoochee National Forest, wildlife management areas, varied flora and fauna, and significant historic sites such as the National Historic Trail of Tears. The regional survey asked,



“How important is the preservation of historic assets?” A large majority (72%) felt historic preservation is very important and others somewhat important (25%). Another question asked “What should be done to improve public access to the region's natural resources?” Respondents said, Connect existing trails to commercial areas with restaurants and lodging (61%), extend and connect hiking trails (55%), Improve parking at trailheads (53%) and extend and connect canoe trails to include more load/launch sites (43%).

WHAT DO WE NEED? (Priorities)

- NRP 1 More people need to connect with Northwest Georgia’s natural resources so they will enjoy and protect its diversity and beauty
- NRP 2 Preserve irreplaceable historic, cultural resources through inventory, designation, citizen engagement and funding
- NRP 3 Maintain surface and groundwater quality throughout the region to meet federal and state regulations

WHAT CAN WE DO? (Strategies)

- NRS1 Identify, protect, preserve and promote identified Regionally Important Resources
- NRS2 Promote trails, greenways and blueways; Improve safety, visibility, and access, add access points
- NRS3 Identify and preserve historic and cultural resources
- NRS4 Apply for funding to improve water quality, restore streambanks, and protect water resources.

Land Use



Residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial land uses (Bartow County).

As 2015 University of Georgia Land Use Trends projections indicate, continued growth is expected along the I-75 corridor, in Catoosa County due to its proximity to the Chattanooga metropolitan area, and in Paulding and Bartow Counties close to the Atlanta metropolitan area. Please see the 2040 Development Map, Conservation and Development Map, and Areas of Special Attention (p. 15). These patterns of regional land use support the Future Development or Future Land Use maps in the local Comprehensive Plan to direct new development, infill, and redevelopment to best locations according to utility placement, land use, growth trends and conservation needs. The NWGRC works with local governments to update land use and development ordinances to guide growth and development. Some respondents

(32%), to the Regional Plan survey felt new industrial development should be discouraged in agricultural or residential areas; fewer felt that local governments should avoid creating regulations that restrict or prohibit new industrial and manufacturing development (30%).

Land Use: WHAT DO WE NEED? (Priority)

LUP1 Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans and that balances conservation with development needs

WHAT CAN WE DO? (Strategy)

LUS1 Assist local governments to comply with current Georgia Zoning Procedures Law (O.C.G.A. 36-66-1, et seq.; 36-67-1, et seq.; and, 36-67A-1, et seq. as amended) and provide necessary technical assistance. Assist communities to update local ordinances related to land use, development, design, utility availability, and infill among others.

Planning and Local Government Assistance

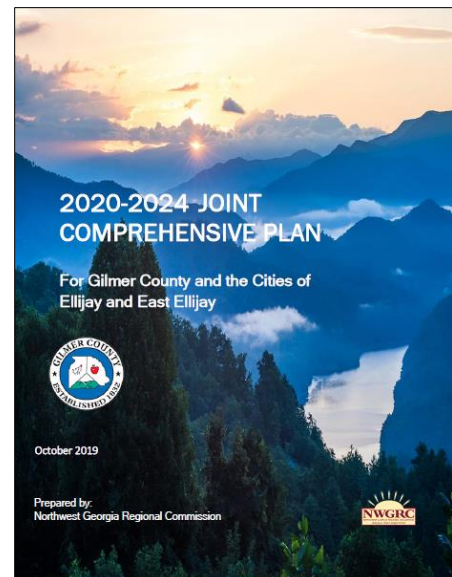
The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council and staff provide coordination between local governments and state agencies, and between various local and state planning entities such as Metropolitan Planning Organizations. As a Regional Commission we can provide training, technical assistance, and outreach for many state and federal programs and requirements in response to needs within the region, and assist local governments to implement those requirements or best practices.

WHAT DO WE NEED? (Priorities)

- PLG 1 Prepare and implement comprehensive plans in accordance with the Georgia Planning Act and DCA Planning Requirements
- PLG 2 Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans
- PLG 3 Provide resources to assist local governments to meet demands of growth, reinvestment, needs of rural areas

WHAT CAN WE DO? (Strategies)

- PLGS 1 Assist local governments to update their comprehensive plan and service delivery strategy, to implement projects and initiatives in the comprehensive plan, and to apply for PlanFirst designation
- PLGS 2 Update the Regional Plan according to Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning
- PLGS 3 Provide outreach, training, and technical assistance on planning and development needs of local governments



Transportation

The Fall 2018 opening of the Appalachian Regional Port on CSX Rail on US 411 north of Eton in Murray County directly linked Northwest Georgia by rail to the port of Savannah. The port can handle 50,000 containers/ year, taking 50,000 trucks out of the Atlanta Metro area and offsetting 14.2M miles/year, doubling over 10 years (Georgia Ports Authority, 2018). Needed improvements to East-West corridors may be programmed in state or MPO plans. Smart transportation technology will invest near metro areas where denser populations may drive



Photo credit Trailink.com-Using Free Tools, Silver Comet Trailhead, Cedartown

increased automation or data-heavy solutions. Intermodal transportation connections are a priority for pedestrian, cycling and public transportation options between home, work, and destinations.

The 2019 Regional Survey, What Northwest Georgia Needs Most? asked, "With ever-increasing

manufacturing growth in Northwest Georgia, what steps should leadership take to address traffic safety and other issues associated with industrial development?" Most (59%) supported new industrial development along existing commercial highways, and 50% supported restricting (non-residential delivery) commercial trucks on residential streets, while 43%



Highway 53 Sonoraville, Gordon County

would place truck routes on existing highways. Another question asked "Northwest Georgia is home to many diverse natural resources although public accessibility may be inconvenient. What should be done to improve public access to the region's natural resources?" Responses said, Connect existing trails to commercial areas with restaurants and lodging facilities (61%) and extend and connect bike trails (48%).

WHAT DO WE NEED? (Priorities)

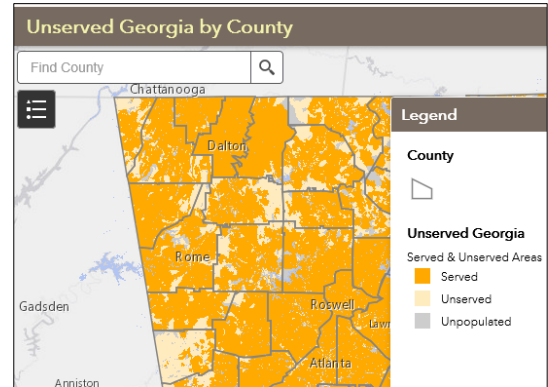
- TP1 Provide safe, efficient movement of people and goods through Northwest Georgia to enhance economic growth
- TP2 Improve connectivity of bike and pedestrian pathways throughout the region

WHAT CAN WE DO? (Strategies)

- TS 1 Improve coordination between local governments, GDOT, MPOs and federal agencies to implement regionally significant transportation projects
- TS 2 Implement bike & pedestrian safety plans, GA Bicycle/ Pedestrian Safety Action Plans, Safe Routes to School, implement Complete Streets design
- TS 3 Develop more trails and trails systems that connect to parks, neighborhoods, retail centers, libraries, workplaces and downtowns

Broadband

In updating the comprehensive plans for cities and counties in Northwest Georgia, needs for improved broadband infrastructure were widespread. For example, Haralson County identified a need for affordable countywide internet access. The County developed public-private partnerships and received funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission to deploy a combination of fiber and wireless residential service. Many counties identified the need to improve broadband service in their comprehensive plan. One resident of Bartow County replied to a survey on needs: "High speed internet. I work from home and we're going to have to move if we don't get it soon." The Regional Survey, "What Northwest Georgia Needs Most," asked Do you have access to internet at your home, other than satellite provider options? about availability and speed of residential internet. Only a few (8%) said internet was not available; while 60% reported that internet was available and speeds were good, one in three said speed was not adequate.



Northwest Georgia Broadband Coverage, Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative.

WHAT DO WE NEED? (Priority)

BP 1 Improve broadband and telecommunication services

WHAT CAN WE DO? (Strategies)

- BS1 Partner with the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, local governments, providers, and other agencies and initiatives, and participate in the Georgia Broadband Ready Program.
- BS2 Assess needs regarding 5G, provide assistance and resources to local governments

4 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

The Implementation Program is the strategy for achieving the Regional Vision and addressing the Regional Priorities and Strategies. It identifies steps to be taken by NWGRC and regional leadership in partnership with local government to implement the plan and achieve the Regional Vision. The Implementation Program includes Minimum and Excellence Standards, Local Government Performance Report, a Report of Accomplishments on the previous five year work program, and the 2019-2023 Regional Work Program which identifies projects to be completed in the next five years.

4.1 MINIMUM AND EXCELLENCE STANDARDS

To encourage implementation of the Regional Plan, realize the Regional Vision and address the Regional Issues and Opportunities, the NWGRC set Minimum and Excellence thresholds for local governments as required by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Regional Planning Requirements. The Minimum Standard includes essential activities for consistency with the Regional Plan, while the Excellence Standard includes desirable activities for consistency with the Regional Plan.

Minimum Standard

The Minimum Standard requirements are the same for all local governments in the region, as follows:

Number	Minimum Standard Requirement
Min1	The local government has a comprehensive plan that complies with the <i>Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-12-1, Minimum Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning</i> and has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.
Min2	The local government has a Service Delivery Strategy (O.C.G.A. 36-70-22) that is verified by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.
Min3	The municipal/county clerk meets the mandated orientation training as specified in State law (O.C.G.A. sections 36-1-24 and 36-45-20).
Min4	Newly elected municipal/county officials participate in training sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association or the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.
Min5	The local government uses the Guiding Principles contained in the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan as guidance for making decisions consistent with achieving the Regional Vision or addressing the Regional Priorities and Strategies.
Min6	The local government uses the General Policies and Protection Measures in the <i>Northwest Georgia Regionally Important Resource Plan</i> when making decisions that affect Regionally Important Resources.
Min7	The local government complies with the <i>Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-12-3, for Developments of Regional Impact</i> .
Min8	A hazard mitigation plan approved by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.
Min9	The local government has the ability to send and receive electronic communications.
Min10	The local government meets state financial reporting requirements.
Min11	The local government meets E-verify requirements through Department of Audits.

Excellence Standard

The Excellence Standard is based on a “point system” whereby a local government is asked to consider a menu of best practices to achieve a threshold of points. Each recommended Excellence Standard activity is assigned a value of 1, 2, or 3 points based on its complexity of accomplishment and/or its consistency with the Regional Plan. The NWGRC recognizes that local governments in the region have different needs and capacities. Consequently, the Excellence Standard threshold is established at three different levels: basic (Tier 1), intermediate (Tier 2), and advanced (Tier 3), as follows:

Tiers / Levels	Excellence Standard Thresholds
Tier 1 (Basic Level) – Municipalities with a population of less than 3,000; counties with a population of less than 30,000	Tier 1 local governments must achieve 75 total points, with at least 7 points coming from each of the seven categories.
Tier 2 (Intermediate Level) - Municipalities with a population of 3,000 to 9,999; counties with a population 30,000 to 69,999.	Tier 2 local governments must achieve 150 total points, with at least 13 points coming from each of the seven categories.
Tier 3 (Advanced Level) - Municipalities with a population of 10,000 or greater; counties with a population of 70,000 or greater	Tier 3 local governments must achieve 225 total points, with at least 20 points coming from each of the seven categories.

Each recommended Excellence Standard activity a local government implements will count toward achieving the appropriate Excellence Standard threshold indicated above. Any local government that attains the appropriate threshold may be awarded recognition as a “Regional Steward” for its accomplishments and will be eligible for special incentives identified by the Department of Community Affairs. Excellence Standard activities, categorized by various planning elements, is as follows:

PlanFirst and Training

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
1.	We have applied for PlanFirst designation to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	10
2.	We are a PlanFirst Community designated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs	10
3.	We have attended a Community Planning Institute in the last year	5
4.	We have attended a Georgia Planning Association conference or regional training in the last year	5
5.	We are members of Georgia Association of Zoning Administrators and have attended a GAZA conference or regional training in the last year	5
6.	We have attended Georgia Municipal Association or ACCG conference and training sessions in the last year	5

Economic Development

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
7.	We are a Certified Work Ready Community (Governor's Office of Workforce Development program).	2
8.	We are an Entrepreneur Friendly Community (Georgia Department of Economic Development program).	2
9.	We support or encourage a Buy Local campaign.	1
10.	We have developed a how-to guide for starting a local business.	2
11.	We have a website with business information.	2
12.	Our ordinances are available on-line, on our website or another website such as municode.com.	1
13.	We host an annual business resource fair.	2
14.	We are actively involved with a chamber of commerce.	1
15.	We have conducted a Business Retention and Expansion Process (BREP) Survey, or an Existing Industry Program (EIP) Survey in the last five years.	2
16.	We have an Urban Redevelopment Plan (URP) per O.C.G.A. 36-61-1.	2
17.	We participate in the Certified Literate Community Program (CLCP) under the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education.	1
18.	We meet all Certified Literate Community Program (CLCP) county goals.	2
19.	At least one of our staff or elected officials has attended the Georgia Academy training offered by the Georgia Academy for Economic Development.	2
20.	Our downtown development directors (board members) are all certified (if positions are applicable).	2
21.	We have a written inventory of existing businesses.	2
22.	We have a written inventory of sites and buildings available for commercial and manufacturing development or redevelopment.	3
23.	We are a Main Street Community or a Better Hometown Community.	2
24.	We have an Enterprise Zone or similar program that offers incentives such as tax or fee exemptions to attract new business.	3
25.	We have an Opportunity Zone (Georgia tax credit program) in our jurisdiction.	3
26.	We have a business incubator program.	3
27.	We regularly conduct a Labor Market Information (LMI) Analysis to identify industry sectors best suited to a local community's available workforce, and what training might be required to attract potential employers.	3
28.	We participate in multi-county economic development efforts.	1

Economic Development, Cont.

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
29.	We have a Neighborhood Watch program in our community to help prevent crime and vandalism.	2
30.	We have a unified development code (all our ordinances relating to development are in one place), to help streamline the development process.	2
31.	We have a GDOT-designated scenic byway.	2
32.	We have developed a detailed industry recruitment strategy or plan, including the process for creating a qualified workforce to serve current, future regional industries.	3
33.	We have developed an existing business retention plan or program.	3
34.	We participate in regional tourism efforts (e.g. promotional materials).	1
35.	We utilize way-finding signage for tourism, shopping district(s), downtown, etc.	2
36.	We are a Camera-Ready Community.	2
37.	We support downtown efforts through promotion, attendance at downtown events.	1
38.	We have participated in the Department of Economic Development Tourism Resource Team Program.	2

Housing

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
39.	We have a written housing plan or strategy.	2
40.	We have a written housing inventory.	2
41.	We have a written neighborhood redevelopment plan.	3
42.	We streamline the review process, or otherwise provide incentives to developers, for mixed-income housing developments that include housing for low- and moderate-income households.	3
43.	We have a housing trust fund to provide a stable source of revenue reserved solely for affordable homes.	3
44.	We have tax exempt programs for mixed-income developments and low-income home owners.	2
45.	We participate in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) program.	3
46.	Our zoning ordinance allows very small lot sizes (1/4 acre or smaller) for single-family houses.	2
47.	Our staff or elected officials attend housing training annually.	1

Housing, Cont.

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
48.	In some cases, we allow manufactured housing to be taxed as real estate and not as personal property.	2
49.	Our zoning ordinance has an inclusionary provision that requires developers to make a percentage of housing units in new residential developments available to low- and moderate-income households.	3
50.	We have a community-based organization that provides credit counseling.	2
51.	We have, or are a member of, a housing authority.	2
52.	We have made demonstrable efforts to stimulate infill housing development in existing neighborhoods.	2
53.	We have adopted and implemented an ordinance that facilitates the cleanup, repair, and/or demolition of unsafe or abandoned properties.	3
54.	We conduct periodic Housing Assessments to determine existing conditions and current and future needs.	2
55.	We have established recognition programs such as "Home of the Month" or "Yard of the Month."	2
56.	We participate in public/private partnerships such as Habitat for Humanity.	2
57.	We have established or participate in a Land Bank Authority	3

Natural and Cultural Resources

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
58.	We have adopted and enforce the Part V Environmental ordinances to provide protection for wetlands, steep slopes, groundwater recharge areas, river corridors, and water supply watersheds (as applicable to our jurisdiction).	3
59.	As required under the Georgia Water Stewardship Act, beginning in July 2012, we will require sub-metering in new multi-unit buildings so that each unit will receive consumption reports and have incentive to practice conservation measures.	2
60.	As required under the Georgia Water Stewardship Act, beginning in January 2011, we will restrict outdoor irrigation to the hours between 4pm to 10am.	2
61.	We organize or participate in a stream clean-up program such as Adopt-A-Stream or Rivers Alive.	2
62.	We have adopted and implemented a historic preservation ordinance and have an active historic preservation commission.	2
63.	We have a locally designated historic district.	3
64.	We are a certified local government under the Georgia Historic Preservation Division.	1

Natural and Cultural Resources, cont.

Number	Excellence Standard	Points
65.	We have a Georgia/National Register listed or nominated property or properties.	2
66.	We have and enforce a tree ordinance.	2
67.	We have an area-specific plan (such as a downtown development plan) to address a specific part of our jurisdiction.	3
68.	We have an environmental resource inventory that maps the community's environmentally sensitive areas (such as floodplains, wetlands, significant stands of old growth trees, etc.) in order to make rational decisions about areas best suited to set aside as open space, or for areas of development.	2
69.	We support a local environmental conservation organization that champions issues.	1
70.	We are a Keep Georgia Beautiful affiliate.	1
71.	We adopted administrative procedures to enforce the state minimum standard building codes (Building, Residential, Fire, Plumbing, Mechanical, Fuel Gas, Electric and Energy Conservation).	3
72.	We adopted one or more permissive codes (International Property Maintenance Code, or International Existing Building Code).	2
73.	We have developed and/or maintain a comprehensive inventory of cultural, archaeological, and historic resources.	3
74.	We have developed a local process to evaluate natural, cultural, and historic resources identified in the Regionally Important Resources Plan during the land development process.	2
75.	We integrate cultural and historic resources with heritage tourism efforts.	1
76.	We have developed and adopted ordinances that encourage developers to protect open space, natural resources, and wildlife habitat.	3
77.	We have adopted and implemented a water conservation ordinance or policy.	3
78.	We have monitored impaired streams and rivers to determine the pollution sources and implemented mitigation strategies.	3

Community Facilities and Services

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
79.	We require connection to public water and sewer systems for new construction where they are available, and at the natural time of replacement when septic systems fail [in our urban areas].	2
80.	We have water and sewer revenues that adequately cover the maintenance and operation of the systems (see Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Finance Center).	3
81.	Our clerk is certified by the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government (Georgia Certification Program for Municipal and County Clerks).	2
82.	Our municipal elected officials have each obtained certification at one of four levels (Recognition, Achievement, Excellence, Distinction) through GMA's Municipal Leadership Institute.	2
83.	Our county commissioner(s) have obtained and maintain at least Core Certification through the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy.	2
84.	Our chief of police is certified (if position is applicable).	1
85.	Our emergency medical technicians and paramedics are all certified (if positions are applicable).	2
86.	Our gas operators are all certified (if positions are applicable).	1
87.	Our firefighters are all certified (if positions are applicable).	2
88.	Our landfill operator is certified (if position is applicable).	1
89.	Our municipal court judge is certified (if position is applicable).	1
90.	Our law enforcement officers are all certified (if positions are applicable).	1
91.	Our wastewater lab analyst is certified (if position is applicable).	1
92.	Our wastewater operator is certified (if position is applicable).	1
93.	Our water operator is certified (if position is applicable).	1
94.	We have a written maintenance and replacement plan for infrastructure (water, sewer, electric, etc.).	3
95.	We have a written utility expansion plan.	3
96.	We have a written recreation plan.	3
97.	We have a searchable, up-to-date inventory of private wells and septic systems in our jurisdiction.	2
98.	We require new development to provide a storm water mitigation and management plan.	3
99.	We operate our utilities as enterprise funds.	2
100.	We have a capital improvement program (CIP) for improving public facilities.	2

Community Facilities and Services, cont.

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
101.	We have developed and adopted a Capital Improvements Element (CIE) according to state law.	1
102.	We receive funds from an approved special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST).	1
103.	We make maintenance of existing infrastructure a priority before extending new infrastructure into additional areas.	3
104.	We support youth activities or facilities.	2
105.	We report to the National Fire Incident Reporting System.	2
106.	Our local land development ordinances and standards discourage the use of individual lot septic systems for developments that exceed a density threshold of one dwelling unit per acre.	3
107.	Our local land development ordinances and standards prohibit the installation of new septic systems within 100 feet of any river and within 50 feet of any state water body.	3
108.	We have developed an inspection, maintenance, and monitoring program for private septic systems.	3
109.	We have developed and implemented a water quality monitoring program.	3
110.	We have adopted and implemented a stormwater management plan and/or ordinance.	3
111.	We partner with local boards of education to identify new school locations in areas connected by appropriate infrastructure.	2
112.	We have developed, adopted, and implemented plans to protect and create public greenspaces such as parks, greenways, and other recreational facilities.	2
113.	We provide education to property owners on the value of connecting to a public or community water/wastewater system when available or nearby.	2
114.	We have or participate in a recycling program.	2
115.	We have a "pay per throw" (unit-based or variable rate) structure for solid waste disposal so households are charged according to the amount of waste disposed.	2
116.	We have a solid waste management plan, prepared or updated within the last 10 years, that includes, as a minimum, a waste disposal stream analysis; waste reduction, collection, disposal, land limitation, and education and public involvement elements; and an implementation strategy.	3
117.	We have developed and implemented active recreation after school programs.	2
118.	We have developed and implemented or actively support a community youth leadership or mentoring program.	2

Community Facilities and Services, cont.

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
119.	We have developed and implemented incentives to increase high school graduation rates.	2
120.	We have developed and implemented a seamless education model to ensure that all students progress smoothly through the education systems and into the workforce.	3

Intergovernmental Coordination

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
121.	Our department heads actively review the comprehensive plan community work program at least semi-annually.	2
122.	We develop our comprehensive plan with the other local governments in our county.	1
123.	We have a fully functional website that is regularly updated.	2
124.	We can provide evidence of working jointly with neighboring jurisdictions on developing solutions for shared regional issues (such as growth management, natural resource protection, transportation, air quality, etc.).	3
125.	We have developed active partnerships with state and/or federal agencies in addressing regional issues.	3
126.	We provide input and feedback, as applicable, during the review process of Developments of Regional Impact.	2
127.	We update and amend the Service Delivery Strategy when changes occur.	2
128.	We have established formal agreements (one or more) with neighboring jurisdictions for sharing services, resources, or facilities.	3
129.	We participate regularly in Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia (BWNWGA), the regional bicycle and pedestrian task force.	3
130.	We appoint a Board of Education member to actively participate on the Planning Commission.	2
131.	We participate in quarterly meetings with the Board of Education and local governments.	1
132.	We participate in the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership.	3
133.	We are implementing the recommendations contained in the Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan, Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Plan, or Metropolitan North Georgia Planning District's Water Resources Plans, as appropriate.	3

Transportation

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
134.	We require sidewalk connectivity.	2
135.	We have employed traffic calming measures (e.g., raised crosswalks, narrower traffic lanes, fewer lanes, on-street parking, bump-outs, pedestrian refuges, and landscaped medians) in our downtown and traditional neighborhoods.	3
136.	We require development of sidewalks and multipurpose paths in new subdivisions over a certain size.	2
137.	We have a bicycle and pedestrian master plan.	3
138.	We have a walking awareness and promotion program.	2
139.	We participate in the Georgia Safe Routes to School program.	3
140.	We have safe, adequate, well-designed bicycle facilities, such as designated bike lanes, pavement markings, signage, intersection crossings, bike racks.	3
141.	We have a designated path for joggers, bicyclists, and/or pedestrians that serves a valuable recreational purpose and/or serves as a transportation alternative.	2
142.	We require connectivity between parking lots where appropriate.	2
143.	We allow shared parking in commercial areas.	2
144.	We participate in a public transit program.	3
145.	We promote alternative transportation modes by holding special events, such as "Bike to Work Day," "Walk to School Day," or "Share the Ride Day" to demonstrate the benefits of using alternatives to the single-occupant automobile to get around our community.	2
146.	We have developed and implemented polices/ordinances/plans that encourage or promote street connectivity and improve access and mobility.	2
147.	We initiate local transportation improvements consistent with all existing bicycle and pedestrian plans.	2
148.	We employ access management techniques for public roads and to provide incentives for private roads.	2
149.	We have prepared a local Transit Assessment and/or prepared and adopted a Transit Development Plan (TDP).	3
150.	We participate in regional transportation-related forums that focus on multi-modal transportation approaches.	1
151.	We participate in regional transit initiatives.	2
152.	We have adopted a local Right-of-Way Protection Plan.	2
153.	We have implemented local road improvements consistent with an existing transportation plan.	2
154.	We provide incentives for private roads to be paved and constructed per local road standards and provide for maintenance through homeowner's associations.	3

Land Use

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
155.	We have a zoning ordinance or development code in place that is regularly updated to reflect the community vision.	2
156.	Our zoning ordinance allows accessory housing units by right (mother-in-law suites, carriage houses, garage apartments, etc.).	2
157.	Our zoning ordinance allows mixed uses (such as allowing residential and commercial together in the same district).	2
158.	Our zoning ordinance allows planned unit developments (PUDs).	2
159.	Our zoning ordinance accommodates the reuse of closed, decommissioned, or obsolete (greyfields) uses.	2
160.	Our zoning ordinance includes manufactured home compatibility standards that ensure architectural compatibility of manufactured homes with adjacent single-family residences.	2
161.	Our zoning ordinance has a floating or more permissive overlay zone to provide greater flexibility.	2
162.	Our zoning ordinance requires that new infill development is compatible with its neighborhood and maintains the harmony and character of existing areas.	3
163.	We have subdivision regulations.	2
164.	We have growth boundaries to attempt to control sprawl.	3
165.	We have adopted and implemented a landscaping ordinance.	2
166.	We have a process or procedure to allow construction on existing substandard lots.	1
167.	We provide incentives for green subdivision design, such as conservation or cluster subdivisions.	3
168.	We have an impact fee ordinance.	2
169.	We require or provide incentives for new development/redevelopment to pursue LEED certification for "green" site planning, construction, and post-construction practices.	3
170.	We require that new developments consider and accommodate upstream stormwater runoff and do not negatively impact downstream areas.	2
171.	We require agricultural buffers where non-agricultural land abuts agricultural land.	2
172.	We have developed, adopted, and implemented policies and regulations to preserve agricultural land and activities.	3
173.	We have a certified code enforcement officer.	1
174.	We participate in annual code enforcement training.	1

Land Use, cont.

Number	Excellence Standard Activity	Points
175.	We require our planning commissioners and staff to attend training at least annually.	1
176.	We have an annual meeting of the planning commission and elected officials.	1
177.	We have adopted and enforce design guidelines for new construction.	3
178.	We participate in the National Flood Insurance Program by enforcing a floodplain management ordinance that meets or exceeds FEMA requirements to reduce the risk of flooding.	3
179.	We have a legal sign ordinance.	2
180.	We analyze the financial impacts of growth before allowing residential development (subdivisions) over a certain size.	2
181.	We have developed, adopted, and implemented design overlay ordinances for important gateways, corridors, and city center areas.	3
182.	We have a litter prevention ordinance.	2
183.	We have developed, adopted, and implemented standards or ordinances that require development to minimize effective impervious area (i.e., allow low impact development techniques that minimize the quantity and improve the quality of runoff).	3
184.	We plan for development to locate where infrastructure and services already exist.	3
185.	We have a geographic information system (GIS) that utilizes in-house staff or a third party.	2
186.	We have a GIS that is shared with other local government entities such as fire and police, public works, etc.	1
187.	We have GIS-generated products that are available to the public.	2
188.	We have developed GIS data for address points and/or building footprints.	1
189.	We participate in Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System (CRS) program to reduce flood losses, facilitate accurate insurance ratings, and promote the awareness of flood insurance.	2

The point values of recommended activities and the Excellence Standard thresholds will be reviewed periodically and adjusted as deemed appropriate. Furthermore, additional activities may be added periodically to the Excellence Standard menu, as appropriate, to assist local governments' efforts to achieve the Regional Vision.

Local Government Performance Standards Update

This is a report on governments in the region that have or have not achieved the minimum performance standards in place:

Regional Commission staff meet with each local government at least every two years as part of Plan Implementation Meetings, during which we review the minimum and excellence planning standards for the region, which include having required plans in place, meeting training requirements, and using electronic communications. The City of Ranger had at the time of their meeting elected new officials and staff whom had not yet completed the required training; the City of Talking Rock and Taylorsville do not have a City Clerk. Because all other requirements were met, and these small communities do not have full-time staff, these local governments were not determined to be out of compliance. The Regional Commission will reassess at the next plan implementation meeting and will encourage each to attend the next available training. No local governments were determined to be out of compliance.

Minimum Standard Requirements (2014)	
Min1	The local government has a comprehensive plan that complies with the Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-12-1, Minimum Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning and has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.
Min2	The local government has a Service Delivery Strategy (O.C.G.A. 36-70-22) that is verified by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.
Min3	The municipal/county clerk meets the mandated orientation training as specified in State law (O.C.G.A. sections 36-1-24 and 36-45-20).
Min4	Newly elected municipal/county officials participate in training sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association or the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.
Min5	The local government uses the Guiding Principles contained in the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan as guidance for making decisions consistent with achieving the Regional Vision or addressing the Regional Issues and Opportunities.
Min6	The local government uses the General Policies and Protection Measures in the Northwest Georgia Regionally Important Resource Plan when making decisions that affect Regionally Important Resources.
Min7	The local government complies with the Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-12-3, for Developments of Regional Impact.
Min8	A hazard mitigation plan approved by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.
Min9	The local government has the ability to send and receive electronic communications.

	Local Government Performance Standard: 2014 Standards								
Local Government	Min 1	Min 2	Min 3	Min 4	Min 5	Min 6	Min 7	Min 8	Min 9
Bartow County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Adairsville	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cartersville	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Emerson	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Euharlee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kingston	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Taylorsville	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
White	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Catoosa County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fort Oglethorpe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ringgold	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chattooga County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lyerly	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Menlo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Summerville	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Trion	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dade County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Trenton	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fannin County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blue Ridge	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
McCaysville	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Morganton	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Floyd County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cave Spring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rome	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gilmer County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ellijay	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
East Ellijay	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gordon County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Calhoun	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fairmount	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Plainville	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ranger	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Resaca	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Haralson County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bremen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Buchanan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tallapoosa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Waco	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Murray County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chatsworth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eton	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Paulding County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Braswell	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dallas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hiram	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pickens County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jasper	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nelson	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Talking Rock	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Polk County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Aragon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cedartown	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rockmart	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Walker County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chickamauga	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LaFayette	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lookout Mountain	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rossville	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Whitfield County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dalton	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cohutta	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tunnel Hill	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Varnell	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

4.2 REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2018-2022)

The Report of Accomplishments (2018-2022) presents an annual status update on each project listed in the 2018-2022 Regional Work Program presented in the 2018 Annual Update to the Regional Plan. Each project in the 2018-2022 Regional Work Program must be listed as either Ongoing, Completed, Dropped or Postponed. If the project was Dropped or Postponed, a reason must be given to show the circumstances and changes that occurred. If the project was completed, the date completed is also shown. If a project is ongoing, it means it is currently in progress by the Regional Commission or another agency, and it will be included in the new work program for 2019-2023. The project may show a status of Ongoing- Rewritten, which means the idea or general project is included, but the details of the project have been updated for the new work program.

