

**City of Calhoun
Comprehensive Plan 2006-2026**

***COMMUNITY
ASSESSMENT***

Prepared for:
City of Calhoun
Calhoun, Georgia

By:



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Project 6311-05-0068

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The primary purpose of this report is to lay the foundation for the update for the City of Calhoun Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan that is being used by the City today was adopted in 1992 as a supplement to the Gordon County Comprehensive Plan. This 1992 plan was a joint plan that included unincorporated Gordon County and local municipalities. The 2006 Calhoun Comprehensive Plan update is again being prepared in conjunction with the Gordon County 2006 Comprehensive Plan update but will be a stand-alone document rather than a supplemental piece.

The *City of Calhoun Comprehensive Plan 2006-2026* will primarily focus on the area within the City limits, although since City government provides services to some residents of the County, a review of County data in some instances will help define the existing and future demands.

The Community Assessment also serves the purpose of meeting the intent of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) "Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning," as established on May 1, 2005. Preparation in accordance with these standards is an essential requirement in maintaining the county's status as a Qualified Local Government.

1.2 Scope

The Community Assessment includes the following information, as required by the DCA Standards:

- Listing of issues and opportunities that the community wants to address
- Analysis of existing development patterns
- Analysis of consistency with the Quality Community Objectives
- Analysis of supporting data and information

The Community Assessment includes a summary of community analysis in order to provide an easy reference for stakeholders who will need to refer to the information throughout the planning process. Information referenced in Sections 2 and 3 of the report can be found in its entirety in the Analysis of Supporting Data for the Community Assessment. Figure 1-1 shows the City location in relation to Gordon County.

Figure 1-1: Location Map

2 Issues and Opportunities

2.1 Introduction

The issues and opportunities described below have been identified from a review of the *Analysis of Supporting Data*. This analysis included an examination of the state's prescribed Quality Community Objectives. The *Analysis of Supporting Data* can be found as an addendum to this report. The report organizes the issues and opportunities by the major topics defined in the State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Local Planning Requirements. The assessment topics are:

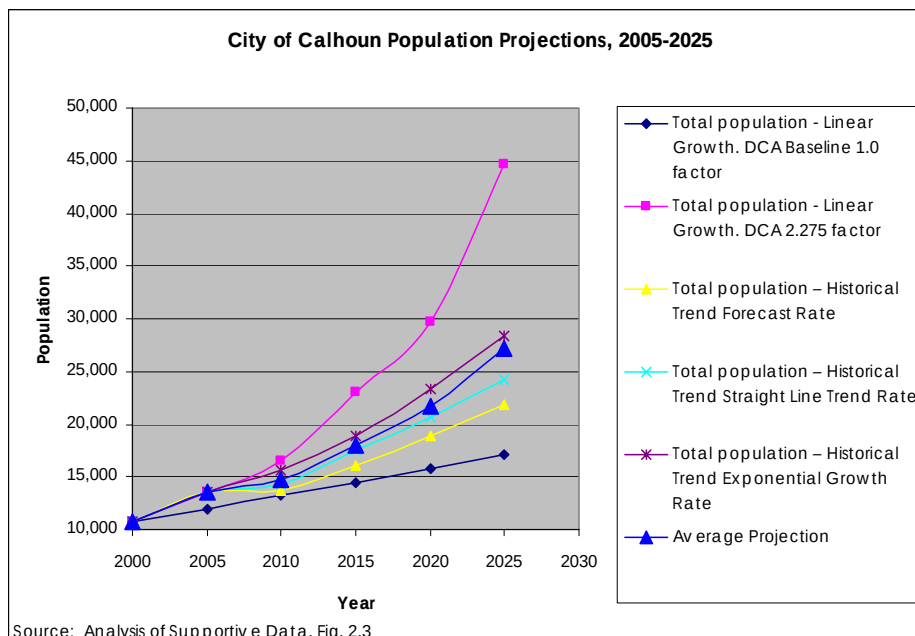
- Population
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Community Facilities and Services
- Transportation
- Intergovernmental Coordination
- Land Use

2.2 Population

2.2.1 Issues

1. Sustained Population Growth

The City of Calhoun's projected average annual growth rate between 2005 and 2025 ranges from 1.8% to 6.1%, with an average of 3.5%. The estimated population in 2005 was 13,570, and by 2025 the population is projected to increase by 100% to 27,223 (Average Projection). As can



be seen from the range of values in the population projects graph, Calhoun is somewhat unpredictable and will depend heavily on the City's future land use and growth management policies, including annexation. In particular, the availability of land to accommodate future residential growth, to attract additional industry, and to expand public services such as schools is largely

contingent on annexation due to most of the land inside the city limits being built out. Other factors influencing future growth include local housing market conditions and economic conditions in the region, the state and the nation.

2. Changing Demographics

The Hispanic segment of the population is expected to grow at a fast rate and add significantly to the population. In 2000, Hispanics comprised 17% of the population. In 2025, this segment is projected to comprise over 30% of the total population, an increase of 12,000 people. These numbers underscore the need for modified city services, in terms of both language and approach. Issues related to the increasing Hispanic population may include the need for transportation options, coordinated recreational opportunities, bilingual City information on zoning, code violations and business license applications, and continued educational services for non-English speaking students, preK-12.

2.3 Housing

2.3.1 Issues

1. Need for Workforce Housing

Local industry is located primarily in the City limits, which when combined with public sector employers, results in almost 12,000 jobs in Calhoun. This number is double the number of the working age population in the City. While 60 percent of the working age population does work in Calhoun, and the remaining majority work in unincorporated Gordon County, additional workforce housing may be needed to allow employees to live in the same community as their place of work and to accommodate future industrial and commercial growth.

2. Availability of Land

The availability of land to accommodate new housing is largely contingent on annexation and is therefore a future land use policy decision. Few opportunities for new residential development exist inside the City due to the limited availability of undeveloped land.

3. Aging Neighborhoods and Multi-Unit Housing

As neighborhoods mature, they may fall into disrepair, become attractive as rental properties, or become a target for property crimes. In addition, the Calhoun Police Department reports that crime and incidences of overcrowding have been on the rise in multi-family developments. It is important to identify these areas and promote the value of home repair, improvement and ownership, and to establish and enforce codes that address the maintenance and condition of housing and apartments.

4. Aging in Place

As the Baby Boomer population ages, it is important to identify ways to allow seniors to continue to live in Calhoun if they so choose. Issues to consider include: access to shopping and health-related services when use of a car is no longer viable in order to allow residents to otherwise live independently in their homes; the proximity of senior-oriented housing developments to convenient or centrally located areas of goods and services such as downtown; flexible zoning that facilitates Traditional Neighborhood Design (TND) principles such as integrating commercial uses (e.g. pharmacies, neighborhood grocery stores, etc.) into a residential development and allowing "in-law suites"; and affordable housing options, including subsidized housing.

2.3.2 Opportunities

1. Downtown Living

Calhoun's downtown includes numerous multiple-story commercial buildings that can be evaluated for their potential as upper story conversions to residential loft condominiums or apartments. The City's Downtown Development Authority and Main Street Partnership actively work to revitalize the downtown area, making them suitable vehicles for pursuing opportunities for residential uses above ground floor retail and office uses.

2. Annexation

Numerous residential subdivisions were annexed into the City on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis, typically at the request of the developer prior to construction of the subdivision. This pattern, in addition to proactive annexation efforts by the City, provides a means of adding housing. This is due to the fact that much of the land in Calhoun is already developed.

2.4 Economic Development

2.4.1 Issues

1. Provision of Adequate Infrastructure to Support Future Development

A potential challenge is ensuring there is adequate infrastructure, in particular roads, to support business growth. Freight access is especially important for recruiting additional industry. While the City benefits from close proximity to I-75 and numerous interchanges, there are some problem intersections that impede traffic flow.

2. Lack of a Strategic Economic Development Plan

The City lacks a strategic economic development plan. The Gordon County Chamber of Commerce and the Gordon County Development Authority provide marketing services, and the Calhoun Downtown Development Authority actively promotes downtown revitalization efforts; however, the City lacks a coordinated vision and plan, as well as dedicated staff that represents the City's economic development interests.

2.4.2 Opportunities

1. Growing Economic Base

Industrial and retail development is occurring to the south of the Central Business District (CBD). In addition, Calhoun can capitalize on the additional I-75 interchanges from Highway 53 to Highway 41.

2. Diversified Economy

One of Calhoun's advantages is its growing diversified economy. The City had a 2000 employment base of 11,912 jobs, according to the US Census. The manufacturing sector is very important to the City's economy. Retail trade, educational and health services, as well as various professional services are also key segments of the economy. Together they comprise 6,383 jobs which accounts for 54% of all jobs.

Manufacturing is the most significant basic or export-oriented industry. Although manufacturing is an industry in decline nationally, it offers potential for growth in Calhoun, particularly among firms requiring advanced technologies and an affordable, as well as highly skilled labor force. Other high-growth employment sectors are construction, professional and business services, education and health services, and entertainment and food services. These sectors offer excellent future growth potential. Maintaining a diversified economic base, while expanding the local economy, is critical to the future of the City for several reasons. A broad-based economy mitigates downward turns in the national and local economies. In addition, a variety of employment opportunities and wages create opportunities for City residents to continue to work inside the City and County.

Also, diversity in the economy will be achieved by the growing Hispanic population and the products and services that are created to support this growing segment. Furthermore, Calhoun offers several geographic advantages for economic growth and development, including its location on the Interstate 75 corridor, approximately half-way between Atlanta and Chattanooga. Calhoun's small-town lifestyle offers a high quality of life to current residents and will continue to be attractive to those looking for opportunities in Calhoun.

2.5 Natural and Cultural Resources

2.5.1 Issues

1. Greenspace and Open Space Preservation

A greenspace plan, which identifies areas for trails and greenways, has not yet been created. Presently Calhoun does not qualify for funding under the Georgia Greenspace Program, which uses population and population growth to determine grant-eligible counties. Eligible counties must have a minimum population of 60,000; 2005 estimates put the County population at just over 50,000.

2. Preservation of Historic Resources

There is a need for design guidelines in areas of redevelopment and infill, but at present the City's historic resources, districts, and sites lack local protection from demolition, inappropriate modification, or encroachment of incompatible development.

3. Water Quality Protection

The primary source of Calhoun's water is the Coosawattee River. In order to protect this source, consistent enforcement of existing erosion and sedimentation control regulations is needed, as well as revisions to development standards that would place limits on impervious surfaces and industrial waste, and adoption of the same protective ordinances that have been adopted by Gordon County. In addition, intergovernmental coordination regarding growth and land use is necessary so that new development does not jeopardize water quality.

4. Protecting Air Quality

Currently, neither the City nor the County has a specific strategy for addressing air quality. Standards that help reduce driving, promote walking and bicycling, or preserve trees and tree canopy help improve air quality. Many aspects of the existing regulatory environment promote air quality-friendly development including:

- Zoning districts that allow for mixed land uses
- Requirements for pedestrian facilities

- Conservation subdivision and tree saving standards
- Standards to limit impervious surfaces and shared parking

2.5.2 Opportunities

1. Maintaining Water Quality

There are currently no major developments from the base of Carters Lake Dam downstream to the Calhoun Water Intake located off Newtown Loop Road, which assures a high quality of “raw” water. The City is constantly engaged with regional water planning and management and should continue this high degree of involvement in order to help maintain water quality. In addition, the City can adopt protective ordinances in accordance with the state’s Rules for Environmental Criteria.

2. Active Local Preservation Programs

The creation of the Calhoun Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) in 2005 will positively impact the historic preservation efforts of downtown Calhoun. The HPC is in the process of designating a portion of the downtown area as a local historic district, which will require new development, redevelopment, proposed demolition, or exterior changes to existing buildings to be reviewed. In addition, the Calhoun Main Street Partnership, consisting of property owners, businesses and individuals committed to downtown revitalization, administers a façade grant program. Their efforts are supported by an active DDA.

3. Existing Zoning

The City’s Planned Residential District (PRD) is intended to promote natural resource protection. The zoning district permits flexibility in neighborhood design and arrangement in order to maximize open space. This zoning classification could be promoted as a way to develop land that is currently zoned for residential use but is undeveloped, and should be encouraged whenever an application for annexation is made that relates to new residential development.

2.6 Community Facilities and Services

2.6.1 Issues

1. Meeting the Service Demands of a Growing and Diverse Population

Many public services are owned and managed by the City such as fire, police, water and sewer, solid waste management and parks and recreation. To accommodate the growing Hispanic population, initiatives may be required to establish Spanish-speaking services for police, fire and other departments that interact with the public.

2. Office and Storage Space Requirements for Public and Government Services

Many, if not all, City government agencies lack sufficient space for personnel, expansion and storage. These departments will need to expand to accommodate the growing population. File storage is a major concern for administration functions.

2.6.2 Opportunities

1. Expand Water and Sewer Capacity

The City has identified future projects to expand sewer service, including large areas in unincorporated Gordon County. The City and County should work together to develop implementation strategies in accordance with comprehensive growth plans that are mutually beneficial to the municipalities and to the customers. This service provides the City with a monthly source of revenue.

2. Expand Other Utility Services

The City has the potential opportunity to expand the coverage of the phone/ internet and power services into the rural areas of the county. This could provide several other sources of revenue.

3. Infill Development

Infill development in or close to the CBD could present opportunities to consolidate or integrate complementary City government services into one development. Such opportunities could relieve the current space congestion, while keeping key services in close proximity and maintaining the CBD as viable town center.

2.7 Land Use

2.7.1 Issues

1. Development Patterns

Much of the recent development in the City over the past ten years has occurred in a typical suburban land use pattern, with single-family residential spread out north and east of the CBD in areas that previously had been used for agricultural purposes. This pattern has also resulted in haphazard growth of the city, whereby residential subdivisions or stand-alone developments have been annexed into the City on a case by case basis. The resulting city limits is a patchwork of incorporated Calhoun interspersed with pockets of unincorporated Gordon County.

2. Desired Development

Calhoun has a large job base with a significant number of workers residing in unincorporated Gordon County. However, there is limited land for accommodating new workforce housing inside the City limits. A policy decision is needed as to whether the City will continue to act as a major employment center with the bulk of workforce housing provided outside of the City limits, or if annexation is desired that will bring in additional land suitable for residential development.

3. Strip Commercial Development

Retail and employment opportunities are primarily located in a north-south direction along Highway 41 and Highway 53 through Calhoun. The land uses along some highway corridors form stereotypical commercial strips that detract from the historic rural character and local identity. Many of the strip malls are lacking visual appeal. Design guidelines should be considered for existing and new businesses.

2.7.2 Opportunities

1. Annexation

Annexation can resolve the irregularities in the City boundaries and service delivery areas and can accommodate industrial, commercial and residential growth. Identifying and prioritizing areas for annexation can support the City's vision for new growth and development.

2.8 Transportation

2.8.1 Issues

1. Traffic Congestion

Industrial development north and south of the CBD is the primary cause behind the high number of tractor trailer trucks (trucks) entering onto Highway 53 and 41 corridors from I-75. These corridors are easily congested from normal use by a growing population. Having the industrial areas so close to these arterials exacerbates an already bad situation.

2. Concentrated Traffic through the CBD

Traffic that is southbound on Highway 41 from the north end of the City must use this highway to make connections to the south, east and possibly west sides of the city. This corridor is also easily congested from normal use by a growing population.

3. Parking in the CBD

Parking in the City is provided in the form of on-street parking, two public surface lots in between Park Avenue and the Depot, a public surface lot at the Depot, and a parking deck located on Piedmont Street near the Courthouse. Recent comments suggest that the deck is undersized and leaks when it rains. Parking is especially problematic when court is in session and during downtown events. With continued commercial growth and government service expansion, additional downtown parking will be required.

4. Transportation Alternatives

Outside of the downtown area, connectivity via sidewalks is inconsistent. The Coosa Valley Regional Development Commission (CVRDC) noted that there are very few mapped sidewalks in Gordon County. Currently, there is only one bicycle route through Gordon County. It follows the "March to the Sea" route along Highway 3/41 through Calhoun. No signs currently mark this bicycle route along the highway. There are no public Park and Ride lots in the City or public bus services with the exception of three mini buses that are operated primarily to assist economically disadvantaged citizens throughout Gordon County.

2.8.2 Opportunities

1. Union Grove Road Interchange

GDOT is currently proposing to build a new interchange at Union Grove Road and I-75 to provide relief to traffic currently using Highway 53. This addition will help to decrease the number of trucks forced to use Highway 53 to access the south side industrial parks.

2. Northwest Bypass

To assist with relieving southbound traffic along Highway 41 through the CBD, consideration should be given to developing a by-pass or loop road in the northwest quadrant of the City. This development could provide alternative routes to access the south, west and east sides of the City.

3. Integrate Public Parking with Infill Development or Redevelopment

If government services continue to be located downtown, additional parking will be required. Even if improvements to sidewalk and bike path conditions occur, many people will still desire to drive to and park downtown. Opportunities for additional parking may be provided through an allotment of spaces of infill development or redeveloped sites as shared parking. In addition, continued enforcement of the existing two-hour parking limit will help curb the use of on-street parking by downtown employees, and the parking lot adjacent to the library is under utilized. More prominent signage can help direct vehicular traffic to this and other public lots.

4. Sidewalk and Bike Path Improvements

The City has an active streetscape enhancement program in its downtown, which includes the construction of new sidewalks. As infill development or redevelopment opportunities present themselves, consideration should also be given to improving sidewalk conditions and adding bicycle paths or lanes. Improvements made to these items may provide opportunities for additional parking sites outside the CBD district.

2.9 Intergovernmental Coordination

2.9.1 Issues

1. Service Delivery Conflicts

There have been many annexations that have greatly expended the City's boundaries. Within the larger expanse of the City boundaries are pockets that remain under County jurisdiction. This complicates municipal operations in many ways. For example 9-1-1 response times are jeopardized by the need to determine which jurisdiction from which the call is originating so the appropriate jurisdiction can be notified.

2. Regional Transportation Planning

To ensure that proper coordination and execution of much needed transportation improvements, City officials need to be actively involved in transportation planning activities with the County, CVRDC, Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, and Georgia Department of Transportation.

3. Regular City-County Coordination

The City and County do not regularly coordinate their land use planning activities. Considering the intertwined City and County boundaries, zoning decisions and recommended future land uses can greatly impact adjacent properties that are located in separate jurisdictions. In addition, consistent environmental regulations between the City and County will help protect shared natural resources.

2.9.2 Opportunities

1. Coordinated Comprehensive Plan Updates

Calhoun and Gordon County are undertaking concurrent plan updates. This is being done to facilitate coordination on issues related to future growth and development.

3 Existing Development Patterns

3.1 Introduction

The purpose of this analysis is to understand the development conditions and growth patterns currently occurring on the ground in the City of Calhoun. The analysis shows the further exploration of issues and opportunities related to the physical environment. The following analysis considers three aspects of the existing development patterns: existing land use, areas requiring special attention and recommended character areas.

3.2 Existing Land Use

An existing land use map displays the development on the ground categorized into groups of similar types of development at a given point in time. For purposes of this analysis, the City of Calhoun Existing Land Use Map shows current uses as of August 2006, based on tax digest information provided by the Gordon County Tax Assessor Office (see Figure 3-1). Table 3-1 provides the acreage of existing land use by land use classification.

Table 3-1: Existing Land Use Acreage

Land Use Classification	City of Calhoun	
	Acres	%
Residential	3,791	29%
Commercial	2,215	17%
Industrial	1,996	15%
Public/Institutional	444	3%
Conservation/Parks/Recreation	2,362	18%
Agriculture/Forestry	2,128	16%
Transportation/Communication/Utility	309	2%
Total	13,245	100%

Residential is the most prevalent use in the City, comprising approximately one-third of the total land area. The acreage utilized for commercial, industrial, conservation / parks / recreation and agricultural / forestry land uses is similar in size. These land uses make up between 15 and 18 percent of the total acreage inside the city limits.

Transportation Alternatives

Alternatives to transportation by automobile, including mass transit, bicycle routes, and pedestrian facilities, should be made available in each community. Greater use of alternate transportation should be encouraged.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. We have public transportation in our community.		✓	
2. We require that new development connects with existing development through a street network, not a single entry/exit.		✓	
3. We have a good network of sidewalks to allow people to walk to a variety of destinations.	✓		
4. We have a sidewalk ordinance in our community that requires all new development to provide user-friendly sidewalks.	✓		
5. We require that newly built sidewalks connect to existing sidewalks wherever possible.		✓	
6. We have a plan for bicycle routes through our community.		✓	
7. We allow commercial and retail development to share parking areas wherever possible.	✓		

Regional Identity

Each region should promote and preserve a regional "identity," or regional sense of place, defined in terms of traditional architecture, common economic linkages that bind the region together, or other shared characteristics.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. Our community is characteristic of the region in terms of architectural styles and heritage.	✓		
2. Our community is connected to the surrounding region for economic livelihood through businesses that process local agricultural products.	✓		
3. Our community encourages businesses that create products that draw on our regional heritage (mountain, agricultural, metropolitan, coastal, etc.).	✓		
4. Our community participates in the Georgia Department of Economic Development's regional tourism partnership.	✓		
5. Our community promotes tourism opportunities based on the unique characteristics of our region.	✓		
6. Our community contributes to the region, and draws from the region, as a source of local culture, commerce, entertainment and education.	✓		

Heritage Preservation

The traditional character of the community should be maintained through preserving and revitalizing historic areas of the community, encouraging new development that is compatible with the traditional features of the community, and protecting other scenic or natural features that are important to defining the community's character.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. We have designated historic districts in our community.	✓		The City is working with the Coosa Valley RDC to complete the designation process for the Downtown Historic District
2. We have an active historic preservation commission.	✓		
3. We want new development to complement our historic development, and we have ordinances in place to ensure this.	✓		

Figure 3-1: Existing Land Use

3.3 Areas Requiring Special Attention

As growth continues, there will inevitably be impacts to the existing natural and cultural environment as well as the community facilities, services and infrastructure that are required to service existing and future development. Table 3-2 outlines the locations that correspond to the Areas Requiring Special Attention categories.

Table 3-2: Areas Requiring Special Attention

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Location</i>
Areas of significant natural resources	Land adjacent to the Coosawattee River
Areas where rapid development or change of land uses is likely to occur	Edge of CBD, where there is the potential for commercial uses encroaching into historic neighborhoods
	North of the CBD, where remaining residential uses along the North Wall Street corridor may transition to the more prevalent commercial
Areas where the pace of development has and/or may outpace the availability of community facilities and services	Developments of a scale likely to impact community facilities are primarily introduced with annexation applications due to the limited availability of land in Calhoun for new development; acceptance of the annexation request is an indication that community facilities/services can adequately serve the development
Areas in need of redevelopment and/or significant improvements to aesthetics or attractiveness	Downtown Calhoun's historic storefronts exhibit a mix of traditional elements as well as treatments that are incompatible with the historic character of the area (e.g. scale of signage, types of doors and windows, shed-style canopies, façade coverings that mask the original exterior, etc.)
	Strip commercial centers and signage along Highways 41 and 53
Large abandoned structures or sites	Typical areas would be vacant industrial sites, however all square footage is currently occupied
Areas with significant infill development opportunities	Limited opportunities existing in and around the CBD. Attention should be paid to preventing the creation of new infill sites that result from the demolition of historic buildings.
Areas of significant disinvestment, levels of poverty, and/or unemployment	N/A

3.4 Recommended Character Areas

Character area planning focuses on the way an area looks and how it functions. Applying development strategies to character in the City of Calhoun can preserve existing areas and help other areas function better and become more attractive. They help guide future development through policies and implementation strategies that are tailored to each situation. The character areas recommended for the City of Calhoun, described in Table 3-3 and mapped in Figure 3-2, define areas that:

- Presently have unique or special characteristics that need to be preserved.
- Have potential to evolve into unique areas.
- Require special attention because of unique development issues.