Report of Accomplishments from the 2018-2022 Regional Work Program prepared for the 2018 Annual Update to the Regional Plan

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
Economic Development					
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by investigating the feasibility of establishing additional business incubators.	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC	\$5,000/ yr	ED O 1; ED O 3	Dropped- Policy statement
Assist business & manufacturing to start up and/or expand by implementing NWGRC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC	\$20,000/yr	ED I 1; ED O 1	Ongoing; rewritten for new work program
Assist business and manufacturing to start up and/or expand in the region by alternative financing assistance.	2018-2022, ongoing	NGCDC, Inc.; local; state; fed.	\$130,000/yr	ED I 1; ED O 1	Ongoing; rewritten for new work program
Assist business & manufacturing to start up and/or expand by implementing NWGRC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC	\$20,000/yr	ED I 1; ED O 1	Ongoing; rewritten for new work program
Prepare Urban Redevelopment Plans and Revitalization Area Strategies, Opportunity Zones and Enterprise Zones to promote redevelopment, revitalization, job creation and private investment	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, local governments	\$20,000/ yr	ED I 1; ED O 1	Ongoing; rewritten for new work program
Identify and assist in preparing and administrating grant funds to implement local comprehensive plans, CEDs, Regional Agenda, local strategies and locally identified priority projects	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, local governments, development authorities	\$20,000/ yr	ED I 1; ED O 1	Ongoing; rewritten for new work program
Prepare and implement regional High Demand Career Initiative strategy for developing true career pathways to link post-secondary training institutions to offer needed certifications and degrees.	2018-2022, ongoing	Legislators, businesses, Board of Regents, Department of Technical and Adult Education	\$20,000/ yr	ED O 2; ED O 3	Ongoing through WIOA

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
Work with existing post-secondary training institutions to discover gaps in services and fill these by: (a) establishing business symposiums to discuss service gaps and needed programs; (b) working with post-secondary training institutions to expand funding for facilities, programs and scholarships; (c) linking area colleges and vocational schools to provide more joint enrollment opportunities; (d) accredit technical schools so that credit can be transferred; and (e) seek interstate reciprocity for college tuition.	2018-2022, ongoing	Legislators, businesses, Board of Regents, Department of Technical and Adult Education	\$20,000/ yr	ED O 2; ED O 3	Dropped- WIOA performs this function
Administer WIOA Program	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, GA DOL	3,650,000.00	ED O 2; ED O 3	Dropped- WIOA performs this function
Encourage programs for workplace remediation for persons with substandard skills by: (a) encouraging worksite GED programs; (b) fostering worksite continuing education; and (c) encouraging worksite skills improvement labs.	2018-2022	Legislators, businesses, Board of Regents, Department of Technical and Adult Education	TBD	ED O 2; ED O 3	Dropped- WIOA performs this function
Pursue Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) certification for region's industrial sites	2018-2022	NWGRC, local governments, development authorities	\$5,000/yr	ED O 2; ED O 3	Ongoing
Assist the Rural Broadband Committee of the Regional Commission to prepare and implement regional and local strategies and projects to expand broadband provision in underserved areas of northwest Georgia	2018-2022	NWGRC, local governments, development authorities	\$10,000/ year	ED O 2; ED O 3	Ongoing; rewritten for new work program under Broadband
Staff the North Georgia CDC including SBA504 and EDA RLF Loan Programs; market and expand loan programs; coordinate training programs for lenders	2018-2022	NWGRC, CDC, local governments, business owners	Staff Time	ED O 4	Ongoing; rewritten for new work program

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
and banks; administer loans; provide technical assistance to banks, companies, local governments, Chambers of Commerce, development authorities					
Administer the US Highway 27 Association with Southeast Georgia and Hwy 27 Board	2018-2022	NWGRC, local govts.	TBD	ED O 5; ED O 6	Ongoing- rewritten for Healthy Communities section
Assist local governments to implement Comprehensive Plans, CEDS and Regional Agenda including improvements needed to fully use Appalachian Regional Port and other regional transportation and infrastructure systems	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, local govts.	\$10,000/yr	ED O 5; ED O 6	Ongoing; rewritten for new work program
Seek funding and technical assistance to develop regional and local farmers/ growers groups to identify solutions for training, marketing and promotion, processing, distribution and other shared needs.	2018-2022	NWGRC, local govts.	TBD	ED O 7	Ongoing- rewritten for Healthy Communities section
Develop community-level plans, strategies, and inventories to promote and protect local agriculture and local food assets.	2018-2022	NWGRC	\$5,000/ yr	ED O 7	Dropped- Policy statement
Assist Northwest Georgia Regional Food Hub in identification of funds, best practices, and participating farmers, and other assistance	2018-2019	NWGRC, local govt	\$5,000/yr	ED O 7	Dropped- project on hold at local level
Assist local governments and other entities in developing new tourist attractions in the region which capitalize on the region’s historic, cultural and natural resources.	2018-2022	NWGRC, GA DCA, GDEcD	\$5,000/yr	ED O 8	Ongoing- Rewritten for RIR plan implementation

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
HOUSING					
Utilize State and Federal housing rehabilitation programs to preserve existing low cost housing stock for low income and elderly.	2018-2022	Local govts.	\$5,000/yr	H I 1	Dropped- Policy Statement
Work with Preservation Commissions to develop historic districts and ordinances to preserve historic homes in key areas to maintain community and neighborhood character.	2018-2022	Local govts., historic pres. commissions	\$5,000/yr	H I 2	Dropped- assistance is provided per project or on request
Establish building and housing codes in communities where they do not exist to assure uniform, minimum standards for construction and maintenance of housing throughout the region.	2018-2022	Local govts.	\$2,500 per community	H I 2	Ongoing- Rewritten as circuit-riding pilot
Implement the Neighborhood Stabilization Program	2018-2022	NWGRC, GA DCA, Comm. Dev. Corps	\$8-\$10 million	H I 3	Completed- NSP program closed out in 2019
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES					
Educate citizens and local officials through workshops on water quality issues, current and future planning activities, and Federal and State programs. (Ref. Goal 6 and WC-1 of the Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan)	2018-2022	NWGRC, GA DNR, NGWRP	\$5,000/yr	NC O 1	Dropped- Policy Statement
Assist local governments with implementation of environmental protection standards for ground water recharge areas, water supply watersheds, wetlands, major river corridors, soil erosion and sediment control, and on-site sewage management systems. (Ref. Goal 2, WS-8 of the Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan)	2018-2022	NWGRC	\$5,000/yr	NC O 1	Ongoing- rewritten as specific projects

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
Assist State and local governments with implementation of Source Water Protection (WS-8 of Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan).	2018-2022	NWGRC, GA EPD	\$20,000/yr	NC O 1	Ongoing- rewritten as specific projects
Assist State and local governments with implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load requirements. (Ref. Goal 7, WQ-6, WQ-11 of the Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan)	2018-2022	NWGRC, GA EPD	\$60,000/yr	NC O 1	Ongoing- rewritten as specific projects
Implement Water Plan, Grid Transmission Study, and Redundancy and Emergency Interconnectivity Study (recommendations consistent with Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan).	2018-2022	NWGRC, GA EPD, NGWRP	\$1,000/yr	NC O 1	Ongoing- Rewritten
Sponsor and conduct workshops on Water Supply Watershed protection criteria and other methods of preserving these resources; and assist local governments with implementation of approved methods (WS-8 of Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan).	2018-2022	GA DCA, NWGRC, local govts.	\$5,000/yr	NC O 2, NC O 3	Dropped- assistance is provided per project or on request
Assist local governments with development of and maintenance of greenspace plans.	2018-2022	NWGRC	\$10,000/yr	NC O 5	Dropped- assistance is provided per project or on request
Implement the Northwest Georgia Greenspace Conservation and Greenway Plan recommendations.	2018-2022	Local govts., NWGRC	\$5,000/yr	NC O 5	Ongoing
Assist local governments to implement the Georgia Plan for Outdoor Recreation 2017-2021 including development of additional public openspace and greenspace, preparation and implementation of recreation and greenspace plans, and where possible to connect to regional trails and	2018-2022	Local govts, NWGRC	\$10,000/YR	NC O 5; CF-I-1	Ongoing

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
greenspace corridors. In comprehensive plan updates, assist local communities to use the Georgia Public Park Inventory and other resources to plan for connections from downtowns and residential areas to natural areas and recreation resources where possible. Seek additional collaboration opportunities with DNR, DCA, GDEcD, and local governments.					
Promulgate the Regional Resource Plan per Section 110-12-4-, 02(4) of Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs.	2018-2022	NWGRC	\$5,000/yr	NC O 4; NC O 6	Ongoing- Rewritten to update and implement RIR plan
Update or revise local comprehensive plans as required to address preservation needs of regionally significant historic resources and to call for coordination were appropriate.	2018-2022	NWGRC, local govts.	\$10,000/yr	NC O 6	Dropped- Policy Statement
Work with local governments to prepare preservation master plans for rural historic districts, battlefields and other regionally significant resources with serious or complex preservation needs including historic county courthouse buildings.	2018-2022	NWGRC, GA DNR, local govts.	\$2,500/yr	NC O 6	Dropped- assistance is provided per project or on request
Offer preservation technical assistance to all local governments and nonprofit owners of regionally significant historic resources and provide them with "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties".	2018-2022	NWGRC, GA DNR	\$2,500/yr	NC O 6	Ongoing- Rewritten as part of update and implement RIR plan
Provide technical assistance to local governments desiring to develop and implement local regulatory measures to protect historic resources.	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, local govts., GA DNR	\$10,000/yr	NC O 6	Dropped- assistance is provided per project or on request

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
Plan for the preservation of the region's historic districts and related properties.	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, state, local govts.	\$5,000/yr	NC O 6	Ongoing- Rewritten as part of update and implement RIR plan
Provide technical assistance with Historic Resource Survey projects including grant writing to local governments	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, local governments	\$5,000/ yr	NC O 6	Dropped- assistance is provided per project or on request
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES					
Support and participate in the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership.	2018-2022, ongoing	Local govts.	\$1,500/yr for ea. local govt.	CF-O-1	Ongoing
Provide administrative support to the Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Planning Council.	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, GMRC	\$35,000/yr	CF-O-1	Dropped- contract now with consultant
Implement the Regional Water Plans prepared by the Regional Water Planning Councils.	2018-2022, ongoing	Local govts., GA EPD	\$5,000/yr	CF-O-1	Ongoing
Coordinate with DNR, Corps of Engineers, adjoining state agencies, and local governments to plan and develop regional (multi-jurisdictional) water supply and storage facilities.	2018-2022, ongoing	RC, local govts., GA DNR	\$5,000/yr	CF-O-1	Dropped- support Regional Water Councils in their involvement
Assist local governments in maintaining and/or updating service delivery strategies that promote multi-jurisdictional water treatment and distribution services.	2018-2022, ongoing	RC, local govts.	\$5,000/yr	CF-O-1	Ongoing- rewritten for implementation of CNG Water Plan
Assist local governments with defining urban service areas and preparing capital improvements plans and budgets for extending services to these areas.	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, local govts.	\$20,000/yr	CF-O-2	Dropped- Done through the comprehensive plan and service delivery strategy updates

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
Utilize Community Work Program and Service Delivery Strategy updates as a regional coordination mechanism to assure that service providers are coordinating in their efforts to serve the region with basic infrastructure.	2018, ongoing	NWGRC	\$5,000/yr	CF-O-2	Dropped- Policy Statement
Provide assistance to local governments in developing and securing financing alternatives for the extension of urban services.	2018	NWGRC	\$40,000/yr	CF-O-2	Dropped- Policy Statement
Create a partnership of telecommunications providers; business and industry, public institutions, and government to sponsor and conduct regional forums on how telecommunications technology can be used to expand economic development.	2018-2022, long term, ongoing	Local govts., GA DCA Region 1	\$5,000/yr	CF-O-3	Ongoing- rewritten as partnering with GA Broadband Deployment Initiative and providers
Coordinate local telecommunications infrastructure such as fiber networks where such systems are lacking.	2018-2022	Local govts., GA DCA Region 1	\$5,000/yr	CF-O-3	Ongoing- rewritten as partnering with GA Broadband Deployment Initiative and providers
Provide resources and assistance to local governments as requested; assist with update of Polk County Solid Waste Mgmt Plan.	2018-2022	NWGRC	\$5,000/yr	CF-O-4	Dropped- no requirement to update

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
Implement findings of Aspen Institute Communities that Work Partnership including coordination between College and Career Academies	2018-2022	BOE, public health organizations, judiciary system, Family and Children Services, Head Start, religious organizations, NWGRC (grant writing), Great Promise Partnerships	\$5,000/yr	CF-O-5	Dropped- WIOA performs this function
Implement Great Promise Partnerships and at-risk youth programs throughout Region	2018-2022	BOE, GA DOE, COC, NWGRC (information clearinghouse), Great Promise Partnerships	\$5,000/yr	CF-O-5	Dropped- WIOA and local school systems perform this function
Seek funding for STEM, robotics, other academic and skill development programs in K-12 schools	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC	\$5,000/yr	CF-O-5	Dropped- local school systems perform this function
Work with the State and local governments to address the priority needs identified in the Area Agency on Aging Plan including: (a) transportation; (b) legal assistance; (c) adult day care; (d) nutrition services; (e) health care; (f) housing and home maintenance; (g) long-term care and protective services; (h) employment; and (i) recreation/social opportunities among seniors, care givers.	2018-2022	NWGRC, GA DHR, local govts.	\$5,000/yr	CF-O-6	Dropped- covered through NWGRC AAA
Provide advocacy role through information sharing on services, tax breaks for elderly.	2018-2022	NWGRC, GA DHR	\$2,500/yr	CF-O-6	Dropped- covered through NWGRC AAA

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
Administer the Area Agency on Aging to provide wide spectrum of supportive services for seniors.	2018-2022	NWGRC, GA DHR	\$4,300,000/yr	CF-O-6	Dropped- covered through NWGRC AAA
Work with health care service providers, local governments, and chambers of commerce to recruit physicians to underserved communities.	2018-2022	District health offices, local govts., COC, local health care providers.		CF-O-7	Dropped- No direct role for NWGRC
Educate citizens on preventative health care and wellness programs.	2018-2022	Local health care providers		CF-O-7	Dropped- No direct role for NWGRC
Work with health care providers, local governments and chambers of commerce to recruit additional OB/GYN physicians and general surgeons to area.	2018-2022	Local health care providers		CF-O-8	Dropped- No direct role for NWGRC
Work with health care service providers, local governments, and chambers of commerce to attract additional dental professional to area and increase capacity for indigent dental services especially for children.	2018-2022	Local health care providers		CF-O-8	Dropped- No direct role for NWGRC
Work with health care service providers, local governments and others to obtain additional geriatric care and control cost of medications for the elderly.	2018-2022	Local health care providers		CF-O-7	Dropped- No direct role for NWGRC
Work with health care service providers to improve family support and intervention services including: (a) dental services for children; (b) affordable health care insurance; (c) school based nurses; (d) additional mental health services; and (e) marriage/divorce counseling support services.	2018-2022	Local health care providers		CF-O-7	Dropped- No direct role for NWGRC

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
Work with health care and social service providers to improve services for low-income, disabled, and homeless individuals.	2018-2022	Federal, state, local		CF-O-7	Ongoing
Work with health care and social service providers to improve mental health and substance abuse services.	2018-2022	Federal, state, local		CF-O-7	Ongoing
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION					
Implement Thrive 2055 Regional Planning Initiative in Dade, Catoosa, Walker, Whitfield, Murray Counties (economic development, natural resources, Workforce development coordinated strategies	2018-2022	NWGRC	\$20,000	IC-I-1, IC- I- 2	Ongoing- Rewritten as FHWA Natl Economic Partnership Grant project
Prepare Local Update of Census Addresses in preparation for Census 2020	2018-2019	NWGRC	\$117,652	IC-I-1, IC- I- 2	Ongoing
Develop training and outreach materials, media, promotion and branding for Regional Commission services and assistance and for local governments	2020-2022	NWGRC, local govts.	\$5,000/YR	IC-I-1, IC- I- 2	Ongoing and through RIR implementation
Increase coordination with Chambers of Commerce and economic development authorities.	2018-2022	NWGRC, COC, Dev. Auth.	\$5,000/yr	IC-O-1	Dropped- Policy statement
TRANSPORTATION					
Assist local governments with implementation of regional bike and pedestrian facilities plans; coordinate and facilitate Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia as repository of intermodal transportation best practices.	2018-2022	NWGRC, GDOT	\$10,000/yr	T-O-1	Ongoing- Rewritten
Promote improved east-west transportation corridors within the region.	2018-2022	NWGRC, GDOT	\$2,000/yr	T-O-1	Ongoing; rewritten

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
Encourage regional transportation projects through public-private partnerships.	2018-2022	NWGRC, GDOT	\$10,000/yr	T-O-1	Dropped- policy statement
Provide planning, coordination and technical assistance to MPOs and local transportation departments to implement transportation and transit plans and provide for regional transportation solutions (Bartow MPO, Dalton MPO, Atlanta MPO, Chattanooga TPO, Rome-Floyd TPO)	2018-2022	NWGRC, GDOT	\$10,000/yr	T-O-1	Ongoing, combined
Provide Safe Routes to School planning and coordination, and outreach and technical assistance to schools and local governments in the region	2018-2022	NWGRC, GDOT	\$10,000/yr	T-O-1	Ongoing- Rewritten
Coordinate with federal and state transportation agencies, the Atlanta Regional Commission (Atlanta MPO), Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO, Greater Dalton MPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO, and local governments to strengthen regional transportation planning and priority setting.	2018-2022	RC, local govts.	\$15,000/yr	T-O-1	Ongoing, combined
Coordinate with transportation agencies and local governments to plan and determine feasibility of expanding alternative transportation modes such as (a) high-speed and commuter rail connecting the region to Atlanta and Chattanooga; (b) Amtrak service through region; (c) expanding services of local bus systems; and (d) linking county bus systems to existing and future mass transit system.	2018-2022	RC, local govts.	\$15,000/yr	T-O-1	Ongoing; rewritten

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Activity	Year	Responsible Party	Cost	Issue/ Opp	Report of Accomplishments
LAND USE					
Prepare and update the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, 2013-2033.	2018-2019	NWGRC	\$20,000	LU-O-1, LU-O-2	Completed 2019
Prepare and update local comprehensive plans.	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, local govts.	\$5,000/YR	LU-O-1, LU-O-2	Ongoing; rewritten
Encourage rehabilitation and reuse of property with current infrastructure.	2018-2022, ongoing	Local govts.	\$5,000/YR	LU-I-1	Dropped- policy statement
Devise and promote the use of incentives in local development regulations to encourage developers to utilize open space conservation land development practices, and assist local governments to implement.	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, local govts.	\$5,000/YR	LU-I-2	Ongoing
Assist local governments to update zoning and land use ordinances to meet requirements under Georgia law; provide guidance on best practices; provide training and technical assistance	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, local govts.	\$10,000/YR	LU-I-2	Ongoing
Provide coordinated regional reviews for Developments of Regional Impact	2018-2022, ongoing	NWGRC, local govts.	\$5,000/YR	LU-I-2	Ongoing
Amend zoning ordinances and building codes to address housing needs	2018-2022, ongoing	Local govts., DDAs, Main Street programs	\$10,000	H-O-1	Ongoing; rewritten
Develop training and outreach materials, media, promotion and branding for Regional Commission services and assistance and for local governments	2020-2022	NWGRC, local govts.	\$5,000/YR	IC-I-2	Ongoing

Regional Review and Coordination

These activities are not necessarily associated with a specific Need or Opportunity but are undertaken to ensure that plan review and coordination of local and regional projects occurs in concert with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and other state agencies.

Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission					
Issue/Opp	Activity	Responsible Party	Years	Cost	Report of Accomplishments
REGIONAL REVIEW AND COORDINATION	Initiate the local plan review process, coordinate the review, and take action on local government plans (comprehensive plans, capital improvement elements, CIE updates, or plan amendments) pursuant to DCA Rules, Chapter 110-12-1 and additional standards in the DCA contract scope of services.	RC	2018-2022	\$5,000/YR	Ongoing- rewritten
	Review all Developments of Regional Impact within the region, adhering to DCA Rules, Chapter 110-12-3.	RC	2018-2022	\$7,500/ YR	Ongoing- rewritten
	Review Developments of Regional Impact located within one mile of any area included on the Regionally Important Resources Map and recommend such developments be designed in accordance with the adopted best practices.	RC	2018-2022	\$2,500/YR	Ongoing- rewritten
	Provide Section 106/environmental review advisory comments for GDOT projects, telecommunications structures, CDBG projects, and other projects, as requested, regarding their potential effects on cultural resources.	RC	2018-2022	\$7,500/YR	Ongoing- rewritten
	Review local government applications for EDA funding for consistency with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).	RC	2018-2022	\$2,500/YR	Ongoing- rewritten
	Review and comment on long-range transportation plans for consistency with the Regional Plan.	RC	2018-2022	\$2,500/YR	Ongoing- rewritten
	Review and comment on applications for federal or state grant/loan/permit assistance by local governments and other applicants within the region in accordance with provisions of the Georgia Intergovernmental Consultation Process (Executive Order 12372).	RC	2018-2022	\$10,000/YR	Ongoing- rewritten

	Initiate the local plan review process, coordinate the review, and take action on local government plans (comprehensive plans, capital improvement elements, CIE updates, or plan amendments) pursuant to DCA Rules, Chapter 110-12-1 and additional standards in the DCA contract scope of services.	RC	2018-2022	\$5,000/YR	Ongoing- rewritten
	Review all Developments of Regional Impact within the region, adhering to DCA Rules, Chapter 110-12-3.	RC	2018-2022	<u>\$7,500/ YR</u>	Ongoing- rewritten
	Review Developments of Regional Impact located within one mile of any area included on the Regionally Important Resources Map and recommend such developments be designed in accordance with the adopted best practices.	RC	2018-2022	<u>\$2,500/YR</u>	Ongoing- rewritten
	Provide Section 106/environmental review advisory comments for GDOT projects, telecommunications structures, CDBG projects, and other projects, as requested, regarding their potential effects on cultural resources.	RC	2018-2022	\$7,500/YR	Ongoing- rewritten
	Review local government applications for EDA funding for consistency with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).	RC	2018-2022	\$2,500/YR	Ongoing- rewritten
REGIONAL REVIEW AND COORDINATION	Review and comment on long-range transportation plans for consistency with the Regional Plan.	RC	2018-2022	\$2,500/YR	Ongoing- rewritten
	Review and comment on applications for federal or state grant/loan/permit assistance by local governments and other applicants within the region in accordance with provisions of the Georgia Intergovernmental Consultation Process (Executive Order 12372).	RC	2018-2022	\$10,000/YR	Ongoing- rewritten

4.3 NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM (2019-2023)

The Northwest Georgia Regional Work Program (2019-2023) lists actions, or specific projects to be completed in the next five years or in the longer term by the Regional Commission and partner agencies, in conjunction with local governments. Each action has a corresponding priority and strategy that it addresses. All actions have a timeline, whether during the next five years from 2019-2023, or in the long-term planning horizon past 2023. Some projects may be shown as ongoing, meaning that they are an important and recurring aspect of the Regional Commission work, but do not have a specific year of accomplishment. Each action has an estimated cost per year or total over the project's timeframe. Each action includes responsible parties that will implement the project, whether NWGRC staff, local governments, partner agencies and other organizations or groups.

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Regional Work Program (2019-2023)						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Economic Development						
Ensure infrastructure is in place across region to meet needs of existing and new business and industry.	Implement regional and local plans and strategies for infrastructure improvements needed to support job creation/retention and private investment	Assist 10-15 communities as identified annually to improve or expand infrastructure to support economic development through grant writing, planning, and document/plan updates	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$10,000/ YR		
		Update the Northwest Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)	NWGRC	2022 \$10,000		
Focus on improvement of skills for jobs in Northwest Georgia (specific training and skill development for the jobs and industries in our region).	Improve local and regional partnerships between industry/ business, workforce development providers, and educational institutions both K-12 and post-secondary, and community leadership.	Develop and implement education, training and employment opportunities for unemployed/ underemployed individuals in Northwest Georgia; provide leadership training and work ready skills for ages 14-21 by funding and monitoring approved training providers and technical colleges, and providing layoff support services, under direction of Workforce Development Board.	WIOA, Local Governments			\$7M/ yr annual program budget
		Review and update 2014 Northwest Georgia Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Plan; identify 5-6 top priorities for region and prepare a plan of action to address those priorities	NWGRC	2020 \$5,000		

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Regional Work Program (2019-2023)						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Improve competitiveness of Northwest Georgia communities to attract and retain business and industry	Provide planning and funding assistance to increase economic competitiveness in coordination with state and federal agencies	Assist Gilmer Co., Rossville, Floyd Co., Polk Co. (designated federal Opportunity Zones) to develop a prospectus, market/promote available sites and buildings, and determine public infrastructure investments needed	NWGRC, Appalachian Regional Commission, DCA	2020-2021 \$7,500 Est.		
		Provide loan packaging to assist 5-10 businesses each year to expand operations or add jobs, including assessment of need, preparation of loan packages and financial planning in partnership with SBDC, SBA, EDA and lending institutions	NWGRC, North Georgia CDC, Lenders, Businesses	2020-2023 \$95,000		
Healthy Communities						
There is a lack of access to healthy food options; high poverty rates contribute to unhealthy lifestyles- cheap food, lack of health insurance	Expand agritourism and agribusiness opportunities; invest in local food systems	Implement 2013 North Georgia Local Food Assessment: Assist 1-3 communities/ year with planning, project development and grant writing to support local food systems	NWGRC, local govts and growers	2020-2023 \$5,000		
		Work with Center for Rural Prosperity & Innovation to develop project parameters, identify local agritourism, growers and producers, and farmers markets interested in participating in a Highway 27 agritourism trail, and provide	NWGRC, ARC, Center for Rural Prosperity & Innovation	2020-2021 \$5,000 (est)		

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Regional Work Program (2019-2023)						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		grant writing assistance for the project (similar to Hwy 41 Georgia Grown Trail or North Georgia Farm Trail)				
There is a need for additional resources and services for low-income, disabled, homeless individuals and those with mental health and substance abuse needs.	Work with local governments and community organizations to improve services to low-income, disabled, homeless individuals and those with mental health and substance abuse needs.	Provide planning and grant writing assistance for 1-3 local governments/ year to address needs regarding services for homeless, low income and disabled persons as identified in comprehensive plan or other local or regional plans.	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$5,000/ YR		
		Provide planning and grant writing assistance for 1-3 local governments/ year to address needs regarding services for mental health and substance abuse as identified in comprehensive plan or other local or regional plans	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$5,000/ YR		
Housing						
There is a lack of safe, affordable housing and a lack of mid to high range housing investment in downtowns	Incentivize redevelopment of blighted or vacant areas for residential use; provide assistance for range of local government housing needs	Work with housing agencies, state agencies to hold 1-2 Housing Resource Workshops between 2020-2023 to provide resources and training for local governments and agencies on regional housing issues and needs	NWGRC, DCA, UGA, GICH, GA Conservancy, GA Power	2020- 2023 \$3,000		
		Conduct a regional inventory of housing needs and prepare	NWGRC	2020-2021 \$5,000/ YR		

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Regional Work Program (2019-2023)						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		recommendations to address identified needs				
		Assist 1-2 communities/ YR to apply for GA Initiatives for Community Housing (GICH), to prepare housing inventories and to implement GICH action plans	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$7,500/ YR		
		Survey local governments to determine interest in "circuit-riding" or shared assistance program for code enforcement, zoning and related assistance	NWGRC	2020-2021 \$1,000/		
		If enough communities express interest, develop local government pilot program for "circuit-riding" or shared assistance with code enforcement, zoning and related assistance	NWGRC, GICH, USDA, DCA, local governments	2022-2023 \$5,000		
Natural and Historic Resources						
More people need to connect with Northwest Georgia's natural resources so they will enjoy and protect its diversity and beauty	Identify, protect, preserve and promote identified Regionally Important Resources	Update the Regional Resource Plan per Section 110-12-4-, 02(4) of Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs including recommended actions to address critical resources and improve access to natural resources	NWGRC	2019-2020 \$15,000		

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Regional Work Program (2019-2023)						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		Implement RIR plan: Develop publicly accessible GIS database and maps highlighting region's historic, cultural and natural assets	NWGRC	2021-2023 \$7,500/ YR		
	Promote trails, greenways and blueways; Improve safety, visibility, and access to trails and blueways and add access points	Provide planning and grant writing assistance to 1-3 communities/ year to improve safety and accessibility of trailheads/ put-ins on Pinhoti Trail, Etowah River, Appalachian Trail, and other river and trail corridors in region	NWGRC, local governments, DNR and grant agencies	2019-2023 \$7,500/ YR		
Preserve irreplaceable historic and cultural resources through inventory, citizen engagement, planning and funding assistance	Identify and preserve historic and cultural resources	Prepare 1-2 National Register preliminary determinations and nominations for regionally significant historical assets each year (Grant Farm, LaFayette, Tunnel Hill, Cohutta/ St Andrews Chapel, Dallas Historic District, Cedartown Historic District, Bremen, others)	NWGRC, HPD	2019-2023 \$15,000/ YR		
		Digitize NWGRC historic resource documents including National Register listings, historic resource surveys	NWGRC, Bandy Heritage Center	2020-2023 \$6,000		
		Assist 1-2 local governments/ YR to prevent loss of HPD Certified Local Government (CLG) status through technical assistance or grant writing to update ordinances, surveys, etc.	NWGRC, HPD, local govts	2019-2023 \$10,000/ YR		

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Regional Work Program (2019-2023)						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Maintain surface and groundwater quality throughout the region to meet federal and state regulations	Apply for funding to improve water quality, manage stormwater, restore streambanks, and protect water resources in the region	Serve as stakeholder with McCaysville and Fannin County on 319h grant project for Toccoa River watershed	NWGRC, McCaysville, Fannin County, Limestone Valley RC&D	2020-2021 \$1,000		
		Apply for funding to prepare Dozier Creek Watershed Management Plan	NWGRC	2021-2023 \$5,000		
		Apply for funds to implement the 2019 Woodward Creek Watershed Management Plan	NWGRC, Floyd County	2020-2023 \$5,000		
		Administer finances and grant funds and provide staff support for monthly and annual meetings of the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, a regional organization of utility providers which advises the Coosa-North Georgia Water Council and assists the Council to implement the CNG Water Plan	NWGRC	2019-2023 \$5,000/yr		
		Assist the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, or local governments and utilities to apply for state and federal funding to implement Regional Water Plans and related studies including the Grid Transmission Study and Redundancy and Emergency Interconnectivity Study	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$7,500/yr		

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Regional Work Program (2019-2023)						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		Apply for funds to work with GA EPD to develop a tool to prioritize delisting impaired streams in the Coosa-North Georgia Region and recommended implementation measures to delist these streams	Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, N GA Water Resources Partnership, NWGRC, GAEPD	2020-2023 \$5,000		
Land Use						
Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans and that balances conservation with development needs	Assist local governments to comply with current Georgia Zoning Procedures Law (O.C.G.A. 36-66-1, et seq.; 36-67-1, et seq.; and, 36-67A-1, et seq. as amended) and provide necessary technical assistance.	Assist 2-5 local governments each year with review and update of zoning ordinance and/or map	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$20,000/yr		
		Work with training providers including UGA CVIOP, DCA, GAZA and GPA to provide at least one annual planning and zoning training in the region, and local training as requested	NWGRC, local governments, Training providers (GAZA, GPA, DCA, UGA CVIOP)	2020-2023 \$1,000/ yr		
Planning and Local Government Assistance						
Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans	Assist local governments to prepare and implement Comprehensive Plans and service delivery strategies in accordance with the Georgia Planning Act and Service Delivery Strategy Act, to implement projects and	Assist 2-3 local governments/ year to prepare scheduled updates to local comprehensive plans	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$60,000/yr		
		Assist 1-2 communities each year with PlanFirst applications	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr		
		Meet with approx.15 governments each year to discuss implementation of the local comprehensive plan and regional plan, reporting	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$7,500/yr		