Table 3-3: Recommended Character Area Descriptions

<i>Character Area</i>	<i>Description</i>
Historic Downtown	Though not all of the buildings are of historical significance in this roughly ten-block area of Downtown Calhoun, the structures are all key elements in defining the City's character.
Commercial	This area flanks the historic CBD to the north and south along Highways 41 and 53. Many of the strip malls and independent business structures are aging and are in need of facade improvements. These areas are part of the initial gateway approach into downtown Calhoun.
Neighborhood Mix	This is the core residential district located to the north and east of downtown. This is a heavily wooded residential area with a broad mix of new and older homes that collectively present a unique character.
Conservation Areas	These are areas of existing or potential scenic areas located around parks and creeks or rivers. They provide access to natural resources of Calhoun.
Industrial	These are areas north and south of the CBD that define the character of Calhoun prior to entering the downtown. The focus here is on visibility from major corridors and their function as job centers.

Figure 3-2: Recommended Character Area Map

4 Consistency with Quality Community Objectives

This section is intended to meet the Minimum Standards for Local Comprehensive Planning requirement that the Community Assessment include an evaluation of the community's current policies, activities and development patterns for consistency with the Quality Community Objectives contained in the State Planning Goals and Objectives. The Department of Community Affairs' Office of Planning and Quality Growth created the Quality Community Objectives Local Assessment to assist local governments in evaluating their progress towards sustainable and livable communities. The assessment is meant to give the community an idea of how it is progressing toward reaching these objectives.

The following tables function as guide for assessing the current status of Quality Community Objectives in Calhoun.

Traditional Neighborhoods			
Traditional neighborhood development patterns should be encouraged, including use of more human scale development, compact development, mixing of uses within easy walking distance of one another, and facilitating pedestrian activity.			
	Yes	No	Comments
1. If we have a zoning code, it does not separate commercial, residential and retail uses in every district.	✓		
2. Our community has ordinances in place that allow neo-traditional development "by right" so that developers do not have to go through a long variance process.	✓		
3. We have a street tree ordinance that requires new development to plant shade-bearing trees appropriate to our climate.		✓	
4. Our community has an organized tree-planting campaign in public areas that will make walking more comfortable in the summer.	✓		Part of downtown streetscape enhancements
5. We have a program to keep our public areas (commercial, retail districts, parks) clean and safe.	✓		
6. Our community maintains its sidewalks and vegetation well so that walking is an option some would choose.	✓		
7. In some areas several errands can be made on foot, if so desired.	✓		
8. Some of our children can and do walk to school safely.	✓		
9. Some of our children can and do bike to school safely.	✓		
10. Schools are located in or near neighborhoods in our community.	✓		

Infill Development

Communities should maximize the use of existing infrastructure and minimize the conversion of undeveloped land at the urban periphery by encouraging development or redevelopment of sites closer to the downtown or traditional urban core of the community.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. Our community has an inventory of vacant sites and buildings that are available for redevelopment and/or infill development.	✓		
2. Our community is actively working to promote Brownfield redevelopment.		✓	
3. Our community is actively working to promote greyfield redevelopment.		✓	
4. We have areas of our community that are planned for nodal development (compacted near intersections rather than spread along a major road).		✓	
5. Our community allows small lot development (5,000 square feet or less) for some uses.		✓	

Sense of Place

Traditional downtown areas should be maintained as the focal point of the community or, for newer areas where this is not possible, the development of activity centers that serve as community focal points should be encouraged. These community focal points should be attractive, mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly places where people choose to gather for shopping, dining, socializing, and entertainment.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. If someone dropped from the sky into our community, he or she would know immediately where he or she was, based on our distinct characteristics.	✓		
2. We have delineated the areas of our community that are important to our history and heritage, and have taken steps to protect those areas.	✓		The Calhoun Historic Preservation Commission is in the process of designating historic districts and design guidelines
3. We have ordinances to regulate the aesthetics of development in our highly visible areas.	✓		
4. We have ordinances to regulate the size and type of signage in our community.	✓		
5. We offer a development guidebook that illustrates the type of new development we want in our community.		✓	
6. If applicable, our community has a plan to protect designated farmland.			N/A

Open Space Preservation

New development should be designed to minimize the amount of land consumed, and open space should be set aside from development for use as public parks or as greenbelts/wildlife corridors. Compact development ordinances are one way of encouraging this type of open space preservation.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. Our community has a greenspace plan.		✓	
2. Our community is actively preserving greenspace, either through direct purchase or by encouraging set-asides in new development.	✓		
3. We have a local land conservation program, or we work with state or national land conservation programs, to preserve environmentally important areas in our community.		✓	
4. We have a conservation subdivision ordinance for residential development that is widely used and protects open space in perpetuity.	✓		

Environmental Protection

Environmentally sensitive areas should be protected from negative impacts of development, particularly when they are important for maintaining traditional character or quality of life of the community or region. Whenever possible, the natural terrain, drainage, and vegetation of an area should be preserved.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. Our community has a comprehensive natural resources inventory.		✓	
2. We use this resource inventory to steer development away from environmentally sensitive areas.			N/A
3. We have identified our defining natural resources and taken steps to protect them.	✓		
4. Our community has passed the necessary "Part V" environmental ordinances, and we enforce them.		✓	
5. Our community has a tree preservation ordinance which is actively enforced.	✓		
6. Our community has a tree-replanting ordinance for new development.	✓		
7. We are using stormwater best management practices for all new development.	✓		
8. We have land use measures that will protect the natural resources in our community (steep slope regulations, floodplain or marsh protection, etc.).	✓		

Growth Preparedness

Each community should identify and put in place the pre-requisites for the type of growth it seeks to achieve. These might include infrastructure (roads, water, sewer) to support new growth, appropriate training of the workforce, ordinances and regulations to manage growth as desired, or leadership capable of responding to growth opportunities and managing new growth when it occurs.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. We have population projections for the next 20 years that we refer to when making infrastructure decisions.	✓		
2. Our local governments, the local school board, and other decision-making entities use the same population projections.	✓		
3. Our elected officials understand the land-development process in our community.	✓		
4. We have reviewed our development regulations and/or zoning code recently, and believe that our ordinances will help us achieve our QCO goals.			Regulations may need some revision following the update of the plan
5. We have a Capital Improvements Program that supports current and future growth.	✓		
6. We have designated areas of our community where we would like to see growth, and these areas are based on a natural resources inventory of our community.		✓	Future growth areas relate to infrastructure availability rather than natural resources inventory
7. We have clearly understandable guidelines for new development.	✓		
8. We have a citizen-education campaign to allow all interested parties to learn about development processes in our community.		✓	
9. We have procedures in place that make it easy for the public to stay informed about land use issues, zoning decisions, and proposed new development.	✓		
10. We have a public-awareness element in our comprehensive planning process.	✓		

Appropriate Businesses

The businesses and industries encouraged to develop or expand in a community should be suitable for the community in terms of job skills required, long-term sustainability, linkages to other economic activities in the region, impact on the resources of the area, and future prospects for expansion and creation of higher-skill job opportunities.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. Our economic development organization has considered our community's strengths, assets and weaknesses, and has created a business development strategy based on them.	✓		There are several organizations: Gordon County Chamber of Commerce, Gordon County Development Authority and Calhoun Downtown Development Authority
2. Our economic development organization has considered the types of businesses already in our community, and has a plan to recruit businesses and/or industries that will be compatible.	✓		
3. We recruit firms that provide or create sustainable products.	✓		
4. We have a diverse jobs base, so that one employer leaving would not cripple our economy.	✓		

Employment Options

A range of job types should be provided in each community to meet the diverse needs of the local workforce.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. Our economic development program has an entrepreneur support program.	✓		Provided by Chamber of Commerce
2. Our community has jobs for skilled labor.	✓		
3. Our community has jobs for unskilled labor.	✓		
4. Our community has professional and managerial jobs.	✓		

Housing Choices

A range of housing size, cost, and density should be provided in each community to make it possible for all who work in the community to also live in the community (thereby reducing commuting distances), to promote a mixture of income and age groups in each community, and to provide a range of housing choice to meet market needs.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. Our community allows accessory units like garage apartments or mother-in-law units.		✓	
2. People who work in our community can also afford to live in the community.	✓		
3. Our community has enough housing for each income level (low, moderate and above-average).	✓		
4. We encourage new residential development to follow the pattern of our original town, continuing the existing street design and maintaining small setbacks.		✓	
5. We have options available for loft living, downtown living, or "neo-traditional" development.		✓	
6. We have vacant and developable land available for multifamily housing.	✓		
7. We allow multifamily housing to be developed in our community.	✓		
8. We support community development corporations that build housing for lower-income households.	✓		
9. We have housing programs that focus on households with special needs.		✓	
10. We allow small houses built on small lots (less than 5,000 square feet) in appropriate areas.		✓	

Educational Opportunities

Educational and training opportunities should be readily available in each community – to permit community residents to improve their job skills, adapt to technological advances, or to pursue entrepreneurial ambitions.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. Our community provides workforce training options for its citizens.	✓		Training opportunities available at Coosa Valley Technical College
2. Our workforce training programs provide citizens with skills for jobs that are available in our community.	✓		
3. Our community has higher education opportunities, or is close to a community that does.	✓		
4. Our community has job opportunities for college graduates, so that our children may live and work here if they choose.	✓		

Regional Solutions

Regional solutions to needs shared by more than one local jurisdiction are preferable to separate local approaches, particularly where this will result in greater efficiency and less cost to the taxpayer.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. We participate in regional economic development organizations.	✓		
2. We participate in regional environmental organizations and initiatives, especially regarding water quality and quantity issues.	✓		
3. We work with other local governments to provide or share appropriate services, such as public transit, libraries, special education, tourism, parks and recreation, emergency response, E-911, homeland security, etc.	✓		
4. Our community thinks regionally, especially in terms of issues like land use, transportation and housing, understanding that these go beyond local government borders.	✓		

Regional Cooperation

Regional cooperation should be encouraged in setting priorities, identifying shared needs, and finding collaborative solutions, particularly where it is critical to success of a venture, such as protection of shared natural resources or development of a transportation network.

	Yes	No	Comments
1. We plan jointly with our cities and county for comprehensive planning purposes.	✓		
2. We are satisfied with our Service Delivery Strategy.			Currently being evaluated
3. We initiate contact with other local governments and institutions in our region in order to find solutions to common problems, or to craft region-wide strategies.	✓		Water quality and public safety are primary issues
4. We meet regularly with neighboring jurisdictions to maintain contact, build connections, and discuss issues of regional concern.	✓		Water quality and public safety are primary issues

**City of Calhoun
Comprehensive Plan 2006-2026**

***ANALYSIS OF
SUPPORTING DATA***

Prepared for:
City of Calhoun
Calhoun, Georgia

By:



MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc.
Kennesaw, Georgia
October 18, 2006

Project 6311-05-0068

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1 Introduction

This *Analysis of Supporting Data* follows the guidelines of the Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Chapter 110-12-1, Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning, effective May 1, 2005. This section presents the full collection of analysis and supporting data to the *Community Assessment*. Maps associated with this document can be found in the “Atlas of Maps” section of the *Community Assessment*.

2 Population

2.1 Historic Population Growth

Table 2-1 and Figure 2-1 show recent population and growth trends for the City of Calhoun. According to estimates prepared by U.S Bureau of the Census, City of Calhoun had population at 13,570 residents in 2005, a 27.2% increase from the 2000 Census figure of 10,667 residents. This growth rate exceeds that of Gordon County and the state of Georgia during the same time period. The average annual growth rate from 1980 to 2000 was 3.3% and 4.9% between 2000 and 2005. These rates exceed the growth rates for both Gordon County and the state during the same periods. Table 2-2 and Figure 2-2 show a comparison of historic population growth among the City of Calhoun, cities of Gordon County and other surrounding area cities.

Table 2-1: Historic Population Growth

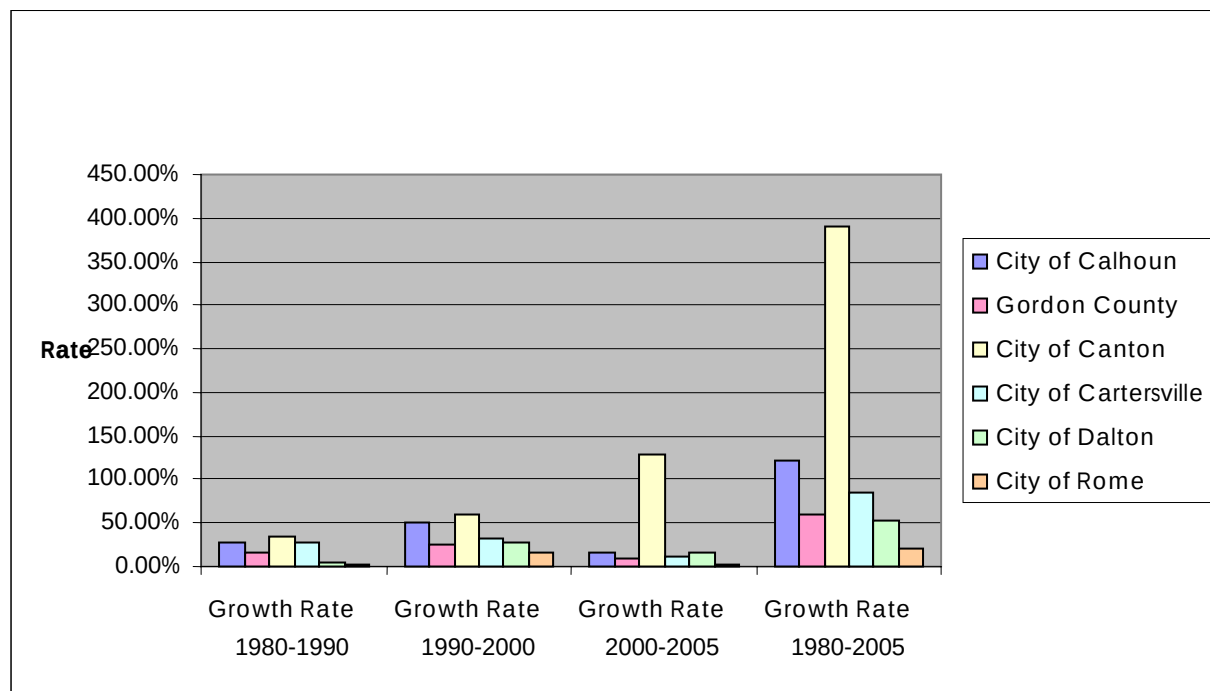
<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>% Change 1980- 1990</i>	<i>% Change 1990- 2000</i>	<i>% Change 2000- 2005</i>	<i>% Change 1980- 2005</i>	<i>1980- 2000 Annual Growth Rate</i>	<i>2000- 2005 Annual Growth Rate</i>
City of Calhoun	5,563	7,135	10,667	13,570	28.3%	49.5%	27.2%	143.9%	3.3%	4.9%
Gordon County	30,070	35,072	44,104	50,279	16.6%	25.8%	14.0%	67.2%	1.9%	2.7%
State of Georgia	5,457,566	6,478,216	8,186,453	9,072,576	18.7%	26.4%	10.8%	66.2%	2.0%	2.1%

Source: Department of Community Affairs, U.S. Census

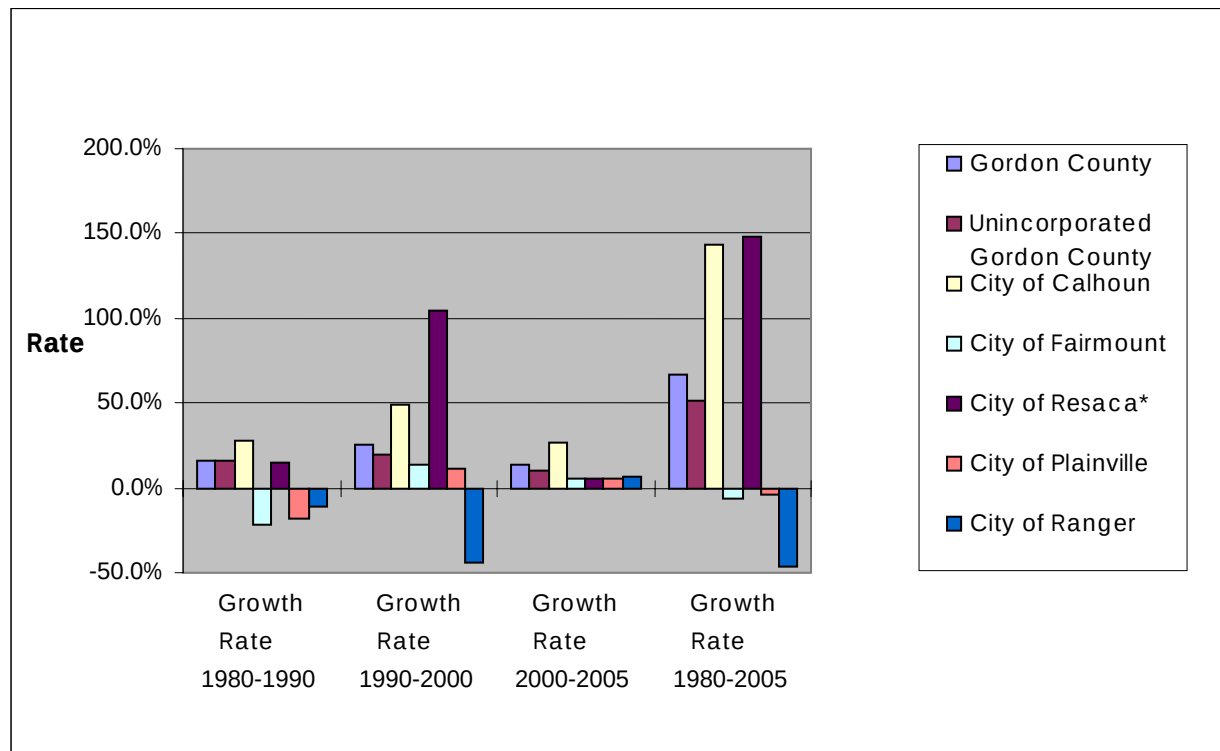
Table 2-2: Population Growth Rate Comparison

Surrounding Population Comparison					1980-1990 Growth Rate	1990-2000 Growth Rate	1980-2000 Growth Rate	2000-2005 Growth Rate	1980-2000 Average Growth Rate	2000-2005 Average Growth Rate
Category	1980	1990	2000	2005						
City of Calhoun	5,563	7,135	10,667	13,570	28.30%	49.50%	27.20%	143.90%	3.3%	4.9%
Gordon County	30,070	35,072	44,104	50,279	16.60%	25.80%	14.00%	67.20%	1.9%	2.7%
Unincorporated Gordon County	22,865	26,495	31,614	34,699	15.90%	19.30%	9.80%	51.80%	1.6%	1.9%
City of Fairmount	842	657	745	785	-22.00%	13.40%	5.40%	-6.80%	-0.6%	1.1%
City of Resaca*	348	401	821	864	15.20%	104.70%	5.20%	148.30%	4.4%	1.0%
City of Plainville	281	231	257	270	-17.80%	11.30%	5.10%	-3.90%	-0.4%	1.0%
City of Ranger	171	153	85	91	-10.50%	-44.40%	7.00%	-46.80%	-3.4%	1.3%
City of Canton	3,601	4,817	8,423	17,685	26.58%	32.32%	8.14%	81.12%	4.3%	16.0%
City of Cartersville	9,508	12,035	15,926	17,653	3.93%	28.27%	8.70%	44.90%	2.6%	2.1%
City of Dalton	20,939	21,761	28,211	32,140	2.27%	15.35%	0.92%	19.05%	1.5%	2.6%
City of Rome	29,654	30,326	35,513	35,816	26.58%	32.32%	8.14%	81.12%	0.9%	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (CPH 2-12 Table 8, Population and Housing Unit Counts for Georgia).

Figure 2-1: Growth Rate Comparison

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (CPH 2-12 Table 8, Population and Housing Unit Counts for Georgia).

Figure 2-2: Population Growth Rates of Gordon County Municipalities

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (CPH 2-12 Table 8, Population and Housing Unit Counts for Georgia).

2.2 Population Projections

It is anticipated that the City of Calhoun will continue to grow at a steady rate over the next two decades due to regional population growth trends, expansion of the local and regional economy, new housing developments and possible annexations. The exact rate is unknown. Table 2-4 and Figure 2-3 outlines six methods of projections have been used to assist in forecasting growth within the City. Method 1 provides a DCA baseline projection (factor 1.0) based on the average growth rate from 1980 to 2000. This method produces a 2025 population of 17,047 or a 42.7% increase from 2005-2025.

Method 2 provides DCA projections (factor 2.275) based on the annual growth rate from 2000-2005. This method produces a 2025 population of 44,705 which represents an increase of 229.4% during the 20 year planning period.

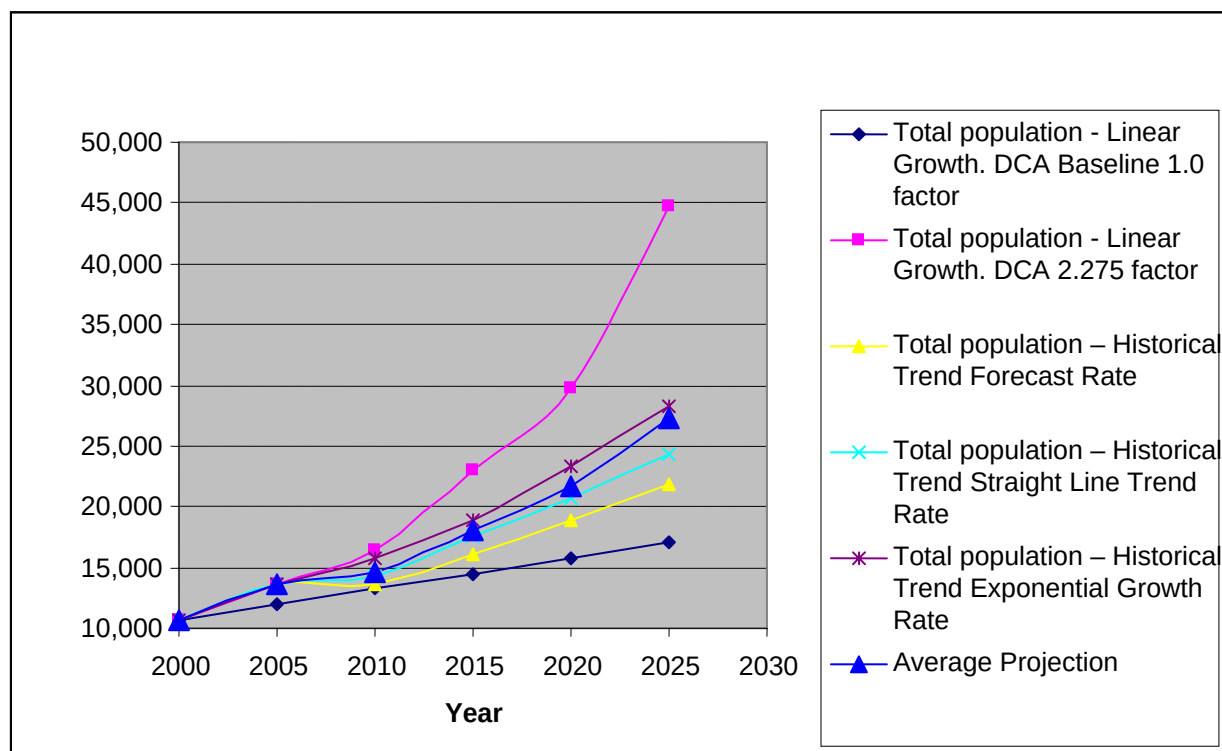
The Forecast, Straight Line Trend and Exponential Growth Projections were determined using historical population data in five year increments from 1980 to 2005. These methods produced results showing 60.6%, 78.7% and 108.6% growth rates for the 20 year period representing an increase in population ranging from 8,228 to 14,741 (Methods 3, 4 & 5).

Finally, due to the range of results of the methodology projections, an Average Projection forecast was determined in Method 6 by averaging all projections for methods 1 to 5. This Average projection returned a 20 year growth rate of 100.6% and a total population of 27,223 in 2025.

Table 2-3: Projected Population Through 2025

Calculation Method	Category	2000	2005	2010	2020	2025	% Change 2005-2025	2005-2025 Average Annual Growth Rate
1	Total population - Linear Growth. DCA 1.0 factor (Baseline)	10,667	11,943	13,219	15,771	17,047	42.70%	1.8%
2	Total population - Linear Growth. DCA 2.275 factor	10,667	13,570	16,473	29,681	44,705	229.40%	6.1%
3	Total population – Historical Trend Forecast Rate	10,667	13,570	13,701	18,818	21,798	60.60%	2.4%
4	Total population – Historical Trend Straight Line Trend Rate	10,667	13,570	14,304	20,719	24,254	78.70%	2.9%
5	Total population – Historical Trend Exponential Growth Rate	10,667	13,570	15,696	23,296	28,311	108.60%	3.7%
6	Average Projection	10,667	13,570	14,679	21,657	27,223	100.60%	3.5%

Source: Department of Community Affairs, MACTEC

Figure 2-3: Population Projections

Source: Department of Community Affairs, MACTEC

For the purpose of this *Community Assessment*, unless otherwise noted, only the DCA forecast projections will be referenced and used for all required remaining projections (using multiplier of 2.275). The projection results listed in Table 2.3 are for consideration purposes only.

The projected population increase will have the greatest impacts on the City's housing market and transportation planning. It is expected that there will be an increased demand for a variety

of housing products in the City, possibly at the low and high income levels, and housing or planned developments for “Baby-Boomers” will likely need to be considered as well. Recommendations for meeting future needs will be considered and incorporated into the housing policies included in the Community Agenda portion of the Comprehensive Plan. It is also anticipated that the increasing population will impact City services. The provision of future services will be addressed in detail in the Community Facilities section.

2.3 Daytime Population

The 2000 Census identified 4,974 Calhoun workers aged 16 and over living in Calhoun. Of these, 2,986 worked in Calhoun, while 1,988 worked outside the City. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that the daytime population for Calhoun in 2000 was 20,167 compared to a resident population of 10,667. This represents an employment-residents ratio of 1: 2.91, higher than most other cities in Georgia, but is consistent with the heavy industrial and manufacturing nature of the City.

2.4 Household Size

Table 2-4 shows that the City of Calhoun had an average household size relative to the state in 2000, taking into account both owner and renter occupied units. Owner occupied households in Calhoun averaged 2.56 persons, while renter households averaged 2.51 persons per unit. The overall average household size for all housing units was 2.53. The average size of homeowner and renter occupied households was at or slightly below the state average.

Table 2-4: Average Household Size Comparison: 2000

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>City of Calhoun</i>	<i>Gordon County</i>	<i>Georgia</i>
All Occupied Housing Units	2.53	2.70	2.65
Owner Occupied Housing Units	2.56	2.73	2.71
Renter Occupied Housing Units	2.51	2.64	2.51

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (SF3, Table H18)

2.5 Age Distribution of Current and Future Population

The population increase in the City has been greatest in the 5-44 age groups. Between 1990 and 2000, a 56.5% population increase was observed in the 0-4 age groups. For all age groups the increase in population occurred within a range from 46% to 57% which surpasses the Gordon County and state averages during the same period. During the ten year period from 1990 to 2000, the 0-4 and 25-44 age groups improved their share of the population as other age groups have lost share. More detail is shown in Table 2-5.

Table 2-5: Population by Age Range

Location	Age Range	1990		2000		90-'00 Percentage Change	Trend '90-'00
Calhoun	0 - 4	494	6.9%	773	7.2%	56.5%	4.7%
	5-24	2,056	28.8%	3,009	28.2%	46.4%	-2.1%
	25 - 44	2,167	30.4%	3,302	31.0%	52.4%	1.9%
	45 - 64	1,444	20.2%	2,145	20.1%	48.5%	-0.6%
	65+	974	13.7%	1438	13.5%	47.6%	-1.2%
Gordon County	0 - 4	2,507	7.1%	3,167	7.2%	26.3%	0.5%
	5-24	10,670	30.4%	12,515	28.4%	17.3%	-6.7%
	25 - 44	11,076	31.6%	13,841	31.4%	25.0%	-0.6%
	45 - 64	7,073	20.2%	9,907	22.5%	40.1%	11.4%
	65+	3,746	10.7%	4,674	10.6%	24.8%	-0.8%
State of Georgia	0 - 4	495,535	7.6%	595,150	7.3%	20.1%	-5.0%
	5-24	1,970,352	30.4%	2,411,816	29.5%	22.4%	-3.1%
	25 - 44	2,190,594	33.8%	2,652,764	32.4%	21.1%	-4.2%
	45 - 64	1,167,465	18.0%	1,741,448	21.3%	49.2%	18.0%
	65+	654,270	10.1%	785,275	9.6%	20.0%	-5.0%

Source: Department of Community Affairs

Table 2-6 and Table 2-7 show the historic and projected age distribution of the population of City of Calhoun. There are no sudden shifts in the age distribution of the City's population expected during the planning period. The age groups that currently make up the largest percentage of the population will continue to do so in 2025; those age groups include 0-13, 25-34, 35-44, and those 65 and older. It should also be noted that the "baby boomer" cohort will likely gain a larger share of the population than notated on Table 2.7b as annual census estimates become available.

Table 2-6: City Population by Age¹

Category	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2020	2025	2005-2025 % change
0 – 4 Years Old	371	494	773	1,002	1,230	2,271	3,454	244.7%
5 – 13 Years Old	795	926	1,391	1,730	2,069	3,611	5,366	210.2%
14 – 17 Years Old	417	333	422	425	428	441	455	7.1%
18 – 20 Years Old	251	339	515	665	815	1,498	2,276	242.3%
21 – 24 Years Old	368	458	681	859	1,037	1,847	2,768	222.2%
25 – 34 Years Old	766	1,164	1,720	2,263	2,805	5,274	8,082	257.1%
35 – 44 Years Old	649	1,003	1,582	2,113	2,643	5,058	7,804	269.3%
45 – 54 Years Old	570	804	1,220	1,590	1,959	3,641	5,555	249.4%
55 – 64 Years Old	560	640	925	1,133	1,340	2,285	3,359	196.5%
65 and over	816	974	1,438	1,792	2,146	3,755	5,586	211.7%
Totals	5563	7135	10667	13572	16472	29681	44705	229.4%

Source: Department of Community Affairs (2.275 multiplier)

Table 2-7: Age Cohorts as Percentage of Population

Category	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2020	2025
0 – 4 Years Old	6.7%	6.9%	7.2%	7.4%	7.5%	7.7%	7.7%
5 – 13 Years Old	14.3%	13.0%	13.0%	12.7%	12.6%	12.2%	12.0%
14 – 17 Years Old	7.5%	4.7%	4.0%	3.1%	2.6%	1.5%	1.0%
18 – 20 Years Old	4.5%	4.8%	4.8%	4.9%	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%
21 – 24 Years Old	6.6%	6.4%	6.4%	6.3%	6.3%	6.2%	6.2%
25 – 34 Years Old	13.8%	16.3%	16.1%	16.7%	17.0%	17.8%	18.1%
35 – 44 Years Old	11.7%	14.1%	14.8%	15.6%	16.0%	17.0%	17.5%
45 – 54 Years Old	10.2%	11.3%	11.4%	11.7%	11.9%	12.3%	12.4%
55 – 64 Years Old	10.1%	9.0%	8.7%	8.3%	8.1%	7.7%	7.5%
65 and over	14.7%	13.7%	13.5%	13.2%	13.0%	12.7%	12.5%

Source: Department of Community Affairs

The existing and continued concentration of population in child and parent or “family-age” cohorts presents a continued need for programs and services that support families, including education. Additionally, as almost all populations are projected to increase 196% to 269% between 2005 and 2025, there will be a need to continually evaluate how to best serve the growing population with regard to services and community facilities.

Analysis of Calhoun’s population age cohorts by total and by share of total population reveals two conclusions. One is that Calhoun appears to attract young couples who move to Calhoun and have children based on the traditional child bearing age of cohort groups 25-44 having a direct and proportional correspondence to the 0-13 age cohorts. However, the numbers and percentages of the 25-44 and 0-13 age cohorts do not carry over into the next higher tier of age brackets. A second conclusion reached is that once the children reach late middle school and high school age the families have been and are expected to continue to leave Calhoun.

¹ The projections are based on the average rate of change in each age group from 1980 to 2000

However, this contradicts the growth seen in the school system, therefore, continued monitoring of the population and age cohorts is required.

2.6 Race and Ethnicity

2.6.1 Racial and Ethnic Makeup

The historic racial distribution trends of the City of Calhoun show both African American and White residents making up the largest segments of the population, but progressively smaller portions of the population from 1980 through 2025. Asian/Pacific Islander residents and “Other” (presumably largely Latino) populations are forecast to increase rapidly, from a combined total of 34 residents in 1980 to over 11,000 residents in 2025. Since 1980, the White share of the population in Calhoun has been fluctuating moderately, leading to a shift from 85% of the population in 1980 to 78% in 2000 and a projected 72% of the population in 2025 as other racial and ethnic groups gain in population at much faster rates (See Tables 2-8, 2-9 and 2-10).

Table 2-8: Racial and Hispanic Ethnic Composition

Category	1980	1990	2000	As % of Population		
				1980	1990	2000
White alone	4,752	6,370	8,311	85.4%	89.3%	77.9%
African American alone	775	670	806	13.9%	9.4%	7.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2	13	45	0.04%	0.2%	0.4%
Asian or Pacific Islander	22	73	122	0.4%	1.0%	1.1%
Other race	12	9	1,383	0.2%	0.1%	13.0%
Total Population	5,563	7,135	10,667	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Persons of Hispanic origin	32	39	1,821	0.58%	0.55%	17.1%

Source: Department of Community Affairs

Table 2-9: Race and Ethnicity Comparison to Surrounding Municipalities

Category	Calhoun		Gordon County		City of Cartersville		City of Dalton		City of Rome	
White alone	8,311	77.9%	39,797	89.7%	12,187	76.1%	18,468	57.2%	22,081	62.0%
African American alone	806	7.6%	1,541	3.5%	2,714	16.6%	2,153	6.9%	9,677	27.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	45	0.4%	124	0.28%	44	0.3%	123	0.5%	135	0.4%
Asian or Pacific Islander	122	1.1%	264	0.59%	138	1.0%	493	2.3%	552	1.7%
Other race	1,383	13.0%	2,644	6.0%	842	6.0%	6,675	33.1%	2,535	8.2%
Total	10,667	100.0%	44,370	100.0%	15,925	100.0%	27,912	100.0%	34,980	100.0%
Persons of Hispanic origin	1,821	17.1%	3,268	7.4%	1,160	8.2%	11,219	55.6%	3,620	11.6%

Source: Department of Community Affairs

Table 2-10: Racial and Hispanic Ethnic Projections

Category	2000		2005		2010		2020		2025	
White alone	8,471	78.0%	10,335	76.2%	12,359	75.0%	21,569	72.7%	32,046	71.7%
Black or African American alone	814	7.5%	824	6.1%	841	5.1%	921	3.1%	1,013	2.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	53	0.5%	69	0.5%	94	0.6%	205	0.7%	332	0.7%
Asian or Pacific Islander	133	1.2%	179	1.3%	236	1.4%	495	1.7%	789	1.8%
Other race	1,396	12.8%	2,163	15.9%	2,943	17.9%	6,490	21.9%	10,526	23.5%
Total	10,867	100.0%	13,570	100.0%	16,473	100.0%	29,680	100.0%	44,706	100.0%
Hispanic origin	1,821	16.8%	2,838	20.9%	3,856	23.4%	8,486	28.6%	13,752	30.8%

Source: Department of Community Affairs (2.275 multiplier)

2.7 Income

2.7.1 Sources of Household Income

Sources of household income indicate Calhoun residents achieve a level of activity in the labor force slightly below the County and state levels. The City of Calhoun recorded a percentage of social security income (26%) that is higher than the state as a whole (Table 2-11). The rate of public assistance in City of Calhoun is lower than the state average, but slightly higher than the County level.

Table 2-11: Comparison of Sources of Household Income

Sources of Household Income in 1999	Households in Calhoun	Percentage of Calhoun Households	Percentage of Gordon County Households	Percentage of Georgia Households
With Earnings	3,085	77.8%	84.4%	83.8%
With Social Security Income	1,064	26.8%	24.6%	21.9%
With Supplemental Security Income	202	5.1%	4.5%	4.5%
With Public Assistance	96	2.4%	1.6%	2.9%
With Retirement Income	566	14.3%	12.3%	14.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (SF3 Tables P58, P62, P63, P64, P65)

2.7.2 Median Household Income

Median household income for the City in 2000 remained well below the state and national median incomes, as shown in Table 2-12. In addition, the median income was trending backwards at a rate well below the state and national averages. Median household income (1990 adjusted) grew negatively (-2.7%) between 1990 and 2000, compared to an 11% (adjusted) increase in Georgia and a national increase of 6% (adjusted).

Table 2-12: Median Household Income

	City of Calhoun	Georgia	United States
Median Household Income 1990	\$26,209	\$29,021	\$30,056
Adjusted Median Household Income 1990* ²	\$34,543	\$38,235	\$39,605
Median Household Income 2000	\$33,618	\$42,433	\$41,994
Percentage Change (Using adjusted 1990 dollars).	-2.7%	11.0%	6.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (SF3 Table P53, 1990 Census SF3 Table P080A)

Table 2-13: Household Income Distribution

Category	1990		2000		% Change 1990-2000
Total	2,853	100%	3,967	100%	
Income less than \$9999	616	21.6%	564	14.2%	-8.4%
Income \$10000 - \$14999	234	8.2%	308	7.8%	31.6%
Income \$15000 - \$19999	264	9.3%	293	7.4%	11.0%
Income \$20000 - \$29999	491	17.2%	635	16.0%	29.3%
Income \$30000 - \$34999	260	9.1%	236	5.9%	-9.2%
Income \$35000 - \$39999	207	7.3%	187	4.7%	-9.7%
Income \$40000 - \$49999	254	8.9%	458	11.5%	80.3%
Income \$50000 - \$59999	166	5.8%	304	7.7%	83.1%
Income \$60000 - \$74999	152	5.3%	351	8.8%	130.9%
Income \$75000 - \$99999	114	4.0%	305	7.7%	167.5%
Income \$100000 - \$124999	33	1.2%	121	3.1%	266.7%
Income \$125000 - \$149999	15	0.5%	67	1.7%	346.7%
Income \$150000 and above	47	1.6%	138	3.5%	193.6%

Source: Department of Community Affairs

2.7.3 Per Capita Income

Table 2-14 illustrates per capita income in real and adjusted dollars for Calhoun, compared to Gordon County and the state. Calhoun's per capita adjusted income is historically marginally better than the County as a whole, but below state levels for 1980 to 2000.

² 1990 adjusted dollars for inflation calculation provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor website.

Table 2-14: Per Capita Income

Area	Per Capita Income			Per Capita Income Rate of Change		
	1980	1990	2000	1980-1990	1990-2000	1980-2000
Actual Dollars						
City of Calhoun	\$6,223	\$13,446	\$19,887	116.1%	47.9%	219.6%
Gordon County	\$5,569	\$11,587	\$17,586	108.1%	51.8%	215.8%
State of Georgia	\$6,402	\$13,631	\$21,154	112.9%	55.2%	230.4%
Adjustment to 2000 Dollars³						
City of Calhoun	\$13,006	17,722	\$19,887	36.3%	12.2%	52.9%
Gordon County	\$11,639	\$15,272	\$17,586	31.2%	15.2%	51.1%
State of Georgia	\$13,379	\$17,958	\$21,154	34.2%	17.8%	58.1%

Source: Department of Community Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division.

2.7.4 Wages

Wage information was unavailable at the city level. Gordon County wage information is presented in Table 2-15 and is presumed to be representative of wages earned by those working in Calhoun. In 2005, the lowest average weekly wage occurs in the Arts, Entertainment and Food Service category at \$217 per week while the highest wage earners can be found in the Information industries with an average wage of \$793 per week. The industry suffering the greatest loss in wages appears to be Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities with -9.0% while Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing achieved the greatest increase at 50.4%.

The average wage increase between 2000 and 2005 for industries with positive growth is 31.3% in the Gordon County and 21.4% in the state. This equates to 4.2% and 2.7% average annual growth rate, respectively.

³ 1990 dollars adjusted to 2000 dollars. Calculation provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor website.

Table 2-15: Weekly Wage

Industry	2000			2005			2000-2005 % Change	
	Gordon County	State of Georgia	% Difference State vs. Gordon County	Gordon County	State of Georgia	% Difference State vs. Gordon County	Gordon County	State of Georgia
Average Employed Civilian Population Wage	\$501	\$658	31.30%	\$572	\$752	31.50%	14.20%	14.30%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Mining	\$409	\$474	15.90%	\$615	\$432	-29.80%	50.40%	-8.90%
Construction	\$518	\$655	26.40%	\$595	\$739	24.20%	14.90%	12.80%
Manufacturing	\$564	\$721	27.80%	\$703	\$798	13.50%	24.60%	10.70%
Wholesale Trade	\$694	\$988	42.40%	\$691	\$1,084	56.90%	-0.40%	9.70%
Retail Trade	\$275	\$350	27.30%	\$413	\$464	12.30%	50.20%	32.60%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	\$666	\$949	42.50%	\$606	\$870	43.60%	-9.00%	-8.30%
Information	NA	NA	NA	\$793	\$1,180	NA	100.00%	100.00%
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	\$567	\$967	70.50%	\$634	\$1,094	72.60%	11.80%	13.10%
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services	\$333	\$776	133.00%	\$305	\$905	196.70%	-8.40%	16.60%
Educational, Health and Social Services	\$524	\$633	20.80%	\$629	\$744	18.30%	20.00%	17.50%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services	\$236	\$430	82.20%	\$217	\$306	41.00%	-8.10%	-28.80%
Other Services	\$425	\$511	20.20%	\$476	\$518	8.80%	12.00%	1.40%
Public Administration	\$520	\$608	16.90%	\$597	\$711	19.10%	14.80%	16.90%

Source: Georgia Department of Labor, MACTEC

2.8 Education

2.8.1 Educational Attainment

As shown in Table 2-16, Calhoun residents generally possess slightly higher, but comparable, education levels to residents of Gordon County and the state. Calhoun maintains a lower percentage of residents with Bachelor degrees than the state but more than Gordon County. The City maintains a lower percentage of residents with some college, but no degree, than surrounding cities, the County and the state. Tables 2-17 provide educational attainment comparisons to the County, state and other municipalities.

Table 2-16: Educational Attainment

Category	1980 % of Pop. Age 25+	1990 % of Pop. Age 25+	2000 % of Pop. Age 25+	2005 % of Pop Age 25+	Trend 1980- 2005
Less than 9th Grade	30.0%	17.4%	16.4%	15.7%	-47.7%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	22.8%	17.5%	16.8%	17.1%	-25.0%
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	23.8%	28.4%	29.4%	31.8%	33.6%
Some College (No Degree)	11.8%	16.6%	16.3%	17.8%	50.8%
Associate Degree	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bachelor's Degree	6.2%	9.8%	9.2%	10.1%	62.9%
Graduate or Professional Degree	5.4%	6.7%	7.0%	7.6%	40.7%

Source: Department of Community Affairs, U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

Table 2-17: Educational Attainment in Surrounding Municipalities

Category	Percent of Total Population Age 25+ (2000)					
	Calhoun	Gordon County	Rome	Cartersville	Canton	State of Georgia
Less than 9th Grade	16.4%	13.3%	14.3%	11.2%	19.8%	7.5%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	16.8%	20.6%	17.4%	15.6%	13.9%	13.7%
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	29.4%	34.3%	28.8%	27.2%	23.5%	28.4%
Some College (No Degree)	16.3%	17.2%	16.8%	19.6%	22.5%	20.2%
Associate Degree	NA	0.0%	3.6%	3.6%	3.8%	5.1%
Bachelor's Degree	9.2%	6.5%	11.0%	15.4%	11.6%	15.8%
Graduate or Professional Degree	7.0%	4.0%	8.1%	7.4%	4.9%	8.2%

Source: Department of Community Affairs, U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3)

2.9 Poverty

The poverty rate for Calhoun increased over the course of the 1990's, shown in Table 2-18, from 14.2% to 18.3%, a total increase of 78.8%. In 2000, Calhoun's poverty rate was higher than the state and national averages. There has also been a sharp increase in the raw number of residents in poverty as the overall population has grown. The causes for persistent increase of the raw number of residents in poverty may be linked to job skills, low wages or reduced income, insufficient affordable housing, or language barriers. Table 2-19 shows the federal guidelines for defining impoverished households.

Table 2-18: Poverty Rate - Individuals and Families

	City of Calhoun	Gordon County (Includes Calhoun)	Georgia	United States
1990 Poverty Count	405	1,641	351,496	11,697,722
1990 Poverty Rate	14.2%	12.8%	14.8%	12.7%
2000 Poverty Count	724	1,712	380,242	12,404,237
2000 Poverty Rate	18.3%	10.6%	12.6%	11.8%
Percentage Change '90-'00	78.8%	4.3%	8.2%	6.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000 Census SF3 Table P92, 1990 Census SF3 Table P127)

Table 2-19: 2005 Federal guidelines for Defining Impoverished Households

Persons in Family Unit	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$9,570
2	\$12,830
3	\$16,090
4	\$19,350
5	\$22,610
6	\$25,870
7	\$29,130
8	\$32,390
For each additional person, add	\$3,260

Source: *Federal Register*, Vol. 70, No. 33, February 18, 2005, pp. 8373-8375

3 Economic Development

3.1 Economic Base and Trends

The information collected for this analysis came from a variety of sources, including the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Department of Labor. The term “employment” describes people who work in the City without regard of their place of residence, whereas the term “labor force” describes residents of the City that work without regard for the location of their place of work. The majority of Calhoun’s labor force is employed inside the City, and a large segment of Calhoun’s employment base lives inside the City. For those residents who work outside Calhoun, a vast majority are employed somewhere in Gordon County.