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Regional Work Program (2019-2023)						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
	initiatives in the comprehensive plan, and to apply for PlanFirst designation.	requirements and other topics related to planning and implementation; assist with amendments as needed to reflect emerging priorities				
		Provide assistance as requested to 1-3 communities/ year to review and update Service Delivery Strategy agreements either on the 10-year Comprehensive Plan update schedule or as service changes demand	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$3,500/ yr		
	Update the Regional Plan according to Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning	Update the <i>Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, 2019-2023</i> annually.	NWGRC	2023 \$7,500		
Provide resources to assist local governments to meet demands of growth, reinvestment, needs of rural areas	Provide outreach, training and technical assistance on planning and development needs of local governments	Digitize legacy Developments of Regional Impact	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$1,000/ yr		
		Prepare 20-30 local plan reviews, transportation plan review, environmental reviews, and Section 106 reviews, other coordinated reviews each year	NWGRC	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr		
		Develop marketing, branding, media, training and outreach materials for Regional Commission services and assistance; provide same	NWGRC, local governments	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr		

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Regional Work Program (2019-2023)						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		assistance to 1-5 smaller local governments each year				
Transportation						
Provide safe, efficient movement of people and goods through Northwest Georgia to enhance economic growth;	Improve coordination between local governments, GDOT, MPOs and federal agencies to implement regionally significant transportation projects	Participate in meetings of federal and state transportation agencies, Atlanta MPO, Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO, Greater Dalton MPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO; provide quarterly planning and coordination between these agencies and the NWGRC Council and non-MPO governments on regionally significant projects	NWGRC, GDOT, MPOs			Ongoing \$20,000/yr
		Participate in GDOT Transit Plan update and GDOT 2050 Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan/ Statewide Transportation Plan and updates by attending public and stakeholder meetings, reviewing draft plan documents and preparing comments, both as NWGRC and as members of GAMPO and GA Transit Association	GDOT, NWGRC	2019-2020 \$5,000/ yr		
		Participate in FHWA Nat'l Economic Partnership Grant freight and truck parking study	NWGRC	2019-2022 \$5,000/yr		

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Regional Work Program (2019-2023)						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		and THRIVE transportation initiatives, representing NWGRC Counties of Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray				
Improve connectivity of bike and pedestrian pathways throughout the region	Implement bike & pedestrian safety plans, GA Bicycle/ Pedestrian Safety Action Plans, Safe Routes to School, implement Complete Streets design	Incorporate all local bike/ ped plans into a regional database; identify favorable connection corridors between bike/ ped infrastructure	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike!Walk!NWGA	2020-2021 \$10,000		
		Assist local governments to prepare for regional TSPLOST/ TIA referendum: Reconvene TIA roundtable; hold regular meetings; assist with development of priorities, project list and data; Citizen Review Panels	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts, legislative delegation	2020-2023 \$5,000		
		Staff and administer and update website for Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia to implement the Regional Bike and Pedestrian Safety Plan and local plans.	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike!Walk!NWGA	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr		
		Participate in 1-2 Safe Routes to School Resource Center walk safety audits per year and assist 1-2 schools and local governments/ year to implement audit recommendations and GDOT Complete Streets policies through planning, training, and grant writing assistance	NWGRC, GDOT, Safe Routes Resource Center	2020-2023 \$5,000/ yr		

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Regional Work Program (2019-2023)						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
	Develop more trails and trails systems that connect to parks, neighborhoods, retail centers, libraries, workplaces and downtowns	Assist Floyd County, Cave Spring, Cedartown and Polk County with planning and grant writing to implement the Cave Spring to Cedartown Trail Study	NWGRC, Floyd County, Cave Spring, Cedartown and Polk County, funding agencies	2020-2023 \$5,000		
		Assist Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities with planning and grant writing to implement the 2015 NW GA Feasibility Study for Bikeway & Pedestrian Multi-Use Trails	NWGRC, Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities, funding agencies, Chick-Chatt Greenway Association, THRIVE2055	2019-2023 \$7,500		
Broadband						
Improve broadband and telecommunication services	Partner with the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, local governments, providers, and other agencies and initiatives, and participate in the Georgia Broadband Ready Program.	Assist 1-5 communities/ year to apply for Broadband Ready designation	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2019-2023 Staff Time		
		Assist 1-3 local governments/ year to amend their comprehensive plans to include a Broadband Element	NWGRC, local governments	2019-2020 Staff Time		
		Implement key priorities of the 2014 Northwest Georgia Digital Economy Plan through the Regional Broadband Committee and GA Broadband Deployment Initiative, through grant writing and planning assistance	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2019-2023 Staff Time		
		Regional Broadband Committee of NWGRC Council and NWGRC staff: With GA Broadband Deployment Initiative and providers, assist 5-10 local governments/ year to identify	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2020-2021 \$7,500/ yr		

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Regional Work Program (2019-2023)						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
		and prioritize service and speed demand, identify gaps in infrastructure and costs to address those gaps, and to develop local and/or regional plans of action or feasibility study to address priority gaps in service				
		Provide planning and grant-writing assistance to 1-10 local governments/year to implement local broadband action plans or feasibility assessments	NWGRC, local governments, providers	2020-2021 \$7,500/ yr		
	Assess needs regarding 5G, provide assistance and resources	Attend 2-3 workshops and trainings/ year, and provide training, planning and zoning, ordinance update and historic preservation assistance to 1-5 local governments per year concerning regulation and review of 5-G technologies; provide information to NWGRC Regional Council on quarterly basis	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers, GMA, ACCG	2020-2021 \$5,000/ yr		

5 APPENDICES

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Analysis of Consistency with Quality Community Objectives

Source of Information for Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Land Use Map

Data and Mapping Supplement

Stakeholder Involvement Report

5.1 STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS ANALYSIS

In Fall 2018-Spring 2019 the Steering and Technical Advisory Committees of the NWGRC Council prepared a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis which was presented for public and stakeholder input in three public meetings (December 2018, January 2019, and April 2019).

In two meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee in October and November 2018, and public/stakeholder meetings in December 2018 and January 2019, participants were asked to list strengths and weaknesses (issues or needs, positive and negative, within the region and within our control) and opportunities and threats (factors from outside our region that may or may not be in our control). The Technical Advisory Committee also reviewed the previous Needs and Opportunities from the 2014 Assessment for continuity. The Technical Advisory Committee was asked in March 2019 to generate work items, projects, to address these needs and opportunities identified.

The Spring 2019 What Northwest Georgia Needs Most survey results informed the SWOT analysis and the final list of needs and opportunities.

Staff also reviewed the 2014 Assessment and Agenda for the region, the SCORP, Transportation Improvement Plans of MPOs in the region, GDOT STIP, Regional Plans of neighboring Regional Commissions, 2040 Land Use Trends based on GLUT data and projections, areas of Conservation and Development, and Areas Requiring Special Attention, and the data and analysis, to compile the final list of needs and opportunities, which was further refined as work program items were developed.

Transportation

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Appalachian Regional Port	East-West Routes	Automation	Demand for truck drivers less than supply
Rome-Cartersville Development Corridor	Traffic (truck and commercial vehicle) through residential areas or on narrow or unimproved routes	Planned Improvements to I75-I24 interchange in Chattanooga	Automation

Broadband

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Availability is good in some areas, particularly city centers and in areas served by local or regional providers	Speed and price	Greater connectivity and improvement of speed through Georgia Broadband Initiative	Lack of communication with larger national providers
Local governments and local providers have good communication in many cases	Lack of pinpoint service area data		Service to rural or less densely populated areas

Natural Resources

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Many beautiful areas are in conservation	Many resources are not visible, accessible, and protected	Partnerships with Thrive, Lyndhurst, other regional and state groups and agencies	Lack of funding to conserve and protect resources
	Litter		
	Lack of recycling availability and education		

Land Use

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Most communities enforce zoning ordinance and use future land use/ future development for zoning recommendations and decisions	Maps and ordinances may not be up to date	Partner with training providers for training within the region	Speed of development may outpace ability of local government to respond
	Capacity building and training is needed for staff and planning commissions		

Infrastructure

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Most cities and counties have basic infrastructure in place	Older or inadequate infrastructure is costly to replace	Work with local governments, utilities, North Georgia Water Resources Partnership to provide training and support to improve systems and funding competitiveness	Lack of funding (especially if existing debt in place)
		Regional interconnectivity and redundancy	Increasing requirements for fire flow and pressure must be met

Housing

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
New housing starts are seen	Older homes may not be up to code and may need significant repair/reinvestment	Work with training and technical assistance providers and state agencies to bring resources to cities and counties	Funding for home reinvestment to maintain and build diverse housing supply
Rental housing is available in many communities	Assistance, support, and funding for code enforcement	Metro areas influence housing needs	Assistance with housing data and assessments
	Need for diversity of housing types and price points		

Healthy Communities

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Downtowns and older residential areas near town centers are walkable	Many communities lack walkable connectivity	Opioid prevention, local food, healthy communities	Border counties see increased opioid related needs; Mental health needs are increasing
Mental health needs are increasing			

Economic Development

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Increased interest from business and industry expansion and new location	Infrastructure investment and improvement needed	Georgia Broadband Ready Initiative Broadband Ready site	
Skilled workforce	Skilled workforce	Greater workforce partnerships	
Available sites and GRAD sites			

Regional Cooperation

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
NWGRC Council	Local needs, emergencies may take priority	Planning, cooperation, redundancy networks, data and best practices sharing	In general, less time for planning and coordination
		Regional workshops and meetings	

5.2 ANALYSIS OF CONSISTENCY WITH QUALITY COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES

Quality Community Objectives

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs prepared a list of ten objectives adapted from generally accepted community development principles to fit the unique qualities of Georgia’s communities. It is thought that “If a community implements these principles, it will result in greater efficiency, cost savings, and a higher quality of life for Georgia citizens,” as taken from Georgia Department of Community Affairs 2011 Quality Community Objectives.

Through reviewing the previous 2014 Assessment and Regional Agenda, comprehensive plans of cities and counties in the region, the Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Improvement Programs within the region, and the Plan Implementation Meetings held with local governments, the following analysis of consistency with Georgia’s Quality Community Objectives was prepared.



Ringgold's Little General Children's Park

QCO	Northwest Georgia
<p>Economic Prosperity Encourage development or expansion of businesses and industries that are suitable for the community.</p>	<p>Across the region manufacturing, agriculture and the service sector including education and health care are major employment sectors. Manufacturing is becoming diversified as seen by recent solar energy component manufacturer locating in Whitfield County, long the Carpet Capital of the world. The Appalachian Regional Port in Murray County is expected to expand the region’s logistics employment sector. However, stakeholders identified the need to better match skills being taught in secondary and post- secondary curriculum to the needs of local and regional employers.</p>
<p>Resource Management Promote the efficient use of natural resources and identify and protect environmentally sensitive areas of the community.</p>	<p>Northwest Georgia’s expanding outdoor recreation and tourism sector thrives on connecting residents and visitors to the abundant and beautiful natural resources here, and many groups have taken up the cause of cleanup, conservation and protection of sensitive water resources. Further efforts are needed to combine outdoor recreation with education and conservation efforts. Additionally, green infrastructure can help protect costly investment in basic public infrastructure as well as protecting water quality.</p>
<p>Efficient Land Use Maximize the use of existing infrastructure and minimize the costly conversion of undeveloped land at the periphery of the community.</p>	<p>Infill and redevelopment efforts are increasing particularly in downtowns and historic neighborhoods located close to centers of town. This protects existing infrastructure investment. Sprawl, less dense development patterns, and conversion of land uses do exist. Often greenfield sites are attractive to job creators and developers. If changes in land use are planned ahead of time, cost of infrastructure expansion can be mitigated.</p>
<p>Local Preparedness Identify and put in place the prerequisites for the type of future the community seeks to achieve.</p>	<p>Infrastructure and preparedness remain a need across the region, both for basic infrastructure and for broadband and new infrastructure needs.</p>

<p>Sense of Place Protect and enhance the community’s unique qualities.</p>	<p>As both residents and visitors to the region seek out authentic places and experiences, identifying and preserving sense of place is crucial to our local governments; planning, good design principles, and funding are needed.</p>
<p>Regional Cooperation Cooperate with neighboring jurisdictions to address shared needs.</p>	<p>Through the Regional Council a foundation for effective leadership and regional cooperative effort is built</p>
<p>Housing Options Promote an adequate range of safe, affordable, inclusive, and resource efficient housing in the community.</p>	<p>Greater variety of housing types in all locations, and variety of price points for rentership and ownership are needed; needs vary by city and county. More funding for housing assessment and property assessment and inventory is needed.</p>
<p>Transportation Options Address the transportation needs, challenges and opportunities of all community residents.</p>	<p>Transit and intermodal connectivity are needed. Maintenance of roads and bridges and improvement of highly traveled routes are needed. Improvements to east west routes are needed. As the Appalachian Regional Port in Murray County develops, additional improvements may be identified.</p>
<p>Educational Opportunities Make educational and training opportunities readily available to enable all community residents to improve their job skills, adapt to technological advances, manage their finances, or pursue life ambitions.</p>	<p>Greater connectivity between business and industry needed skills, and those offered in high school and post-secondary schools, are needed. College and Career Academies provide this directly, but all counties can benefit from improved communication between business and industry, education, and elected leadership.</p>
<p>Community Health Ensure that all community residents, regardless of age, ability, or income, have access to critical goods and services, safe and clean neighborhoods, and good work opportunities.</p>	<p>Greater availability and access to healthy local food, physical activity opportunities and safe walkability, mental health maintenance and treatment options, and opioid and substance abuse treatment, are all needs in our region.</p>

5.3 SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR NORTHWEST GEORGIA PROJECTED 2040 LAND USE MAP

Source of Information for Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Regional Land Use Map from GLUT data and County Comprehensive Plans			
COUNTY/CITY	RURAL	DEVELOPING	DEVELOPED
Bartow County	Bartow County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Category: 1. Agriculture/forestry 2. Parks/Conservation 3. Mixed Use Residential and Rural Estate that is not inside the developing line around Cartersville.	Area around Cartersville, Emerson, and Euharlee based on GLUT and our assessment	Bartow County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Category : 1. Industrial 2. Mining: three areas between I-75 and east side of Cartersville 3. Mining: two areas on either side of Rt 20 on east side of county 3. Mining: area east of Adairsville Omit the area south of White
Adairsville			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Cartersville			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Emerson			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Euharlee			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Kingston	All Rural based on GLUT and our assessment		
Taylorville	All Rural based on GLUT and our assessment		
White		All Developing based on GLUT and our assessment	
Catoosa County	All Rural except Suburban Neighborhood Character Area	Catoosa County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Suburban Neighborhood	

Source of Information for Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Regional Land Use Map from GLUT data and County Comprehensive Plans			
COUNTY/CITY	RURAL	DEVELOPING	DEVELOPED
Fort Oglethorpe	Catoosa County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Areas: 1. Natural Open Space 2. Urban Open Space		All developed except for Natural Open Space and Urban Open space Character Areas
Ringgold			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Chattooga County	All Rural except for area around Summerville, prison district and small industrial areas	Chattooga County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Areas: 1. Suburban-Neighborhood around Summerville 2. District: Prison	Chattooga County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. District: Industrial
Lyerly	All Rural based on GLUT and our assessment		
Menlo	All Rural based on GLUT and our assessment		
Summerville			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Trion		All Developing based on GLUT and our assessment except for industrial district character area	Chattooga County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. District: Industrial
Dade County	All Rural except for College, Mixed Use Commercial, and Industrial Character Areas	Dade County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Mixed Use Commercial	Dade County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Areas: 1. College 2. Industrial
Trenton			All developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Fannin County	All Rural except for developing corridor along SR 515	Based on GLUT data, Developing corridor along SR 515/76 1.5 miles out on the west side of Blue Ridge,	

Source of Information for Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Regional Land Use Map from GLUT data and County Comprehensive Plans			
COUNTY/CITY	RURAL	DEVELOPING	DEVELOPED
		and 4 miles out from the east edge of Blue Ridge	
Blue Ridge			All developed based on GLUT and our assessment
McCaysville		All developing except for Developed corridor along SR 5	Developed Corridor along SR 5 to Tennessee line
Morganton	All Rural based on GLUT and our assessment		
Floyd County	Floyd County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Conservation 2. Rural Area	Floyd County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Urban Growth Area	Floyd County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: Urban Area
Cave Spring		All Developing based on GLUT and our assessment	
Rome	Floyd County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Conservation		All Developed except Conservation Character Area
Gilmer County	All Rural based on GLUT and our assessment	In addition, area east of Ellijay between SR 282 and SR 382 to Carter's Lake	
East Ellijay			All developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Ellijay			All developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Gordon County	Gordon County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Greenspace 2. Hillside Conservation	Gordon County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Emerging Commercial	Comp Plan Future Development Character Areas: 1. County in city 2. Industrial 3. Interstate Commercial

Source of Information for Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Regional Land Use Map from GLUT data and County Comprehensive Plans			
COUNTY/CITY	RURAL	DEVELOPING	DEVELOPED
	3. Historic Resource Protection 4. Rural Agriculture Reserve 5. West Calhoun	2. Emerging Mixed Use 3. Emerging Mixed Use Community 4. Emerging Suburban 5. Hwy 411 Multiuse	4. Public Institutional Core
Calhoun			All developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Fairmount	Gordon County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Greenspace 2. Hillside Conservation	All Developing except Hillside Conservation and Greenspace	Gordon County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Historic Downtown
Plainville	All Rural based on GLUT and our assessment		
Ranger	All Rural based on GLUT and our assessment		
Resaca	All Rural based on GLUT and our assessment		
Haralson County	All Rural except for Haralson County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Industrial Character Area between Buchanan and Bremen		Haralson County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Industrial Character Area between Buchanan and Bremen along SR 27
Bremen			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Buchanan		All Developing based on GLUT and our assessment	
Tallapoosa		Haralson County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Areas: 1. Mixed use 2. Industrial area by I-20	Developed in the core area (all the character areas except Mixed use and the Industrial Character Area by I-20)

Source of Information for Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Regional Land Use Map from GLUT data and County Comprehensive Plans			
COUNTY/CITY	RURAL	DEVELOPING	DEVELOPED
Waco	All Rural based on GLUT and our assessment		
Murray County	All Rural except for Murray County Future Land Use Category Industrial and specific commercial area as noted in developing column	Murray County Future land use category: Area of Commercial across from Appalachian Inland Port. Additional area of commercial south of the port on Summerour Road	Comp Plan Land use category: 1. Industrial
Chatsworth			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Eton			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Paulding County	Paulding County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Areas: All Rural except Community Residential	Paulding County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Community Residential	
Braswell	All Rural based on GLUT and our assessment		
Dallas			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Hiram			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Pickens County	All Rural except Pickens County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area Suburban Infill	Pickens County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area 1. Suburban Infill area	

Source of Information for Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Regional Land Use Map from GLUT data and County Comprehensive Plans			
COUNTY/CITY	RURAL	DEVELOPING	DEVELOPED
Jasper	Pickens County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area 1. East Pickens Conservation Area		All Developed except for Pickens County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area East Pickens Conservation Area
Nelson	All Rural from GLUT and our assessment		
Talking Rock	All Rural from GLUT and our assessment		
Polk County		SR 278 corridor between Cedartown and hospital	Polk County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area 1. Industrial
Aragon	Polk County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Greenspace/conservation 2. Mixed residential on north side		Developed except for north side
Cedartown			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Rockmart			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Walker County	All rural except the area east of Rossville	Developing area east of Rossville based on GLUT and our assessment	
Chickamauga			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
LaFayette	Walker County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Greenspace/conservation		All the other Walker County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Areas
Lookout Mountain			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment

Source of Information for Northwest Georgia Projected 2040 Regional Land Use Map from GLUT data and County Comprehensive Plans			
COUNTY/CITY	RURAL	DEVELOPING	DEVELOPED
Rossville			All Developed based on GLUT and our assessment
Whitfield County	All Rural except Whitfield County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Areas Industrial, Suburban Neighborhood, and Interchange	Whitfield County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Areas: 1. Suburban Neighborhood 2. Interchange 3. Emerging suburban and exurban areas	Whitfield County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area: 1. Industrial
Cohutta		All developing based on GLUT and our assessment	
Dalton	Whitfield County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Areas: 1. Ridge Conservation And the Farm Golf Course and Subdivision		All Developed except Whitfield County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area Ridge Conservation and the Farm Golf Course and Subdivision
Tunnel Hill	All rural except for Whitfield County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area Town Neighborhood		Whitfield County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Areas: 1. Town Neighborhood
Varnell	All rural except for Whitfield County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Area Town Neighborhood		Whitfield County Comprehensive Plan Future Development Character Areas: 1. Town Neighborhood

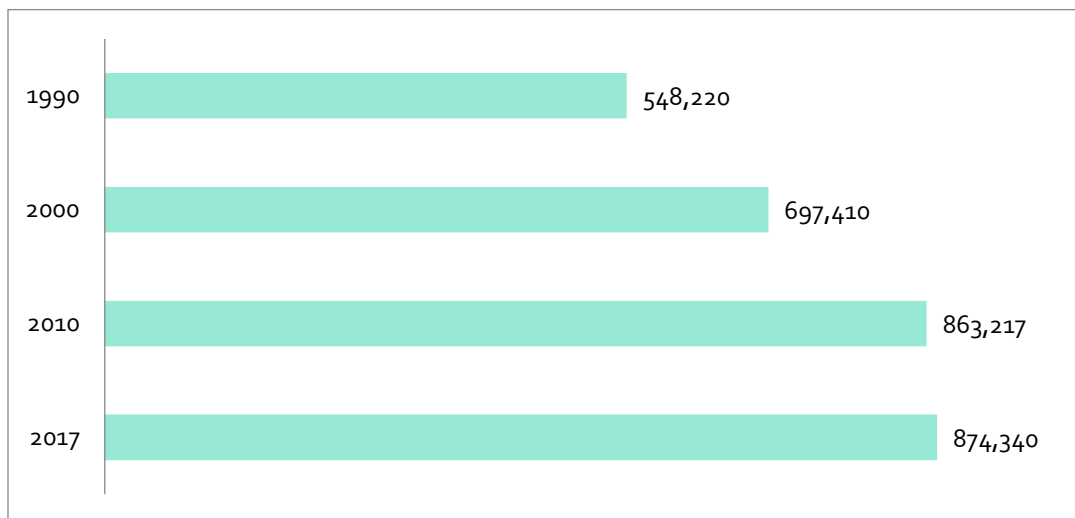
5.4 NORTHWEST GEORGIA’S CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE TRENDS: REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC DATA

The Northwest Georgia Region is geographically diverse with strong historical and cultural patterns that are grounded in natural resources, water, environment, geography, and affected by significant historic and economic events such as the Trail of Tears Native American removal from Georgia, the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War I and II, and more recently, the Great Recession followed by a resurgence in advanced and skilled manufacturing. The region’s population is second only to the Atlanta region in numbers and in workforce. An aging population creates multiple demands including adaptive housing and transportation resources as well as need for additional workforce development, recruitment and training needs to ensure a strong working age population remains in the region, rather than seeking employment in more metropolitan areas.

Population

Overall the population is increasing, but growth has slowed. Between 1990-2010, Northwest Georgia grew by 25%; between 2010-2017 growth was only 1%.

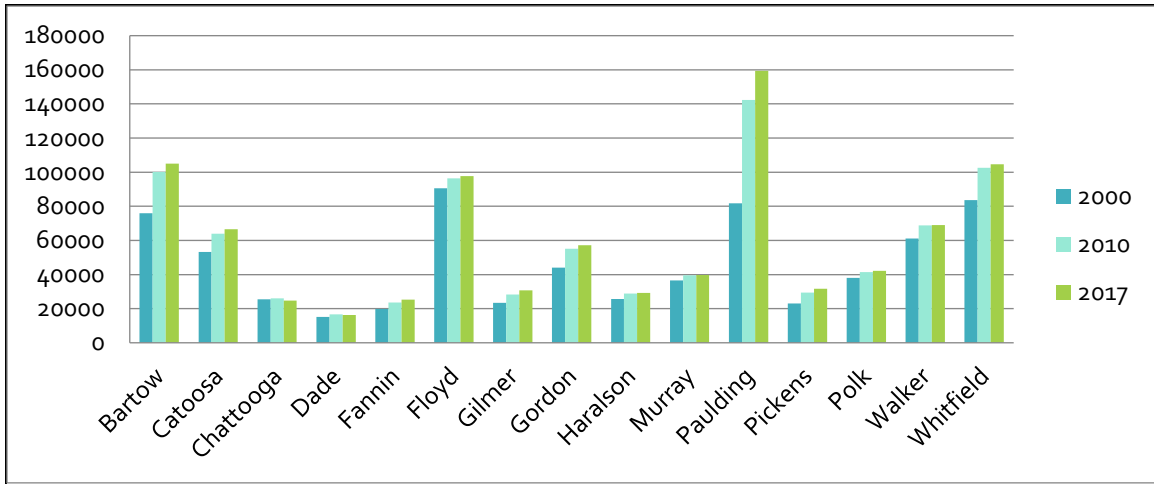
Table 1. Northwest Georgia Population, 1990-2017.



Source: US Census Bureau, 1990 SF1, 2000 SF1 DP 1, 2010 SF1 DP1, 2017 American Community Survey

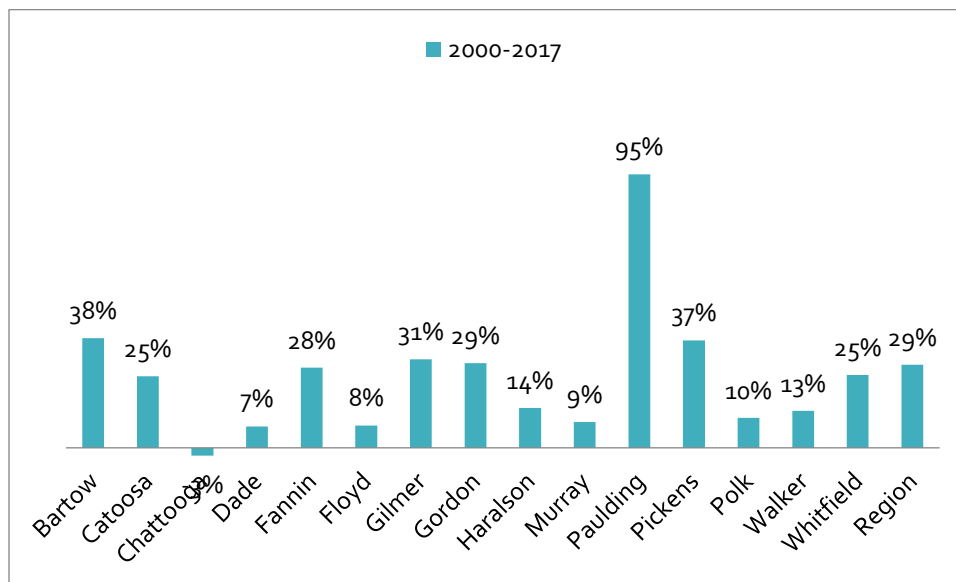
The Northwest Georgia region has steadily grown since 1990, with population increasing by 59% from 1990 to 2017. From 1990 to 2000, the population grew by 27%, and from 2000 to 2010 by 24%. Between 2010 and 2017 growth was at 1%. This may have been due to a mid- decade job loss during the Great Recession. Manufacturing in Northwest Georgia saw many closures and layoffs during this time as demand for floorcovering was reduced due to an overall decrease in new home construction. Dalton, the epicenter of carpet manufacturing, lost 4,600 jobs between June 2011 and June 2012 (Atlanta Journal Constitution, August 2012). Over several years, many jobs were added back to the region’s economy. Overall the region’s population grew by 59% from 1990 to 2017. (Source: 1990, 2000, 2010 Decennial Census and 2017 American Community Survey.)

Table 2. Population of Northwest Georgia Counties, 2000-2017.



Source: US Census Bureau, 1990 SF1, 2000 SF1 DP 1, 2010 SF1 DP1, 2017 American Community Survey

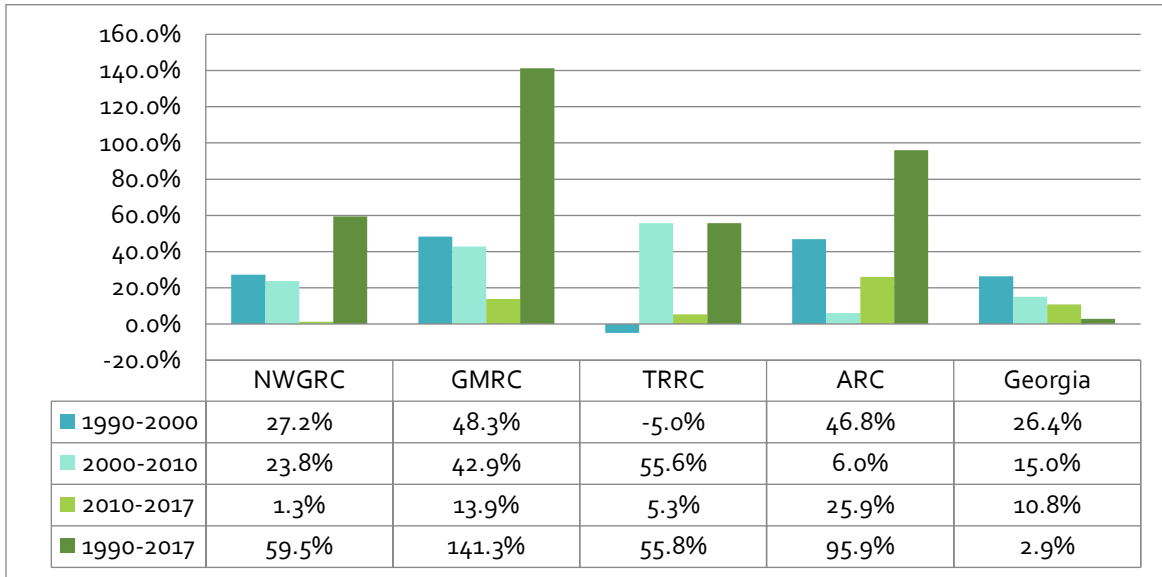
Table 3 Population Growth of Northwest Georgia Counties, 2000-2017.



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 SF1 DP 1, 2010 SF1 DP1, 2017 ACS.

Between 2000 and 2017 the region saw 29% growth in population. Each county had varying growth patterns over these seventeen years and while most experienced population growth between 2000-2017, Chattooga County saw a 3% decrease in population. Some counties (Dade, Floyd, and Murray) had slightly lower growth trends of approximately 10%, while other counties showed higher population increases between 2000-2017, notably Bartow (38%), Paulding (95%), and Pickens (37%) Counties.

Table 4. Population Trends by Region, 1990-2017.



Source: US Census Bureau, 1990 SF1, 2000 SF1 DP 1, 2010 SF1 DP1, 2017 ACS

Comparing neighboring Regional Commissions, the Three Rivers region grew by 55.8% from 1990 to 2017. The Atlanta Regional Commission’s population doubled from 1990 to 2017, and the Georgia Mountains region grew by 141% (1990-2017). Northwest Georgia grew by 59.5% from 1990-2017.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY COUNTY

Table 5. Population Change from 2020-2063, Northwest Georgia.