Table 3-1 illustrates the percentage makeup by category of the overall labor market for 1980 to 2000. The total change is given in the forth column of the datasets. This percentage illustrates the change in employment of the category for the given time period. As the City has grown, so have opportunities for employment. All classifications have experienced growth in the 20 year period from 1980-2000. Growth rates have ranged from 13% to 928%. The industries experiencing the highest growth rates are *Professional and Management Services*, *Construction*, and *Arts and Entertainment Services*. This trend is consistent with Gordon County and state data.

Table 3-2 demonstrates the trends in percentage share for the economic categories. Though more jobs have been added across all categories, the product related industries have lost share whereas all but two services industries, *Finance and Real Estate* and *Public Administration*, have gained share in the market. *Professional and Management Services* have gained the most percentage share with 363% growth, however, this industry only comprised 13% of the total economic market in 2000. This trend is generally consistent with County and state trends. The decline of market share in the services industries are also consistent with trends found at the County and state levels.

Table 3-3 illustrates projected trends in the various economic categories. Generally, the product- oriented industries are expected to continue to lose market share despite jobs being added. Service industries are expected to continue to take market share from the product oriented industries. The largest share increases could continue in the *Professional and Management* and *Arts and Entertainment* categories. The largest share loss in the services industries may occur in the *Wholesale Trade* and *Transportation and Warehousing* industries.

Table 3-1: Historical Employment by Industry

Category	Calhoun				Gordon County				State of Georgia			
	1980	1990	2000	% Change From '80-'00	1980	1990	2000	% Change From '80-'00	1980	1990	2000	% Change from '90-'00
Total Employed Civilian Population	2,364	3,458	5,046	113.50%	13,232	17,439	22,451	69.70%	NA	3,090,276	3,839,756	24.30%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Mining	26	13	59	126.90%	474	569	438	-7.60%	NA	82,537	53,201	-35.50%
Construction	40	196	313	682.50%	625	1,102	1,721	175.40%	NA	214,359	304,710	42.10%
Manufacturing	1,027	1,495	1,910	86.00%	6,576	8,078	8,847	34.50%	NA	585,423	568,830	-2.80%
Wholesale Trade	80	111	91	13.80%	336	439	674	100.60%	NA	156,838	148,026	-5.60%
Retail Trade	359	481	667	85.80%	1,797	2,378	2,829	57.40%	NA	508,861	459,548	-9.70%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	105	173	153	45.70%	673	1,009	1,065	58.20%	NA	263,419	231,304	-12.20%
Information	NA	NA	83	100.00%	NA	NA	369	100.00%	NA	NA	135,496	100.00%
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	142	116	183	28.90%	371	389	613	65.20%	NA	201,422	251,240	24.70%
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative and Waste Management Services	25	67	257	928.00%	263	358	890	238.40%	NA	151,096	362,414	139.90%
Educational, Health and Social services	296	408	665	124.70%	1,074	1,724	2,575	139.80%	NA	461,307	675,593	46.50%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food services	90	27	334	271.10%	325	109	1,066	228.00%	NA	31,911	274,437	760.00%
Other Services	72	232	187	159.70%	270	865	786	191.10%	NA	266,053	181,829	-31.70%
Public Administration	102	139	144	41.20%	448	419	578	29.00%	NA	167,050	193,128	15.60%

Source: Department of Community Affairs

Table 3-2: Historical Employment Share by Industry

Category	Calhoun				Gordon County				State of Georgia			
	1980	1990	2000	% Change from '80-'00	1980	1990	2000	% Change from '80-'00	1980	1990	2000	% Change from '90-'00
Total Employed Civilian Population	100%	100%	100%	-----	100%	100%	100%	-----	NA	100%	100%	-----
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Mining	1.1%	0.4%	1.2%	9.10%	3.6%	3.3%	2.0%	-44.40%	NA	2.7%	1.4%	-48.10%
Construction	1.7%	5.7%	6.2%	264.7%	4.7%	6.3%	7.7%	63.8%	NA	6.9%	7.9%	14.5%
Manufacturing	43.4%	43.2%	37.9%	-12.7%	49.7%	46.3%	39.4%	-20.7%	NA	18.9%	14.8%	-21.7%
Wholesale Trade	3.4%	3.2%	1.8%	-47.1%	2.5%	2.5%	3.0%	20.0%	NA	5.1%	3.9%	-23.5%
Retail Trade	15.2%	13.9%	13.2%	-13.2%	13.6%	13.6%	12.6%	-7.4%	NA	16.5%	12.0%	-27.3%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	4.4%	5.0%	3.0%	-31.8%	5.1%	5.8%	4.7%	-7.8%	NA	8.5%	6.0%	-29.4%
Information	NA	NA	1.6%	1.6%	NA	NA	1.6%	1.6%	NA	0.0%	3.5%	3.5%
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	6.0%	3.4%	3.6%	-40.0%	2.8%	2.2%	2.7%	-3.6%	NA	6.5%	6.5%	0.0%
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative and Waste Management Services	1.1%	1.9%	5.1%	363.6%	2.0%	2.1%	4.0%	100.0%	NA	4.9%	9.4%	91.8%
Educational, Health and Social services	12.5%	11.8%	13.2%	5.6%	8.1%	9.9%	11.5%	42.0%	NA	14.9%	17.6%	18.1%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food services	3.8%	0.8%	6.6%	73.7%	2.5%	0.6%	4.7%	88.0%	NA	1.0%	7.10%	610.0%
Other Services	3.0%	6.7%	3.7%	23.3%	2.0%	5.0%	3.5%	75.0%	NA	8.6%	4.7%	-45.3%
Public Administration	4.3%	4.0%	2.9%	-32.6%	3.4%	2.4%	2.6%	-23.5%	NA	5.4%	5.0%	-7.4%

Source: Department of Community Affairs

Table 3-3: Employment Projections by Industry

Category	2000		2005		2010		2020		2025		Trend 2000-2025
Total Employed Civilian Population	5,046	100.0%	6,571	100.0%	8,097	100.0%	15,037	100.0%	22,932	100.0%	-----
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Mining	59	1.2%	78	1.2%	97	1.2%	182	1.2%	279	1.2%	4.1%
Construction	313	6.2%	468	7.1%	624	7.7%	1,330	8.8%	2,134	9.3%	50.0%
Manufacturing	1,910	37.9%	2,412	36.7%	2,914	36.0%	5,199	34.6%	7,799	34.0%	-10.2%
Wholesale Trade	91	1.8%	97	1.5%	104	1.3%	132	0.9%	164	0.7%	-60.3%
Retail Trade	667	13.2%	842	12.8%	1,017	12.6%	1,814	12.1%	2,721	11.9%	-10.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	153	3.0%	180	2.7%	208	2.6%	332	2.2%	473	2.1%	-32.0%
Information	83	1.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	183	3.6%	206	3.1%	230	2.8%	336	2.2%	456	2.0%	-45.2%
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative and Waste Management Services	257	5.1%	389	5.9%	521	6.4%	1,121	7.5%	1,804	7.9%	54.5%
Educational, Health and Social services	665	13.2%	875	13.3%	1,085	13.4%	2,040	13.6%	3,126	13.6%	3.4%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food services	334	6.6%	473	7.2%	612	7.6%	1,243	8.3%	1,961	8.6%	29.2%
Other Services	187	3.7%	252	3.8%	318	3.9%	615	4.1%	954	4.2%	12.3%
Public Administration	144	2.9%	168	2.6%	192	2.4%	300	2.0%	424	1.8%	-35.2%

Source: Department of Community Affairs (2.275 Multiplier)

Please note that in 2001 changes were made to the method in which industries or job sectors were grouped. This may account for some of the large shifts in the data from 2000 to 2005. Also, *Utility and Management* data were classified as private and therefore unavailable from the Georgia Department of Labor. Therefore, the weekly average wages for these sector groupings may be skewed.

3.2 Employment to Population Comparison

Table 3-4 illustrates the number of jobs available for the population and labor force. In 1980, there were jobs for 43.8% of the population. Labor force data was not available. In 2000, the percentage increased to 111.7% or 226.1% of the labor force. As of 2000, these percentages were much higher than for Gordon County. This table indicates that there are more jobs in Calhoun than there are available people to contribute to the local workforce.

Table 3-4: Employment by Location

Jobs to Population Comparison		1980	1990	2000
Calhoun				
Total Employed		2,435	5,163	11,912
Total Population		5,563	7,135	10,667
Total Labor Force		NA	3,670	5,269
% of jobs/Population		43.8%	72.4%	111.7%
% of jobs/ Labor Force		NA	140.7%	226.1%
Gordon County				
Total Employed		13,232	17,439	22,451
Total Population		30,070	35,072	44,104
Total labor Force		NA	18,505	23,282
% of jobs/ Population		44.0%	49.7%	50.9%
% of jobs/ Labor Force		NA	94.2%	96.4%
Gordon County with Calhoun Stats Removed				
Total Employed		10,797	12,276	10,539
Total Population		24,507	27,937	33,437
Total labor Force		NA	14,835	18,013
% of jobs/ Population		44.1%	43.9%	31.5%
% of jobs/ Labor Force		NA	82.8%	58.5%

Source: Department of Community Affairs

3.3 Economic Base

3.3.1 Employment

The annual average number of jobs in Gordon County for the years 2000 through the end of 2004 fell more significantly than that of the state and nation, as shown in Table 3-5. Numbers for the City were not available for that time period, but should be expected to be similar. The City had 5,046 jobs in 2000, an increase of 45.6% from 1990.

Table 3-5: Number of Employees

Year	City of Calhoun	Gordon County	State of Georgia	United States
1980	2,364	13,232	NA	NA
1990	3,458	17,439	6,180,552	108,603,565
2000	5,046	22,451	7,486,384	129,877,063
2004	NA	21,321	3,840,663	129,278,176
% Change 1980-1990	46.3%	31.8%	NA	NA
% Change 1990-2000	45.6%	28.7%	21.1%	19.6%
% Change 2000-2004	NA	-5.0%	-1.9%	-0.5%
% Change 1980-2000	113.5%	69.7%	NA	NA

Source: Department of Community Affairs

3.4 Labor Force

3.4.1 Labor Force Participation

Calhoun has a comparable percentage of the population in the labor force compared to the County and the state of Georgia. The unemployment rate in 2000 was 4.2%, compared to a rate of 5.4% in Georgia. Gordon County's unemployment rate was lower by 23% at 3.4%. Calhoun's unemployed labor force comprised only 21.3% of the overall unemployed in Gordon County.

Table 3-6 breaks down the percentage of the labor force by gender and by civilian and military function. The percentage of males in the labor force is slightly ahead of the females by an average of five to eleven percentage points at the City, County and state levels for 1990 and 2000. Calhoun and Gordon County are comparable to the state percentages in terms of overall males and females employed.

Table 3-6: Labor Force Participation

Category	City of Calhoun		Gordon County		State of Georgia	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Total Population	7,135	10,667	35,072	44,104	6,478,216	8,186,453
Total Males and Females	5,638	8,217	26,862	33,869	4,938,381	6,250,687
In Labor Force	3,670	5,269	18,505	23,282	3,351,513	4,129,666
Labor Force as % of Pop.	51.4%	49.4%	52.8%	52.8%	51.7%	50.4%
Females in Labor Force	1,744	2,415	8,320	10,340	1,547,461	1,912,651
% Females in Labor Force	47.5%	45.8%	45.0%	44.4%	46.2%	46.3%
Males in Labor Force	1,926	2,854	10,185	12,942	1,804,052	2,217,015
% Males in Labor Force	52.5%	54.2%	55.0%	55.6%	53.8%	53.7%
Civilian Labor Force	3,670	5,266	18,470	23,254	3,278,378	4,062,808
Civilian Employed	3,458	5,046	17,439	22,451	3,090,276	3,839,756
Civilian Unemployed	212	220	1,031	803	188,102	223,052
Females Unemployed	124	125	483	339	98,509	115,400
% Females Unemployed	58.5%	56.8%	46.8%	42.2%	52.4%	51.7%
Males Unemployed	88	95	548	464	89,593	107,652
% Males Unemployed	41.5%	43.2%	53.2%	57.8%	47.6%	48.3%
Unemployment rate	5.8%	4.2%	5.6%	3.4%	5.6%	5.4%
In Armed Forces	0	3	35	28	73,135	66,858
Total Not in Labor Force	1,968	2,948	8,357	10,587	1,586,868	2,121,021

Source: Department of Community Affairs

3.4.2 Unemployment

As shown in Table 3-7, Calhoun's 1990 unemployment rates of 5.7% was greater than the state average, but significantly less than that for Gordon County. As the economy improved during the 1990's, Calhoun's unemployment rate improved to 4.2% in 2000. The County and state maintained a slightly lower rate than Calhoun in 2000.

Table 3-7: Unemployment

		1980	1990	2000	2005
City of Calhoun	Labor Force	NA	3,670	5,266	NA
	Unemployment Rate	NA	5.7%	4.2%	NA
Gordon County	Labor Force	14,745	18,470	23,254	NA
	Unemployment Rate	10.1%	7.3%	3.3%	4.9%
State of Georgia	Unemployment Rate	NA	5.5%	3.5%	**4.8%

Source: Department of Community Affairs

3.4.3 Personal Income

As shown in Table 3-8, Calhoun residents receive the majority of their aggregate income (approximately 84%) from wages or salaries. This is a slightly higher percentage than that for Gordon County as a whole, perhaps due to the lower percentage of income in Calhoun from interest and self employment than in Gordon County. Calhoun receives a slightly higher portion of its aggregate income from social security and public assistance than the County as a whole.

Table 3-8: Personal Income Sources

Category	Calhoun				Gordon County			
	1990	1990 % of Total	2000	2000 % of Total	1990	% of Total Income 1990	2000	% of Total Income 2000
Total income	94,604,440	100.00%	203,950,600	100.00%	402,906,160	100.00%	770,711,800	100.00%
Aggregate wage or salary income for households	71,793,636	75.90%	153,149,500	75.10%	325,333,151	80.70%	609,164,200	79.00%
Aggregate other types of income for households	1,473,772	1.60%	1,900,600	0.90%	5,404,300	1.30%	11,560,500	1.50%
Aggregate self employment income for households	5,069,933	5.40%	7,614,400	3.70%	22,130,870	5.50%	45,752,900	5.90%
Aggregate interest, dividends, or net rental income	5,957,356	6.30%	20,840,400	10.20%	16,249,924	4.00%	36,051,900	4.70%
Aggregate social security income for households	6,170,658	6.50%	10,231,600	5.00%	20,911,975	5.20%	39,066,600	5.10%
Aggregate public assistance income for households	632,945	0.70%	1,225,400	0.60%	2,752,632	0.70%	4,332,800	0.60%
Aggregate retirement income for households	3,506,140	3.70%	8,988,700	4.40%	10,123,308	2.50%	24,782,900	3.20%

Source: Department of Community Affairs

3.4.4 Commuting Patterns

Table 3-9 shows the place of work for the labor force of Calhoun. The majority of Calhoun residents in the labor force work inside the City limits (60%). Of all Calhoun residents, 77% worked in Gordon County as of the 2000 U.S. Census.

Table 3-9: Place of Work for Workers 16 and Over

City of Calhoun: Labor Force by Place of Work		
Category	1990	2000
Total population	7,135	10,667
Total labor force	3,400	4,974
Worked in Calhoun	2,265	2,986
Worked outside of Calhoun	1,135	1,988
Worked in Gordon County	2,855	3,839
Worked outside Gordon County	514	1,079
Worked outside of state of residence	31	56

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000 SF3 Table P26, P27, 1990 STF-3 Table P045, P046)

3.5 Economic Resources

Many economic resources are available to Calhoun's residents, businesses and potential businesses. Listed below are the key economic organizations:

- Gordon County Chamber of Commerce
- Industrial Development Authority
- Calhoun Business Association
- Downtown Development Association
- Main Street Partnership

3.6 Major Employers

Collectively, the textile manufacturing companies provide the majority of the jobs in Calhoun and Gordon County. The City School System is also a major part of the economic engine in the County. As the population increases more jobs should come available within the school systems to meet the education demands. Respectively, if industrial and manufacturing businesses locate within the County this will also fuel employment in most other job sectors previously mentioned. Table 3-10 lists the major employers.

Table 3-10: Major Employers in the City and County

Private Employers	
Mohawk Industries	3,000
Shaw Industries	1,750
Gordon Hospital	600
Mannington	592
Beaulieu	386
Kobelco Construction Machinery American, LLC	350
Springs Global US Inc	360
Apache Mills	320
North American Container Group	200
Royal Floor Mats	150
Public Employers	
County Schools	985
City Schools	450
County Government	341
City Government	325
Department of Human Resources	85
Postal Service	50
Department of Natural Resources	49
Department of Transportation	43
State Patrol	10
Georgia Bureau of Investigation	12

Source: Gordon County Chamber of Commerce, 2005

4 Housing

4.1 Housing Types and Trends

4.1.1 Housing Types and Mix

Tables 4-1 and 4-2 provide information on the current (2000) and the historic mix of housing types in Calhoun, as well as the occupancy characteristics of the City's housing market. Table 4-1 illustrates the type of households and category share of the total households. Single-family detached units dominate the market with 58.6% of all housing types. This percentage is lower than that of Gordon County and the state due to the City providing more multi-unit housing. Apartments containing 50 or more units have increased 251% between 1980 and 2000.

Table 4-1: Housing Types

Category	1980		1990		2000		Trend '80-'00	% Change '80-'90	% Change '90-'00	% Change '80-'00
TOTAL Housing Units	2,197	100.0%	3,109	100.0%	4,208	100.0%	0.0%	41.5%	35.3%	91.5%
Single Units (detached)	1,496	68.1%	1,981	63.7%	2,466	58.6%	-13.9%	32.4%	24.5%	64.8%
Single Units (attached)	95	4.3%	85	2.7%	103	2.4%	-43.4%	-10.5%	21.2%	8.4%
Double Units	72	3.3%	163	5.2%	235	5.6%	70.4%	126.4%	44.2%	226.4%
3 to 9 Units	245	11.2%	522	16.8%	715	17.0%	52.4%	113.1%	37.0%	191.8%
10 to 19 Units	155	7.1%	261	8.4%	329	7.8%	10.8%	68.4%	26.1%	112.3%
20 to 49 Units	84	3.8%	1	0.0%	163	3.9%	1.3%	-98.8%	16200.0%	94.0%
50 or more Units	26	1.2%	0	0.0%	175	4.2%	251.4%	-100.0%	100.0%	573.1%

Source: Department of Community Affairs

Table 4-2: Percentage Change of Total Housing Types in Surrounding Counties

Type of Unit	1990		2000	
	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied
One family, detached	77.4%	22.6%	76.0%	24.0%
One family, attached	0.00%	100.0%	45.6%	54.4%
Multiple family	2.8%	97.2%	6.3%	93.8%
Mobile Home or other	38.1%	61.9%	63.6%	36.4%
Total	53.8%	46.3%	48.5%	51.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000 Census SF3 Table H32, 1990 Census SF3 Table H22)

Approximately 99.9% of housing units in the City were occupied in 2000. The housing stock numbered 4,208 compared to 3,109 and 2,197 in 1990 and 1980 respectively. This change constitutes a 91.5% increase in housing over the 20 year period. Seventy-six percent of the homes were owner occupied in 1990 and 2000. Only 24% were renter occupied for the same periods.

4.1.2 Age and Condition of Housing

As of 2000, 85% of the City's housing stock was built prior to 1995 (Table 4-3). A comparison of data from 1990 and 2000 shows that new housing construction in City of Calhoun progressed at a healthy rate during the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's, with approximately 63% of the housing stock present in 2000 built during this 28 year period from 1970 to 1998. This represents an annual housing growth rate of 1.9% per year.

Table 4-3: Age of Housing

Total: 2000	4,208	100.00%	Total: 1990	3,109	100.00%
Built 1999 to March 2000	111	2.6%	Built 1989 to March 1990	125	4.0%
Built 1995 to 1998	497	11.8%	Built 1985 to 1988	331	10.7%
Built 1990 to 1994	428	10.2%	Built 1980 to 1984	403	13.0%
Built 1980 to 1989	894	21.3%	-----	-----	-----
Built 1970 to 1979	796	18.9%	Built 1970 to 1979	726	23.4%
Built 1960 to 1969	491	11.7%	Built 1960 to 1969	596	19.2%
Built 1950 to 1959	477	11.3%	Built 1950 to 1959	443	14.3%
Built 1940 to 1949	230	5.5%	Built 1940 to 1949	241	7.8%
Built 1939 or earlier	284	6.8%	Built 1939 or earlier	244	7.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000 Census SF3 Table H34, 1990 Census SF3 Table H025)

The number of housing units lacking complete plumbing and kitchen facilities is a typical measure for substandard housing conditions. In 1990, six housing units lacked plumbing facilities and only 15 units lacked complete kitchen facilities. By 2000, these numbers increased to 20 and 39, respectively. As shown in Table 4-4, it is common for a small percentage of the housing units in the State of Georgia to lack plumbing or kitchen facilities. The condition of housing in Calhoun, based on these measures, is still better than the state average.

Table 4-4: Condition of Housing

Plumbing and Kitchen Facilities, 1990 – 2000; City and State Comparisons			
Housing Unit Characteristic	City of Calhoun	Gordon County	State of Georgia
1990			
Total housing units	3,109	13,777	-----
Complete plumbing facilities	3,103	13,658	-----
Lacking plumbing facilities	6	119	-----
Lacking plumbing facilities as a percentage	0.19%	0.86%	0.90%
Complete kitchen facilities	3,094	13,696	-----
Lacking complete kitchen facilities	15	81	-----
Lacking complete kitchen facilities as a percentage	0.48%	0.59%	1.00%
2000			
Total housing units	4,208	17,145	-----
Complete plumbing facilities	4,188	17,016	-----
Lacking plumbing facilities	20	129	-----
Lacking plumbing facilities as a percentage	0.48%	0.75%	0.90%
Complete kitchen facilities	4,169	16,984	-----
Lacking complete kitchen facilities	39	161	-----
Lacking complete kitchen facilities as a percentage	0.93%	0.94%	0.90%

Source: Department of Community Affairs

4.2 Overcrowding

As shown in Table 4-5, overcrowding is another factor used to determine the adequacy of housing conditions. The U.S. Census defines an over crowded housing unit as one having 1.01 or more persons per room, and severely overcrowded persons is defined as 1.51 or more persons per room. In 2000, Calhoun had a marginally lower rate of overcrowding than Gordon County or Georgia as a whole. The renter-occupied housing percentage was marginally higher than the County and the state.