Year or Percent Change	Northwest Georgia	Georgia
2018	905,925	10,471,711
2020	930,991	10,833,472
2018-2020 % Change	3%	3%
2030	1,022,702	12,292,423
2020-2030 % Change	9%	12%
2040	1,067,930	13,298,742
2030-2040 % change	4%	8%
2050	1,095,073	14,186,991
2040-2050 % change	3%	7%
2060	1,117,709	15,106,503
2050-2060 % change	2%	6%
2063	1,127,162	15,409,785
2018-2063 % change	24%	47%

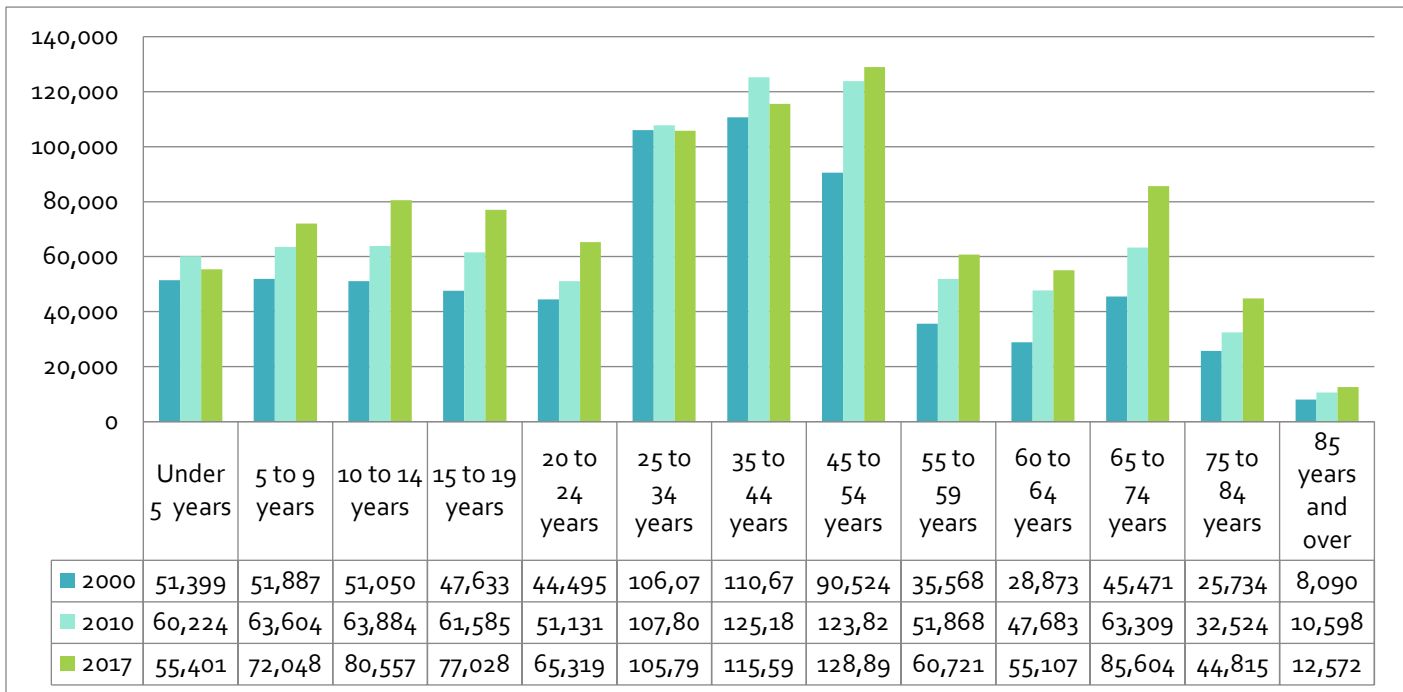
Source: Georgia Office of Population and Budget, County Residential Population Projections 2018 – 2063.

Table 6. County Residential Population Projections, 2018-2063.

County	2018-2020 % Change	2020-2030 % Change	2030-2040 % change	2040-2050 % change	2050-2060 % change	2018-2063 % change
Bartow	5%	15%	10%	7%	5%	56%
Catoosa	3%	7%	-1%	-4%	-6%	-5%
Chattooga	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%	5%
Dade	0%	0%	-1%	-2%	0%	-4%
Fannin	2%	2%	-12%	-16%	-11%	-33%
Murray	1%	4%	3%	3%	3%	17%
Paulding	5%	17%	14%	11%	9%	80%
Pickens	5%	14%	5%	4%	6%	44%
Polk	2%	5%	-2%	-6%	-7%	-9%
Walker	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%	8%
Whitfield	1%	4%	3%	1%	0%	9%
Northwest Georgia	3%	9%	4%	3%	2%	24%
Georgia	3%	12%	8%	7%	6%	47%

Source: Georgia Office of Population and Budget, County Residential Population Projections 2018 – 2063. The residential population of Northwest Georgia is expected to grow by 24%, compared to 47% for Georgia. Bartow, Haralson, Paulding and Pickens Counties are expected to grow by 50%, but other counties including Fannin, Gilmer, Catoosa and Polk Counties may decline in later years.

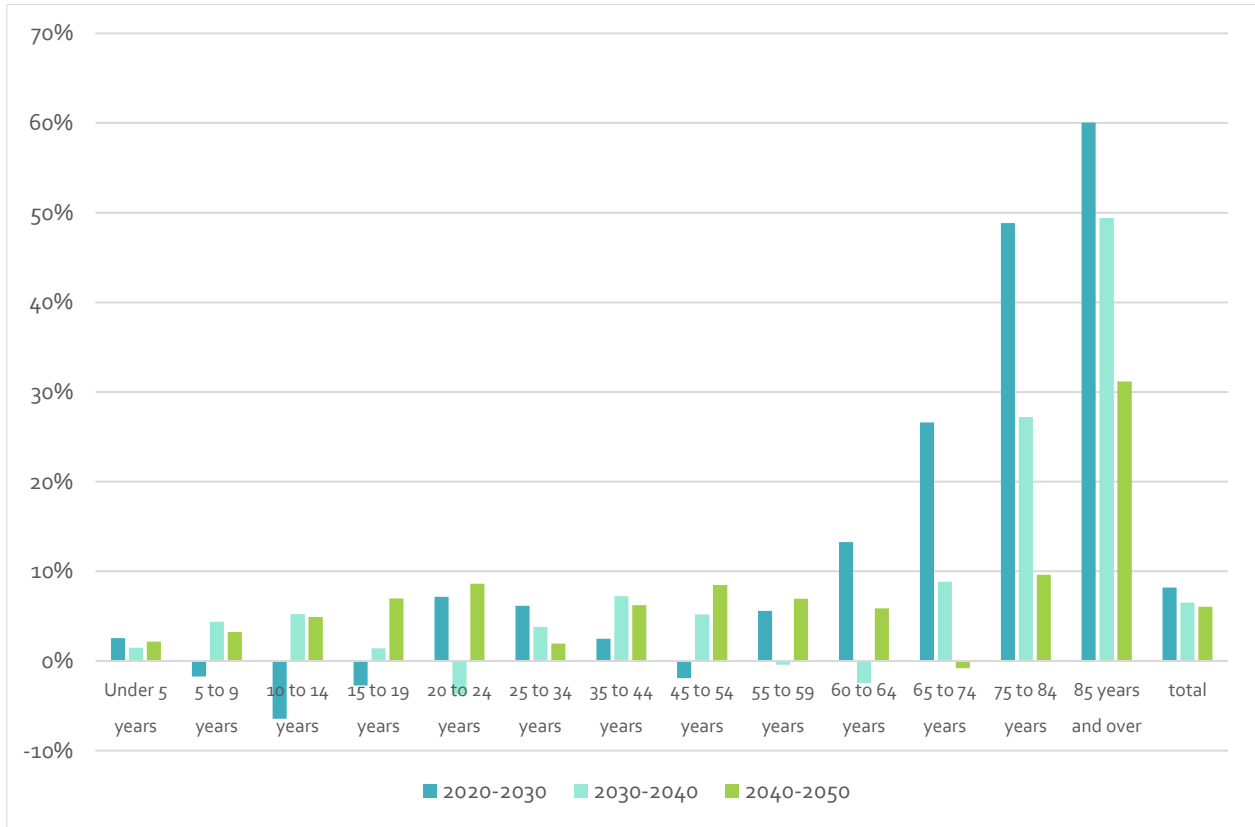
Table 7. Age Distribution within Northwest Georgia Region, 2010-2025.



Source: Georgia Office of Population and Budget, US Census Dec 2010 SF1.

Population increased each decade for most ages, but there was a decline in population between 2010 and 2017 for the youngest age group (age 0-5) and for the young working age group (25-34 years).

Table 8. Projected Age Distribution, Northwest Georgia, 2020-2050.



Source: Georgia Office of Population and Budget, US Census Dec 2010 SF1.

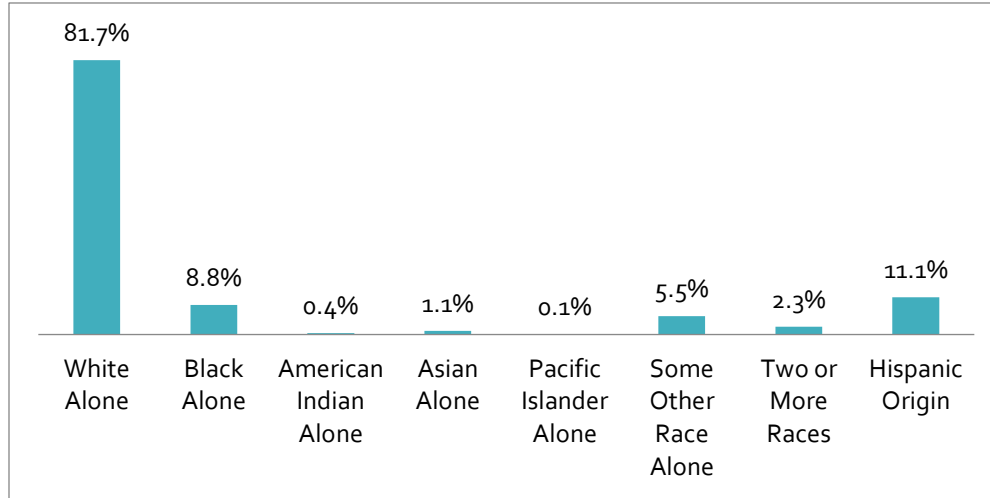
Table 9. Northwest Georgia Population Projected Growth by Age by Decade, 2020-2050.

	2020-2030	2030-2040	2040-2050
Under 5 years	3%	1%	2%
5 to 9 years	-2%	4%	3%
10 to 14 years	-6%	5%	5%
15 to 19 years	-3%	1%	7%
20 to 24 years	7%	-4%	9%
25 to 34 years	6%	4%	2%
35 to 44 years	2%	7%	6%
45 to 54 years	-2%	5%	8%
55 to 59 years	6%	0%	7%
60 to 64 years	13%	-2%	6%
65 to 74 years	27%	9%	-1%
75 to 84 years	49%	27%	10%
85 years and over	60%	49%	31%
Total	8%	7%	6%

Source: Georgia Office of Population and Budget.

The region’s population will grow by less than 10% per decade and by 25% from 2, 020-2050. There are declines projected among those 5-19 and 45-54 years old from 2020-2050. An increased elderly population has implications for transportation, housing, medical care, and public policy.

Table 10. Race and Ethnicity, Northwest Georgia, 2010.



Source: 2010 US Census.

In 2010, most of those in Northwest Georgia (81.7%) identified as White, with fewer identifying as Black or African American (8.8%) or one or more other race (5.5%), or Hispanic/Latino of any race (11.1%).

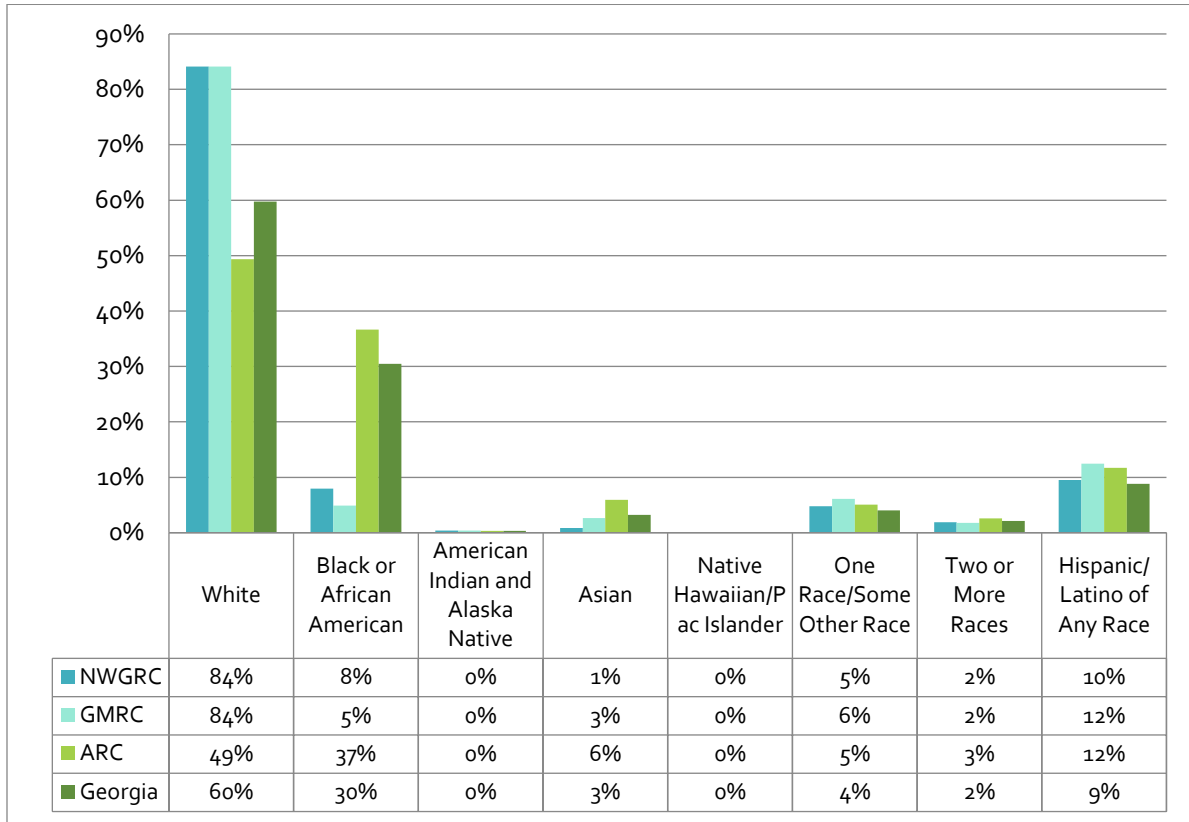
Table 11. Race and Ethnicity by County, 2017.

	Total	White	Black/ African American	Amer Indian/ Native Amer	Asian	Native Hawaii/ Pac Isl	Some Other Race	Hispanic /Latino	Two or More Races
Bartow	102623	84%	11%	0%	1%	0%	2%	8%	2%
Catoosa	65870	93%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%	3%	2%
Chattooga	24880	87%	10%	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	1%
Dade	16282	95%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%
Fannin	24480	97%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Floyd	96471	78%	14%	0%	2%	0%	4%	11%	2%
Gilmer	29614	91%	2%	1%	0%	0%	4%	11%	2%
Gordon	56424	90%	4%	1%	1%	0%	2%	15%	2%
Haralson	28722	92%	4%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%
Murray	39444	97%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	14%	1%
Paulding	152399	76%	19%	0%	1%	0%	2%	6%	2%
Pickens	30343	96%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	3%	2%
Polk	41444	75%	13%	0%	1%	0%	9%	13%	2%
Walker	68609	92%	4%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%	2%
Whitfield	103963	88%	4%	1%	1%	0%	4%	34%	1%
NWGA	881568	86%	8%	0%	1%	0%	2%	11%	2%

Source: 2017 American Community Survey

In 2017, the population diversity varied by County. Most were White, but minority populations were seen for Black/African American communities and for Hispanic/ Latino groups.

Table 12. Race and Ethnicity, by Regional Commissions and Georgia, 2010.



Source: 2010 Census SF1.

Table 13. Population Trends by Race and Ethnicity, 1990-2017.

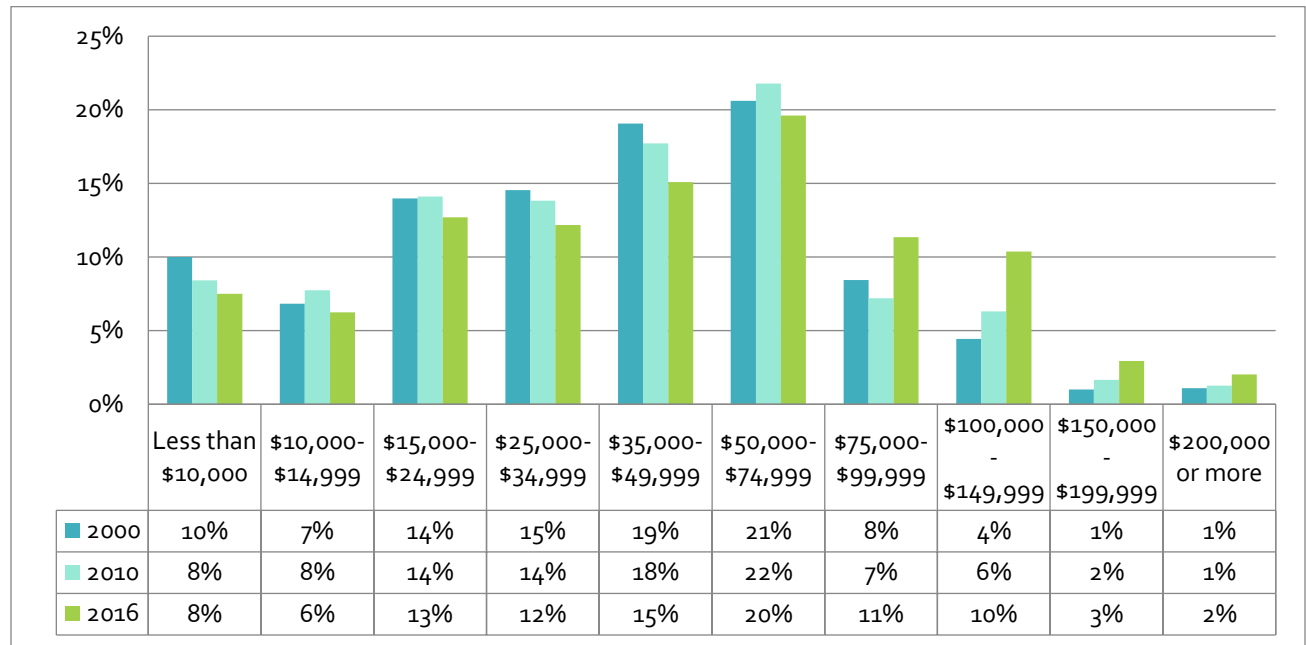
	2017	% change	2010	% change	2000	% change	1990
Total	881,568	2%	863,217	24%	697,410	27%	548,220
White Alone	757,710	4%	725,947	17%	619,395	22%	509,554
Black Alone	74,460	9%	68,572	63%	42,031	27%	33,195
American Indian Alone	2,773	-12%	3,145	59%	1,976	70%	1,164
Asian Alone	8,938	24%	7,227	59%	4,541	175%	1,654
Pacific Islander Alone	298	-50%	599	154%	236	Data not available	Data not available
Some Other Race Alone	21,546	-48%	41,272	97%	20,996	Data not available	Data not available
Two or More Races	15,843	-4%	16,455	100%	8,235	Data not available	Data not available
Hispanic Origin	92,794	13%	82,351	106%	39,934	611%	5,613

Sources: 1990 Decennial Census CP 1-12; 2000 Census SF3; 2010 Census SF1; 2017 American Community Survey

The population of Northwest Georgia increased significantly from 1990 to 2017, and diversity within the population increased as well. This trend is expected to continue. From 1990 to 2000, and from 2000 to 2010, the increases in minority population outpaced that of the overall population. Many of the minority populations are small so a change of a hundred persons causes a great effect.

Income Levels

Table 14. Income Distribution in Northwest Georgia, 2000-2016.

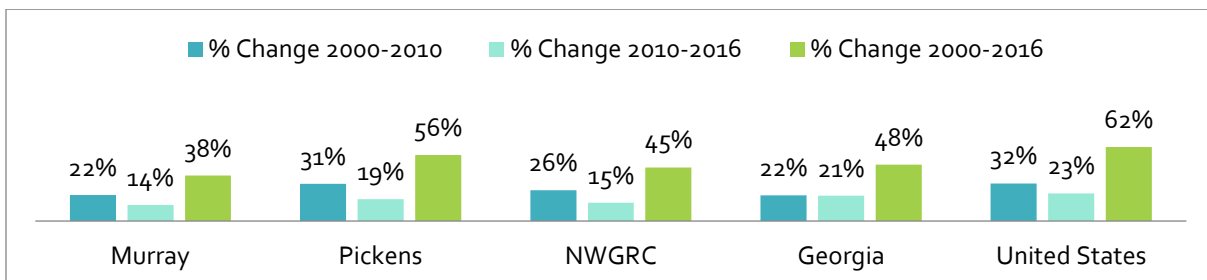


Sources: 2000 Census SF3; 2010 Census SF1; 2017 American Community Survey.

The percentages by income group for Northwest Georgia appear consistent across years; for example, between 2000 and 2016, the percentage of those making \$15,000-\$24,999 remained at 13%- 14% while those making \$50,000- \$74,999 held steady at approximately 20%.

Per Capita Income

Table 15. Per Capita Income Percentage Change, 2000-2016.

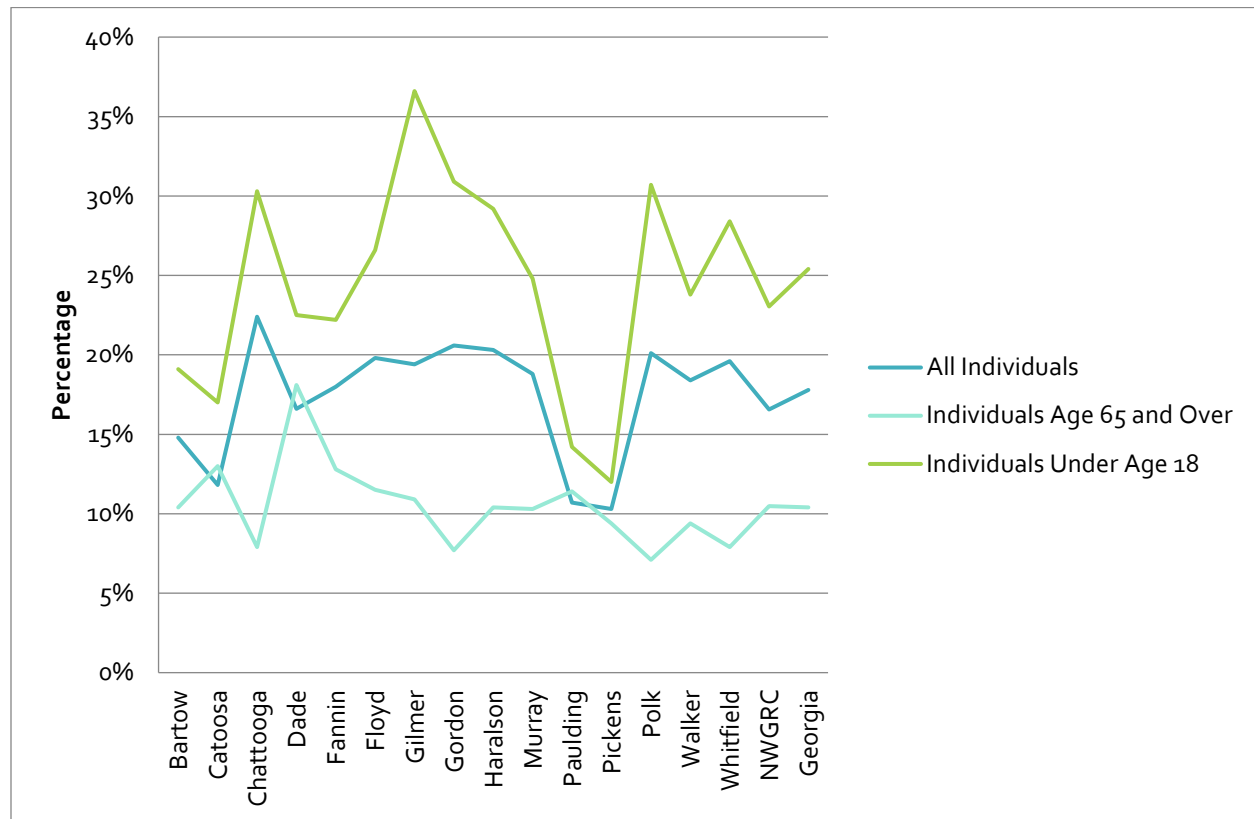


Source: Bureau of Economic Adjustment, CA1: Personal Income Summary.

Per capita incomes increased overall by 45% over the Northwest Georgia region, comparable to a 48% increase in Georgia but lagging the national average of 62% over the period from 2000 to 2016. Murray County had the lowest percentage increase while Pickens County had the largest increase.

Poverty

Table 16. Poverty Status of Individuals by Age Group, 2016.



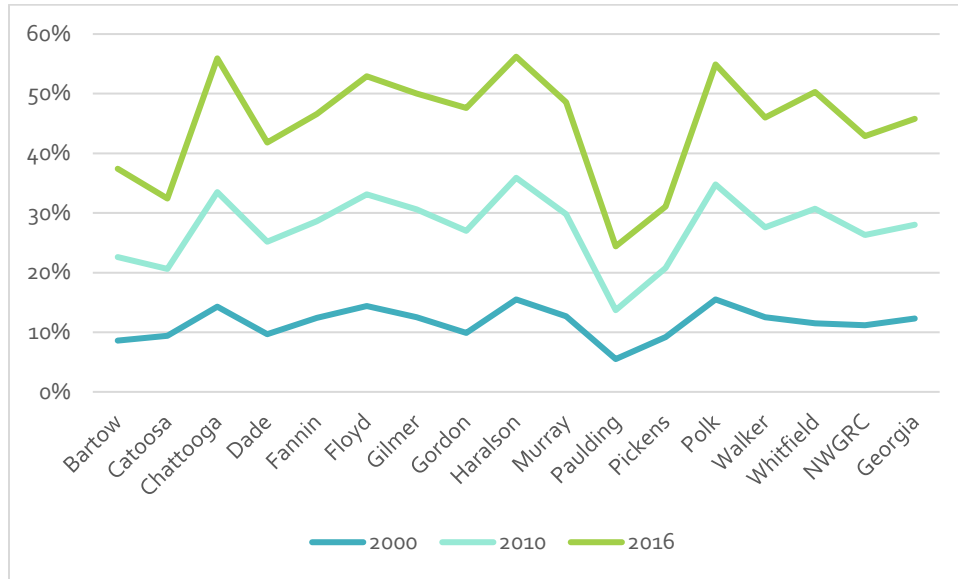
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2016.

Overall in Northwest Georgia in 2016, almost two in ten persons, or 17% of the population, were in poverty. This is comparable to Georgia at an 18% overall poverty rate. Fairly high rates of poverty for those under age 18 were seen in the region, at an average of 22%, slightly lower than for Georgia. Highest rates of youth poverty were seen for Gilmer County where 37% of the population under 18 was in poverty, and the lowest was seen in Paulding County. For senior citizens, typically on fixed incomes, the poverty rates were slightly lower at 10% for the region, which is the same as the state of Georgia.

Changes over Time

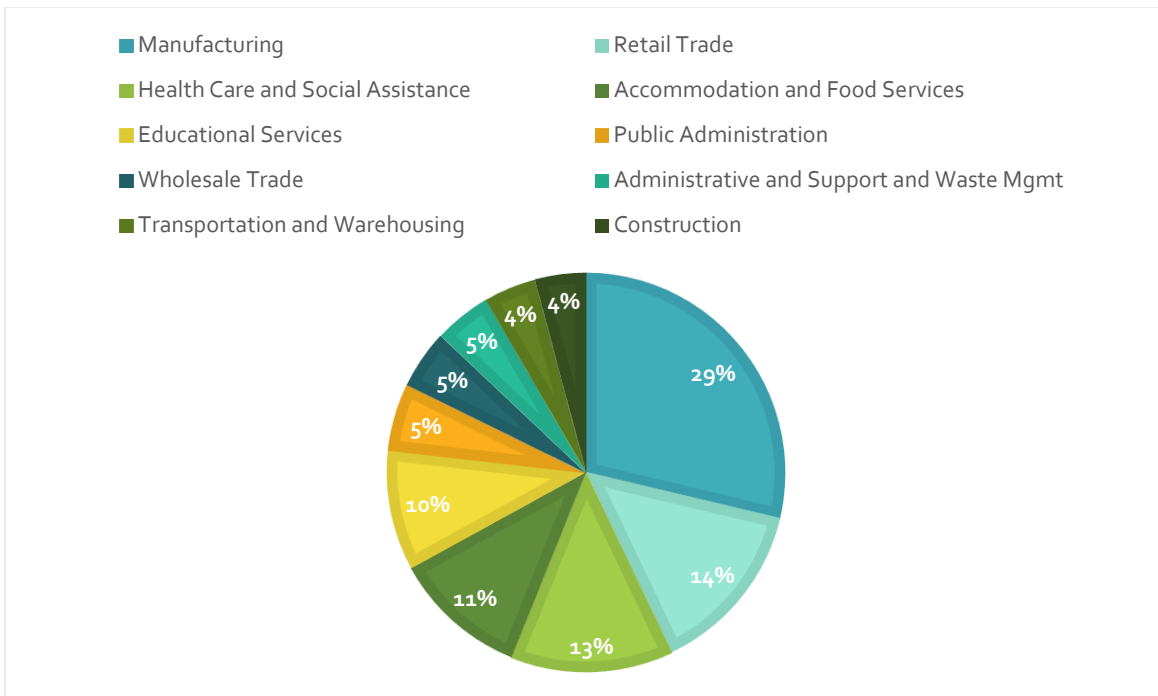
The region’s poverty rates increased overall from 11% in 2000 to 17% in 2016, similar to Georgia’s which increased from 12% in 2000 to 18% in 2016. This may be due to the Great Recession which began in December 2007 and ended officially in June 2009, but which had much longer lasting effects on employment in Northwest Georgia (Federal Reserve History, “The Great Recession December 2007 to June 2009,” Rich, 2013; Flessner, “Unemployment Rises in Dalton to Highest Rate in Georgia,” 2014).

Table 17. Northwest Georgia Poverty Rates by County, 2000-2016.



Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census 2000 and 2010, American Community Survey 2016.

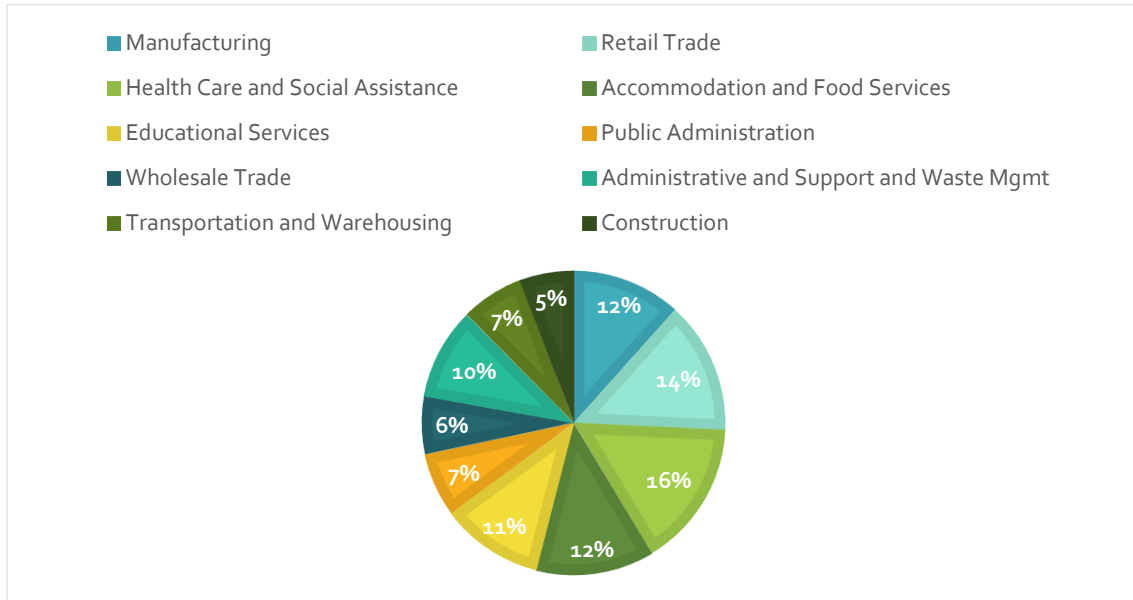
Table 18. Distribution of Employment by Industry, Northwest Georgia, 2018.



Source: Georgia Dept. of Labor, Workforce Statistics & Economic Research, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program

Northwest Georgia’s major employment sectors are manufacturing (29%), retail trade (14%) and health care and social assistance at 13%.

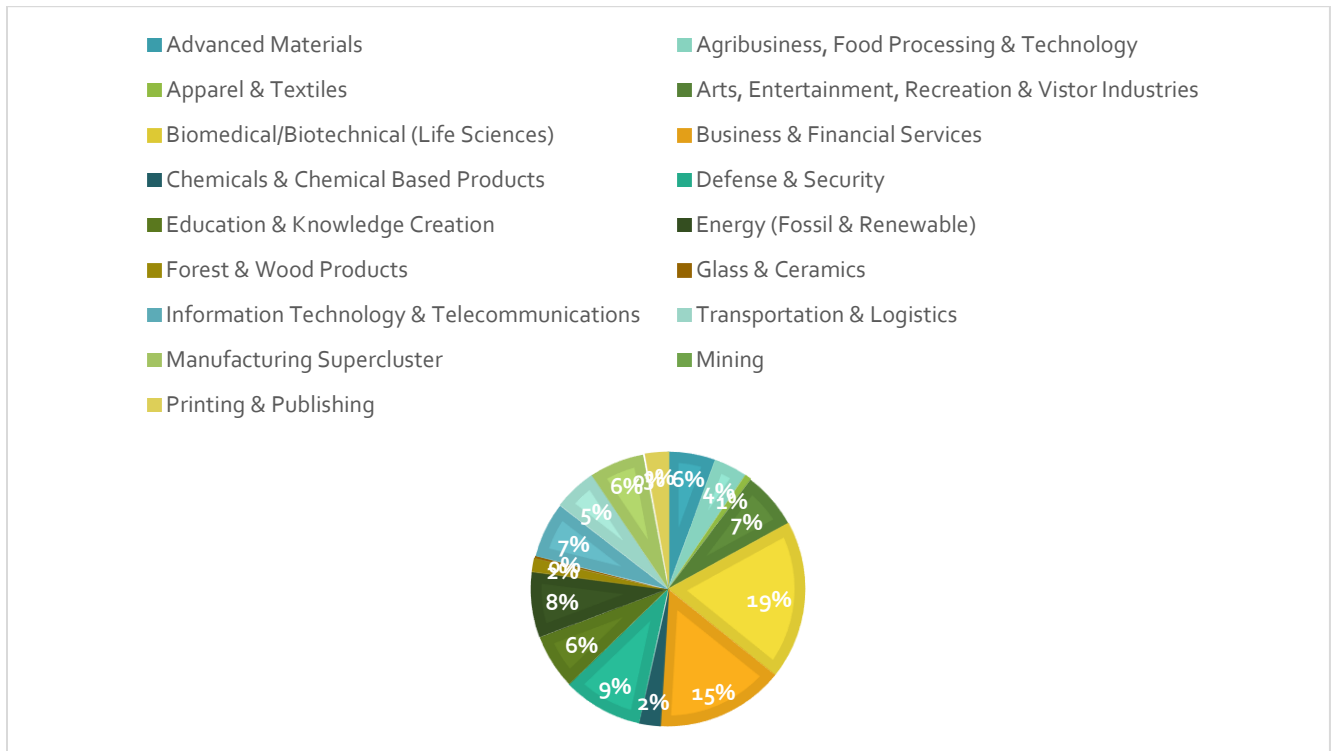
Table 19. Employment Distribution by Industry, Georgia 2018.



Source: Georgia Dept. of Labor, Workforce Statistics & Economic Research, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program

Georgia’s employment sectors are more evenly distributed, with less manufacturing (12%) and higher numbers in administrative and other sectors. Retail employment is at 14% for the region and state.

Table 20. Employment by Industry Cluster, US, 2012.



Source: Georgia Dept. of Labor, Workforce Statistics & Economic Research, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program

Compared to Northwest Georgia and Georgia, the US industry clusters emphasize biomedical/ biotechnical (Life Sciences) and business and financial services over manufacturing, retail or services.

Labor Force

Table 21. Area Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Data.

Monthly not seasonally adjusted data December 2018.

Data	Georgia	Georgia Mountains Local Workforce Development Area	Northwest Georgia Local Workforce Development Area	West Central Georgia Local Workforce Development Area
Civilian Labor Force	5,137,448	348,788	422,668	250,079
Number Employed	4,944,621	337,780	406,190	240,872
Number Unemployed	192,827	11,008	16,478	9,207
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.2%	3.9%	3.7%

Source: GA Dept. of Labor, Workforce Statistics & Economic Research, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Unit

Table 22. Employment Wage Statistics, 2018.

The table below shows estimated average wage information for the third quarter of 2018.

Data	Georgia	Georgia Mountains Local Workforce Development Area	Northwest Georgia Local Workforce Development Area	West Central Georgia Local Workforce Development Area
Number of Employees	4,439,368	248,160	268,841	168,892
Average Hourly Wage†	\$24.83	\$20.53	\$19.08	\$19.55
Average Weekly Wage	\$993	\$821	\$763	\$782
Average Annual Wage†	\$51,636	\$42,692	\$39,676	\$40,664

† Assumes a 40-hour week worked the year round.

Source: Georgia Dept. of Labor, Workforce Statistics & Economic Research, Quart. Census of Employment Wages Program

With full employment, the region's manufacturers are looking for skilled workers.

Table 23. Area Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Data, 2018.

Monthly not seasonally adjusted data for Northwest Georgia, December 2018.

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Preliminary
Northwest Georgia Local Workforce Development Area	422,668	406,190	16,478	3.9%	Yes
Georgia	5,137,448	4,944,621	192,827	3.8%	Yes
United States	162,510,000	156,481,000	6,029,000	3.7%	Yes

Source: GA Dept. of Labor, Workforce Statistics & Economic Research, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Unit

Table 24. Occupational Employment Distribution, Northwest Georgia, 2014-2024.

The table below shows the occupations with changing projected employment in Northwest Georgia Local Workforce Development Area, GA for the 2014-2024 period.

Rank	Occupation Title	2014 Estimated Employment	2024 Projected Employment	% change
1	Production	46,245	39,382	-15%
2	Office and Administrative Support	35,793	36,951	3%
3	Sales and Related	27,625	31,690	15%
4	Food Preparation and Serving	23,893	27,823	16%
5	Transportation and Material Moving	23,598	23,860	1%
6	Education, Training, and Library	18,113	21,412	18%
7	Healthcare Practitioners, Technical	14,417	17,064	18%
8	Management	14,925	15,585	4%
9	Installation, Maintenance, Repair	12,774	12,704	-1%
10	Construction and Extraction	9,807	10,065	3%

Source: Georgia Dept. of Labor, Workforce Statistics & Economic Research, Projection Unit

Employment is projected to increase over many sectors between 2014 and 2024, especially in Healthcare Practitioners and Technical (18%), and Education, Training, and Library occupations (18%). Occupations expected to decrease in numbers include Production (a 15% decline). Figure 24 presents industries with the highest total annual percent change in Northwest Georgia 2014-2024.

Table 25. Industries by Projected Growth, Northwest Georgia, 2014-2024.

Rank	Industry	2014 Estimated Employment	2024 Projected Employment	Total Annual % Change	% Overall change
1	General Merchandise Stores	8,183	12,218	4.09%	49%
2	Transportation Equip Manufacturing	4,164	6,074	3.85%	46%
3	Ambulatory Health Care Services	9,649	13,273	3.24%	38%
4	Broadcasting (except Internet)	245	331	3.05%	35%
5	Plastics, Rubber Manufacturing	4,176	5,475	2.75%	31%
6	Prof, Scientific, and Technical Services	6,597	8,501	2.57%	29%
7	Social Assistance	3,214	4,138	2.56%	29%
8	Furniture, Related Manufacturing	1,851	2,370	2.50%	28%
9	Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	3,551	4,522	2.45%	27%
10	Wholesale Electronic Markets, Agents, Brokers	1,282	1,607	2.29%	25%

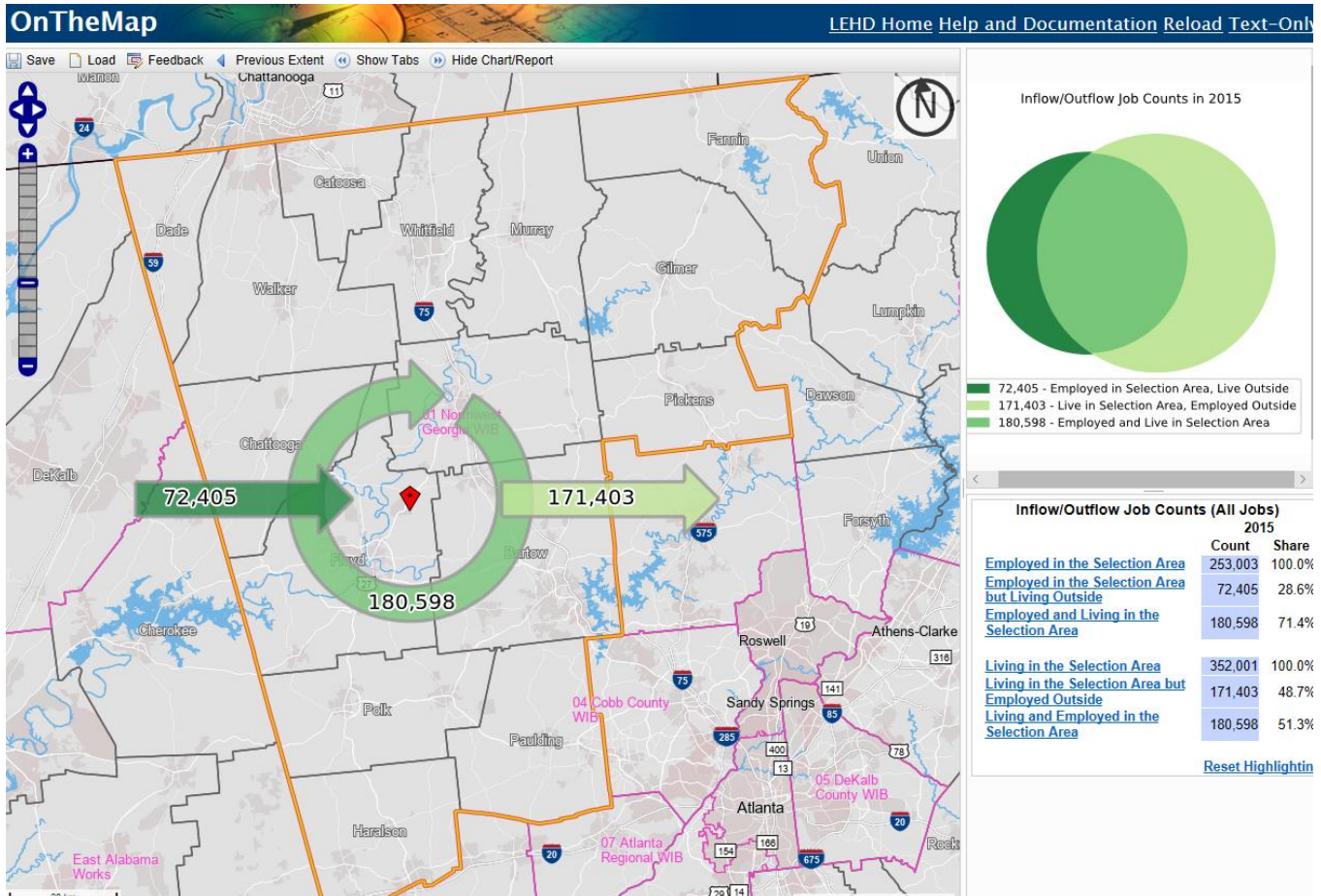
Source: Georgia Department of Labor, Workforce Statistics and Economic Research, Projections Unit

Table 26. Personal and Household Income, Northwest Georgia, 2000-2017.

	Per Capita Income 2000	Per Capita Income 2014	% Change 2000-2014	Per Capita Income (2013-2017)	Median Household Income 2014
Bartow	\$ 26,574	\$ 33,483	26.00%	\$ 24,931	\$ 48,306
Catoosa	\$ 22,691	\$ 31,531	38.96%	\$ 25,643	\$ 50,180
Chattooga	\$ 18,350	\$ 27,704	50.98%	\$ 17,716	\$ 32,496
Dade	\$ 21,162	\$ 28,643	35.35%	\$ 23,184	\$ 44,992
Fannin	\$ 21,769	\$ 30,036	37.98%	\$ 24,845	\$ 35,441
Floyd	\$ 23,707	\$ 33,705	42.17%	\$ 23,929	\$ 41,046
Gilmer	\$ 20,274	\$ 30,288	49.39%	\$ 23,688	\$ 39,581
Gordon	\$ 22,336	\$ 30,872	38.22%	\$ 21,208	\$ 42,414
Haralson	\$ 21,384	\$ 31,007	45.00%	\$ 23,141	\$ 41,482
Murray	\$ 20,160	\$ 26,057	29.25%	\$ 19,084	\$ 34,478
Paulding	\$ 24,262	\$ 31,713	30.71%	\$ 26,636	\$ 61,153
Pickens	\$ 26,966	\$ 39,730	47.33%	\$ 29,460	\$ 50,452
Polk	\$ 19,097	\$ 28,366	48.54%	\$ 22,314	\$ 39,121
Walker	\$ 22,028	\$ 28,266	28.32%	\$ 22,564	\$ 39,688
Whitfield	\$ 25,618	\$ 32,435	26.61%	\$ 22,262	\$ 40,081
NWGRC	\$ 22,425	\$ 30,922	37.89%	\$ 23,373	\$ 42,862
Georgia	\$ 28,531	\$ 38,980	36.62%	\$ 28,015	\$ 49,347
US	\$ 30,318	\$ 46,049	51.89%	\$ 31,177	\$ 53,482

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; Table CA1-3 Personal Income Summary. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Est; U. S. Bureau Census.

"American FactFinder - Results." Comparative economic char.



On The Map Inflow and Outflow, Northwest Georgia, 2015.

Worker Total and Flows	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	253,003	100.0
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	72,405	28.6
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	180,598	71.4
Living in the Selection Area	352,001	100.0
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	171,403	48.7
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	180,508	51.3

Sources: US Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2002-2015).

There is a net loss of workforce from Northwest Georgia of 98,900 residents who travel outside the region to find work. This represents a labor pool that could be employed in the region.

Development Agencies, Programs, Tools, Education, Training and Economic Resources



Northwest Georgia Regional Commission partners with the Georgia Department of Economic Development to assist with economic development projects, and with local governments and



development authorities. Each county in Northwest Georgia is part of a Joint Development Authority. In Northwest Georgia, excluding housing and public works authorities, there are 48 development authorities including downtown development authorities, joint development authorities and individual development authorities registered with Georgia Department of Community Affairs (March 8, 2019). These authorities are public corporations, either constitutional or statutory, enabled to carry out development or redevelopment projects including financing and bond issuance.

Workforce Training



Georgia's high schools are expanding dual enrollment programs with University System of Georgia colleges and universities. College and career academies are partnering with technical colleges and two- and four-year colleges to develop ladder career pathways. For schools without a college and career academy, partnerships with technical colleges are recommended. New training courses and programs developed to meet industry needs are being added. For example, the Automation Engineering Technology, Diesel Mechanic, and Flooring Production are now offered at the Whitfield Murray Campus in Dalton, Georgia, in a new 80,000-square foot facility opened in Summer 2019, supported by state and local funds including Whitfield Board of Commissioners and Whitfield County School System donations of \$1 million and the site. Other programs include Chemical Technology, Engineering Technology, Precision Machining and Manufacturing, Computer Information Systems Technology, Industrial Systems Technology, and Supply Chain Management and Logistics.

Regional efforts to showcase advanced manufacturing as a career include a survey of schools on perceptions of manufacturing, participation in Manufacturing Day (October 7), robotics design competition, STEM programs, and field trips to industries for teachers and school administrators. Partnerships between education, government and industry include the Governor's High Demand Career Initiative with the Northwest Georgia WIOA, partly based on Aspen Institute/ Economic Development Administration and Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP).

The Fall 2018 opening of the Appalachian Regional Port on CSX Rail on US 411 north of Eton in Murray County directly linked Northwest Georgia by rail to the port of Savannah. The Appalachian Regional Port will drive greater need for logistics-related skills and training. In June 2019, GE Appliances announced plans to build a \$32 million Southern Logistics Center in Murray County as a central point of distribution supplying nine states (Source: Atlanta Business Chronicle, July 19, 2019)

Northwest Georgia's 2018 graduation rate was 88%. Highest graduation rates were Chickamauga (99.1%), Gordon County (98.2%), Bremen (98.1%); lowest were Dalton (78.9%), Polk County (80.5%), and Whitfield County (80.3%) (Georgia Dept. of Education, 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates 2018).

Table 27. Housing Characteristics by County and Region, NW Georgia, 2010-2014, Part 1.

County	Total units	% Vacant	% Owner Occupied	% Renter Occupied
BARTOW	39,844	11.4	66.9	33.1
CATOOSA	26,708	10.8	74.3	25.7
CHATTOOGA	10,922	14.4	68.7	31.3
DADE	7,279	15.2	79.2	20.8
FANNIN	16,391	40.9	77	23
FLOYD	40,475	14	61.7	38.3
GILMER	16,616	34	74.8	25.2
GORDON	22,241	13.1	66.6	33.4
HARALSON	12,265	12.9	70.3	29.7
MURRAY	15,868	11.6	67.1	32.9
PAULDING	52,521	7.7	80.1	19.9
PICKENS	13,680	19.5	77.3	22.7
POLK	16,946	12.8	68.9	31.1
WALKER	30,072	13.1	71.9	28.1
WHITFIELD	39,777	12.7	64.4	35.6
NWGRC (calculated)	361,605	16.3	70.60%	41.70%
GEORGIA	4,114,496	13.9	64.2	35.8

Table 28. Housing Char. by Counties and Region, NW Georgia, 2010-2014, Part 2.

	Median Monthly Owner Costs	Median Value Owner Occupied	Med Gross Rent	Rent is 35%+ of income
BARTOW	\$1,193.00	\$123,900.00	\$796.00	42.9
CATOOSA	\$1,150.00	\$129,300.00	\$737.00	35.7
CHATTOOGA	\$927.00	\$66,700.00	\$581.00	29.9
DADE	\$1,075.00	\$116,800.00	\$649.00	46.4
FANNIN	\$1,166.00	\$159,400.00	\$653.00	47.8
FLOYD	\$1,167.00	\$117,500.00	\$702.00	40.6
GILMER	\$1,180.00	\$144,700.00	\$711.00	47.6
GORDON	\$1,071.00	\$113,100.00	\$671.00	38.5
HARALSON	\$1,123.00	\$105,000.00	\$701.00	38.4
MURRAY	\$954.00	\$86,200.00	\$654.00	38.2
PAULDING	\$1,321.00	\$131,800.00	\$1,019.00	38
PICKENS	\$1,292.00	\$167,500.00	\$837.00	39.4
POLK	\$1,194.00	\$102,000.00	\$669.00	40.7
WALKER	\$1,007.00	\$100,100.00	\$642.00	38.2
WHITFIELD	\$1,083.00	\$120,800.00	\$678.00	40.7
NWGRC (calculated)	\$1,127.00	\$118,987.00	\$713.30	40.2
GEORGIA	\$1,388.00	\$148,000.00	\$874.00	44.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Annual Estimates of Housing Units for US, Regions, Divisions, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015; 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Est, "Selected Housing Char.," DPO4.

Of the 361,000 housing units in the region, for 2010-2014, most housing was owner-occupied at 64.2%, and 35.8% was renter occupied. Homeownership was highest in Paulding County at 80% and renting highest in Floyd County at 38.3%. The median value of owner-occupied housing in the region was \$148,000; the highest value was seen in Paulding County at \$167,500, while the lowest was seen in Chattooga County at \$66,700. On the rental side, the average rental payment in the fifteen counties was \$874; the highest average rent was in Paulding County at \$1,019, and the lowest was in Chattooga County at \$581. Households are considered distressed if they spend more than 30% of income on mortgage or rent each month (Governing, 2014); 44% of renters in the region were distressed, with the highest number in Fannin County, and the lowest in Chattooga County.

Table 29. Housing Costs, Owner and Renter, Northwest Georgia, 2017.

	Total Housing Units	% Owner Occupied	Median Value Owner Occupied Housing	Median Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC) w/Mortgage	% Owners w/Mortgage, Monthly Housing Costs over 35% income	Percent of Owners w/o Mortgage, Monthly Housing Costs over 35% income	% Rental Housing	Median Gross Rent	% Median Gross Rent over 35% Income
Bartow	40,380	60%	\$140,500	\$1,204	21.6	11.7	30%	\$863	38
Catoosa	27,115	67%	\$138,800	\$1,160	17.4	6.8	22%	\$777	32.3
Chattooga	10,961	55%	\$68,500	\$968	23.1	10.7	25%	\$594	23.6
Dade	7,332	63%	\$122,500	\$1,063	21.3	6.2	17%	\$665	46.7
Fannin	16,843	46%	\$171,500	\$1,172	25.1	14.2	11%	\$738	34.8
Floyd	40,461	53%	\$126,600	\$1,170	19.1	7.4	33%	\$711	38.5
Gilmer	16,890	51%	\$162,400	\$1,151	26.2	8.2	16%	\$709	39.2
Gordon	22,391	57%	\$119,500	\$1,038	19.4	7.4	29%	\$676	35
Haralson	12,382	61%	\$117,000	\$1,181	19.6	8.3	25%	\$666	35.5
Murray	16,028	60%	\$91,700	\$995	19.4	9.1	26%	\$670	33.4
Paulding	54,395	73%	\$150,400	\$1,253	18.5	10	20%	\$1,074	38.8
Pickens	13,844	64%	\$185,700	\$1,325	18	14.3	17%	\$882	32.3
Polk	16,988	57%	\$105,600	\$1,088	22.7	9.2	28%	\$690	40
Walker	30,276	61%	\$111,100	\$1,012	17.7	9.8	21%	\$702	37
Whitfield	39,851	55%	\$124,300	\$1,080	18	8.6	32%	\$695	33.8
NWGRC	366,137	60%	\$129,073	\$1,124	19.60	9.3	25%	\$741	36.20

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates, Census.gov

The most recent housing data from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey shows that Paulding continues to have the highest rate of home ownership at 73%, and Fannin County at 46% has the lowest percentage of owner-occupied housing. Chattooga County has the lowest median value of owner-occupied housing at \$68,500 and Pickens County the highest value at \$185,700; monthly owner costs echoed these values. The average owner-occupied median home value in Northwest Georgia was \$129,073 (a decrease of \$19,000 from 2010-2014), and ¼ of those with mortgages paid more than 35%

income in housing expense. One-in-three or 36% of renter paid over 35% of their income for rent. The median gross rent for the region was \$741, a decrease from the 2010-2014 period at \$874. Compared to 2014 when half of the region was housing-distressed, costs, particularly rental costs, have decreased.

Senior Housing

Georgia Department of Community Health maintains a list of licensed residential nursing care facilities. With 6,436 beds available for a senior population of over 140,000 in 2017 and expected to increase by 30% from 2020-2050, need may exceed supply. More independent senior housing is also needed.

Table 30. Assisted Living Facilities, Northwest Georgia, 2019.

	Personal Care Home		Nursing Home		Community Housing		Assisted Living Community	
	Facilities	Beds	Facilities	Beds	Facilities	Beds	Facilities	Beds
NW GA	57	1480	37	3761	53	212	14	983

Source: Georgia Dept of Community Health, Map2Care.

Homelessness in Northwest Georgia

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs’ 2017 Statewide Report on Homelessness reported that of the 493 homeless in Northwest Georgia in 2017, over 50% were unsheltered homeless (no temporary housing) as compared to the state at 36%. The Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness lists 23 agencies providing housing in Northwest Georgia (Service Delivery Region 1) including five Housing Authorities.

Table 31. Homelessness in Northwest Georgia, 2017.

County	Unsheltered Homeless	Sheltered Homeless	Total Homeless
BARTOW	16	26	42
CATOOSA	26	0	26
CHATTOOGA	12	0	12
DADE	7	0	7
FANNIN	10	24	34
FLOYD	37	25	62
GILMER	11	0	11
GORDON	22	9	31
HARALSON	11	0	11
MURRAY	6	0	6
PAULDING	49	9	58
PICKENS	12	0	12
POLK	7	8	15
WALKER	26	17	43
WHITFIELD	17	106	123 (25%)
NWGRC	269 (54%)	224 (45%)	493
GA	3,692 (36%)	6,681 (64%)	10,373

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Georgia’s 10,000: 2017 Report on Homelessness.

Victims of Domestic Violence

The Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness lists four agencies that can provide domestic violence assistance in Northwest Georgia (Service Delivery Region 1).

Substance Abuse, Poverty, Mental and Developmental Disability Needs

The closing of Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital in 2011 left an unfilled gap for residential mental and developmental disabilities services and care. The 260- bed hospital at its closing housed 180 patients and employed 764 staff (Rome News Tribune, 2011). Some were moved to other facilities and some were released.

One organization providing services to vulnerable populations is the City of Refuge, providing life skills and housing support, youth programs, community food resources, counseling, substance abuse recovery, healthcare, and other services in Dalton, Summerville (Northwest Georgia), and Calhoun. Restoration Rome and Global Impact International, Inc., now providing support for foster children, is seeking to provide residential and outpatient services to address poverty, substance abuse, and mental health needs at the former Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital site in Rome, Georgia.

The Georgia Housing Conversation, hosted by Georgia Power in March 2019, provided an overview of needs for new and renovated housing in Georgia, discussing commuting patterns, transportation costs, wages and housing costs imbalance, and design and permitting features for flexibility housing such as diversity in multifamily housing and permitting smaller house and lot sizes) and better design. Housing data were presented for the Atlanta metro area showing that 400,000 people had been added since 2010 and forecasted growth of 2.5M by 2040. While northwest Georgia is not facing as rapid population growth, some counties, particularly those in commuting range to the metro areas of Atlanta and Chattanooga (Paulding, Bartow, Pickens, and Catoosa County) will see continued growth, and need for additional housing. Whitfield and Floyd Counties, among others, are also seeking executive and high-end rental options. A variety of senior housing from independent to skilled nursing is needed.

Transportation

The Fall 2018 opening of the Appalachian Regional Port on CSX Rail on US 411 north of Eton in Murray County has provided Northwest Georgia with a direct rail link to the port of Savannah. Each container moved through the inland port round-trip saves 710 truck miles. The port can handle 50,000 containers per year, taking approximately 40,000 – 50,000 trucks out of the Atlanta Metro area and offsetting 14,200,000 miles per year, and over 10 years will double that capacity (Georgia Ports Authority, 2018). Manufacturing, logistics, warehousing and distribution, carriers and freight forwarders will locate and expand in the region. As these changes occur, regional studies may guide additional investments. A \$250,000 USFHWA National Economic Partnership Grant to TDOT for study of freight in the Chattanooga region will also include improvements for the flow of freight to and from the ARP.

Another project is the Rome-Cartersville Development Corridor which will connect US 411 and I-75 in Bartow County, providing greater transportation efficiency, commuter connectivity, and mobility.

An additional project is the improvement of the I-75/I-24 interchange just north of the Georgia state line in Tennessee. The existing I-75/I-24 interchange is a heavily traveled corridor that serves Tennessee and Georgia. Interchange modifications are necessary to increase capacity and improve flow.

As traffic continues to increase, transportation technology solutions will be more widespread adjacent to metro areas where denser population may drive increased automation or other data-heavy solutions.

Intermodal transportation within the region remains a priority, providing safe and connected pedestrian, cyclist, transit and commuter options.

From the Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update, freight infrastructure in the region is formed of four components including the interstate system of (I-75, I-24, and I-59), Class I Rail (both Norfolk Southern and CSX), Ports on the Tennessee River, and the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport. "Preparing for and understanding freight movement will become increasingly important over the plan horizon, with total freight tonnage expected to grow from 25.7 million tons in 2012 to 54.9 million tons in 2040. Likewise, the total value of these goods is also expected to increase from \$35.0 billion in 2012 to \$107.6 billion in 2040...Freight movement by truck will retain the highest mode share in the region, transporting an estimated 83 percent of total tonnage and 88 percent of total freight value in 2040 (p. 107)."

Georgia Department of Transportation has developed for each DOT district a list of priority routes to be maintained and improved for freight transport as shown on the following map. Many East- West routes are shown in in red, indicating a low priority route. However, other East-West routes such as SR 20 and SR 146, Cloud Springs Road in Catoosa County, are programmed for improvement.

Georgia DOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program or STIP is Georgia's four-year transportation and capital improvements program, and lists federally-funded transportation projects outside the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundaries, which prepare their own Transportation Improvement Programs or TIPs. Each approved TIP is included by reference in the STIP. The STIP for 2018-2022 includes highway, bridge, public transit, bike, pedestrian, railroad, and other projects and is updated every 5 years. The FY18-222 STIP contains critical projects for Northwest Georgia:

- Rome-Cartersville Development Corridor (realignment of Hwy 411 to I-75 north of Cartersville)
- Roundabouts where safety and traffic flows call for their placement
- 33SR 140 Widening (connecting Chattooga/north Floyd County/ to I-75)
- SR 5 (Fannin County, McCaysville widening and freight bypass)
- SR 113 widening (connecting Bartow and Polk Counties)

Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Northwest Georgia counties fall within five urbanized areas from Census 2010 with populations over 50,000 which are required to participate in a metropolitan planning organization; the five such organizations are the Greater Dalton MPO, the North Georgia portion of the Chattanooga TPO (Catoosa, Walker, Dade Counties), the Rome-Floyd MPO, the Cartersville Bartow MPO, and the Atlanta Regional Commission (Paulding County). Each MPO receives federal funding to prepare and implement transportation programs using a public process that is guided by a Technical Coordinating Committee and approved by an Executive Committee of elected officials. These programs include an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is the annual plan outlining planning and administrative tasks to be completed in the upcoming fiscal year; the Long-Range Transportation Plan

(LRTP) which is updated every five years; and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which is a four-year short-term work program. The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission serves on each MPO and assists with regional coordination between MPOs and with Atlanta and Chattanooga regions.

Greater Dalton MPO

Projects programmed in the FY18-2021 include \$7M in federal, \$3M in state, and \$910,000 in other/local funding. These include bridge replacements, transit operations, and widening of Highway 3.

Chattanooga-Hamilton County-North Georgia TPO

North Georgia counties in the TPO are Dade, Walker, and Catoosa Counties. Projects included for the FY17-2020 TIP include the reconstruction of the I-75/I-24 interchange, the widening of SR146 Cloud Springs Road (Catoosa/Fort Oglethorpe), and the LaFayette Rd. Gateway to Chickamauga Local Access Road (Fort Oglethorpe), as well as transit operations.

Rome-Floyd MPO

Projects in the FY18-2021 TIP include the widening of the SR1/SR20/US27 Bridge over Etowah River as well as transit operations and bike and pedestrian projects including trails and greenways.