Table 4-5: Overcrowded Housing Units by Tenure

Occupants Per Room	City of Calhoun		Gordon County		State of Georgia	
	Owner Occupied Housing Units	Renter Occupied Housing Units	Owner Occupied Housing Units	Renter Occupied Housing Units	Owner Occupied Housing Units	Renter Occupied Housing Units
1.01 to 1.50 occupants per room (overcrowded)	1.30%	6.84%	1.94%	6.50%	1.72%	5.48%
1.51 or more occupants per room (severely overcrowded)	0.98%	6.40%	0.50%	4.57%	0.73%	4.29%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (SF3 Table H20)

4.3 Housing Cost

4.3.1 Median Property Values and Rent

The median property value in the City increased 18% (adjusted) between 1990 and 2000, as shown in Table 4-6. In comparison, median property values increased 19.3% (adjusted) at the state level. A comparison of the median values shows that as of 2000, the Calhoun's median property value was 12.9% lower than the state median value. Similarly, the 2000 median rent was approximately 23.6% lower than that of the state as a whole.

Table 4-6: Comparison of Housing Costs

Category	1990	1990 Adjusted Dollars ⁴	2000	% Change using 1990 Real Dollars	% Change using 1990 Adjusted Dollars
City of Calhoun					
Median property value	\$62,200	\$81,980	\$96,900	55.80%	18.20%
Median rent	\$331	\$436	\$491	48.30%	12.50%
Gordon County					
Median property value	\$52,300	\$68,931	\$83,600	59.90%	21.30%
Median rent	\$350	\$461	\$486	38.90%	5.40%
State of Georgia					
Median property value	\$70,700	\$93,183	\$111,200	57.30%	19.30%
Median rent	\$433	\$571	\$613	41.60%	7.40%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3) 1990 Tables H043A, H061A and 2000 Tables H63 and H76

4.4 Cost Burden

The U.S. Bureau of the Census defines “cost burdened” as paying more than 30% of income for housing and “severely cost burdened” as paying more than 50% of income for housing. Analyzing the extent of cost burdened households in a community helps to identify the need for affordable housing and other supportive programs for low-income households. Table 4-7 Calhoun residents paid a slightly lower percentage of their income for housing than the state. Homeowners in the City paid a slightly higher percentage of their income for housing when compared to Gordon County. Percentages of both renters and homeowners who were cost burdened or severely cost burdened were significantly lower for Calhoun than for the state and marginally higher than the County.

⁴ 1990 dollars adjusted for inflation to 2000 dollars. Inflation calculator provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor website.

Table 4-7: Comparison of Cost Burden by Tenure

<i>Housing Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in 1999</i>	<i>Specified Owner-Occupied Housing Units</i>	<i>Specified Renter-Occupied Housing Units</i>
Calhoun		
Less than 30% (not cost burdened)	82.4%	63.3%
30% to 49% (cost burdened)	10.6%	19.2%
50% or more (severely cost burdened)	6.7%	13.6%
Median selected monthly housing costs as a percentage of household income in 1999	17.7%	23.4%
Gordon County		
Less than 30% (not cost burdened)	83.1%	61.8%
30% to 49% (cost burdened)	10.3%	16.4%
50% or more (severely cost burdened)	5.9%	10.7%
Median selected monthly housing costs as a percentage of household income in 1999	16.5%	22.0%
State of Georgia		
Less than 30% (not cost burdened)	67.8%	47.4%
30% to 49% (cost burdened)	24.2%	36.7%
50% or more (severely cost burdened)	8.0%	16.0%
Median selected monthly housing costs as a percentage of household income in 1999	19.4%	25.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000 SF3 Tables H69, H70, H94 and H95)

Table 4-8 shows the correspondence between income and affordable housing. The table lists the appropriate housing prices based on income and the 30% ratio for non-cost burdened homes.

Table 4-8: Correlation of Household Income to Housing Prices

<i>Annual Household Income</i>	<i>Maximum Annual Income</i>	<i>Maximum Monthly Income for Housing (30%)</i>	<i>95% LTV⁵ Equivalent House Price⁶</i>	<i>80% LTV Equivalent House Price⁷</i>
Less than \$15,000	\$15,000	\$375	\$57,000	\$70,480
\$15,000-24,999	\$25,000	\$625	\$95,000	\$117,400
\$25,000-\$34,999	\$35,000	\$875	\$133,000	\$164,500
\$35,000-\$49,999	\$50,000	\$1,250	\$190,000	\$234,850
\$50,000-\$74,999	\$75,000	\$1,875	\$285,000	\$352,200
\$75,000-\$99,999	\$100,000	\$2,500	\$380,000	\$469,600
\$100,000-\$149,999	\$150,000	\$3,750	\$570,000	\$704,500
\$150,000-\$249,999	\$250,000	\$6,250	\$950,000	\$1,174,250
\$250,000-\$499,999	\$500,000	\$12,500	\$1,900,000	\$2,348,500
\$500,000 or more	NA	NA	NA	NA
Median Household Income				
1990	\$26,209	\$655	\$99,560	\$123,140
2000	\$33,618	\$840	\$127,680	\$157,920

Source: Department of Community Affairs

4.5 Job Housing Balance

An ideal community would provide housing in close proximity to its labor force, affording transportation choice (e.g. walking, biking, driving, public transit, etc.). “Bedroom community” suburbs often develop without such balance and require the labor force to commute by car, resulting in congestion and other quality of life challenges. Governments can use two jobs-housing balance ratios to monitor their community’s ability to achieve a balance of jobs and housing: **employment (jobs)/housing unit ratio** and **employment/labor force (employed residents) ratio**. According to the *Jobs-Housing Balance Community Choices Quality Growth Toolkit* prepared by the Atlanta Regional Commission, an employment to housing ratio of between 1.3 and 1.7 implies an ideal balance with 1.5 as the standard target. An employment to labor force ratio of between 0.8 and 1.25 implies a balance, with 1:1 as the standard target.

Table 4-9 shows the employment to housing ratio and the employment to labor force ratio for Calhoun. The 2000 employment to housing ratio of 1:1.2 falls just short of the target range of 1.3 to 1.7, and the employment to labor force ratio of 1:1.0 falls within the range of 0.8 to 1.25. These ratios support the premise that Calhoun has sufficient population to support additional jobs, but may require additional housing units to accommodate the workforce. However, it is likely that the demand for housing is being met elsewhere in Gordon County.

⁵ LTV is Loan to Value

⁶ Based on 9.5% loan at 7% interest for 30 years

⁷ Based on an 80% loan at 7% interest for 30 years

Table 4-9: Jobs-Housing Balance

Category	1980	1990	2000
Population	5,563	7,135	10,667
Average Household Size	2.62	2.44	2.53
Number of Households	2,078	2,880	4,049
Housing Units	2,197	3,109	4,208
Labor Force	NA	3,670	5,269
Employment (jobs)	2,364	3,458	5,046
Employment/Population Ratio	1: 0.4	1: 0.5	1: 0.5
Employment/Housing Unit Ratio	1: 1.1	1: 1.2	1: 1.2
Employment/Labor Force Ratio	NA	1: 0.9	1: 1.0

Source: U.S Census, Department of Community Affairs

4.6 Special Housing Needs

Currently, there are no measures in place within City government to address certain housing needs as they pertain to the elderly, homeless, victims of domestic violence, people with disabilities or AIDS or for people recovering from drug abuse. There are projected needs for senior housing that will be addressed in the Community Agenda.

4.7 Calhoun Housing Authority

The Calhoun Housing Authority (CHA) provides low income housing needs to individuals and families. Established in 1952, the Authority provides housing opportunities for those 62 and older, disabled, or families within certain income limits, which change annually. The CHA has maintained a 97% occupancy rate since 1996. Table 4-10 shows the CHA properties.

Table 4-10: CHA Housing Developments and Quantity of Units

Housing Development	Location	Date Built	No. of units
Cologa Homes	Edmond Circle	1952	44
Wylie McDaniel	Neal/McConnell Road	1952	24
Hillhouse Homes	Hillhouse Street	1962	24
Alexander Homes	Harkins/ Martin Luther King	1962	24
James Keene Homes	Hillhouse St. and Oothcalooga St.	1972	50
C.M. Jones Homes	McConnell and Pine Street	1972	34
A. Hastings Scoggins	Edwards Avenue	1982	10
T.L. Shanahan Homes	Golden Circle	1982	40
Total Units			250

Source: Calhoun Housing Authority

Income limits change annually and the Housing Authority has maintained a 97% occupancy rate since 1996, as shown in Table 4-11.

Table 4-11: CHA Income Limits

No. of people per unit	Annual Income Limit
1 person	\$28,550
2 people	\$32,650
3 people	\$36,700
4 people	\$40,800
5 people	\$44,050
6 people	\$47,350
7 people	\$50,600

Source: Calhoun Housing Authority

As shown in Table 4-12, the residents of the CHA-administered housing developments are predominantly White, and the largest segments of the resident population are children and seniors.

Table 4-12: CHA Resident Demographics by Race and Ethnicity

Category	No. of Residents	%
Total Residents	478	100.0%
White alone	354	74.1%
Black or African American alone	99	20.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1	0.2%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	24	5.0%
Persons of Hispanic origin	27	5.6%

Source: Calhoun Housing Authority

Table 4-13: CHA Resident Demographics by Sex and Age

Age Cohort	Total Age Cohort	Age Cohort as %	Male	Female
0-17	171	35.8%	87	84
18-24	23	4.8%	7	16
25-34	42	8.8%	10	32
35-44	44	9.2%	14	30
45-54	39	8.2%	16	23
55-64	54	11.3%	16	38
65+	105	22.0%	26	79
Totals	478	100.0%	176	302

Source: Calhoun Housing Authority

When renting from the CHA applicants have two choices. Applicants may choose either a flat fee-based rent or a formula-based rent (see Table 4-14). The formula-based rental cost is determined by calculating 30% of the gross monthly income less a \$400 deduction for the senior citizen adjustment and/or less \$480 for each child. Other adjustments are made for expenses such as medical expenses and child care if applicable. Deposits for the formula-based rent are the same as the flat-based rent.

Table 4-14: CHA Cost of Housing

Flat Rent		Security Deposit	
No. of Bedrooms	Cost	Seniors	Family
0	\$250	\$60	\$200
1	\$273	\$60	\$200
2	\$337	\$60	\$250
3	\$431	\$0	\$250
4	\$500	\$0	\$250

Source: Calhoun Housing Authority

Currently, all units meet the minimum local, state and federal housing codes and statutes. Additional landscaping work is required to improve the aesthetic appearance of the developments; however funding is unavailable. Work items contained in the CHA's Five Year Action Plan include basic maintenance and repair of units and appliances. Capital expenses include the installation of security cameras, computer upgrades and vinyl fencing.

Issues related to growth involving residents of the Calhoun Housing Authority include the lack of public transportation in regards to mobility and access to employment. The requests for handicap accessible senior units have increased. Also, sewer replacement is needed in many of the older developments.

5 Natural and Cultural Resources

5.1 Environmental Planning Criteria

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division requires counties and municipalities to adopt local regulations protecting five environmental resources. The five resources are: 1. Water Supply Watersheds 2. Groundwater Recharge Areas 3. Wetlands 4. River Corridors 5. Mountains. The sections below provide a brief analysis of Calhoun's regulations relating to these resources in addition to an inventory of their locations.

5.1.1 Water Supply Watersheds

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 12-2-8 and the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division's Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, Chapter 391-3-16, the City of Calhoun has not yet adopted specific guidelines under the *City of Calhoun Code of Ordinances* (2003). However, Section 46-113, *Environment- Specific Requirements*, of the *City of Calhoun Code of Ordinances* (2003) addresses minimum buffer requirements along rivers and streams for land disturbance activities. This chapter references the use of Best Management Practices contained in the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia published by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Water Supply Watersheds for the City of Calhoun are shown in Figure 5-1 located in the Atlas of Maps.

5.1.2 Protection of Groundwater Recharge Areas

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 12-2-8 and the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division's Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, Chapter 391-3-16.02, Criteria for Protection of Groundwater Recharge Areas, the City of Calhoun has not yet adopted specific guidelines under the *City of Calhoun Code of Ordinances* (2003).

There are three categories of recharge areas: high, average, or low recharge rates. The majority of the current City limits lie within an area of high groundwater recharge, which is generally oriented north and south. Groundwater Recharge Areas are shown in Figure 5-1 located in the Atlas of Maps.

5.1.3 Wetlands Protection

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 12-2-8 and the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division's Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, Chapter 391-3-16.03, Criteria for Wetlands Protection, the City of Calhoun has not yet adopted specific guidelines under the *City of Calhoun Code of Ordinances* (2003).

The generalized wetland map is intended to be used as reference only for wetland delineation as the wetland boundaries are only approximations. Wetland specific information is required with site development. Upon review the City may determine that wetlands may be present and that the Corp of Engineers should be notified under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act provides a federal permit process that may allow activities in wetlands after a public interest review. The state criteria do not specify regulations to be adopted, but they require wetlands to be identified and protected. Wetlands in the City are shown in Figure 5-2 located in the Atlas of Maps.

5.1.4 River Corridor Protection

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 12-2-8 and the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division's Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, Chapter 391-3-16.02, Criteria for Protection of Groundwater Recharge Areas, the City of Calhoun has not yet adopted specific guidelines under the *City of Calhoun Code of Ordinances* (2003). Protected river corridors are shown in Figure 5-1 located in the Atlas of Maps.

River Corridors are strips of land that flank major rivers in Georgia. These corridors are of vital importance to Georgia in that they help to preserve those qualities that make a river suitable as a wildlife habitat, a site for recreation and a source for drinking water. Natural vegetative buffers are required by the DNR.

Major river corridors designated as protective rivers in Gordon County are the Conasauga, the Coosawattee, and the Oostanaula Rivers. These three rivers are also protected by County-adopted regulations that address water supply watersheds, groundwater recharge areas, and wetlands. There are numerous secondary creeks and streams throughout the City, such as Oothacalooga Creek, that are important corridors for recreation, scenic vistas, and wildlife passages. Identifying and adopting development specific ordinances for these smaller corridors should be considered.

5.1.5 Mountain Protection

Mountain protection applies to land areas with an elevation of 2,200 or more, and with slopes of 25% or more, including ridges and crests. Generally, such areas are found mostly within national forest lands. The City of Calhoun contains no mountains that meet the height and slope criteria for Mountain Protection.

5.2 Other Environmentally Sensitive Areas

5.2.1 Public Water Supply Sources

Primary water sources are the Conasauga, Coosawattee, and the Oostanaula rivers. Additional technical information is contained in Section 6.1, *Water Supply and Treatment*.

5.2.2 Steep Slopes

Significant portions of eastern and western Gordon County contain steep slopes. Figure 5-3 located in the Atlas of Maps shows the steep slopes in the County. These areas are primarily located in the Talking Rock WMA and the Chattahoochee National Forest, respectively. Per the *City of Calhoun Code of Ordinances* (2003), section 46-88, par. c5, defines steep slopes as slopes in excess of 8%. Development on slopes greater than 16% is difficult to construct and may have negative visual and environmental impacts. A ridge line running from Brogdon Hill south to Peters Street is over three miles long and over 800 feet in elevation. Portions of this ridge line have slopes in excess of 16%, and are mostly developed for residential land use.

5.2.3 Flood Plains

Flooding is the temporary covering of soil with water from overflowing streams and by runoff from adjacent slopes. Water standing for short periods after rainfalls is not considered flooding, nor is water in swamps. Feasibility of rated in general terms which describe the frequency and duration of floods and the time of year when flooding is most likely to occur.

Floodplains in their natural or relatively undisturbed state are important water resources areas. They serve three major purposes: natural water storage and conveyance, water quality maintenance, and groundwater recharge. Unsuitable development can destroy their value. For example, any fill material placed in the floodplain eliminates essential water storage capacity causing water elevation to rise and resulting in the flooding of previously dry land.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has identified and mapped the areas of Calhoun prone to flooding in order to establish actuarial flood insurance rates and promote a sound flood plains management plan. These areas are shown in Figure 5-4 located in the Atlas of Maps. Flood plains within the City limits are primarily located along Oothacalooga Creek and its tributaries and along Oostanaula River, particularly in the area of the SR 136 spur.

5.2.4 Soils

Soil is the product of parent material (underlying geology), topography, climate, plant and animal life, and time. The nature of the soil at any given place depends on the combination of these five factors. Each factor acts on the soil and each modifies the effect of the other four. Because of this interaction the soil types in an area provide a good indication of topography (slope), erosion patterns, the presence and depth of rock, and the presence of water, as in wetland or floodplain areas. Soil types are also useful in estimating runoff from precipitation, which is essential in developing stormwater management programs. Table 5-1 lists the soil associations for Gordon County. Soil types that are found in Gordon County are listed in Table 5-2. Figure 5-5 located in the Atlas of Maps shows the location of each soil.

Table 5-1: Soils Associations

Soil Association	Map Unit Identification (MUID)
NELLA-GORGAS-HARTSELLS	GA003
FULLERTON-SHACK-CHEWACLA	GA006
SHACK-FULLERTON-BODINE	GA007
ETOWAH-FULLERTON-ROME	GA009
TOWNLEY-FULLERTON-MONTEVALLO	GA010
MONTEVALLO-TOWNLEY-TIDINGS	GA011
ETOWAH-WHITWELL-CHEWACLA	GA012
SALUDA-EDNEYTOWN-EVARD	GA015
TALLADEGA-TALLAPOOSA-WICKHAM	GA018
WATER	GAW

Source: Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture

Table 5-2: Soil Types, Descriptions and Slopes

Soil Type	Description	Slope
Bodine	Very Stony Silt Loam. Very deep, somewhat excessively drained, gravelly soils. Weathered from cherty limestone.	5-70%
Chewacla	Very deep, poorly drained, found in flood plains.	0-2%
Edneytown	Fine Loam, deep-well drained, forested.	2-95%
Etowah	Loam, very deep, well drained, moderately permeable soils on high stream terraces, alluvial fans and foot slopes.	2-10%
Evard	Very deep, well drained, moderately permeable, ridges, weathered, high grade, metamorphic rocks.	2-95%
Fullerton	Cherty, silty loam. Well drained, found on stream terrace.	2-60%
Gorgas	Sandy loam, wooded area.	0-8%
Hartsells	Fine, sandy loam. Found in Pasture.	2-10%
Montevallo	Shaley or slatey, silty loam.	2-10% / 25-85%
Nella	Dry, well drained. Limestone, shale, sandstone.	2-60%
Rome	Cherty, silty loam. Well drained, found on stream terrace.	0-6%
Saluda	Shallow, well drained, mod permeable.	8-90%
Shack	Moderate, deep, well drained.	2-25%
Talladega	Silty loam, forested. Shallow to mod deep.	6-80%
Tallapoosa	Shallow, well drained Mod permeable, scheist.	5-80%
Tidings	Deep, well drained, mod permeable uplands.	2-70%
Townley	Moderate, deep, well drained , permeable, upland ridge tops, shale or sandstone.	2-45%
Wickham	Deep, well drained, moderately permeable, found on stream terraces.	0-25%

Source: Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture

The soils in Calhoun are generally red in color and, with the exception of those found in floodplain areas, are well drained. These soils were formed primarily from metamorphic and igneous rocks and range in texture from stony, gravelly and sandy barns to clay barns. Much of the original topsoil has been eroded away, leaving red clay subsoil exposed in many areas. Soils of the uplands that have slopes of less than 15% are generally thicker and have more distinct horizons than more strongly sloping soils. Soils with slopes of 15 to 40% are subject to geologic erosion which removes soil material almost as fast as it forms.

5.2.5 Plant and Animal Habitats

Georgia Ecological Services-Athens, Brunswick, Columbus-a Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services maintains an inventory of plants and animals, which are rare enough to warrant state and federal protection. These species are vulnerable to the impacts of rapid land use changes and population growth. Specific plant and animal data for Calhoun is provided in Table 5-3. Figure 5-6 located in the Atlas of Maps shows the locations of the habitats for these species.

Table 5-3: Listed Endangered Species

Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Mammal				
Gray bat <i>Myotis Grisescens</i>	E	E	Colonies restricted to caves or cave-like habitats; forage primarily over water along rivers or lake shores	Human disturbance and vandalism in caves, pesticides, flooding of caves by impoundments, and loss of insect prey over streams degraded by siltation and pollution
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus Leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Reptile				
Alabama map turtle <i>Graptemys Pulchra</i>	No Federal Status	Rare	Rivers, creeks, and lakes	
Invertebrate				
Alabama moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>	T	T	Rivers and large creeks. Prefers stable gravel or sandy gravel substrates.	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Coosa moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus parvulus</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in high quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Georgia Rocksnail <i>Leptoxis Downei</i>	Candidate Species	E	Shoals, riffles and reefs of small to large rivers. Historically occurred in upper Coosa River. Found in Oostanaula River in Floyd and Gordon Counties	

Table 5-3 continued

Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Southern acornshell mussel <i>Epioblasma othcaloogensis</i>	E	E	High quality upland streams ranging in size from large creeks to small rivers; stable sand/gravel/cobble substrate in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Southern clubshell mussel <i>Pleurobema decisum</i>	E	E	Rivers of medium size with a moderately high gradient and with areas of stable substrate characterized by sand-gravel sediments	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Southern pigtoe mussel <i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates in high-quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Triangular kidneyshell mussel <i>Ptychobranchus greeni</i>	E	E	High quality rivers and large creeks in stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Upland combshell mussel <i>Epioblasma metastriata</i>	E	E	High quality, free-flowing rivers and large creeks; stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Fish				
Blue shiner <i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>	T	E	Medium to large clear cool streams with gravel-rubble-small boulder substrates; found in streams draining into the Coosa and Oostanaula Rivers	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Goldline darter <i>Percina aurolineata</i>	T	T	Main channel of rivers in white-water rapids > 2-3 feet deep	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Trispot darter <i>Etheostoma trisella</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mountain streams	
Plant				
Georgia Rockcress <i>Arabis georgianus</i>	Candidate Species	T	Rocky bluffs and slopes along waterways; also on sandy, eroding riverbanks	
Georgia rock-cress <i>Arabis georgiana</i>	No Federal Status	T	Rocky (limestone, shale, granite-gneiss) bluffs and slopes along watercourses; also along sandy, eroding riverbanks	
Large-flowered skullcap <i>Scutellaria montana</i>	E	T	Mature oak-pine forests with sparse understory	Logging, wildfires, livestock grazing, residential development, and small populations coupled with limited distribution

Table 5-3 continued

Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Purple sedge <i>Carex purpurifera</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mixed mesophytic or cove hardwoods with a wide array of canopy species, rich vernal flora, and calcareous soils	
Tennessee yellow-eyed grass <i>Xyris tennesseensis</i>	E	E	Gravelly open, calcareous, seepy margins and wet meadows along spring-fed headwater streams	
Trailing meadowrue <i>Thalictrum Debile</i>	No Federal Status	T	Near streams in rich alluvial soils of forested floodplains over limestone bedrock	

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services: Georgia Ecological Services Athens, Brunswick and Columbus - May 2004 Updated

Listed as Endangered (E) – A species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or part of its range

Listed as Threatened (LT) – A species which is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future throughout all or parts of its range.