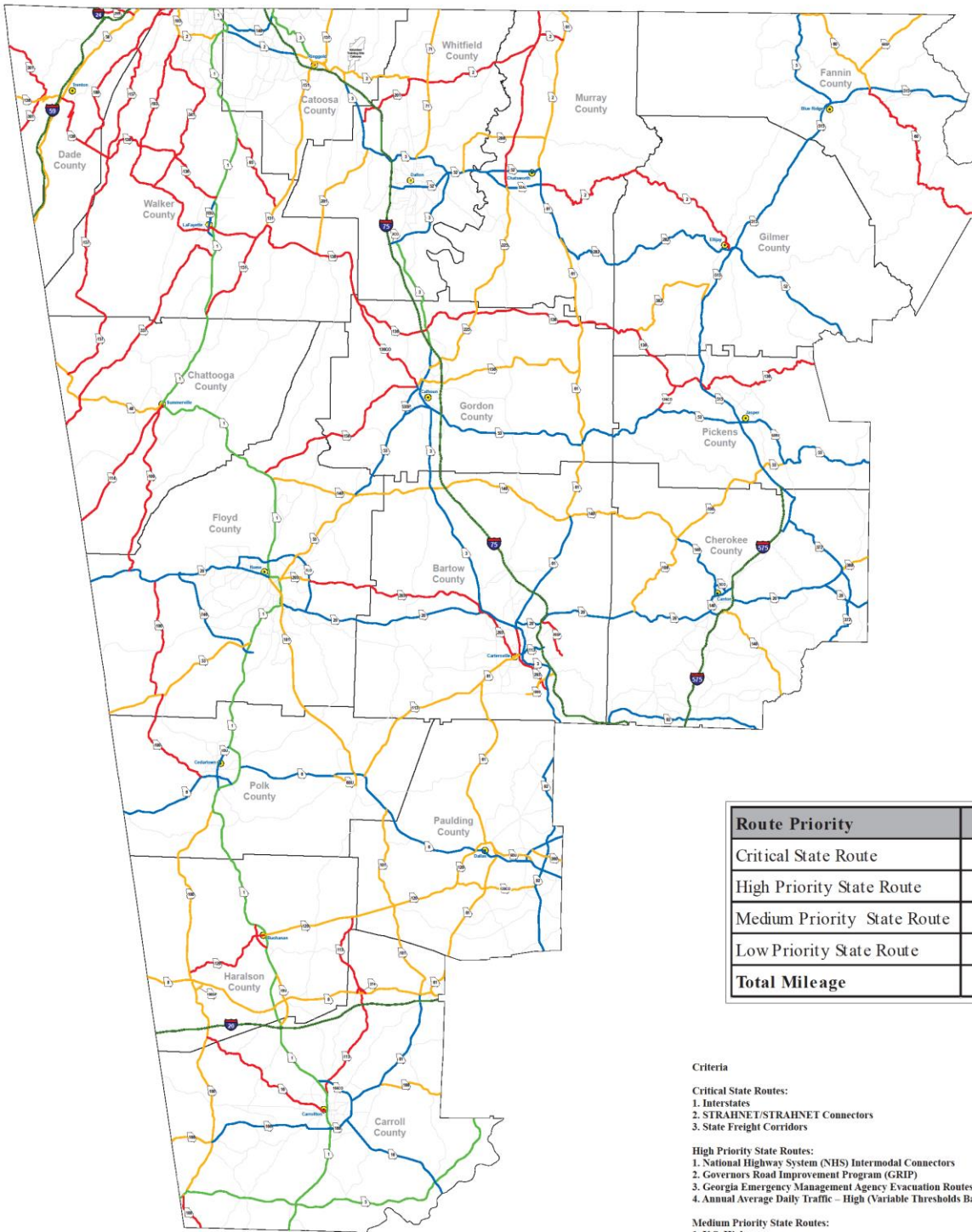
Cartersville-Bartow County MPO

Projects included in the FY18-2021 TIP include the Cass White Rd industrial improvement, the widening and re-routing of SR 113, and the Rome-Cartersville Development Corridor, as well as transit operations and bike and pedestrian projects and improvements.

Atlanta Regional Commission

Projects included in the FY18-2023 (updated in 2019) TIP include the widening of SR 61 Villa Rica Hwy widening (Paulding), widening of SR92 Hiram Acworth Hwy widening (Paulding), and express lanes for I-20 and I-285.

Next Page: Georgia State Route Prioritization District 6 Map:



Route Priority	Mileage
Critical State Route	330
High Priority State Route	540
Medium Priority State Route	540
Low Priority State Route	480
Total Mileage	1,890

Criteria

Critical State Routes:

1. Interstates
2. STRAHNET/STRAHNET Connectors
3. State Freight Corridors

High Priority State Routes:

1. National Highway System (NHS) Intermodal Connectors
2. Governors Road Improvement Program (GRIP)
3. Georgia Emergency Management Agency Evacuation Routes
4. Annual Average Daily Traffic - High (Variable Thresholds Based on Geographic Area)

Medium Priority State Routes:

1. U.S. Highways
2. Four or More Lanes
3. Annual Average Daily Traffic - Medium (Variable Thresholds Based on Geographic Area)

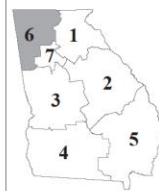
Low Priority State Routes:

All other "Unclassified Routes" that include less than (4) Lanes and those that an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volume rated as "low" (Variable Thresholds Based on Geographic Area)

Legend

- Interstates
- Critical Priority Route
- High Priority Route
- Medium Priority Route
- Low Priority Route
- Local Roads
- County Boundary
- County Seats
- Military Installations
- + MilePost Markers

Georgia State Route Prioritization District 6



0 5 10 15 20 Miles
 Prepared by Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Transportation Data, June 2018.
 The Georgia Department of Transportation makes no representation or warranty, implied or otherwise, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability or suitability for any particular purpose of the information and data contained in this map.

Community Facilities

Public Water Systems

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a public water system provides water for human consumption to at least 15 service connections or serves an average of at least 25 people for at least 60 days a year. The EPA has defined three types of public water systems:

- *Community Water System* – A public water system supplying the same population year-round.
- *Non-Transient Non-Community Water System* – A public water system that regularly supplies water to at least 25 of the same people at least six months per year, but not year-round.
- *Transient Non-Community Water System* – A public water system that provides water in a place such as a gas station or campground where people do not remain for long periods of time.

Northwest Georgia includes the Coosa-North Georgia Water Planning Region, the Metro North Georgia Water District (Bartow, Paulding), and the Middle Chattahoochee Water Planning Region (Haralson). The Coosa-North Georgia Water Plan summarizes the potential gaps for most of the region.

Table 32 Summary of Potential Water Gaps, Coosa-North Georgia.

County	Surface Water Availability Potential Gaps	Municipal Water Potential Needs	Municipal Wastewater Potential Shortages	Agricultural Water Potential Shortages	Water Quality Assimilative Capacity Potential Gaps	Miles and (Segments) of 303d Reaches
Catoosa	Yes					69 (14)
Chattooga	Yes					56 (10)
Dade	Yes					21 (3)
Fannin						49 (10)
Floyd					Yes	175 (24)
Gilmer						74 (18)
Gordon					Yes	94 (17)
Murray					Yes	65 (10)
Pickens						54 (12)
Polk					Yes	18 (2)
Walker	Yes					50 (9)
Whitfield					Yes	37 (10)
Total	2				5	762 (139)

“Yes” indicates that there is a potential gap or need/shortage in the indicated county.

A potential “gap” is defined as a condition where the existing or future water withdrawal or return conditions are predicted to exceed the Resource Assessment metric within a portion of the county.

A potential “need” and “shortage” are defined as a condition where the current permitted capacity of water and wastewater treatment facilities, respectively, is less than the future forecast demands.

a Potential gaps in assimilative capacity are for streams modeled “Limited”, “At Capacity”, or “No Capacity Remaining”

b Includes only 303(d) reaches that are fully within each respective county.

Source: Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan, June 2017.

Table 33 Municipal Public Water Systems in the NWGRC Region.

COUNTY	# Permittees	POPULATION	WATER SOURCE
Bartow	13 permittees	83822	1 GU, 1 SW, 3 SWP, 8 GW
CATOOSA	3 permittees	63183	2 SWP, 1 SW
CHATTOOGA	9 permittees	27679	6 GWP, 1 SWP, 1 GWP
DADE	1- DADE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY	36400	SW
Fannin	25 permittees	17215	2 SW, 2 SWP, 1 GWP, 20 GW
Floyd	8 permittees	93984	5 GW, 3 SW
GILMER	23 permittees	16637	2 SWP, 1 SW, 20 GW
GORDON	3 permittees	49488	1 SW, 2 SWP
HARALSON	5 permittees	24660	2 SW, 3 SWP
MURRAY	8 permittees	28675	1 SW, 7 GW
PAULDING	3 permittees	125882	2 SWP, 1 GW
PICKENS	10 permittees	42334	3 SWP, 4 SW, 3 GW
POLK	4 permittees	40480	3 SWP, 1 GU
WALKER	9 permittees	63009	3 SWP, 1 SW, 5 GW
WHITFIELD	1- DALTON UTILITIES	99315	SW

GW-groundwater, GWP-groundwater purchase, GU-groundwater under influence of surface water, SW-surface water, SWP-surface water purchase

Source: Georgia EPD, Active Permitted Drinking Water System List, 2018.

Existing Municipal Permitted Water Supplies

Within the NWGRC region, including both surface water and groundwater, almost 244 MGD of municipal permitted water supply (on a monthly average basis) is available. The region relies primarily on surface water from rivers and storage reservoirs for this water supply. The most significant water supply source for the region is the Coosa River system, including the Etowah, Conasauga, Coosawattee, and the Oostanaula Rivers and Lake Allatoona. Figure 33 summarizes the municipal surface water supply sources permitted within the NWGRC region.

Table 34 Georgia EPD Non-Farm Surface Water Withdrawal Permits, NWGA.

River Basin	Surface Water Withdrawal Permit Holder	Permit Limit Max Day MGD	Permit Limit Monthly Average MGD
Coosa	47 Permittees	1917.583	1133.737
Tallapoosa	2 Permittees	4.550	4.330
Tennessee	7 Permittees	20.600	19.200
Total in region	56	1942.733	1157.267

Source: Georgia EPD, Non-Farm Surface Water Withdrawal Permit List [Revised April 2018]

Groundwater sources make up 11.5% of the NWGRC region’s total municipal permitted water supply. Figure 34 summarizes the municipal groundwater supply sources utilized.

Table 35 Existing Non-Farm Permitted Ground Water Supplies in NWGA Region.

River Basin	Permittees	Permit Limit Yearly Average MGD	Permit Limit Monthly Average MGD
Coosa	27 permittees	31.321	32.968
Tallapoosa	1 permittee	0.82	0.82
Tennessee	8 permittees	13.125	13.297
Total	36 permittees	45.266	47.085

Source: List of Georgia EPD Non-Farm Groundwater Withdrawal Permits (Revised April 2018)

Water Demand Forecasts

The *Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan* (June 2017) provides municipal water demand forecasts for twelve of the NWGRC region’s fifteen counties (Figure 35) including publicly-supplied and self-supplied demands from surface water and groundwater sources, but not from major industries.

Table 36 Municipal Water Demand Forecast, NW GA.

County	Average Annual Demand (AAD) - Millions of Gallons/Day (MGD)				
	2015	2020	2030	2040	2050
Catoosa	7.2	7.4	7.8	8.1	8.3
Chattooga	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.3
Dade	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8
Fannin	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5
Floyd	12.9	13.0	13.1	13	12.9
Gilmer	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3
Gordon	7.8	8.1	8.6	8.9	9.0
Murray	4.2	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.5
Pickens	3.9	4.1	4.4	4.7	5.0
Polk	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.0	6.9
Walker	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.8	9.4
Whitfield	23.9	24.6	25.7	26.2	26.2

Source: Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan (June 2017)

The *Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan* compares existing permitted water withdrawals and future demands to identify potential gaps or surpluses. Permitted water availability gaps are estimated for Catoosa, Chattooga, Fannin, Gilmer, Murray, Pickens, and Whitfield Counties.

Table 37 Permitted Water Withdrawal Limits v. Forecasted Demand, NW GA

County	Permitted Municipal Water Withdrawal Limits ^{a,b,e}	2015 Forecasted Municipal Water Demand ^{a,c}	2050 Forecasted Municipal Water Demand ^{a,c}	Potential 2050 Need ^{a,d}	Additional Capacity Available in 2050 ^{a,d}
Catoosa ^f	9.80	6.43	7.47	None	2.33
Chattooga	4.87	3.56	3.04	None	1.83
Dade	4.23	2.05	1.77	None	2.47
Fannin	2.53	1.93	1.77	None	0.76
Floyd ^h	23.15	12.83	12.83	None	10.32
Gilmer ⁱ	4.45	1.84	2.06	None	2.39
Gordon ^j	30.80	6.79	7.87	None	22.93
Murray ^k	9.56	2.81	2.30	None	7.27
Pickens ^l	7.24	3.36	4.56	None	2.68
Polk	9.79	6.23	6.56	None	3.23
Walker ^m	18.74	9.93	9.38	None	9.37
Whitfield ⁿ	56.30	23.81	26.16	None	30.14

a Water withdrawal values include surface water and groundwater withdrawals and purchases from outside the County. The purchases from outside each county are detailed below, as applicable. The purchases from outside each county were discussed with each water provider during Round 1(2005), and remained unchanged for Round 2.

b Surface water and groundwater permitted withdrawal limits are based on the current Monthly Average Limit (in MGD) of each permit. Purchases from outside the county reflect the Average Annual Demand for 2005 (in MGD).

c Forecasted Municipal Water Demands include water demands from major industrial sectors when supplied by municipal sources, but they do not include self-supplied water demands. Forecasted Municipal Water Demands were calculated applying the new plumbing code (1.28 gallons per flush [gpf] toilets) mandated by the Water Stewardship Act passed in 2010. Values are based on Annual Average Demand (in MGD).

d Based on differences between Permitted Withdrawal Limit and 2050 Forecasted Demand (in MGD). Values are estimates for future needs or additional capacity.

e Includes the municipal withdrawal permit holders listed in the GAEPD database for each county.

f In 2005, Catoosa County purchased approximately 1.80 MGD from Tennessee and municipal sources supplied approximately 0.23 MGD to major industries.

g In 2005, Dawson County purchased 0.24 MGD from Pickens County, 0.30 MGD from Forsyth County, and 0.08 MGD from Cherokee County.

h In 2005, Floyd County purchased 0.65 MGD from Bartow County and municipal sources supplied approximately 2.15 MGD to major industries.

i In 2005, municipal sources supplied approximately 1.50 MGD to major industries.

j In 2005, Municipal sources supplied approximately 4.54 MGD to major industries.

k In 2005, Murray County purchased 0.50 MGD from Gordon County.

l In 2005, Pickens County purchased 0.50 MGD from Gordon County and 0.21 MGD from Cherokee County.

m In 2005, Walker County purchased 0.08 MGD from Catoosa County.

n In 2005, Whitfield County purchased 2.00 MGD from Tennessee and municipal sources supplied approximately 17.2 MGD to major industries.

Sources: Forecasted water demands and GAEPD approved permit database, Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, Water Resource Management Plan (2017).

The demand for municipal water is forecasted to increase from 108 MGD in 2015 to 122 MGD in 2050 in the CNG Region. Approximately 77 percent of forecasted future demand will be obtained from surface water sources and 23 percent from groundwater sources; the latter includes private wells (self-supply).

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District’s *Water Resource Management Plan (2017)* provides water demand forecasts for Bartow and Paulding (Figure 38) without conservation (without water savings due to the existing plumbing code), with future reductions with the existing plumbing code (baseline), and with the recommended conservation program.

Table 38 2050 Water Demand Forecasts by County.

County	2050 Forecasts		
	Baseline 2014 AAD-MGD	2050 with efficiency standards AAD-MGD	2050 w/o efficiency standards AAD-MGD
Bartow	27.5	52.0	40.0
Paulding	12.8	23.0	24.0

Source: Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, *Water Resource Management Plan (2017)*.

Figure 39 shows the 2014 and planned 2050 municipal permitted surface water supplies needed to meet the 2050 forecasted demands. In Bartow County, the Adairsville WTP would be expanded as necessary to serve its current service area; Bartow County and City of Cartersville should jointly decide between expansion or building additional WTPs to withdraw from Lake Allatoona and the Etowah River. In Paulding County, the 305-acre Richland Creek Reservoir is in construction, to pull from the Etowah River (Coosa River Basin). Paulding County will still rely on the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority.

Table 39 2014 and 2050 Permitted Demands on Surface Water Supplies.

Coosa River Basin Water Supply Source	Owner/Operator Utilizing Source in 2006	2014 Permitted Monthly Average Withdrawal (MGD) ¹	2050 Planned Permitted Monthly Average Withdrawal (MGD)
Etowah River	City of Cartersville ²	23	57.0
Allatoona Lake	City of Cartersville ²	18.0	
Lewis Spring	City of Adairsville	4.1	4.5
Bolivar Springs	Bartow County Water System	0.8	0.8
Moss Springs	City of Emerson	0.5	0.5
Paleozoic Rock Aquifer	Emerson	1.0	1.0
Paleozoic Rock Aquifer	Kingston	0.15	0.15
Paleozoic Rock Aquifer	White	0.2	0.2
Crystalline Rock Aquifer	Dallas	0.202	0.202
Etowah River / Richland Creek	Paulding County	NA	30.0

¹ Only the primary sources of water are shown because that is where the intake is located. The supplemental source may be utilized to pump and store water in the primary source or as a substitute for the primary source when it is not available, based on the conditions specified in their individual permit.

² The City of Cartersville has two intakes covered under one permit, with a permitted monthly average withdrawal of 23 MGD. Of that amount, up to 18 MGD may be withdrawn from Allatoona Lake on a monthly average basis.

³ Cartersville’s permit for Etowah River is included within its Allatoona Lake permit.

Source: Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, *Water Resource Management Plan (2017) Appendix B*.

Municipal water demand forecasts for Haralson County are not available in the *Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Plan (June 2017)*, but supplemental documents associated with the plan’s development

do provide draft forecasts by county for the Middle Chattahoochee Water Planning Region. These draft forecasts were developed for use in regional water planning only and reflect an application of current management practices into the future. Forecasts for Haralson County are presented in Fig. 40, 41.

Table 40 Municipal Water Demand Forecasts, Haralson County.

County	Average Annual Demand (AAD) - Millions of Gallons/Day (MGD)				
	2015	2020	2030	2040	2050
Haralson	2.32	2.36	2.39	2.35	2.28

Note: Total municipal water demand forecasts include publicly-supplied and self-supplied demands.

Source: Middle Chattahoochee Water Planning Region: Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum (February 2017)

Table 41 Municipal Water Demand Forecast, Haralson County.

County	Publicly-Supplied Surface Water (AAD-MGD)		Publicly-Supplied Groundwater (AAD-MGD)		Self-Supplied Groundwater (AAD-MGD)		Total (AAD-MGD)	
	2010	2050	2010	2050	2010	2050	2010	2050
Haralson	2.50	4.36	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	2.53	4.40

Source: Georgia Environmental Protection Division and Middle Chattahoochee Water Council, Municipal and Industrial Forecast Methodology, Technical Memorandum (July 2010)

Wastewater Collection and Treatment

The NWGRC region had 149 permitted wastewater treatment facilities as of 2019. Figure 42, below, provides a summary by basin of the region’s existing wastewater permits/permitted facilities.

Table 42 Existing Wastewater Permits in NWGRC region, 2019.

River Basin	Permittees
Coosa	113
Tallapoosa	14
Tallapoosa	22
Total	149

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, Wastewater Permits, January 2019

The *Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan* compares future wastewater capacity needs with existing permitted capacity, as shown in Figure 43. Based on this comparison, eight NWGRC counties would meet 2050 demands with their currently permitted facilities. Four NWGRC counties—Catoosa, Fannin, Pickens, and Whitfield—would experience a shortage, suggesting that additional wastewater facility development or expansion will be required to meet projected future wastewater demands.

Table 43 Permitted Muni Wastewater Discharge Limits v Forecasted Flows, NW GA.

County	Permitted Municipal Wastewater Discharge Limit ^{a,b}	2015 Forecasted Municipal Wastewater Flows ^{a,c}	2050 Forecasted Municipal Wastewater Flows ^{a,c}	2050 Need or Surplus ^{a,d}
Catoosa ¹	-	-	-	-
Chattooga	7.17	6.93	5.8	1.37
Dade	0.95	0.37	0.34	0.61
Fannin	2.36	0.47	0.89	1.46
Floyd ²	20.22	11.54	12.52	7.70
Gilmer ³	4.00	1.73	2.06	1.94
Gordon ⁴	16.32	5.36	6.64	9.68
Murray	3.01	1.24	1.39	1.62
Pickens	1.24	0.63	2.92	(1.84)
Polk	6.67	3.34	3.77	2.90
Walker ⁵	7.03	3.02	3.07	3.97
Whitfield ⁶	40.52	17.54	20.18	20.34

^a Includes centralized systems such as LASs and point source discharges but not septic systems.

^b Permitted Discharge Limits based on the current Maximum Monthly Average Permit Limit (in MGD) of each permit.

^c Forecasted Municipal Wastewater Flows include flow from industries that are served by municipal facilities. Values based on Annual Average Flow (in MGD).

^d Based on difference between Permitted Treatment Limit and 2050 Forecasted Flows (in MGD). Red values in parentheses are shortages and values in black are surpluses.

¹ Catoosa County is estimated to provide 0.21 MGD of treatment capacity to textile industries (2010). Wastewater from Catoosa County is treated at the Moccasin Bend Plant in Chattanooga, TN.

² Floyd County is estimated to provide 2.28 MGD of treatment capacity to textile and automotive industries (2010).

³ Gilmer County is estimated to provide 1.36 MGD of treatment capacity to food and textile industries (2010).

⁴ Gordon County is estimated to provide 4.14 MGD of treatment capacity to textile industries (2010).

⁵ Walker County is estimated to provide 0.48 MGD of treatment capacity to textile industries (2010). The Moccasin Bend Plant in Chattanooga, TN, serves portions of Walker County.

⁶ Whitfield County is estimated to provide 16.13 MGD of treatment capacity to textile industries (2010).

Source: Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan (June 2017)

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's *Wastewater Management Plan* (June 2017) provides wastewater flow forecasts for two of the NWGRC region's counties—Bartow and Paulding.

Table 44 Wastewater Flow Forecasts by County.

County	Forecasted Flow (Maximum Monthly Flow – MGD)				
	Baseline	2025 ARC	2025 OPB	2050 ARC	2050 OPB
Bartow	18.1	23.9	20.9	35.1	27.6
Paulding	4.6	6.6	6.6	11.9	12.7

Source: Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, *Water Resource Management Plan* (June 2017)

Figure 44 presents the baseline (2015) and the planned 2050 municipal wastewater treatment facilities needed to accommodate the forecasted 2050 wastewater flows for Bartow and Paulding Counties, with differing forecasts by Atlanta Regional Commission and Georgia Office of Planning and Budget.

Table 45 Existing (2016) and Planned (2050) Wastewater Treatment Facilities by County.

Location by County	2016 Permitted Wastewater Treatment Facilities	2016 Permitted Treatment Capacity (MMF-MGD)	Wastewater Treatment Facilities Planned to be in Operation in 2050	2050 Planned Permitting Capacity (MMF-MGD)
Bartow	Adairsville North WPCP	1	Adairsville	5.0
	Adairsville South WPCP	0.5		
	Cartersville WPCP	15.0	Cartersville WPCP	20
	Bartow Southeast WPCP	0.1	Bartow Southeast WPCP	12.1
	Bartow Two Run Creek WPCP ¹	0.1	<i>Decommissioned</i>	
			West Bartow WPCP (2025 est. completion)	4.0
	Emerson Henry Jordan WTPP	0.45	Emerson Henry Jordan WTPP	2
Paulding	Coosa Basin			
	Paulding County Pumpkinvine Creek WRF	1.5	7.0	
	Paulding County Pumpkinvine Creek LAS	1		
	Dallas Pumpkinvine Creek WPCP	1.5	Dallas Pumpkinvine Creek WPCP	4.5
Chattahoochee Basin				
	Paulding County Coppermine LAS	1.033	4.3	
	Paulding County Coppermine WRF	1		
	Paulding Upper Sweetwater WRF	0.3		

Source: Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, Water Resource Management Plan, Appendix B (June 2017).

Municipal wastewater flow forecasts for Haralson County are not provided in the *Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Plan*, but supplemental documents associated with the plan’s development do provide draft forecasts by county for the Middle Chattahoochee Water Planning Region.

Table 46 Total Municipal Wastewater Flow Forecasts- Haralson County.

County	Maximum Monthly Flow (MMF) - Millions of Gallons/Day (MGD)				
	2015	2020	2030	2040	2050
Haralson	2.22	2.27	2.34	2.33	2.30

Source: Middle Chattahoochee Water Planning Region: Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum, February 2017.

Other Facilities and Services

Fire Protection Services

There are fifty-six various entities providing fire protection services in the NWGRC region. These fire departments vary by type of entity (e.g., municipal corporation, nonprofit corporation, for-profit corporation, association), organizational status (e.g., agent of municipality or county fire district, volunteer fire company), source of funding, and employment status of personnel (e.g., career, volunteer, paid per call, combination). Most are public sector organizations such as municipal and county fire departments. Many of the region’s fire departments have taken on expanded roles, routinely providing emergency medical services, technical rescue, and hazardous materials response.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), in 2001, launched the ongoing National Fire Department Census Database that provides an online address listing of fire departments registered with the USFA. Eighty-five percent of the region’s fire departments are registered with the USFA. Based on the National Fire Department Census, 72.3% of the region’s registered departments operate 1 or 2 fire stations; 17.0%, operate 3 to 9 stations; and 10.6%, operate 10 or more stations. Figure 47 provides the percentage of USFA-registered fire departments by department type for the NWGRC region, state, and nation.

Table 47 Percentages of USFA-Registered Fire Departments by Department Type

Area	Fire Department Type			
	Volunteer	Mostly Volunteer	Mostly Career	Career
NWGRC Region	42.6%	34.0%	8.5%	14.9%
Georgia	52.0%	25.1%	8.1%	14.8%
United States	71.0%	16.0%	5.0%	8.0%

Source: U.S. Fire Administration, National Fire Department Census

Law Enforcement Services

There are sixty-eight local law enforcement agencies in the NWGRC region. These include county sheriff agencies, county police agencies, county constable agencies, county marshal agencies, municipal police agencies, municipal marshal agencies, and school police agencies.

Emergency Medical Services

Emergency medical services (EMS) are a type of public safety / emergency service dedicated to providing out-of-hospital acute medical care, transport to definitive care, and other medical transport to ill or injured patients unable to transport themselves. There are 15 EMS providers in the region.

Stormwater Management Facilities

Stormwater is runoff from land and impervious surfaces during rainfall events. It often contains pollutants that could adversely affect water quality. When land is developed, most communities install a system of storm drains, pipes, and ditches to collect rainfall and runoff and transport it to streams and rivers. These stormwater management facilities are called municipal separate storm sewer systems. The Clean Water Act of 1972 originally established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit system to control wastewater discharges from various industries and wastewater treatment plants known as “point” sources. The Water Quality Control Act of 1987, Section 405, amended Section 402 of the Clean Water Act to expand the NPDES permit program to address

“nonpoint” source pollution through schedules for permitting municipal stormwater discharges. The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS₄) stormwater discharge permit system establishes guidelines to minimize pollutants in stormwater runoff to the “maximum extent practicable.”

Under the Georgia EPD’s MS₄ permit program, local governments in regulated areas are required to establish a comprehensive stormwater management program (SWMP) and to develop a plan and program to control stormwater pollution discharges. There are no Phase 1 MS₄ communities in the region. In 1999, federal regulations extended the NPDES MS₄ permit program to smaller (Phase II) communities in “urbanized areas,” as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau (Figure 4.8).

Table 4.8 NWGRC Local Governments in Phase II MS₄ Designated Areas, 2015

Cities	Counties
Cartersville	Bartow County
Chatsworth	Catoosa County
Chickamauga	Dade Co. (waiver pending)
Dallas	Floyd County
Dalton	Murray Co.
Emerson	Paulding County
Eton	Walker County
Euharlee	Whitfield County
Fort Oglethorpe	
Hiram	
Lookout Mountain	
Ringgold	
Rome	
Rossville	
Tunnel Hill	
Varnell	

Source: Georgia Environmental Protection Division

The Phase II rules require a designated Phase II (small) MS₄ community’s SWMP to consist of the following six elements, termed minimum control measures: (1) public education and outreach, (2) public participation / involvement, (3) illicit discharge detection and elimination, (4) construction site runoff control, (5) post-construction runoff control, and (6) pollution prevention / good housekeeping. best management practices and measurable goals for each minimum control measure.

Solid Waste Management Facilities

All jurisdictions in the NWGRC region have adopted comprehensive solid waste management plans prepared according to state requirements. Many counties that previously operated landfills now rely on one of the 42 registered transfer stations that collect and transport MSW to regional landfills.

Landfills. According to the Georgia EPD, there were 11 landfills in the region: five municipal solid waste landfills, five construction and demolition landfills, and one industrial landfill, a carpet monofill associated with the Dalton Whitfield Regional Solid Waste Management Authority’s materials recovery

facility (MRF) for carpet products. Except for a construction and demolition landfill in Pickens County, the disposal facilities are publicly-owned. In 2018, 1.6M tons of solid waste were disposed in the region’s eleven landfills. Of this, 92% was disposed in municipal solid waste landfills; 5% was disposed in construction and demolition landfills; and 3% was disposed in the one industrial landfill.

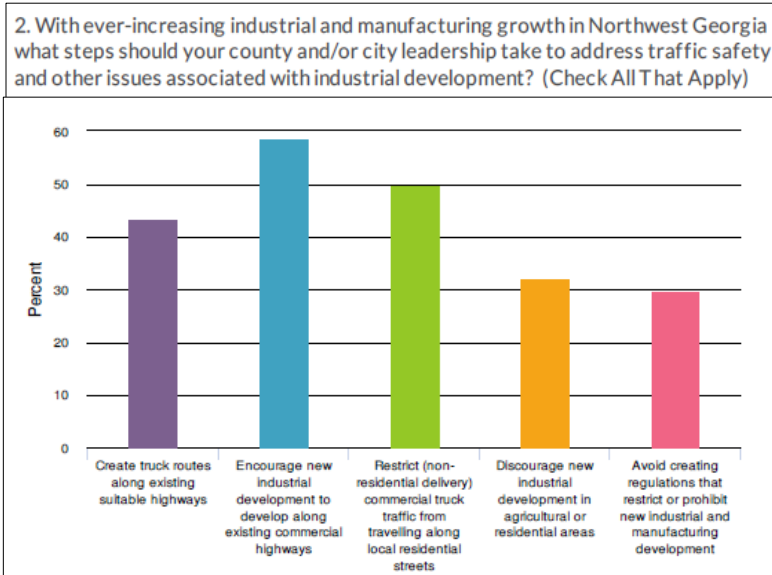
Figure 49 shows the *Years remaining* of remaining capacity in years, based on remaining capacity, the fill rate in cubic yards per day (CYD), and annual days in operation. Three landfills are projected to reach their estimated fill date by 2040 and would need to close, expand, or be replaced with a new site. There were 8 operating solid waste inert landfills in the region as of March 2018 (Georgia EPD).

Table 49 2018 Remaining Capacity of Landfills in the NWGRC Region.

Permit #	Facility	Facility Description	Remaining Capacity (yd3)	Rate of Fill (yd3/day)	Years Remaining
008-016D(SL)	Bartow Co - SR 294 Emerson MSWL Ph 2-3	Municipal Solid Waste Landfill	14,028,199.00	964.00	51
057-020D(MSWL)	Rome Walker Mtn Rd, Site 2	Municipal Solid Waste Landfill	4,032,408.00	532.00	25
057-021D(C&D)	Floyd Co - Rome Walker Mtn Rd C&D Landfill	Construction and Demolition Landfill	260,841.00	48.00	5,387
064-016D(SL)	Gordon Co - Redbone Ridges Rd (SL)	Municipal Solid Waste Landfill	14,170,735.00	1,604.00	32
071-006D(C&D)	Haralson Co - HCSWA US 78	Construction and Demolition Landfill	261,588.00	154.00	6
105-014D(MSWL)	Murray Co - US 411 Westside Site 2 MSWL	Municipal Solid Waste Landfill	12,539,669.00	6.00	7,320
110-005D(SL)	Paulding Co - Gullede Rd N Tract 1 (SL)	Construction and Demolition Landfill	20,695.00	1.00	142
112-008D(C&D)	Whitestone Valley C&D Landfill	Construction and Demolition Landfill	3,784,296.00	237.00	56
115-008D(SL)	Polk Co - Grady Rd (SL)	Municipal Solid Waste Landfill	19,271,646.00	3,015.00	27
146-013D(L)	LaFayette - Coffman Springs Rd (L)	Construction and Demolition Landfill	76,003.00	6.00	50
146-015D(MSWL)	Walker Co - Marble Top Rd Site 2 MSWL	Construction and Demolition Landfill	34,697.00	142.00	1
155-047D(SL)	Whitfield Co - Dalton Old Dixie Hwy Ph 6	Municipal Solid Waste Landfill	5,860,680.00	745.00	26
155-048D(LI)	Whitfield Co – DWRSWA	Industrial Landfill	396,545.00	381.00	3
Total			4,738,002.00		

Source: Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Land Protection Branch, Solid Waste Management Program.