Listed as Rare (R) – A species which may not be endangered or threatened but which should be protected because of its scarcity.

Listed as Unusual (U) – (and thus deserving of special consideration). Plants subject to commercial exploitation would have this status.

5.3 Other Significant Sensitive Areas

5.3.1 Scenic Areas

There are four basic kinds of scenic resources:

- Landscape vistas
- Botanical and animal habitats
- Unique or historical sites
- Sites of activities with contemporary significance

Within the City limits, scenic areas are found in historic structures like the Depot, the Oakleigh House, and the Harris Arts Center, formerly the historic Rooker Hotel. Other scenic vistas include glimpses of the Oostanaula River to the North and West, distant views of the mountains in the Chattahoochee National Forest to the west, and panoramic vistas of the downtown and distant rural areas from the Brogdon Hill ridgeline running north and east of the Historic CBD.

5.3.2 Agricultural Land

Significant agricultural land is currently located in the flood plains of the Oostanaula River to the west and the Oothacalooga Creek to the south of the CBD. Small areas of farmland are sporadically located on private lots within the City limits.

5.3.3 Conservation Areas

Most if not all of Calhoun's conservation areas are associated to parks as the parks serve to protect greenspace and streams. The more notable conservation areas are Oothcalooga Creek corridor, River Street Park, and the Clarence E. Harris River Park on the banks of the

Oostanaula River. Additional conservation areas may include the proposed historic district along College Street and properties and cemeteries along and adjacent to the Brogdon Hill ridgeline.

5.4 Significant Cultural Resources

5.4.1 Local History⁸

Gordon County was created by an act of the General Assembly on February 13, 1850. Its land area was taken originally from Cass (now Bartow) and Floyd Counties. Numerous boundary changes have since occurred, involving Bartow Floyd, Murray, Pickens, and Walker Counties. Situated in the northwestern portion of the State, Gordon County has land area in two of the major land resource areas of Georgia. The extreme eastern side of the County lies in the Blue Ridge land resource area, while the remainder and great majority of the County lies in the Southern Appalachian land resource area.

There are two ranges of mountains running almost parallel, one along the eastern boundary and one along the western boundary of the County. The intermediate area of almost twenty miles width consists of narrow valleys and bands of knobby ridges. An overview of how the area reflects or fails to reflect certain distinctive aspects of Georgia's history (see Georgia Historic Resources Survey Manual, p. 35) is as follows.

Cotton as the Principal Cash Crop Until c. 1930

Cotton was not a major factor in the agricultural economy of Gordon County until the twentieth century. In 1850, only 184 bales of cotton were produced, and production increased to only 432 bales in 1860. In the latter year Gordon County ranked 110th out of 132 counties in cotton production, but it ranked second in wheat production and fifth in both corn and tobacco production. Cotton began to gain some popularity in the area by 1880 but ranked third behind corn and wheat in acres planted in the County. By 1890, cotton surpassed wheat in acres planted, and in 1900 production was 6,461 bales. In that year, 13,159 acres were planted in wheat; 15,993 acres were planted in cotton; and 26,412 acres were planted in corn.

After 1900, wheat production declined rapidly and cotton production continued to increase. From the 1900s to about 1940, corn and cotton vied for leadership in acres planted. Peak years of cotton production occurred from about 1910 to the late 1930s, with acres planted generally ranging from twenty to more than thirty thousand and production ranging from ten to twenty thousand bales.

Cotton production remained significant in Gordon County later than in most areas. Acres planted in 1945 equaled acreage in 1900 and 1945 production equaled that in 1910. As late as 1960, the County produced 7,869 bales greater than its production in 1900.

Many of Gordon County's historic resources attest to a predominantly agricultural economy, but few structures were identified as relating specifically to cotton production. Cotton gins and cotton warehouses along the rail lines, once relatively numerous, are now rare. Only one cotton gin that retained its machinery was found in the County.

⁸ Source: 1992 Gordon County Comprehensive Plan

Unusual Extent of Railroad Development in Georgia

The Western and Atlantic Railroad was completed northward to Dalton in 1847, through the central portion of the area that would become Gordon County. The Selma, Rome, and Dalton Railroad (later East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia Railroad and Southern Railway) was built through the western side of the County during the great expansion in the railroads from 1865 to 1871. The first train on that line passed through Plainville in June, 1870. A third railroad, the Louisville and Nashville, was constructed through the eastern side of the County about 1905. Its construction came during another period of railroad expansion in Georgia, the period from 1890 to 1920.

Despite the significance of these railroads in the County's history, only two railroad depots remain, and few other rail-related buildings were identified.

African-American Population and Cultural Presence

Gordon County has never had a particularly large African-American population compared to the state as a whole. When the county was first formed in 1850, the population consisted of 5,156 whites and 828 slaves. By 1860, there were 2,106 slaves and 39 freedmen out of a total population of 10,146. This population of 21.1%, however, was low compared to the state as a whole, which had a population of just over 44% in 1860. Gordon County's African-American population in 1860 has remained its largest, both in number and as a percentage of the total population. This population declined to 16.3% by 1880, to 11.6% by 1900, to 7.4% by 1920, and to 6.5% by 1940. Today it stands at 4% or less.

Most historic resources related to the presence of African-Americans in the area are located in western Calhoun and in the Curryville area of the county. Curryville was the home of Roland Hayes, an internationally recognized classical signer in the 1920s who largely performed outside the South but maintained a residence in the Curryville area for a number of years.

Major Theater for the Civil War

The Resaca area was the scene of fierce fighting during the Dalton-Atlanta campaign in 1864. After outflanking strong Confederate defenses at Dalton, General Sherman's army inflicted heavy losses on General Johnston's Confederate army in a two-day battle north and west of Resaca. The Confederates then retreated down the Western and Atlantic Railroad, which was the direct line of Sherman's march toward Atlanta.

This aspect of Georgia's history is recalled today mostly by state historic markers scattered throughout the County and by the Resaca Confederate Cemetery.

Close Relations with Federal Government in 1930s and 1940s

The construction of two public buildings, the Oakman Consolidated School and the Redbud Consolidated School was funded by the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works in 1939. There is no readily available information, however, regarding Gordon County's participation in the federal programs of the New Deal.

Extended Frontier Period and Area: Nation's First Gold Rush and Rapid Settlement in North

The area that became Gordon County was outside the part of Cherokee Georgia most affected by gold-seekers and gold mining after 1829. Population density in Cherokee Georgia in 1830 was less than two per square mile, excluding Indians. The state surveyed the land in 1831, and the area that became Gordon County was distributed in 160-acre lots for settlement the following year. Cherokee Georgia was the last area of the state to be officially opened for settlement and one of the last areas to be actually settled. While settlement gradually increased during the 1830s, it was not until after the forced removal of the last remaining

Cherokees in 1838 that settlement proceeded more rapidly. Early settlers came mostly from older sections of Georgia and from South Carolina and Tennessee.

Population density increased to six or more per square mile by 1840, and upon the establishment of Gordon County in 1850, the population was 5,984. From 1850 to 1860, the white population increased 55.2%, from 5,156 to 8,001, and total population increased 69.6% to 10,146. According to the U. S. Census, there were 861 dwellings in Gordon County in 1850. Projecting the 1850 ratio of dwellings to population forward, there likely would have been 1,335 to 1,460 dwellings in the County by 1860. Eighty years later, in 1940, the U. S. Census estimated that only 66 pre-1860 dwellings remained - a survival rate of 5% or less. Today, after the passage of another fifty years, historic resources dating from this early period of the County's history are few indeed.

Cherokee Nation in Northwest Georgia in Forced Removal

The capital of the Cherokee Nation was established at New Echota in 1825. It was there that the Treaty of New Echota was signed in 1835 by a minority faction of Cherokees, agreeing to migrate to the west in return for five million dollars from the federal government, and that General Winfield Scott established his command for the forced removal in 1838.

New Echota, located at the confluence of the Conasauga and Coosawattee Rivers, northeast of Calhoun, is a state historic site. Only one original building exists on the site.

The population of Gordon County declined during the 1860s, but following the end of Reconstruction in 1871, it began a period of fifty years of steady growth. An 1870 population of 9,268 expanded to 17,736 by 1920, a compounded annual growth rate of 1.3% for the period. Population growth almost ceased, however, for the next forty years, increasing at a compounded annual rate of only 0.2% through 1960.

Calhoun was chosen as the County seat in 1850 and was incorporated in 1852. While numerous small towns and rural communities dot the County's landscape, none have ever rivaled Calhoun in importance. Calhoun had 427 inhabitants when its population was first included in the census in 1870. By 1880, Calhoun's population had grown to 510, and the only other town in Gordon County included in the 1880 census was Resaca, which had a population of 191. The 1890 census showed that Calhoun had reached a population of 680. Resaca had a population of 197, and Sugar Valley was included in the census with a population of 164. By 1900, Calhoun's population reached 851. Meanwhile, Sugar Valley's population increased to 231. Fairmount had a population of 191, and Resaca's population declined to 128.

During the first decade of the twentieth century, Calhoun experienced a dramatic 94.1% increase in population. Fairmount had a population increase of 70.7% during the decade and became the second largest town in the County. The populations of Sugar Valley and Resaca, meanwhile, declined. Thus, in 1910, Calhoun had a population of 1,652; Fairmount, 326; Sugar Valley, 197; Plainville, 148; and Resaca, 112. Calhoun's population continued to grow steadily, at a compounded annual rate of 1.96% from 1910 to 1940. In the latter year its population was 2,955. Fairmount remained the second largest town, with a population of 474, and Sugar Valley remained third with a population of 239. Ranger had a population of 160 in 1940 and Plainville, 132.

Manufacturing was almost nonexistent in the area during the nineteenth century. According to the 1880 census, there were 38 manufacturing establishments in the County with a total of 84 employees. By 1900, employment in manufacturing had dropped to 62 persons. In the early twentieth century, employment in manufacturing increased considerably, particularly with the establishment of the Echota Cotton Mill just north of Calhoun in 1907 (production began in 1909). In 1930, more than 350 persons were employed in cotton mills in the County. Other significant manufacturing employers were saw and planing mills and brick and tile factories. Nevertheless,

through World War II, Gordon County remained a very rural area with a mostly agricultural economy.

5.4.2 Historic Preservation

National Register of Historic Places Listings

Table 5-4 outlines the National Register for Historic Places listings for Gordon County. Figure 5-7 maps the locations of the historic places in the City.

Table 5-4: National Register of Historic Places Listings

<i>Site</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Date Added to Historic Register</i>	<i>Description</i>
Calhoun Depot	Between Court and Oothcalooga Sts.	Calhoun	8/26/1982	1830-1874. Built by W&A Railroad
New Echota	NE of Calhoun on GA 225	Calhoun	5/13/1970	1825-1849. Native American Capital

Source: National Register of Historic Places

Historic Preservation Commission

The City of Calhoun's historic preservation efforts are being guided by the Historic Preservation Commission and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). These organizations also partner with the City government and the Main Street Partnership to protect, improve and revitalize the Downtown area. In 2005, the City approved a historic preservation ordinance which has led to the formation of the City of Calhoun Historic Preservation Commission. This organization will also work with the Gordon County Historical Society and the Gordon County Historic Preservation Committee to protect properties of historical significance.

6 Community Facilities and Services⁹

6.1 Water Supply and Treatment

The City of Calhoun provides water and sewerage services to residents and businesses of the City as well as Gordon County that are within a certain distance of Calhoun. The City of Calhoun Water Treatment Plant is located on Mauldin Road. It began operation on September 6, 1950. On that date, the treatment plant produced 504,000 gallons of safe drinking water for the residents of Calhoun and Gordon County. Calhoun's potable water production was previously supplied by the "water works" located at the intersection of College Street and Red Bud Road.

Today the water treatment plant averages 13 million gallons per day (MGD). The main source of water is the Coosawattee River. There are no major developments from the base of Carters Lake Dam downstream to the intake located off Newtown Loop Road. This assures high quality "raw" water. Strict regulations and guidelines issued by the Environmental Protection Agency are adhered to by the operators, laboratory technicians, and support personnel of the treatment plant.

Currently, the system capacity is at 27 MGD after a recent \$3 million renovation. Future plans include developing capacity to 30 MGD before the end of 2008. All upgrades to the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system have been fully implemented.

6.2 Sewerage System and Wastewater Treatment

The City of Calhoun provides sewerage and wastewater treatment services to residents and businesses of the City and Gordon County that are within a certain distance of Calhoun. Officially opening in November 1972, the Calhoun wastewater treatment plant was initially designed for the treatment of 6 million gallons of sewage per day. In the spring of 1983, the plant expanded to 7 million gallons per day. Following the industrial expansion, stricter guidelines for monitoring and treating the color, metals, and chemicals contained in the wastewater were needed.

The fall of 1990 brought the capacity of the plant to 12 MGD with permit limits of 30-ppm solids and 30-ppm BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand). However, the awareness level of communities and watchdog associations were putting pressure on industries and municipalities to improve performance standards. As a result, the City began laying plans for the expansion of the plant and new sewer lines. In February 1998 the City completed the largest expansion to date. The plant capacity was increased to 16 million gallons per day with 30-ppm existing solids while reducing the BOD to 20-ppm.

As of 2006, the capacity remains at 16 MGD. The current demand averages only 6.5 MGD. There are no current plans to expand this system. Future expansion will be determined by population projections. However, there are renovations occurring presently that will allow for improved efficiencies in the treatment of 6 MGD while lowering the BOD to less than 10-ppm.

⁹ Figure 6-1 located in the Atlas of Maps shows the location of the various community facilities described in this section.

Industrial Wastes have often taxed the system. Since 1998, to help minimize the effects of the industrial waste, the City has made concerted efforts to resolve these issues through various means. One such strategy involved installing interceptor sewers. This has led to a reduction in industrial waste of 5MGD. Additionally, rate structures have been implemented to adequately address costs associated with industrial wastes.

6.2.1 Stormwater Management

As Calhoun continues to grow and expand and water quality guidelines become more stringent, more focus will be required to monitor and treat storm water runoff. Currently, there is no stormwater management plan or specific ordinances in place. Stormwater management is generally addressed as being part of Best Management Practices of site design which is mentioned in Chapter 46, "Environment", of the Code of Ordinances.

6.3 Other Facilities and Services

6.3.1 Fire Protection and Rescue

E-911

Gordon County 911 Emergency Management is a department that serves the City and the County with two divisions; The Emergency Management Division and the 911 Communications Division. The Director of Emergency Management and 911 head the Emergency Management Division. An Assistant Director coordinates the Emergency Management Division Operations. Working with both the Emergency Management and Communications Division is the EMA/911 Operations Officer. An Assistant Director coordinates the Communications divisions operations. There are four communications shifts each with two to three team members on each shift totaling 14 team members. Each of the Four Shifts are headed by a Communications Supervisor.

The Emergency Management Division is a unit of County Government with the lead role in preparing for and responding to major emergencies and disasters, both natural and manmade.

Gordon County Emergency Management is the local community-based equivalent of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) at the state level and FEMA at the federal level. It works closely with these agencies (as well as dozens of others, both public and private) before, during, and after emergencies and disasters to provide coordinated and comprehensive protection of lives and property.

Members of the team are highly trained professionals with equivalent training to Firefighters, Paramedics, or Police Officers. In fact, many of our response personnel are cross trained with fire and emergency medical training.

The Gordon County Emergency Management Divisions operating budget is tax supported. A small percentage comes from federal funds and the other from local taxes, or the equivalent of about two dollars per Calhoun/Gordon County Resident per year. This expense has been significantly offset in recent years by the availability of federal and state level "Public Assistance" disaster funds received by the County, City of Calhoun, Gordon Counties other municipalities, and certain nonprofit organizations as the result of declared disasters affecting the County. Without the existence of Gordon County Emergency Management local governments would not have been legally eligible under state law for all the financial assistance needed to pay for unbudgeted overtime costs, infrastructure repair, community-wide clean-up/recovery and restoration of certain essential services. The total assistance received year to date since 1989 exceeds \$1 million dollars.

The E-911 Communications Division is also a unit of County Government with the lead role of communications for multiple public safety agencies. The following agencies communications are coordinated by the communications division: Gordon County Fire Department, Calhoun Fire Department, Calhoun Police Department, Gordon County Sheriffs Office, Gordon County Emergency Medical Services, and Gordon County Emergency Management. The E-911 Communications Division receives in excess of 50,000 calls per year. That equals on average a total of 4,222 Calls per month. This is an average of 140 calls per 24 hour shift. The E-911 Communications facility serves as the 24-hour communications and warning point for all agencies; local, state, and federal that need to coordinate with Gordon County.

In addition to providing initial communications the shifts are broken down into (Fundamental Action Support Teams) FAST. The FAST teams are ready to respond to all major emergencies disasters, and planned events to support all public safety agencies. The FAST teams man the Departments Mobile Command Unit with a Supervisor, Communications Specialist, Logistics Officer, Unit Operator, and Public Information Officer. In addition the Department can also deploy persons for other positions as needed. These teams provide fundamental support to major operations and planned events where large numbers of people will be gathered.

City of Calhoun Fire Department

The Calhoun Fire Department is a fully paid department. The department is made up of three stations; Station #1 serves as headquarters with Station #2 and #3 as satellite stations. The shift personnel work 24 hours on duty and 48 hours off duty. The Chief, Assistant Chief and Inspector work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. A fourth station is planned, but exact location information is unknown at the time of publication. Table 6-1 outlines the Fire Department staff. Table 6-2 lists the Fire Department stations and associated equipment.

Table 6-1: Fire Department Staff

<i>Position</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Fire Chief	1	Managing Fire Department
Assistant Chief	1	Managing Fire Department
Inspector	1	Fire safety Coordinator/ Inspections
Engineers	9	Firehouse Operations
Captains	2	Managing Firehouse Operations
Lieutenants	3	Firehouse Operations
Firefighters	18	Firehouse Operations
Firefighter Paramedic	1	Firehouse Operations
FF candidates	2	In Training for Certification
Admin	1	Firehouse Operations
Total	39	

Source: City of Calhoun Fire Department

Table 6-2: Fire Department Stations

Station Location	Engine Name	Equipment Description
Station No. 1 327 S. Wall St	Engine 11	2000 HME/ Central States 1500 GPM pumper
	Engine 12	1989 Mack/Ward 1500 GPM pumper
	Ladder 1	1977 Seagrave Aerial with 1500 GPM Pump
Station no. 2 391 Richardson Rd.	Engine 21	1994 Mack/ Quality Manufacturing 1500 GPM Pumper
Station No. 3 290 Curtis Pkwy	Engine 31	1990 Mack/Ward 1500 GPM Pumper

Source: City of Calhoun Fire Department

Growth demands on the Fire Department are creating new challenges never before seen. New industries are using more volatile chemicals in production. Continued training in hazardous materials handling is constantly required. Larger industries, some as large as 28 acres under roof, are testing the limits of the current building and fire suppression codes as well as fire equipment capabilities, as described in Table 6-3.

Table 6-3: Fire Department Types of Calls Received

Call Type	Description	No. of calls
Fire (All Types)	Structure, Vehicle, Property, Grass	112
Rescue/EMS	Motor vehicle Accidents and all other accidents with injury or death.	173
Hazardous Conditions	Leaks, Spills, Toxic materials, Suspicious Package, Hazardous Materials	143
Service	Wash Down, Smoke, Odor check, etc.	45
Good Intent Calls	----	NA
False Alarms	----	141
Special Interest	----	14

Source: City Staff

Fire rescue trucks are becoming larger in size to accommodate the equipment required in a new era of structural development and rescue capabilities. Many of the road lanes and shoulders, if existing, are too narrow. Some roadway shoulders may be steeply sloped embankments that offer little opportunity for other drivers to yield to the larger, faster moving rescue trucks.

Water supply and hydrant availability needs to be improved in areas of the City where annexation has or will occur. Many annexed properties have been annexed prior to hydrants being installed. This leads to potential service issues and loss of property and life implications.

Another potential risk is that many structures within the CBD do not have sprinkler systems and are not required to have sprinkler systems installed. The department remains involved in community education projects through the Fire Prevention Program. In 2005, approximately 2,600 children received Fire Safety presentations. Sixteen fire extinguisher classes were conducted. The department also hosted and taught a North Georgia Hazardous Materials Technician Course for 120 attendees. Locally, 733 fire hydrants were tested, 327 code inspections were conducted, and 11,700 man hours of training were accumulated during 2005.

Finally, additional staffing may be required to meet City demand as the role of the firefighter and the demands placed on them, as demonstrated above, is changing (Table 6.3.2c). Currently, the City has 38 full time employees (FTE) and 21 of the 38 FTE's are firefighters. Ideally,

the Fire Chief would like to add an additional 14 firefighters so there would be four firefighters staffed per engine per shift.

6.3.2 Public Safety

City of Calhoun Police Department

The City of Calhoun Police Department currently employs 48 full officers and staff. The department's headquarters is located at 200 North Wall Street in downtown Calhoun. The existing facility is approximately 4,400 square feet. Additional space is required as the structure is believed to contain asbestos and sewage will often backup flooding the basement. Table 6-1 represents current staffing placement. Table 6-2 illustrates the success the Police Department has had with implementing crime prevention measures.

Table 6-4: Police Department Staff

<i>Position</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Police Chief	1	Managing Police Department
Commanding Officers	3	
Investigative Officers	5	
Code Enforcement	1	
School Resource	1	Assigned to City Schools
Drug Task Force/ Special Opps	4	
Patrol	23	
Admin	10	
Total	48	

Source: City of Calhoun Police Department

Table 6-5: Police Department Year by Year Reports

<i>Activities</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>
Population	9,023	12,659	13,076	13,570
Cases	3,215	9,334	7,076	7,236
Cases as a percentage of Population	35.6%	73.7%	54.1%	53.3%
Fines	\$369,678	\$1,372,467	\$1,278,154	\$1,159,895
DUI's	145	163	169	148
Traffic Warnings	1,191	4,521	4,626	3,542
Highway Accidents	1,410	836	831	866
Injuries	NA	73	56	79
Fatalities	NA	0	1	0
Escorts	NA	1,127	1,003	958
Incident Reports	NA	20,751	19,954	17,037
Alarms	NA	1,700	2,200	2,444
Miles Patrolled	NA	650,392	627,095	609,789

Source: City of Calhoun Staff

In 2005, the Criminal Investigation Division was relocated from an existing 1,100 square foot building on Oothcalooga Street to a 5,000 square foot building on SR 41 at the Tom B. David Airport. This facility is expected to provide sufficient office space, training space and storage facilities for the immediate future; however, in 2006, additional space is desired. The rent is \$1,500 per month and will be paid directly to the Airport Authority.

In 2005, through donations of several local businesses, the Department added a new drug dog to the force. The total cost associated with the dog was \$8,040. Also in 2005, the department, in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Georgia Bureau of Investigations, Immigration Customs Enforcement, the Whitfield County Sheriff's Department and the Dalton Police Department formed the Conasauga Safe Streets Task Force. The FBI is the major funding source for the task force which targets criminal activity associated with street gangs, immigration violations, and drug related violence.

In addition to task force targeted crimes, issues that are currently of high priority to the police are crimes that occur in low income apartment complexes. A common crime is fraud as a result of forged checks. Traffic incidents are also increasing. In many cases, immigrant drivers with no drivers' license or insurance are involved in these incidents. Public education efforts may be required as it is believed that many of the immigrants are not aware of the state laws requiring a driver's license and insurance to operate a vehicle.

In 2001, the Georgia State Patrol built a new Post 43 in Calhoun with patrol responsibilities in Gordon and Murray Counties. The new State Patrol Complex features a license facility, driving test range, and helicopter pad. This post will be able to assist the Calhoun Police Department with traffic and law enforcement along Interstate 75 and the state highways throughout the City.

Detention facilities and associated staffing are provided by Gordon County and the Gordon County Sheriff's Department. A new detention facility is planned near Resaca; however, detailed information was unavailable at the time of publishing.

6.3.3 Public Works

The Public Works Department is composed of the street department, animal control department, cemetery, parks and solid waste departments and employs 29 individuals full-time and five part-time. The public works departments serve not only the immediate resident population, but also a service population estimated at over 45,000 individuals coming into the City each year for employment, shopping or staying in one of the more than 1000 motel rooms located in the area.

Street Department

This Street Department is responsible for maintaining approximately 100 miles of streets. The Department has resurfaced about 53 miles of street surface since 1996. Because of Transportation SPLOST funding, the City was able to resurface 31 miles between 2000 and 2003. On average, only two to four miles are resurfaced annually.

The department is also responsible for the management of curb and gutter related issues, sidewalks, intersection improvements and maintenance; including signage and signal repairs, and sewer, water, and stormwater system additions, modifications and repairs.

6.3.4 Solid Waste Management

Redbone Ridges MSW Landfill

In January 2006, Gordon County entered into an agreement with a private management firm, Santek Environmental Services, to manage the Red Bone Ridges MSW Landfill. The landfill is located at 1224 Pleasant Hill Road Ext. N.E. It is nine miles east of the Interstate 75 Interstate bridge on Red Bud Road. The Landfill has a projected lifespan of 67 years. Gordon County anticipates receiving \$4.2 million in host fees over the term of the agreement. Santek will hire all current Gordon County solid waste employees at their current pay rate.¹⁰

The 2006 Tipping Fees for the Landfill are as follows¹¹:

- Agriculture - \$32.00 per ton w/ \$3.00 minimum charge
- Commercial - \$32.00 per ton w/ \$3.00 minimum charge
- Residential - \$32.00 per ton w/ \$3.00 minimum charge
- Special Handle - \$50.00 per ton
- Clean Wood - \$20.00 per ton w/ \$3.00 minimum charge
- Tires - 16" and Under - \$2.00 each up to 10 then \$80.00 per ton
- Tires - Over 16" - \$3.00 each up to 2 then \$80.00 per ton

Recycling

The County provides six convenience sites for recycling throughout the County, as shown in Table 6-6. The following products are accepted for recycling at convenience sites and at the landfill:

- Newspaper
- Cans (Aluminum, Tin/Steel)
- Magazines
- Glass (Green, Clear, Brown)
- Plastic Jugs & Bottles
- Cardboard
- Car Batteries (Landfill Only)
- Used Motor Oil (Landfill Only)

Table 6-6: Recycling Convenience Sites

<i>Location</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Hours of Operation</i>
Dews Pond	1049 Cash Rd. S.E	Calhoun	MON. THRU SAT. 7:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M
Harris Beamer	790 Harris Beamer Rd. Sw	Calhoun	MON. THRU SAT. 7:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.
Gordon County Landfill	1224 Pleasant Hill Road Ext. N.E		MON. THRU SAT. 7:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M

Source: Gordon County Website

More detailed information is provided in the Gordon County Solid Waste Management Plan. The plan is being prepared by Atlantic Coast Consulting on behalf of Gordon County.

¹⁰ Source: Calhoun Times 1/17/06

¹¹ All out-of-county tires are triple rate

Harris Beamer Landfill

Harris Beamer landfill is a 90 acre site located just west of the City on Harris–Beamer Road. The site was purchased by the City and County in 1978 for the disposal of industrial wastes. The landfill began operation in 1985 and operated for 6 years until it was closed in 1991. In 1997, the site was placed on the Hazardous Site Index for water monitoring of high levels of benzene, methylene chloride, and vinyl chloride.

As of May 2006, the site was compliant to the EPD limits on methane gas. In November 2005, the EPD approved the City's request to modify the frequency of groundwater sampling by 40%. This equates to a 2006 savings of \$15,000. The reduction is due to a decrease in or a lack of positive results for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) in the monitoring wells between 1993 and 2005.

The City is hopeful that it will be able to convince the EPD to remove the landfill site from the Hazardous Site Index because of the consistently low test results received for soil and groundwater contamination.

6.3.5 Parks and Recreation

The City of Calhoun maintains a Parks and Recreation Department separate from the County. There is a reciprocating agreement that allows all residents within the County and City to use all parks and facilities regardless of municipal boundaries. Table 6-7 lists the parks and recreation areas in the City and provides information on the amenities available at each. Figure 6-2 located in the Atlas of maps shows the location of the parks and recreation areas in the City.

Table 6-7: City of Calhoun Parks

	<i>River Street Park</i>	<i>58 Acre Park (River St. Park extension)</i>	<i>Clarence Harris Soccer Complex</i>	<i>BBT Community Park</i>
ACREAGE	39.0	58.0	16.0	1.26
Active Acres	29.0	TBD	16.0	
Passive Acres	10.0	TBD		1.26
Active Facilities		TBD		
Ball Fields	8-2UL, 6L	3		
Football Field		1		
Multi-Purpose Fields(soccer)		3	4L	
Tennis Courts	15			
Playgrounds	1	1- Miracle Field ¹²		
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	1			
Recreation Center/ Gym	1			
Walking / Jogging trail	yes	yes	yes	
Passive Facilities		TBD		
Pavilions	1	1		yes
Picnic Areas	Yes	yes	yes	
Cooking Grills	Yes			
Gazebos	2	multiple		
Benches		yes	yes	yes
Greenspace	yes	yes		yes
Fishing Access	yes	yes		
Support Facilities		TBD		
Concessions/ RR Buildings	1	yes	yes	
Restroom Buildings	1	yes		
Portolets	Yes			
Maintenance Building	1			
Parking	yes	300 spaces	Yes	yes
Meeting Room		1		

Source: 2001 Gordon County Recreation Plan

The City of Calhoun operates three recreational sites: A large community park, a small urban park, and a soccer complex. A fourth park is in the planning phase. The community park, located on River Street just south of the CBD, includes both active and passive use facilities. This location has recently undergone renovations to the pool, tennis and parking facilities. Additionally, an adjacent 58 acre tract is being developed to provide additional ball fields, courts, trails a Miracle Field and parking.

¹² Miracle Field to be a 30,000-sq. ft. boundless playground for handicapped children

The Clarence E. Harris soccer complex, located on the banks of the Oostanaula River on C.L. Moss Parkway contains four large multi-use soccer fields that can be configured into several soccer fields for all age groups. In May 2006, the City hosted the Georgia State Soccer Association District Round for the first time. Future consideration for other state level events will depend upon a positive review of this event.

The complex also serves as a terminus point for an approximately 1.8 mile paved trail originating near the Depot in downtown Calhoun. Approximately 0.5 miles of this trail is a loop at the soccer complex.

The Calhoun recreation programs and facilities were used excessively by the public in 2005. Table 6-8 represents highlights of the public usage in 2005.

Table 6-8: Recreation and Parks Utilization

<i>Recreation Description</i>	<i>Utilization</i>
Swimming Pool	15,310
Tennis Courts	9,880
Pavilion	2000
Organized Sports	137,950
Gym, All Activities	54,880

Source: City Staff

The City is also home to a par 72, 18-hole bentgrass golf course designed by Arthur Davis and built in 1992. The total yardage is 6800 yards. The rating is 72.8. Tee times are available three days in advance. Green fees are listed as \$47 on weekends, \$36 Thursday and Friday, and \$32 Monday through Wednesday and \$25 for seniors at all times.

The amenities provided are a putting green, a driving range, a chipping green, a practice bunker, lessons, a pro shop, a driving cart, a snack bar, and rental clubs.

Currently the golf course is not serviced by the City's sewer service. In order to develop stable revenue a clubhouse would need to be built as soon as sewage service is established. Potential high-end development near the golf course may threaten the usage if a private golf course community is developed.

6.3.6 Education

City of Calhoun Public Schools

The City of Calhoun Public Schools serve City residents with one pre kindergarten, one primary school for grades K-2, one elementary school for grades 3-5, one middle school for grades 6-8, one high school for grades 9-12 and one learning center. Table 6-9 lists each school and associated information.

Table 6-9: City of Calhoun Public Schools

Public schools	No. of students	No. of teachers	Teacher-Student ratio	% White	% Black	% Hispanic	% Other
Calhoun pre-Kindergarten 380 Barrett Road Calhoun, GA 30701	158 students (Pre-K)	12	1: 13	60.1%	1.9%	35.4%	2.5%
Calhoun Primary School 102 Raymond King Dr. Calhoun, GA 30701	822 students (K-2 nd grade)	57	1: 14	57.9%	6.9%	29.8%	5.4%
Calhoun Elementary School 101 Raymond King Dr. Calhoun, GA 30701	735 students (3 rd -5 th grades)	48	1: 15	60.8%	6.0%	28.6%	4.2%
Calhoun Middle School 399 S. River St. Calhoun, GA 30701	745 students (6 th -8 th grade)	38	1: 19	64.2%	7.7%	25.8%	2.4%
Calhoun High School 315 South River St. Calhoun, GA 30701	772 students (9 th -12 th)	57	1: 14	69.3%	9.3%	13.9%	3.5%
Calhoun Learning Center Yellow Jacket Drive Calhoun, GA 30701	000 Students (various)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: City of Calhoun, Board of Education (Assistant Superintendent's Office; data as of 3/2/06)

Local Colleges

The Coosa Valley Technical School (CVTS), Gordon County Campus, is located at 1151 SR 53 Spur in Calhoun. Two additional campuses are located in Floyd and Polk Counties. These three campuses provide opportunities for degrees or certification in four programs of Study. Refer to Table 6-10 for degrees or certifications available in each program. CVTS provides convenience for students by providing day, evening and online classes.

Table 6-10: Coosa Valley Technical College Programs of Study

	<i>Associate degrees Available</i>	<i>Bachelor degrees Available</i>	<i>Certifications Available</i>
Business Technologies	7	8	26
Health Technologies	8	11	9
Industrial Technologies	0	19	27
Personal/ Public Service Technologies	3	5	8

Source: http://test.cvtcollege.org/Ac_Programs/index.html

CVTC also makes available free classes to those adults who are in need of Adult Basic Education, GED Preparation, and English as a second language. During the past 12 months, 2005-2006, Coosa Valley Technical College has delivered 17,892 training hours to employees throughout the Northwest Georgia area for companies such as Bellsouth, Georgia Power, Springs Industries, Mohawk Industries, and Shaw Industries. Additional training has also been provided for the Rome Police Department, Floyd County government, the City of Calhoun and Gordon County government. Table 6-11 outlines the enrollment statistics for CVTC.

Table 6-11: 2004 Enrollment statistics for Coosa Valley Technical College

<i>Coosa Valley Vocational School</i>	
Total enrollment	2,313
Undergraduate enrollment	2,313
Percent of undergraduate enrollment by gender	
Men	38%
Women	62%
Percent of undergraduate enrollment by race/ethnicity	
Non-resident alien	0%
Black non-Hispanic	14%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1%
Hispanic	1%
White non-Hispanic	83%

Source: <http://www.uscollegesearch.org/coosa-valley-technical-college.html>

Harris Arts Center

The Harris Arts Center is located at 212 South Wall Street in Calhoun. The Harris Arts Center is home to the Calhoun Gordon Arts Council, an umbrella organization comprised of the Calhoun Little Theatre, the Calhoun Chorus, the Visual Arts Guild, the Roland Hayes Music Guild, the Roland Hayes Museum, the Community Programming Division, and the new Milton Ratner Performing Arts Theater. The center sponsors numerous classes and events to meet the demand for the Arts in Calhoun.

6.3.7 Library

The Gordon County/Calhoun Public Library is part of the Northwest Georgia Public Library System, formerly known as the Dalton Regional Library System, which serves Gordon, Whitfield, Catoosa and Murray counties. The library is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees who serve for a three year term. The term is renewable on a one time basis. The City of Calhoun

appoints one member, the County appoints two members, and one member each is appointed by the City and County Boards of Education.

Funding for operations is provided by both the City and County at 35% and 65%, respectively. In addition, both the City and the County school systems each provide \$1,000 in funding per fiscal quarter.

The library is the only main library in the County. Two satellite libraries are located in Plainville and Fairmount. The Book Mobile service, which was available to residents for many years, was cancelled in 2004-2005 due to budget constraints.

The main library operates Monday-Thursday 10:00am-8:00pm, Friday 10:00am - 6:00pm. and Saturday 10:00am – 6:00pm. The library provides a wide range of services to the public including the availability of 15 computers for public WI-FI-wireless Internet access, Story time for small children, Teen Tuesdays, and seminars such as tax preparation. Computer usage is particular heavy during the after-school hours.

The current staff consists of full time and part time employees. Currently, there is 9 FTE's (Full Time Equivalent Personnel). According to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the 2006 Gordon County Population estimate is 49,783. With standards requiring 0.5 staff/ 1000 capita, the FPE should be 25. An additional 16 FTE is required.

The library maintains 70,000 volumes of adult and children's books, newspapers, periodicals, audio books and video tapes. The Heritage Room of the library contains a vast collection of genealogy and regional history resources that is of particular importance to those with an interest in the Cherokee past.

Currently, the library has 38,016 books. The state criteria establishes a minimum of 2 books per capita. An additional 61,550 books would be required bringing the total to 99,566. To meet the current standard approximately \$1.23 million would be required to purchase the 61,550 books at an average cost of \$20 each. In 2002, the state average per capita for library expenditures was \$14.71. That same year, Gordon County averaged just \$5.29 in expenditures per capita. [Confirm expenditures with NGPLS]. This is 64% below the state average.

The current facility, built in 1968, is essentially full and will need to be expanded. There is very limited space for expansion of the computer workstations and the children's area. Currently, there are 14,423 square feet in Calhoun, 2500 square feet in Fairmount, and 1500 square feet in Plainville for a total of 18,423 square feet.

6.3.8 Public Health

Gordon County Health Department

The Gordon County Health Department (GCHD), located in Calhoun and funded by the state, is comprised of two divisions. One division is the Primary Care Clinic which has been in existence since January 1982.

The Primary Care Clinic is currently staffed with two part time family Nurse Practitioners. These nurses see patients with common, minor illnesses such as ear infections and sinusitis. Nurse protocol includes treatment for chronic conditions such as hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and hypothyroidism. In addition, Nurse Practitioners do annual exams, pap smears and employee physicals. Included in the service are patient education, health teaching and counseling.

GCHD can charge fees on a sliding scale and offer discounts to those who qualify financially. GCHD accepts Medicaid, Peachcare and Medicare as well. Appointments are required if a patient wishes to see a physician because physicians are not located on site.

Another service The Gordon County Health Department offers is on-site school health services through a cooperative agreement with the Gordon County Board of Education. There are currently nine nurses in the County system: five elementary, two middle school and two high school nurses. These nurses operate under protocol and are able to deliver on-site immunizations, hearing, vision and dental screenings, evaluate information for entrance into school and see children in their clinic as well as providing services to the school staff. Table 6-12 outlines the services provided at the GCHD.

Table 6-12: Gordon County Health Department Services

Health Screenings/TestsS	Blood Pressure Checks, Blood Sugar Screening Child Health Checks , Head Lice/Scabies Hearing, Vision & Dental Screening Hepatitis B Testing Lead Screening PKU Testing, Pregnancy Tests Scoliosis Screening Tuberculosis Testing Universal Newborn Hearing Screening for 0-2 months of age (Re-screen with physician referral)
Health Services	Breast Test & More Program Diabetes Education Family Planning Health & Nutrition Education Immunizations Pap Smears & Follow-up, Prenatal Case Management, Pregnancy-Related Services Primary Care Services Sexually Transmitted Disease Services Stroke & Heart Attack Prevention
Special Services/Programs	School Nurse Program WIC- An education and supplemental nutrition program for pregnant, postpartum or breast-feeding women, infants and children to age 5.
Special Services/Programs	Babies Can't Wait (BCW) Identifies children from birth to age 3 with developmental delays. Children 1st - Identifies children from birth to age 6 who are at risk. CMS (Children's Medical Services) Services are provided for children with special needs. VENT - Visiting Education Nurse Transition

Source: Gordon County Department of Health

The second division is the Environmental Health division or Food Inspection division. This division is comprised of inspector(s) who perform food and health safety inspections at all permitted establishments serving food in Gordon County. Two unannounced inspections are required to be performed each year per establishment. The results of those visits are regularly posted on the GCHD website.

In addition to providing health services, the department also provides environmental health services to promote a healthy and safe environment and to protect community health. These services include:

- Review and approval of plans, issuance of permits and health inspections for restaurants.
- Epidemiologic investigations of food borne and water borne illness complaints.
- Evaluation and food services permitting for festivals, carnivals, fairs and other temporary events.
- Permitting of public swimming pools and evaluation of water chemistry and pool safety.
- Testing of drinking wells for bacteriological quality and evaluation of sanitary protection of wells.
- Conducting of in-home evaluations when lead poisoning has been identified.
- Radon testing of homes and provide public education program (Gordon County only).

- Review and permitting of sewage plans for individual homes, sub-divisions, and businesses.
- Nuisance complaint investigations concerning sewage, garbage, insects, rodents and other environmental health issues.

Gordon Hospital

Gordon Hospital is a state-licensed, fully accredited non-profit hospital and member of the Adventist health System, the largest not-for-profit health system in the world. This facility has 65 beds and offers a wide array of services to the community. New services are constantly being evaluated as the needs of the community change. To complement the hospitals core services, many services have been made available through satellite offices that are located throughout the County. Refer to Table 6-13 for a complete list of hospital services as well as a list of satellite locations and services.

Table 6-13: Gordon Hospital and Satellite Facilities

<i>Location</i>	<i>Service Description</i>
Gordon Hospital 1035 Red Bud Road Calhoun, GA 30701	Full service hospital
Gordon Urgent Care - Calhoun 251 SR. 53 Calhoun, GA 30701	Family practice, industrial medicine, corporate wellness
Gordon Hospital Wellness on Wheels (WOW) Mobile Health Program	Mobile health services, including: primary healthcare, industrial hearing screenings, immunizations, lab screenings, flu shots, physicals, bone density screenings, health fairs.
Gordon Family Practice - Calhoun 106 Hospital Court Calhoun, GA 30701	Family practice
Gordon Family Practice - Fairmount 2712 U.S. 411 Fairmount, GA 30139	Family practice
North Georgia Eye Care 1035 Red Bud Rd. Gordon Hospital Medical Office Bldg., Suite 203 Calhoun, GA 30701	Family eye care, ophthalmology services
Gordon Home Care 104 Hospital Court Calhoun, GA 30701	Home health, skilled nursing, physical, occupational, and speech therapy. Certified wound, ostomy, and continence nurse. Counties served: Gordon, Bartow, Catoosa, Floyd, Pickens, Whitfield
Gordon Daybreak Behavioral Health 190 Curtis Pkwy., Suite B Calhoun, GA 30701	Outpatient counseling, mental health services to treat depression/anxiety
Gordon Occupational Medicine 251 SR. 53 Calhoun, GA 30701	Customized occupational medicine programs for business and industry

Source: Gordon Hospital

6.3.9 Electric Utilities

City of Calhoun Electric Department

The City owns and operates a 170 mile electric distribution system that provides over 400 million kilowatt hours of electricity each year. It has a customer base comprised of 10% residential, 20% commercial and 70% industrial.

The Electric Department currently includes 19 full-time employees and 1 part time employee. The department has linemen, electricians, groundsmen, technicians, inspectors, and office personnel associated with the electrical system and electrical code enforcement. The department maintains the electrical distribution system, which is located throughout the corporate limits of Calhoun. The system is currently receiving wholesale electrical power through the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, of which Calhoun is one of 48 members, and generates its own peaking requirements.

6.4 Consistency with Service Delivery Strategy

Table 6-14 illustrates the most recent Service Delivery Strategy for Calhoun and Gordon County. There is a need to update the table to reflect new Service Delivery Strategies which have been created for new municipal water customers. This process will be undertaken in the 2006-2007 timeframe.

Table 6-14: Calhoun Service Delivery Strategy Summary

Services Provided	City of Calhoun Service Delivery Strategy	Service Area
Economic Development	Gordon County Chamber of Commerce (60%) City of Calhoun Development Authority (40%)	All county & municipalities
Emergency Management	Gordon County	All county & municipalities
Fire Protection	Gordon County City of Calhoun	All county & municipalities except Calhoun. Calhoun (Inc.)
Road and Bridges	Gordon County	All county & municipalities (Calhoun has streets dept for minor repair)
Gen. Admin & Finances	Gordon County, Calhoun, Plainville, Fairmount, Ranger, & Resaca	All County & Municipalities
Solid Waste Disposal	Gordon County	All county and municipalities
Solid Waste Collection	Gordon County (5 manned sites-fee based, free recycling) Calhoun (commercial pickup & recycling center) Plainville, Resaca	Unincorporated
		City limits only
		City limits only City limits only
EMS /Ambulance	Gordon County	All county & municipalities
Water and Waste- Water	City of Calhoun	County and all municipalities
Building Development Permitting & Inspections	Gordon County City of Calhoun City of Fairmount	County & cities of Resaca, Ranger, Plainville City of Calhoun City of Fairmount
Alcohol License Service Delivery	Gordon County City of Calhoun City of Fairmount City of Plainville City of Ranger City of Resaca	Uninc. County City Limits City Limits City Limits City Limits City Limits
Municipal Court Service	Gordon County City of Calhoun City of Fairmount	Uninc. County City Limits City Limits
Law Enforcement	Gordon County (Sheriff) City of Calhoun (police) City of Fairmount (police)	County & cities of Resaca, Ranger, Plainville City limits
Housing	City of Calhoun Housing Authority	County and all municipalities

Source: Calhoun and Gordon County Service Delivery Strategy Summaries of Service Delivery Arrangements

7 Transportation

7.1 Road Network

There are a total of approximately 806 centerline miles of streets and roads in Gordon County. The breakdown of mileage by jurisdiction is:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------|
| • Interstate Highway | 15.7 miles | (2%) |
| • State or U.S. Routes | 128.4 miles | (16%) |
| • Local (City and County) | 661.5 miles | (82%) |
| • Total centerline mileage | 805.6 miles | |

Figure 7-1a shows the functional classifications of roads. Figure 7-1b shows the number of traffic lanes on each road. Figure 7-1c shows the average daily traffic. These figures are located in the Atlas of Maps.

Interstate 75 is the only interstate highway in the County. It is listed as a Rural Interstate Principal Arterial from the Bartow County line to the southern city limits of Calhoun and from the northern city limits of Resaca to the Whitfield County line. It is shown as an Urban Interstate Principal Arterial between the southern city limits of Calhoun to the northern city limits of Resaca. It is the primary traffic carrier through the County and is already 6 lanes wide.

The Urban Principal Arterials are:

- U.S. 41/SR 3 (from SR 53 to Interstate 75)
- SR 53 (from Liberty Rd. to Morrow Rd.)
- SR 53 Spur (Oothcalooga St.)
- SR 136 Connector (from SR 53 SPUR to Hall Memorial Road)
- West Line St. from SR 136 Conn. & SR 156 to SR 3/U.S. 41

SR 53 from Morrow Rd. to the Pickens County line is the only Rural Principal Arterial noted for the County.

The Urban Minor Arterials are:

- SR 3/U.S. 41 from Salem Rd. to SR 53
- SR 3/U.S. 41 from Interstate 75 to the northern Resaca city limits
- SR 136 from Fain Brown Rd. to Riverview Dr.
- SR 156 from the Oostanula River to Town Creek
- SR 225 from SR 3/U.S. 41 to Craigtown Rd./Newtown Church Rd.
- Salem Rd. from McDaniel Station Rd. to SR 3/U.S. 41
- McDaniel Station Rd. from Liberty Rd. to SR 53 Spur
- South River St. from SR 53 to SR 53 Spur
- East Line St. from SR 3/U.S. 41 to Barrett Rd.
- Dews Pond Rd. from Barrett Rd. to Wrights Hollow Rd.
- College St. from Dews Pond Rd. to Old Red Bud Rd.
- Old Red Bud Rd. from College St. to SR 156
- Barrett Rd. from Dews Pond Rd. to SR 156
- Harmony Dr. from Dews Pond Dr. to SR 156
- Newtown Church Rd. from SR 156 to Newtown Creek Rd.

The Rural Minor Arterials are:

- SR 3/U.S. 41 from the Bartow County line to Salem Rd.
- SR 3/U.S. 41 from the Resaca city limits to Whitfield County

- SR 53 from the Floyd County line to Liberty Rd.
- SR 61/U.S. 411 from the Bartow County line to the Murray County line
- SR 136 from SR 136 Conn. to the Walker County line
- SR 136 Conn. From Hall Memorial Rd. to SR 136
- SR 225 from Craigtown Rd./Newtown Church Rd. to the Murray County line

The remaining roads are collectors or local roads and streets. Most of these are two-lane roads. Many of these local streets are substandard in width and have no shoulders. The pavement on many of these is bituminous surface treatment in poor condition and in need of resurfacing.

Most of the capacity issues with the roadway network in Gordon County are centered in or near the City of Calhoun with the arterials noted above. With the predominant residential growth to the east, the east-west routes of SR 225, Dews Pond Road, Boone Ford Road, and SR 53 will continue to experience capacity issues as traffic approaches Interstate 75. There is little connectivity north south through this area.

With continued industrial growth to the south of Calhoun and residential growth along the Gordon County and Bartow County line, the need for an interchange on the south side of the County continues to surface. Also, there are very few east-west routes across this area of the County. This forces much of the traffic into the busy retail area along SR 53 from SR 53 Spur to Interstate 75.

7.2 Roadway Safety

Table 7-1 reflects crash “hotspots” throughout the County. Hotspots are defined as roads having greater than 30 crashes in a 0.3 mile segment of roadway. The highest number of crashes occurred along Interstate 75 and on SR 53 west of the Interstate 75 interchange. Dixie Highway/SR 3 and additional segments SR 53 also consistently appear on the hotspot summary table.

Table 7-1: Roadway Segment Crash Hotspot Summary

Route Name	Hotspot#	CrossRoad 1	CrossRoad 2	Total Crashes	Beg MP	End MP
Gordon I-75	1			101	4.6	4.9
Gordon I-75	2			103	4.9	5.2
Gordon I-75	3			54	7.4	7.7
Gordon I-75	4			58	7.7	8
Gordon I-75	5			43	9.5	9.8
Gordon I-75	6			34	10.4	10.7
Gordon I-75	7			61	10.7	11
Gordon I-75	8			77	11	11.3
Gordon I-75	9			32	12.4	12.7
Gordon I-75	10			48	12.7	13
DIXIE HWY (SR 3)	1	S INDUSTRIAL BLVD	FAIRMOUNT HWY	44	5.3	5.6
DIXIE HWY (SR 3)	2	EDWARDS ST	DAN CHERRI DR	46	6.1	6.4
DIXIE HWY (SR 3)	3	DAN CHERRI DR	VICTORY DR	31	6.4	6.7
DIXIE HWY (SR 3)	4	HILLHOUSE ST	OOTHCALOOGA ST	41	7.2	7.5
DIXIE HWY (SR 3)	5	OOTHCALOOGA ST	E LINE ST	38	7.5	7.8
DIXIE HWY (SR 3)	6	NELSON ST	REDBUD RD	38	8.2	8.5
DIXIE HWY (SR 3)	7	HENDERSON BEND RD	JONES RD	32	8.9	9.2
DIXIE HWY (SR 3)	8	HOOD ST	JOLLY RD	36	9.3	9.6
ROME RD (SR 53)	1	RIVER ST	W C BRYANT PKWY	45	7.7	8
ROME RD (SR 53)	2	W C BRYANT PKWY	SHORT ST	63	8	8.3
ROME RD (SR 53)	3	SHORT ST	DIXIE HWY	80	8.3	8.6
ROME RD (SR 53)	4	DIXIE HWY	KEN MORELAND ST	114	8.6	8.9
ROME RD (SR 53)	5	KEN MORELAND ST	RICHARDSON RD	38	8.9	9.2
ROME RD (SR 53)	6	RICHARDSON RD	CURTIS PKWY	172	9.2	9.5
FAIRMOUNT HWY (SR 53)	7	CURTIS PKWY	ON\ OFF TO I-75	58	9.5	9.8
REDBUD RD (SR 156)	1	WRIGHT CT	COLUMBUS CIR	32	12.8	13.1
W C BRYANT PKWY (CS814)	1	DIXIE HWY	ROME RD	47	0	0.3

Source: Georgia Department of Transportation Department

The Table 7-2 indicates the intersections in Gordon County that are potential safety deficiency intersections. Although the top three intersections have few total crashes than the balance of the intersections shown, they are ranked significantly higher due to a higher proportion of accidents.

Table 7-2: Intersection Crash Summary

<i>Primary Street/Road</i>	<i>Cross Street/Road</i>	<i>No. Crashes 2000-2004</i>	<i>Entering AADT</i>	<i>Intersection Crash Rate</i>	<i>Traffic Control Type</i>
Gordon CR 61	LOVERS LANE RD	20	821	13.3	O-Stop Sign Opposite Direction of Inventory
KING ST	OOTHCALOOGA ST	17	800	11.6	A-Stop Sign
PINE ST	S RIVER ST	19	1134	9.2	S-Traffic Control Device (Red;Amber;Green)
FAIRMOUNT HWY (SR 53)	OUTLET CENTER DR	75	11364	3.6	S-Traffic Control Device (Red;Amber;Green)
RIVER ST (SR 136-CO)	CL MOSS PKWY (SR 156)	69	13211	2.9	S-Traffic Control Device (Red;Amber;Green)
DEWS POND RD	CURTIS PKWY	30	6126	2.7	R-Beacon-Overhead Flashing Red
REDBUD RD (SR 156)	OFF\ON I-75	44	9186	2.6	L-Traffic Control Device with Turn Arrow
JOSEPH VANN HWY (SR 225)	NEWTOWN CH RD	21	5040	2.3	A-Stop Sign
DIXIE HWY (U.S. 41)	BAKER ST	23	5830	2.2	S-Traffic Control Device (Red;Amber;Green)
FAIRMOUNT HWY (SR 53)	OLD FAIRMOUNT RD	16	4137	2.1	A-Stop Sign
DIXIE HWY (U.S. 41)	FAIRMOUNT HWY (SR 53)	94	24958	2.1	L-Traffic Control Device with Turn Arrow
REDBUD RD (SR 156)	SHORT N WALL ST	44	12157	2.0	P-Traffic Control w/Pedestrian Signalization
REDBUD RD (SR 156)	WARRIOR PATH	49	14337	1.9	L-Traffic Control Device with Turn Arrow
OOTHCALOOGA ST (SR 53-SP)	KING ST	41	12173	1.8	O-Stop Sign Opposite Direction of Inventory
DEWS POND RD	LOVERS LANE RD	24	7218	1.8	R-Beacon-Overhead Flashing Red
OOTHCALOOGA ST (SR 53-SP)	RIVER ST	39	12211	1.8	S-Traffic Control Device (Red;Amber;Green)
N WALL ST (SR 3)	REDBUD RD (SR 156)	54	17853	1.7	S-Traffic Control Device (Red;Amber;Green)
ROME RD (SR 53)	W C BRYANT PKWY	78	25936	1.6	S-Traffic Control Device (Red;Amber;Green)
DIXIE HWY (U.S. 41)	TRACY ST (SR 225)	27	10250	1.4	P-Traffic Control w/Pedestrian Signalization
FAIRMOUNT HWY (SR 53)	INDUSTRIAL ROAD (SR 61)	22	8890	1.4	A-Stop Sign
DIXIE HWY (U.S. 41)	COLLEGE ST	43	17886	1.3	O-Stop Sign Opposite Direction of Inventory
ROME RD (SR 53)	CURTIS PKWY	92	38531	1.3	O-Stop Sign Opposite Direction of Inventory
REDBUD RD (SR 156)	NEWTOWN RD	38	16055	1.3	A-Stop Sign
REDBUD RD (SR 156)	WARRIOR PATH	34	14497	1.3	S-Traffic Control Device (Red;Amber;Green)
Gordon SR 156	Gordon CR 24	22	9461	1.3	A-Stop Sign
BARRETT RD	E LINE ST	14	6055	1.3	A-Stop Sign

Source: Georgia Department of Transportation Department

Table 7-2: Intersection Crash Summary(Continued)

Primary Street/Road	Cross Street/Road	No. Crashes 2000-2004	Enter-ing AADT	Intersec-tion Crash Rate	Traffic Control Type
REDBUD RD (SR 156)	CL MOSS PKWY	18	7794	1.3	O-Stop Sign Opposite Direction of Inventory
DIXIE HWY (U.S. 41)	UNION GROVE RD	17	7515	1.2	S-Traffic Control Device (Red;Amber;Green)
ROME RD (SR 53)	S INDUSTRIAL BLVD	53	26165	1.1	S-Traffic Control Device (Red;Amber;Green)
DIXIE HWY (U.S. 41)	W C BRYANT PKWY	48	23735	1.1	P-Traffic Control w/Pedestrian Signalization
ROME RD (SR 53)	RICHARDSON RD	70	38793	1.0	L-Traffic Control Device with Turn Arrow
* Intersection Crash Rate = [(Total Number of Accidents) / (Average ADT x 365 x No. Years) x 1,000,000. Intersections with accident rate >= 1.0 are identified as potential safety deficiency intersections.					

Source: Georgia Department of Transportation Department

7.3 Planned Roadway Projects

7.3.1 State Transportation Improvement Program Projects (STIP)

The State Transportation Improvement Program is a three-year multimodal program that contains federally funded transportation projects. Information provided in the STIP includes project cost, status, and funding source for the Preliminary engineering (PE), Right of Way (ROW) and Construction (CST) phases of a project. Projects may only be included if federal funds are available or if there is a reasonable expectation that funds will be obtained.

Gordon County has several projects that have been incorporated into the FY2006-FY2008 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), shown in Table 7-3. Figure 7-3 located in the Atlas of Maps shows the STIP locations. The projects range from adding traffic signals along state routes to making improvements to Interstate 75 interchanges.

Table 7-3: FY2006-FY2008 State Transportation Improvement (STIP) Projects

Project No.	Project Description	Project Type
0000308	SR 156 at College Street, Calhoun	Intersection Improvement
00004048	SR 53 at CR5/McDaniel Station Road, west of Calhoun	Intersection Improvement
0007138	SR 3/Dixie Highway at SR 53/Fairmount Highway	Intersection Improvement
621365-	SR 3/U.S. 41/Calhoun from CR 65/Union Grove Road to SR 53	Widening (2 to 4 lanes)
620780	SR 3/ U.S. 41 from south of SR 156 north to Calhoun Bypass in Calhoun	Widening (2 to 4 lanes)
0006416	SR 53 from CR 271/Carter Mountain Road to CR 178/Davis Road	Realignment
0001578	SR 53 median turn lanes from north of Floyd Co. to SR 53 Spur	Addition of Turn Lane (from 4 to 5)
0007079	SR 136 from SR 61/U.S. 411 to SR 515	Rumble Strips
0007369	SR 3 at eight locations; SR53 at one location; SR 136 Conn at two locations; SR 156 at one location	Signals
M002540	SR 136 Conn from SR 136 to Oostanaula River Bridge	Resurface and Maintenance

Source: Georgia Department of Transportation Department

Table 7-3: FY2006-FY2008 State Transportation Improvement (STIP) Projects (continued)

Project No.	Project Description	Project Type
M002542	SR 136 from SR 1/Walker to SR 136 Conn/Gordon	Resurface and Maintenance
610750-	I-75 at SR 156 in Calhoun and widening of SR 156/Red Bud Road	Interchange
610870-	I-75 at CR 65/Union Grove Road relocation in Calhoun	Interchange
610930-	I-75 at SR 136 and widening on SR 136	Interchange
0000683	CR 134/County Line Road at Polecat Creek at Murray County line	Bridge Replacement
632906-	SR 255 at Coosawattee River four miles northeast of Calhoun	Bridge Replacement
642391-	SR 156 at Oothkalooga Creek 1 mile west of Calhoun	Bridge Replacement
M002789	I-75 at five locations in Bartow and Gordon Counties	Deck Rehab
M002386	Proposed bridge painting at several locations in Bartow/Dade/Gordon Counties	Bridge Painting

Source: Georgia Department of Transportation Department

7.4 Bridge Inventory and Conditions

There are a total of 126 bridges in the County. Each has been assigned a “sufficiency rating.” Scores greater than 50 indicate a bridge is in satisfactory condition; less than fifty indicates replacement is warranted. Four of the County’s bridges, or three percent of the total, received a rating of less 50, as shown in Table 7-4. Of these, three are identified in the FY2006-FY2008 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) as planned bridge replacement projects.

Table 7-4: County Bridges in Unsatisfactory Condition

Bridge Serial No.	Facility	Rating	Year Constructed	Replacement Date in STIP
129-0052-0	SR 225 at East River	20.35751	1955	After 2008
129-5044-0	Jim Tom Road at Dry Creek	29.01977	1990	2006
129-5036-0	Bridge over creek	26.07566	1956	After 2008
129-5021-0	Bridge over creek	42.8111	1934	n/a

Source: Georgia Department of Transportation Department of Bridge Maintenance

7.5 Alternative Modes

Figure 7-5 located in the Atlas of Maps shows the locations of the various alternative modes.

7.5.1 Bicycle Routes

There is currently one state designated bicycle route through Gordon County. It is the “March to the Sea” route running from Rossville to Atlanta and on to Savannah. It follows SR 136 from Walker County and then to SR 136 Connector to Calhoun where it runs along SR 3/U.S. 41 to the Bartow County line. This route is not currently signed or marked on the existing roadways. These

routes need to be widened to accommodate bicycle traffic. There are no other designated bike routes or trails within the City of Calhoun or the County. With the continued growth and addition of new schools, bike paths or lanes need to be established in the City and the County.

7.5.2 Park and Ride

There are currently two statewide park and ride lots in Gordon County. One of these is at the Fairmount public square and has 10 spaces. The other is on U.S. 41 at SR 136 in Resaca and has space for 6 vehicles.

7.5.3 Public Transportation

The State operates three mini busses in Gordon County. These are primarily run for the economically disadvantaged, elderly, handicapped, etc. that need local transportation. One of these is a 14 passenger bus and the other two are 11 passenger busses with lifts for the handicapped. These accounted for an average 517 one way passenger trips per month for 19 days per month in 2005.

7.5.4 Pedestrian Facilities

With the continued growth in the County and the City, there is a growing need for more pedestrian facilities to connect to residential areas and businesses. The Coosa Valley Regional Development Center noted that there are very few mapped sidewalks in Gordon County. The addition of sidewalks along such streets as Dews Pond Road and Curtis Parkway will help to encourage pedestrian traffic by providing a safer place for the pedestrian to walk. Streetscape projects in the downtown area have improved the aesthetics of the downtown area, thus encouraging pedestrian traffic. Most of the roads in the County are rural and don't lend themselves to the construction of curbs and sidewalks. However, trails would be a good alternative to the use of the public streets.

7.6 Parking

As the City and County continue to grow, parking, especially in the downtown area, will become more of an issue. Currently, in addition to on street parking, there is a parking deck on Piedmont Street near the courthouse. There appears to be a problem with the current deck as several people have stated that the existing deck is under sized and leaks when it rains. With the continued growth, additional parking will be needed as well as the current deck renovated or reconstructed.

7.7 Railroads, Trucking, Port Facilities, and Airports

Figure 7-7 located in the Atlas of Maps shows the railroads, truck routes and airports.

7.7.1 Railroads

There are currently three rail lines running through Gordon County. Two are operated by CSX and one by Norfolk Southern. All three of these are freight lines and all three run north south across the County with the Norfolk Southern line running across the west side of the County and the CSX lines running through Calhoun and roughly parallel to U.S. 411 on the east side of the County. The Norfolk Southern line is carrying approximately 77.5 million gross tons of freight per year across these tracks. The CSX line that runs through Calhoun is handling approximately 39.4 million tons and the CSX line runs 55.4 million tons of freight on the east side of the County.

There is currently no passenger rail service in use and none planned for the County. However, the Georgia Department of Transportation is in the process of employing a consultant to complete a Tier-1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a high-speed ground transportation system (HSGT) in the Atlanta to Chattanooga corridor. The purpose for the study is to determine the HSGT technology, the general corridor location, the general station locations, and identification of the initial operating segment. As currently shown on the Georgia Rail Passenger Program, this corridor will traverse through Gordon County. Depending on the technology, stops in Gordon County may not be likely. Funding is provided for this work through the Federal Highway Administration's intermodal transportation planning. Table 7-5 provides crash data.

Table 7-5: Railroad Crossing Crash Data¹³

Route	Name	Fatalities (2000-2004)	Injuries (2000-2004)	Total Crashes (2000-2004)	Posted Speed Limit	Current AADT	Approx. Current Daily Train Movements	Crossing Number	Current Warning Device
SR 136	Resaca Hill City Rd	0	0	4	55	2500	27	719731W	Active
SR 136	Nickelsville Rd	0	0	1	40	5400	16	340521D	Active
SR 3	Dixie Hwy	0	0	1	45	10540	0	340516G	Active
SR 53-SP	Court St	0	0	2	25	11300	32	340508P	Active
SR 156	Redbud Rd	0	1	2	35	8600	28	351796S	Active
CR 11	Damascus Church	0	0	1	35	2420	24	340518V	Active
CR 93	S Holcomb Rd	1	0	1	35	740	24	340496X	Active
CR 94	Salem	0	0	1	25	1300	42	340499T	Active
CR 106	Miller Ferry Rd	0	0	1	45	2260	24	340494J	Active
CR 119	Harris Beamer Rd	0	0	1	35	820	28	719744X	Active
CR 148	Midway Rd	0	0	1	15	740	33	719727G	Active
CR 188	Jolly Rd	1	0	1	25	820	12	340515A	Active
CR 198	Oostanaula Bend	0	0	2	25	820	33	719742J	Active
CR 207	Earl Street	0	0	1	25	740	28	719748A	Active
CR 239	Pack Rd	1	0	2	35	740	16	340681S	Active
CR 476	Sugar Valley Hill City Rd	0	0	1	35	1400	27	719730P	Active
CR 483	Craigtown Rd	0	0	1	40	500	28	340520W	Active
CS 677-07	Scott Dr	0	0	1	25	740	27	719749G	Active
CS 715-01	Maple St	0	0	1	30	3560	30	340506B	Active
CS 719-01	Oothcalooga	0	0	2	25	830	32	340507H	Active
CS 816-01	E Line St	1	0	1	35	7900	32	340509W	Active

Source: Georgia Department of Transportation Department

¹³ Railroad with crossing number 3 operated by CSX Transportation and railroad with crossing number 7* operated by Norfolk Southern Corporation

7.7.2 Trucking

In addition to the movement of freight by rail, trucking also facilitates the movement of cargo within Gordon County. The major truck routes generally follow the location of industry within the County. Interstate 75 through Gordon County is operating with approximately 30% trucks. Many of these exit Interstate 75 at the five interchanges along the interstate to the industries and other businesses within the County. With most of the industry located to the north and south of the City of Calhoun the trucks enter and exit Interstate 75 primarily at SR 53 and SR 3/U.S. 41. Due to the truck stop located at Interstate 75 and SR 136 a large number also exit the freeway there. Particularly at SR 53 the trucks merge into an already over crowded roadway in order to get to the industry south of SR 53. This exacerbates a bad situation on SR 53. GDOT is currently proposing to build a new interchange at Union Grove Road which could help to alleviate some of this congestion. In addition the Department of Transportation is proposing to extend Union Grove Road east and west to tie into SR 53 which will help to decrease the numbers of trucks through this busy commercial area of Gordon County.

7.7.3 Port Facilities

There are no port facilities in Gordon County.

7.7.4 Airports

There is one general aviation airport within the County and several small private landing areas in Gordon County. Tom B. David Field is operated by the Calhoun-Gordon County Airport Authority. It has a single runway that was extended to a total of 6000 feet and is 75 feet wide. A parallel taxiway runs along a portion of the length of the runway. The "35" (or southern most) end of the runway has a 1000 foot displaced threshold with no displaced threshold on the "17" end. Both ends of the runway have a 2-light PAPI system and the runway has medium intensity edge lighting. The airport currently has approximately 55 operations per day and is operating at approximately 17% of capacity. The future growth is primarily in the area of improved safety and operations and in apron and hangar capacity for housing aircraft.

7.8 Transportation and Land Use Connection

Figure 7-8a shows the 2005 level of service for roads. Figure 7-8b shows the projected 2025 level of service for roads.

Residential growth in Gordon County will continue primarily eastward away from Calhoun. Some residential growth will occur on the south side of the County along the Bartow County line. Industry will continue to expand southward from Calhoun toward Bartow County with some growth toward Whitfield County on the north. The primary traffic patterns will continue to flow toward Calhoun and toward Interstate 75. With this flow toward Interstate 75, the east west surface streets will continue to add vehicles and the need for added capacity will increase. North south connectivity is needed to lessen the load on Lovers Lane. Perhaps this could tie to the extension of Union Grove Road at SR 53.

On the south side of Calhoun, GDOT is planning an interchange at Union Grove Road and planning to extend Union Grove Road to the east and to the west to SR 53. This should help to eliminate some of the congestion problems currently being experienced along SR 53 from near SR 53 Spur to Interstate 75. It should also eliminate some of the truck traffic through this area.

On the north side of Calhoun SR 3/U.S. 41 is the primary funnel of traffic coming into the Calhoun area. A loop or bypass around the northwest side of Calhoun should be able remove some of this through traffic from coming into the CBD of Calhoun.