5.5 REGIONAL SURVEY, WHAT NORTHWEST GEORGIA NEEDS MOST?



A regional smart phone and web survey, What Northwest Georgia Needs Most? was prepared to gauge input from the region, and was promoted using social media, direct appeal to each NWGRC Steering Committee member, and to local government, Chambers of Commerce, School Systems, and media outlets in the region. What Northwest Georgia Needs Most? a Regional Survey, received 1,860 responses representing each County in the Region. Participants were asked to respond to ten questions on industrial development, community

appearance, internet access and importance of natural resources. For example, 60% of respondents felt their home internet speeds were adequate while 32% had home internet but speeds were too slow. Survey results are detailed in the following section.

In Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 the Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee of the NWGRC Council prepared a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis, which was also made available for public and stakeholder input in three public meetings (December 2018, January 2019, and April 2019). Staff also reviewed the 2014 Assessment and Agenda for the region, the SCORP, Transportation Improvement Plans of MPOs in the region, GDOT STIP, Regional Plans of neighboring Regional Commissions, 2040 Land Use Trends based on GLUT data and projections, areas of Conservation and Development, and Areas Requiring Special Attention, and the data and analysis, to compile the final list of needs and opportunities, which was further refined as work program items were developed. The Spring 2019 What Northwest Georgia Needs Most survey results also informed the SWOT analysis and the final list of needs and opportunities.

5.6 STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT REPORT

The Northwest Georgia Regional Agenda Update (2020-2024) was prepared with input from a Steering Committee (the Northwest Georgia Regional Council), a Technical Advisory appointed from NWGRC Council members and regional and state agencies, and NWGRC staff, invited stakeholders and the public. The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission website includes a summary of each meeting.

The Steering Committee for the Regional Plan Update was formed of the Northwest Georgia Regional Council. Initially, this was an appointed Committee, but was revised to include the entire NWGRC Council to conform with the Regional Plan Requirements. The Steering Committee (NWGRC Council) included an elected official from each of the fifteen counties, and chief city in each county, as well as a

private sector appointee from each County, and appointees of the Governor's Office, Lieutenant Governor's Office, and Secretary of State.

The Technical Advisory Committee included the members of the Regional Planning Committee, a standing committee, with additional members appointed by the NWGRC Council. The Technical Advisory Committee included Dallas Mayor Boyd Austin, Chairperson, Bartow County Commissioner Steve Taylor, Vice Chairperson, Hubert Parker, Mike Babb, Alan Dean, and Pickens County Chairman Robert Jones, as well as Rhonda Wallace, Floyd County Commission Chair, Dr. Michele Taylor, Superintendent, Calhoun City Schools, April Rogers, Community Services Director, Tallatoona Community Action, and Patrick Vickers, DCA Region One Representative, as well as all Planning and GIS staff.

The Technical Advisory Committee made recommendations to the list of stakeholders prepared by staff, which included regional representatives of state agencies, community and business leaders as represented by Chambers of Commerce and Development Authorities, local elected officials and key staff for each city and county in the region, and regional leaders. These are listed below under Stakeholders.

An initial public hearing was held at the September 20, 2018 meeting of the NWGRC Council in Calhoun, Georgia. This was also the first meeting of the Steering Committee (NWGRC Council) which appointed members to the Technical Advisory Committee, which included the members of the Regional Planning Committee, a standing committee, with additional members. All meetings were open to the public and were advertised.

The Technical Advisory Committee met on October 18, 2018 and on November 30, 2018, at the Gordon County Agricultural Service Center to review the 2014 Regional Plan and 2012 Regional Resource Plan, Plan Timeline and Stakeholder Involvement, Regional Data and Maps; Regional Survey, and prepare the Regional Needs and Opportunities (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats analysis).

The Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee met on January 17, 2019 and on March 21, 2019 at the Gordon County Agricultural Center to review the Regional Needs and Opportunities (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats or SWOT Analysis); draft Regional Goals, Maps, and the Regional Survey, minimum and excellence standards and results from public and steering committee meetings held in December 2018 and January 2019.

Three public meetings, to which local and regional stakeholders were invited, were held around the region. Each meeting was advertised in the local paper, on the NWGRC website and Facebook page, and Chambers of Commerce and local governments were invited, and asked to share the invitation widely. The first meeting was held December 18th 2018 at the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce with 18 attending. For the meeting in Calhoun, the Gordon County, Cartersville-Bartow County and Greater Dalton Chambers of Commerce were also invited to share



March 28, 2019 Stakeholder meeting, Walker County Civic Center.

the upcoming meeting announcement with members. The Gordon County Chamber of Commerce hosted the December 18th Stakeholder and Public Meeting, invited its membership and posted on Facebook about the meeting, and the Chamber President attended the meeting. The second meeting on January 22, 2019 at Piedmont Community Center in Ellijay was similarly hosted and promoted by the Gilmer County Chamber with 21 attending. The third meeting, March 28, 2019 at the Walker County Civic Center in Rock Spring was attended by Dade County Executive Ted Rumley, Fort Oglethorpe City Manager Jenny Simpkins, Walker County Chamber President Lacey Wilson, and Chattooga County Chamber President Cindy Rivers, plus NWGRC staff. These public meetings gave stakeholders and the public including media an opportunity to weigh in on the region's needs, potential work items, and maps of development and conservation.

The Steering Committee was updated on progress in the April and May 2019 NWGRC Council meetings, and voted in April to approve transmittal of the draft regional plan update to the Department of Community Affairs when completed.

The public hearing on the draft plan was advertised in the Rome News-Tribune and held on Thursday, May 30, 2019 at the Gordon County Agricultural Service Center. The draft plan was sent to each NWGRC Council/Steering Committee member and Technical Advisory Committee member, to local governments, neighboring Regional Commissions, state agencies, regional stakeholders and previous meeting attendees for review and comment. Documentation for each meeting is included following the survey results section.



December 2018 Public and stakeholder meeting, Calhoun.

Stakeholders

The Technical Advisory Committee made recommendations to the list of stakeholders prepared by staff, including regional and community leaders in each county, as well as state agencies and interest groups. These included the local Chambers of Commerce and Development Authorities and local elected officials and key staff for each sub area, as well as the Region's DCA and Department of Economic Development Representatives, Area Agency on Aging and Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA) leaders, THRIVE2055 three-state planning and development initiative, neighboring Regional Commissions, North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, USDA NRCS, Shorter University, Dalton State College, Georgia Highlands, Georgia Northwestern Technical College, Coosa River Basin Initiative, The Nature Conservancy, Tallatoona Community Action Partnership, Whitfield College and Career Academy, Chattahoochee Technical College, Georgia EPD, Georgia DOT District 6, Carpet and Rug Institute, and Georgia Department of Labor Representatives. Each of these representatives was invited to the December 18th 2018 meeting in Calhoun, the most centrally located meeting, hosted by the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce. Individual Chambers of Commerce, and each locally elected official, were invited to the meetings in their sub-region. For example, Rob Bradham, Greater Dalton Chamber President, Carl Campbell with the Development Authority, Lynn Laughter, Whitfield County Chairman, Mark Gibson, Whitfield County Manager, Dalton Mayor Dennis Mock, Jason Parker, Dalton City Manager, Mike Babb, NWGRC Councilmember, Mike Brown, City Manager of Varnell, Ron

Shinnick, Mayor of Cohutta, Ken Gowin, Mayor of Tunnel Hill, and Blake Griffin, Tunnel Hill City Manager, were all invited for Whitfield County. Similar invitations were sent for Chambers of Commerce and local elected officials in Gordon, Murray, Bartow and Floyd Counties and Cities to attend the Calhoun meeting on December 18, 2018. The Steering Committee was also invited to the Calhoun meeting. The same procedure was followed to invite stakeholders in the surrounding cities and counties for the meeting in Ellijay, which was hosted by the Gilmer County Chamber with its membership receiving an invitation to attend from the Chamber. Additionally the City and County elected officials in Gilmer County, Pickens County, Fannin County were invited, as well as the Chambers of Commerce in Pickens and Fannin Counties. Finally, the Walker, Dade, Catoosa and Chattooga Chambers and City and County elected officials, as well as Development Authorities and media, were invited to the March 28, 2019 Rock Spring public meeting. In addition, a March 2019 Georgia Planning Association- Department of Community Affairs training session also provided an opportunity for discussion with stakeholders. Each stakeholder that attended either the three scheduled meetings or the DCA-GPA planning session is listed below. Department of Community Affairs staff were also included as stakeholders.

During the regional plan, informal and formal interviews were held with Department of Community Affairs, Appalachian Regional Commission, Georgia DOT, Directors of the NWGA Area Agency on Aging and Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act/Work Ready. Additional input was gathered during a session of the GAZA-DCA-GPA Workshop on March 6, 2019 at the Gordon County Agricultural Center. At the April 10, 2019 meeting of the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership (staffed by NWGRC), utility representatives discussed infrastructure needs including consolidation of small private systems with public utilities and need for nutrient trading framework for water quality permitting.

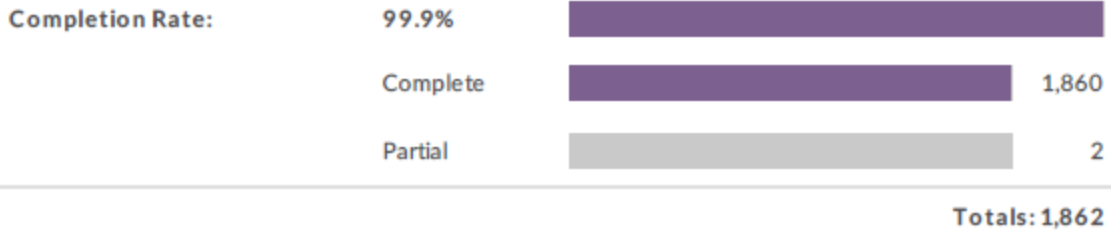
Stakeholders attended one or more meetings in which they were asked to give input into the regional plan, were interviewed for the plan, or were otherwise instrumental in developing the plan. Documentation for each meeting is included following the survey results section.

- Alan Davenport, Gilmer JDA
- Andrew Turnage, Secretary of State's Office
- Andy Ashurst, Publisher, Ellijay Times-Courier
- Annaka Woodruff, DCA Appalachian Regional Commission
- Anthony Parker, City of Adairsville Code Enforcement Officer
- Artagus Newell, City of Rome Planning Director
- Brian K. Staggs, Gilmer County
- Brice Wood, City of Rome Planning Department
- Brittany Griffin, City of Rome Planner
- Brooke Anderson, Etowah Water and Sewer Authority/Chair of Coosa North Georgia Water Council
- Butch Layson, Gordon County Planning Commissioner
- Calvin Watts, Mayor of Fairmount
- Carolyn Elliott, Polk County Planning and Zoning Administrator
- Christina Barry, PE, GDOT District 6
- Cindy Rivers, President, Chattooga County Chamber of Commerce
- Dallas Miller, Gilmer County Commissioner
- Dennis Mock, Mayor of Dalton
- Dianne Scoggins, Gilmer County
- Dolley Flood, Chatsworth Planning and Zoning Director
- Don McGinnis, City of Calhoun Planning Commissioner
- Elizabeth Smith, Georgia DCA
- Gary McVey, Director, Ellijay-Gilmer County Water and Sewer Authority
- Grant Waldrop, Georgia DOT District 6 Engineer
- Gregory Harris, City of Adairsville Planning Commissioner

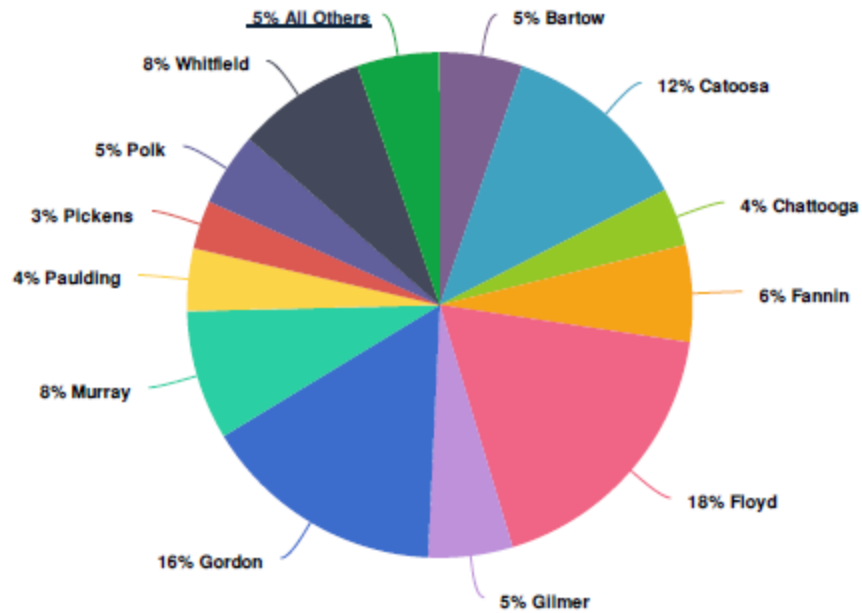
- Heath Lee, Gilmer Library
- Holly Langley, City of Rockmart
- Ilya Campbell, Murray County Economic Development
- James Ledbetter, Gordon County Administrator
- Jenny Simpkins, Fort Oglethorpe City Manager
- Jerry Crawford, Water and Wastewater Director, City of Calhoun
- Jerry Lovelace, Gordon County Planning Commissioner
- Joel Hanner, Georgia Power
- Joey Moore, City of Calhoun Planning Commissioner
- John Brunson, City of Adairsville Planning Commissioner
- John Marshall, Gilmer Chamber Chairman
- Jon West, Georgia DCA
- Jonathan Bartleson, NWGRC Council
- Jonathan Lassetter, City of Rossville Council Member
- Jonathan Vigue, Gilmer County
- Juli Yoder, Georgia DCA
- Justin Kilgore, Georgia DCA
- Karleen Ferguson, Gilmer County Commissioner
- Kathy Johnson, President, Gordon County Chamber of Commerce/JDA
- Kathy Webb, CTI Engineers
- Keith King, Gordon County Deputy Administrator
- Kent Sanford, Greater Gilmer JDA
- Kim Billue, Mayor of White
- Lacey Wilson, President, Walker County Chamber of Commerce
- Lesia Lambert, Director of NWGRC WIOA
- Leslie Thomas, Historical Society, Georgia Trail of Tears Association
- Lloyd Frasier, NWGRC Executive Director
- Lynne Reeves, Director, NWGRC Area Agency on Aging
- Mecole Ledbetter, Citizen
- Michael Andrews, Features Editor, Ellijay Times-Courier
- Micheal Cash, City of Dallas Community Development Director
- Michelle Vigue, Gilmer County
- Paige Greene, Gilmer Chamber of Commerce
- Paul Worley, City of Calhoun
- Petrina Petty, President, Murray County Chamber of Commerce
- R. Devell Frady, Devell Frady Homes
- Rebecca Bolden, Mohawk Industries
- Rebecca Harrell, Gilmer County
- Richard Osborne, City of Adairsville Planning Director
- Rick Quarles, City of Fort Oglethorpe Director of Building and Zoning
- Robert Ferguson, Stay Active Ellijay
- Robin Deal, City Clerk, City of White
- Rodney Buckingham, Director of Planning and Development, Pickens County
- Ronnie Everett, City of Adairsville Planning Commissioner
- Roxie Pritchett, Citizen
- Sandy Ott, University of North Georgia
- Sarah Rogers, Georgia HPD
- Sean Phipps, Lumpkin County Water and Sewer Authority
- Shane Evans, Chattahoochee Technical College
- Spencer Lahr, Calhoun Times
- Stacey Smith, Rockmart Community Development Director
- Teddy Harris, Mayor, City of Rossville
- Tom Sills, Bartow County MPO
- Ursula Richardson, Gordon County Zoning Administrator
- Wendy Turnbull, Paulding County Planning Commissioner

Report for REGIONAL PLAN SURVEY

Response Counts



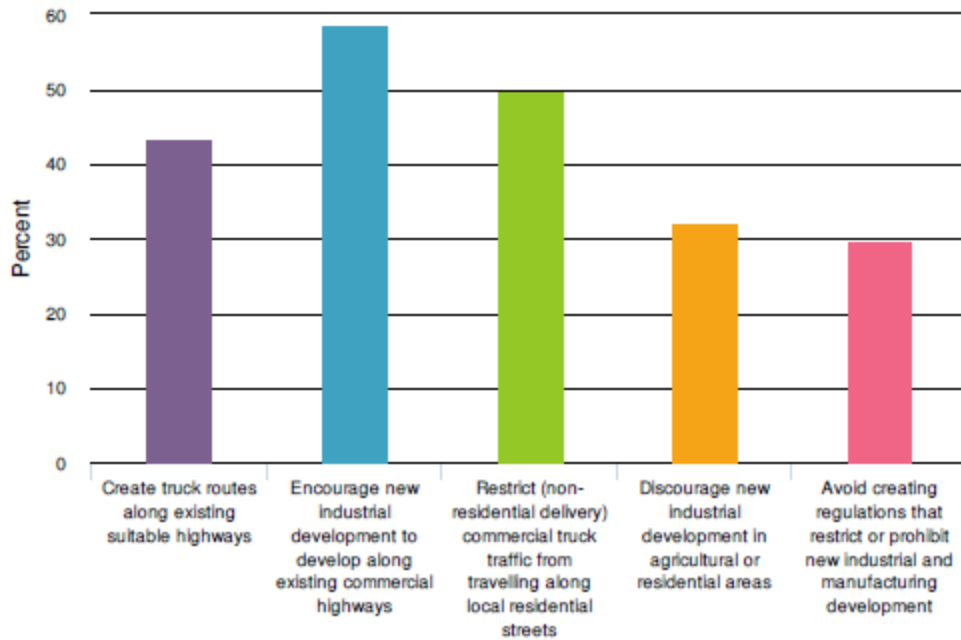
1. Which County do you live in?



Value		Percent	Responses
Bartow		5.3%	98
Catoosa		12.2%	227
Chattooga		3.7%	68
Dade		1.0%	18
Fannin		6.2%	115
Floyd		18.0%	334
Gilmer		5.4%	100
Gordon		15.6%	290
Haralson		0.9%	17
Murray		8.3%	154
Paulding		4.0%	74
Pickens		3.1%	58
Polk		4.7%	88
Walker		2.8%	53
Whitfield		8.3%	154
Other		0.6%	12

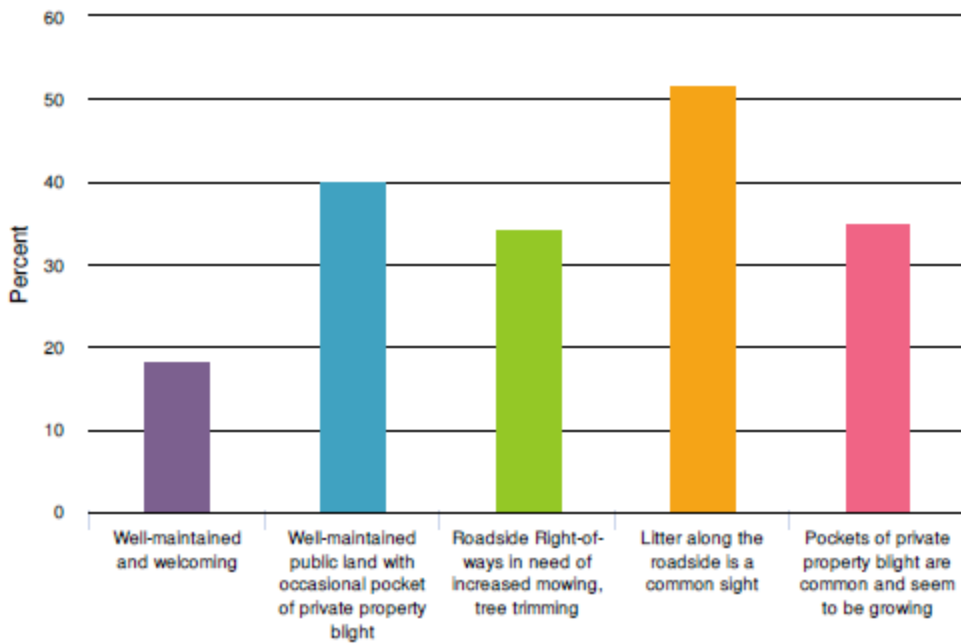
Totals: 1,860

2. With ever-increasing industrial and manufacturing growth in Northwest Georgia what steps should your county and/or city leadership take to address traffic safety and other issues associated with industrial development? (Check All That Apply)



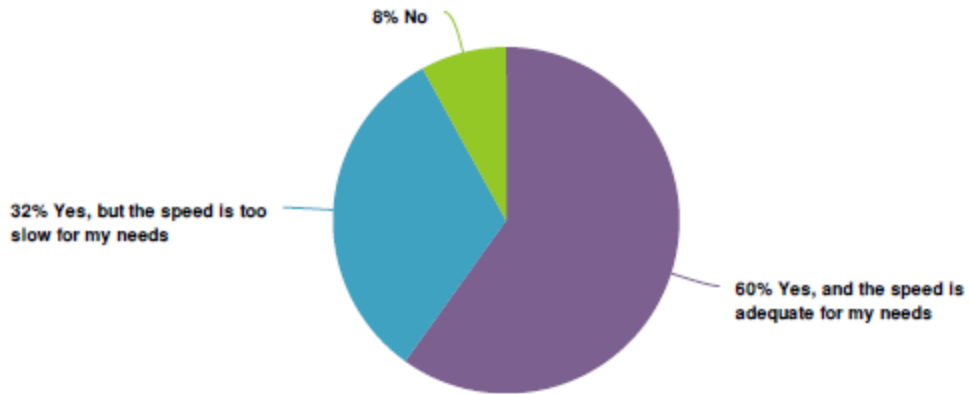
Value	Percent	Responses
Create truck routes along existing suitable highways	43.1%	793
Encourage new industrial development to develop along existing commercial highways	58.6%	1,077
Restrict (non-residential delivery) commercial truck traffic from travelling along local residential streets	49.8%	915
Discourage new industrial development in agricultural or residential areas	32.0%	588
Avoid creating regulations that restrict or prohibit new industrial and manufacturing development	29.5%	543




3. How do you feel about the overall appearance of your county or city? (Check All That Apply)



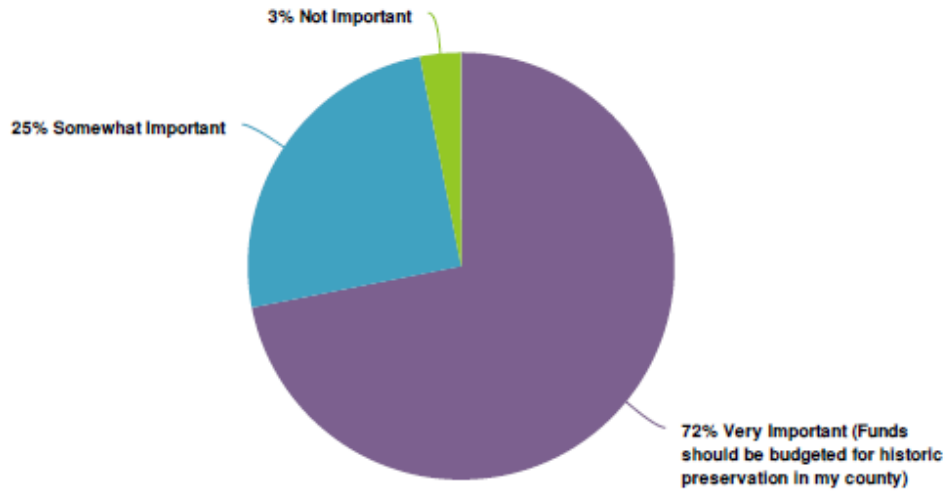
Value	Percent	Responses
We ll-maintained and welcoming	18.2%	335
We ll-maintained public land with occasional pocket of private property blight	40.1%	737
Roadside Right-of-ways in need of increased mowing, tree trimming	34.3%	632
Litter along the roadside is a common sight	51.6%	949
Pockets of private property blight are common and seem to be growing	35.1%	646

4. Do you have access to internet at your home, other than satellite provider options? (Please Read Carefully And Check Only One Of The Following)



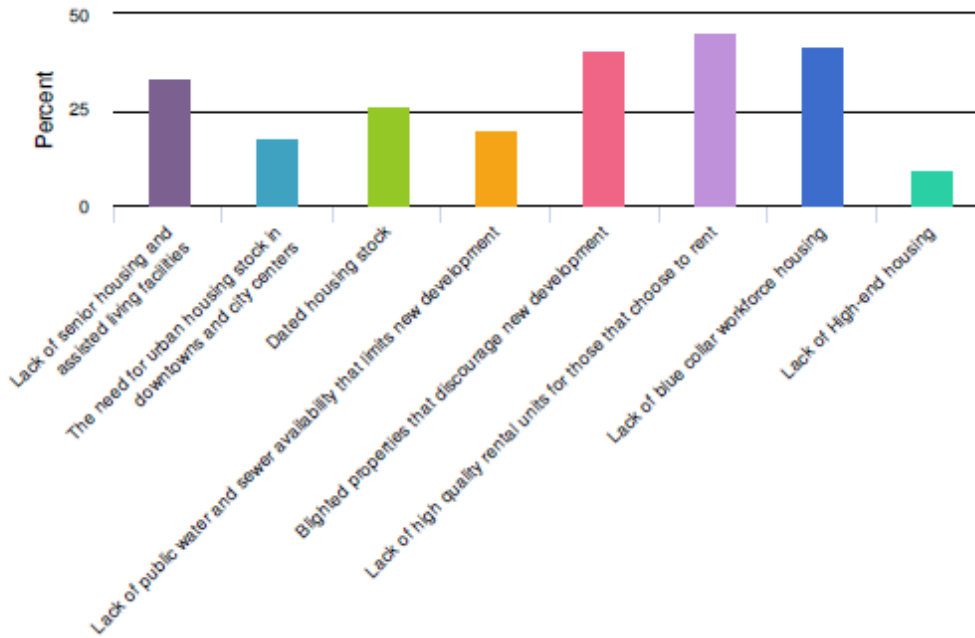
Value		Percent	Responses
Yes, and the speed is adequate for my needs		59.9%	1,113
Yes, but the speed is too slow for my needs		32.1%	597
No		8.0%	148
			Totals: 1,858

5. Northwest Georgia is home to many historical structures, monuments and battlefields that are under constant risk of decay or demolition. These assets, once lost, are irreplaceable. How important to you is the preservation of your county's historic assets? (Check Only One Of The Following)



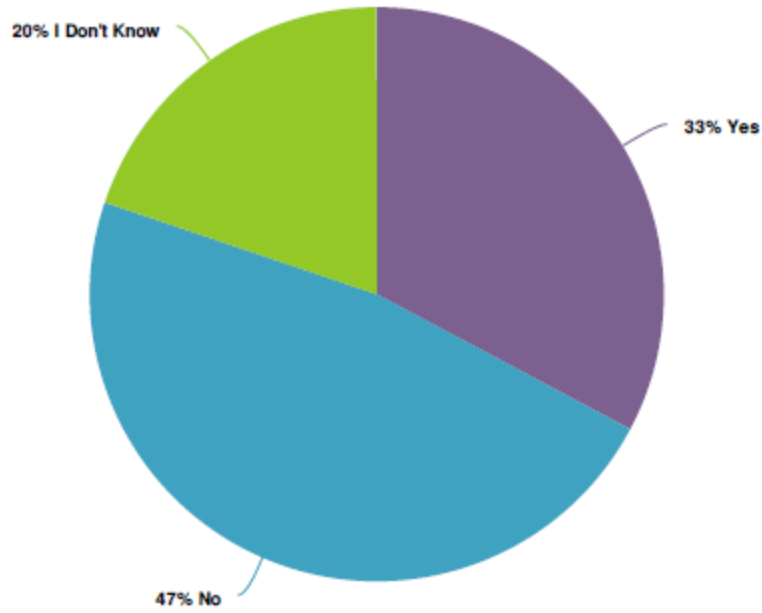
Value	Percent	Responses
Very Important (Funds should be budgeted for historic preservation in my county)	71.9%	1,325
Somewhat Important	25.0%	461
Not Important	3.1%	58
Totals: 1,844		

6. What do you consider to be the most relevant issues related to housing in your County? (Check All That Apply)



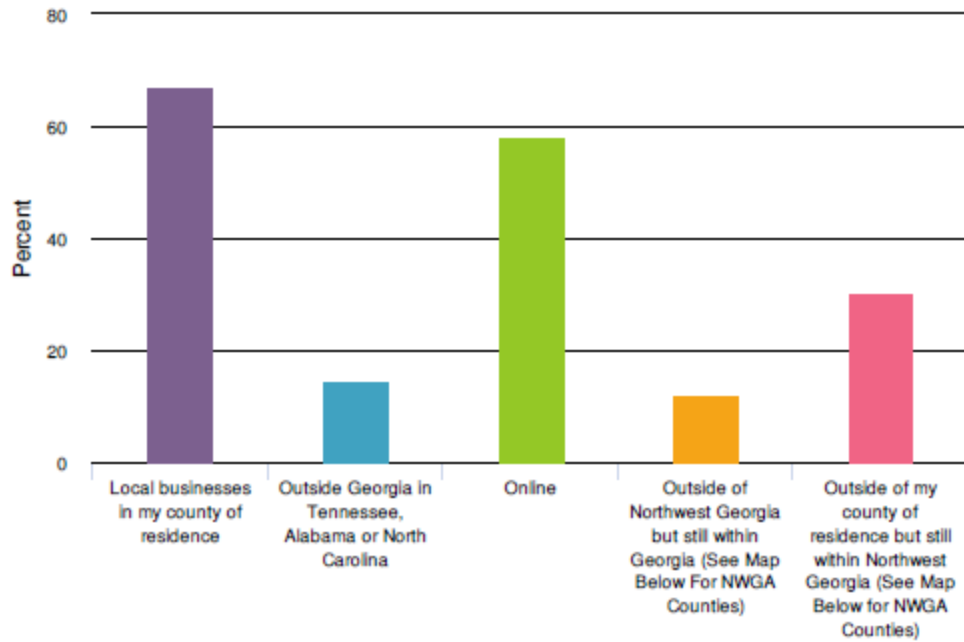
Value	Percent	Responses
Lack of senior housing and assisted living facilities	33.1%	581
The need for urban housing stock in downtowns and city centers	17.9%	315
Dated housing stock	26.2%	460
Lack of public water and sewer availability that limits new development	19.7%	346
Blighted properties that discourage new development	40.5%	710
Lack of high quality rental units for those that choose to rent	45.2%	794
Lack of blue collar workforce housing	41.1%	722
Lack of High-end housing	9.1%	160

7. Is public transportation available in your county such as a transit service? (Check Only One)



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	32.8%	609
No	47.4%	879
I Don't Know	19.8%	367
		Totals: 1,855

8. Where do you typically do the majority of your shopping? (Check All That Apply)



Value	Percent	Responses
Local businesses in my county of residence	67.2%	1,242
Outside Georgia in Tennessee, Alabama or North Carolina	14.6%	269
Online	58.2%	1,075
Outside of Northwest Georgia but still within Georgia (See Map Below For NWGA Counties)	12.1%	224
Outside of my county of residence but still within Northwest Georgia (See Map Below for NWGA Counties)	30.1%	556

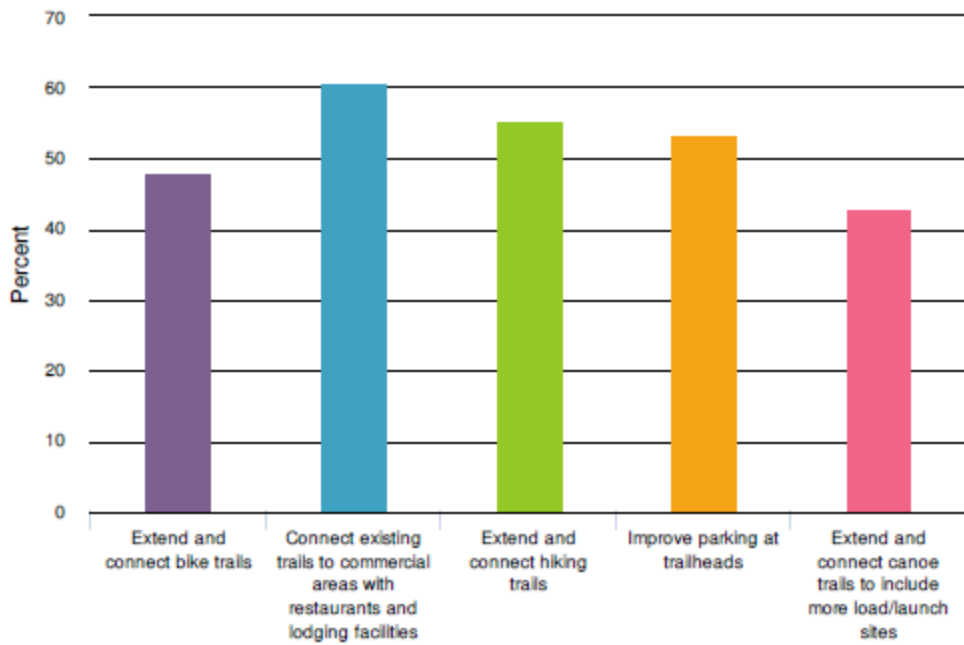
9. How much of your total annual shopping do you tend to do online? (Check Only One)








Value	Percent	Responses
None	4.9%	91
Some (Up To 25%)	46.1%	855
Moderate (25%-75%)	39.5%	732
Majority (75%-100%)	9.3%	172
I do all of my shopping online	0.2%	4

Totals: 1,854

10. Northwest Georgia is home to many diverse natural resources such as parks, trails and waterways, although public accessibility may sometimes be inconvenient. What should be done to improve public access to the region's natural resources? (Check All That Apply)



Value		Percent	Responses
Extend and connect bike trails		47.8%	813
Connect existing trails to commercial areas with restaurants and lodging facilities		60.5%	1,030
Extend and connect hiking trails		55.0%	936
Improve parking at trailheads		53.3%	908
Extend and connect canoe trails to include more load/launch sites		42.9%	730

October 18, 2018 Technical Advisory Committee, Calhoun

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Update Steering Committee
October 18, 2018
Gordon Co. Agricultural Center, Calhoun Georgia

PLEASE SIGN IN:

Name	Organization/ Government	Initial/ Sign if Present
Hon. Boyd Austin, Chair	Mayor, City of Dallas	<i>BA</i>
Steve Taylor, Vice Chairperson	Bartow County Sole Commissioner	
Hubert Parker	Gilmer County Non Public	
Mike Babb	Whitfield County Non Public	<i>WMB</i>
Alan Dean	Polk County Non Public	<i>AD</i>
Robert Jones	Pickens County Commission Chairman	
Rhonda Wallace	Floyd County Commission Chair	
Dr. Michele Taylor	Superintendent, Calhoun City Schools	
April Rogers	Community Services Director, Tallatoona Community Action	
Patrick Vickers	DCA Region One Representative	
<i>Anna Ka Weckhoff</i>	<i>DCA ARC</i>	<i>AKW</i>
<i>Debra Stone</i>	<i>NWGRC</i>	<i>DS</i>
<i>Jason Davidson</i>	<i>NWGRC</i>	<i>JD</i>
<i>Chase Holder</i>	<i>NWGRC</i>	<i>CH</i>
<i>Shawn Holder</i>	<i>NWGRC</i>	<i>SH</i>
<i>Johanna Mosler</i>	<i>NWGRC</i>	

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Update Steering Committee
October 18, 2018
Gordon Co. Agricultural Center, Calhoun Georgia

AGENDA

12:45 Welcome and Introductions; Set next meeting date- Mayor Austin

12:50- 1:00 Review the 2014 Regional Agenda plan and maps- NWGRC/ Committee

1:00- 1:10 Regional Plan update timeline, meeting schedule, public input – NWGRC/ Committee

1:10- 1:40 Regional demographics, economics, and trends- NWGRC/ Committee

1:40- 2:25 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis - NWGRC/ Committee

2:25-2:30 Summary and Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: _____



Northwest Georgia Regional Commission is proud to be recognized as a Certified Organization of Ethics by the Georgia Municipal Association.

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Regional Plan Update Committee Meeting – October 18, 2018

Published on Oct 08, 2018 in [Meetings & Announcements](#)

A meeting of the **Regional Plan Update Committee** of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC) will be held at **12:45 P. M. on Thursday, October 18, 2018**, at the **Gordon County Agricultural Service Center**, located at **1282 Highway 53 Spur, S.W. in Calhoun**.

[News Release](#)

Meetings & Announcements

- › [Regional Plan Update Committee Meeting – November 30, 2018](#)
- › [NWGRC Council Meeting – October 18, 2018](#)
- › [Rural Broadband Advisory Committee Meeting – October 3, 2018](#)
- › [NWGRC Council Meeting – September 20, 2018](#)
- › [Public Hearing Notice – NWGRC Regional Plan Update – September 20, 2018](#)

Recent Publications

- › [Whitfield County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2019-2023](#)
- › [DRAFT 2018 Nutrient Trading Alternative Permitting Strategy](#)
- › [Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2019-2029](#)
- › [DRAFT Gilmer County, Ellijay, & East Ellijay Capital Improvements Element & Community](#)

November 30, 2018 Technical Advisory Committee, Calhoun




Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Update Steering Committee November 30, 2018 Gordon Co. Agricultural Center, Calhoun Georgia			PLEASE SIGN IN: NWGRC TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
PLEASE SIGN IN: STEERING COMMITTEE			Name	Initial/ Sign if Present
Name	Organization/ Government	Initial/ Sign if Present	Chase Holden, NWGRC	CH
Hon. Boyd Austin, Chair	Mayor, City of Dallas	<i>Boyd Austin</i>	Delmos Stone, NWGRC	
Steve Taylor, Vice Chairperson	Bartow County Sole Commissioner	<i>Steve Taylor</i>	Ethan Calhoun, NWGRC	EC
Hubert Parker	Gilmer County Non Public	<i>Hubert Parker</i>	Gretchen Lugthart, NWGRC	GL
Mike Babbs	Whitfield County Non Public	<i>Mike Babbs</i>	Joseph Davidson, NWGRC	JD
Alan Dean	Polk County Non Public		Julianne Meadows, NWGRC	JMM
Robert Jones	Pickens County Commission Chairman		Kevin McAuliff, NWGRC	
Rhonda Wallace	Floyd County Commission Chair		Shane Holden, NWGRC	SH
Dr. Michele Taylor	Superintendent, Calhoun City Schools	<i>Michele Taylor</i>		
April Rogers	Community Services Director, Tallatoona Community Action	<i>April Rogers</i>		
Patrick Vickers	DCA Region One Representative	<i>Patrick Vickers</i>		
<i>Kevin McAuliff</i>	NWGRC	<i>Kevin McAuliff</i>		
<i>Rachay Buckingham</i>	Pickens County	<i>Rachay Buckingham</i>		

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Steering Committee

November 30, 2018 Gordon County **666** Center

MEETING AGENDA

- 9:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:05 Good News: Appalachian Regional Port, Calhoun College and Career Academy, *Your News Here!*
- 9:15 Plan Update
 - Review of 2014 Regional Plan and Regional Resource Plan
 - Plan Timeline and Stakeholder Involvement
 - Regional Data and Maps
- 9:40 Regional Survey
- 10:00 BREAK
- 10:10 Regional Needs and Opportunities (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- 11:10 *Mental Break/ Updates*
- 11:15 Needs and Opportunities Discussion Continues
- 11:50 Wrap Up and Next Meeting Date, Adjourn for Lunch



December 18, 2018 Public and Stakeholder Meeting, Calhoun GA

File Message Help Tell me what you want to do

Mon 12/10/2018 3:49 PM

JM Julianne Meadows
Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Workshop Invitation- Tuesday December 18th

To: kgallman@gordonchamber.org
You replied to this message on 12/14/2018 10:06 AM.
This message was sent with High importance.

Regional Plan Public Workshop December 18 2018.docx
400 KB

Kim, Good afternoon!

We greatly appreciate the Gordon County Chamber hosting the December 18th Regional Plan Workshop, and look forward to a great event! This workshop will be open to the public, and we are also specifically inviting local business leaders, local government representatives, Chambers of Commerce and school officials from Gordon, Bartow, Whitfield and Floyd Counties to participate in the workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to provide for public and local leaders input into the 2018-2019 update of the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, which is a strategic five year and long term plan for the fifteen counties and forty-nine cities of Northwest Georgia. As the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission prepares the update, we greatly appreciate this opportunity to gain our communities' input into the future of our region. Our website provides more information on the update, at www.nwgrc.org.

Here is a sample notice, which is also attached. Thank you!

You are invited to join the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission for a Regional Plan Workshop on **Tuesday December 18th from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce, 300 S Wall St, Calhoun, GA 30701.** We are holding this workshop to gather input from the region, and in particular, from those in **Gordon, Whitfield, Floyd and Bartow Counties.** The Regional Plan Public Workshop will begin with a brief presentation at 4:00 P. M., but feel free to drop in at any time from 4:00-6:00 P. M. to give your input. We look forward to seeing you there!
For more information visit www.nwgrc.org or call (706) 295-6485.

Tue 12/11/2018 5:44 PM

JM Julianne Meadows
You are Invited to the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Workshop, Tuesday December 18th!

Justin Kilgore; Elizabeth Smith; Lesia Lambert; Lynne Reeves; annaka.woodruff@dca.ga.gov; lmartin@georgia.org; bmassengill@thrive2055.com; gloyd@shorter.edu; mvenable@daltonstate.edu; mcooley@highlands.edu; david.moeller@wcsaga.net; Shane.Evans@chattahoocheetech.edu; pmcdonald@gntc.edu; edavis@southernco.com; Shen.Teems@ga.usda.gov; Doug.Cabe@ga.usda.gov; gordoncounty@gfc.state.ga.us; jcook@coosa.org; kowens@tnc.org; Christine.Voudy@dnr.ga.gov; banderson@etawahwater.org; BAC@northgeorgiawater.com; lisa.adkisson@gdol.ga.gov; gwaldrop@dot.ga.gov; AICP Adam Hazell (Georgia Mtns Regional Commission) ; asmith@atlantaregional.org; jyanbrough@carpet-rug.org; April Rogers

You replied to this message on 12/11/2018 5:48 PM.

Good afternoon!

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission is updating the Regional Plan, and working with regional and local stakeholders to develop regionally significant areas of development and conservation, and regional needs and priorities. As part of the update, we are conducting a series of workshops with stakeholders around the region, and in early Spring will be conducting a Regional Survey to gather input on key issues.

You are invited to join the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission for a Regional Plan Workshop on **Tuesday December 18th from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce, 300 S Wall St, Calhoun, GA 30701.** This workshop is specifically geared toward those in **Whitfield, Gordon, Murray, Bartow and Floyd Counties;** however all are welcome! Please forward this invitation to any and all whom you would like to attend.

As a regional leader, your participation and input are important. If unable to attend this or upcoming workshops in person, we would like to follow up with you to discuss the needs you see in Northwest Georgia.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide for public and local leaders input into the 2018-2019 update of the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, which is a strategic five year and long term plan for the fifteen counties and forty-nine cities of Northwest Georgia. As the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission prepares the update, we greatly appreciate this opportunity to gain our communities' input into the future of our region. Our website provides more information on the update, at www.nwgrc.org.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!

Julianne Meadows
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
1 Jackson Hill/ PO Box 1798, Rome, Georgia 30162-1798
(706) 295-6485 . jmeadows@nwgrc.org

Subscribe today to NWGRC's newsletter! <http://newsletters.nwgrc.org/>

January 17, 2019 Steering and Technical Advisory Committee, Calhoun GA

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting

Thursday, January 17, 2019 11:00 A.M.
Gordon County Agricultural Service Center
Calhoun, Georgia
Sign-in Sheet (Page 1)

County/City/Municipality	Name	Please Sign Below
Bartow County	Steve Taylor	<i>Steve Taylor</i>
City of Cartersville	Vacancy	
Bartow County (Respect)	Clerena Brown	
Calhoun County	Jim Oulter	<i>Jim Oulter</i>
City of Fort Oglethorpe	Vacancy	
Calhoun County (Respect)	Vacancy	
Chattahoochee County	Jason Wilkins	<i>Jason Wilkins</i>
City of Lawrenceville	Harry Harney	<i>Harry Harney</i>
Chattahoochee County (Respect)	Jim Heery	<i>Jim Heery</i>
Cherokee County	Ted Rankin	<i>Ted Rankin</i>
City of Trion	Alex Case	<i>Alex Case</i>
Cherokee County (Respect)	Peter Gessell	<i>Peter Gessell</i>
Franklin County	Stan Helton	<i>Stan Helton</i>
City of Blue Ridge	Danna Whitener	
Franklin County (Respect)	No Change	

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting

Thursday, January 17, 2019 11:00 A.M.
Gordon County Agricultural Service Center
Calhoun, Georgia
Sign-in Sheet (Page 2)

County/City/Municipality	Name	Please Sign Below
Floyd County	Scotty Hancock	<i>Scotty Hancock</i>
City of Bremen	KE Collins	
Floyd County (Respect)	Jonathan Bartman	<i>Jonathan Bartman</i>
Wilkes County	Charles Kutz	
City of Elberton	Al Wagle	
Gilmer County (Respect)	Hubert Parker	
Gordon County	M.L. Red Owens	<i>M.L. Red Owens</i>
City of Calhoun	Vacancy	
Gordon County (Respect)	Dawnya Bowen	
Heard County	Allen Poole	<i>Allen Poole</i>
City of Irwin	Vacancy	
Harden County (Respect)	Bob Bixby	<i>Bob Bixby</i>
Murray County	Greg Hagan	<i>Greg Hagan</i>
City of Oakesboro	K.W. Gorg	<i>K.W. Gorg</i>
Macon County (Respect)	Steve Nelson	

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting

Thursday, January 17, 2019 11:00 A.M.
Gordon County Agricultural Service Center
Calhoun, Georgia
Sign-in Sheet (Page 3)

County/City/Municipality	Name	Please Sign Below
Madison County	David Carmichael	<i>David Carmichael</i>
City of Dallas	Rayl Austin	<i>Rayl Austin</i>
Madison County (Respect)	Greg Mitty	<i>Greg Mitty</i>
Pickens County	Robert Jones	
City of Jasper	John Weaver	
Pickens County (Respect)	Gary Beck	
Park County	Jennifer Huber	<i>Jennifer Huber</i>
City of Dalton	Janon Hubbard	<i>Janon Hubbard</i>
Park County (Respect)	Alan Doss	<i>Alan Doss</i>
Wilkes County	Sharon Whitfield	<i>Sharon Whitfield</i>
City of Laneyville	Vacancy	
Wilkes County (Respect)	Chip Evans	<i>Chip Evans</i>
Wilkes County	Leann Laughlin	<i>Leann Laughlin</i>
City of Tunnel Hill	Ben Gowth	<i>Ben Gowth</i>
Wilkes County (Respect)	Mike Todd	<i>Mike Todd</i>

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting

Thursday, January 17, 2019 11:00 A.M.
Gordon County Agricultural Service Center
Calhoun, Georgia
Sign-in Sheet (Page 4)

County/City/Municipality	Name	Please Sign Below
Governor's Appointee	Nicholas Chester	
Governor's Appointee	David Galbreath	<i>David Galbreath</i>
Governor's Appointee	Nichole Taylor	<i>Nichole Taylor</i>
Interim Governor's Appointee	Vacancy	
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE'S APPOINTEE	UST MATTY	

Northwest Georgia Prospers! Regional Plan 2019-2023

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Update Technical Advisory Committee
January 17, 2019
Gordon Co. Agricultural Center, Calhoun, Georgia

PLEASE SIGN IN:

Name	Organization/ Government	Initial/ Sign if Present
Hon. Boyd Austin, Chair	Mayor, City of Dallas	<i>MA</i>
Steve Taylor, Vice Chairperson	Bartow County Solicitor	
Robert Parker	Gilmer County Non Public	
Mike Babb	Whitfield County Non Public	<i>M. B. B.</i>
Alan Dean	Polk County Non Public	<i>AD</i>
Robert Jones	Pickens County Commission Chairman	
Wendie Walker	Floyd County Commissioner Clerk	
Dr. Michelle Taylor	Superintendent, Calhoun City Schools	<i>Michelle Taylor</i>
April Rogers	Community Services Director, Tallapoosa Community Action	
Patrick Videns	DCA Region One Representative	<i>PV</i>
<i>Jonathan Sartorius</i>	<i>Floyd County Community</i>	
<i>PA Cullis</i>	<i>Walker County</i>	
<i>Sharon Whitefield</i>	<i>Walker County</i>	
<i>Jan Hargis</i>	<i>Chattooga County</i>	
<i>W. Carriker</i>	<i>Paulding County</i>	
<i>Greg Perry</i>	<i>Paulding County</i>	<i>GP</i>

PLEASE SIGN IN:

NAME	Initial/ Sign if Present
Chase Holden, NWGRC	<i>CH</i>
Dalmo Stone, NWGRC	
Ethan Calhoun, NWGRC	<i>EC</i>
Gretchen Lughart, NWGRC	<i>GL</i>
Joseph Davidson, NWGRC	<i>JDD</i>
Julianne Meadows, NWGRC	<i>JM</i>
Kevin McNeill, NWGRC	<i>KM</i>
Shane Holden, NWGRC	<i>SH</i>
SalVaughn Irons, NWGRC	<i>SI</i>

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Technical Advisory Committee

January 17, 2019 Gordon County Agr. Center
12:30 PM
Agenda

1. Regional Plan Update Timeline
2. Regional Survey
3. Regional Needs and Opportunities (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats or SWOT Analysis)
4. Regional Goals
 - o Goals
 - o Guiding Principles
 - o Map of Development Patterns
 - o Map of Areas Requiring Special Attention and Regionally Important RESOURCES
5. Minimum and Excellence Standards
6. Regional Work Program Items and Report of Accomplishments
7. Next Meeting

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission is preparing an update to the 2014 Northwest Georgia Regional Agenda, in accordance with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, Chapter 110-12-6. The Regional Plan update will include Regional Goals, Development Maps, Needs and Opportunities, and an Implementation Program for actions the Regional Commission and participating localities in Northwest Georgia. For more information please visit www.nwgrc.org. For more information please visit [Julianne Meadows, \[julianne@nwgrc.org\]\(mailto:julianne@nwgrc.org\), \(706\) 295-6485.](mailto:julianne@nwgrc.org)



January 22, 2019 Public and Stakeholder Meeting, Ellijay GA

Julianne Meadows
Reminder! Please Join Us this afternoon: Regional Plan Workshop @ Ellijay's Piedmont Community Center

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Workshop
Tuesday, January 22, 2019
4:00- 6:00 pm
Piedmont Community Center, Ellijay

Please join us! for this afternoon's Public Workshop on the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGR) from 4:00- 6:00 P. M. today, Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at the Piedmont Community Center, 824 Industrial Boulevard, Ellijay Georgia 30540.

The Regional Plan Public Workshop will begin with a brief presentation at 4:00 P. M., but feel free to drop in at any time from 4:00-6:00 P. M. to give your input. We look forward to seeing you there! Please share this invitation with friends and neighbors!

For more information visit www.nwgrc.org or call (706) 295-6485.



Julianne Meadows
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
1 Jackson Hill, PO Box 1798, Rome, Georgia 30162-1798
(706) 295-6485
julianm@nwgrc.org

Subscribe today

A collage of news articles and advertisements. Includes 'Bring a Bundle donations reach Gilmer schools', 'TOCCOA LUMBER MILL Build a Foundation Built on Tradition', and 'PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION'. A yellow circle highlights the public hearing notice.

Northwest Georgia Prospers! Regional Plan 2019-2023

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Public Workshop
January 22, 2019
Piedmont Community Center, Blissy



PLEASE SIGN IN!

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Michael Andrews	TIMES-CARRIER	ANDREWS@TIMES-CARRIER.COM

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Public Workshop
January 22, 2019
Piedmont Community Center, Blissy



PLEASE SIGN IN!

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Kent Sankid	Senior Sales Rep	sankid@nashley.com; dsr.org
Paige Green	Gilmer Chamber	paige@gilmerchamber.com
Lislie Thomas	Historical Society, GADTA	Preslist@eternal.com
Geannina Hume Bonds	RESIDENT	TREBOND02@MSN.COM
ROBERT FERRESON	Stay Active Ellijay	stayactiveelljay@gmail.com
KARLEEN FERRESON	GILMER COUNTY COMMISSIONER Post 2	
Tadmy Buckingham	Pickens County Planning & Zoning	tbuckingham@pickenscountypa.gov
R. Devell Frady	Devell Family Homes Gilmer Co. Home Ins SOS	devellfrady@yahoo.com
Alan Doucet		AD2elljay.com
John Marshall	Gilmer Chamber	johnmarshall58@gmail.com



Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Public Workshop
January 22, 2019
Piedmont Community Center, Blissy



PLEASE SIGN IN!

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Jillian Miller	Gilmer Co.	jilliam@gilmercounty-ge.gov
Dianne Poggius	Melrose Co.	casa@elljay.com
Rebecca Harner	Gilmer Co.	rebecca.harner@gilmer-ge.com
Bryan K Stagg	Gilmer Co.	bstagg175@gmail.com
Micelle Vique	Gilmer Co.	JenVique3@yahoo.com
Jordan Vique	Gilmer Co.	"
Sandy Ott	Gilmer Co.	sandy.ott@ung.edu
Andy Ashurst	Times-Carrier	publist@timescarrier.com
Heath Lee	Gilmer County	LEATH@GILMER-GE.COM
Sharon Poggius	SOS	stagg@elljay.com

March 28, 2019 Public and Stakeholder meeting, Rock Spring



Thu 3/28/2019 10:08 AM
JM Julianne Meadows
 Regional Plan Workshop this afternoon at the Walker County Civic Center

Shannon Whitfield (whitfield@walkercountyga.gov); aarnold@cityoflafayettega.org; awhite@summervillega.org; bchamilton@lafga.org; dmsa@cityofdalton-ga.gov; egray@fortgov.com; hharvey@summervillega.org; jackson@thebriffin@cityofunehill.com; lhouts@trenton-ga.gov; laughter@whitfieldcountygga.com; listansell@townoftrion; ajackson@catoosachamberofcommerce.com; melissahannah@catoosa.com; menlocty@windstream.net; mngibson@ethancalhoun.com; kevinmcauliff.com; gretchenlughart.com

You forwarded this message on 3/28/2019 10:24 AM.

Good morning,
 We hope to see you at the Regional Plan workshop this afternoon, March 28, 2019! The workshop will be Join us for coffee and a discussion of the needs in Walker, Dade, Catoosa, Chattooga, and Whitfield County

The drop-in style workshop will begin with a brief presentation at 4:00 pm and be open to the public for hosting the workshop!

Julianne Meadows
 Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
 1 Jackson Hill Drive / PO Box 1798
 Rome GA 30162-1798
www.nwrgc.org
 (706) 295-6485

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Public Workshop
 March 28, 2019 Walker County Civic Center, Rock Spring GA

NWRC
 REGIONAL PLAN

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Andy Rivers	Chattooga County Board of Commissioners	arivers@chattoogacounty.org
Lacey Wilson	Walker Co Commissioner	l.wilson@walkercountygga.gov
Jeremy Simpson	City of Fort Oglethorpe	jsimpson@cityoffortoglethorpe.com
John M. Rowley	DADE County	John@DadeCounty.com

ty-ga.gov; danwright@cityofringgoldga.gov; jon-ga.gov; larystansell@windstream.net; com; Peter Cervelli; jfohutta.com; r.wooden@walkerga.us;

...sar timeframe. Thank you to Walker County for

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Workshop
 Walker County Civic Center, March 28, 2019

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Today's Workshop
- Regional Survey: What Northwest Georgia Needs www.nwrgc.org

Topics

- Industrial Development:** Infrastructure, Land Use, Transportation
- Natural Resources:** Community Appearance, Access, Conservation
- Internet Connectivity:** Speed, Incentives, Providers

Questions

Housing:

- Do employees see few available workers due to cost/availability of housing?

Transportation:

- Do many people drive long distances to work and is that a hidden cost?

Infrastructure:

- Can we improve existing infrastructure with available funding?
- Is transportation a barrier to thriving in our geographic community?

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
 The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission consists of local elected officials focused on studying the region's needs, identifying opportunities, and recommending solutions for more jobs, income and quality of life in the region. www.nwrgc.org

NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE
 DEADLINE: August 2019

The Regional Plan is prepared under the Department of Community Affairs "Region of Planning Requirements," 2017. The purpose is to develop a vision for the future of Northwest Georgia, identify priority needs and opportunities and a plan of action to address those priorities, and to provide guidance on decisions. The plan update addresses needs and opportunities to economic development, infrastructure, transportation, natural resources, housing, coordinated land use and transportation planning, and regional and state cooperation. The Planning Commission is the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council and oversees the plan update which is prepared with input from a Technical Advisory Committee, regional stakeholders and the public. Data, maps, meeting information and the draft report will be available on the www.nwrgc.org website.

Required Documents:

- Executive Summary
- Regional Goals and Policies
- Regional Development Maps
 - Regional Land Use Map (Developing, Developing, Rural Areas)
 - Executive and Development Map (Regionally Impacted Regions)
 - Areas Requiring Special Attention and Transition
- Regional Needs and Opportunities
- Implementation Program
 - Performance Standards (Minimum and Flexibility Standards)
 - Regional Work Program (Priority, Strategy, Action, Timeline, Partners, Cost)

The Process:

- The first regional public hearing process to input on the process **September 10, 2018**
- NWRC staff prepares data analysis and initial maps for review and input **Fall 2018**
- Advisory Committee meets to conduct a **March 2019**
- The plan is developed with input from the regional Steering Committee including NWRC Council members, regional representatives, the public. The Steering Committee, NWRC Council, and the public will be involved in the process. Steering Committee meetings and two public workshops **Fall 2018 - Spring 2019**
- Once the draft plan is complete, a second Public Hearing will be held to present the plan to the Steering Committee and Stakeholders and to gather final input **May 2019**
- The NWRC Council will present the draft plan to the Department of Community Affairs for review and input. The NWRC Council will adopt the plan by **August 2019**

May 30, 2019 Public
Hearing,
Calhoun GA

ROME NEWS-TRIBUNE ♦ SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019 ♦ A7

REGION ROUNDUP
Here's a look at what's happening in other parts of North Georgia:

Arrest made in Murray County murder case

CHATSORTH — On Friday the GBI obtained warrants for the arrest of Eric Stewart, age 26, for murder and concealing the death of another.

The GBI's Calhoun office was requested by the Murray County Sheriff's Office to assist in a murder investigation regarding the death of Donnie Charles. At approximately 8:30 a.m. Friday, the Murray County 911 Center was contacted about Charles being found behind his residence at 1263 Sexton Road, Resaca. During a search of the property near Charles' residence, a campsite was located with bloody items belonging to both Charles and Stewart. Witnesses had stated that Stewart had been camping behind Charles' residence. Stewart had been released from the Gordon County Jail on Thursday.

At approximately 11:15 a.m., Stewart was apprehended by Murray County Sheriff Gary Langford and Chief Deputy Jimmy Davenport. He was not far from the campsite and murder scene.

Charles was taken to the GBI Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy on Saturday. The results are pending.

This joint investigation remains active and ongoing.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Trail Head Art Gallery opens Saturday in Cedartown

Art lovers should make their way down to the Cedartown Welcome Center and Depot to discover the works of inspiration going up on display along the Silver Comet Trail.

The Trail Head Art Gallery opened with a gala event Saturday.

Planners billed the evening as an opportunity for "art and fellowship in Downtown Cedartown" and those who came could see 20 works of art put up along the Silver Comet Trail's portion near the Welcome Center in downtown Cedartown.

Artwork will remain up through July for those who didn't make it to the Saturday event.

City planners are also asking those who post photos of the artwork on social media to help spread the word by adding #TrailHeadArtGallery to posts.

Those attending should note limited parking is available at the Welcome Center, those who want to can find additional spaces behind the South Main Street Park and in the shopping area next door.



Painting history

Above: The Saturday morning Clocktower Painting Party took place in front of the tower itself and was a part of Historic Preservation Month festivities.



Above: Kitsi Kerit, communications director for the Georgia's Rome Office of Tourism, walks participants of the Clocktower Painting Party through painting the iconic Rome landmark. Left: Molly Majestic (left) and Nicola Collins work on their renditions of the Rome Clocktower.

Photos by John Popham

Operation Clean-up Hicks Drive

Photos by John Popham

Above: Joe Marzella (left) and Ed Codding of the Knights of Columbus walk along the back side of the Knott parking lot Saturday morning during Operation Clean-up Hicks Drive. Left: Home Depot employees Leticia Cruz (from left), Latisha Terrell and Alma Morales worked their way behind Home Depot and Goodwill. Volunteers from Home Depot, Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful and the Knights of Columbus walked around behind the




PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission will prepare an update to the 2014 Northwest Georgia Regional Agenda in accordance with the Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, Chapter 110-12-6. The Regional Plan update will include Regional Goals, Development Maps, Needs and Opportunities, and an Implementation Program for actions the Regional Commission and partner organizations will undertake in Northwest Georgia.

The Regional Plan update will be prepared with guidance from a Steering Committee and will provide a minimum of three public meetings across the region for input. These meetings will be advertised and open to the public. The Regional Plan update must be approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and adopted by the Northwest Georgia Regional Council by August 2019.

A joint public hearing is scheduled for the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission to present the Regional Plan update process.

The public hearing on the Regional Plan update will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Gordon County Agricultural Service Center, located at 1282 Highway 53 Spur, S.W. in Calhoun, Georgia 30701.

After the public hearing, the draft plan update will be available on the www.nwgrc.org website and will be transmitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

www.nwgrc.org/meetings-and-announcements/public-hearing-notice-nwgrc-regional-plan-update-may-30-2019



Public Hearing Notice – NWGRC Regional Plan Update – May 30, 2019

Published on May 15, 2019 in Meetings & Announcements

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has prepared a draft update to the 2014 Northwest Georgia Regional Agenda in accordance with the Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, Chapter 110-12-6. The Regional Plan update includes Regional Goals, Development Maps, Needs and Opportunities, and an Implementation Program for actions the Regional Commission and partner organizations will undertake in Northwest Georgia. The Regional Plan update was prepared with guidance from a Steering Committee and with public input via workshops and a regional survey.

A public hearing on the draft Regional Plan update will be held on Thursday May 30, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Gordon County Agricultural Service Center, located at 1282 Highway 53 Spur, S.W., Calhoun, Georgia 30701, in the **Small Conference Room**.

After the public hearing, the draft plan update will be available on the www.nwgrc.org website and will be transmitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review.

News Release

Meetings & Announcements

- NWGRC Personnel Committee – May
- NWGRC Council Meeting – May
- NWGRC Council Meeting – May
- Public Hearing Notice – May 30, 2019
- NWGRC Council Meeting – May

Recent Publications

- May 1, 2019 North Georgia Partnership Annals
- March 6th Georgia Planning and Zoning
- Polk County Joint 2027 (Amended)
- Northwest Georgia Update 2018-2022
- Whitefield County 2019-2023

Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Update 2019-2023

PUBLIC HEARING

Gordon County Agricultural Center

May 30, 2019

Please Sign IN

Name	Government or Agency	Email
Johanna Meadows	NWSEC	j.meadows@nwgrc.org

**A RESOLUTION
TO APPROVE THE NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE
(2019-2023)**

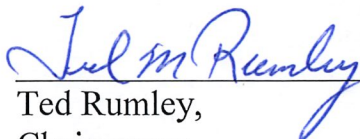
WHEREAS, the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has prepared a **Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Update (2019-2023)** as required by the Minimum Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (Effective October 1, 2017), and is preparing amendments to the Plan as required by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Plan must be approved and adopted by December 31, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the **Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Update (2019-2023)** is hereby officially approved and adopted, pending final approval of the Plan Update by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

SO RESOLVED, this 24th Day of October, 2019.



Ted Rumley,
Chairperson
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission