

# *Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2024~2028*

Joint Comprehensive  
Plan for Murray  
County and the Cities  
of Chatsworth and  
Eton 2024



Northwest Georgia Regional  
Commission

September 2023

**n**rthwest  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

503 West Waugh Street  
Dalton, GA 30720  
706-272-2300

Cover: Background: View of the Blue Ridge Mountains on the Chattahoochee National Forest from SR 52 on Fort Mountain. Inset: Murray County Court House, completed 1917 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is one of three domed courthouses in the state.

**Murray County  
Joint Comprehensive Plan 2024-2028**

**Joint Comprehensive Plan for Murray County and the Cities of  
Chatsworth and Eton 2024**

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission  
503 West Waugh Street, Dalton, Georgia 30720

September 2023

Adopted:  
Murray County: September 5, 2023  
City of Chatsworth: September 11, 2023  
City of Eton: September 5, 2023

*This page was intentionally left blank for two-sided printing*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## MURRAY COUNTY

### County Commission

Greg Hogan *Sole Commissioner\**

### Staff

Tommy Parker

*County Manager/Finance Officer*

Dick Barnes

*Land Use/Zoning*

Eli Falls

*Executive Director, Murray County  
Industrial Development Authority*

### Stakeholder Committee

#### Murray County

Tim Howard

Anthony Pittman

Jimmy Davenport

Julie Wynn

Stephen Bontekoe

Berry Gentry

Donny Abraham

Edward Dunn

David McDaniel

Lori McDaniel

Jeffrey Gardner

Matt Sandford

Billy Childers

Greg Hogan *Sole Commissioner*

Tommy Parker

*County Manager/Finance Officer*

## CHATSWORTH

### Mayor

K.W. Gong

### City Council

Terry Crump

Rhett Griffin

Jeff Cloer

Fred Welch

### Staff

Dolley Marshall Flood

*City Zoning, Floodplain, Stormwater  
Administrator and Code Enforcement  
Official*

### Stakeholder Committee

#### Chatsworth

Holli Myers

Daryl Myers

Mary Weaver

Noviena Cloer

Connie Reed

Kimberly Jones

Stephen Smith

Celeste Barger

Michelle Koneman

Chris Hardin

Kim Hardin

### Steering Committee members

K.W. Gong, *Chatsworth Mayor*

Dolley Marshall Flood

*City Zoning, Floodplain,  
Stormwater Administrator and  
Code Enforcement Official*

Josh Etheridge, *Chatsworth  
chief of Police*

## ETON

### Mayor

Billy Cantrell

### City Council

Anthony Ridley

Traci Rankin

Jim Bartley

Joan Dooley

### Staff

Kim Hall

*City Clerk*

### Stakeholder Committee Eton

Sue French

Larry French

Dick Barnes

Lori McDaniel

Jeff Gardner

William Hunter

Billy Cantrell, *Eton Mayor*

Kim Hall *City Clerk*

Barry Gentry-*Murray Chamber  
of Commerce*

Celeste Barger

**Prepared by Northwest  
Georgia Regional Commission**

Boyd Austin

*Executive Director*

Julianne Meadows

*Director of Regional Planning*

Gretchen Lugthart

*Senior Planner*

Northwest Georgia Regional  
Commission

505 West Waugh Street

Dalton, GA 30720



All photos, charts, graphs, and figures  
created by Gretchen Lugthart unless  
otherwise noted.



*Cookhouse at Chief Vann House*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. INTRODUCTION: PLANNING FOR SUCCESS .....1

    The Importance of Planning .....1

    Requirements of the Plan.....1

    Historic Setting..... 3

    Natural Setting ..... 5

    Regionally Important Resources/Environmentally Sensitive Areas..... 6

    Impaired Waters of Murray County ..... 7

    Map of Regionally Important Resources..... 9

    Table 1. Impaired Waters in Murray County ..... 23

    Population and Economics ..... 26

    Economic Development Element.....31

    Transportation Element ..... 33

    Broadband Element ..... 35

    Public Participation using the SWOT Process.....51

2. COMMUNITY VISION AND GOALS: DEFINING SUCCESS..... 53

    Murray County ..... 54

    Chatsworth..... 55

    Eton..... 56

3. REPORTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT: COMPLETED PROJECTS..... 57

    Murray County Report of Accomplishments.....59

    Chatsworth Report of Accomplishments .....66

    Eton Report of Accomplishments.....71

4. NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE SWOT PROCESS..... 77

    Murray County Needs and Opportunities.....78

    Chatsworth Needs and Opportunities.....86

    Eton Needs and Opportunities..... 92

5. LAND USE IN MURRAY COUNTY AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES ..... 97

    Trends in Land Use in Murray County ..... 97

    Land Use Category Descriptions ..... 101

    Murray County Future Land Use Maps..... 109

    Chatsworth Future Land Use Maps. .... 123

    Eton Future Land Use Maps. ....135

6. COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMS: TOMORROW’S SUCCESSES.....143

    Murray County Community Work Program..... 144

    Chatsworth Community Work Program ..... 151

    Eton Community Work Program.....157

APPENDIX A: PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION DOCUMENTATION .....162

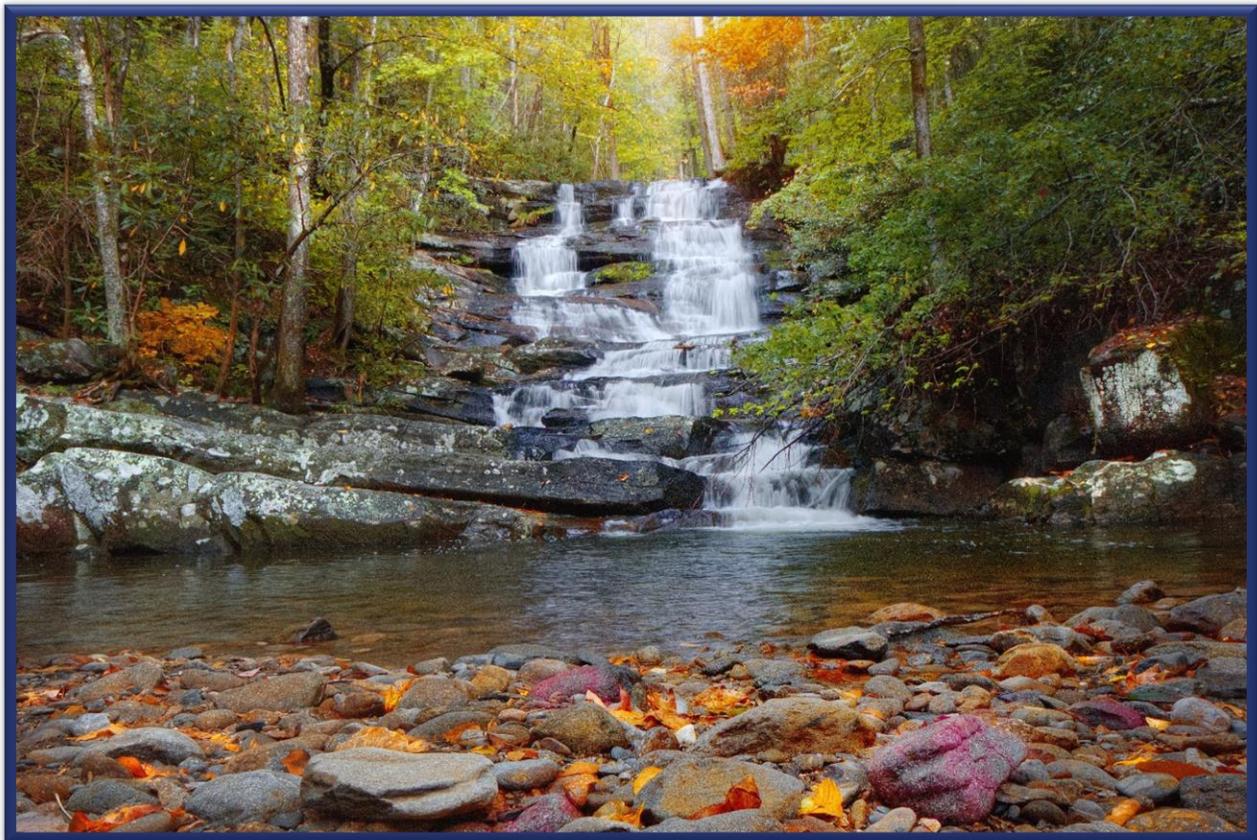
APPENDIX B. MURRAY COUNTY COMMUNITY VISION SURVEY ..... 164

    Discussion of Survey Results related to Needs and Opportunities and Work Program ..... 164

    Report for Murray County 2023 Community Vision Survey .....167

APPENDIX C: NEWSPAPER COVERAGE/WEB COVERAGE .....197

APPENDIX D: LEGAL NOTICES ..... 203



Emery Creek Falls. Photo Tony Carlson

Adoption Resolutions  
Murray County



## MURRAY COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 1129 • 121 North 4th Ave., Chatsworth, GA 30705  
Telephone 706-517-1400 • Fax 706-517-5193  
www.murraycountyga.org

### A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE

#### **Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2024-2028: Joint Comprehensive Plan for Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton 2024**

**Whereas**, the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 requires local governments to develop and maintain a comprehensive plan to retain their Qualified Local Government status and eligibility for State permits, grants, and loans; and

**Whereas**, the **Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2024-2028: Joint Comprehensive Plan for Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton 2024** is now complete; and

**Whereas**, such **Joint Comprehensive Plan Update** is approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs as meeting Georgia's Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures (effective October 1, 2018); and

**Whereas**, the second and final public hearing on the draft plan was held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at the Murray County Annex Building, Hearing Room, 121 North 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Chatsworth, Georgia 30705 at 9:15 am.

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the Sole Commissioner of Murray County, Georgia hereby officially adopts the **Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2024-2028: Joint Comprehensive Plan for Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton 2024**.

**Resolved**, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

BY:

Handwritten signature of Greg Hogan in blue ink.

Greg Hogan  
Sole Commissioner  
Murray County, Georgia

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Tina Davis in blue ink.

Tina Davis  
County Clerk  
Murray County, Georgia



*This page was intentionally left blank for two-sided printing*

# CITY OF CHATSWORTH

K.W. Gong  
Mayor

Linda Penland  
City Clerk



## A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE

### **Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2024-2028: joint Comprehensive Plan for Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton 2024**

Whereas, the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 requires local governments to develop and maintain a comprehensive plan to retain their Qualified Local Government status and eligibility for State permits, grants, and loans; and

Whereas, the **Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2024-2028: Joint Comprehensive Plan for Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton 2024** is now complete; and

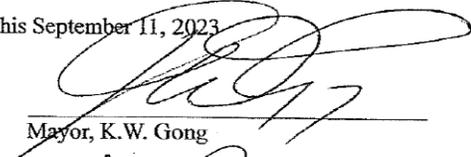
Whereas, such **Joint Comprehensive Plan Update** is approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs as meeting Georgia's Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures (effective October 1, 2018); and

Whereas, the second and final public hearing on the draft plan was held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at the Murray County Annex Building, Hearing Room, 121 North 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Chatsworth, Georgia 30705 at 9:15 a.m.

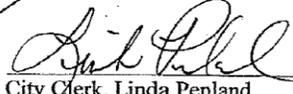
**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the City Council of Chatsworth, Georgia hereby officially adopts the **Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2024-2028: Joint Comprehensive Plan for Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton 2024**.

Resolved, this September 11, 2023

BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, K.W. Gong

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk, Linda Penland



*This page was intentionally left blank for two-sided printing*

**CITY OF ETON, GEORGIA**

*"The Pleasant Valley"*



3464 U.S. Highway 411 North  
P.O. Box 407  
Eton, Georgia 30724  
Phone 706.695.2652  
www.etongeorgia.com

**OFFICERS:**

**MAYOR**  
Billy Cantrell

**MAYOR PRO TEM**  
Joan Dooley

**CITY CLERK**  
Kim Hall

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**POST 1**  
Anthony Ridley  
**POST 2**  
Traci Rankin  
**POST 3**  
Jim Bartely  
**POST 4**  
Joan Dooley

**A RESOLUTION  
TO ADOPT THE**

**Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2024-2028: Joint Comprehensive Plan for  
Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton 2024**

Whereas, the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 requires local governments to develop and maintain a comprehensive plan to retain their Qualified Local Government status and eligibility for State permits, grants, and loans; and

Whereas, the **Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2024-2028: Joint Comprehensive Plan for Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton 2024** is now complete; and

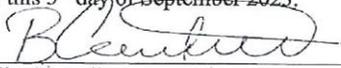
Whereas, such **Joint Comprehensive Plan Update** is approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs as meeting Georgia's Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures (effective October 1, 2018); and

Whereas, the second and final public hearing on the draft plan was held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at the Murray County Annex Building, Hearing Room, 121 North 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Chatsworth, Georgia 30705 at 9:15 am.

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved** that the City Council of Eton, Georgia hereby officially adopts the **Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2024-2028: Joint Comprehensive Plan for Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton 2024**.

Resolved, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Billy Cantrell  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Hall, City Clerk  
City of Eton, Georgia

*This page was intentionally left blank for two-sided printing*

## 1. INTRODUCTION: PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

### *The Importance of Planning*

Murray County has participated in comprehensive planning for many years. In 2005, a full joint plan was prepared, with partial plan updates in 2010 and 2013. A full plan update was completed in 2019. This current plan update follows rules that require updates every 5 years. Murray County incorporates planning in their governing process for several reasons. First, it helps the local government run efficiently, by recognizing opportunities early



Murray County Courthouse. Photo Jay Choate

and developing them into finished projects smoothly, and by identifying and tackling problems before they become overwhelming. Second, by complying with state requirements to create a comprehensive plan, the county and cities maintain their eligibility for many state loans, grants, and permits. Finally, leaders have been able to promote a more democratic and participatory local government by following the planning process laid out by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. This document, the *Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan, 2024-2028*, is the product of this process and sets the county on the path to good government. This joint plan includes Murray County and the incorporated cities of Chatsworth (the county seat) and Eton. There are several unincorporated crossroad communities, including Tennga, Cisco, Temple Grove, Crandall, Fashion, Spring Place (the county seat until 1913), and Ramhurst.

### *Requirements of the Plan*

The state of Georgia requires county and city governments to develop, adopt, maintain, and implement a comprehensive plan to qualify for certain state grants, loans, and permits. By adhering to the state’s planning process, these local governments maintain their Qualified Local Government status (QLG). This plan has been updated in accordance with the Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, O.C.G.A. Chapter 110-12-1, Minimum Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning, effective October 1, 2018. The plan is organized to comply with the 2018 State Minimum Standards for Local Comprehensive Planning requiring a comprehensive plan update containing various elements every five years to maintain QLG status. These are the elements that Murray County needs to include:

- **Community Vision and Goals-** a short summary of what residents view as an ideal community and a list of ways to get there.
- **Report of Accomplishment-** a table summarizing the status of work activities listed in the last five-year work program. Items that are assessed as underway are automatically moved forward to the next work program, along with activities that were postponed.

- **Community Needs and Opportunities-** a collection of ideas from the public and government leaders reflecting the current state of the county, and what could be improved and enhanced.
- **Land Use/Future Land Use Map and Narrative-** a parcel-by-parcel depiction allowing managers to track trends in the disposition and condition of the land based on human activities. Examples of standard land use categories used here include commercial, industrial, residential, and agriculture/forestry.
- **Community Work Program-** a list of specific tasks to accomplish within the next 5 years.
- **Economic Development Element-** The county is on the Georgia Job Tax Credit Tier 1 for 2022 and 2023, therefore this element is required to improve economic prosperity in the area.
- **Transportation Element-** Chatsworth, Eton, and parts of Murray County are part of the Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization, which helps organize funding and solve long and short-term traffic and other transportation issues in the area.
- **Broadband Services Element-** A requirement for all governments to increase internet connectivity locally and state-wide.

Other elements that local Georgia governments sometimes deal with are not required in this plan. A capital improvements element is not required because Murray County does not charge impact fees. A housing element is not required because none of the governments are HUD CDBG Entitlement Communities.

### *Historic Setting*

Murray County’s rich cultural heritage reaches back into prehistory. At the summit of Fort Mountain lies an ancient wall thought to have been built by a pre-Cherokee group of Indians, but archeologists have given the site only limited study. In the Eastern United States, the evidence of the more ancient Indian groups is hard to find, so this could be an important archeological site.



*Site of Moravian Mission at Spring Place*

The area of present-day Murray County was part of the Cherokee Nation. In 1804, Chief James Vann built the Vann House on his plantation at Spring Place. He had the help of Moravians whom he had invited to set up a Christian mission to teach Western ways to the Cherokee. After he was killed in 1809, his son Joseph inherited the mansion and lived there until the Cherokee Removal in 1838-9. As physical evidence of Cherokee history in Georgia, as a testament to Cherokee efforts to assimilate into European culture, and as a well-preserved example of Moravian craftsmanship it is a unique historic site in Georgia. From a historic perspective, these events have national significance.



*Cherokee farmstead at Chief Vann House Historic Site*

Large-scale European settlement of Murray County began after the forced removal of the Indians in the 1830's, with farming being the main occupation of the settlers. Agriculture remained important throughout the rest of the century and into the twentieth century. Although the county sent several regiments to the Confederate Army, there were only a few skirmishes and no major battles or troop movements there during the Civil War, due to its location east of the route to Atlanta, its mountainous terrain and absence of rail lines at that time. Talc mining began in the 1870's and continued into the twentieth century. Not until 1905 did a rail line, the Louisville and Nashville, come to Murray County, which helped reduce the isolation of the area. The line ran north to south through the county with several station stops, including one in Chatsworth. This led to Chatsworth's rise to local prominence and the county seat was moved there from Spring Place after several years. In the mid twentieth century, the carpet industry grew rapidly in Northwest Georgia, and Murray County participated in that expansion, and still has floorcovering manufacture as a major part of its industrial base.



*The Vann House at Chief Vann Historic Site in Spring Place*

### *Natural Setting*

The west side of Murray County lies in the Great Valley of the Ridge and Valley Province of the Appalachian Mountains, while the east side of the county lies in the Blue Ridge Province of the Appalachians. The flatter parts of the Great Valley provide a beautiful setting for the cities of Chatsworth and Eton and land for pasture, hayfields, and row crops. The Cohutta Mountains, a subgroup of the Blue Ridge Mountains, lie east of Eton and a large portion of this mountain group is designated as the Cohutta Wilderness. In this area of high rainfall, there are steep summits with deep valleys holding rushing trout streams that feed into the Jack’s and Conasauga Rivers. The highest peak, Bald Mountain, is 4005 feet above sea level. After merging with the Jack’s River, the Conasauga River flows into Tennessee, and then back into Georgia in the Great Valley, forming the boundary between Whitfield and Murray Counties. The distinctive profile of Fort Mountain with its steep northern side rises to the east of Chatsworth and provides a scenic focal point for the beginning of the Blue Ridge. The Coosawattee River flows out of the Blue Ridge Mountains on the southeast side of the county and had one of the most rugged gorges in the North Georgia Mountains before it was impounded in the 1960’s to create Carters Lake.



1. Blue Ridge Mountains looking north from Carters Lake Dam. Photo Jay Choate

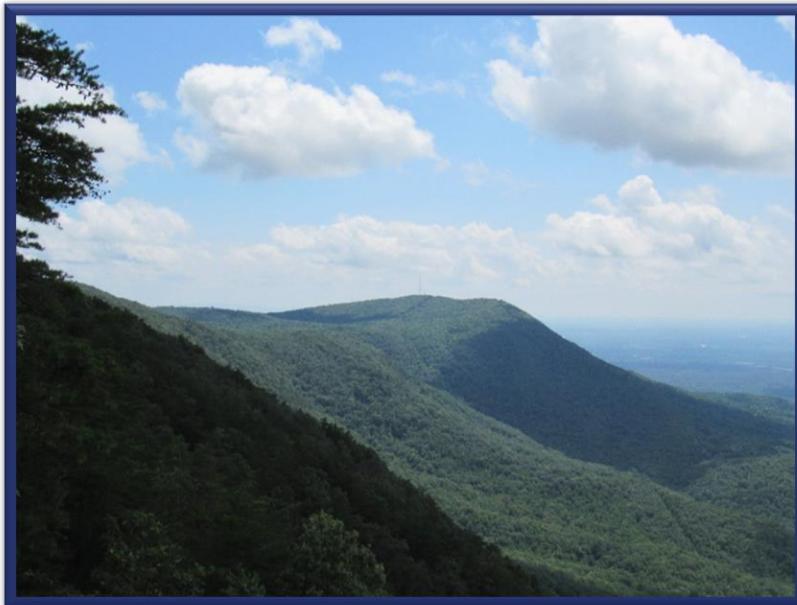
*Regionally Important Resources/Environmentally Sensitive Areas*

Regionally Important Resources (RIR) attract visitors from outside the county or improve the quality of life throughout Northwest Georgia. These sites merit special consideration when planning development. Several of these resources are mapped for Murray County on the following Regionally Important Resources map. Some of the RIRs are man-made, and some are natural resources. Included in the list are several National Register of Historic Places properties or districts, including the Murray County Court House, Carter’s Quarters, and Spring Place Historic District. Fort Mountain State Park, Chief Vann House State Historic Site, the Chattahoochee National Forest, and the Wildlife Management Areas are additional RIRs. The Pinhoti Trail, a multi-state footpath across the Southeast that connects to the Appalachian Trail, runs from west to east across the county and enters the Blue Ridge Mountains in Murray County.

General categories of natural resources found throughout the county are also included as Regionally Important Resources. The areas are 1) Water Supply Watersheds, 2) Protected Mountains, 3) Groundwater Recharge Areas, 4) Wetlands, and 5) Protected Rivers. The state of Georgia encourages local governments to incorporate into their planning process protection for these resources, so that development does not lead to damage. The recommendations for protection are called the Environmental Planning Criteria, covering the five types of areas; Murray County contains natural resources in all five (see the following Regionally Important Resources map for Murray County).

Water supply watersheds are the areas drained by a river or lake at the point above a public water withdrawal facility. There are three water supply watersheds in Murray County. Chatsworth Water Works withdraws water from the Wurley Branch arm of Carters Lake. Dalton Utilities withdraws drinking water from the Conasauga River. This water supply is primarily for Whitfield County, but Dalton Utilities does sell some water to Chatsworth Water Works for use in Murray County. Calhoun Utilities withdraws water from the Coosawattee River for use in Gordon County but sells water to

Chatsworth Water Works as well. Murray County has established an ordinance to protect the water quality in these watersheds.



*View from Fort Mountain State Park*

There are areas of mountain terrain on the east side of Murray County that are higher than 2,200 feet and have a slope of 25% or greater, so they should receive state Mountain Protection status. Much of this steep land is on the Chattahoochee National Forest, including parts of the Cohutta Wilderness, and in Fort Mountain State Park, so it is already protected from

development. In addition, the county has an ordinance that protects mountains 1,000 feet or higher with a slope of 25% or greater for at least 500 feet. This is stricter than the state criteria.

The county has large areas of groundwater recharge, mainly in the Great Valley west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, including the land where Chatsworth and Eton are located. The Conasauga River and the Coosawattee River both have sufficient flow (400 cubic feet per second) to qualify for state Protected River status. Wetlands



Figure 2 Canoeing the Conasauga River

are also a resource falling under the Environmental Planning Criteria. Wetlands in Murray County include springs and areas along stream and river courses. The county has not adopted Environmental Planning Criteria for Groundwater Recharge Areas, Wetlands, and Protected Rivers. County officials rely on existing state and federal regulations to protect these resources.

*Impaired Waters of Murray County*

Murray County boasts an abundance of beautiful mountain streams. The Conasauga River flows out of the Cohutta Wilderness and is nationally recognized for its diverse fish, crayfish, and mollusk species. In the section that flows through the Cohutta Wilderness, it is the only Outstanding National Resource Water in Georgia, receiving the highest level of protection under the Clean Water Act. The Conasauga also supplies drinking water to Whitfield County. Excellent water quality and an intact biological community should be found in all of the county’s waterways, to the benefit of residents, industry, fishermen, and boaters, and as well as the overall health of the terrestrial ecological community. However, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division currently lists twelve streams and rivers in Murray County on the impaired list because they do not meet the criteria for clean water (Georgia 2022 305(b)/303(d) list). See the Regionally Important Resources Map and Table 1.

Murray County lies entirely within the Upper Coosa Drainage, with the Conasauga River and the impounded Coosawattee River (Carters Lake reservoir) being the two large rivers in the county. The state of Georgia periodically re-evaluates the impaired streams, with the most recent list finalized in 2022. Among the twelve streams and rivers on the impaired list, six are contaminated by fecal coliform bacteria, a typical impairment for Georgia’s rural areas, with livestock, septic systems, and wildlife as potential non-point sources of fecal waste. In eight streams the fish community is degraded, which means the mix of fish species and fish numbers are not at healthy levels. In Georgia mountain streams this usually signifies excessive sediment. Sediment can interfere with fish egg survival and survival of macroinvertebrates that are the fishes’ food source. Sediment can also cause downstream problems at municipal water intakes.

Four streams or rivers in Murray County are impaired because the fish have chemical contaminant levels in their flesh high enough that the Georgia DNR considers them unsafe to eat in large quantities.

These streams with fish consumption guidance include two stretches of the Conasauga River that have fish contaminated with PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls). The state’s discovery of mercury-contaminated fish has led to fish consumption guidance for sections of Sumac Creek, Holly Creek, and the Mill Creek running through Eton (there is more than one Mill Creek in the county).

When the state gathers samples to monitor a stream’s fish, and aquatic macroinvertebrates, and water quality, the information can lead to the stream moving onto the impaired list or being removed from the list. Town Branch has been added to the 2022 impaired list, but two stream sections came off the impaired list. In Goldmine Branch and the upper reaches of Sumac Creek the fish community is now considered healthy (Table 2). Since the goal is to have clean water for uses like fishing, swimming, and drinking water supply throughout the county, it is always good news when streams are delisted.

Sometimes the state’s monitoring information is incomplete, and streams need further assessment to determine their status. Three streams are on the assessment pending list for various reasons (See Table 3).

The trout streams on this impaired list include the upper reaches of the Conasauga, including Jack’s River, upper reaches of Holly Creek and the Mill Creek within Holly Creek watershed, and the upper part of the Mill Creek that flows through Eton. The upper reaches of Sumac Creek above Coffey Lake are trout waters, but they are no longer considered impaired. There are other trout streams in Murray County that are not impaired.

A number of state and federal agencies and non-profit groups have focused on improving water quality in Murray County specifically to protect and improve the Conasauga River’s unique biodiversity and water supply role. The Limestone Valley RC&D Council has led conservation efforts in the Conasauga watershed for many years. The Limestone Valley RC&D worked on an EPD 319 grant from 2019 to 2022 in the Holly Creek watershed, a tributary to the Conasauga, to assist farmers with installing agricultural Best Management Practices. In addition, with the partnership of Murray County, failed residential septic systems were fixed to reduce fecal coliform bacteria in the creek and two rain gardens were installed at Murray County Recreation Center and Chatsworth Elementary. Work on additional projects in Holly Creek watershed included stream bank restoration and culvert replacement to improve fish passage. The Georgia DNR identified the Conasauga River as the state’s highest priority river for rare species conservation in the 2015 (current) State Wildlife Action Plan. The DNR has an aquatic biologist dedicated to the overall Coosa River Basin, in which Murray County is located. This aquatic biologist continues to carry out the DNR’s conservation mission in Murray County by sampling for fish and mussels in Holly Creek and surveying to better understand the distribution of threatened Trispot darters in the Conasauga and Coosawattee watersheds.

*Map of Regionally Important Resources*

Regionally Important resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and water quality impaired streams

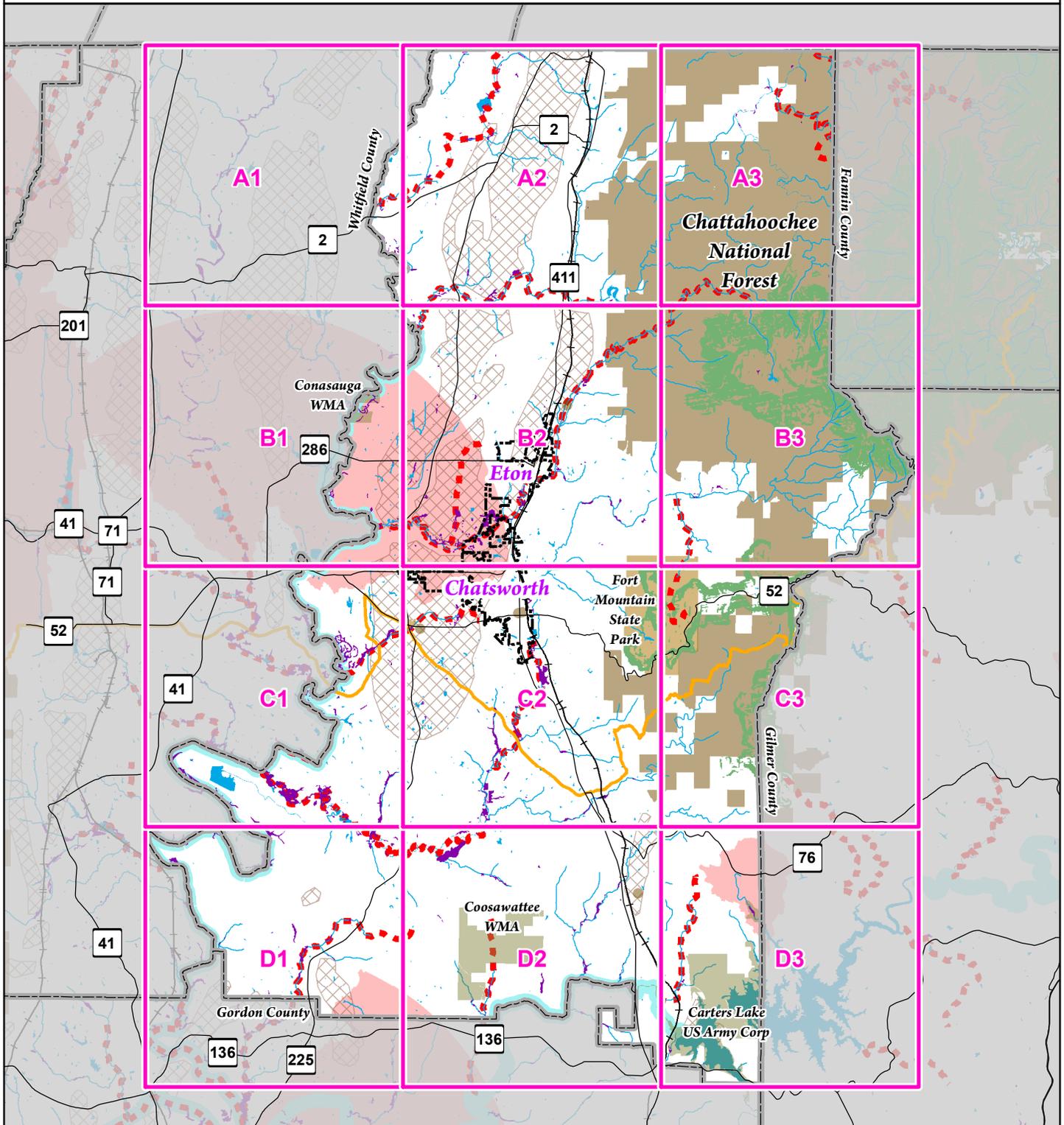
Map Grid index followed by the 12 sections of the grid=A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, C3, D1, D2, D3.

Note: on map, Rusty Brown area in B3 is overlap of US Forest Service and Water Supply Watersheds



*Conasauga River in Chattahoochee National Forest. Photo Jay Choate*

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



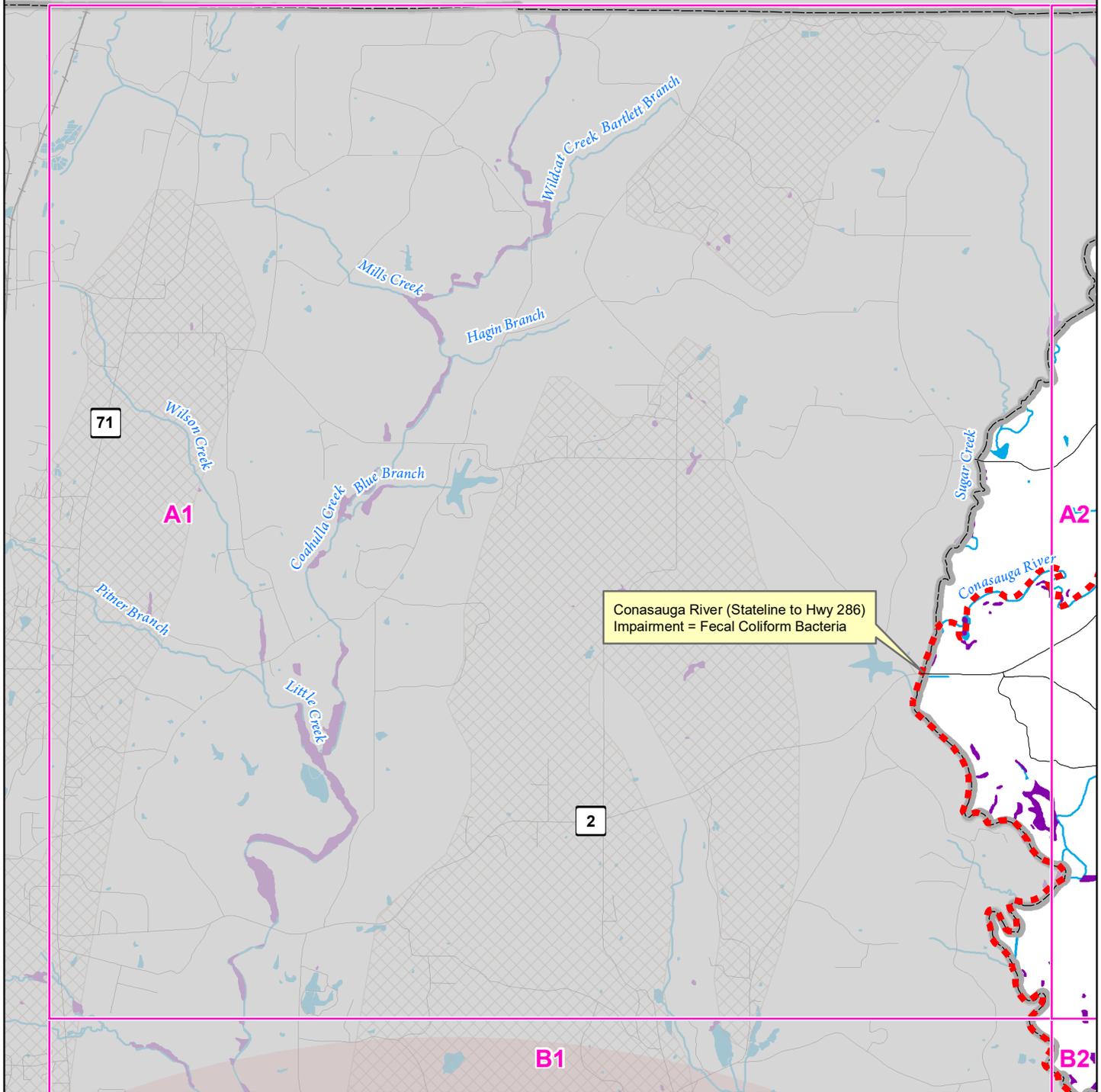
- ■ ■ Impaired Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Pinhoti Trail
- Protected Rivers
- National Register of Historic Places
- Georgia DNR Wildlife Management Areas
- Groundwater Recharge Area
- Lakes & Ponds
- NWI Wetlands
- Protected Mountains
- State Parks / State Historic Sites
- US Forest Service
- Water Supply Watersheds



1 inch = 4 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION  
© July 2023

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



Impaired Streams

Perennial Streams

Protected Rivers

Groundwater Recharge Area

Lakes & Ponds

NWI Wetlands

Water Supply Watersheds

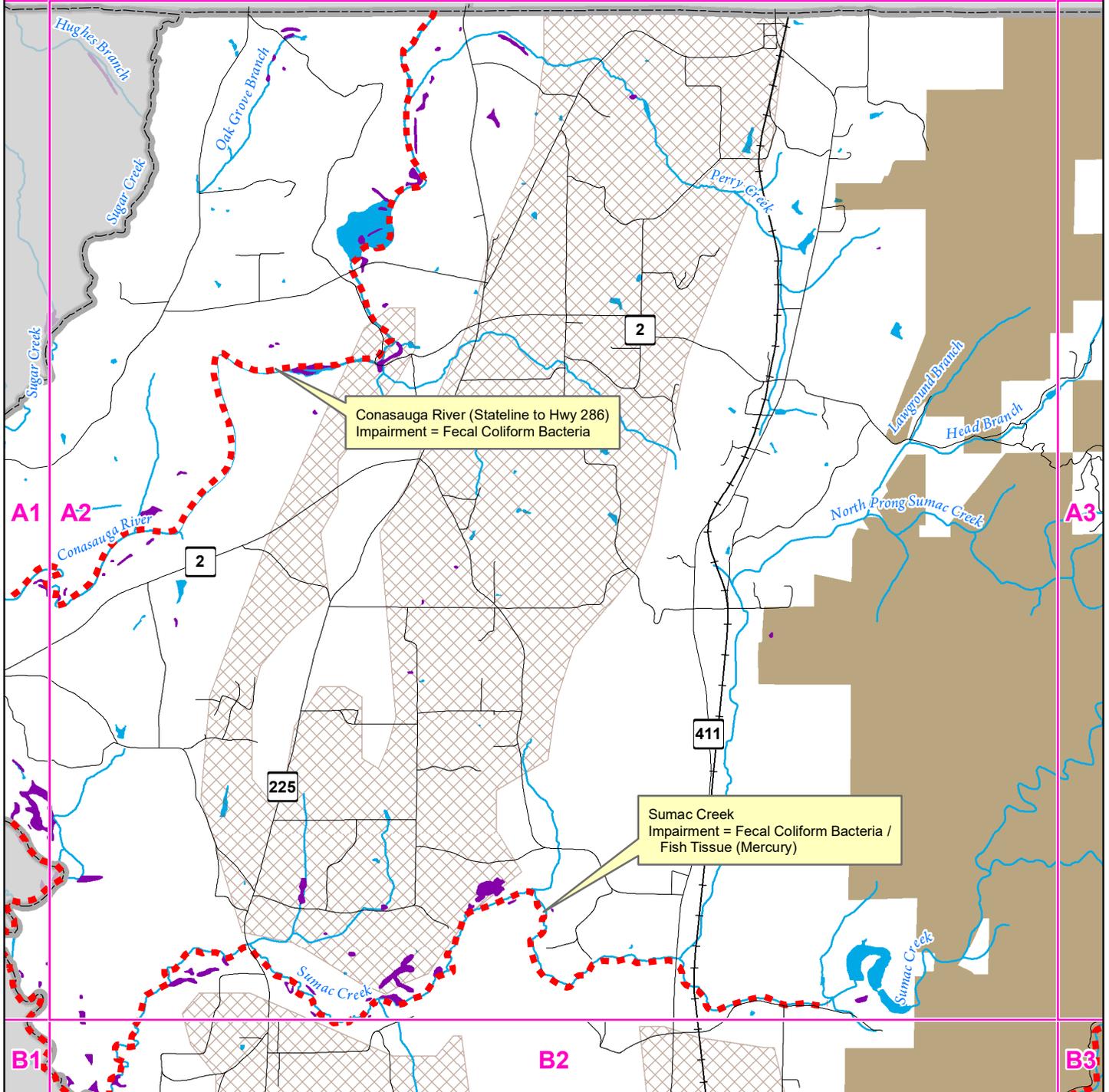


1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



- - - Impaired Streams  
— Perennial Streams

■ Lakes & Ponds  
■ NWI Wetlands

US Forest Service

Groundwater Recharge Area

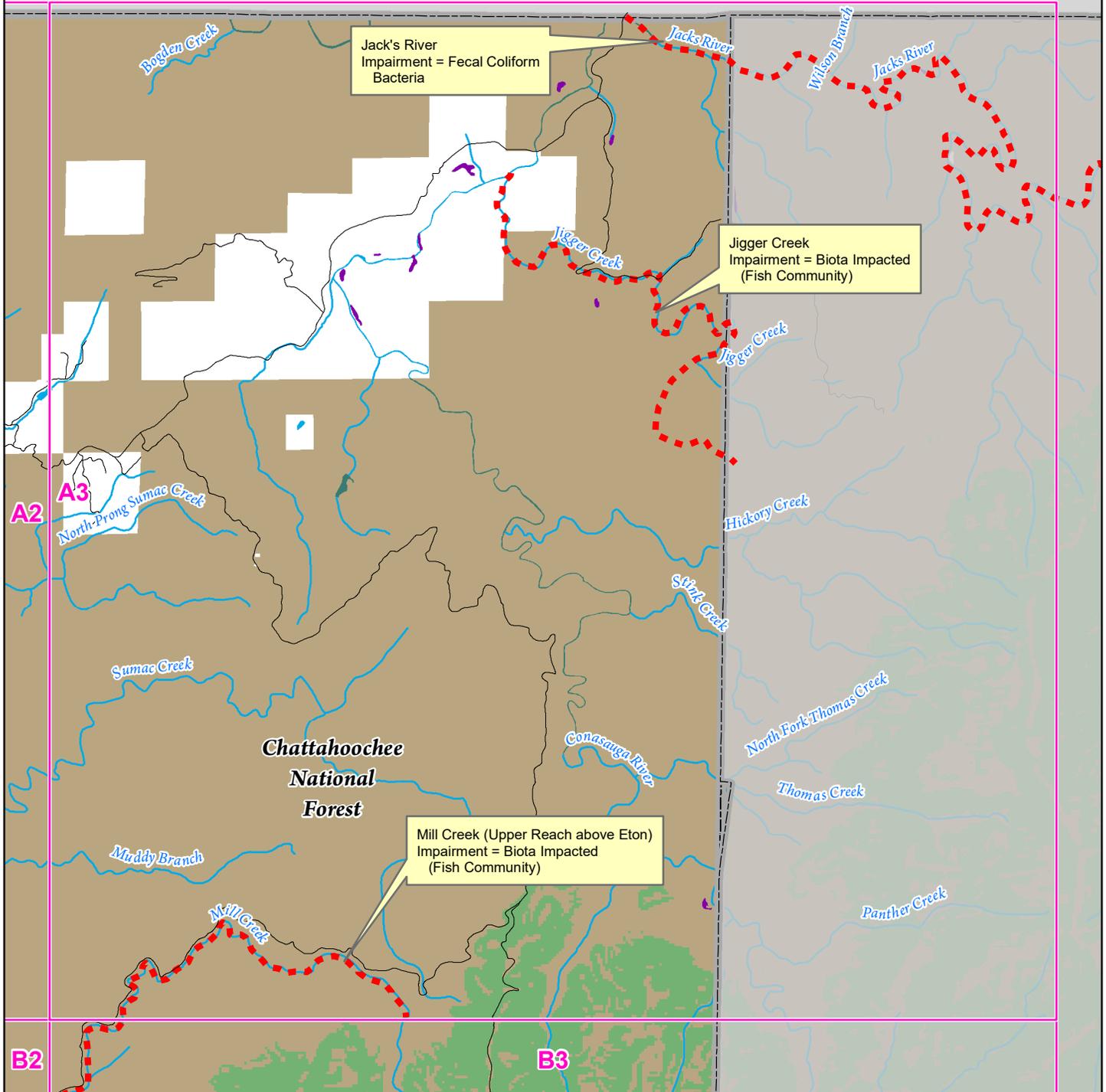


1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
 REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



- - - Impaired Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Lakes & Ponds
- NWI Wetlands
- Protected Mountains
- US Forest Service

Groundwater Recharge Area

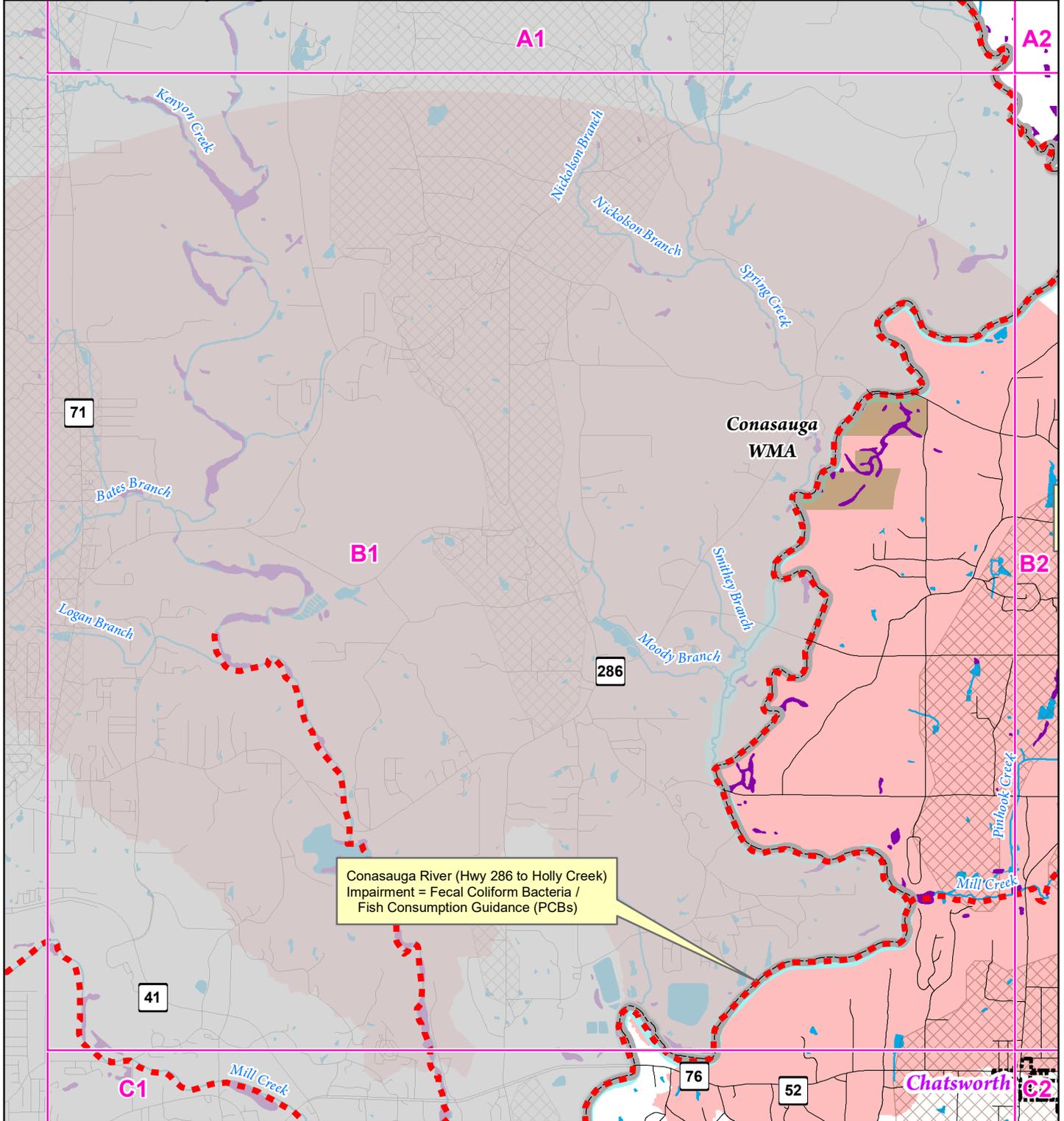


1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



- Impaired Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Protected Rivers
- Lakes & Ponds
- NWI Wetlands
- Georgia DNR Wildlife Management Areas
- Water Supply Watersheds
- Groundwater Recharge Area

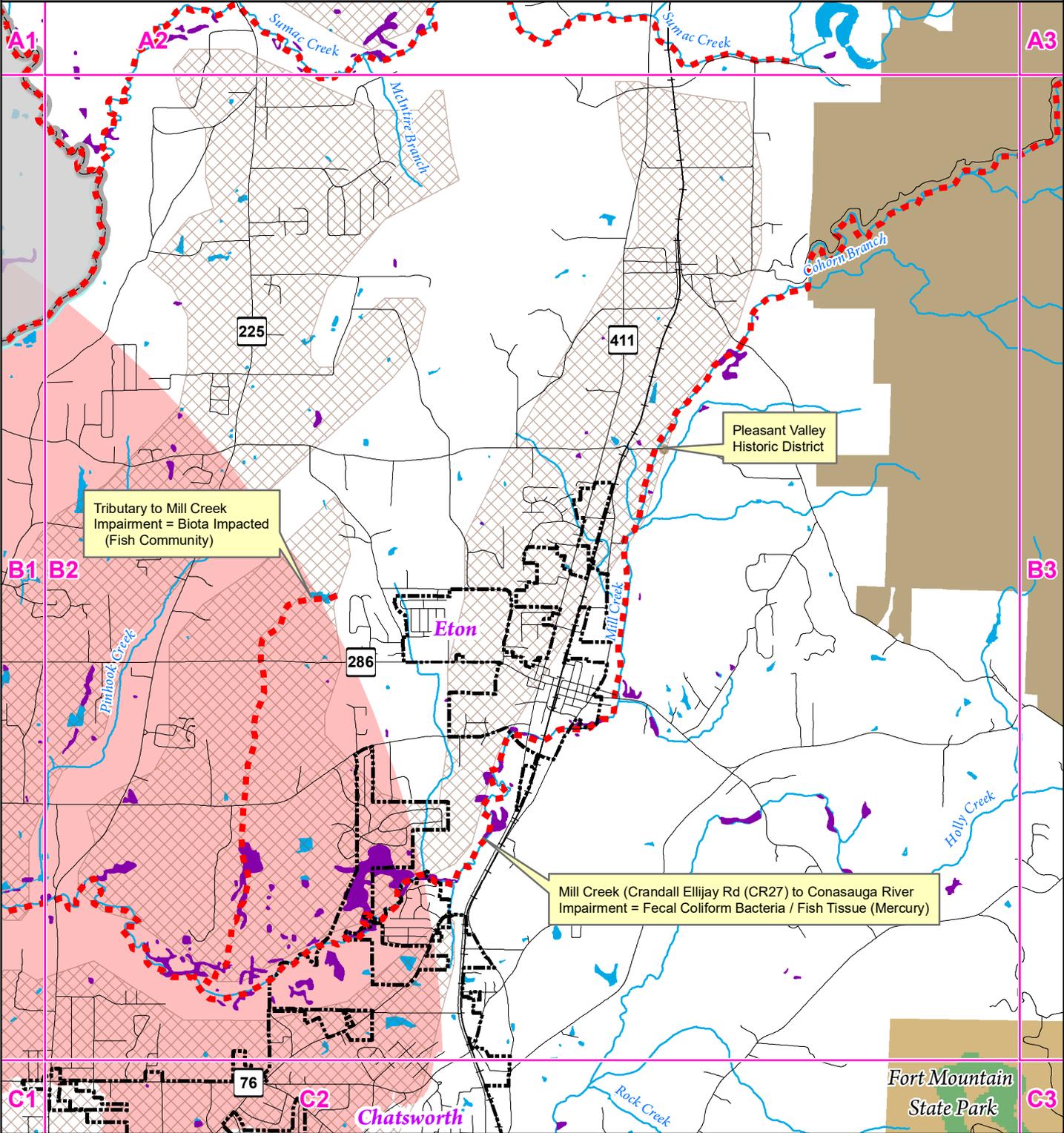


**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

1 inch = 1 miles

© June 2023

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



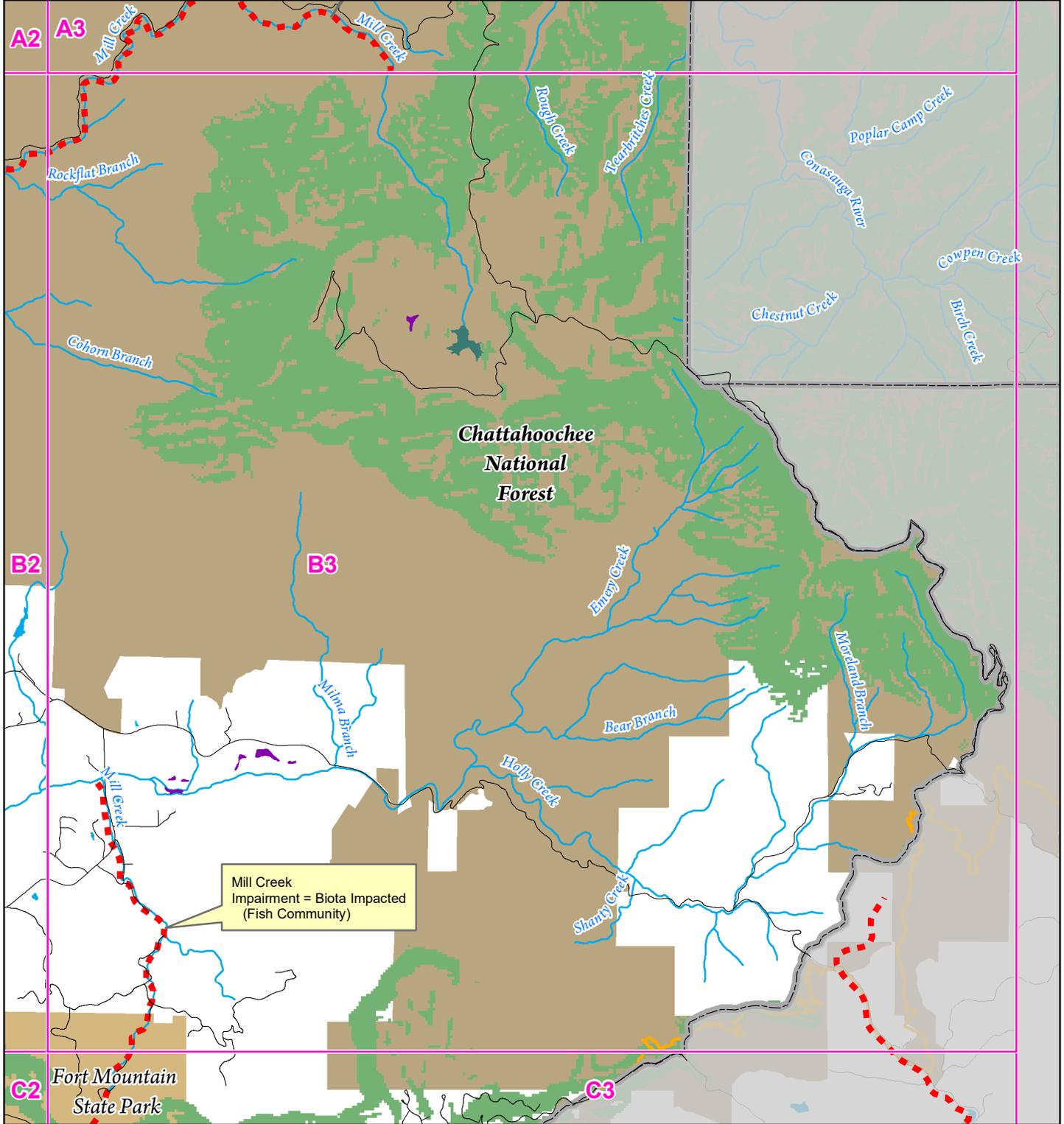
- - - Impaired Streams
- Perennial Streams
- National Register of Historic Places
- Groundwater Recharge Area
- Lakes & Ponds
- NWI Wetlands
- Protected Mountains
- State Parks / State Historic Sites
- US Forest Service
- Water Supply Watersheds



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION  
© June 2023

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



- - - Impaired Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Lakes & Ponds
- NWI Wetlands
- Protected Mountains
- State Parks / State Historic Sites
- US Forest Service

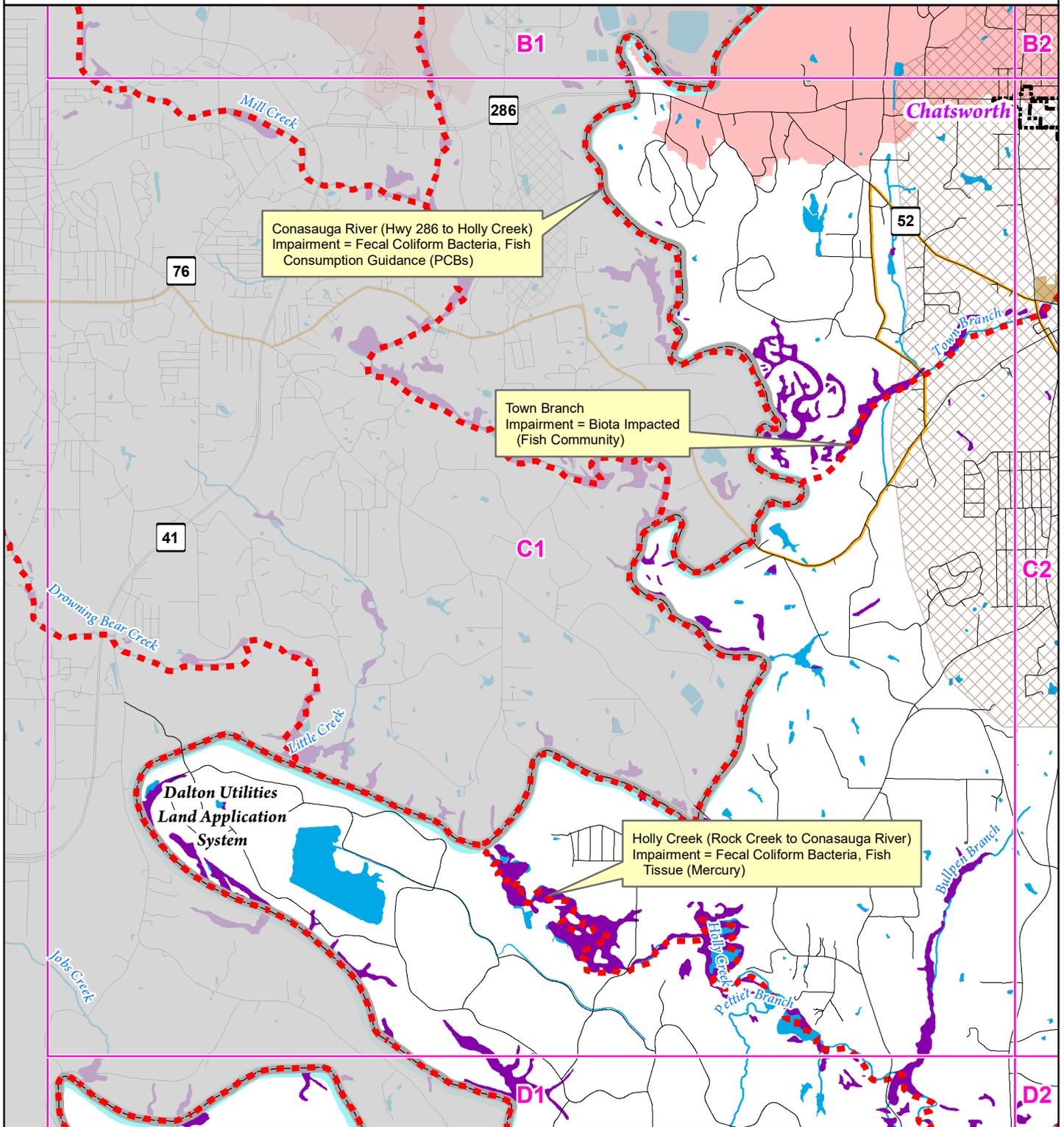


1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



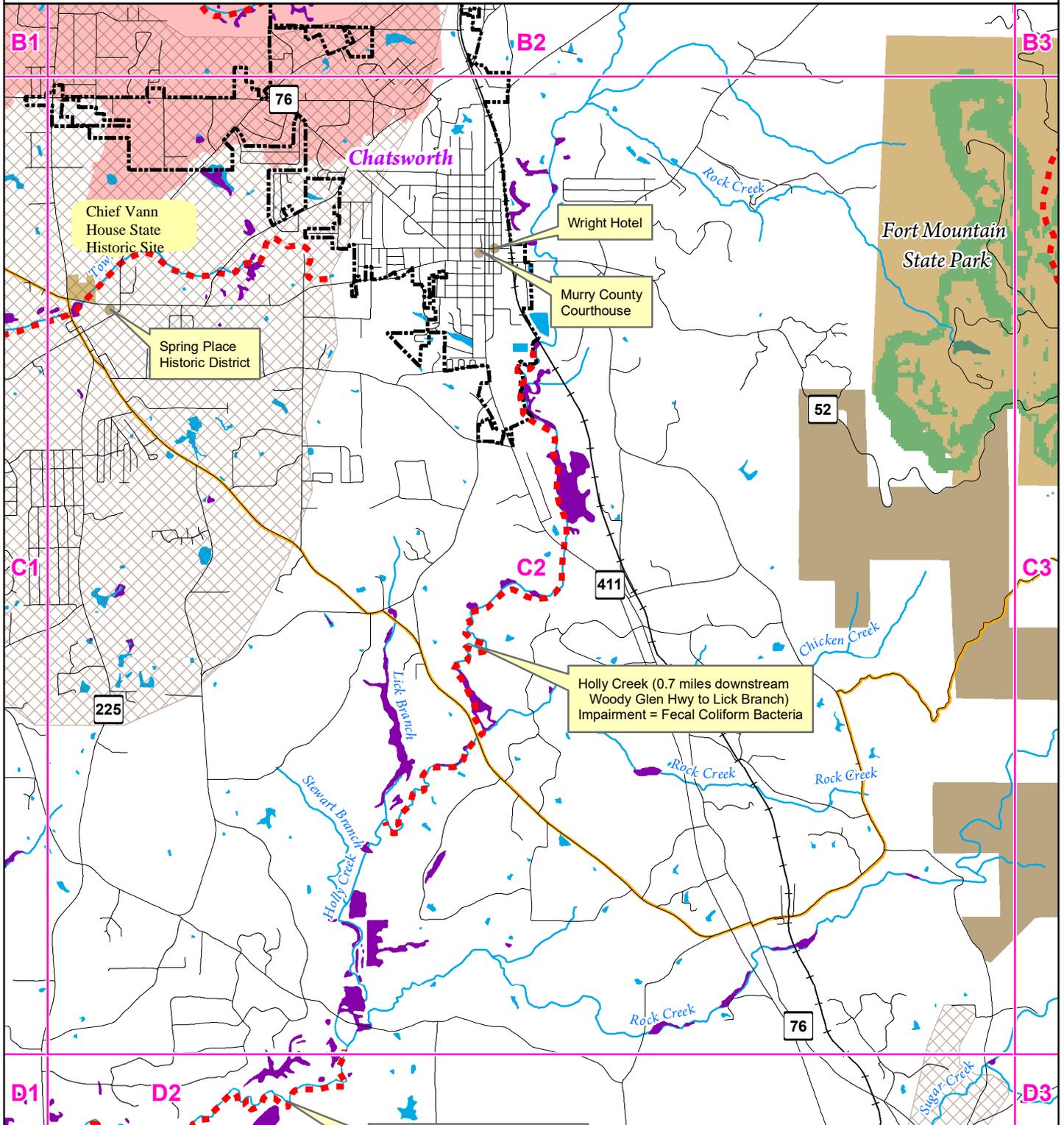
- - - Impaired Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Pinhoti Trail
- Protected Rivers
- National Register of Historic Places
- Groundwater Recharge Area
- Lakes & Ponds
- NWI Wetlands
- State Parks / State Historic Sites
- Water Supply Watersheds



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION  
© June 2023

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



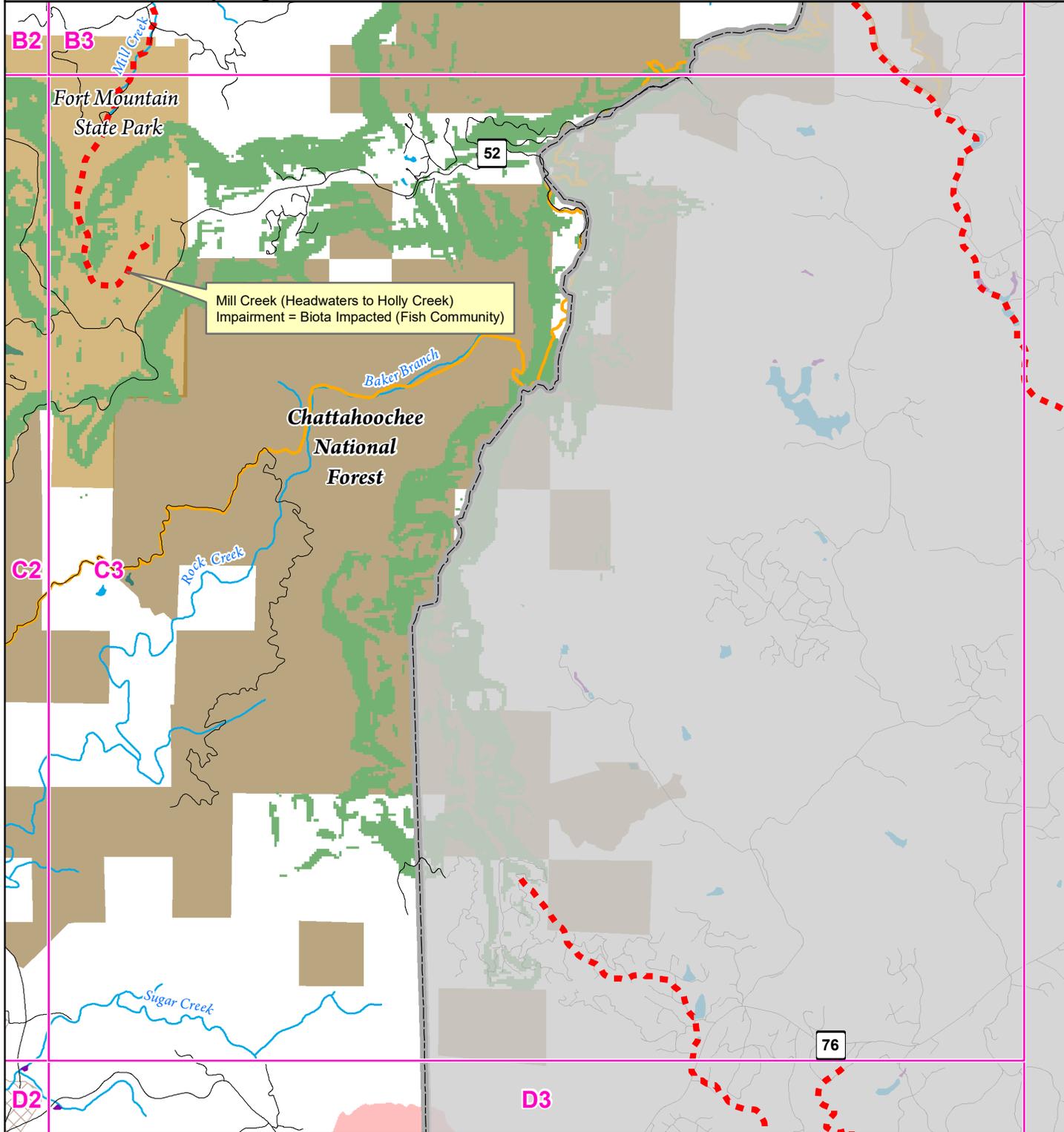
- - - Impaired Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Pinhoti Trail
- National Register of Historic Places
- Groundwater Recharge Area
- Lakes & Ponds
- NWI Wetlands
- Protected Mountains
- State Parks / State Historic Sites
- US Forest Service
- Water Supply Watersheds



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION  
© June 2023

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



- - - Impaired Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Pinhoti Trail

- Lakes & Ponds
- NWI Wetlands
- Protected Mountains
- State Parks / State Historic Sites
- US Forest Service

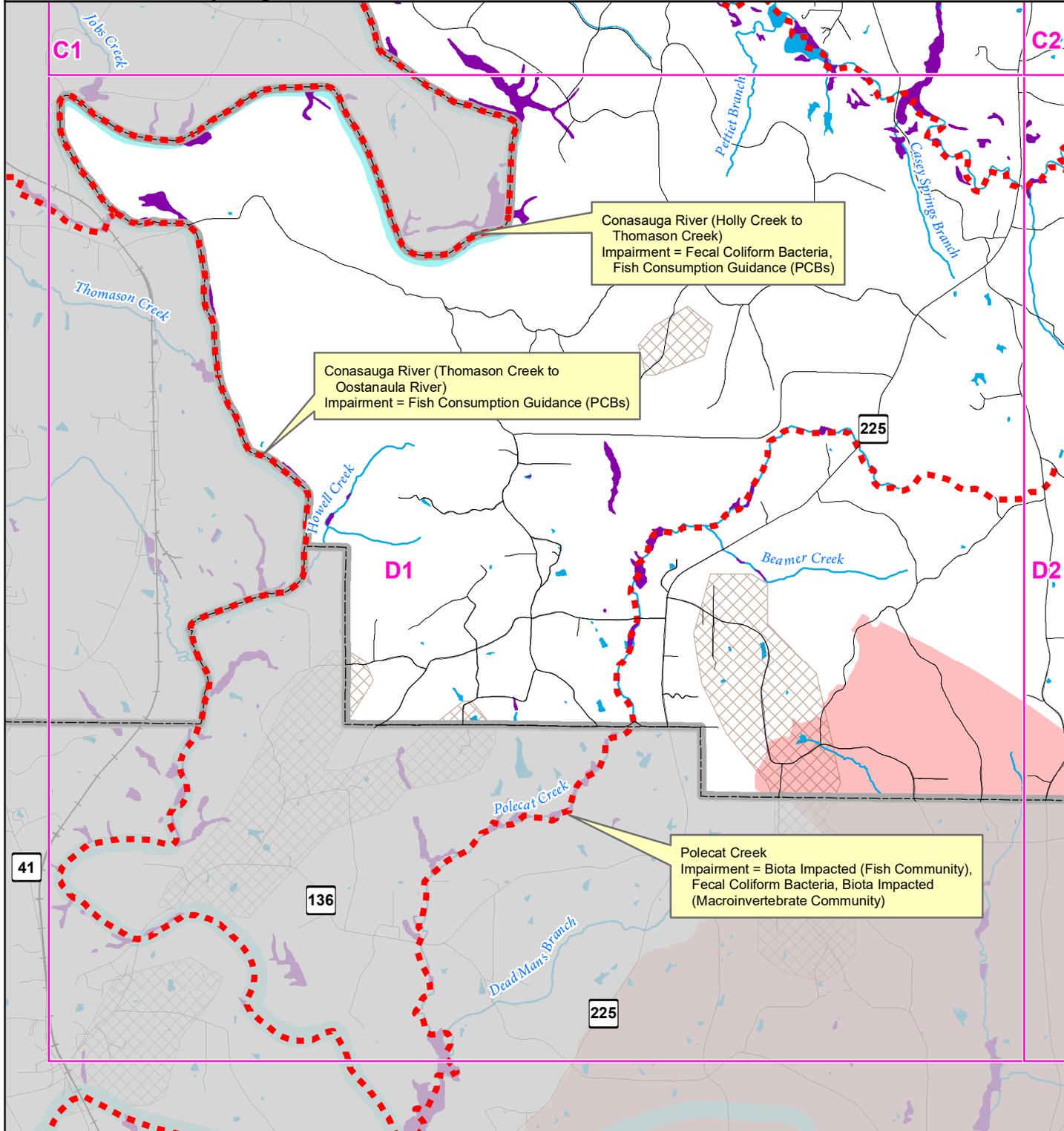


1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION  
© June 2023

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

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



- - - Impaired Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Protected Rivers

- Lakes & Ponds
- NWI Wetlands

  Groundwater Recharge Area

Water Supply Watersheds



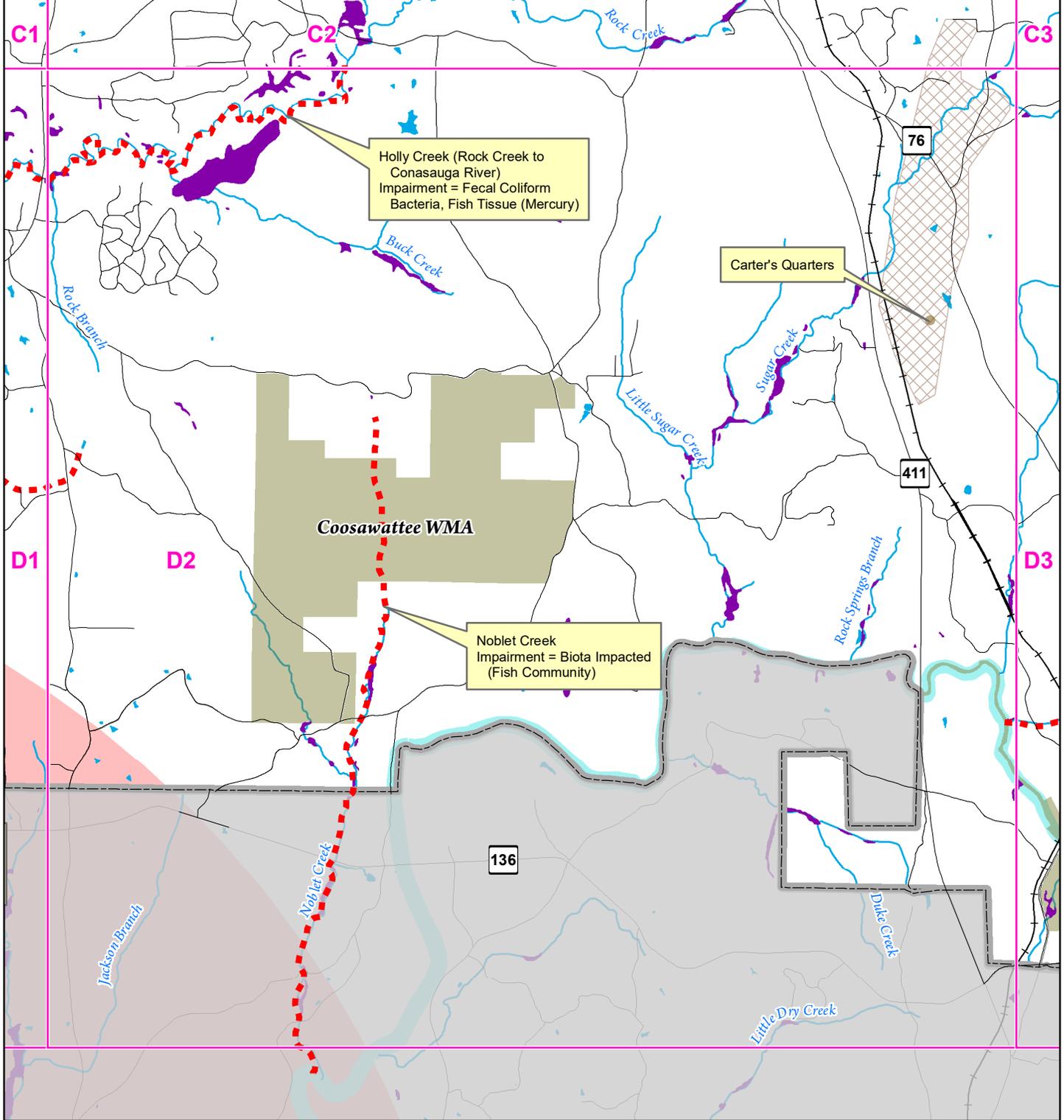
1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

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

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



- - - Impaired Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Lakes & Ponds
- NWI Wetlands
- National Register of Historic Places
- Georgia DNR Wildlife Management Areas
- Water Supply Watersheds
- Groundwater Recharge Area

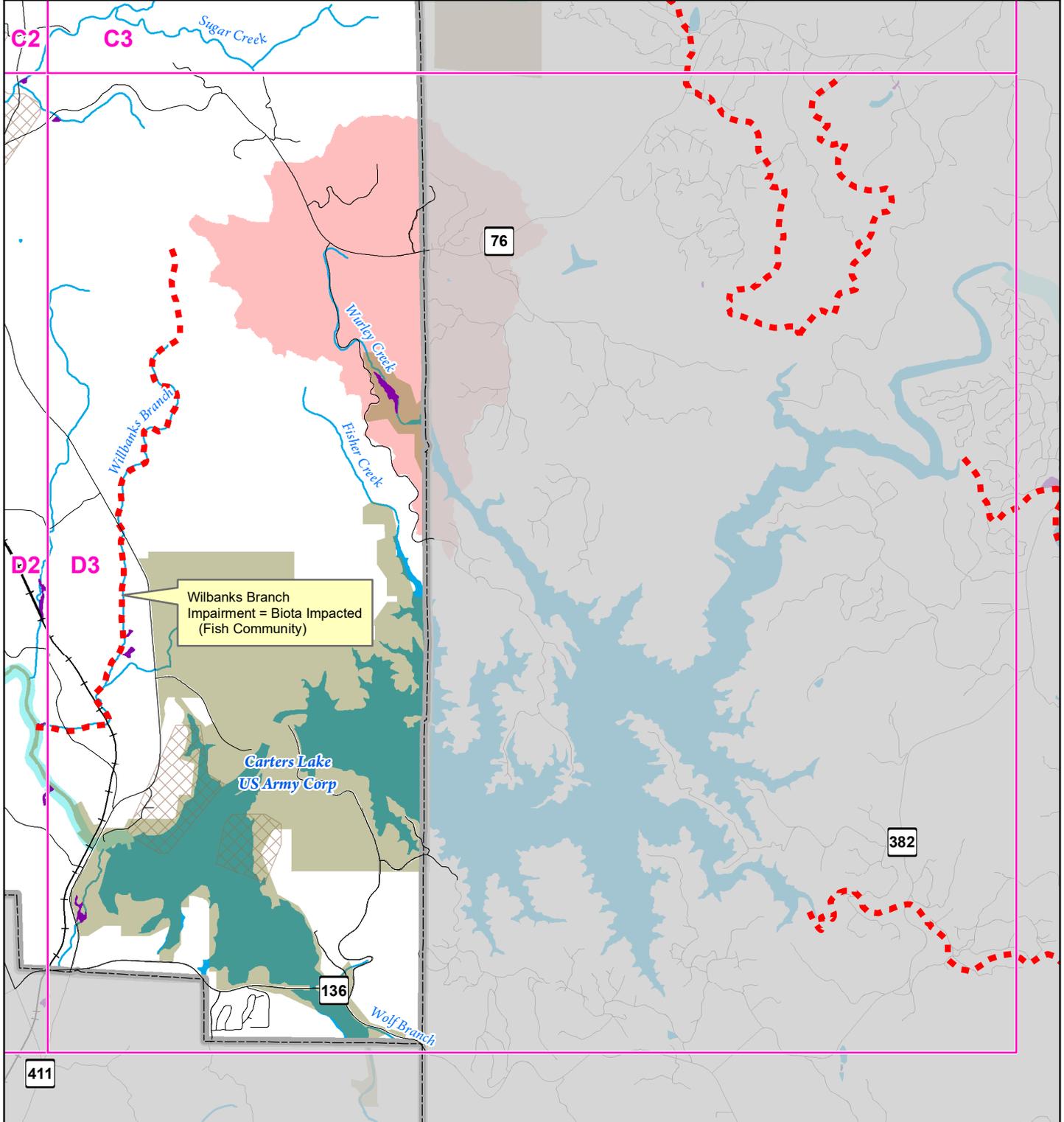


**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

1 inch = 1 miles

© June 2023

# Murray County Regionally Important Resources including Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Water Quality Impaired Streams



- - - Impaired Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Protected Rivers
- Georgia DNR Wildlife Management Areas
- Groundwater Recharge Area
- Lakes & Ponds
- NWI Wetlands
- US Forest Service
- Water Supply Watersheds



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
 REGIONAL COMMISSION  
 © June 2023

*Impaired Waters in Murray County*

Table 1. Current impaired streams of Murray County

Table 1. EPD 2022 current-Impaired streams-Coosa River Drainage						
Reach Name	Reach location	Criterion violated	Potential causes	Extent	Use	Notes
<b>Conasauga River</b>	Stateline to Highway 286	Fecal Coliform Bacteria	Non-point source	20 miles	Fishing, drinking water	TMDL completed FCG(PCBs) 2009 and Fecal coliform 2009
<b>Conasauga River</b>	Hwy 286 to Holly Creek	Fecal Coliform Bacteria, Fish Consumption Guidance (PCBs)	Non-point source	18 miles	Fishing, drinking water	TMDLs completed Fecal coliform 2004, FCG 2005 (revised 2009)
<b>Conasauga River</b>	Holly Creek to Thomason Creek	Fecal Coliform Bacteria, Fish Consumption Guidance (PCBs)	Urban Runoff/Urban effects	14 miles	Fishing	TMDLs completed for FCG 2005 (revised 2009), Fecal coliform 2004
<b>Conasauga River</b>	Thomason Creek to Oostanaula River	Fish Consumption Guidance (PCBs)	Urban Runoff/Urban effects	11 miles	Fishing	TMDLs completed for FCG 2005 (revised 2009), Fecal coliform 2004
<b>Holly Creek</b>	0.7 miles downstream Woody Glen Hwy to Chicken Creek	Fecal Coliform Bacteria	Urban Runoff/Urban effects	4.2	Fishing, drinking water	
<b>Holly Creek</b>	Chicken Creek to Lick Branch	Fecal Coliform Bacteria	Urban Runoff/Urban effects	1.3 miles	Fishing	TMDL completed Fecal Coliform 2009
<b>Holly Creek</b>	Rock Creek to Conasauga River	Fecal Coliform Bacteria /Fish Tissue (Mercury)	Non-point source	12.3 miles	Fishing	TMDL completed for Fecal Coliform 2004.
<b>Jack's River</b>	Rough Creek to Stateline	Fecal Coliform Bacteria	Non-point source	9 miles	Fishing, Wild and Scenic River	TMDL completed Fecal Coliform 2009
<b>Jigger Creek</b>	Headwaters to the Conasauga River	Biota impacted (Fish Community)	Non-point source	5.3 miles	Fishing	

<b>Mill Creek</b>	Headwaters to Holly Creek	Biota impacted (Fish Community)	Non-point source	5 miles	Fishing	TMDL completed for Biota impacted (Fish Community) 2016
<b>Mill Creek</b> [upper part of Mill Creek that flows through Eton]	Murray County	Biota impacted (Fish Community)	Non-point source	9 miles	Fishing	TMDL completed for Biota impacted (Fish Community) 2016
<b>Mill Creek</b> [flows through Eton]	Crandall Ellijay Rd (CR27) to Conasauga River	Fecal Coliform Bacteria /Fish Tissue (Mercury)	Urban Runoff/Urban effects	10.8 miles	Fishing	TMDL completed Fecal Coliform 2009
<b>Noblet Creek</b>	Headwaters to Coosawattee River	Biota impacted (Fish Community)	Non-point source	5 miles	Fishing	TMDL completed Biota impacted (Fish Community) 2009. This site has a narrative rank of fair for macroinvertebrates. When EPD complete the reevaluation of the metrics used to assess macroinvertebrate data it will be determined if the macroinvertebrate criteria are being met
<b>Polecat Creek</b>	Headwaters to the Conasauga River	Biota impacted (Fish Community), Fecal Coliform Bacteria, Biota impacted (Macroinvertebrate community)	Non-point source	10 miles	Fishing	TMDL completed Fecal Coliform Biota impacted (Fish Community) 2009, TMDL completed (Biota impacted Fish) completed 2009, TMDL Biota impacted (Macroinvertebrate community) completed 2016
<b>Sumac Creek</b>	Coffey Lake to Conasauga River	Fecal Coliform Bacteria/Fish Tissue (Mercury)	Non-point source	8 miles	Fishing	Fecal Coliform TMDL drafted 2013. Limited fish tissue data indicates that mercury in fish tissue may be elevated. Only one species of fish was tested. More data is needed before making a listing assessment determination.
<b>Town Branch</b>	Headwaters to Conasauga River	Biota impacted (Fish Community)	Non-point source/ Urban Runoff/Urban effects	4	Fishing	This site has a narrative rank of fair for macroinvertebrates. When EPD complete the reevaluation of the metrics used to assess macroinvertebrate data it will be determined if the macroinvertebrate criteria are being met
<b>Tributary to Mill Creek</b>	Headwaters to Mill Creek	Biota impacted (Fish Community)	Non-point source	3 miles	fishing	
<b>Willbanks Branch</b>	Headwaters to Coosawattee River	Biota impacted (Fish Community)	Non-point source	4 miles	fishing	TMDL completed Biota impacted (Fish Community) 2016

Table 2. Streams now supporting their use and considered clean in Murray County

Table 3. EPD 2022 List streams now supporting their use					
Reach Name	Reach location	Previous impairment	Extent	Use	Notes
<b>Goldmine Branch</b>	Fort Mountain Lake to Holly Creek	Biota impacted (Fish Community)	4 miles	Fishing	-
<b>Sumac Creek</b>	Headwaters to Coffey Lake	Biota impacted (Fish Community)	10.1 miles	Fishing	TMDL completed Biota impacted (Fish Community) 2016

Table 3. Streams with Assessment Pending in Murray County

Table 2. EPD 2022 Assessment Pending streams						
Reach Name	Reach location	Criterion violated	Potential causes	Extent	Use	Notes
<b>Beamer Creek</b>	Headwaters to Polecat Creek	Low Dissolved Oxygen	unknown	2	Fishing	EPD needs to determine if the low DO observed was due to the presence of a beaver dam.
<b>Coosawattee River</b>	US Hwy 411 to Noblet Creek, downstream of Carters Lake	Fish Consumption Guidance (PCBs)	Non-point source, Urban Runoff/Urban effects	10 miles	drinking water, fishing	FCB(PCBS) TMDL completed 2014. The water is supporting its drinking water use, but the Fishing Use is in Category 3. The water is in Category 3 for Fish Tissue (Mercury) because the Trophic Weighted residue concentration is between 0.25 mg/kg and 0.3mg/kg
<b>Holly Creek</b>	Headwaters to Dill Creek (previously headwaters to Bear Branch)	Biota impacted (Macroinvertebrate community)	unknown	7		This site has a narrative rank of fair for macroinvertebrates. When EPD complete the reevaluation of the metrics used to assess macroinvertebrate data it will be determined if the macroinvertebrate criteria are being met

*Population and Economics*

Population growth for Murray County and its cities has been slow in the last 30 years. Table 4 shows the results of the last three decennial censuses. The county’s population in the 2020 Decennial Census count was 39,973 persons. Overall, the county gained around 3,500 residents in that thirty-year time period. In Chatsworth the increase was around 1300 residents, with a total population of 4,874 by 2020, while Eton had a net gain of around 500 people for a total of 824 in 2020.

Table 4. Population trends for Murray County, Chatsworth, and Eton

Population: Murray County and its cities			
	Year		
	2000	2010	2020
Murray County	36,506	39,628	39,973
Chatsworth	3,531	4,299	4,874
Eton	319	910	824

Murray County is part of the 15-county Northwest Georgia Region for planning and other services provided by the area’s Regional Commission. The other counties are Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Pickens, Polk, Paulding, Walker, and Whitfield. Georgia’s population has grown rapidly since the 1960’s, as people have moved into the state to take advantage of job opportunities (Figure 1). The Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget projects that by 2060 Georgia’s population will reach 14 million. The most populous county in Northwest Georgia, Paulding County, is projected to remain in the lead in the region in 2060, with over 326,000 residents. Paulding County’s growth is driven by its location on the west side of Atlanta, resulting in a large commuting population. In contrast, Murray County lies in a rural mountainous part of the region and by 2060 Murray’s population is projected to rise to only 44,056 residents. Murray’s less populous mountain neighbor to the east, Gilmer County, is projected to grow even more slowly from 31,353 in 2020 to 32,747 in 2060. Whitfield County to the west, a manufacturing center, had 102,864 residents in 2020 and is projected to increase to 108,035 residents by 2060.



Housing construction in Eton

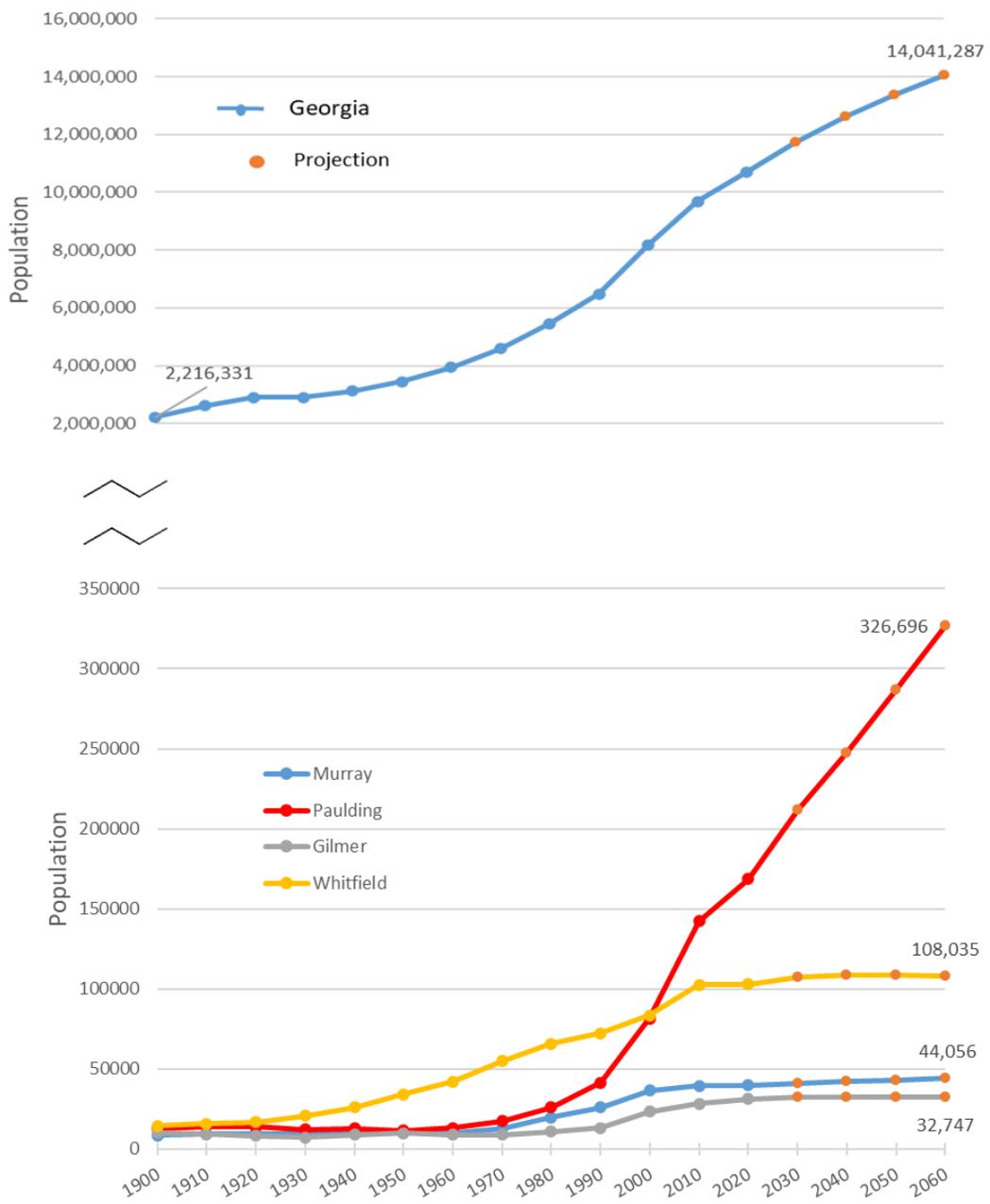


Figure 1. Population trends for Murray Paulding, Gilmer, and Whitfield counties and the state of Georgia. US Census and Gov. Office of Planning and Budget

Murray County is a rural county with fewer employment opportunities than some nearby counties, both in Georgia and across the state line in the metropolitan area of Chattanooga. Figure 2 below shows median household income for Murray County was \$53,821 in 2021, seventh in the 15 counties of Northwest Georgia (US Census ACS one-year estimates).

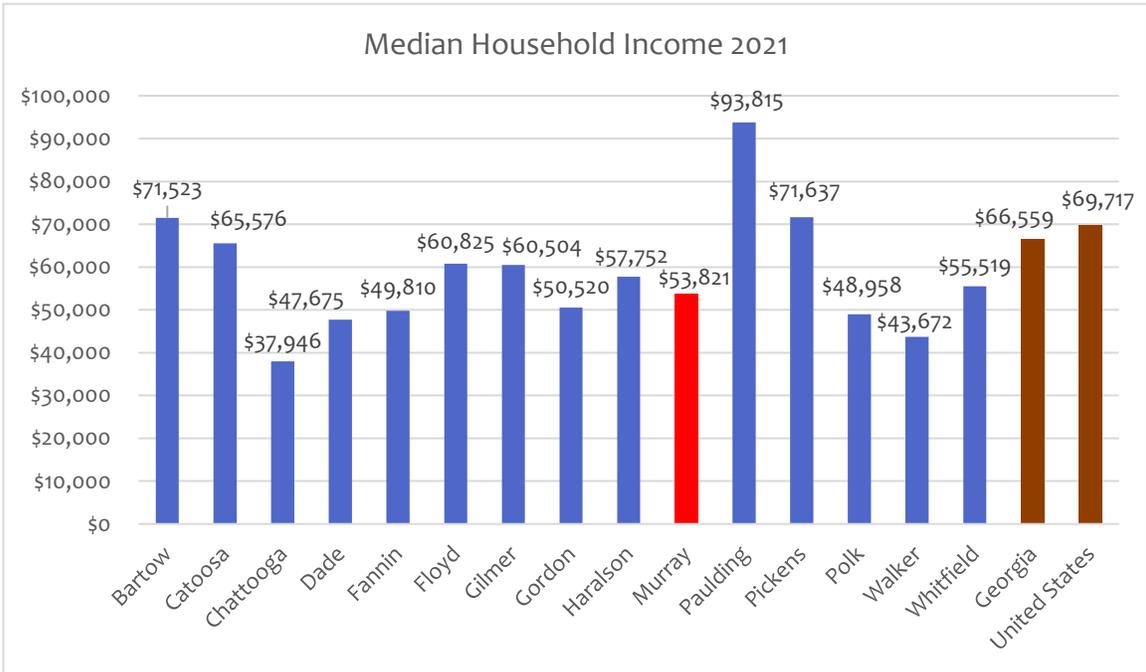


Figure 3. Median Household income for counties in NW Georgia Region, Georgia, and the US. US Census ACS one-year estimates.

The twelve-month unemployment rate for May 2022 to April 2023 is shown in figure 3, with the most recent assessment at 4% in April 2023 (Georgia Department of Labor). The Murray unemployment rate followed the trend of the state and national rates for the period shown but was always higher than both.

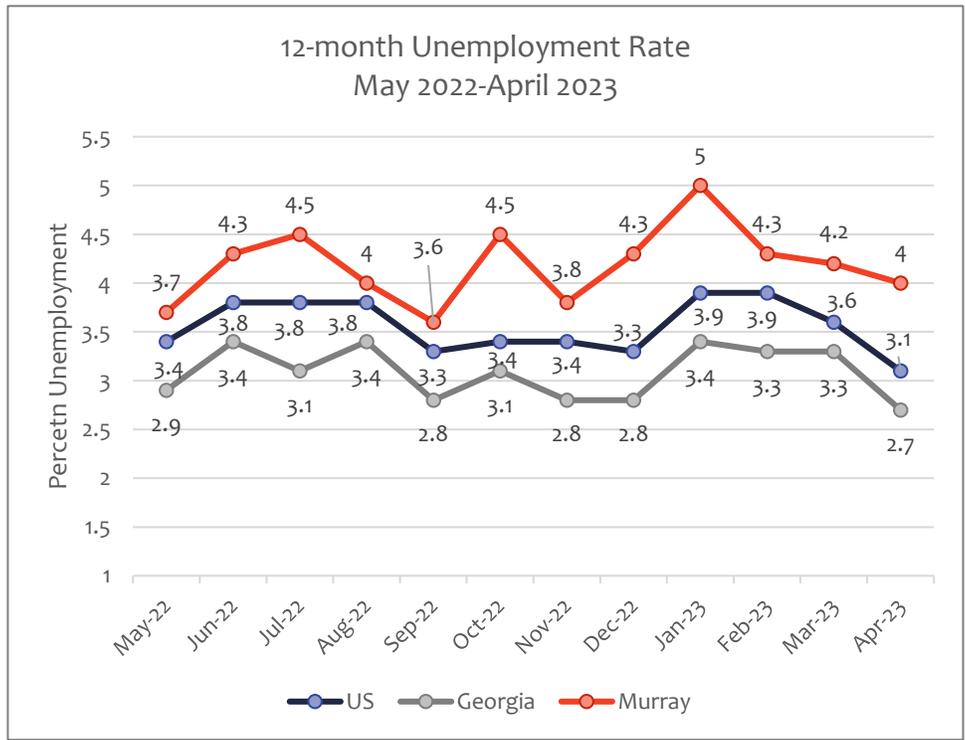


Figure 4. Monthly unemployment rates for US, Georgia, and Murray County

The Census block groups mapped for poverty levels show areas of poverty between 20-40% for 2021, but no areas above 40% as in Dalton in the neighboring Whitfield County (see Figure 4 below). The overall poverty rate is 15.1% for Murray County (Table 5, US Census ACS 2021). Only 3,328 residents live and work in the county, while 13,481 residents work outside the county. However, 4,441 people commute into Murray County to work (US Census OnTheMap).

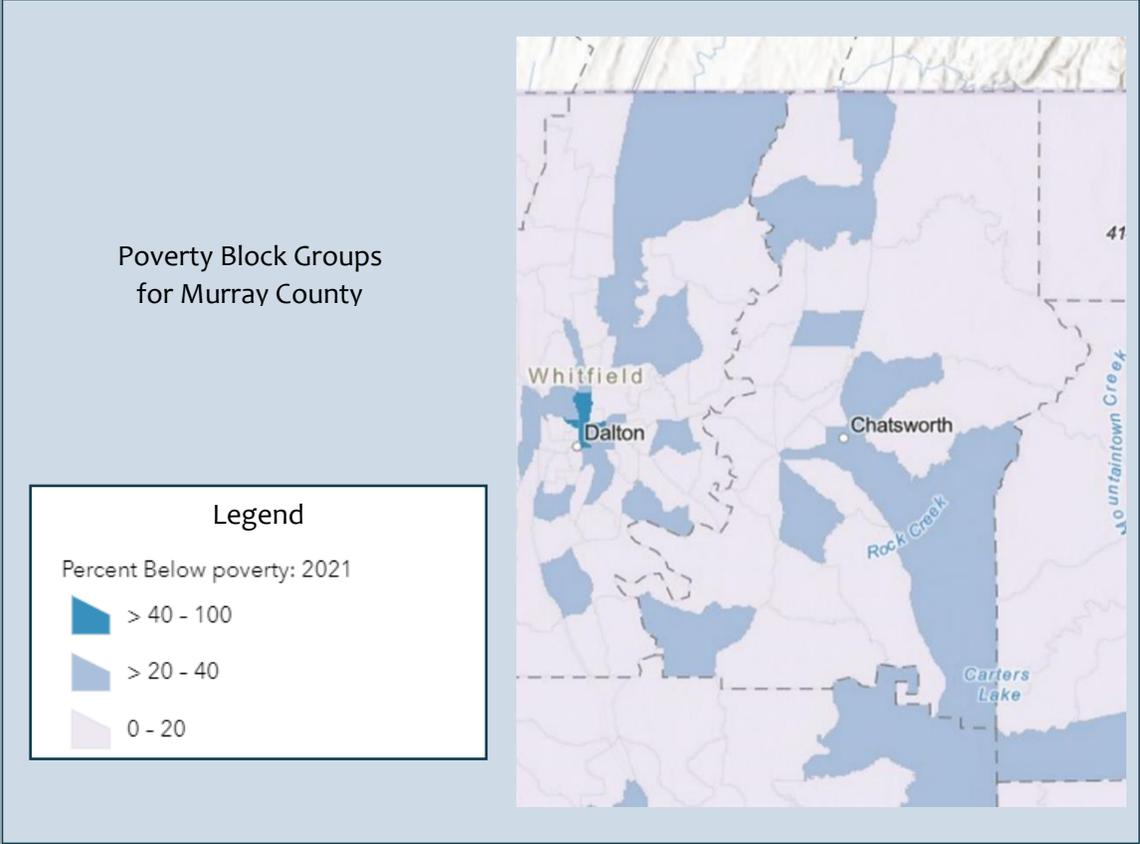


Figure 5. Poverty distribution in Murray County. US Census ACS2021

Table 5. Poverty rates for Murray, surrounding counties and state of Georgia

	Percent Population below Poverty Threshold
Georgia	14.0%
Murray County	15.1%
Gilmer County	15.1%
Gordon County	16.1%
Fannin County	11.6%
Whitfield County	13.0%
Polk County, TN	11.6%
Bradley County, TN	9.6%

### *Economic Development Element*

A robust economy provides the basis for community prosperity. To improve its economic status, Murray County is engaging a number of resources to promote economic development that fits with their rural, small-town community, and their abundant public land for recreation.

One source of help is Georgia’s Job Tax Credit program. The program ranks each county by unemployment level, per capita income, and percentage of residents below the poverty level. Those counties with the most economic distress are on Tier 1 of the Job Tax Credit list and must include an Economic Development section in their comprehensive plans. In 2022 Murray was in Tier 1 and ranked 39<sup>th</sup> overall among Georgia’s 159 counties. In 2023, Murray remained in Tier 1, but had dropped in rank to 25<sup>th</sup> (a lower rank signifies more need). Manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, processing, telecommunications, tourism, and research and development businesses that locate in these counties receive statewide job tax credits.

The county has an Industrial Development Authority (IDA), with a current vacancy in the director position, and an active Chamber of Commerce led by CEO Barry Gentry. Recent developments include the expansion of the Appalachian Regional Port, which originally opened in 2018, and the addition of gas and other utilities to the South Murray Industrial Park. A large General Electric Logistics facility opened on US 411, just south of the port in 2020, taking advantage of the location to supply appliance components to factories throughout the Southeast.

Murray County is part of the Thrive 2055 regional planning effort that includes the tristate area (Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee) in and around Chattanooga. This effort focuses on protecting the region’s natural treasures while coordinating regional transportation improvements, investing in education and training, promoting diversification of employment opportunities and economic enterprises, and encouraging communities to grow from within.

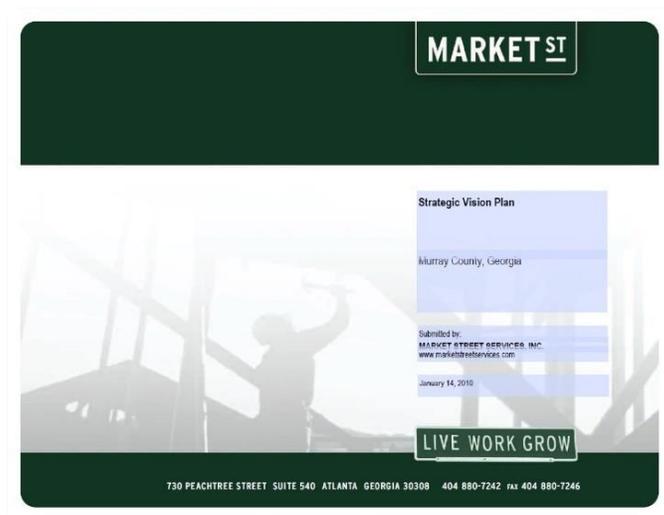
These are some of economic development activities featured in the work programs of this plan update:

1. Publish the result of the industrial site inventory on the IDA website for U.S. and overseas businesses to review.
2. Support workforce development by using the county school system’s “Murray Works” Program to achieve strong educational attainment for students by promoting career and college readiness.
3. Work with the Chamber of Commerce to support potential entrepreneurs with forums and workshops, support existing local businesses and recruit nationally known businesses.

4. Partner with the Chamber of Commerce to improve Chatsworth’s downtown with landscaping and signage, and other features using the Chatsworth GA Design Considerations Downtown Renaissance Fellowship Report 2016, continue the DDA’s façade grant program, and implement the Georgia Main Street program.
5. In Eton, carry out beautification with landscaping and signage to encourage downtown retail, explore locations for boutique outdoor recreation lodging and a coffee shop to promote tourism.
6. Continue the robust effort to promote outdoor recreation tourism by marketing Chatsworth, Eton and Murray County as the Western gateway to the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Chattahoochee National Forest’s Cohutta Wilderness using *Murray Magazine*, updated free paper Murray Maps, billboards, and the “Hurry to Murray” TV show for the Chattanooga audience.
7. Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton are collaborating to apply for the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) program to address the need for safe, well-built, affordable housing (these items are in the housing section of the community work programs.)



In 2010, Murray County developed a Strategic Vision Plan with consultant Market Street. Several of the strategic plan’s goals have been accomplished, and other goals need to be updated because new economic opportunities have emerged. The county and cities have decided to consider developing a new Strategic Vision Plan in partnership with the IDA and Murray Chamber of Commerce.



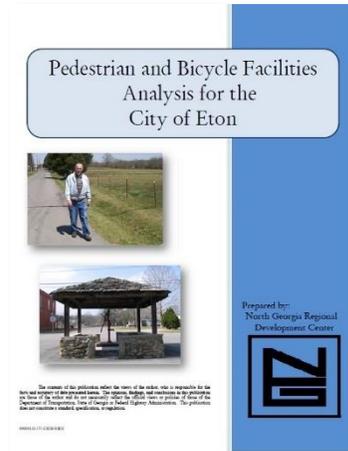
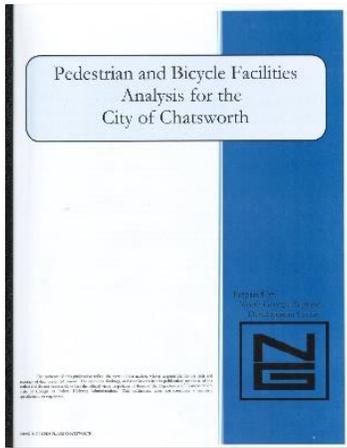
*Transportation Element*

The cities of Chatsworth and Eton, as well as parts of Murray County, are in the Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO helps local governments work with the Georgia DOT to communicate local needs and receive up-to-date information on the vital road projects that keep the economy running. The local governments can attend regularly scheduled meetings of the MPO to exchange information. The county, state, and federal roads serve the many businesses and factories in Murray County and provide routes for the many residents who commute to Whitfield and other counties to work. The county does not have any interstate highway miles. Four-lane traffic routes are limited to US 76 between Dalton and Chatsworth, and parts of US 411 running north and south through Eton and Chatsworth. US 411 is a two-lane route above Eton and to the Tennessee border.

This comprehensive plan update addresses several transportation issues, including:

- *Limited availability of public transportation, a concern in an economically depressed area for workforce mobility and to serve the needs of an aging population.* Murray County will continue supporting rural transit provided by the Mountain Area Transit System (MATS).
- *Addressing the increased truck traffic created by the growth of the Appalachian Regional Inland Port on US 411 above Eton.* Murray County and Chatsworth kept work programs for participating in discussions about four-lane status for all of US411, and about planning other road improvements to accommodate the traffic increase from the inland port. The bridge replacement project on US 411 over the railroad at Tennga from the last work program has been completed. Eton is seeking another traffic signal on US 411 to accommodate port traffic and residential and business expansion.
- *Easing traffic congestion in unincorporated Spring Place with the addition of two roundabouts.* This route is used as a bypass around Chatsworth for those traveling to the cities of Ellijay and Blue Ridge from Whitfield County and is also the route of the Pinhoti Trail across the Great Valley. The Murray County work program also includes number of bridge replacement projects lead by GDOT.
- *Providing multimodal transportation for the health of local residents, as well as for tourists seeking to enjoy the natural and cultural assets of the county on foot or by bicycle.* Assets include many existing miles of bike and foot trails on public land in the Chattahoochee National Forest and at Fort Mountain State Park, and Carters Lake WMA. The regional Pinhoti Trail bisects the county from west to east as it crosses the Great Valley between the Chattahoochee National Forest on Rocky Face Ridge and the Chattahoochee NF in the Blue Ridge Mountains. This leaves a long section of the Pinhoti trail running along the right-of-way of several roads in the county. Each government added a goal to improve bike and pedestrian connectivity, and to improve trails and routes between the cities and important destinations in the county. Murray County and Chatsworth would like to improve pedestrian and bike access in downtown

Chatsworth. Chatsworth would like to add sidewalks on Second Avenue and a bike route to Veteran’s Memorial Park. Eton would like to add a bike trail.



Newly completed bridge on US 411 over railroad track in Tennega

*Broadband Element*

Access to high-speed internet has become a necessity for business and greatly improves the quality of life for residents. During the 2020 pandemic shutdown, it was shown to be vital for families trying to manage jobs and school remotely. In 2015, the Federal Communications Commission set the definition of high-speed internet, or broadband, at 25 megabits per second for download (downstream), and 3 megabits per second for upload (upstream). The state of Georgia used this definition as a benchmark for high-speed internet service in the “Achieving Connectivity Everywhere (ACE)” Act which became law in 2018. This Act has allowed for the creation of the “Broadband Ready Community” Program to help communities bring high speed internet service to even the most rural areas. Other sources of funding for broadband improvements are also available for rural communities.

Murray County’s interest in the Broadband Ready Community program stems from the fact that its leaders see a real need to facilitate better internet connectivity for all residents, regardless of the remoteness their homes. Although service within its current city limits is good, Eton is interested in participating to position itself for growth. Chatsworth has good internet service and will not be participating at this time.

Murray County and Eton have passed the Broadband Ready Ordinance. Murray County completed the Broadband Ready Community application and became a Broadband Ready Community in July 2023. Murray has one broadband work program item, which is to apply for funding under the Broadband Ready program. Eton has two work program items, the first is to fill out the application to become a Broadband Ready Community, while the second item is a commitment seek Broadband funding.

The Broadband Availability map follows this discussion to show the areas with good internet access and areas with poor coverage. This map was developed using GIS data on broadband availability from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs updated July 1, 2022. NWGRC staff compared the DCA data with the future land use map in this Comprehensive Plan and added overlays showing boundaries of Forest Service and other park/recreation/conservation lands without residences or businesses. The layers for the Broadband Availability map show orange as broadband-served areas (broadband is available in 80% of the locations), the tan as broadband-unserved (less than 80% of the locations), and the gray as areas with “No locations” (no residential or business addresses). The conservation land is shown in green hatch marks, while Carters Lake is shown with blue hatch marks. Overall, Murray County has 1,606 unserved addresses and 18,984 served locations according to the Georgia Broadband Program.

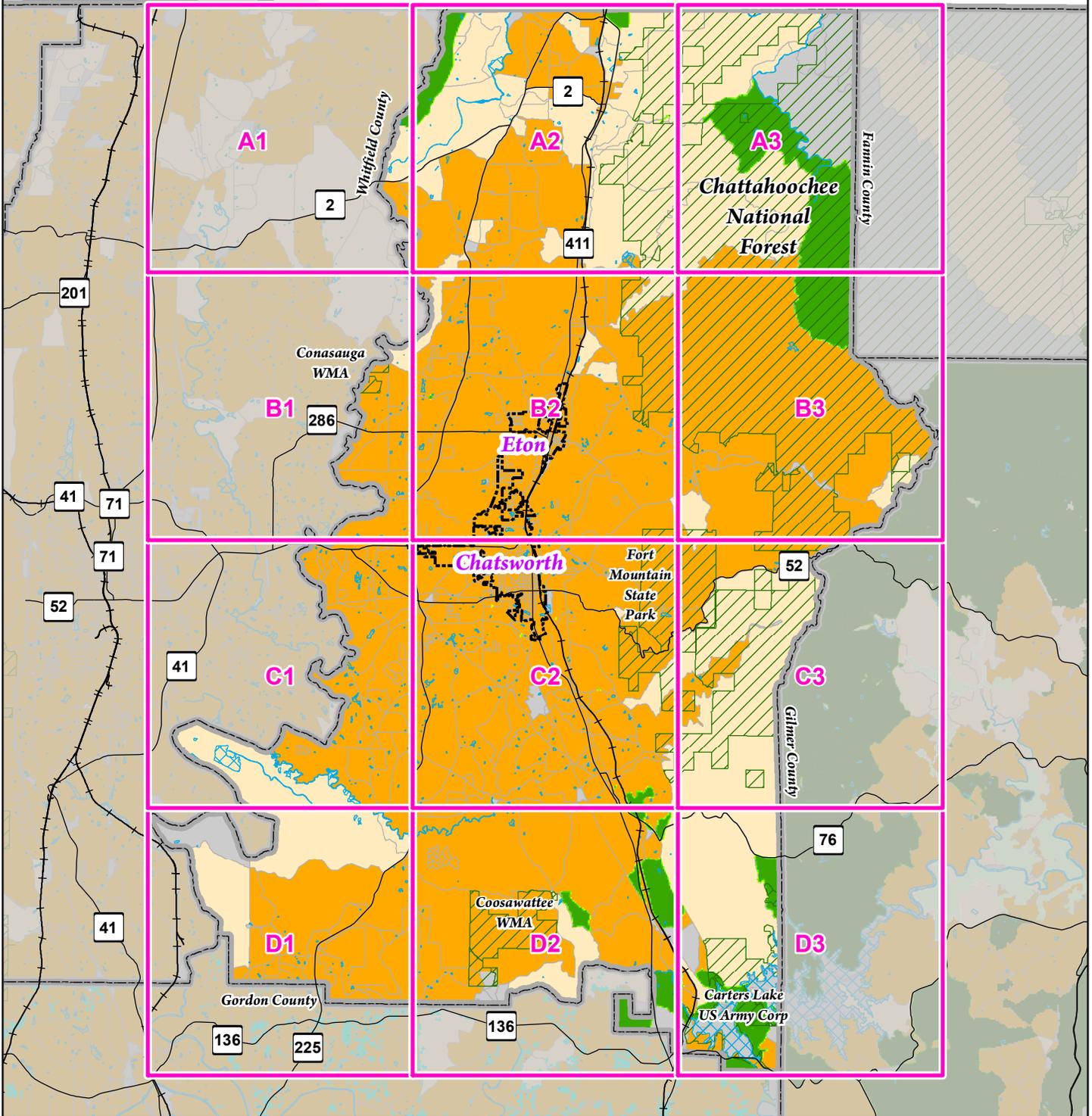
Murray County lies on the western edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains, with 28% of its land in parks/recreation/conservation land use, including the Chattahoochee National Forest, as discussed in Section 5, Land Use in Murray County and its Municipalities. Most of the land in the Park/Recreation/Conservation land use category is National Forest, but also includes Fort Mountain State Park, Coosawattee, Conasauga and Carters Lake WMAs plus a small amount of county and municipal park land. This public land cannot have residences or businesses with the exception of administrative facilities at the state park and Carters Lake WMA. The Forest Service land in Murray County includes the eastern part of Cohutta Wilderness, where there are no roads, only trails and dispersed campsites.

The state’s Broadband Availability map includes address data from the Census using Census blocks as mapping units. While Census blocks are the smallest geographic unit for which the Census tabulates data in the decennial Census, there are drawbacks to using these units in rural areas. In remote areas a block can cover a large geographic area because block boundaries are based on easily recognizable features like roads or rivers. A block does not require population and can in fact be used to define an uninhabitable area, like a lake. The “No locations” on the map are blocks where there are no addresses (no residences or businesses) and therefore no population. The Cohutta Wilderness has been captured as a “no locations” area, but private inholdings among the broad tracts of Forest Service land mean that there are scattered residences in remote areas and Census blocks with large areas of forest shown as ‘unserved’. Since the success of the broadband program lies in showing where there are unserved residences and businesses which may want internet service, these overlays allow the viewer to see the full extent of conservation land.

The Federal Communications Commission has been awarding Rural Digital Opportunities Fund (RDOF) grants to providers for service in unserved rural Census blocks. In Murray County, Windstream was the provider who was awarded those grants. These blocks are shown in green on the Broadband Availability map. They include an area in extreme northwest Murray along the county border, and an area on the northeast side of the county that mainly includes Forest Service land. In the southeast part of the county there are several blocks receiving RDOF grants, including land around Carters Lake.

Broadband Map Grid index followed by the 12 sections of the grid=A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, C3, D1, D2, D3.

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



-  Lakes & Ponds
-  State Park, US Forest Service and WMAs

- GBDI Census Block Status\***
-  No Locations
  -  Served
  -  Unserved
- Broadband Grant Programs**
-  FCC RDOP (Terrestrial)
- \* Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) data as of June 2023.



1 inch = 4 miles

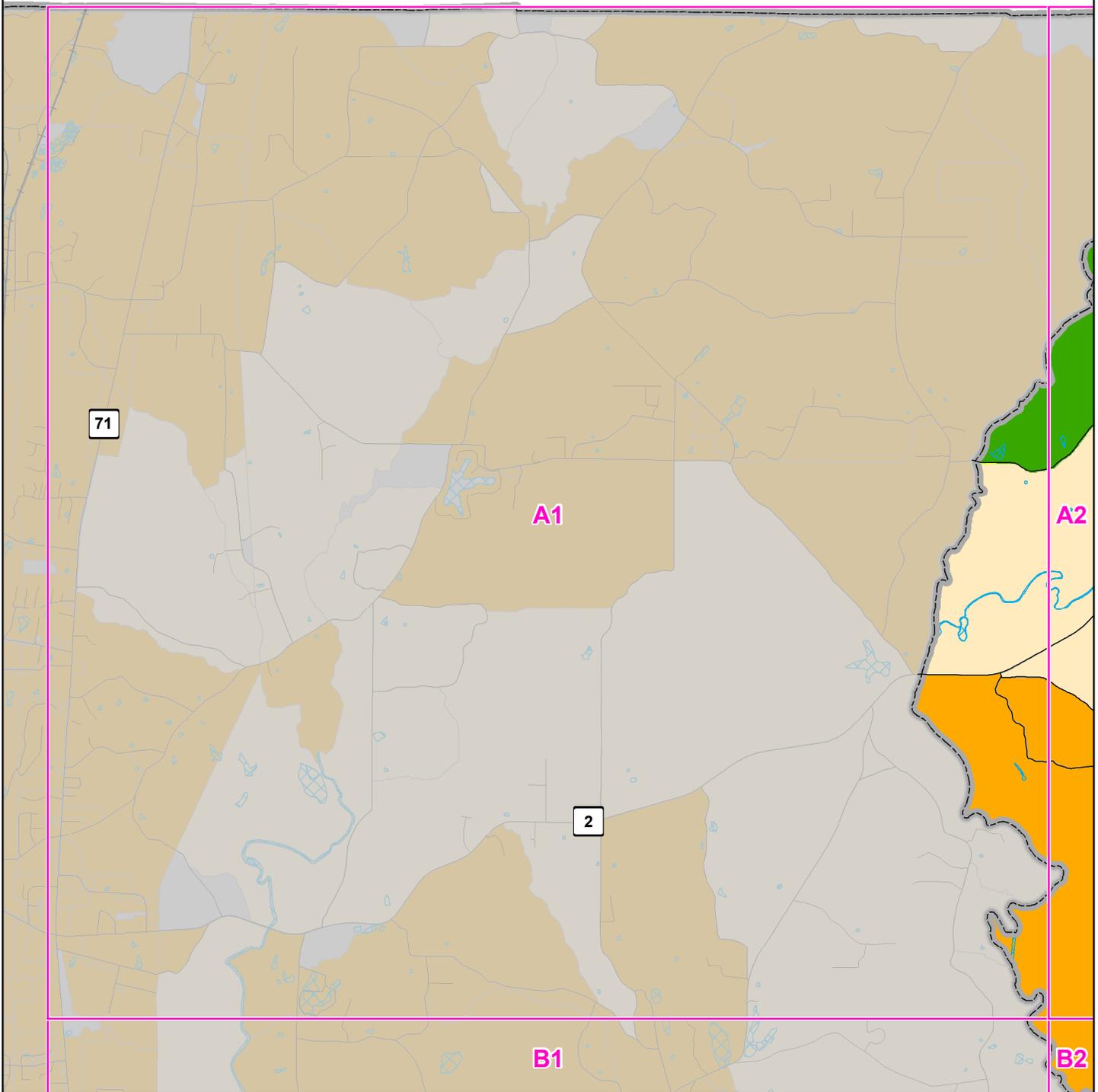
**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© August 2023

Page 38

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



 Lakes & Ponds

**GBDI Census Block Status\***

 Served  
 Unserved

Grid A1

**Broadband Grant Programs**

 FCC RDOP (Terrestrial)

\* Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) data as of June 2023.



1 inch = 1 miles

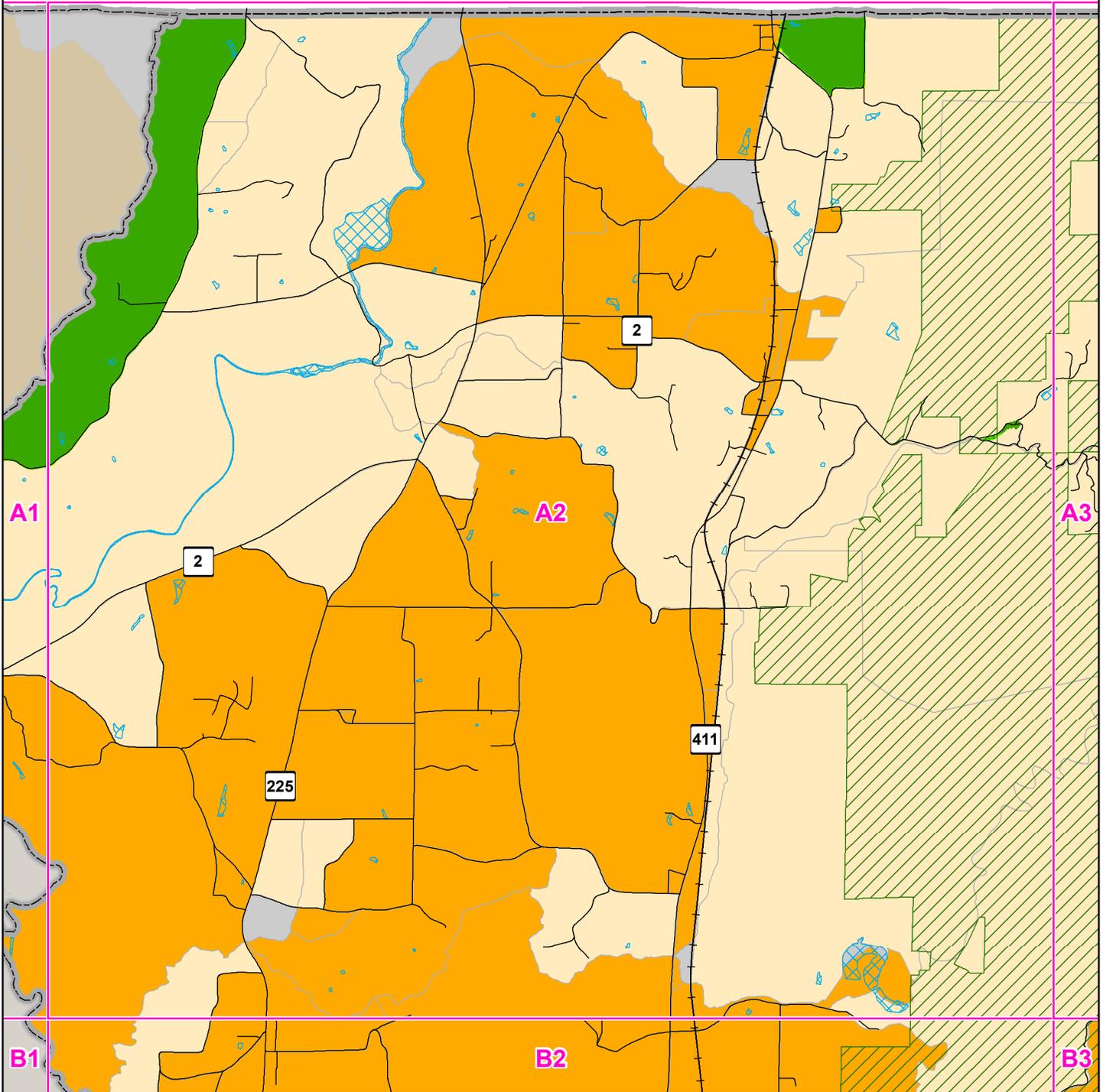
**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
 REGIONAL COMMISSION

© August 2023

Page 39

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



Lakes & Ponds

State Park, US Forest Service and WMAs

## GBDI Census Block Status\*

-  No Locations
-  Served
-  Unserved

## Broadband Grant Programs

-  FCC RDOP (Terrestrial)

\* Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) data as of June 2023.



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

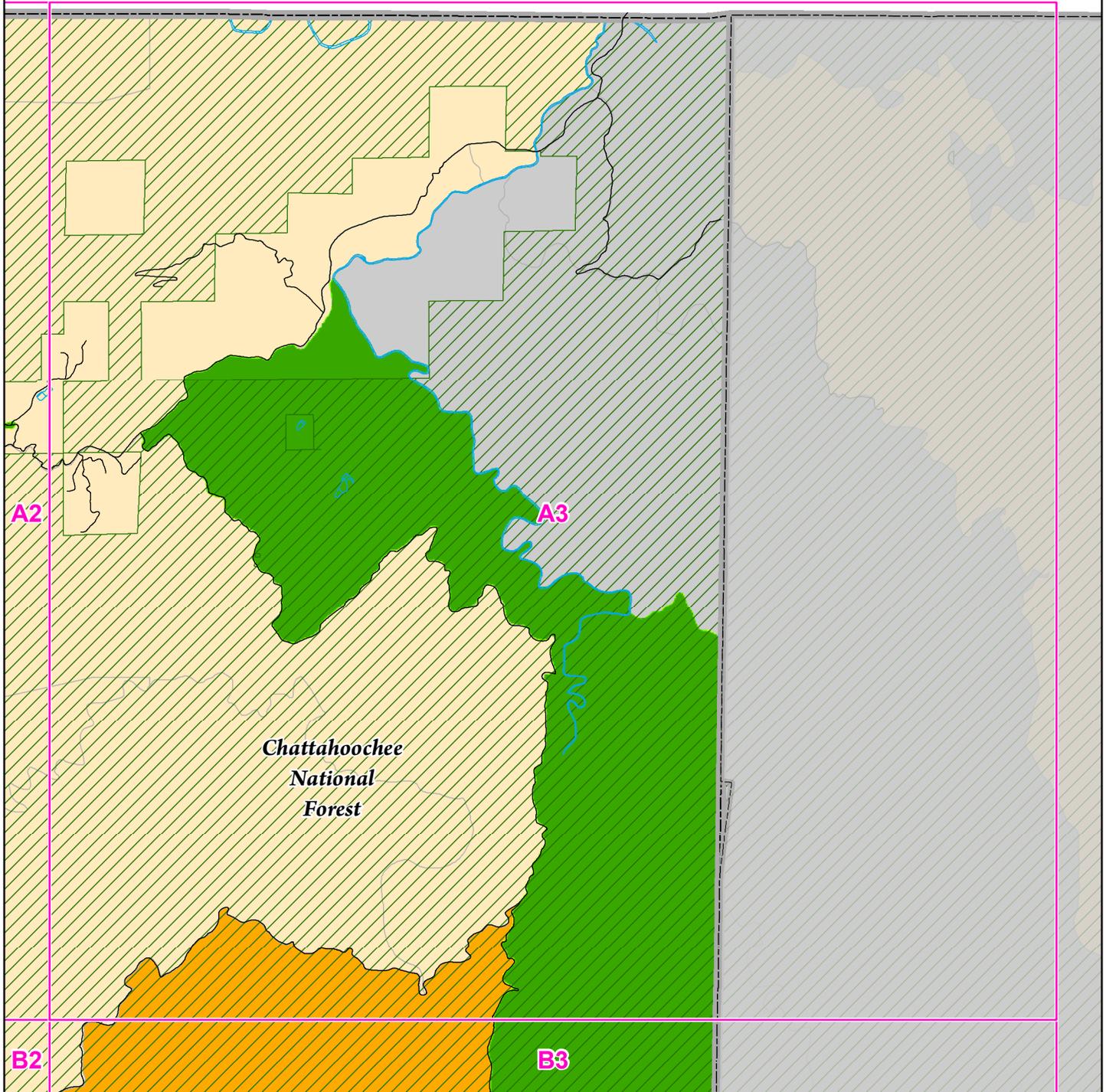
© August 2023

Page 40

Grid A2

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



-  Lakes & Ponds
-  State Park, US Forest Service and WMAs
- GBDI Census Block Status\***
-  No Locations
-  Served
-  Unserved
- Broadband Grant Programs**
-  FCC RDOP (Terrestrial)
- \* Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) data as of June 2023.



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

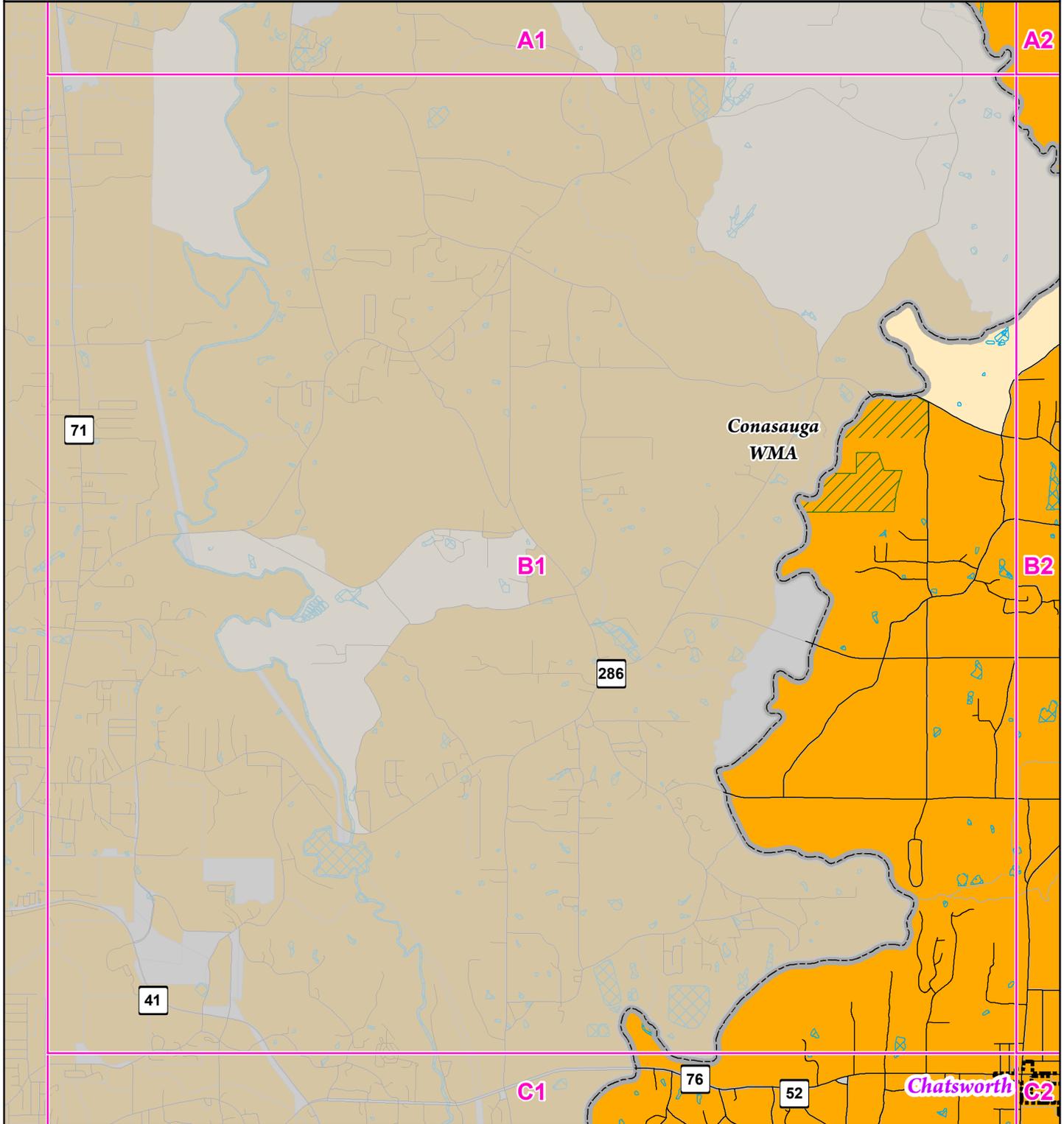
© August 2023

Page 41

Grid A3

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



	Lakes & Ponds
	State Park, US Forest Service and WMAs
<b>GBDI Census Block Status*    Broadband Grant Programs</b>	
	No Locations
	Served
	Unserved

\* Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) data as of June 2023.



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

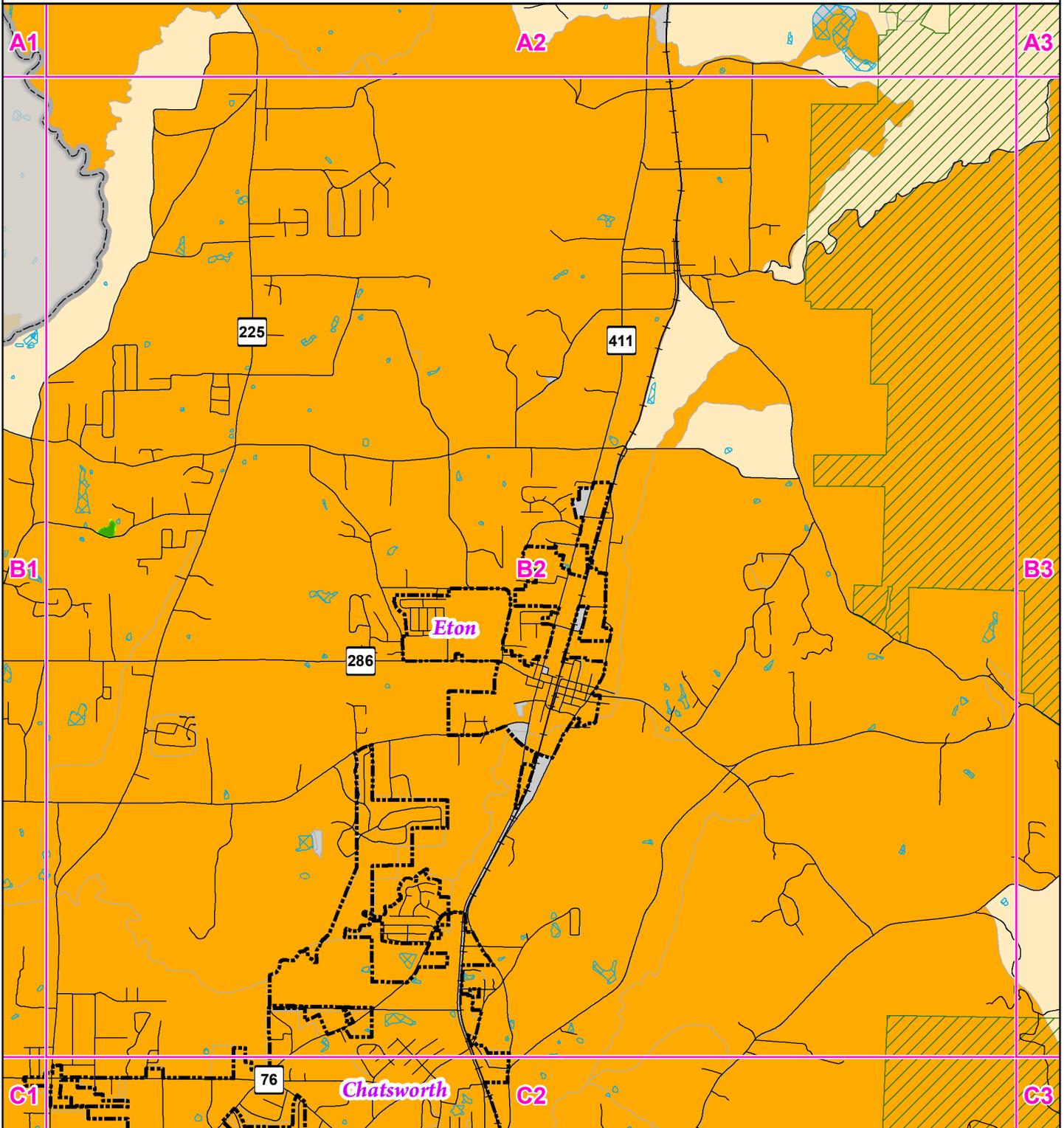
© August 2023

Page 42

Grid B1

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



 Lakes & Ponds  
 State Park, US Forest Service and WMAs  
**GBDI Census Block Status\*    Broadband Grant Programs**  
 No Locations  
 Served  
 Unserved



**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

1 inch = 1 miles

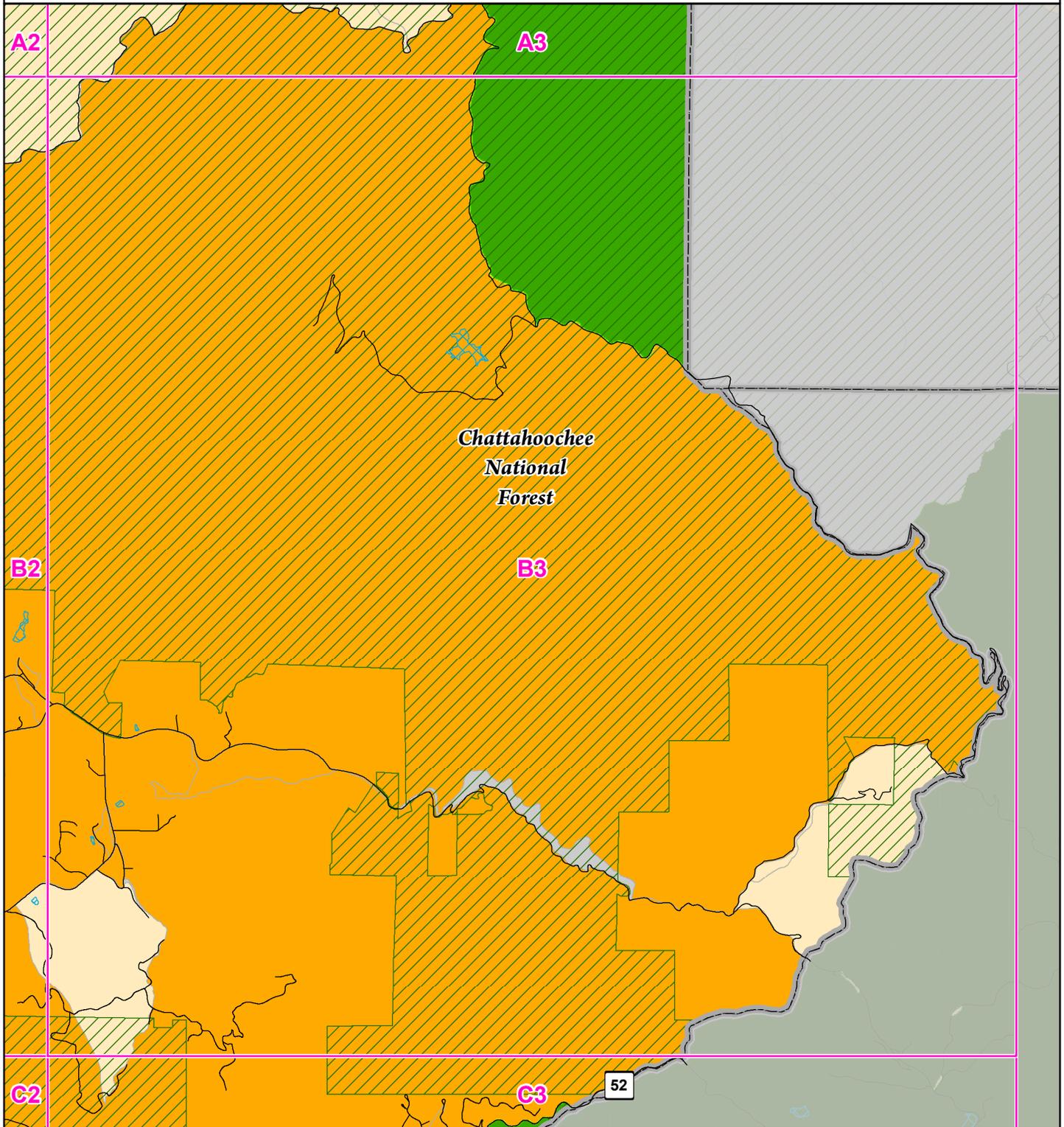
© August 2023

page 43

Grid B2

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



-  Lakes & Ponds
-  State Park, US Forest Service and WMAs

- GBDI Census Block Status\*    Broadband Grant Programs
-  No Locations
  -  Served
  -  Unserved
  -  FCC RDOP (Terrestrial)
- \* Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) data as of June 2023.



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

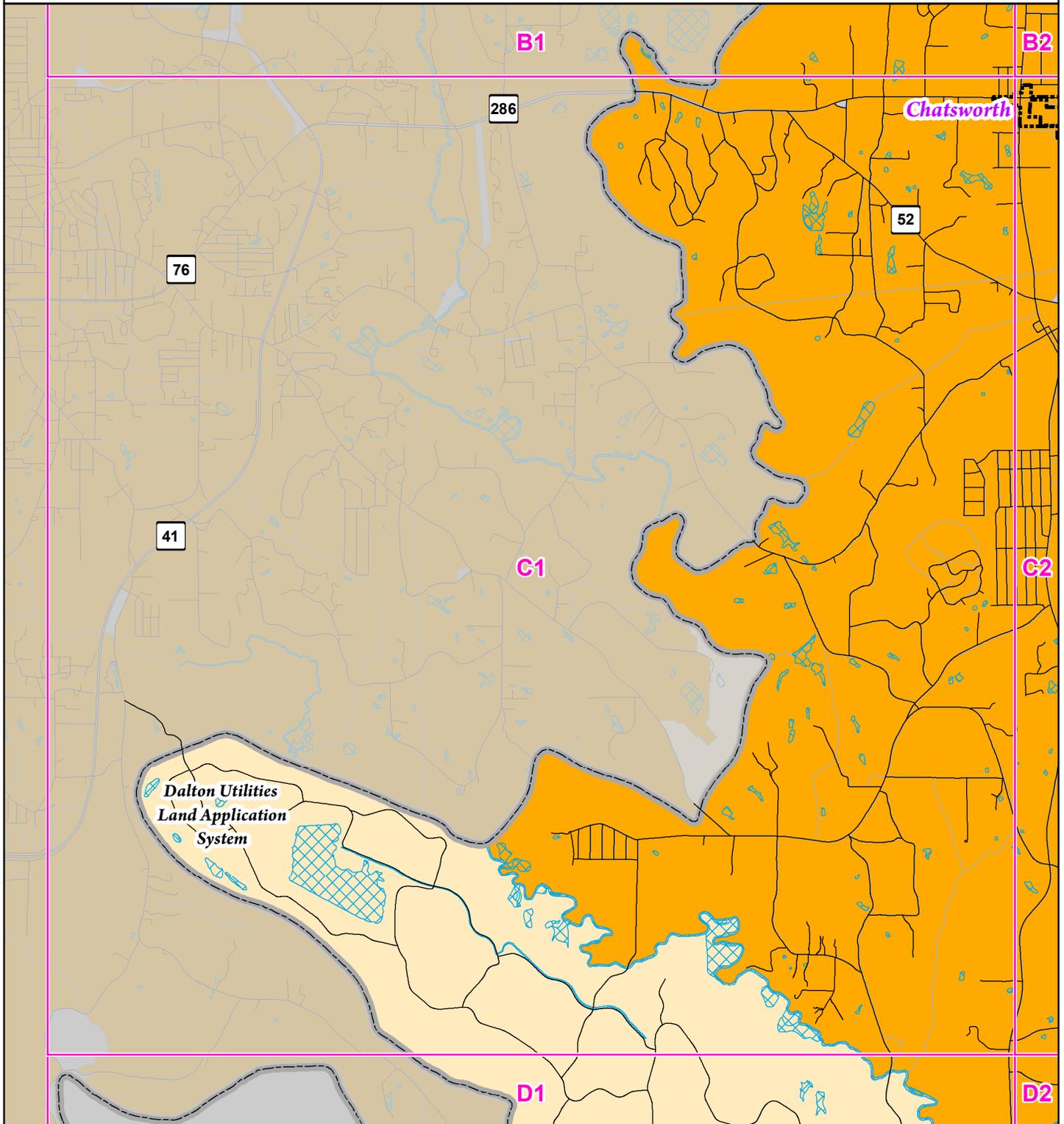
© August 2023

Page 44

Grid B3

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



 Lakes & Ponds

GBDI Census Block Status\*    Broadband Grant Programs

-  No Locations
-  Served
-  Unserved

\* Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) data as of June 2023.



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

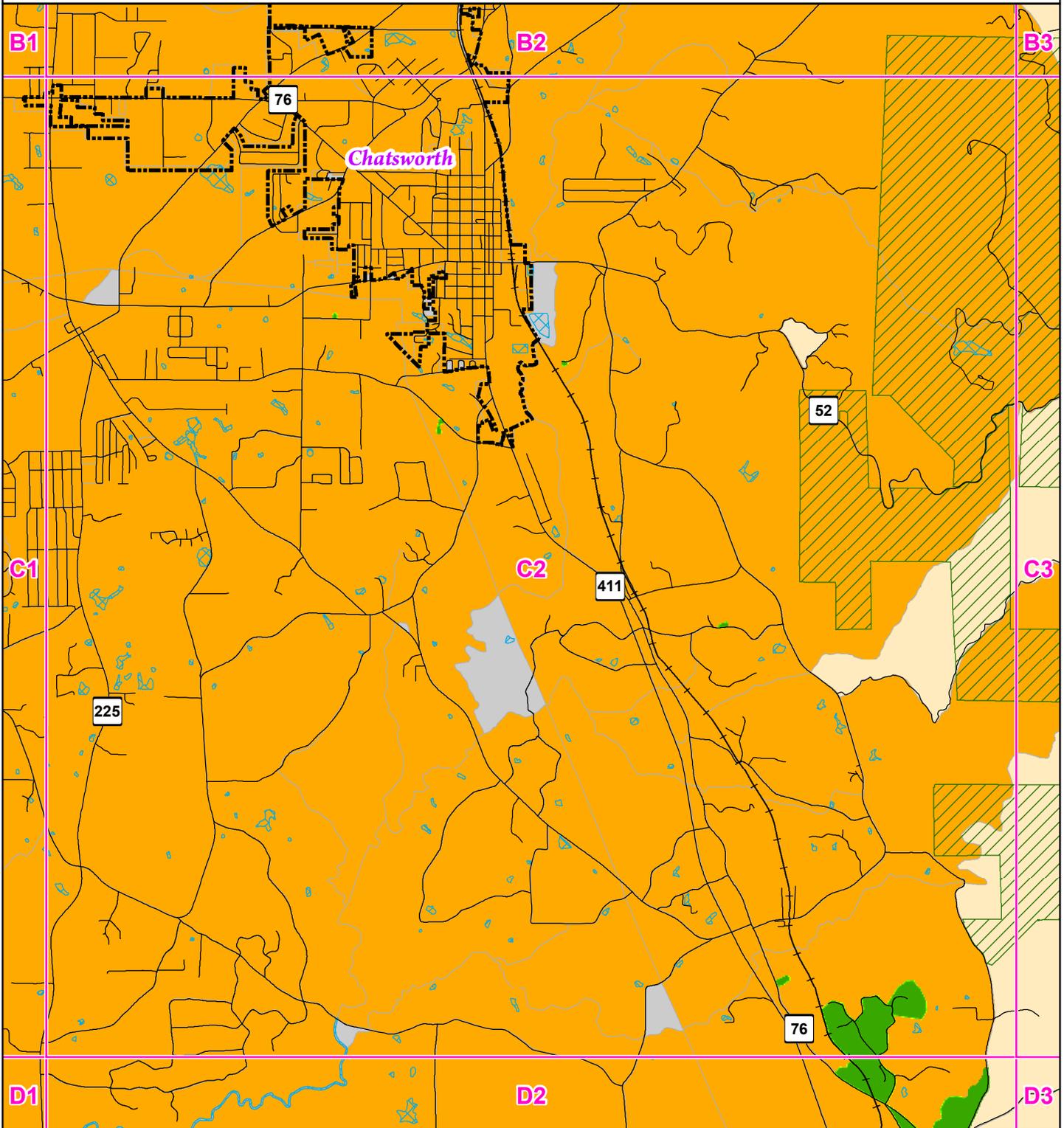
© August 2023

page 45

Grid C1

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



-  Lakes & Ponds
-  State Park, US Forest Service and WMAs

- | GBDI Census Block Status*   | Broadband Grant Programs   |
|---|--|
|  No Locations |  FCC RDOP (Terrestrial) |
|  Served       | * Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) data as of June 2023.                                     |
|  Unserved     |  |



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

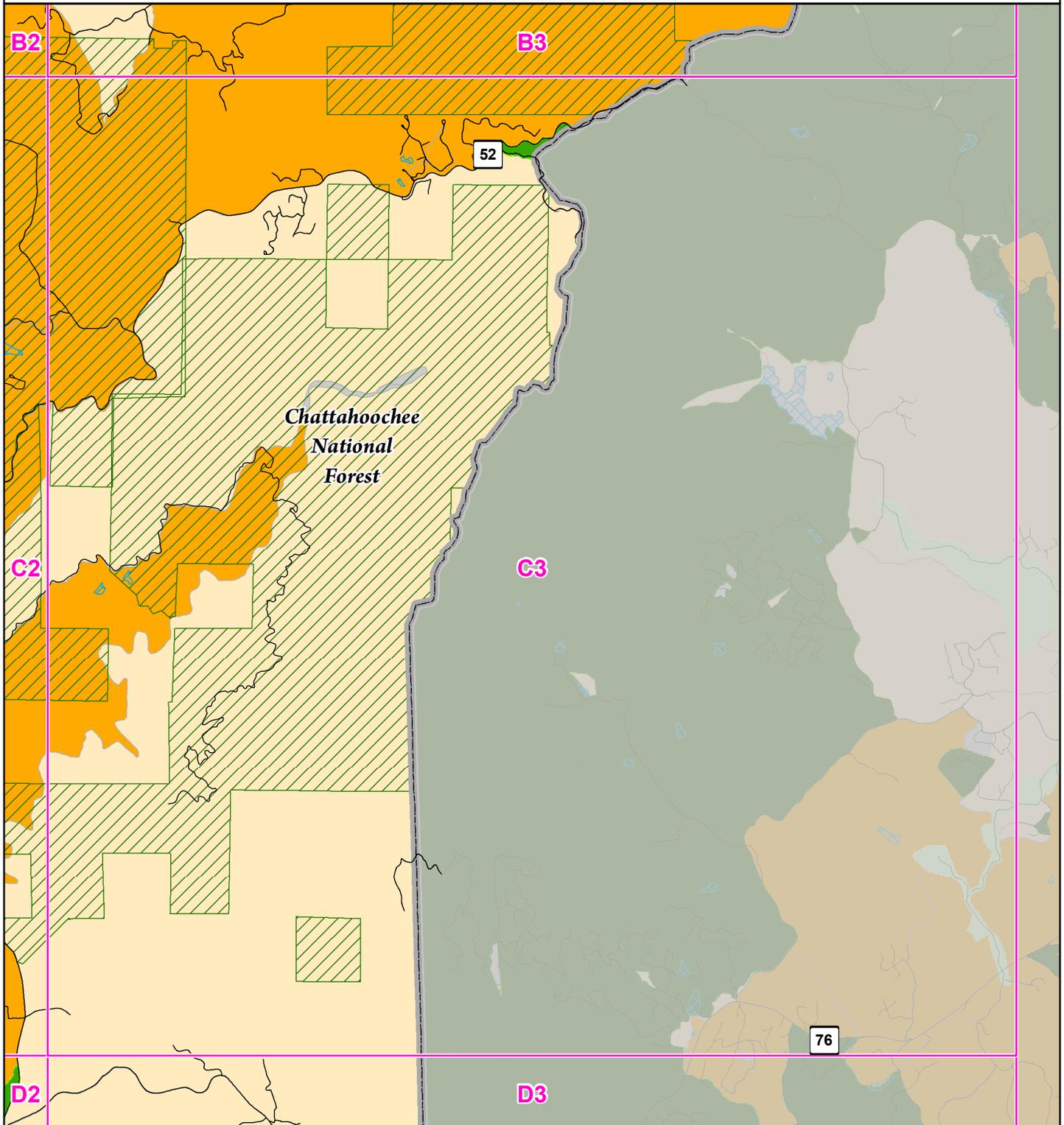
© August 2023

Page 46

Grid C2

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



-  Lakes & Ponds
-  State Park, US Forest Service and WMAs

- | GBDI Census Block Status*   | Broadband Grant Programs   |
|---|--|
|  No Locations |  FCC RDOP (Terrestrial) |
|  Served       |  |
|  Unserved     |  |

\* Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) data as of June 2023.

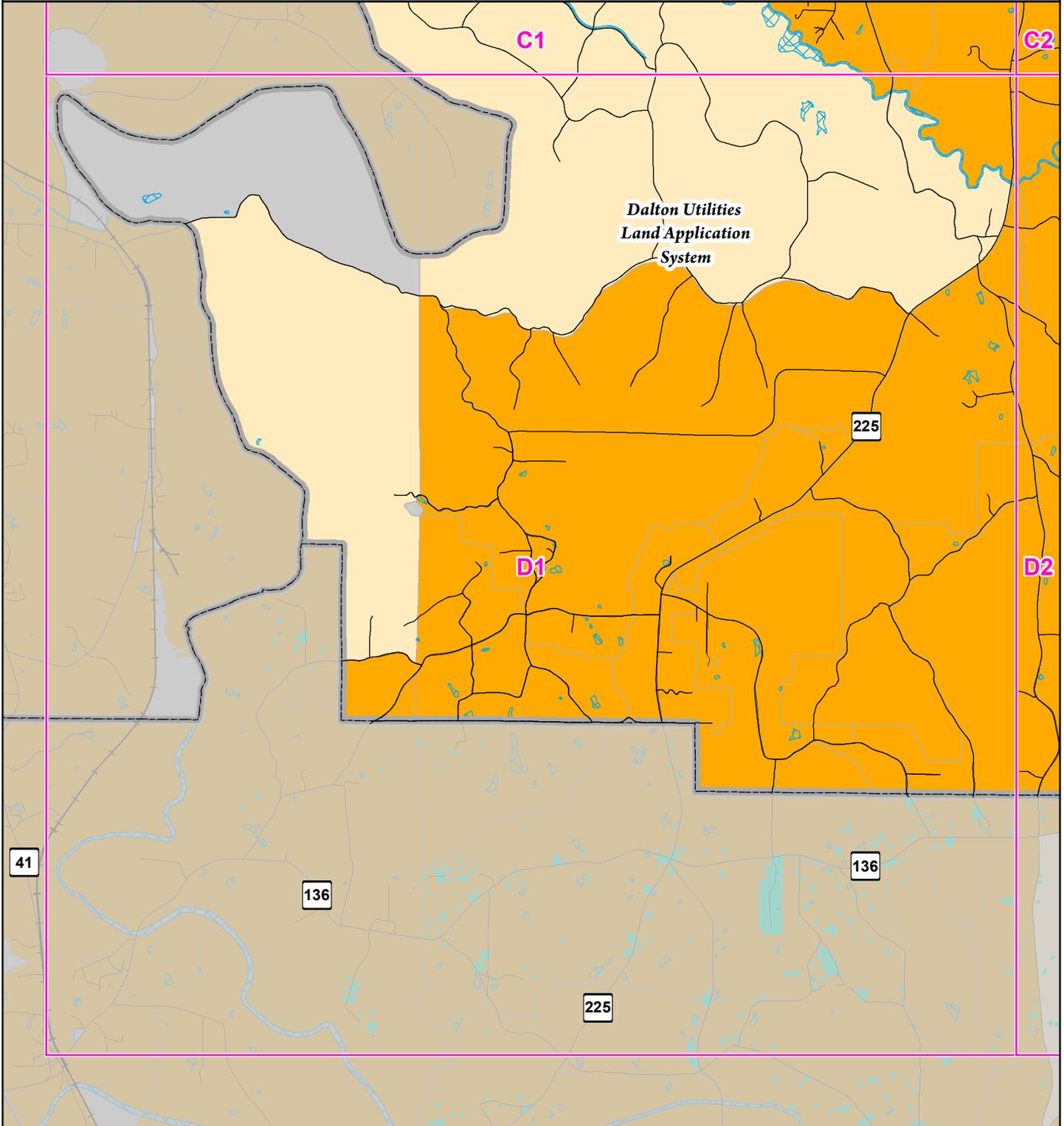


1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© August 2023

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



 Lakes & Ponds

GBDI Census Block Status\*    Broadband Grant Programs

-  No Locations
-  Served
-  Unserved

\* Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) data as of June 2023.



**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

1 inch = 1 miles

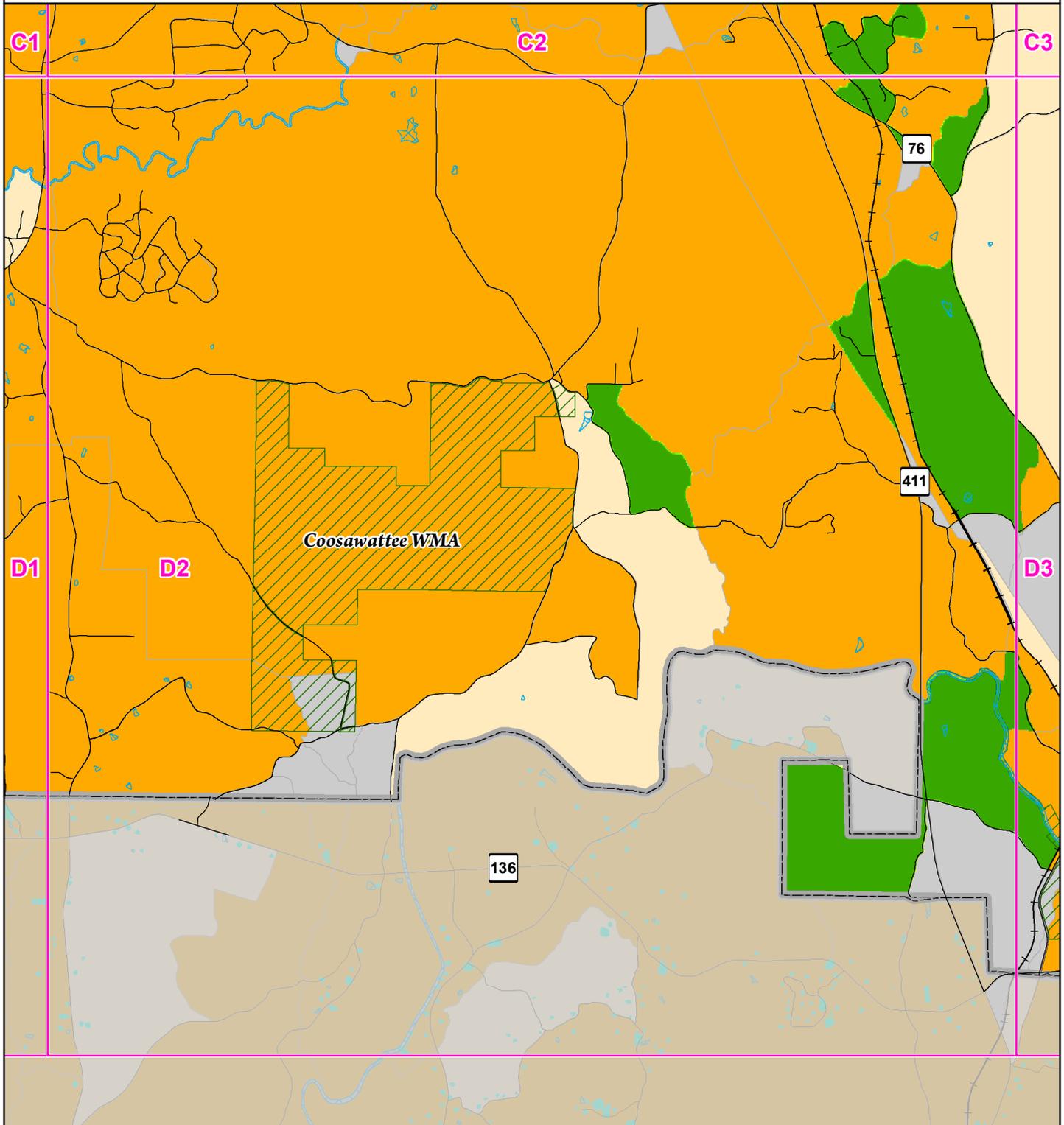
© August 2023

Page 48

Grid D1

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



Lakes & Ponds

State Park, US Forest Service and WMAs

## GBDI Census Block Status\*

-  No Locations
-  Served
-  Unserved

## Broadband Grant Programs

-  FCC RDOP (Terrestrial)

\* Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) data as of June 2023.



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

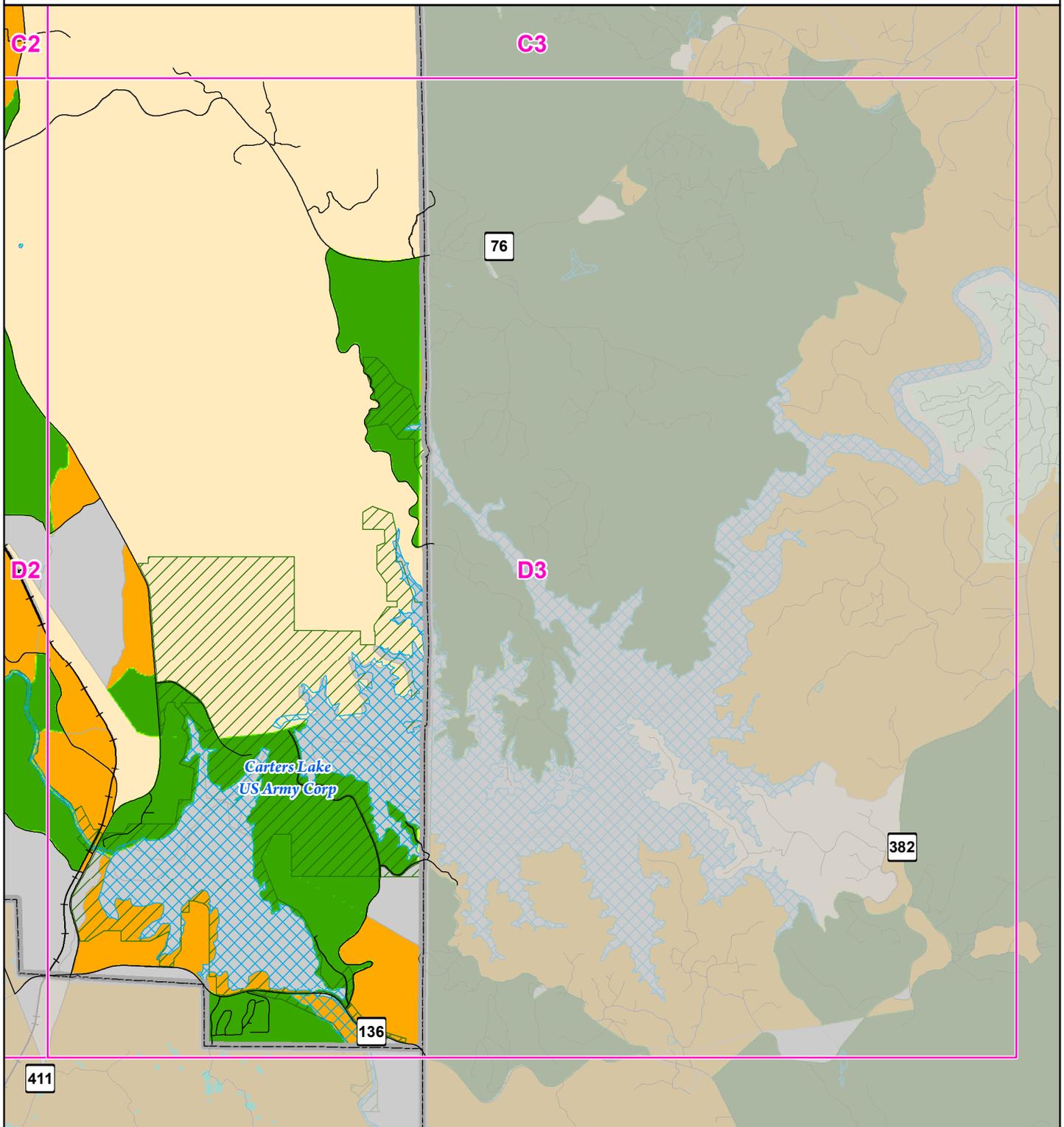
© August 2023

Page 49

Grid D2

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Broadband Availability Map



-  Lakes & Ponds
-  State Park, US Forest Service and WMAs

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>GBDI Census Block Status*</b>  | <b>Broadband Grant Programs</b>  |
|  No Locations |  FCC RDOP (Terrestrial) |
|  Served       |  |
|  Unserved     |  |

\* Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) data as of June 2023.



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© August 2023

Page 50

Grid D3

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

*Public Participation using the SWOT Process*

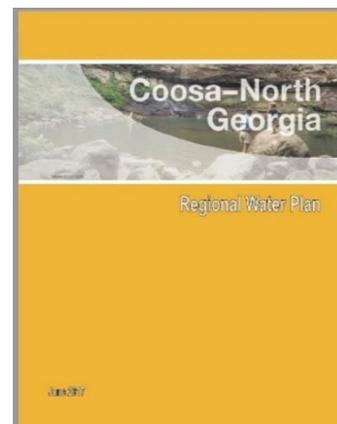
Involving the public in the decision-making process of comprehensive planning is required by Georgia planning rules because the plans should reflect the interests of the people being served. Residents experience the benefits of democracy at the local level when they are able to provide input for a comprehensive plan. When people are invited to the table to help make decisions, they have a higher level of ownership in the results. Local governments can use this planning process to build transparency. When the plan update process began in Fall 2022, elected and appointed government officials, serving as steering committee members, chose a larger group of about fifty stakeholders from a range of professions, areas of interest, and government positions. The stakeholders and steering committee members attended three evening meetings at the Veteran’s Memorial Park recreation building, a central location in the county. Through online advertising and the *Chatworth Times* newspaper, the general public was also invited to attend the stakeholder meetings. In addition, two required public hearings were held to alert residents that the plan was being updated.



First Stakeholder meeting. Photo Benny Huggins

The first two stakeholder meetings were divided into two parts: information presentation and then stakeholder input. At the first meeting, the County Commissioner and the Mayors of Chatsworth and Eton gave updates on recent accomplishments. The NWGRC planner assisting in the comprehensive plan update gave a presentation covering population and economic trends as well as sources of federal, state, and private funding and support. After these presentations, stakeholders divided up at tables representing the county and each city and began the SWOT exercise. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. This brainstorming exercise is an interactive approach to problem solving. At each table, stakeholders found sheets for seven easily recognized planning categories: economic development, housing, transportation, cultural and natural resources, community facilities and services, land use, and intergovernmental coordination. The sheets had columns to write in strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for each planning category. A scribe was chosen to write down as many ideas as possible from the ensuing group discussion, with instructions that there were no right or wrong answers at this stage.

At the second stakeholder meeting the NWGRC planner presented information about the Coosa North Georgia Regional Water Plan, impaired streams, and Environmentally Sensitive Areas which include wetlands, protected rivers, protected mountains, and water supply watersheds. Then there were presentations from representatives of the Limestone Valley Resource Conservation and Development



Coosa North Georgia Regional Water Plan available at <https://waterplanning.georgia.gov/coosa-north-georgia-regional-water-plan>

Council, the Murray Arts Council, and the Murray County Chamber of Commerce. The stakeholders then completed the SWOT process, accomplishing the goal of having some issues listed for each of the seven planning categories.

The third stakeholder meeting was a drop-in open house where the results of the SWOT analysis were displayed on the walls in the form of Needs and Opportunities. Participants placed dots on the items indicating their support or opposition, depending on the dot color. This meeting also included extensive informal discussion of issues with stakeholders and government officials.

Current or existing land use maps were displayed at the three meetings and participants were encouraged to examine the maps to identify needed updates.

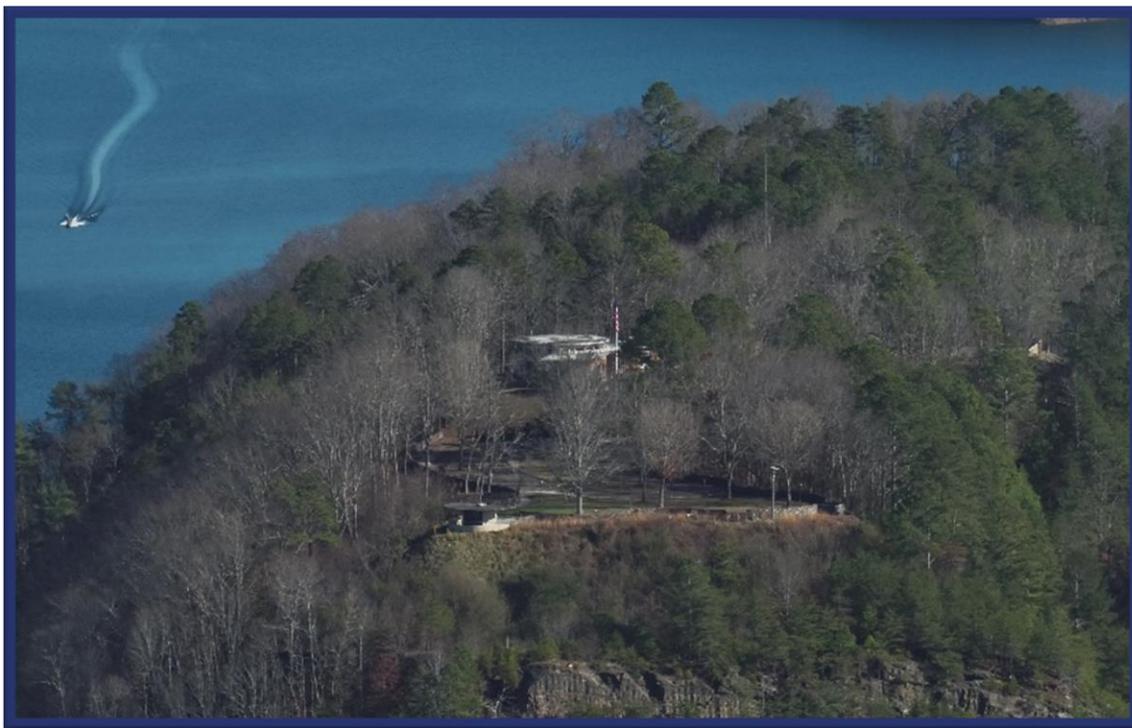
Appendix A, Community Participation Documentation, lists the dates of public hearings, steering and stakeholder committee meetings and other activities involved in preparing the plan.

To gain additional public input, the NWGRC prepared a Community Vision Survey which was available online with links posted on government websites and Facebook. Paper copies were also available at the stakeholder meetings. The survey was also distributed to students in Murray County High School. The survey ran from November 30, 2022 to April 11, 2023. A total of 864 people responded to the survey, and although the results cannot be analyzed statistically because participants were not randomly selected, it still shows the opinions of a wider range of county residents beyond the stakeholder group. Appendix B contains the tabulated results of the survey and a discussion of how the survey results relate to Needs and Opportunities developed in the steering committee meetings and stakeholder meetings.

## 2. COMMUNITY VISION AND GOALS: DEFINING SUCCESS

A Vision Statement goes beyond the basic needs of the community and points to the direction which the community would like to go within the time span of 10 or 20 years. Murray County’s Vision Statement comes from the 2010 Strategic Vision Plan by Market Street. In the last plan update, goals were added to each government’s vision statement to give it more specific direction on issues shown to be important to the steering committee and the stakeholders.

The steering committees for each government reviewed their vision statements and goals. The county and Eton decided to add a broadband goal to position themselves to access funds to improve broadband availability. All three governments added a goal showing their commitment to pedestrian access, bicycle routes, and non-motorized connectivity between cities and other destinations in the county. As the steering committees reviewed the last plan’s work program, the “Report of Accomplishment,” they considered a few items to be too general to be work program items. These items were made into policy statements and included with the goals.



*Carters Lake Visitor Center. Photo Jay Choate*

*Murray County*

**MURRAY COUNTY VISION STATEMENT**

“The Murray County of tomorrow will remain an inviting and livable community in the foothills of the beautiful North Georgia mountains, a community where superior academic accountability and an educated, engaged workforce supports a business-friendly, entrepreneurial, and diversified economy. By working together, Murray County’s residents will enjoy a successful, sustainable future through a renewed sense of community pride and achievement.”



**MURRAY COUNTY GOALS:**

1. As the gateway to Georgia’s Blue Ridge Mountains, we will make Murray County a safe, clean, and welcoming destination for visitors to learn about the history of North Georgia and to enjoy a wide variety of outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities.
  - a. Policy: Implement opportunities for connective trails, greenways, and parks identified by the Regional Greenspace Plan
2. We will work to diversify our economy to include a range of businesses and industries that allow quality job opportunities close to home while minimizing the impact on our rural environment and infrastructure.
3. We will develop policies that protect and enhance our rural landscape, both for the enjoyment of visitors and wellbeing of fish and wildlife, as well as for agricultural and forest product production.
4. Murray County boasts many beautiful springs, streams, Carters Lake, and the State Scenic Conasauga and Jack’s Rivers, whose aquatic diversity of fish and mussels are nationally recognized. We will manage land and water resources to assure the protection of these treasures for the enjoyment of future generations and so that they will continue to provide an abundant and clean water supply.
5. We will develop policies to encourage a range of safe and resource-efficient housing options so that members of our workforce can live in the community where they work.
6. We will seek to provide fire and police facilities and staff to adequately protect life and property throughout all areas of the county.
7. Our public school system has an excellent graduation rate. We will continue to support the school system’s efforts to provide quality education for all residents.
8. We will work with other government agencies and neighboring counties to address regional issues such as transportation, water management, wildland fire management, and recreation.
9. We will collaborate with the private sector to ensure the availability of reliable, affordable broadband access for all residents, by participating in the Broadband Ready Program, applying for funding, and identifying areas with broadband needs.
1. We will work to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between cities, unincorporated communities, recreational facilities, and other points of interest in the county.

*Chatsworth*

**CHATSWORTH VISION STATEMENT**

“Chatsworth has maintained its small-town community feel for over 100 years. However, Chatsworth is quickly transforming into a more modern small town that will continue to grow and sustain itself for future generations. We will continue our mission to provide the best in services and public safety to our residents. We will work to maintain and improve infrastructure for residents, businesses, and industry. We will support retail development so residents can shop in the town they live in. We will support well-managed residential growth to provide for immediate housing needs as well as long-term solutions to emerging housing issues. We will continue to maintain and expand facilities for recreation and cultural events for the community and look for opportunities to support additional cultural events.”



**CHATSWORTH GOALS**

1. Chatsworth will be a welcome destination for visitors enjoying the scenic beauty of the North Georgia Mountains and will provide a range of lodging, dining, and retail options.
2. We will encourage businesses and industries that provide quality jobs and enhance our small-town character.
3. We will work to position downtown Chatsworth as the focal point of the community, with gathering places for residents and visitors.
  - a. Policy: Implement the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Analysis for City of Chatsworth Plan.
4. We will develop policies to encourage a range of safe and resource-efficient housing options so that members of our workforce can live in the community where they work.
5. We will carefully plan the expansion of infrastructure to enhance residential, commercial, and industrial development.
6. We depend on local springs and rivers for our water supply and we recreate in Carters Lake. We will develop policies that protect the water quality of the springs, rivers, and Carters Lake.
7. Our public school system has an excellent graduation rate. We will continue to support the school system’s efforts to provide quality education for all residents.
8. We will work to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between cities, unincorporated communities, recreational facilities, and other points of interest in the county.



*Chatsworth restored Depot*

*Eton*

**ETON VISION STATEMENT:**

“It is Eton’s mission to provide effective, fiscally responsible, and innovative municipal services in a manner which promotes public safety, citizen welfare, and a high quality of life.”



**ETON GOALS:**

1. We will continue to develop policies to encourage a range of safe and affordable housing options.
2. We will encourage diversity and assist all businesses through promotion and business incentives.
3. We will monitor the long-term growth supported by our retail, residential, and industrial vitality and adjust plans when necessary.
4. We will carefully plan the expansion of infrastructure to enhance commercial, residential, and industrial development while always being mindful to protect our natural resources and abundant groundwater.
  - a. **Policy:** Emphasize tax incentives to landowners for protecting environmentally sensitive lands.
5. We will continue to support the school system’s efforts to provide quality education and prepare future leaders.
6. We will frequently provide local cultural events to encourage community involvement and volunteerism.
7. We will continue to seek opportunities for future park development, bike paths, walking paths, and community recreational areas.
8. As the gateway to the Chattahoochee National Forest’s Cohutta Wilderness area, we will support efforts in maintaining and preserving the scenic beauty for future generations to enjoy.
9. We will continue to provide public safety departments with highly trained staff to protect life and property throughout all areas of our city.
10. We will ensure that visitors feel welcome by creating an inviting, relaxed, small-town atmosphere.
11. We will collaborate with private sector to ensure the availability of reliable, affordable broadband access for all residents, by participating in the Broadband Ready Program, applying for funding, and identifying areas with broadband needs.
12. We will work to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between cities, unincorporated communities, recreational facilities, and other points of interest in the county.

### 3. REPORTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT: COMPLETED PROJECTS

To evaluate the implementation of the last 5-year comprehensive plan for Murray County and its cities, the planner put work program items for the 5-year timeframe of 2019-2023 in a “Reports of Accomplishment” table for each government. The steering committee members, in particular the mayors, the sole commissioner and at least one appointed official from each government, reviewed the items and determined which have been completed, are underway, have been postponed, or need to be dropped. Items that are underway and postponed go automatically to this update’s new work program. If a project is postponed or dropped an explanation is required. Projects are postponed or dropped for many reasons. The required funding may not have materialized, it might now be obsolete because the need was met in another way, or public interest for the project may have waned. Sometimes a project is dropped because it was part of a new mandate, but now has become a routine activity of government. There is no penalty for not completing a work program item since comprehensive plans are not legally binding documents.

#### *Photos Celebrating Recently Completed Projects:*



*Fire Station 1 on SR 225. Lower photo by Jay Choate*

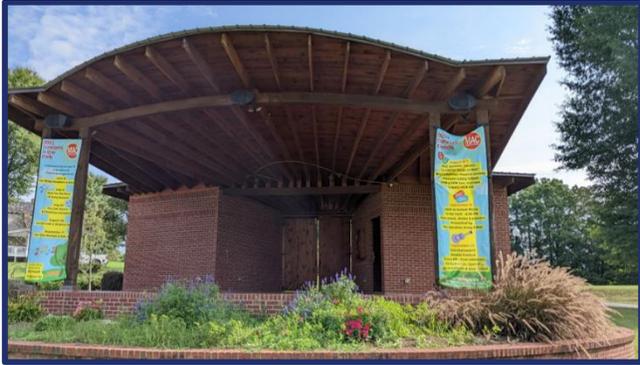


*Bridge on SR 52 over Town Creek at Vann House*



*Eton Gateway sign with landscaping on US411*

More Completed Projects:



Stage at Chatsworth City Park



Renovated Chatsworth Depot. -Photo Whitfield Murray Historical Society



Appalachian Regional Port on US 411. Photo Jay Choate



New General Electric Distribution Center, US 411



New single family housing construction in Eton



New Lions Club Pavilion at Chatsworth Park

*Murray County Report of Accomplishments*

REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019-2023						
MURRAY COUNTY						
WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>						
1. Conduct an industrial site suitability analysis and inventory available vacant buildings.	2019		X (2024)			Rewrite to say: Compile the industrial site inventory for availability on IDA website for site selectors.
2. Create and implement a county-wide economic development website	2019	X				Website creation is complete. Add to next work program: Enhance the county-wide economic development website with drone footage, inventory maps, and other items.
3. Continue Implementation of Murray County 2010 Strategic Vision Plan by Market Street linked to NW GA CEDS.	2019-2023	X				
4. Pursue programs and grant opportunities emphasizing entrepreneurial enterprises and small/medium business suppliers to larger industrial concerns	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: Coordinate and manage forums and workshops focusing on would-be entrepreneurs while building strong partnerships with the IDA to ensure service after the sell.
5. Develop strong educational attainment and achievement rates for workforce with the Commit to Graduate Program and emphasis on career and college readiness.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: Develop strong educational attainment and achievement rates for workforce through the Murray Works Program by focusing on career and college readiness after graduation.

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019-2023**

**MURRAY COUNTY**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
6. Continue efforts to market local businesses to local citizens, and to encourage continuous improvement and variety in downtown retail opportunities	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: a. Partner with chamber to engage grassroots businesses while also recruiting nationally known brands b. Partner with chamber in beautification projects involving landscaping and signage to encourage downtown retail for tourists and local shoppers using the Chatsworth GA Design Considerations Downtown Renaissance Fellowship Report 2016 UGA (Carl Vinson Institute of Gov) c. Pursue improvements to safe pedestrian access to downtown, including sidewalks and crossings (move this one to Transportation section in work program)
7. Assist with a retail incubator in Chatsworth	2019-2023				X	Staff not available
8. Develop marketing to position Murray County as the western gateway to Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains, to emphasize the recreational opportunities, and to attract lodging and dining establishments that cater to young recreation enthusiasts.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: Continue to strengthen marketing Murray County as the western gateway to the Blue Ridge Mountains with Murray Magazine, New Murray Map, Murray Tourism Map, billboards, and Hurry to Murray TV show in the Chattanooga market to encourage day trips and staycations in Murray County
<b>HOUSING</b>						
1. Assist in the implementation of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program	2019-2023				X	Federal program no longer available

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019-2023**

**MURRAY COUNTY**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
2. Encourage healthcare providers to consider building assisted living facilities in county	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: The county will coordinate with healthcare providers to improve community access to skilled nursing, long-term care, and assisted living facilities.
3. Support the extension of sewer to developable areas of county	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
4. Extend fire hydrant service to more areas of county	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>						
1. Continue the Murray County Rural Transit System	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say "Continue the Mountain Area Transit System (MATS)"
2. Participate in Greater Dalton MPO planning meetings (Metropolitan Planning Organization, which includes Eton, Chatsworth, and part of Murray County).	2019-2023				X	Routine activity of government
3. Initiate discussions and planning at the regional level and with the State of Tennessee regarding the widening of U. S. 411 Highway.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
4. Review and prioritize transportation improvements around inland port area and industrial development areas using the GDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Planning Tool (MTPT) to improve Levels of Service (LOS).	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
5. Identify and pursue improvements to US Route 411 to accommodate port traffic	2019		X (2024-2028)			
6. Replace bridge over railroad on US 411 Highway in Tennga	2019-2021	X				

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019-2023**

**MURRAY COUNTY**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
7. Refurbish Mill Creek bridge on Old Federal Road south of Eton to provide emergency access to area east of railroad in Eton	2019		X (2024)			Rewrite to say “ <u>Replace</u> Mill Creek bridge on Old Federal Road south of Eton to provide emergency access to area east of railroad in Eton”
8. Coordinate with GDOT and NPO officials to plan improvements to Smyrna Church Road	2019		X (2024)			
9. Construct two roundabouts on SR 225 in Spring Place	2019-2020		X (2028)			
10. Replace SR 52 Alt Town Branch bridge in Spring Place	2019-2020	X				

**NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

1. Pursue nominations to the National Register of Historic Places as needed with technical assistance from NWGRC	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
2. Make business owners and homeowners aware of tax incentives to rehabilitate existing structures if the building is eligible or listed on the National/Georgia Register of Historic Places	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: Coordinate with DDA to make business owners and homeowners aware of tax incentives to rehabilitate existing structures if the building is eligible or listed on the National/Georgia Register of Historic Places and educate on the requirements of the historic tax credit program
3. Coordinate with NWGRC to arrange for the resurvey of historic properties and feasibility of establishing historic districts as needed with technical assistance from NWGRC.	2021		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: Coordinate with DDA and NWGRC to arrange for the resurvey of historic properties and feasibility of establishing historic districts as needed with technical assistance from NWGRC.
4. Create a Joint Historic Preservation Commission and send members to State training	2019		X (2024-2028)			

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019-2023**

**MURRAY COUNTY**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
5. Pursue Certified local government status for county and cities to facilitate additional grants for rehabilitating existing structures	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
6. Provide an educational workshop for land developers to emphasize the positive characteristics of implementing conservation design subdivisions.	2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: Provide information to developers for conservation design subdivisions to encourage maximum use of land to meet soil erosion and stormwater management goals
7. County will continue to maintain the scenic byway trailhead on Fort Mountain and use code enforcement to improve scenic views especially along the scenic byway.	2019-2023				X	Routine activity of government
8. Market Historic sites throughout county through Chamber of Commerce	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: Partner with the Chamber to market historic sites throughout county with <i>Murray Magazine</i> , New Murray Map, Murray Tourism Map, billboards, and “Hurry to Murray” TV show in the Chattanooga market to encourage day trips and staycations in Murray County
9. Implement NWGRC plan to beautify public spaces	2019-2023				X	This Downtown Renaissance (RSVP) plan applies to Chatsworth and is being implemented by the city
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES</b>						
1. Develop a back-up 911 center.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
2. Prepare architectural plan for courthouse renovations and accessibility	2021		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: Pursue Justice Center project to provide additional space for all courts and to provide ADA compliance.”

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019-2023**

**MURRAY COUNTY**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
3. Improve ADA accessibility at County Courthouse by retrofitting and adding new construction	2022-2023				X	Historic architectural features make renovations not feasible
4. Implement bicycle and sidewalk project	2023				X	Funds not available
5. Implement opportunities for connective trails, greenways, and parks identified by the Regional Green Space Plan.	2019-2023				X	Move to policy section
6. Create Site Development Master Plan for area around Appalachian Regional Port	2019-2020	X				
7. Build North Murray Water Pollution control plant	2020				X	Responsibility of Chatsworth Water Authority
8. Industrial Development Authority works with Chatsworth Water Works to extend sewer to Murray South Industrial Park	2019-2020	X				
9. Develop utilities, such as gas line, for Murray South Industrial Park (this was in Economic Development in Report of Accomplishment, moved to here)	2019-2020	X				
10. Partner with Georgia Ports Authority to provide playground equipment and picnic shelter at the Petty-Fairy Valley Recreational Park	2020		X (2025-2026)			
11. Adopt a Broadband Ordinance to comply with state rules and supply broadband to residents and businesses.	2019	X				
12. Participate in the Broadband Ready Community program, with adopted ordinance and designation of unserved areas.	2019-2023	X				
13. Apply for funding under the Broadband Ready Program.	2020		X (2025)			

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019-2023**

**MURRAY COUNTY**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
<b>LAND USE</b>						
1. Develop a corridor overlay zone for the U.S. 76/U.S. 411 corridor regarding better access, parking, connectivity, and site amenities.	2022-2023		X (2027-2028)			
2. If Chatsworth Waterworks expands sewer and water, revise the County Zoning Ordinance and Future Land Use Map, to consider the areas for water and sewer expansion to target new and mixed development opportunities.	2023		X (2024-2028)			
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION</b>						
1. Maintain a relationship with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia by attending annual meeting and training	2019-2023				X	Routine activity of government
2. Continue to support the Northwest Georgia Water Resources Partnership.	2019-2023				X	Routine activity of government
3. Continue to involve the Murray County Planning Commission in local government processes	2019-2023				X	Routine activity of government
4. Maintain a relationship with the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission for grants, economic development, general planning, aging services, workforce development, historic preservation, and technical assistance.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
5. Initiate regular meetings between county, the board of education, and municipalities twice a year.	2019-2023				X	Routine activity of government

*Chatsworth Report of Accomplishments*

REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019-2023						
CITY OF CHATSWORTH						
WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>						
1. Conduct an industrial site suitability analysis and inventory vacant buildings.	2019-2023		X (2024)			Rewrite to say: Compile the industrial site inventory for availability on IDA website for site selectors.
2. Continue Implementation of Murray County 2010 Strategic Vision Plan by Market Street linked to NW GA CEDS.	2019-2023	X				
3. Broaden efforts to market local businesses to local citizens, and to encourage continuous improvement and variety in downtown retail opportunities.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: a. Partner with chamber to engage grassroots businesses while also recruiting nationally known brands b. Partner with chamber in beautification projects involving landscaping and signage to encourage downtown retail for tourists and local shoppers using the Chatsworth GA Design Considerations Downtown Renaissance Fellowship Report 2016 UGA (Carl Vinson Institute of Gov)
4. Implement regulations that encourage the expansion of retail and food service sectors, including resort or meeting/event spaces.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
5. Establish a retail incubator in Chatsworth, including opportunities for rehabilitation of segments within declining commercial corridors.	2019-2023				X	Staff not available

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019-2023**

**CITY OF CHATSWORTH**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
6. Use Downtown Development Authority and Chamber of Commerce to develop branding of city as an outdoor recreation destination attractive to young people.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: Continue to strengthen marketing Murray County and Chatsworth as the western gateway to the Blue Ridge Mountains with <i>Murray Magazine</i> , New Murray Map, Murray Tourism Map, billboards, and “Hurry to Murray” TV show in the Chattanooga market to encourage day trips and staycations in Murray County (rewritten)
<b>HOUSING</b>						
1. Assist in the implementation of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program	2019-2023				X	This funding is no longer available from the federal government
2. Initiate rehabilitation and revitalize neighborhoods through programs like GICH and CHIP	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: “Partner with Murray County and Eton in applying for participation in the GICH training program to develop creative solutions to housing needs.” Then add CHIP application to next work program as a separate item
3. Inventory old buildings and modify regulations as needed to create housing opportunities.	2019-2023	X				
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>						
1. Participate in Greater Dalton MPO planning meetings (Metropolitan Planning Organization, which includes Eton, Chatsworth, and part of Murray County).	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019-2023**

**CITY OF CHATSWORTH**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
2. Initiate discussions and planning at the regional level and with the State of Tennessee regarding the widening of U. S. 411 Highway.	2019-2023			X (2024-2028)		Dependent on state approval and funding
3. Review and prioritize transportation improvements around inland port area and industrial development areas using the GDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Planning Tool (MTPT) to improve Levels of Service (LOS).	2019-2023				X	Port is located outside city limits. Responsibility of county
4. Identify and pursue improvements to US Route 411 to accommodate port traffic.	2019		X (2024-2028)			
5. Implement the Chatsworth Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan.	2019-2023				X	Move to Policy section (the name is Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Analysis for City of Chatsworth). Add bike route to Veteran’s Park to work program.
<b>NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>						
1. Coordinate with NWGRC to arrange for the resurvey of historic properties and feasibility of establishing historic districts.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
2. Pursue nominations to the National Register of Historic Places in central business district	2021-2023		X (2024-2028)			
3. Create a Joint Historic Preservation Commission and send members to state training.	2023		X (2024-2028)			
4. Complete the renovation of the L&N Depot.	2019-2023	X				
5. Maintain compliance with storm water management regulations.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019-2023**

**CITY OF CHATSWORTH**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES</b>						
1. Develop and continue updates to a water and sewer facilities master plan.	2019-2023	X				Development of plan is complete. Add to new work program: “continue updates to water and sewer facilities master plan”
2. Investigate multi-jurisdictional use of water supply resources and wastewater treatment facilities.	2019-2023	X				Multijurisdictional use is now established. Add for new work program: “Explore extensions to water supply and wastewater treatment facilities”
3. Build a second fire station to serve the western part of the city (subject to annexation growth)	2023			X (2024-2028)		Postponed until future growth occurs
4. Add community orchard at Keep Chatsworth-Murray Beautiful Recycling Center	2019-2021				X	Area recommitted to another function
5. Continue to implement Georgia Downtown Renaissance Fellowship Plan to improve streetscapes, public gathering areas, parking, and the pedestrian experience	2019-2023				X	This item will be combined with a very similar item in the Economic Development section
6. Develop recreational plan that includes more playground equipment and other facilities for family-oriented outdoor recreation in Chatsworth.	2020		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite for work program: “Add playground equipment at city parks”
7. Adopt a Broadband Ordinance to comply with state rules and supply broadband to residents and businesses.	2019				X	Established company provides adequate internet access. City added Wi Fi hot spots to City Park, Library, and Public Safety Admin Building
8. Participate in the Broadband Ready Community program, with adopted ordinance and designation of unserved areas.	2019-2023				X	Established company provides adequate internet

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2019-2023**

**CITY OF CHATSWORTH**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
9. Apply for funding under the Broadband Ready Program.	2020				X	Established company provides adequate internet
<b>LAND USE</b>						
1. Develop a corridor overlay zone for the U.S. 76/U.S. 411 corridor for better access, parking, connectivity, and site amenities.	2019-2023				X	Due to lack of funding and state approval
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION</b>						
1. Maintain relationship with the Georgia Municipal Association by attending 2 events per year.	2019-2023				X	Routine activity of government
2. Continue to support the Northwest Georgia Water Resources Partnership.	2019-2023				X	Routine activity of government
3. Continue to involve the Chatsworth Planning Commission in local government processes.	2019-2023				X	Routine activity of government
4. Maintain a relationship with the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission for grants, economic development, general planning, aging services, workforce development, historic preservation, and technical assistance.	2019-2023				X	Routine activity of government
5. Initiate regular meetings between county, the board of education, and cities twice a year.	2019-2023				X	Routine activity of government

*Eton Report of Accomplishments*

REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2024-2029						
CITY OF ETON						
WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>						
1. Conduct an industrial site suitability analysis and inventory available vacant buildings.	2019-2023		X (2024)			Rewrite to say: Compile the industrial site inventory for availability on IDA website for site selectors
2. Continue Implementation of Murray County 2010 Strategic Vision Plan by Market Street linked to NW GA CEDS.	2019-2023	X				
3. Broaden efforts to market local businesses to local citizens, and to encourage continuous improvement and variety in downtown retail opportunities.	2019-2023				X	Routine function of government
4. Develop city as a recreational gateway to the Chattahoochee National Forest and Blue Ridge Mountains by considering these programs: i. Apply for a review by the Georgia Tourism Product Development Resource Team ii. Renew participation in ARC/NEA Gateway Communities program iii. Apply for GDOT Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant for gateway landscaping, wayfaring signage, directional signage.	2019-2023	X				

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2024-2029**  
**CITY OF ETON**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
<b>HOUSING</b>						
1. Assist in the implementation of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program	2019-2023				X	This funding is no longer available from federal government
2. Offer sewage connection financing to rehabilitate neighborhoods	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
3. Work with local builders to plan and construct affordable housing developments	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
4. Encourage healthcare providers to consider building assisted living facilities in city	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
5. Consider annexation of land for housing	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Rewrite to say: Annex land for housing
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>						
1. Participate in Greater Dalton MPO planning meetings (Metropolitan Planning Organization, which includes Eton, Chatsworth, and part of Murray County).	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
2. Initiate discussions and planning at the regional level and with the State of Tennessee regarding the widening of U. S. 411 Highway.	2019-2023				X	the section of US 411 within Eton's jurisdiction is already four lanes
3. Review and prioritize transportation improvements around inland port area and industrial development areas using the GDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Planning Tool (MTPT) to improve Levels of Service (LOS).	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2024-2029**  
**CITY OF ETON**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
4. Identify and pursue improvements to US Route 411 to accommodate port traffic	2019		X 2024			Rewrite to say: Obtain traffic signal on Highway 411 in Eton to accommodate port traffic and residential and business expansion.
5. Implement the Eton Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan	2019-2023		X (2024-2028) for first item  X 2025-2026 Using Rec Trails Program funds for second item			Eton is working with Murray Chamber to develop a bike path in Eton. Eton will apply for funding through LMIG for sidewalk construction on part of Highway 411 to increase walkable access to businesses in Eton. Divide into two items: Rewrite to say: Implement the Eton Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan by applying for funding through LMIG for sidewalks on US 411 to increase walkable access to businesses Rewrite to say: Implement the Eton Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan by working with Murray Chamber to develop a bike path in Eton
6. Review Subdivision Regulations and street standards for adequacy relative to commercial or industrial application and establish better guidelines for ingress/egress.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
7. Refurbish Mill Creek bridge on Old Federal Road south of Eton to provide emergency access to area east of railroad in Eton	2019				X	Murray County is responsible for this project. Outside city limits
<b>NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>						
1. Coordinate with NWGRC to arrange for the resurvey of historic properties	2023			X (2024-2028)		Will pursue when staffing and funding becomes available

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2024-2029**

**CITY OF ETON**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
2. Work with NWGRC staff and local historian to facilitate state re-evaluation of Eton’s National Historic District status	2023			X (2024-2028)		Will pursue when staffing and funding becomes available
3. Create a Joint Historic Preservation Commission and send members to state training.	2023			X (2024-2028)		Will pursue when staffing and funding becomes available
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES</b>						
1. Purchase land for park and arrange easement to Mill Creek across Georgia Power land.	2023				X	Land sold to a private developer
2. Develop new park and link it to Eton City Park a. Restrooms b. Electrical connections c. Stage d. Fitness trail e. Trail linking this park to Eton City Park	2023		X (2024-2025)			Rewrite to say: locate and purchase land at a new location for a city park.
3. Continue to improve facilities at the Eton City Park. a. Two picnic pavilions b. Electrical outlets for vendors c. Renovate restroom d. Build stage	2019			X (2026-2028)		Postponed until land is purchased Rewrite to say: Develop facilities at new park location: a. Two picnic pavilions b. Electrical outlets for vendors c. Build restroom d. Build stage
4. Develop and expand a water and sewer facilities master plan.	2021		X (2024-2028)			Ongoing. Currently working with Chatsworth Water for a water and sewer plan for the new housing development.

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2024-2029**  
**CITY OF ETON**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
5. Investigate multi-jurisdictional use of water supply resources and wastewater treatment facilities.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			Ongoing agreements with Chatsworth Water
6. Upgrade city website	2021	X				
7. Adopt a Broadband Ordinance to comply with state rules and supply broadband to residents and businesses.	2019	X				Adopted Broadband Ready Ordinance 2020-9
8. Participate in the Broadband Ready Community program, with adopted ordinance and designation of unserved areas.	2019-2023			X		Awaiting availability of funding for the city's specific situation
9. Apply for funding under the Broadband Ready Program.	2020			X		Awaiting availability of funding for the city's specific situation
<b>LAND USE</b>						
1. Develop corridor overlay zones for the U.S. 411/Georgia 286 corridors dealing with better access, parking, connectivity, and site amenities.	2019-2023		X (2024-2028)			
2. Implement Neighborhood Committee for recommendations on park facilities and walking paths	2019			X (2026-2028)		City will organize a neighborhood committee once land is purchased for new park
3. Emphasize tax incentives to landowners for protecting environmentally sensitive lands.	2019-2023				X	Moved to Policy section
4. Amend zoning ordinance to accommodate permitting of solar energy systems in city limits	2019	X				

**REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2024-2029**  
**CITY OF ETON**

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITY	YEAR	STATUS				Explanation if postponed or dropped
		Complete	Underway; Projected Completion Date	Postponed	Dropped	
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION</b>						
1. maintain relationship with Georgia Municipal Association by attending 1 event per year	2019-2023				X	Routine function of government
2. Support the Northwest Georgia Water Resources Partnership	2019-2023				X	Routine function of government.
3. Continue to involve the Eton Planning Commission in local government processes.	2019-2023				X	Routine function of government
4. Maintain a relationship with the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission for grants, economic development, general planning, aging services, workforce development, historic preservation, and technical assistance.	2019-2023				X	Routine function of government.
5. Initiate regular meetings between county, the board of education, and cities twice a year.	2019-2023				X	Routine function of government.

## 4. NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE SWOT PROCESS

As described in the public participation section, participants took part in the SWOT brainstorming process, using worksheets to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats for each of seven planning categories (economic development, housing, transportation, cultural and natural resources, community facilities and services, land use, and intergovernmental coordination). The NWGRC planner took these worksheets from each government and condensed the ideas into wording for issues (problems) and needs and opportunities (solutions). Some of the needs and opportunities came from items carried forward from the last work program as “ongoing” and “postponed” items. Some of those items were rewritten to match changing situations. Items carried forward are shown in green in the tables below. It is completely understandable that stakeholders would identify these issues in the SWOT since the solution, or project, addressing the issue is not yet complete. Other needs and opportunities came from new projects planned by government officials and a brainstorming meeting in February with the Young Professionals group of the Murray Chamber of Commerce. All the potential needs and opportunities were posted on the walls for the stakeholders and the general public to review at the open house third stakeholder meeting. Participants were able to “vote” for items with colored sticky dots, green for approval and red for disapproval.

All of these needs and opportunities were presented to the steering committee as potential work program items, and they chose the ones to carry forward. With limited funding and staff, and differences in interests and political focus, the governments cannot pursue every issue in one planning period. The needs and opportunities shown here are only the ones that were chosen to go forward to the work programs.



*Participants evaluate Needs and Opportunities at the Third Stakeholder meeting March 23, 2023*

*Murray County Needs and Opportunities*

Items in green are carried forward from report of accomplishment

**MURRAY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

<b>CODE:</b>	<b>ISSUE:</b>
ED 1	<p>The inland port with sewer expansion in the north part of the county, and South Industrial Park with natural gas, water and sewer contribute to industrial development, but continued efforts will bring success in attracting industry that fits well in the community. These efforts are improved by identifying the correct location for facilities, and the needs of various industries, as well as their impact on the surrounding environment.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Compile the industrial site inventory for availability on IDA website for site selectors. (rewritten)</p>
ED 2	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                      Support and training for developing entrepreneurs helps retain talented young people in the county and provides a range of services and businesses.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Coordinate and manage forums and workshops focusing on would-be entrepreneurs while building strong partnerships with the IDA to ensure service after the sell. (rewritten)</p>
ED3	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                      Industries need a skilled and educated workforce for increasing number of jobs.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Develop strong educational attainment and achievement rates for workforce through the Murray Works Program by focusing on career and college readiness after high school graduation. (rewritten)</p>
ED 4	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                      Residents and tourists appreciate more retail options and a vibrant downtown</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      a. Partner with chamber to engage grassroot businesses while also recruiting nationally known brands (rewritten)                      b. Partner with chamber in beautification projects involving landscaping and signage to encourage downtown retail for tourists and local shoppers using the Chatsworth GA Design Considerations Downtown Renaissance Fellowship Report 2016 UGA (Carl Vinson Institute of Gov) (rewritten)</p>
ED 5	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                      With Carters Lake, two state parks, and thousands of acres of Chattahoochee National Forest land allowing public access to the mountains, the Conasauga River and Holly Creek, tourism opportunities abound and the potential to host visitors is unmet.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Continue to strengthen marketing Murray County as the western gateway to the Blue Ridge Mountains with Murray Magazine, New Murray Map, Murray Tourism Map, billboards, and Hurry to Murray TV show in the Chattanooga market to encourage day trips and staycations in Murray County (rewritten)</p>

**Murray County Economic Development continued**

ED 6	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> The current county-wide economic development website is a resource for potential industries and businesses to learn about the county, but enhancements would be beneficial.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Enhance the county-wide economic development website with drone footage, inventory maps, and other items.</p>
ED7	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Working together with the cities, IDA, and Murray Chamber of Commerce to solve economic problems is beneficial</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Consider developing another Strategic Vision Plan with cities, IDA, and Murray Chamber of Commerce.</p>

**MURRAY COUNTY HOUSING**

<u>CODE:</u>	<u>ISSUE:</u>
H 1	<p>There is a shortage of housing options for senior residents</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> The county will coordinate with healthcare providers to improve community access to skilled nursing, long-term care, and assisted living facilities. (rewritten)</p>
H 2	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> There is a lack of middle income housing. Additional sewer expansion and fire hydrant service would benefit housing developments.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> a. Support the extension of sewer to developable areas of county b. Extend fire hydrant service to more areas of county</p>
H3	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Code enforcement efforts are underway to bring about improvement of substandard housing, but more ways to address this problem would be beneficial. The availability of housing at attainable price is crucial for Murray’s success and needs to be a priority to accommodate Murray’s future workforce. As industry and commerce grows, the need for affordably priced, safe, well-built housing grows.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> a. Partner with Chatsworth and Eton in applying for participation in the GICH training program to develop creative solutions to housing needs b. Explore CHIP program for affordable single-family housing and housing rehabilitation</p>

**MURRAY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION**

<b>CODE:</b>	<b>ISSUE:</b>
T1	<p>Public transit benefits commuting workers, low-income residents, and the elderly.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Continue the Mountain Area Transit System (MATS). (rewritten)</p>
T2	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> County lacks multilane access to interstate system. This lack of multilane access could cause traffic slowdowns as traffic to the Appalachian Regional Port increases, particularly on US Route 411, the north/south corridor. Development is occurring in rural sections of the county where schools are located, and planning is needed to prevent traffic problems.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> a. Initiate discussions and planning at the regional level and with the State of Tennessee regarding the widening of U. S. 411 Highway. b. Review and prioritize transportation improvements around inland port area and industrial development areas using the GDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Planning Tool (MTPT) to improve Levels of Service (LOS). c. Identify and pursue improvements to US Route 411 to accommodate port traffic</p>
T3	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Improvements to pedestrian access downtown, including sidewalks and crossings, would improve safety and enhance the welcoming, small-town atmosphere for residents and visitors</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Pursue improvements to safe pedestrian access to downtown, including sidewalks and crossings (rewritten) (moved from Economic Development section)</p>
T4	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Mill Creek bridge on Old Federal Road south of Eton has been condemned by GDOT</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Replace Mill Creek bridge on Old Federal Road south of Eton to provide emergency access to area east of railroad in Eton (rewritten)</p>
T5	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Upgrades to Smyrna Church Road would be beneficial</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Coordinate with GDOT and NPO officials to plan improvements to Smyrna Church Road</p>
T6	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Improvements to traffic flow on SR 225 in Spring Place are needed</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Construct two roundabouts on SR 225 in Spring Place</p>
T7	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Bridge on US Highway 411 (SR2/SR61) over Sumac Creek at Petty Park needs replacement</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Replace bridge on US Highway 411 (SR2/SR61) over Sumac Creek at Petty Park</p>

**Murray County Transportation Continued**

T 8	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Bridge on SR61 at Perry Creek 6.3 miles north of Crandall needs replacing</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Replace bridge on US Highway 411 (SR61) at Perry Creek 6.3 miles north of Crandall</p>
T 9	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Bridge on SR2 at Conasauga River and Conasauga Overflow need replacing.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Replace bridge on SR2 at Conasauga River and Conasauga Overflow.</p>
T 10	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Bridge on SR225 at Pinhook Creek needs replacing</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Replace bridge on SR225 at Pinhook Creek</p>
T 11	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Bridge on SR225 at Sumac Creek needs replacing</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Replace bridge on SR225 at Sumac Creek</p>
T 12	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Bridge on Dennis Mill Road over Rock Creek needs replacing</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Replace bridge on Dennis Mill Road over Rock Creek</p>

**MURRAY COUNTY NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

<u>CODE:</u>	<u>ISSUE:</u>
NC 1	<p>The county has outstanding historic resources, from the ancient Native American wall on Fort Mountain to the Chief Vann House and the courthouse. Not all sites in the county are as well-protected as these. Inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places has educational and cultural benefits for the people of Murray County and its visitors, as well as benefits for individual property owners.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Pursue nominations to the National Register of Historic Places as needed with technical assistance from NWGRC</li> <li>b. Coordinate with DDA to make business owners and homeowners aware of tax incentives to rehabilitate existing structures if the building is eligible or listed on the National/Georgia Register of Historic Places and educate on the requirements of the historic tax credit program. (rewritten)</li> </ul>

**Murray County Natural and Cultural Resources continued**

NC 2	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> It has been many years since the historic properties of the county have been surveyed. Protecting the historic structures of the county benefits both residents and visitors by respecting Murray County’s cultural heritage.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Coordinate with DDA and NWGRC to arrange for the resurvey of historic properties and feasibility of establishing historic districts as needed with technical assistance from NWGRC. (rewritten)</p>
NC 3	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> A Historic Preservation Commission is necessary to manage a historic district</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Create a Joint Historic Preservation Commission and send members to State training</p>
NC 4	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Assistance from the state would be beneficial in managing historic areas regarding planning, obtaining grants, and receiving technical assistance.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Pursue Certified local government status for county and cities to facilitate additional grants for rehabilitating existing structures</p>
NC 5	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Conservation design subdivisions help protect the integrity of soil and water resources, reduce the impact of development on scenic viewsheds, and provide natural areas for residents to recreate.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Provide information to developers for conservation design subdivisions to encourage maximum use of land to meet soil erosion and stormwater management goals (rewritten)</p>
NC 6	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Murray County’s vibrant history has value for attracting tourists</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Partner with the Chamber to market historic sites throughout county with Murray Magazine, New Murray Map, Murray Tourism Map, billboards, and Hurry to Murray TV show in the Chattanooga market to encourage day trips and staycations in Murray County (rewritten)</p>

**MURRAY COUNTY COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

<b>CODE:</b>	<b>ISSUE:</b>
CFS 1	<p>All members of the community benefit when the county is prepared for emergencies and has a contingency plan for managing disasters</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Develop a back-up 911 center</p>
CFS 2	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> One hundred-year-old courthouse is not ADA compliant, but it is on the National Register of Historic Place, which requires careful consideration of changes. Cost may be high.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Pursue Justice Center project to provide additional space for all courts and to provide ADA compliance (rewritten)</p>
CFS 3	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Additional facilities at Petty-Fairy Valley Recreational Park would improve the visitor experience there.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Partner with Georgia Ports Authority to provide playground equipment and picnic shelter at the Petty-Fairy Valley Recreational Park</p>
CFS 4	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Internet connectivity has become essential to doing business and improves quality of life for residents, but there are areas of the county without good coverage.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Apply for funding under the Broadband Ready Program.</p>
CFS 5	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> As the population ages, the county recognizes the need to coordinate with healthcare providers to improve community access to skilled nursing, long-term care, and assisted living facilities</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> County will support expansion or construction of needed hospital facilities</p>
CFS 6	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Veteran’s Memorial Park and Rec Center has good outdoor facilities for baseball, but it is underutilized.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Schedule outdoor facilities for paid tournaments</p>

**Community Facilities and Services continued**

CFS 7	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                  Veteran’s Memorial Park recreation center provides basketball and other activities, but additional recreational offerings would be appreciated by young families, and recreation opportunities in other parts of the county would be beneficial.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Improvements to recreation facilities:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Walking track at Veteran’s Memorial Park</li> <li>ii. Recreation opportunities in south end of county</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
CFS 8	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                  County needs more mental health, counseling, and addiction facilities</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                  Support healthcare providers to provide more mental health care facilities</p>
CFS 9	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                  Sewer service along US Highway 411 would promote development in northern parts of the county</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                  Develop sewer line to northern parts of the county along US Highway 411</p>

**MURRAY COUNTY LAND USE**

<p><b>CODE:</b>                  LU 1</p>	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                  Traffic on the major highways, US 76 and US 411, is anticipated to increase because of the Appalachian Regional Port and associated development.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                  Develop a corridor overlay zone for the U.S. 76/U.S. 411 corridor regarding better access, parking, connectivity, and site amenities.</p>
<p>LU 2</p>	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                  Many parts of the county are not served by municipal drinking water or sewer, and planning improves the success of development and helps to mitigate its impact on the residents of the community and on the landscape.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                  If Chatsworth Waterworks expands sewer and water, revise the County Zoning Ordinance and Future Land Use Map, to consider the areas for water and sewer expansion to target new and mixed development opportunities.</p>

**MURRAY COUNTY INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION**

<b>CODE:</b>	<b>ISSUE:</b>
IC 1	<p>The county has limited funds and staff for all its anticipated needs.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <p>Maintain a relationship with the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission for grants, economic development, general planning, aging services, workforce development, historic preservation, and technical assistance.</p>
IC2	<p><b>ISSUE:</b></p> <p>Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) provides information, lobbying, and other support to counties.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <p>Utilize resources of ACCG for training, lobbying, and other support.</p>

*Chatsworth Needs and Opportunities*

Items in green are carried forward from report of accomplishment

**CHATSWORTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

<b>CODE:</b>	<b>ISSUE:</b>
ED1	<p>Young graduates still leave the area because there is not a diverse range of well-paying, career-oriented jobs. Proximity to the Inland Port is a benefit. Success in attracting industry that fits well in the community is improved by identifying the correct location for facilities, and the needs of various industries, as well as their impact on the surrounding environment.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Compile the industrial site inventory for availability on IDA website for site selectors. (rewritten)</p>
ED 2	<p>Success has been achieved in attracting businesses to downtown, but additional choices would be beneficial, including hotels with inside entrance, and more varied restaurants, and retail</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      a. Partner with chamber to engage grassroots businesses while also recruiting nationally known brands (rewritten)                      b. Partner with chamber in beautification projects involving landscaping and signage to encourage downtown retail for tourists and local shoppers using the Chatsworth GA Design Considerations Downtown Renaissance Fellowship Report 2016 UGA (Carl Vinson Institute of Gov)</p>
ED 3	<p>Spaces downtown that accommodate large groups bring customers to downtown businesses, but some regulations may make locating downtown difficult</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Implement regulations that encourage the expansion of retail and food service sectors, including resort or meeting event spaces.</p>
ED 4	<p>Chatsworth has great potential increase tourist business because of its proximity to two state parks and thousands of acres of national forest land. Local amenities like city park, arts council, and hospital are additional benefits. Continued consistent marketing is beneficial.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Continue to strengthen marketing Murray County and Chatsworth as the western gateway to the Blue Ridge Mountains with Murray Magazine, New Murray Map, Murray Tourism Map, billboards, and Hurry to Murray TV show in the Chattanooga market to encourage day trips and staycations in Murray County (rewritten)</p>
ED5	<p>Support and training for developing entrepreneurs helps retain talented young people in the city and county and provides a range of services and businesses.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Coordinate and manage forums and workshops focusing on would-be entrepreneurs while building strong partnerships with the IDA to ensure service after the sell</p>

**Chatsworth Economic Development continued**

ED 6	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Chatsworth has an active Downtown Development Authority, an interest in historic preservation, and a city with lots of potential because of its historic riches and beautiful natural setting, but lack of community involvement, not enough promotion of the historic assets, location of Highway US 411 through the middle of town, and too many big box stores threaten efforts to revitalize downtown.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> a. Implement the Georgia Main Street program to help revitalize downtown while protecting, enhancing, and promoting its unique character and historic assets. b. Promote the DDA’s façade grant program to upgrade downtown</p>
ED 7	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> The current county-wide economic development website is a resource for potential industries and businesses to learn about the county, but enhancements would be beneficial</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Enhance the county-wide economic development website with drone footage, inventory maps, and other items.</p>
ED 8	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Working together with the county, Eton, IDA, and Murray Chamber of Commerce to solve economic problems is beneficial</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Consider developing another Strategic Vision Plan with county, Eton, IDA, and DDA, and Murray Chamber of Commerce.</p>

**CHATSWORTH HOUSING**

H 1	<p><b>CODE:</b></p> <p><b>ISSUE:</b> Several factors contribute to Chatsworth being a good place to live, including its central location in the county, good public safety, school system, nearby outdoor recreation opportunities in state parks and Chattahoochee National Forest and ongoing planning and zoning efforts. However, there is a lack of attainably priced housing, good quality housing, and multifamily housing for workers who would be employed in the anticipated growth of industry and retail in the area.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> a. Partner with Murray County and Eton in applying for participation in the GICH training program to develop creative solutions to housing needs. (rewritten) b. Explore CHIP program for affordable single-family housing and housing rehabilitation</p>
H 2	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Although there is some land available for housing, more land with sewer and water service may be needed as city grows.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Explore locations surrounding city where land can be annexed land for housing.</p>

**CHATSWORTH TRANSPORTATION**

<b>CODE:</b>	<b>ISSUE:</b>
T 1	<p>Planning and working with county, regional organizations, and state to solve traffic and transportation issues and discuss funding saves time and money.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Participate in Greater Dalton MPO planning meetings (Metropolitan Planning Organization, which includes Eton, Chatsworth, and part of Murray County).</p>
T 2	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                      Chatsworth has two federal highways US76 and US411, that provide vital transportation infrastructure, but as growth continues around the Regional Port on US 411, multilane status for US 411 throughout the county would be provide better access to the interstate system.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      a. Initiate discussions and planning at the regional level and with the State of Tennessee regarding the widening of U. S. 411 Highway.                      b. Identify and pursue improvements to US Route 411 to accommodate port traffic.</p>
T 3	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                      As electric vehicles become more popular, electric charging stations will be needed.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Explore federal funding opportunities for electric charging stations throughout the city</p>
T 4	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                      More pedestrian and bike access is needed in town</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      a. Expand sidewalks on South Second Avenue from Chatsworth Water Works to Fort Street (SR 52), as shown in the <i>Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Analysis for the City of Chatsworth</i>                      b. Pursue improvements to safe pedestrian access to downtown, including sidewalks and crossings</p>
T 5	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                      Bicycle route to Veteran’s Memorial Park would provide additional recreational access</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Develop bicycle route to Veteran’s Memorial Park</p>

**CHATSWORTH NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

<b>CODE:</b>	<b>ISSUE:</b>
NC 1	<p>Protecting the historic structures of the city benefits both residents and visitors by respecting Chatsworth’s cultural heritage, so periodic updates of historic property surveys are necessary to keep up with changes over time.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <p>Coordinate with NWGRC to arrange for the resurvey of historic properties and feasibility of establishing historic districts.</p>
NC 2	<p>Inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places has educational and cultural benefits for the people of Chatsworth and its visitors, as well as benefits for individual property owners.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <p>Pursue nominations to the National Register of Historic Places in central business district</p>
NC 3	<p>A Historic Preservation Commission is necessary to manage a Local Historic District</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <p>Create a Joint Historic Preservation Commission and send members to state training.</p>
NC 4	<p>Good water quality in Holly Creek and Mill Creek, tributaries to the Conasauga River, is crucial in providing clean drinking water and safe fishing and boating conditions for residents in the community and for communities downstream.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <p>Maintain compliance with storm water management regulations.</p>

**CHATSWORTH COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

<b>CODE:</b>	<b>ISSUE:</b>
CFS 1	<p>There may be a need for a fire station on the west side of the city if enough growth occurs.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <p>Build a second fire station to serve the western part of the city (subject to annexation growth)</p>
CFS 2	<p>There is a lack of greenspace and recreational facilities within walking distance of in-town residences.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Add playground equipment at city parks (rewritten)</li> <li>b. Add biking trail at new park located off Industrial Boulevard and South 3rd Avenue (US 411 Highway).</li> <li>c. Add walking trail at new park located at South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.</li> </ul>

**Chatsworth Community Facilities and Services continued**

CFS 3	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Although people enjoy the small town feel and great views of Fort Mountain and easy access to public lands on the Chattahoochee National Forest, US 411 Highway restricts parking and events downtown, and wayfinding signage would help visitors navigate downtown and outlying attractions.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Add wayfinding signage to city outskirts and downtown</p>
CFS 4	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Public safety needs additional space for facilities and training center</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Purchase five-acre tract in city to expand the public safety facility and training center</p>
CFS 5	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> As Chatsworth grows, its small-town feel is threatened, but more communication builds community</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Continue to develop city’s website to improve accessibility and community announcement page</p>
CFS 6	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Murray Arts Council provides cultural activities for all ages and outdoor art enhances the cultural experience for residents and visitors</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Support Murray Arts Council in pursuit of grants and other funding</li> <li>b. work with Murray Arts Council to develop a plan for outdoor art.</li> </ul>
CFS7	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> As growth continues, water and sewer facilities planning will be essential, and predicted growth in the city and county will lead to increased need for drinking water and wastewater treatment</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue updates to water and sewer facilities master plan</li> <li>b. Explore extensions to water supply and wastewater treatment facilities</li> </ul>
CFS8	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Space for training large groups of safety workers and bus drivers is not available</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Build Public Service building for training</p>

**CHATSWORTH LAND USE**

<u>CODE:</u>	<u>ISSUE:</u>
LU 1	No land use issues at this time.

**CHATSWORTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION**

<u>CODE:</u>	<u>ISSUE:</u>
IC 1	No intergovernmental issues at this time

*Eton Needs and Opportunities*

Items in green are carried forward from report of accomplishment

**ETON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

<b>CODE:</b>	<b>ISSUE:</b>
ED 1	<p>A readily available industrial site inventory helps the city identify what types of development would be beneficial to the city and where development should be located. It helps potential businesses learn what is available.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>  <span style="color: green;">Compile the industrial site inventory for availability on IDA website for site selectors. (rewritten)</span></p>
ED 2	<p>Residents and tourists appreciate a wide range of retail and dining options and a vibrant downtown</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Carry out beautification projects involving landscaping and signage to encourage downtown retail for tourists and local shoppers in Eton</p>
ED 3	<p>Eton has been engaged in planned growth, business-friendly planning, and has committed monetary resources to the Chamber to recruit well-known brand-named retail. This has led to successful development. Infrastructure expansion and proximity to the inland port ensure a sustainable future for Eton. However, fluctuations in the economy are a concern.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Diversify businesses and industries by working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Development Authority</p>
ED 4	<p>With Eton’s great location on the west side of the Blue Ridge Mountains and next to the Chattahoochee National Forest, opportunities to host outdoor recreational tourists abound, but there are no hotels or motels in town and limited dining.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Work with Chamber of Commerce to identify and market available land for boutique lodging oriented toward outdoor recreation tourists and broader dining options, including a coffee shop.</p>
ED 5	<p>Eton is poised for growth not only in industry but in residential development. Working together with the county, Chatsworth, IDA, and Murray Chamber of Commerce to solve economic problems is beneficial.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Consider developing another Strategic Vision Plan with county, Chatsworth, IDA, and Murray Chamber of Commerce.</p>

**ETON HOUSING**

<b>CODE:</b>	<b>ISSUE:</b>
H 1	<p>Additional tools are needed to rehabilitate neighborhoods.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Offer sewage connection financing to rehabilitate neighborhoods</p>
H 2	<p>With beautiful land offerings and topography Eton will soon be home to attainable housing projects. Although new houses are coming, additional affordable housing is needed in the city</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Work with local builders to plan and construct affordable housing developments</p>
H 3	<p>Additional assisted living facilities would be desirable.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Encourage healthcare providers to consider building assisted living facilities in city</p>
H 4	<p>Available land for housing is limited within city</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Annex land for housing (rewritten)</p>
H 5	<p>As industry and commerce grows, the need for affordably priced, safe, well-built housing grows. State and federal programs help address this need.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Partner with Murray County and Chatsworth in applying for participation in the GICH training program to develop creative solutions to housing needs</li> <li>b. Explore CHIP program for affordable single-family housing and housing rehabilitation</li> </ul>

**ETON TRANSPORTATION**

<b>CODE:</b>	<b>ISSUE:</b>
T 1	<p>Working with the county, regional agencies, and state to solve traffic issues saves time and money.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Participate in Greater Dalton MPO planning meetings (Metropolitan Planning Organization, which includes Eton, Chatsworth, and part of Murray County).</p>
T 2	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> County lacks multilane access to interstate system. This lack of multilane access could cause traffic slowdowns as truck traffic to the Appalachian Regional Port increases, particularly on US Route 411, the north/south corridor.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Review and prioritize transportation improvements around inland port area and industrial development areas using the GDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Planning Tool (MTPT) to improve Levels of Service (LOS).</p>
T 3	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> An additional traffic light on north side of Eton would help regulate increased inland port traffic, residential traffic, and business traffic on US Highway 411, making it easier to cross US 411</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Obtain traffic signal on Highway 411 in Eton to accommodate port traffic and residential and business expansion (rewritten)</p>
T 4	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> There is a lack of bicycle and pedestrian routes</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Implement the Eton Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan by applying for funding through LMIG for sidewalks on US 411 to increase walkable access to businesses (rewritten)</li> <li>b. Implement the Eton Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan by working with Murray Chamber to develop a bike path in Eton (rewritten)</li> </ul>
T 5	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> It is beneficial to plan for better traffic flow patterns before economic growth occurs.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b> Review Subdivision Regulations and street standards for adequacy relative to commercial or industrial application and establish better guidelines for ingress/egress</p>

**ETON NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

<u>CODE:</u>	<u>ISSUE:</u>
NC 1	<p>Protecting the historic structures of the city benefits both residents and visitors by respecting Eton’s cultural heritage, so periodic updates of historic property surveys are necessary to keep up with changes over time.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Coordinate with NWGRC to arrange for the resurvey of historic properties</p>
NC 2	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                      Inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places has educational and cultural benefits for the people of Eton and its visitors, as well as benefits for individual property owners.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Work with NWGRC staff and local historian to facilitate state re-evaluation of Eton’s National Historic District status</p>
NC 3	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                      A Historic Preservation Commission is necessary to manage a Local Historic District.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      Create a Joint Historic Preservation Commission and send members to state training.</p>

**ETON COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

<u>CODE:</u>	<u>ISSUE:</u>
CFS 1	<p>A new city park would provide additional recreational opportunities</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b>                      locate and purchase land at a new location for a city park. (rewritten)</p>
CFS 2	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                      Proposed city park will need facilities</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop facilities at new park location:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Two picnic pavilions</li> <li>ii. Electrical outlets for vendors</li> <li>iii. Build restroom</li> <li>iv. d. Build stage (rewritten)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
CFS 3	<p><b>ISSUE:</b>                      Planning water supply and wastewater management in light of the resources and needs of other governments is more efficient.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop and expand a water and sewer facilities master plan.</li> <li>b. Investigate multi-jurisdictional use of water supply resources and wastewater treatment facilities.</li> </ul>

**Eton Community Facilities and Services continued**

CFS 4	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Internet connectivity has become essential to doing business and improves quality of life for residents.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Participate in the Broadband Ready Community program, with adopted ordinance and designation of unserved areas.</li> <li>b. Apply for funding under the Broadband Ready Program</li> </ul>
CFS 5	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Natural disaster sirens provide additional warning for all residents in city</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Add storm sirens for Eton to Hazard Mitigation Plan</li> <li>b. Apply for GEMA funds for 2 sirens</li> </ul>

**ETON LAND USE**

<u>CODE:</u>	<u>ISSUE:</u>
LU 1	<p>Traffic on the major highways, US 76 and US 411, is anticipated to increase because of the Appalachian Regional Port and associated development.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <p>Develop a corridor overlay zone for the U.S. 76/U.S. 411 corridor for better access, parking, connectivity, and site amenities.</p>
LU 2	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> Community input and support is essential in planning recreational facilities and pedestrian routes.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <p>Implement Neighborhood Committee for recommendations on park facilities and walking paths</p>
LU3	<p><b>ISSUE:</b> The city of Eton benefits from good planning and controlled growth, but as development accelerates, issues with managing incompatible uses, protecting cultural and natural resources, and decreases in quality of life for residents may develop.</p> <p><b>The need or opportunity is to:</b></p> <p>Review zoning ordinances and development regulations to keep pace with new development and new types of businesses and housing</p>

**ETON INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION**

<u>CODE:</u>	<u>ISSUE:</u>
IC 1	No issues for Eton

## 5. LAND USE IN MURRAY COUNTY AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES

### *Trends in Land Use in Murray County*

Murray County measures human impact on the county’s lands using Land Use maps. Land Use maps, which are parcel-based, help governments track changes across the landscape over time and are used to support the decision-making process when landowners request zoning changes. The maps can be used to direct Industrial development in areas where other industries are located, protect prime agricultural land from residential development, and cluster residential development near city centers to reduce commuting time.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs Planning Rules have standard land use categories to assign to each parcel. The seven categories used in this plan are Agricultural/ Forestry, Commercial, Industrial, Park/Recreation/Conservation, Public/Institutional, Residential, and Transportation/ Communication/Utilities. The county’s administration decided to continue postponing the division of Residential into Multi-family and Single Family Residential because the area is still very rural. The Land Use Category Descriptions below provide an explanation of each category, local details for that category, and local photos illustrating that land use.

NWGRC GIS staff prepared large format maps from current tax maps, with some adjustments. For example, tax maps show apartment complexes as commercial, but for these maps, they were designated as residential. These maps were considered “existing land use maps”. Stakeholders viewed these maps at all three stakeholder meetings and so they could comment on possible errors or areas where land use would change soon. The steering committee members reviewed the maps to make the final changes. Changes to the maps were few for this update. The resulting maps with updates became the “future land use maps” to guide planning decisions in the next five years. The Coosawattee WMA and the Conasauga WMA were added as Park/Recreation/Conservation areas on the future land use map. The Conasauga WMA is a new conservation area since the last update. The Coosawattee WMA has been in place for many years but was not included as Park/Recreation/Conservation because it is leased by the state from private owners. The Appalachian Regional Port has expanded to include two lots totaling 25.86 acres on the west side of US 411. These two lots were changed from Residential on the existing land use map to Industrial on the future land use map. Changes from the existing land use map to the future land use map in Eton include: (1) an agricultural/forestry parcel on the west side of US 411 that will be changed to residential in anticipation of a housing development; (2) a residential parcel on the south side of 286 that will become commercial; and (3) a residential parcel south of Loughridge Rd and east of US 411 that will become commercial. There were no further changes to the updated existing land use map for Chatsworth. The future land use maps for Murray County, Chatsworth, and Eton follow the land use category descriptions below.

The existing land use data developed for each version of the plan can reveal trends in land use. The existing land use acreages and percentages for 2005, 2018, and the current update 2023 are found in the Tables 6 through 9 below.

The land use table for the whole of Murray County, including the cities, is the easiest to interpret when looking for trends because the process of annexation affects the other tables as land is added to the

total area for each city and the unincorporated county land decreases. According to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs’s annexation reporting portal, Chatsworth annexed 70.64 acres between 2005 and 2014, but has added no land since. Eton annexed 122.8 acres between 2005 and 2013, but none since. The total land area for the county increases for each version not because the county’s boundaries are growing, but because of improvements in GIS technology and the methods of measuring. The percent changes therefore give more information than the acreages. The 2005 land use data had a category called “Undeveloped”. All of this land was added to the Agriculture/Forestry category in the 2005 data for comparison purposes. This is a reasonable assumption due to the rural nature of the area. In 2005, This Agricultural/Forestry category was the largest category, at 54.8%. When added to the Park/Recreation/Conservation land (25.6% in 2005) that included all of the National Forest and State Park land, Murray County was more than 80% minimally developed, with forest, fields, and open space like ball fields and golf courses. By 2018 the Agriculture/Forestry category had dropped to 48%, and then dropped slightly more to 46.4% by 2023. Parks/Recreation/Conservation rose to 27.8% by 2023, due in part to how some forested land was designated on the land use maps. The NWGRC staff changed the designation of the Coosawattee WMA from Forest/Agriculture to Parks/Recreation/Conservation and changed the Army Corps of Engineers land around Carters Lake from Public/Institutional to Parks/Recreation/Conservation as well (note the drop in Public/Institutional land between 2005 and 2018). In 2023, that leaves minimally developed land in the county at 74.2%, attesting to the county’s continuing rural character. This number is even higher, 75.2%, if the Dalton Utilities 7,788-acre Land Application System at Looper’s Bend on the Conasauga River is included, because most of this area is wooded (Table 6).

For the whole county, which of the more developed land use categories have increased? There were slight increases in Commercial and Industrial land uses. Residential land use has increased from 12.2 % to 17.8%, with that increase occurring in the 2005-2018 time period. Very little change has occurred in the last five years. Table 7 shows that this trend is the same for the unincorporated area of the county, with Agriculture/Forestry decreasing somewhat and Residential showing the largest increase in the same time period.

In Chatsworth, the land use change was also mainly in the 2005-2018 period, when Agricultural/Forestry land use dropped. There was a small increase in Industrial land use, but larger increases in Commercial and Residential use, with both categories going up more than 8 percentage points (Table 8). As discussed above, the city annexed 70 acres of land between 2005 and 2014.

Table 9 shows that Eton follows a similar pattern, with a drop in Agriculture/Forestry land between 2005 and 2018 from 58.2% to 31.8%. Industrial and Commercial increased, but Residential increased the most from 12.6% to 29.2%. In the more recent 5-year time period, Residential actually declined slightly.

Table 6. Land Use Trends 2005-2023, Murray County Total land area including Chatsworth and Eton (existing land use)

Land Use Category	Murray County Total Land Area					
	2005		2018		2023	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Agriculture/Forestry	118,319	54.8%	10,4613	48.0%	10,1841	46.4%
Commercial	767	0.4%	2,926	1.3%	2341	1.1%
Industrial	1,651	0.8%	1,962	0.9%	2,205	1.0%
Park/Recreation/Conservation	55,411	25.6%	56,996	26.2%	60946	27.8%
Public/Institutional	3,094	1.4%	1,144	0.5%	1,157	0.5%
Residential	26,289	12.2%	38,595	17.7%	39,081	17.8%
Transportation/Communication/Utilities	8,181	3.8%	7930	3.6%	7,916	3.6%
Water	2,387	1.1	3,693	1.7%	3,995	1.8%
total:	216,099	100.0%	217,860	100%	219,483	100%

Table 7. Land Use Trends 2005-2023, Murray County Unincorporated land area

Land Use Category	Murray County unincorporated land area					
	2005		2018		2023	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Agriculture/Forestry	117,242	55.1%	104229	48.8%	101453	47.1%
Commercial	501	0.2%	2377	1.1%	1808.5	0.9%
Industrial	940	0.4%	1079	0.5%	1328	0.6%
Park/Recreation/Conservation	55,377	26.0%	56907	26.6%	60853.5	28.2%
Public/Institutional	2,763	1.3%	710	0.3%	715	0.3%
Residential	25,422	11.9%	37523	17.6%	37998	17.6%
Transportation/Communication/Utilities	8,176	3.8%	7893	3.7%	7878	3.7%
Water	2,357	1.1%	2962	1.4%	3258	1.5%
total:	212,778	100.0%	213680	100%	215293	100%

Table 8. Land Use trends 2005-2023, Chatsworth

Land Use Category	Chatsworth Land Area					
	2005		2018		2023	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Agriculture/Forestry	711	26.4%	162	5.8%	162	5.8%
Commercial	250	9.3%	490	17.6%	472	17.0%
Industrial	600	22.3%	732	26.3%	726	26.1%
Park/Recreation/Conservation	30	1.1%	41	1.5%	41	1.5%
Public/Institutional	278	10.3%	230	8.3%	239	8.6%
Residential	788	29.3%	1057	38.0%	1067	38.4%
Transportation/Communication/Utilities	5	0.2%	37	1.3%	38	1.4%
Water	30	1.1%	32	1.1%	31	1.1%
total:	2692	100.0%	2780	100%	2778	100%

Table 9. Land Use trends 2005-2023, Eton

Land Use Category	Eton Land Area					
	2005		2018		2023	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Agriculture/Forestry	366	58.2%	222	31.8%	226	32.0%
Commercial	16	2.5%	60	8.6%	60	8.6%
Industrial	111	17.6%	151	21.5%	151	21.4%
Park/Recreation/Conservation	4	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Public/Institutional	53	8.4%	48	6.9%	50	7.1%
Residential	79	12.6%	204	29.2%	203	28.7%
Transportation/Communication/Utilities	0	0%	15	2.1%	16	2.2%
Water	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
total:	629	100%	700	100%	706	100%

*Land Use Category Descriptions*

Land Use Map Category
<b>Agriculture/Forestry</b>
<b>Found in:</b> Unincorporated Murray County, Chatsworth, and Eton
<b>Description:</b>

This category includes fields, pastures, and farmsteads used for farming, and forest areas used for commercial timber or pulpwood harvesting. Forest Service lands are not included in this category because they are managed for multiple uses, open for the public, and are a major recreational draw for outdoor enthusiasts. The percentage of agriculture and forestry land in Murray County, including the cities, is 46.4%.

Agricultural production includes chickens, cattle in pasture, hay, and some row crops.

Forestry production, which has declined in recent years, includes hardwood and softwood species used for saw logs and pulpwood (USDA 2009 data).



*Harvested hay in Murray County*



*Hobby farm in Murray County*



*Recent timber harvest in Murray County*

<b>Land Use Map Category</b>
<b>Park/Recreation/Conservation</b>
<b>Found in: Unincorporated Murray County, Chatsworth, and Eton</b>
<i>Description:</i>

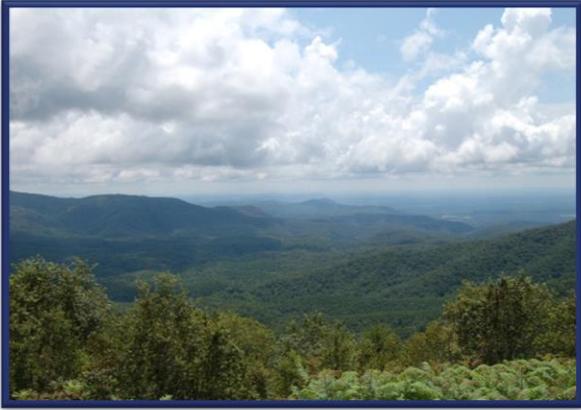
This category includes areas dedicated to active or passive recreational uses and/or conservation. This includes privately or publicly owned playgrounds, parks, nature preserves, wildlife management areas, national or state forests, golf courses, and recreational centers. Chattahoochee National Forest lands are included in this category and make up almost 25% of the area in the county. The forest provides multiple recreational opportunities, including fishing, hunting, camping, biking, hiking, and boating access. A large area of land surrounding Carters Lake is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and managed for recreation in and around the lake. The county has two state parks, the Vann House Historic Site and Fort Mountain State Park. Chatsworth and Eton have city parks. Murray County operates three parks with ball fields and other amenities. The percentage of land in the Parks/Recreation/Conservation category for Murray County including the cities is 27.8%.



*Chatsworth City Park stage under construction*



*Beach at Fort Mountain State Park*



*Chattahoochee National Forest looking east from Fort Mountain*

Land Use Map Category
Transportation/Communication/Utilities
<i>Found in:</i> Unincorporated Murray County, Chatsworth, and Eton
<i>Description:</i>

This category includes major transportation routes, railroad facilities, radio towers, and power generation plants. A large area of land along the Conasauga River is dedicated to the Dalton Utilities Land Application System, a forested area where treated wastewater is sprayed on the ground rather than discharged into the Conasauga River.

Major automobile routes with sections of four lane service are US 76, running east and west, and US 411 running north and south. State routes with mainly two-lane service include SR 2, SR 52, SR 52 Alt, SR 61, SR 136, SR 225, SR 282, and SR 286. There are no interstate routes in Murray County.

The CSX railroad runs north-south and the Appalachian Regional Port is located on this rail line.

Carters Dam is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers for flood control and hydropower generation.



*Intersection of US 411 and State Route 286 in Eton*



*Carters Dam. Photo US Army Corp Engineers*



*CSX Train into Chatsworth*

<b>Land Use Map Category</b>
<i>Public/Institutional</i>
<i>Found in: Unincorporated Murray County, Chatsworth, and Eton</i>
<i>Description:</i>

Public buildings and other facilities owned by the federal, state, or local government fall into this category as well as institutions that are not for profit. Government buildings such as court-houses, city halls, police and fire stations, libraries, prisons, post offices, and public schools fall in this category. Privately-owned facilities that area considered institutional include colleges, churches, cemeteries, and hospitals.

There is one county-wide school system with two high schools, one innovative school, two middle schools, and six elementary schools.

Murray County Fire Department has 8 stations located throughout the county. Chatsworth and Eton have their own fire departments located in the cities.

Murray County’s hospital, Murray Medical Center, is located on US 76 in Chatsworth.



*Chatsworth Elementary School*



*Cisco Baptist Church on US 411 is a familiar landmark*



*Murray Medical Center in Chatsworth*



*Murray County Courthouse in Chatsworth*

<b>Land Use Map Category</b>
<i>Industrial</i>
<i>Found in:</i> Unincorporated Murray County, Chatsworth, and Eton
<i>Description:</i>

This category includes land used for manufacturing facilities, processing plants, factories, warehousing and wholesale trade facilities, mining and mineral extraction activities, and other similar uses.

Much of the industry in Murray County is in carpet manufacturing. The Murray South Industrial Park is under development. One percent of the land area on the future development maps is in this category for the entire county.



*Carmeuse lime and stone plant in Chatsworth*



*Shaw Carpet Plant in Chatsworth*



*Lonesome Oak Trading Company floorcovering plant in Eton*

<b>Land Use Map Category</b>
<i>Commercial</i>
<i>Found in:</i> Unincorporated Murray County, Chatsworth, Eton
<i>Description:</i>

Land in this category is used for non-industrial businesses, including retail sales, office, service, and entertainment.

Chatsworth has a typical downtown with storefronts. Eton has a small downtown area that it seeks to enhance. A number of fast-food restaurants and a large grocery store are located at the intersection of US 76 and US 411 in Chatsworth. Gas stations and other retail can be found along US 75 and US 411 in unincorporated Murray County.



Market Street in Chatsworth



Strip mall in Eton



Fast food in Chatsworth



Convenience store in Cisco

Land Use Map Category	
<i>Residential</i>	
<i>Found in:</i> Unincorporated Murray County, Chatsworth, Eton	
<i>Description:</i>	

This land use category is comprised of buildings dedicated to dwelling space. It includes dwellings occupied by one family, as well as buildings containing two or more dwelling units. This includes duplexes and apartment buildings with multiple units.

There are a limited number of multifamily housing units in unincorporated Murray due to limited sanitary sewer service. Both Chatsworth and Eton have multifamily housing, and Chatsworth has public housing. Single-family housing can be found throughout the county, and in the mountains, cabins serving as second homes can be found.



*Single-family home in Murray County*



*Single-family home in Eton*



*Multifamily homes in Eton*



*Single-family home in Chatsworth*

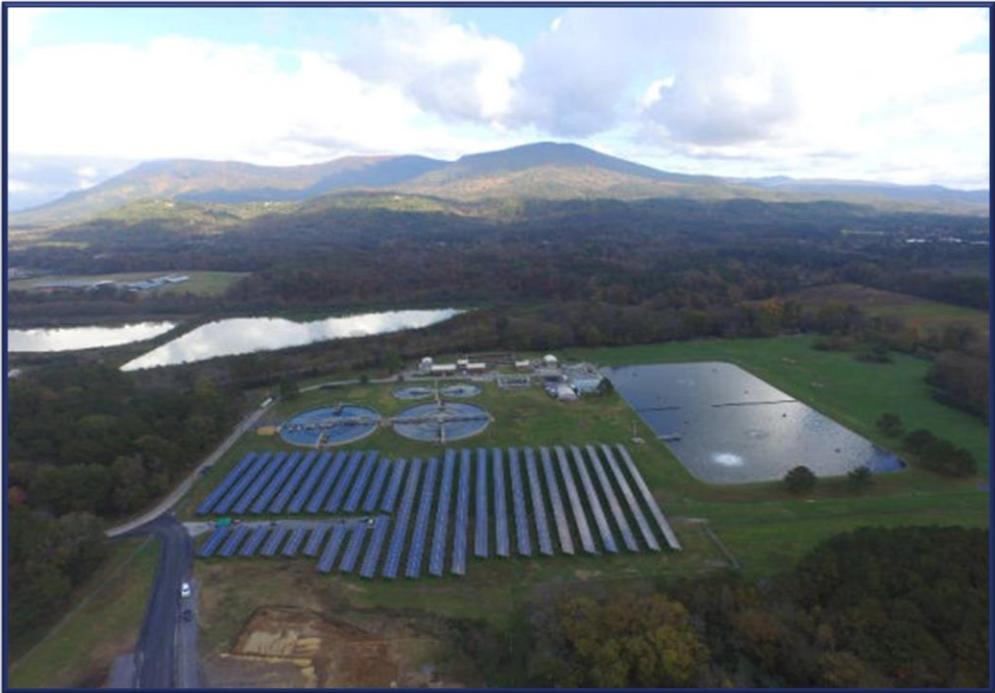


*Multifamily homes in Chatsworth*

This page was intentionally left blank

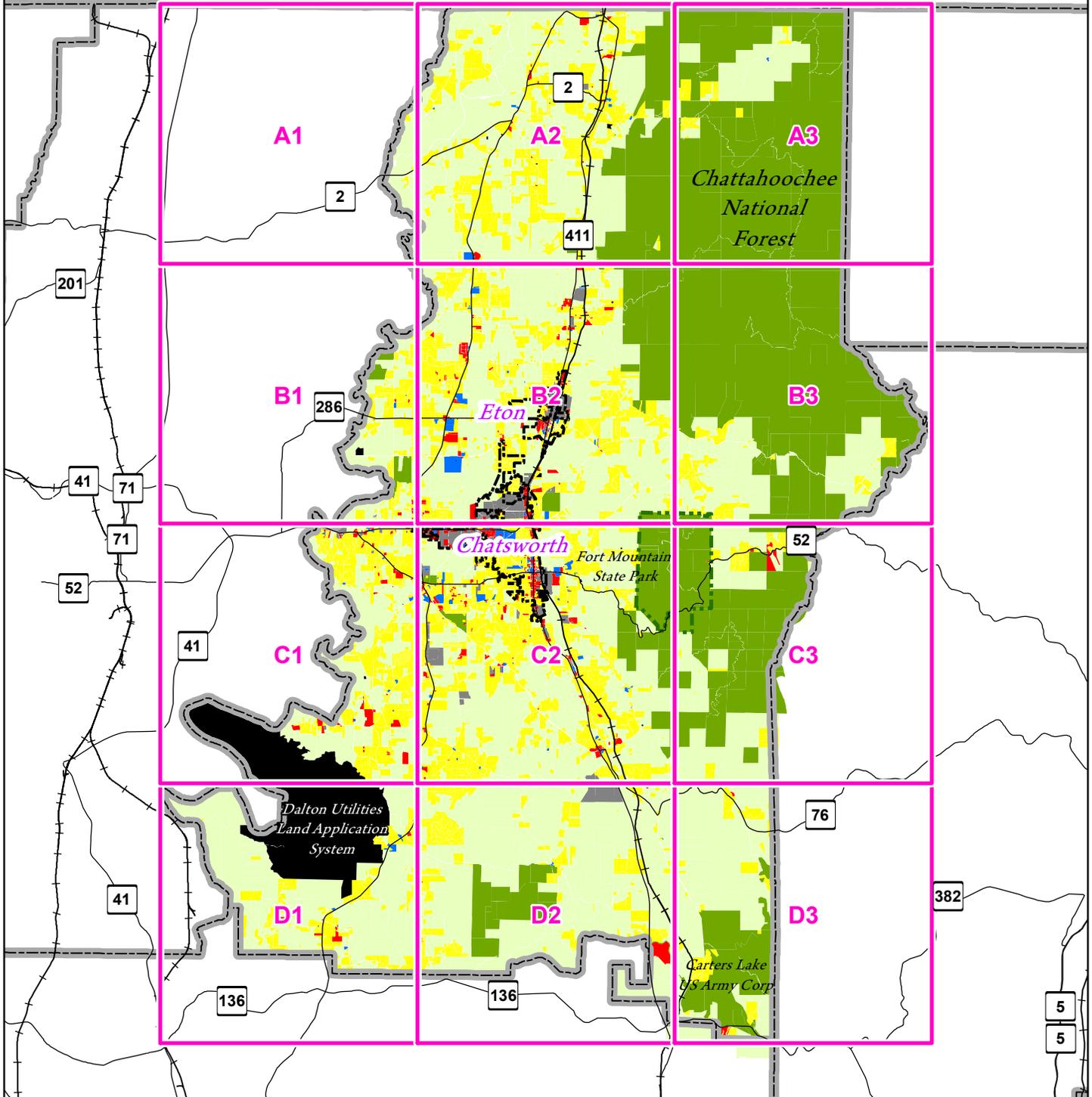
*Murray County Future Land Use Maps.*

Map Grid index followed by the 12 sections of the grid=A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, C3, D1, D2, D3.



Solar Array powering the Chatsworth Waterworks Judson Vick's Wastewater Treatment Plant

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- |  |                              |   |  |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|
|  | Agriculture / Forestry       |  | City Limits                                |
|  | Commercial                   |  | Public / Institutional                     |
|  | Industrial                   |  | Residential                                |
|  | Park/Recreation/Conservation |  | Transportation/<br>Communication/Utilities |



1 inch = 4 miles

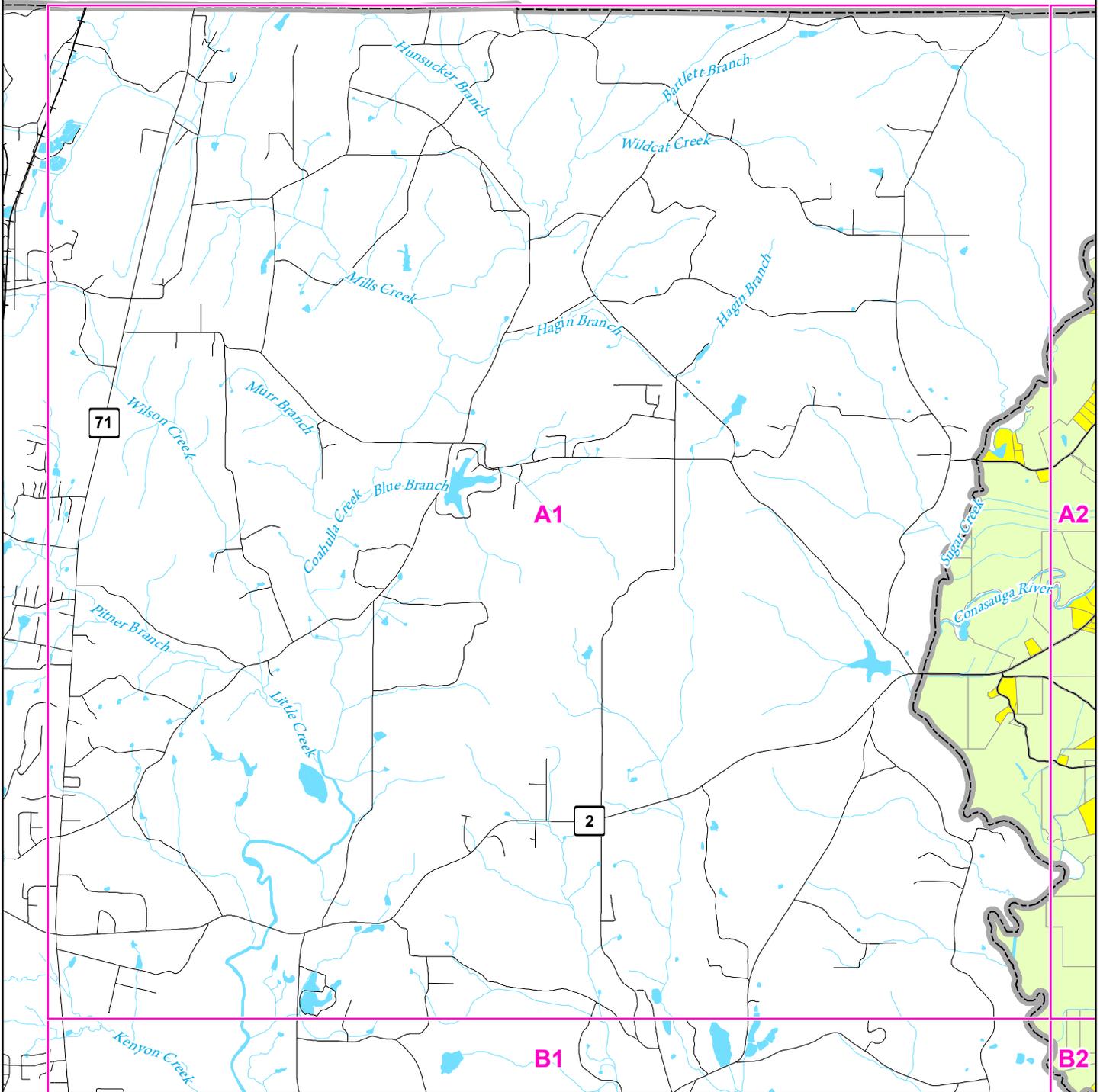
**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

Page 110

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category



Agriculture / Forestry



Residential



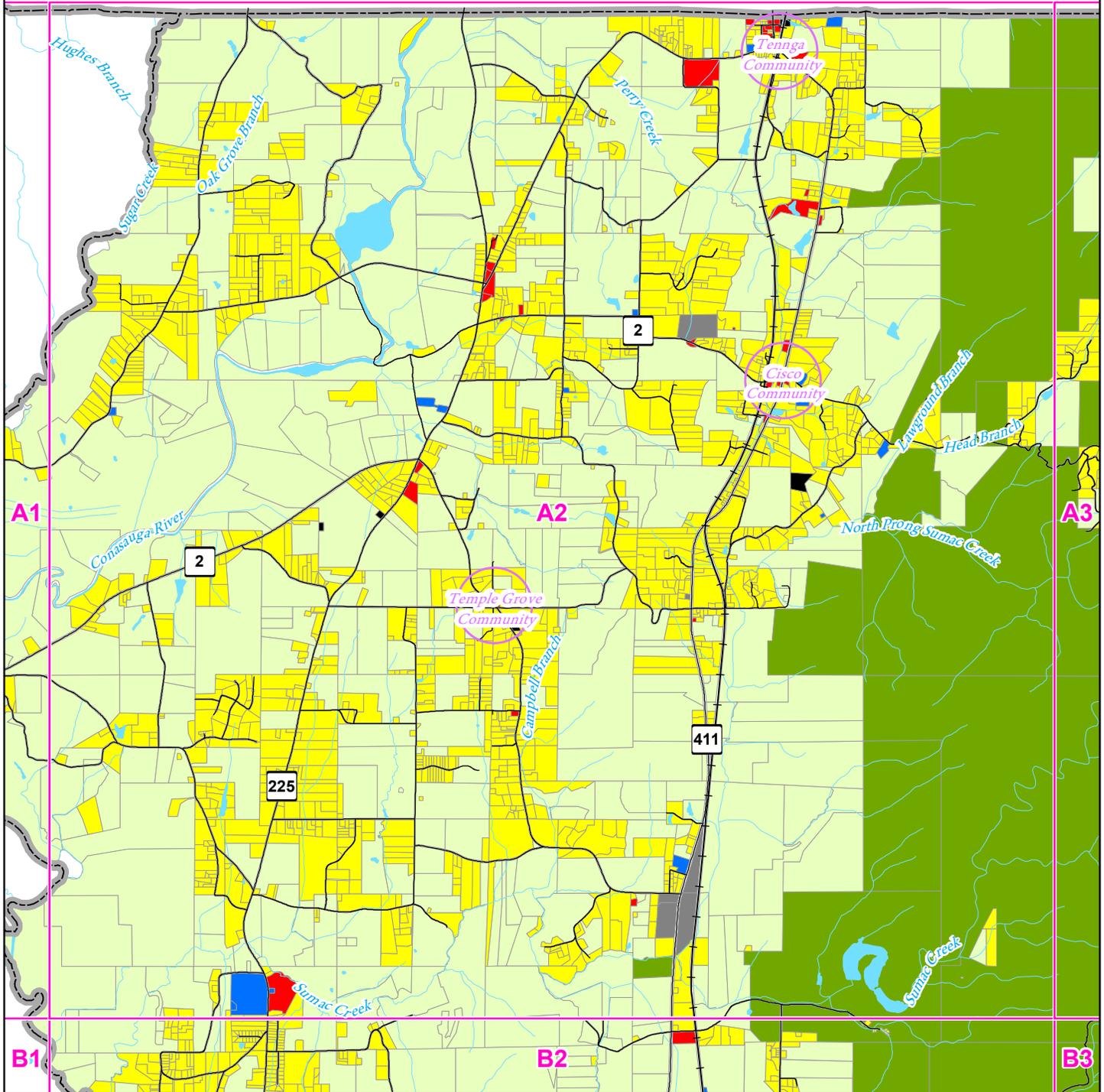
**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

1 inch = 1 miles

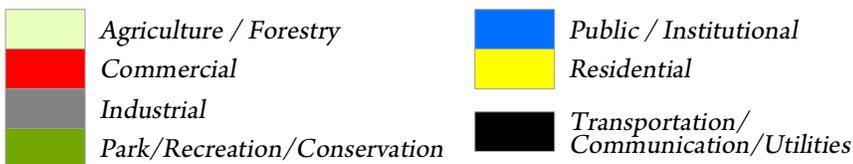
© June 2023

Page 111

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category



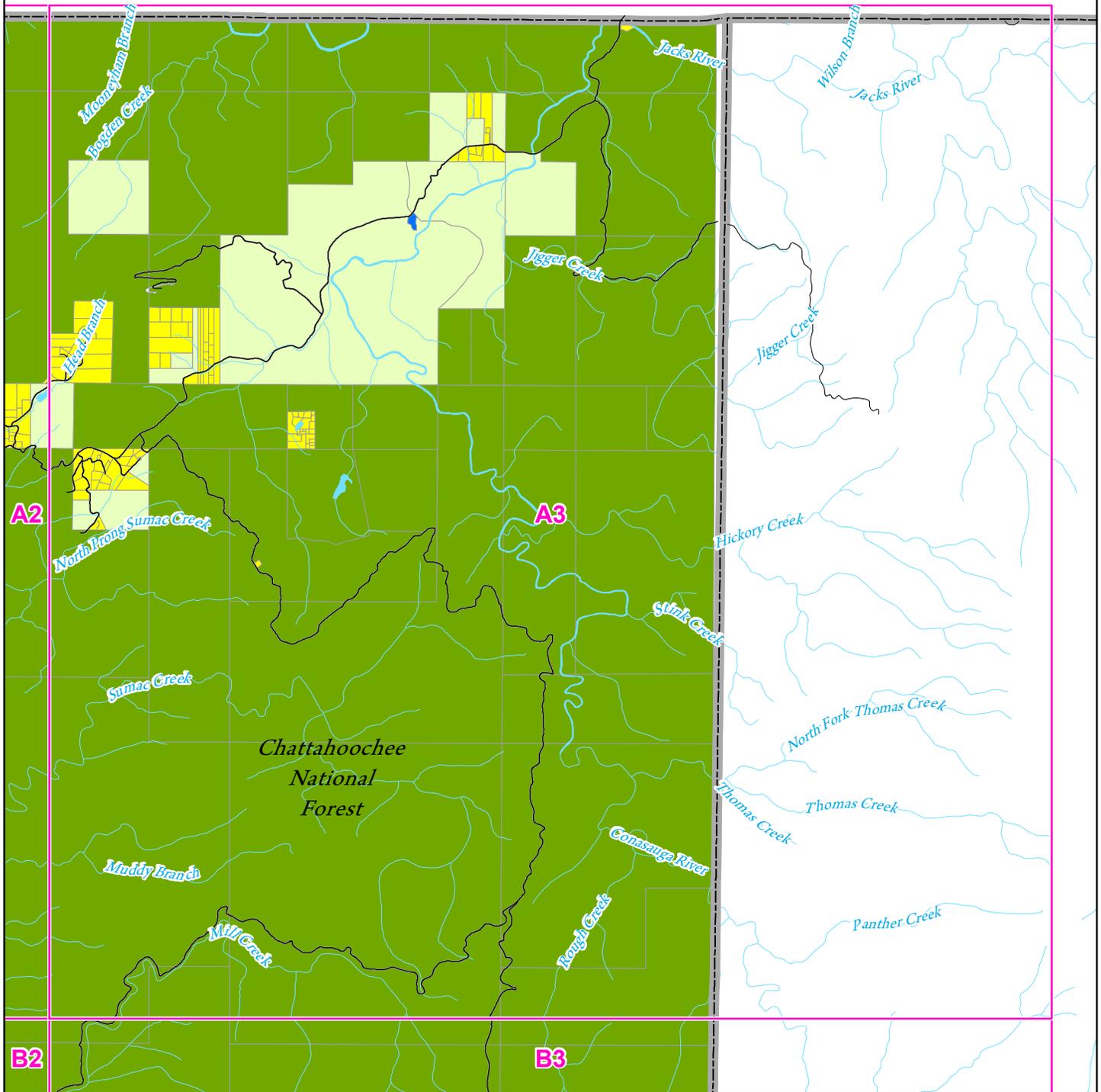
1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

Page 112

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

 Agriculture / Forestry

 Public/Institutional  
 Residential

 Park/Recreation/Conservation



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
 REGIONAL COMMISSION

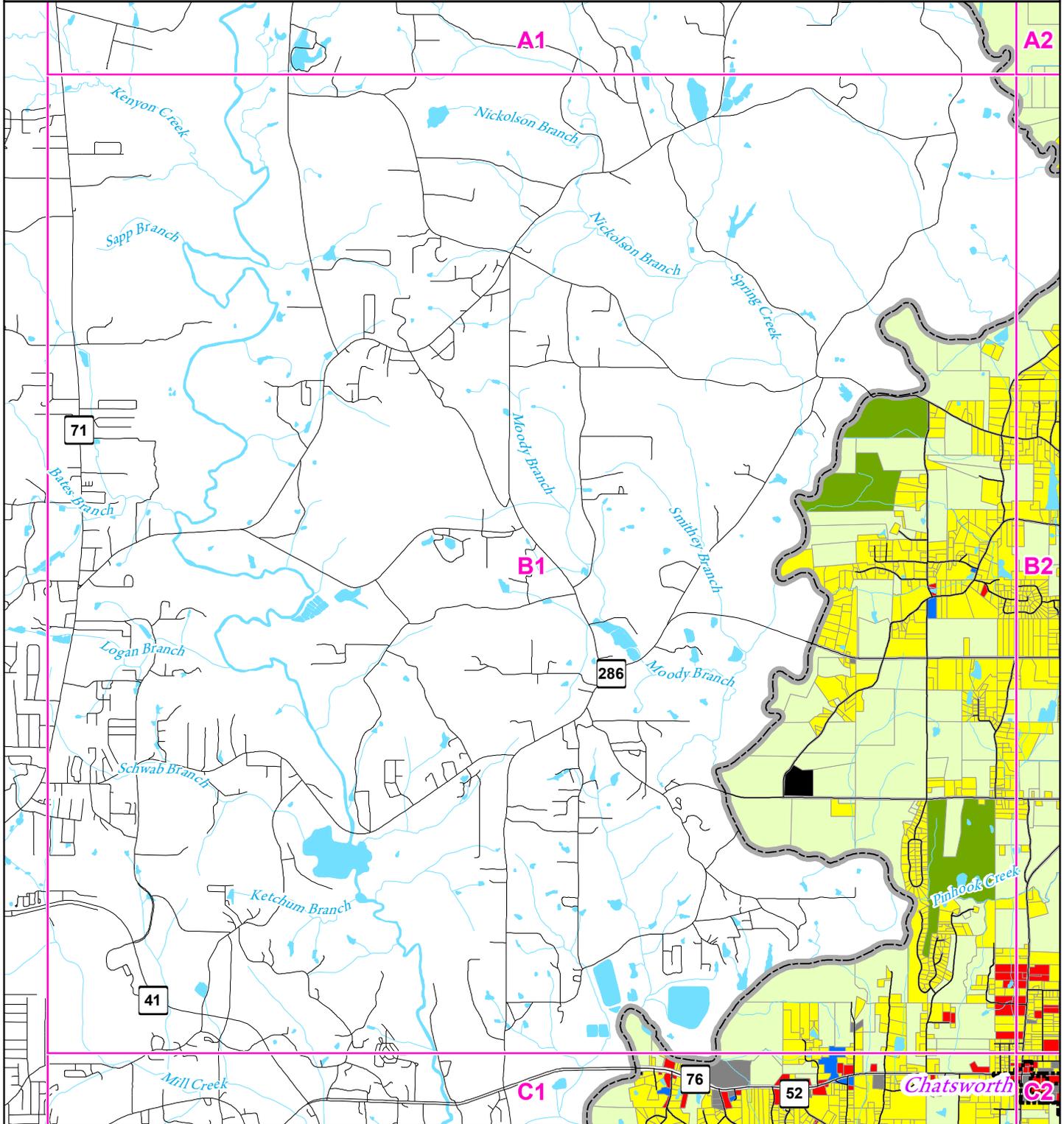
© June 2023

Page 113

Grid A3

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Park/Recreation/Conservation

## City Limits

- Public / Institutional
- Residential
- Transportation/Communication/Utilities



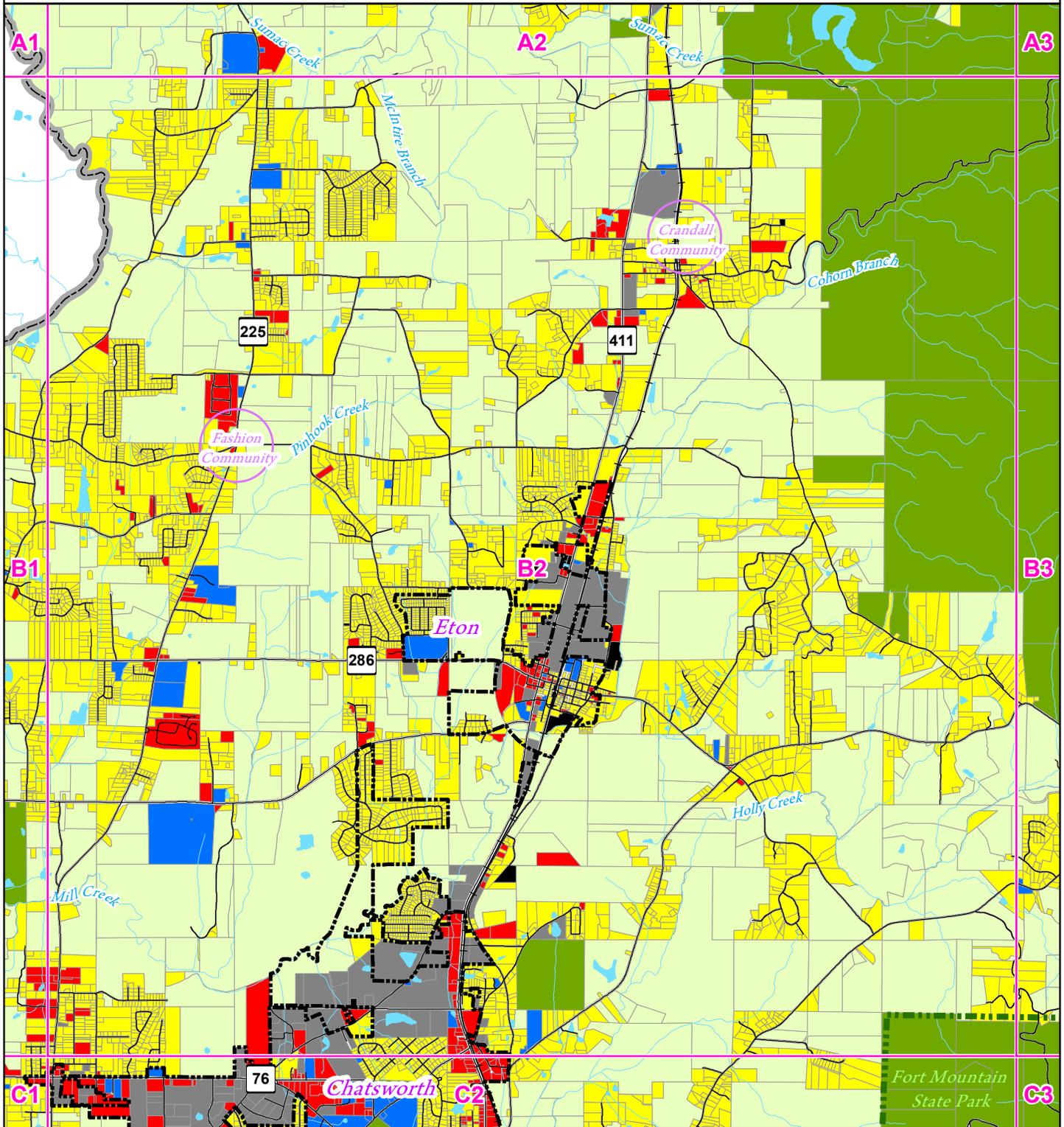
1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

Page 114

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Park/Recreation/Conservation

- City Limits
- Public / Institutional
- Residential
- Transportation/Communication/Utilities



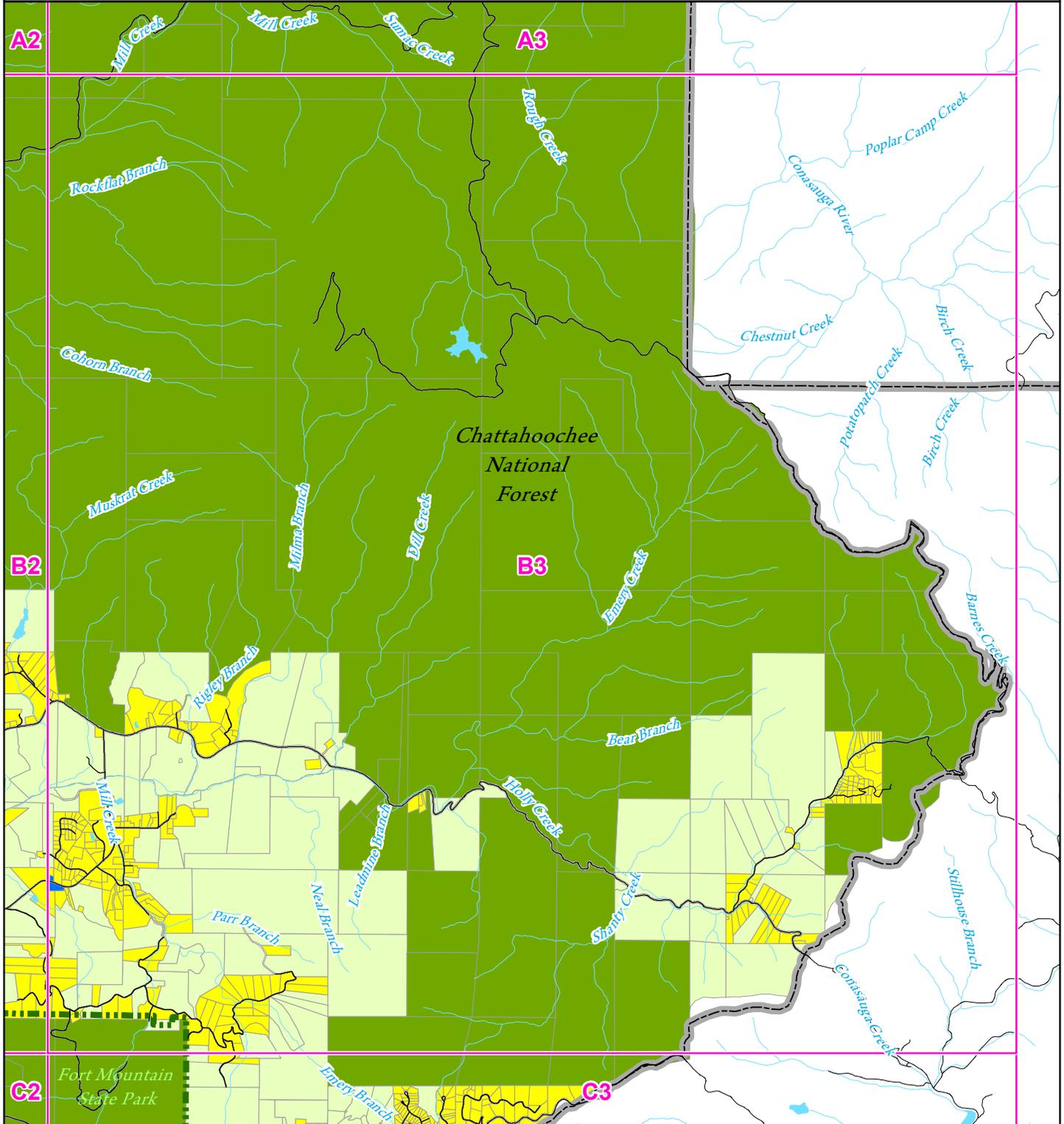
1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

Page 115

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Public / Institutional
- Residential
- Park/Recreation/Conservation



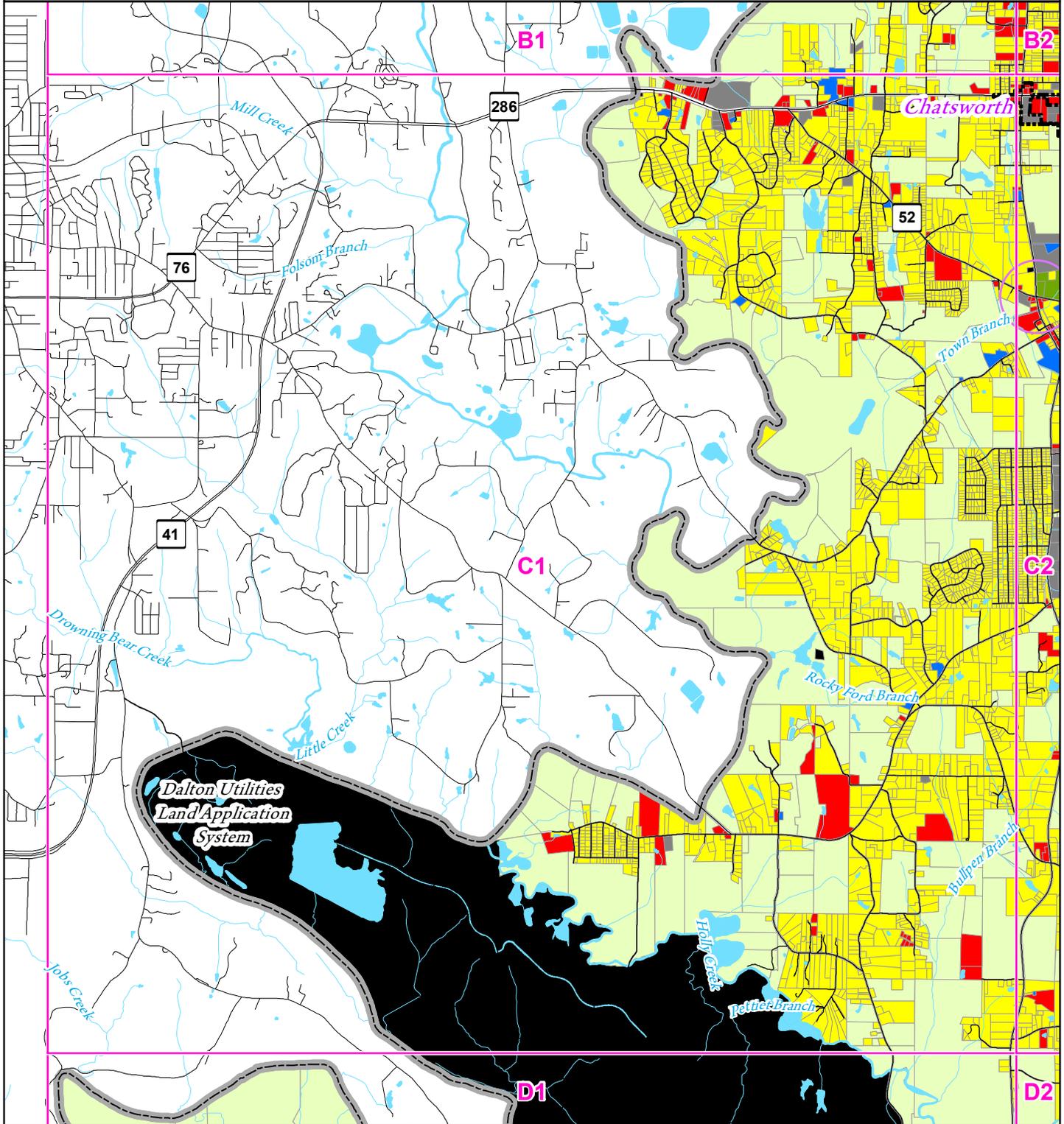
**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

1 inch = 1 miles

© June 2023

Page 116

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Park/Recreation/Conservation

City Limits

- Public / Institutional
- Residential
- Transportation/Communication/Utilities



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

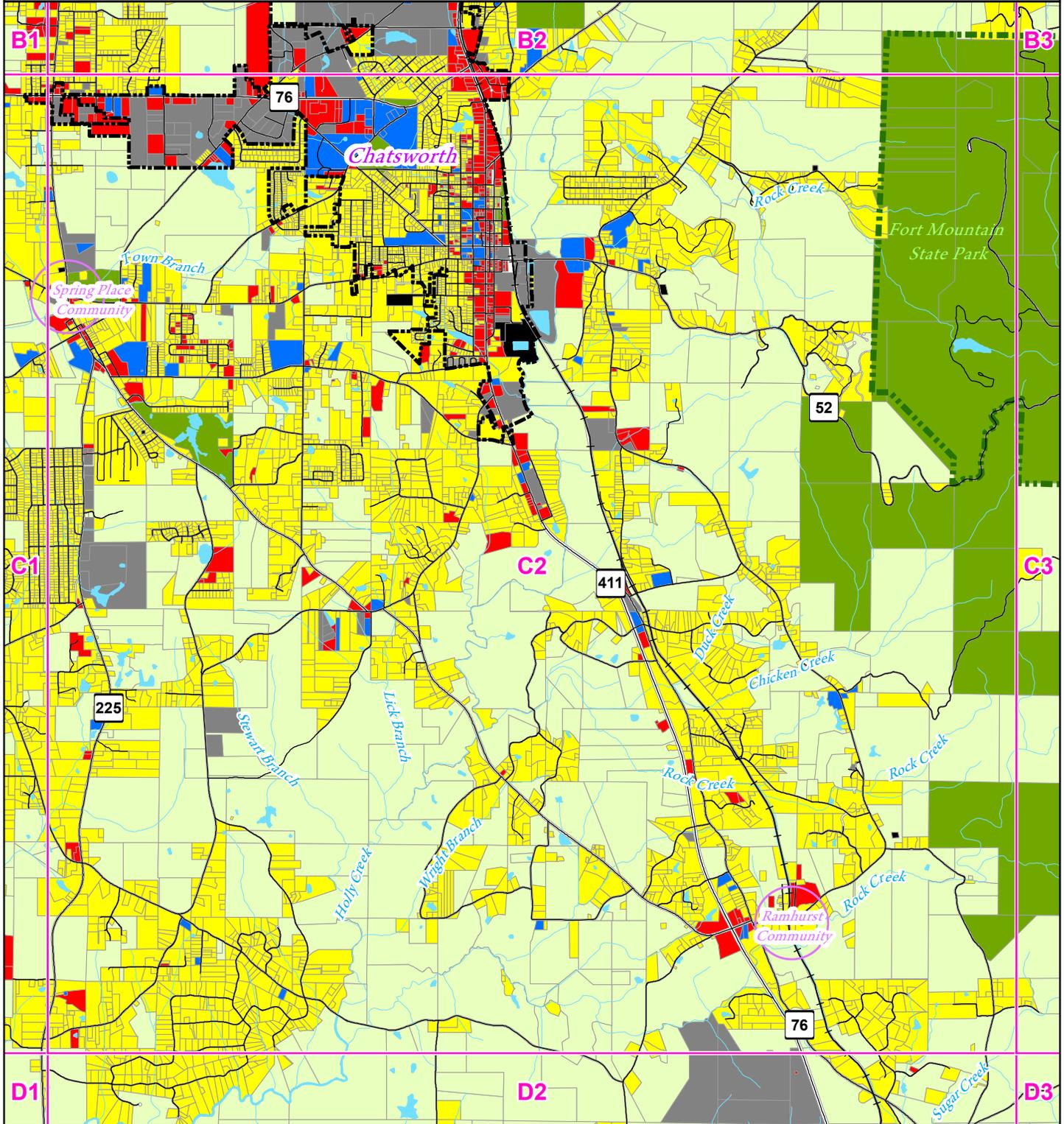
© June 2023

Page 117

Grid C1

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Park/Recreation/Conservation

City Limits

- Public / Institutional
- Residential
- Transportation/Communication/Utilities



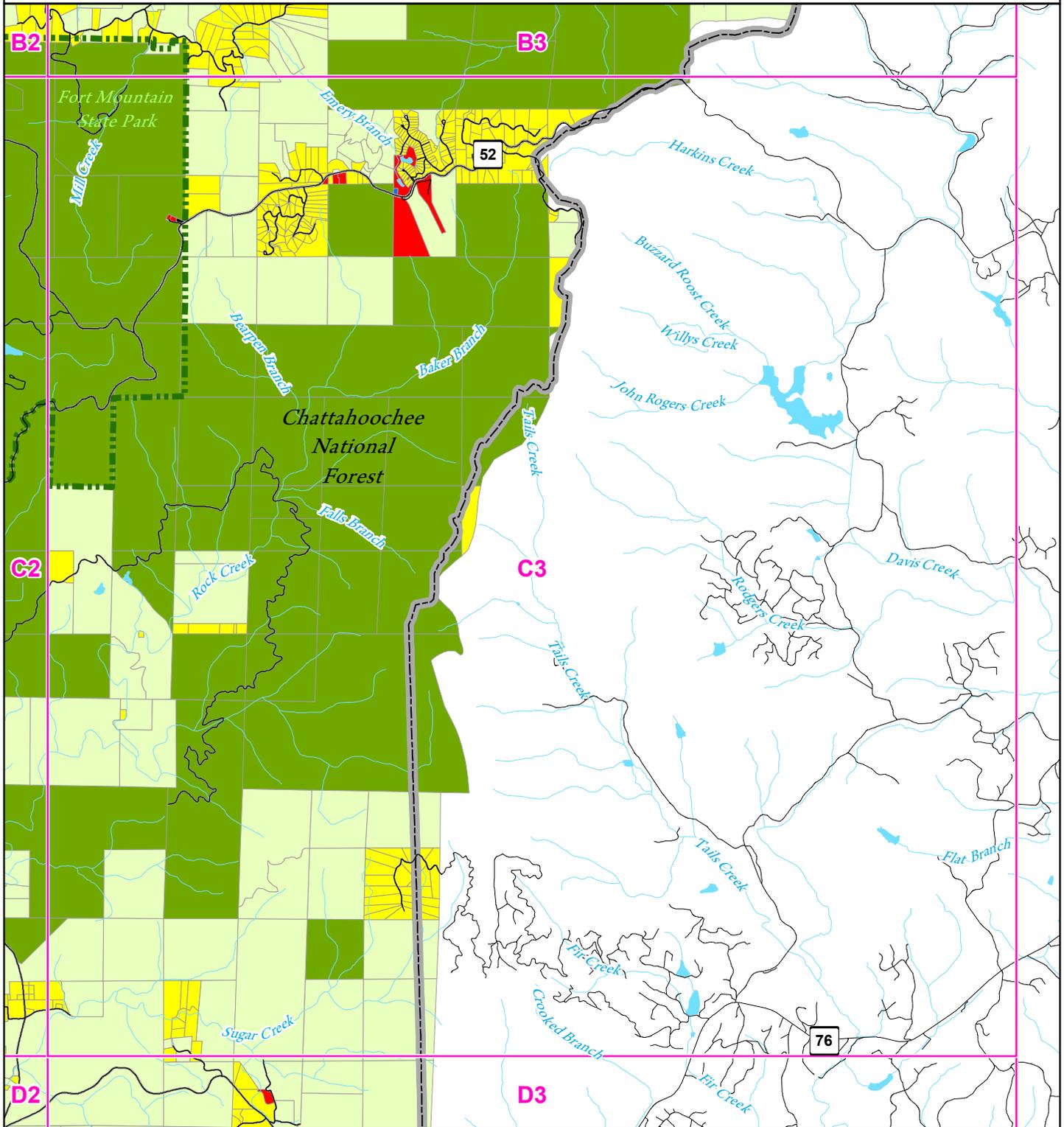
1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

Page 118

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- |  |                              |   |                        |
|--|------------------------------|---|------------------------|
|  | Agriculture / Forestry       |  | Public / Institutional |
|  | Commercial                   |  | Residential            |
|  | Park/Recreation/Conservation |   |                        |



**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

1 inch = 1 miles

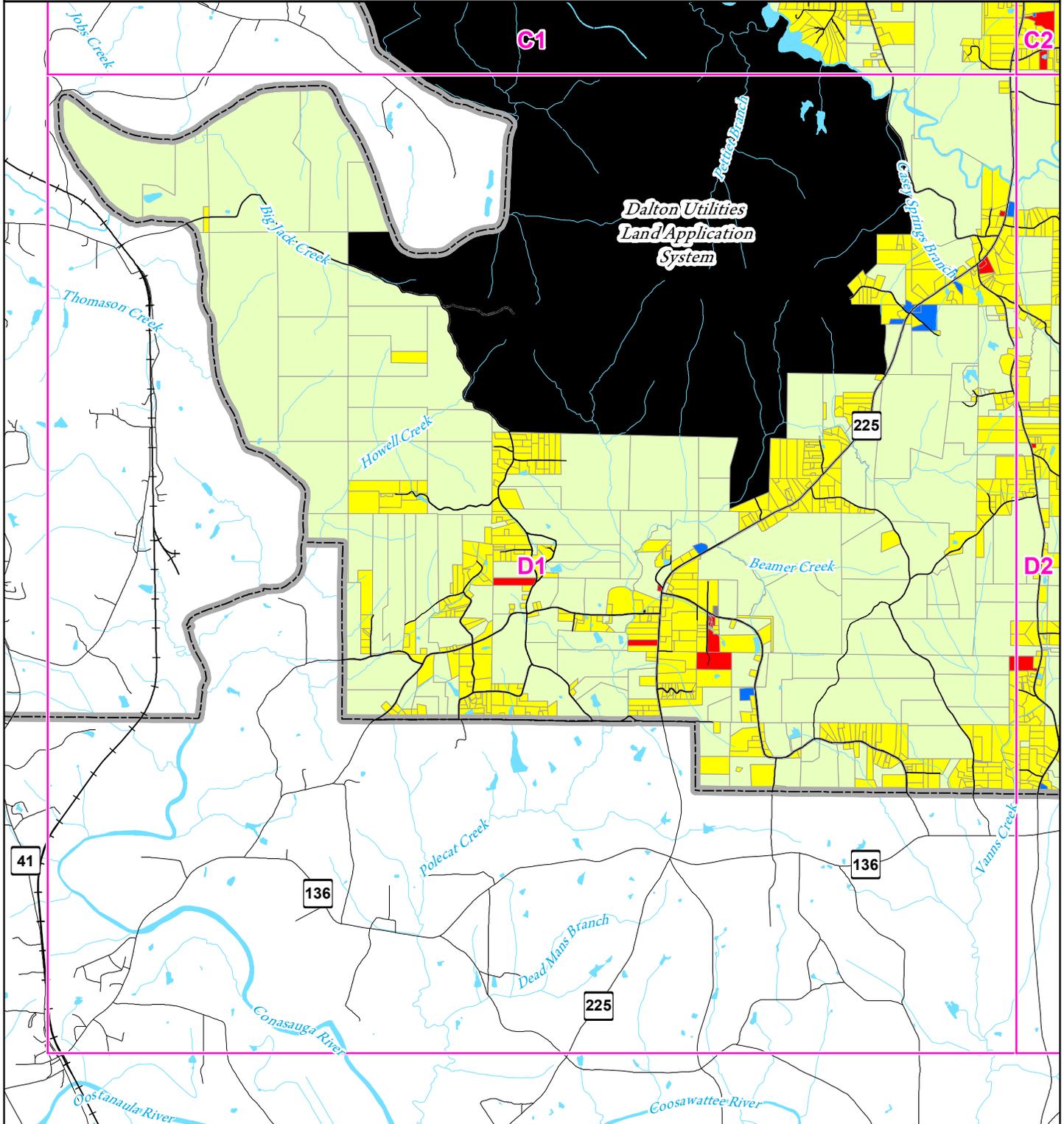
© June 2023

Page 119

Grid C3

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- |  |                        |   |  |
|--|------------------------|---|--|
|  | Agriculture / Forestry |  | Public / Institutional                     |
|  | Commercial             |  | Residential                                |
|  | Industrial             |  | Transportation/<br>Communication/Utilities |



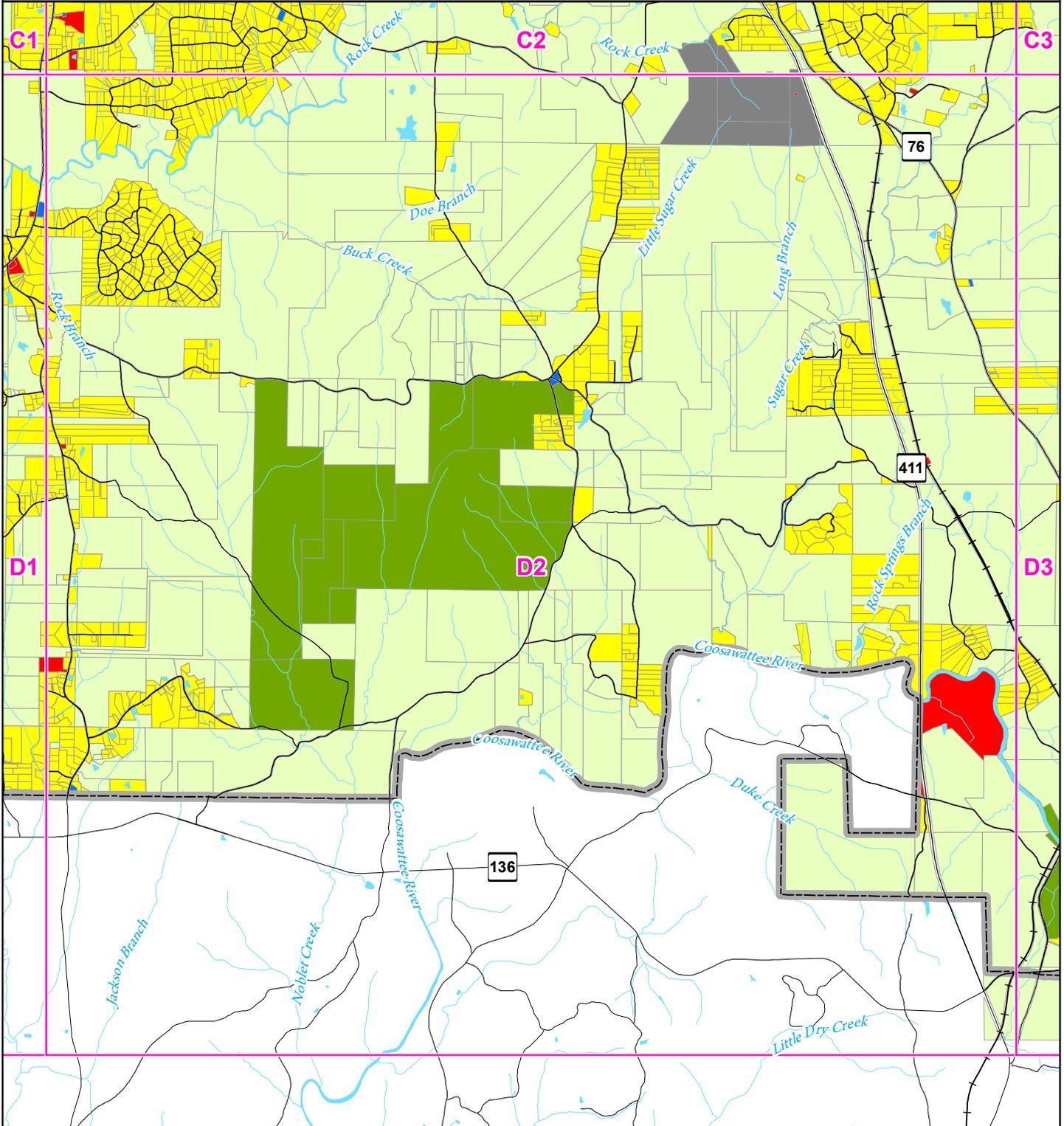
1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

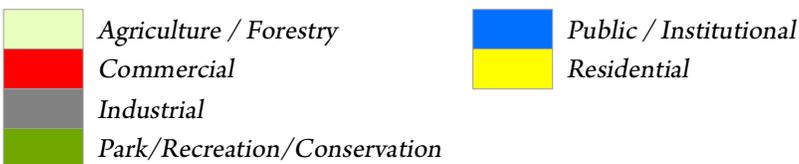
© June 2023

Page 120

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category



1 inch = 1 miles

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

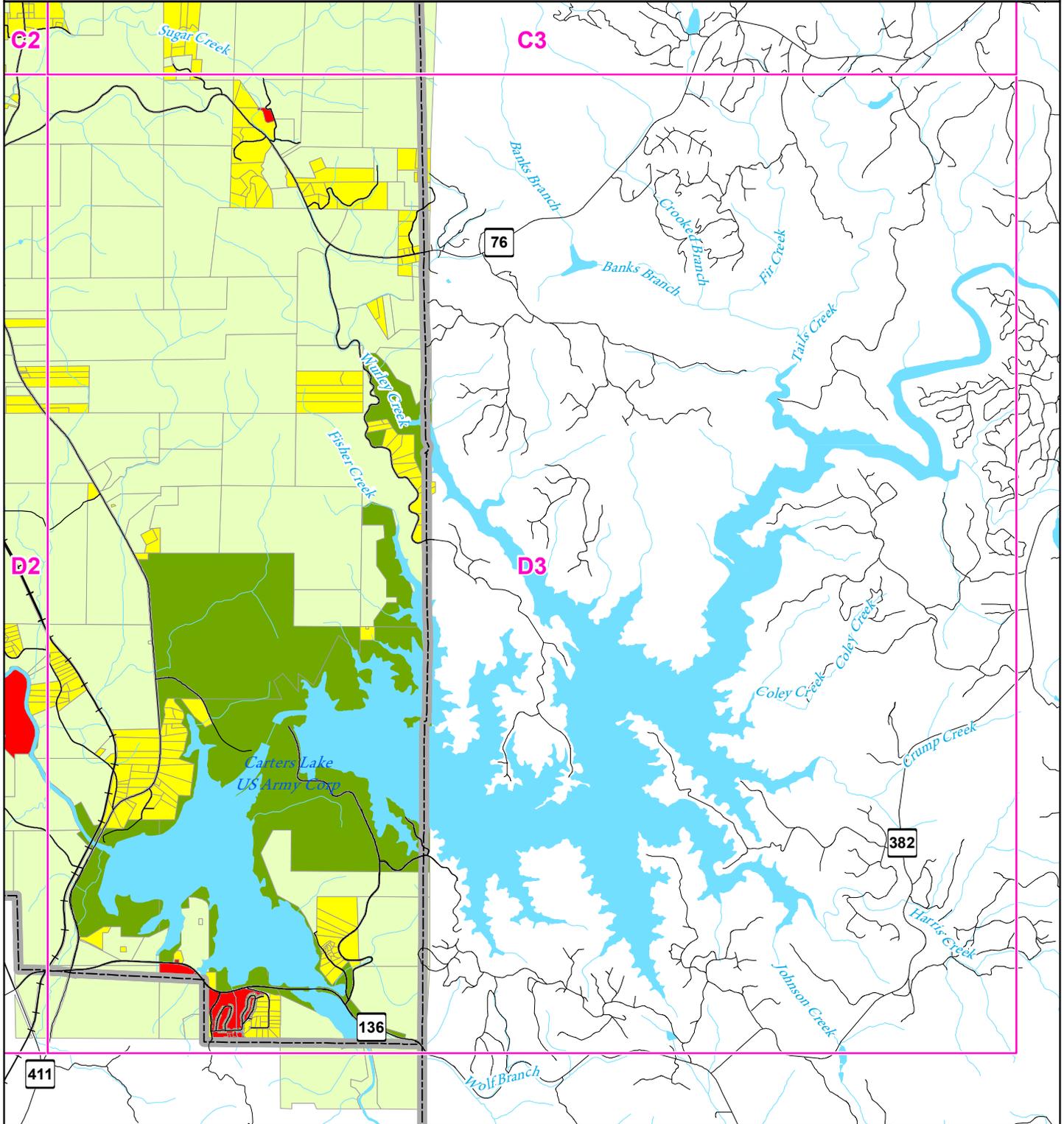
© June 2023

page 121

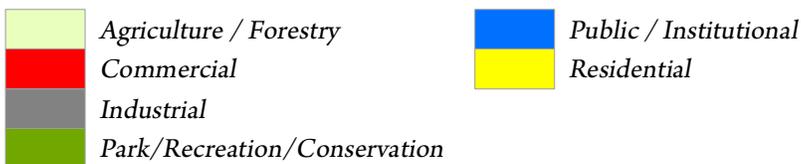
Grid D2

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

# Murray County, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category



**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

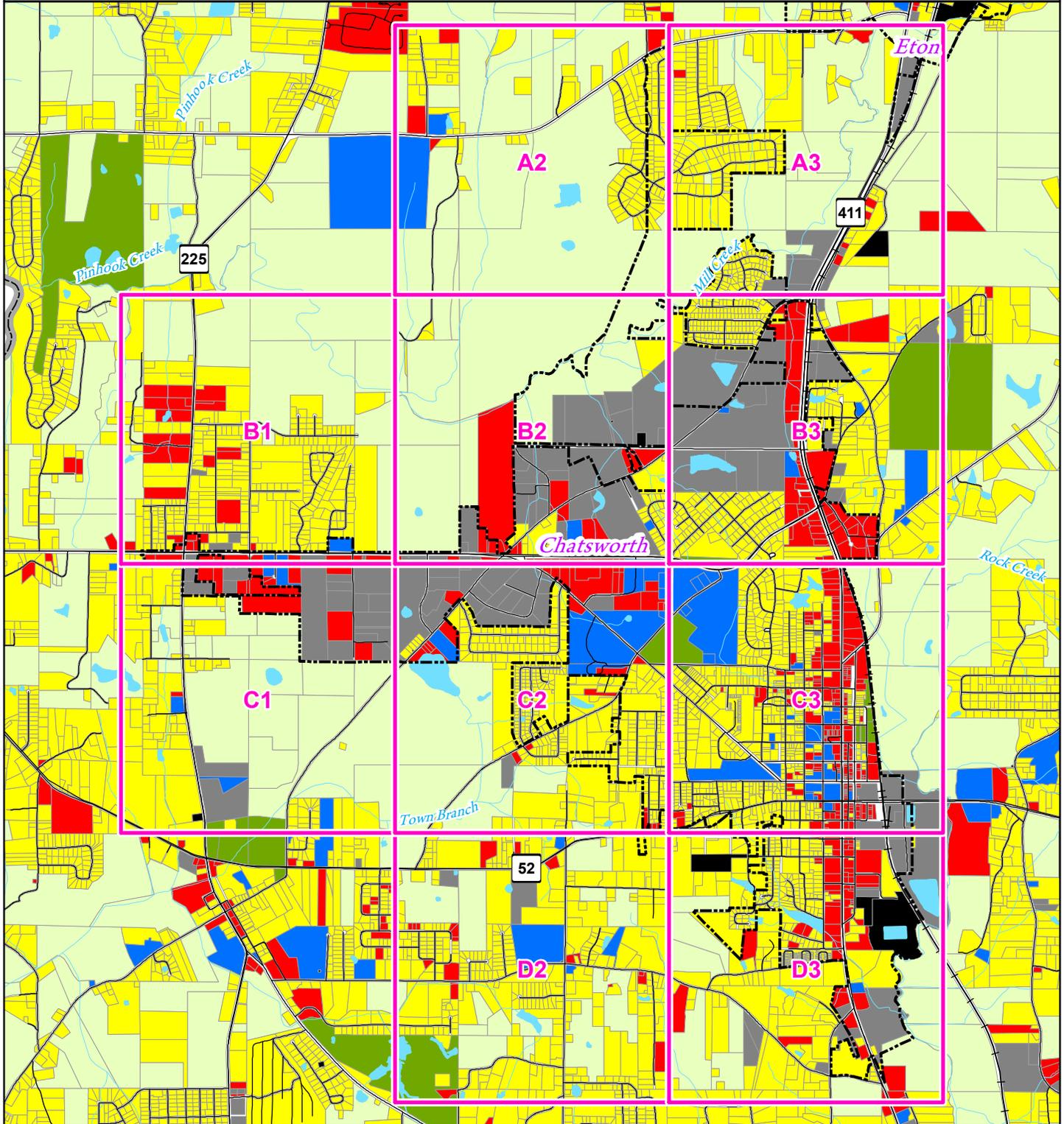
1 inch = 1 miles

© June 2023

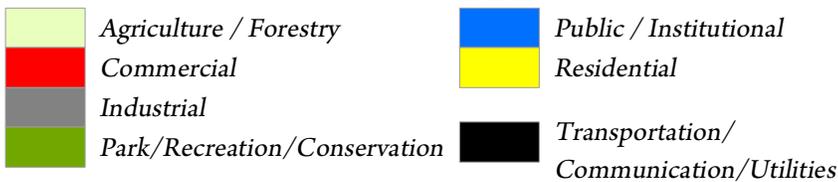
*Chatsworth Future Land Use Maps.*

Map Grid index followed by the 10 sections of the grid=A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, C3, D2, D3.

# Chatsworth, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category



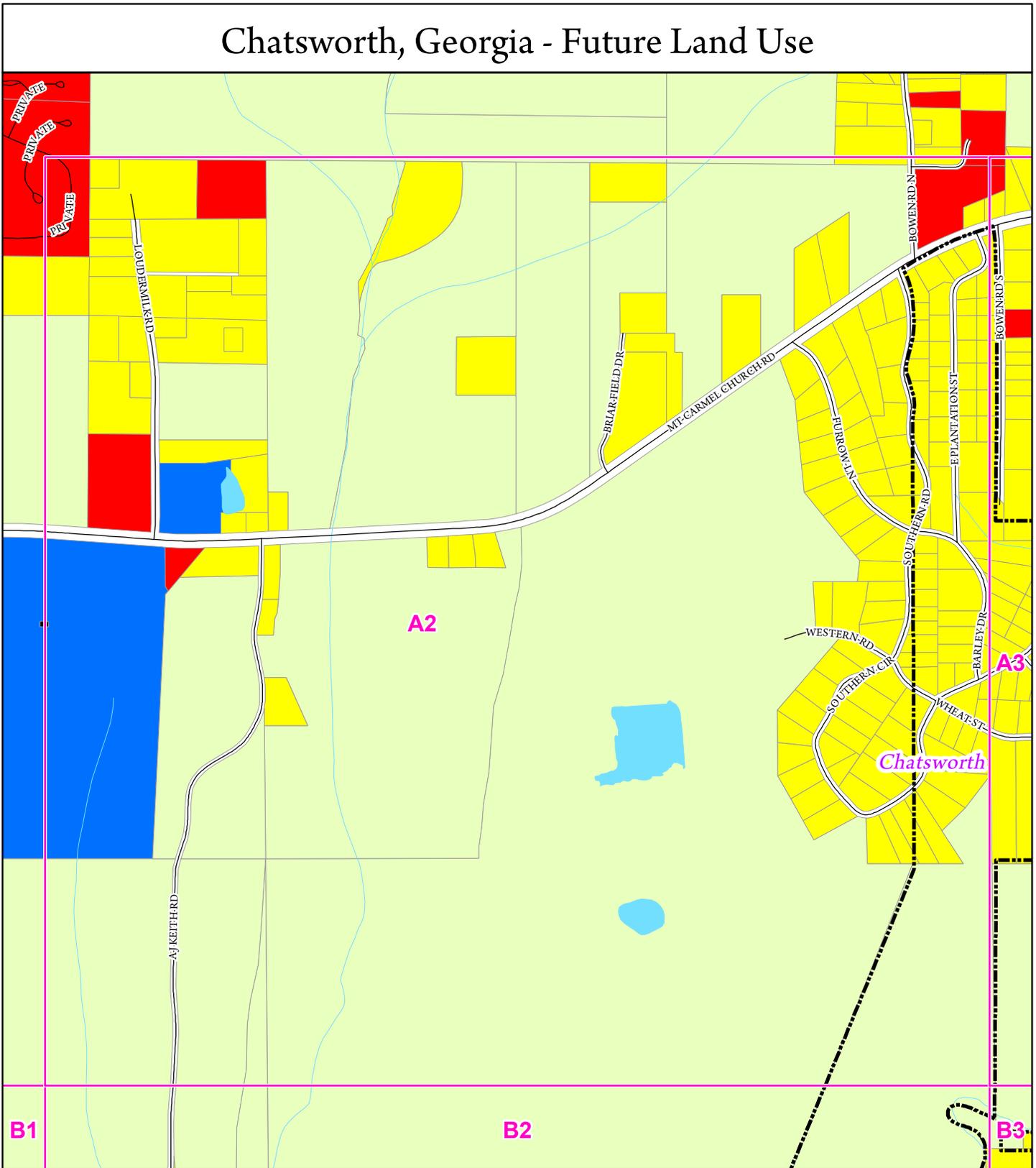
1 inch = 3,500 feet

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

Page 124

# Chatsworth, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial

City Limits

- Public / Institutional
- Residential



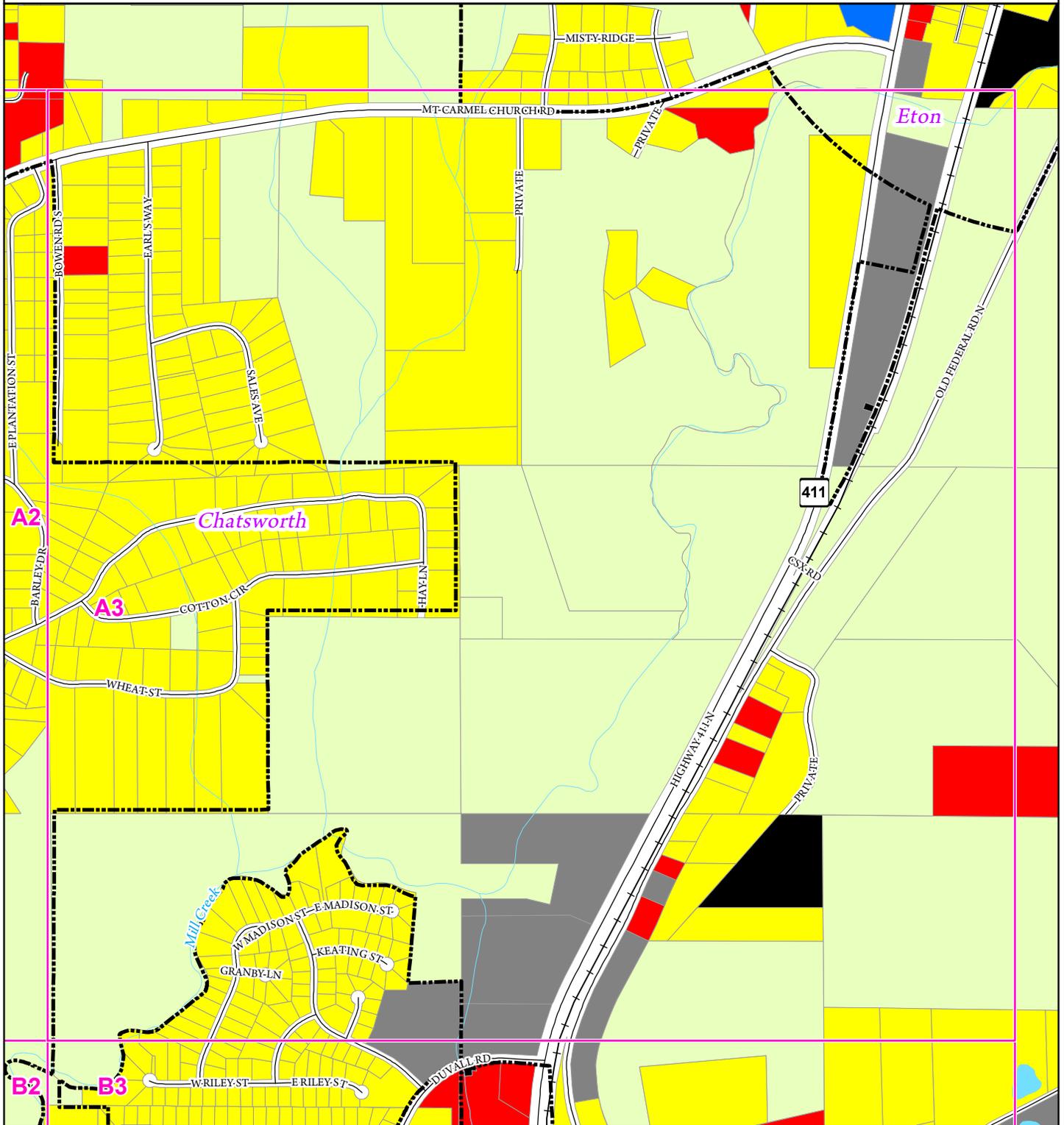
**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

1 inch = 990 feet

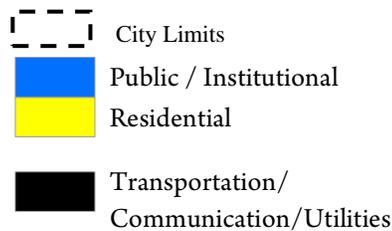
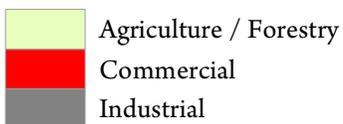
© June 2023

pPage 125

# Chatsworth, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category



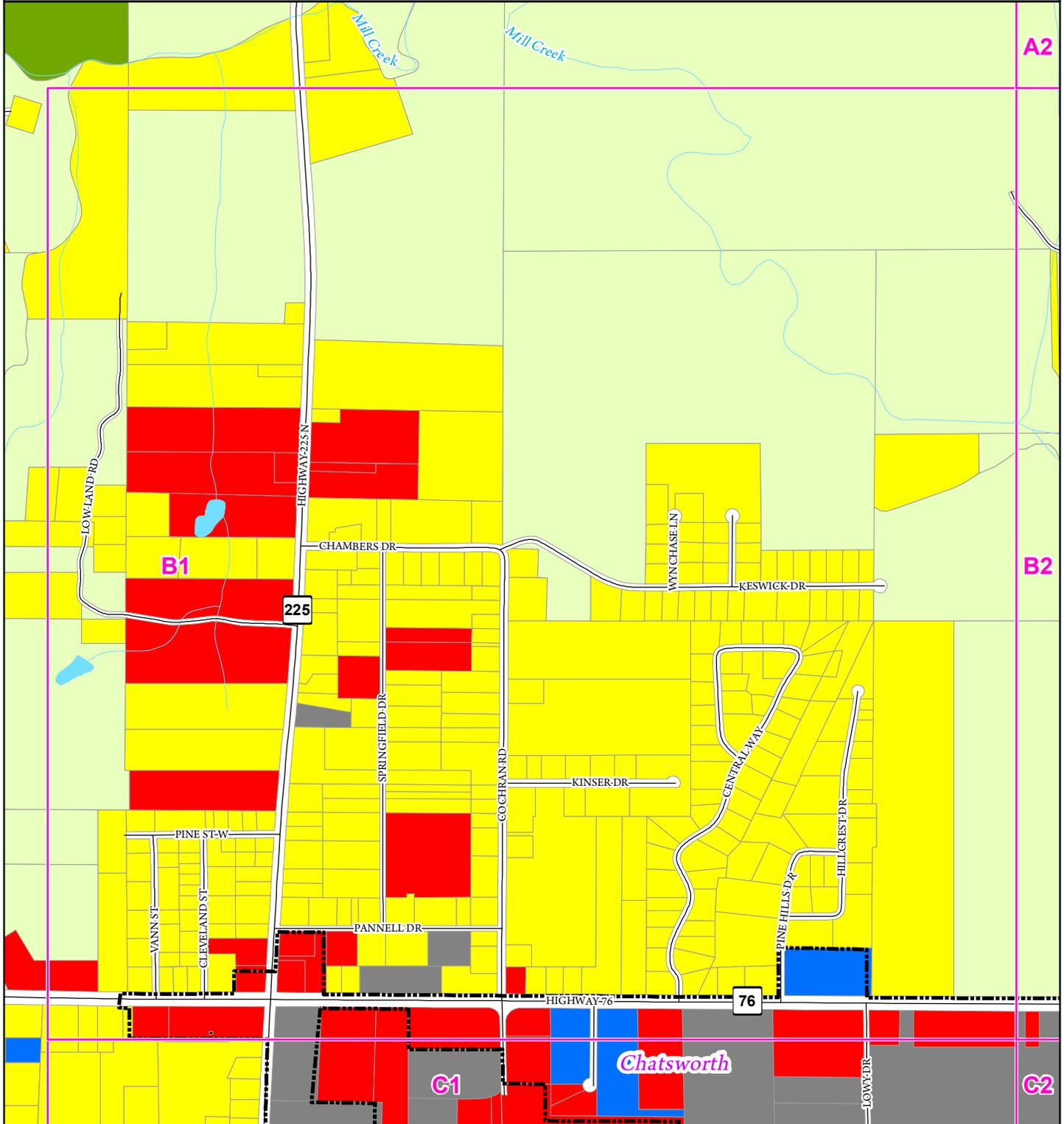
1 inch = 990 feet

**n<sup>r</sup>thwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

Page 126

# Chatsworth, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Park/Recreation/Conservation

- City Limits
- Public / Institutional
- Residential

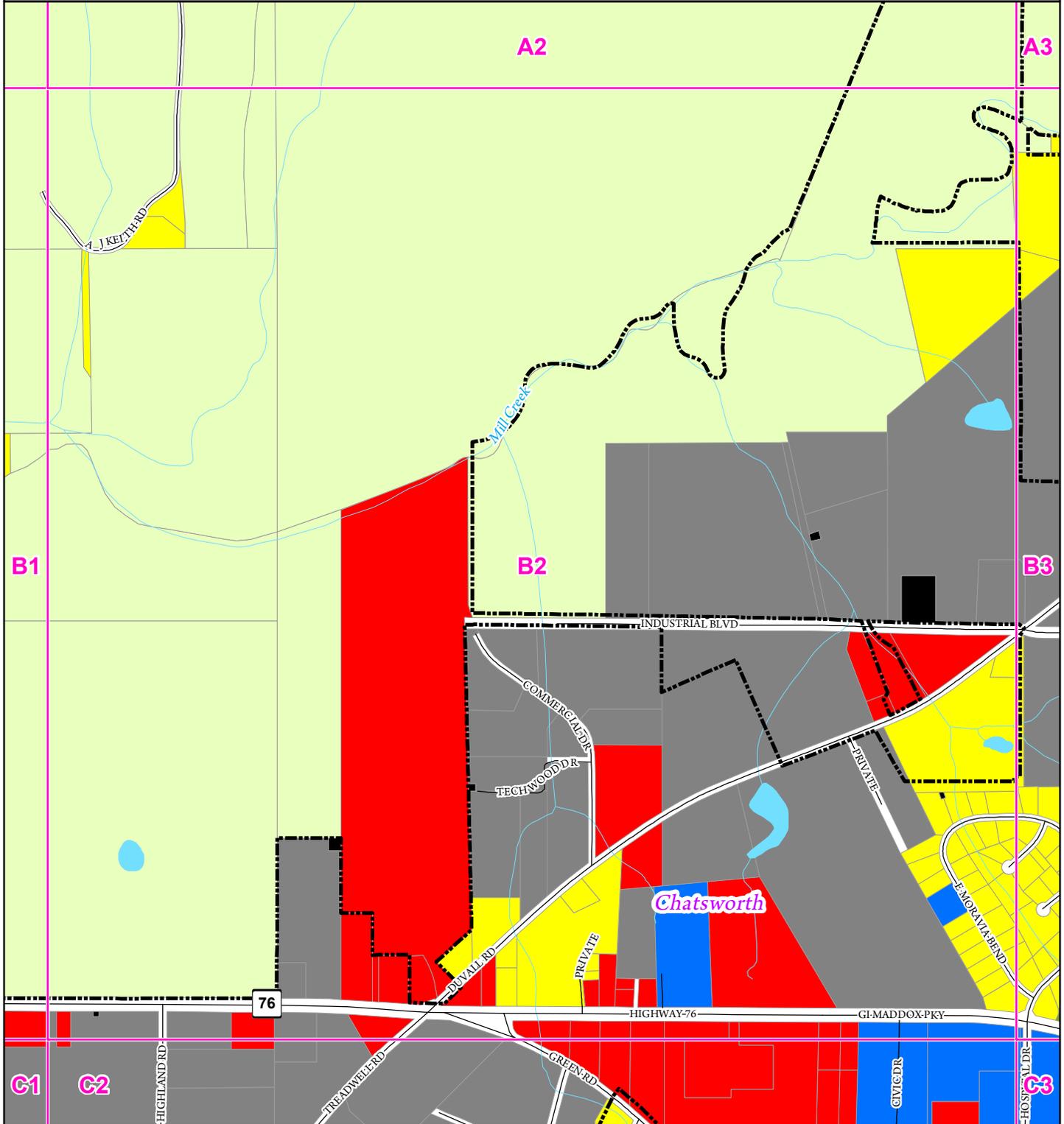


**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

1 inch = 990 feet

© June 2023

# Chatsworth, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial

- City Limits
- Public / Institutional
- Residential
- Transportation/  
Communication/Utilities



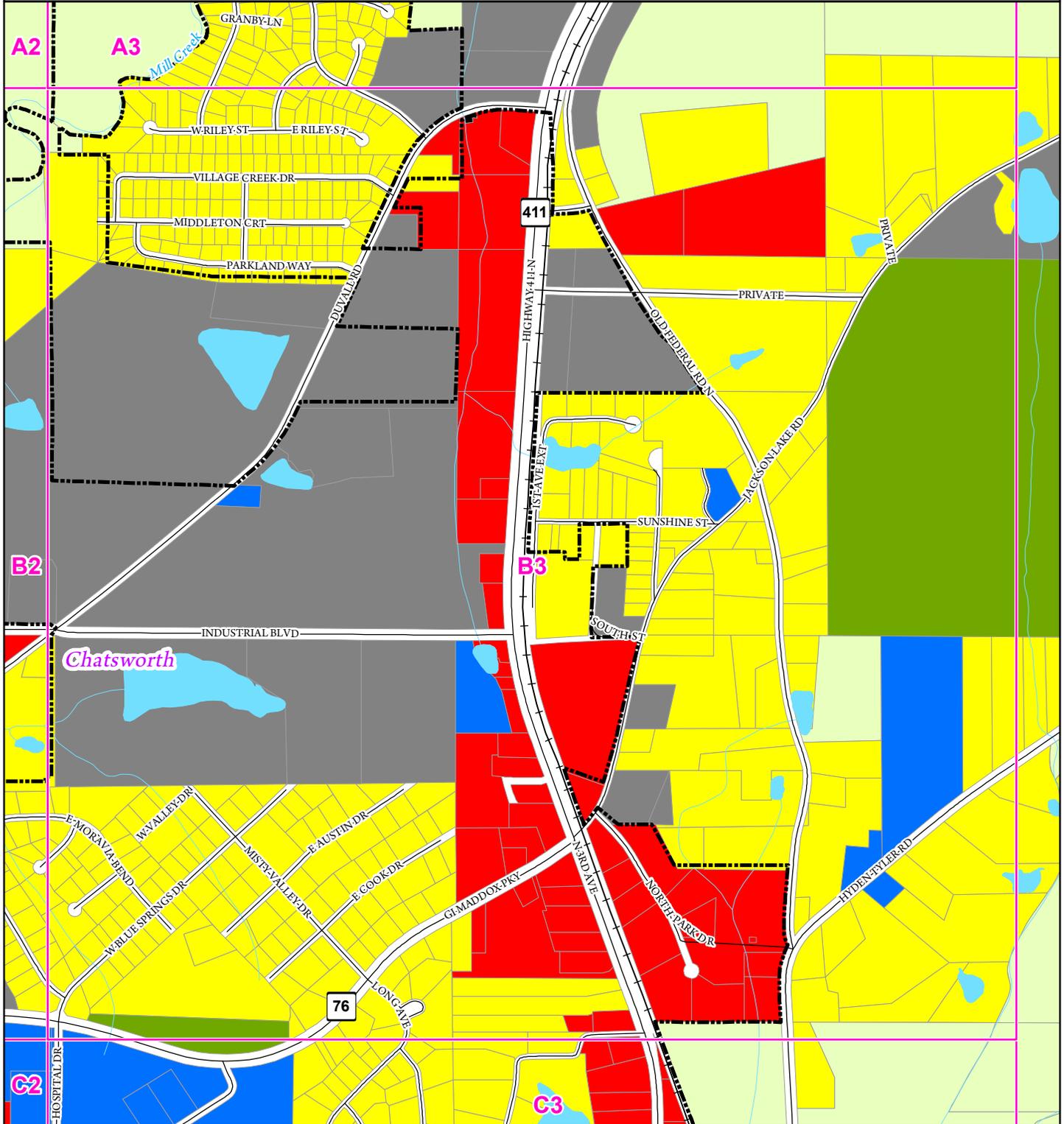
1 inch = 990 feet

**n**rthwest  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

page 128

# Chatsworth, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Park/Recreation/Conservation

City Limits

- Public / Institutional
- Residential



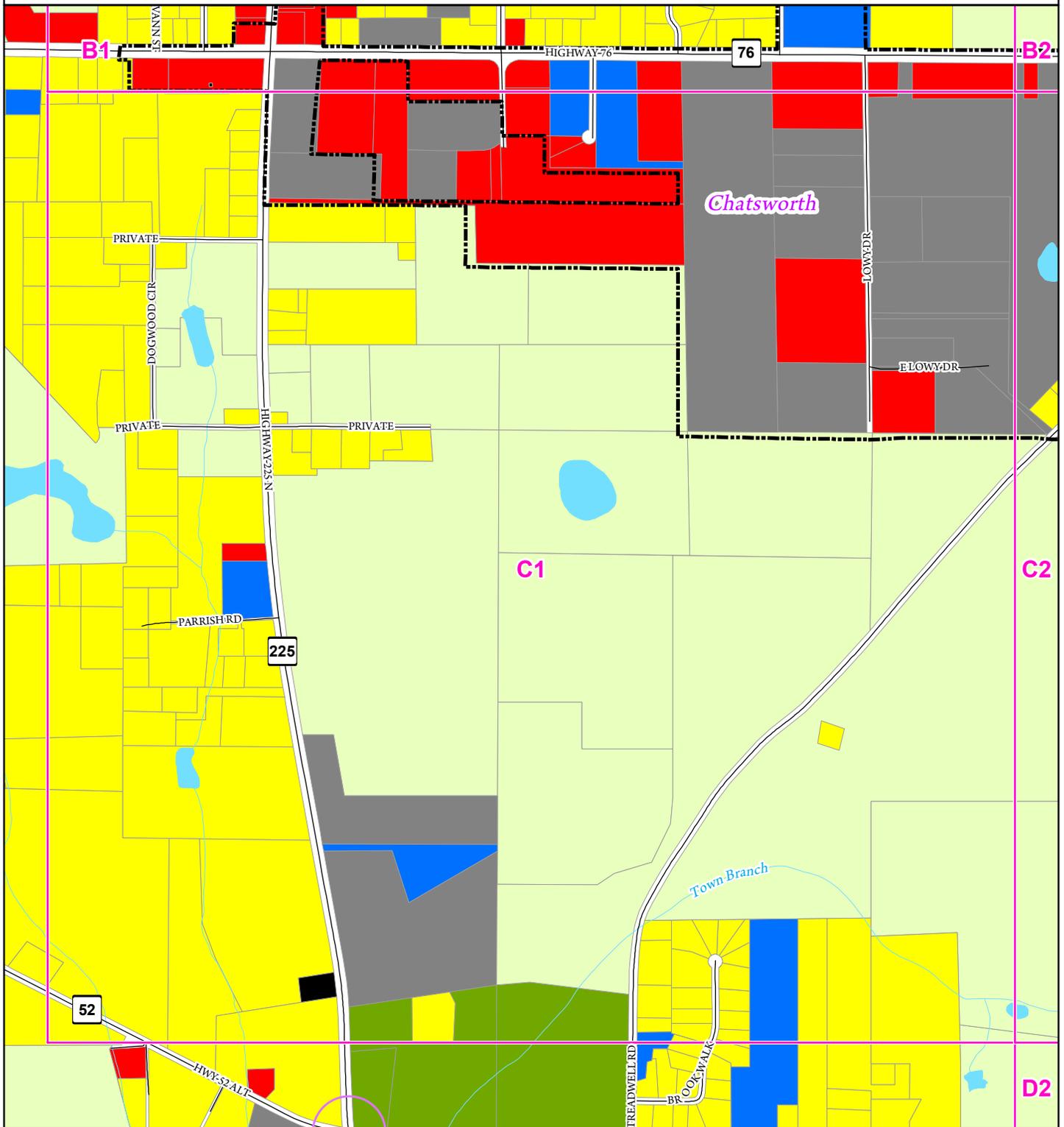
1 inch = 990 feet

**n<sup>r</sup>thwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

Page 129

# Chatsworth, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Park/Recreation/Conservation

- City Limits
- Public / Institutional
- Residential
- Transportation/Communication/Utilities



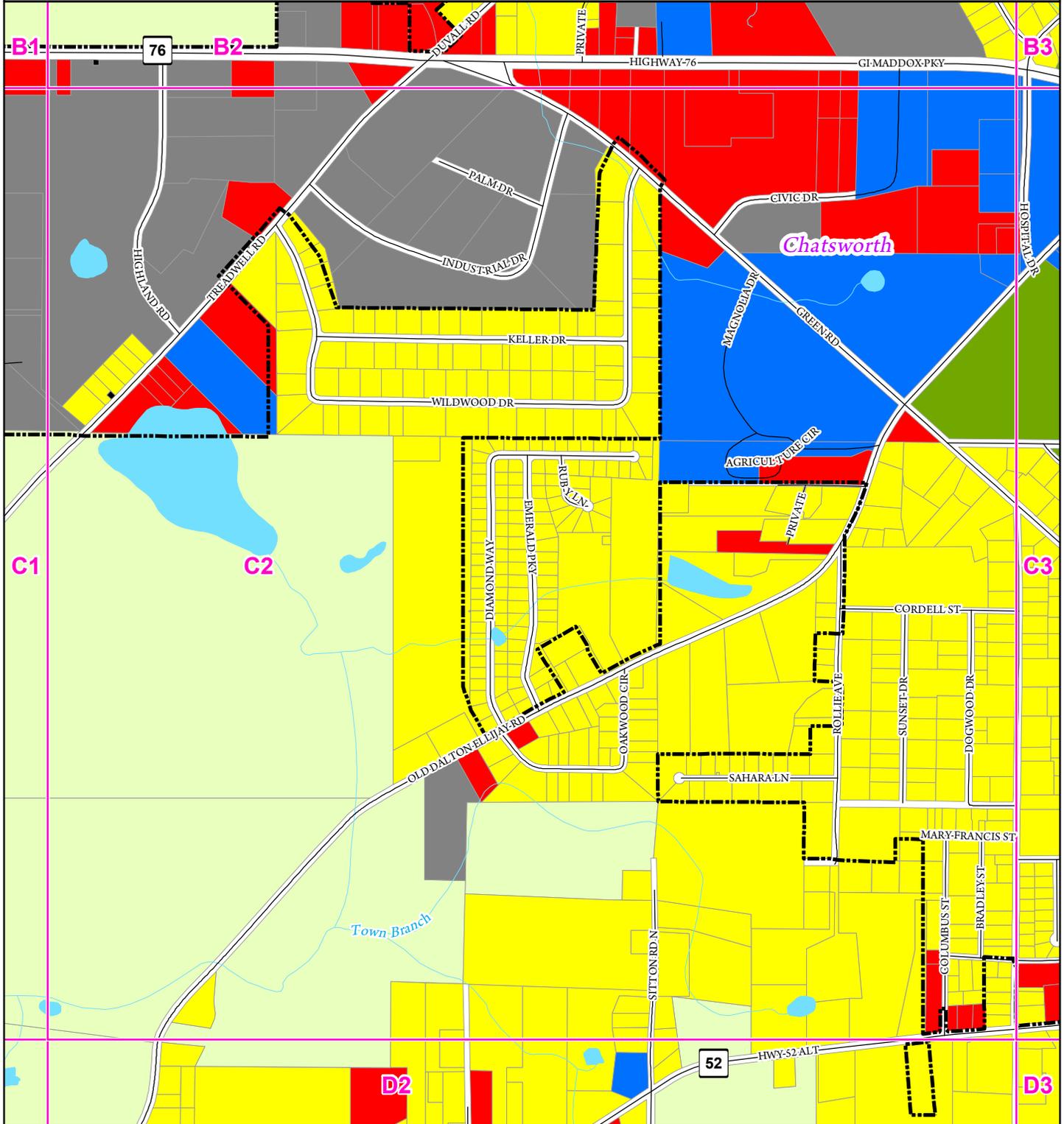
1 inch = 990 feet

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

Page 130

# Chatsworth, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Park/Recreation/Conservation

City Limits

- Public / Institutional
- Residential



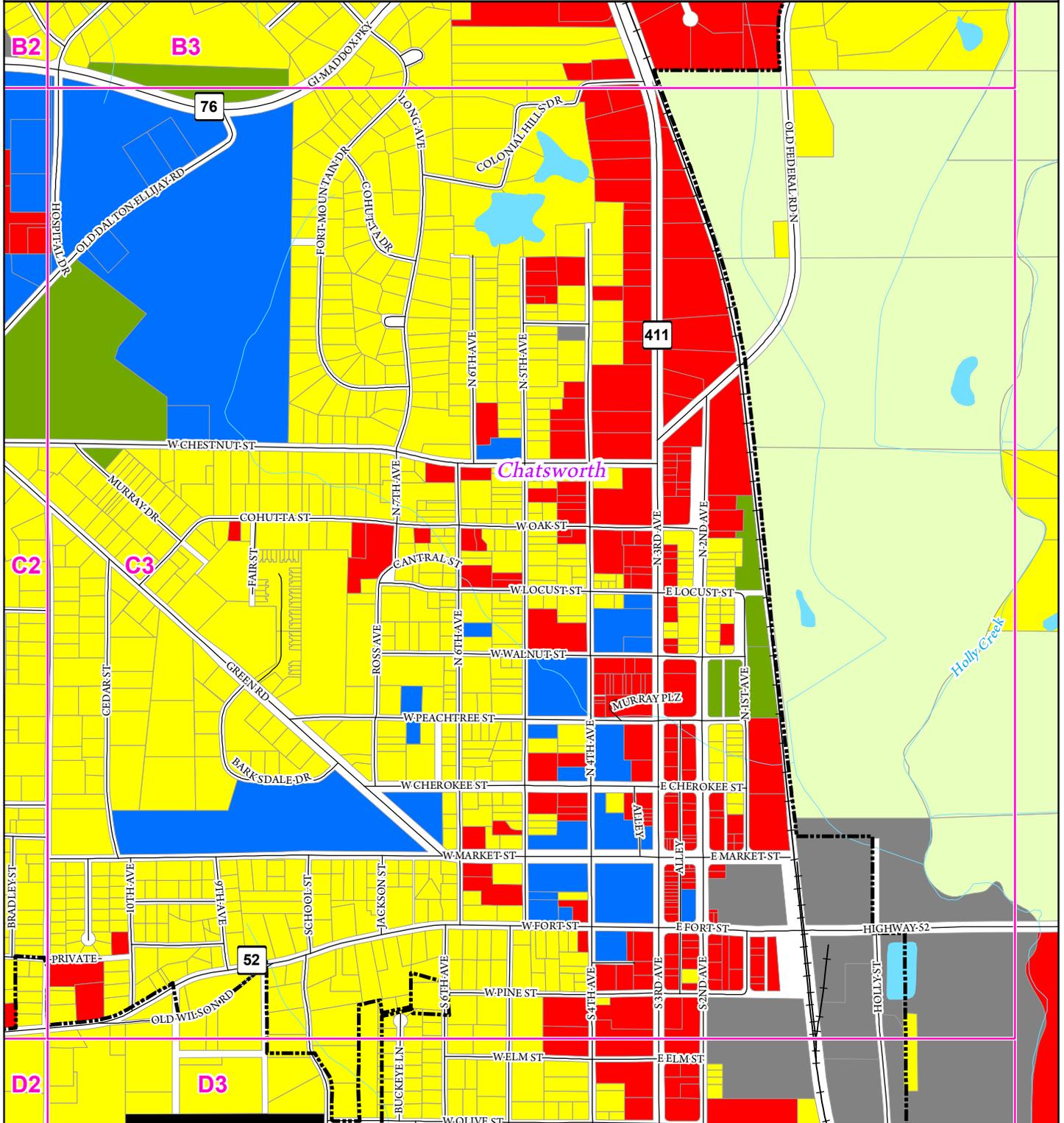
1 inch = 990 feet

**n<sup>r</sup>thwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

page 131

# Chatsworth, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- |  |                              |   |  |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|
|  | Agriculture / Forestry       |  | City Limits                                |
|  | Commercial                   |  | Public / Institutional                     |
|  | Industrial                   |  | Residential                                |
|  | Park/Recreation/Conservation |  | Transportation/<br>Communication/Utilities |



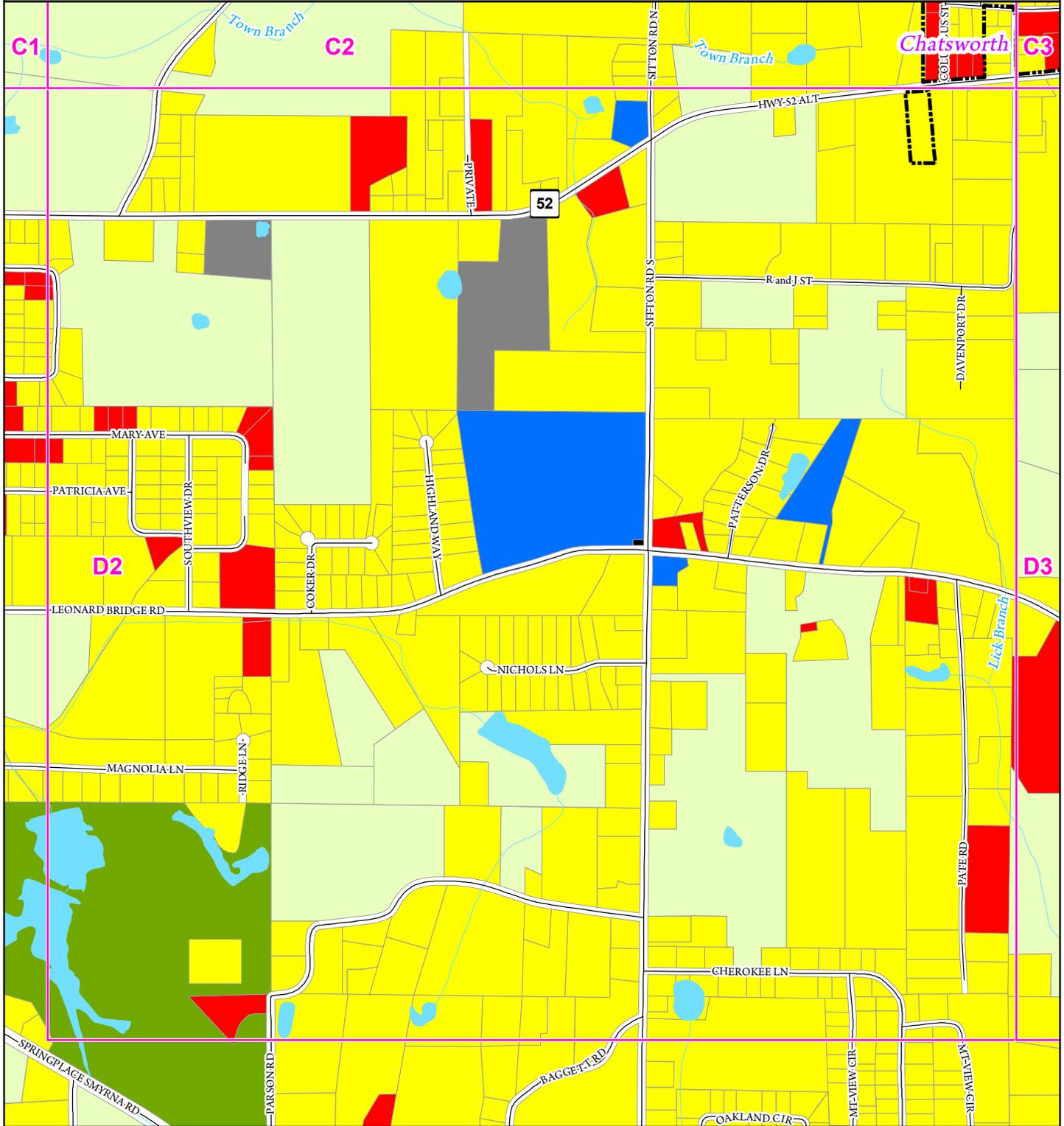
1 inch = 990 feet

**n<sup>r</sup>thwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

Page 132

# Chatsworth, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Park/Recreation/Conservation



City Limits



Public / Institutional

Residential



Transportation/  
Communication/Utilities

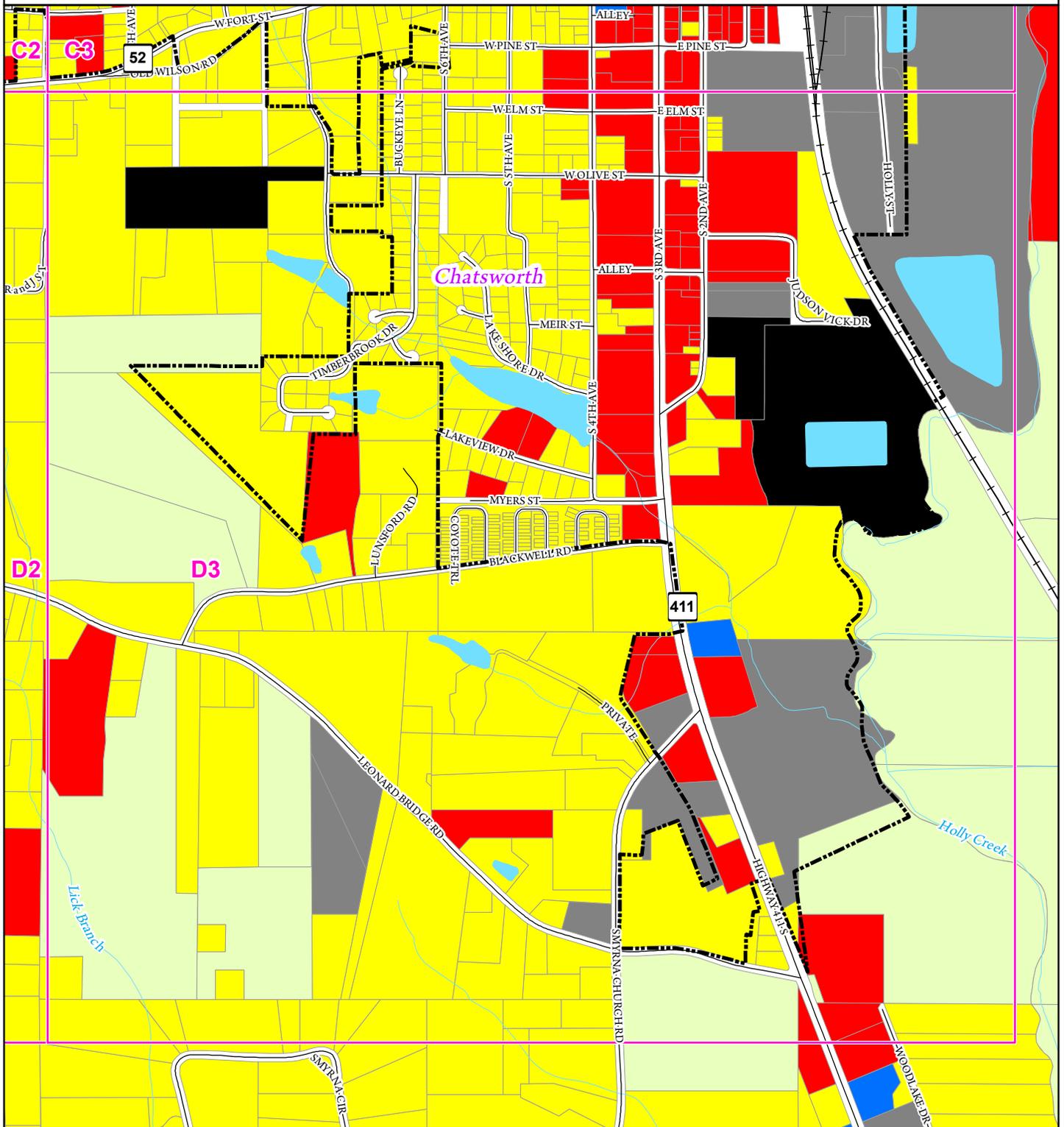


**n<sup>r</sup>thwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

1 inch = 990 feet

© June 2023

# Chatsworth, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial

City Limits

Public / Institutional

Residential

Transportation /  
Communication / Utilities



1 inch = 990 feet

**n<sup>r</sup>thwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

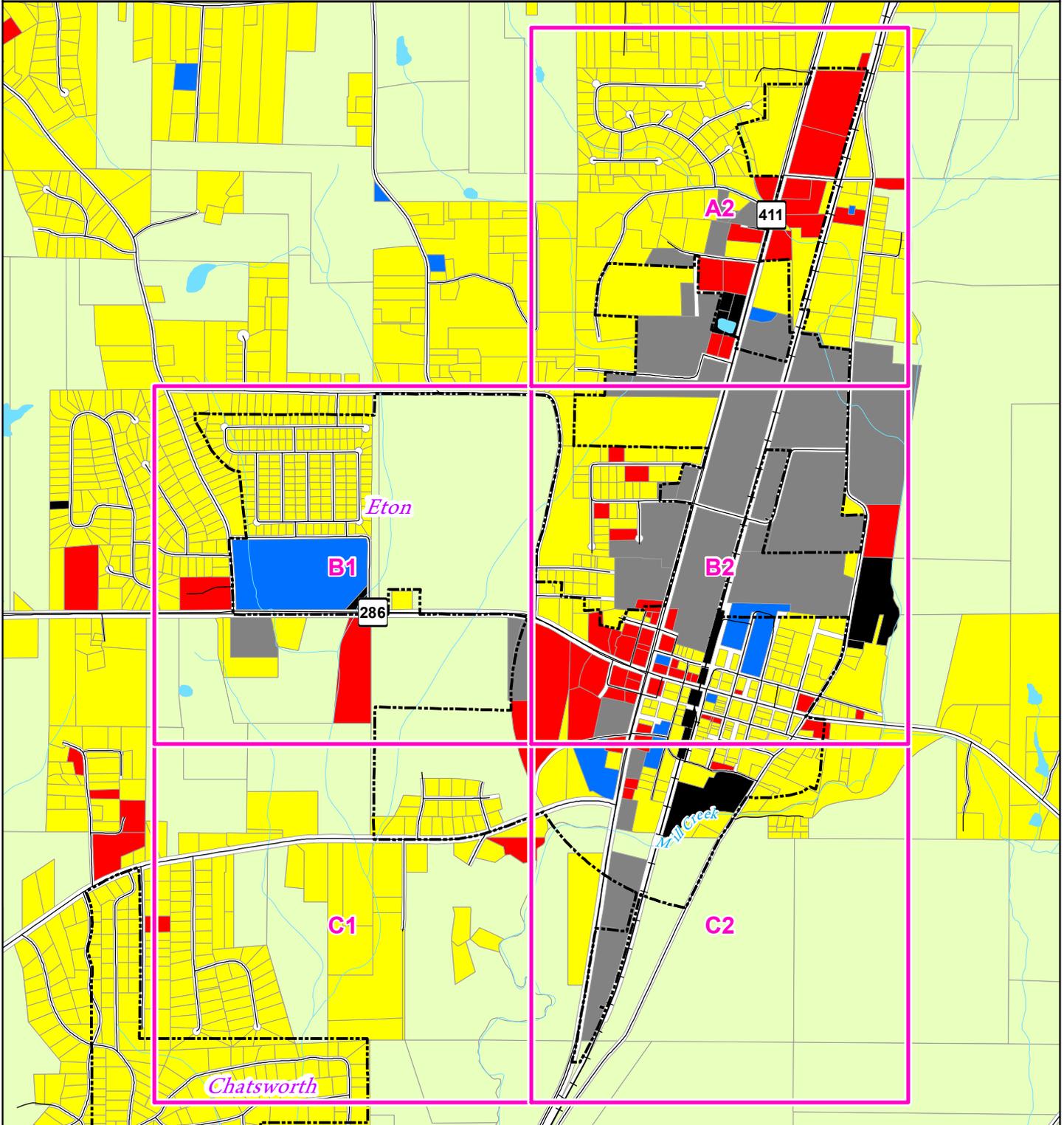
© June 2023

Page 134

*Eton Future Land Use Maps.*

Map Grid index followed by the 5 sections of the grid= A2, B1, B2, C1, C2.

# Eton, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial

City Limits

Public / Institutional

Residential

Transportation/  
Communication/Utilities



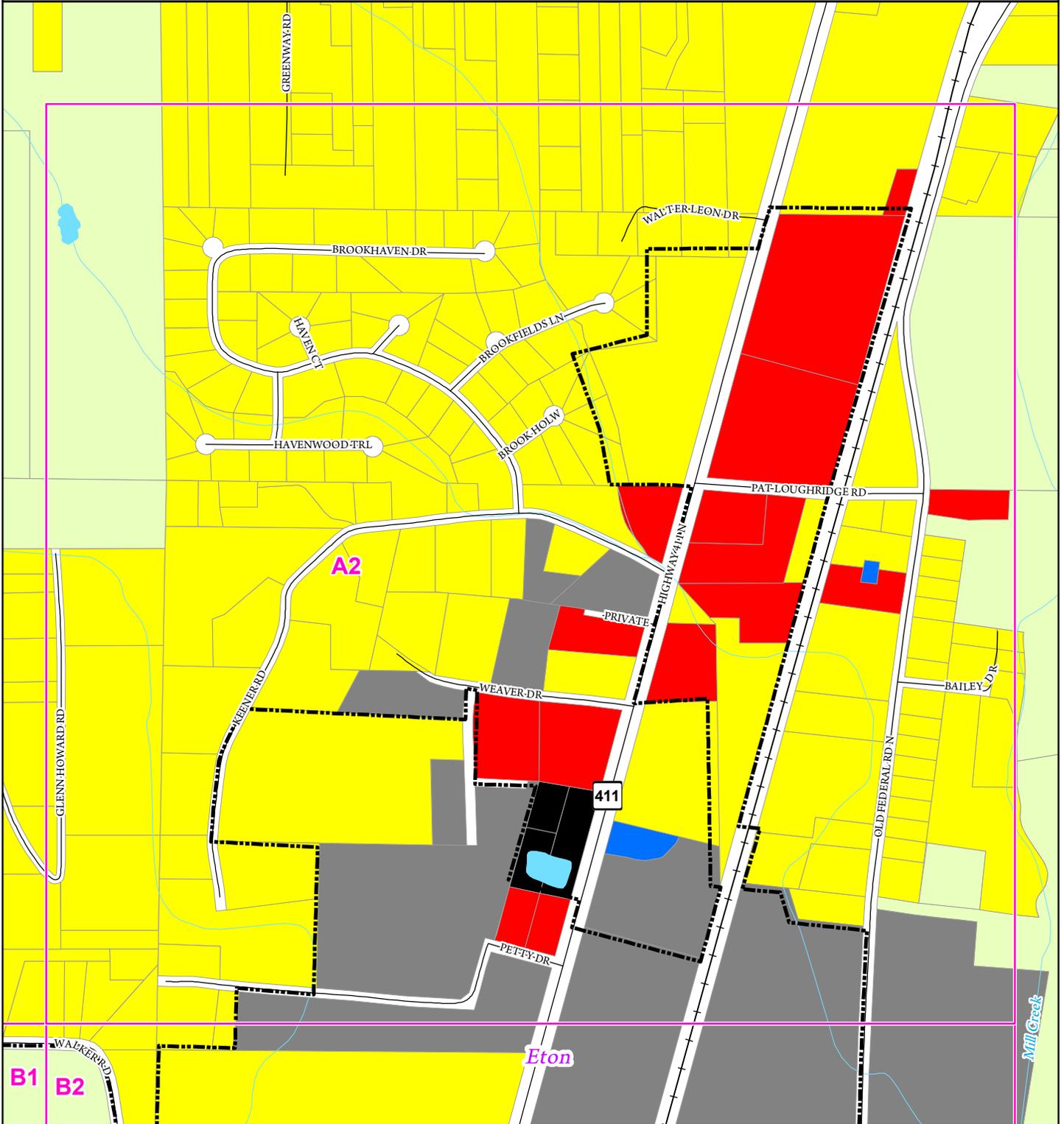
1 inch = 1,750 feet

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

pPage 136

# Eton, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial

- City Limits
- Public / Institutional
- Residential
- Transportation/  
Communication/Utilities



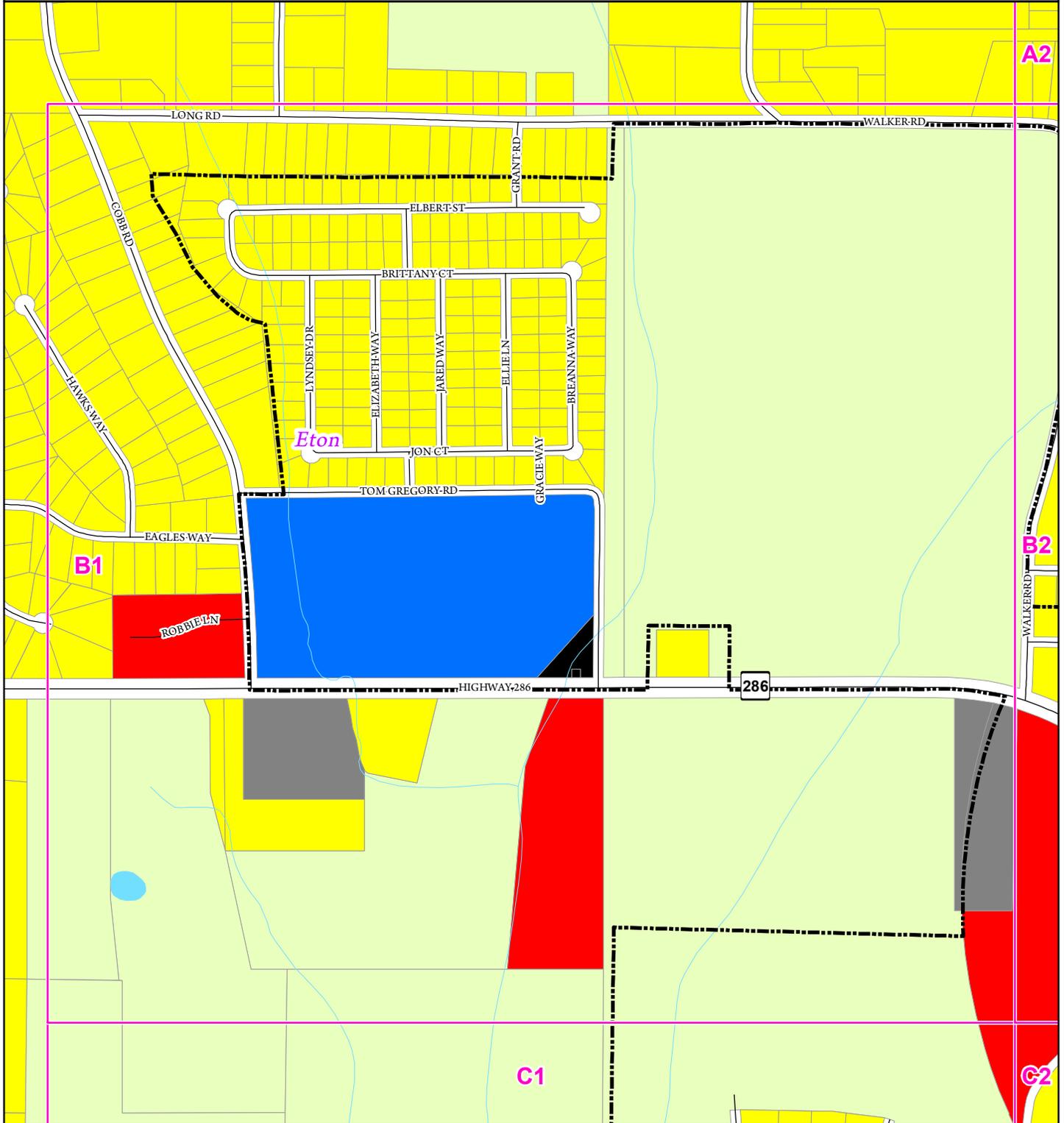
1 inch = 680 feet

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

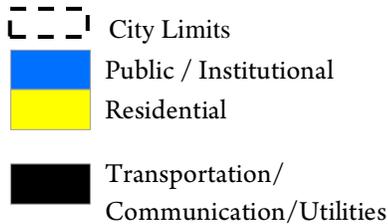
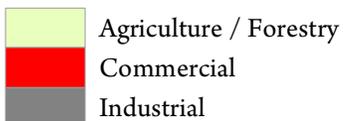
© June 2023

Page 137

# Eton, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category



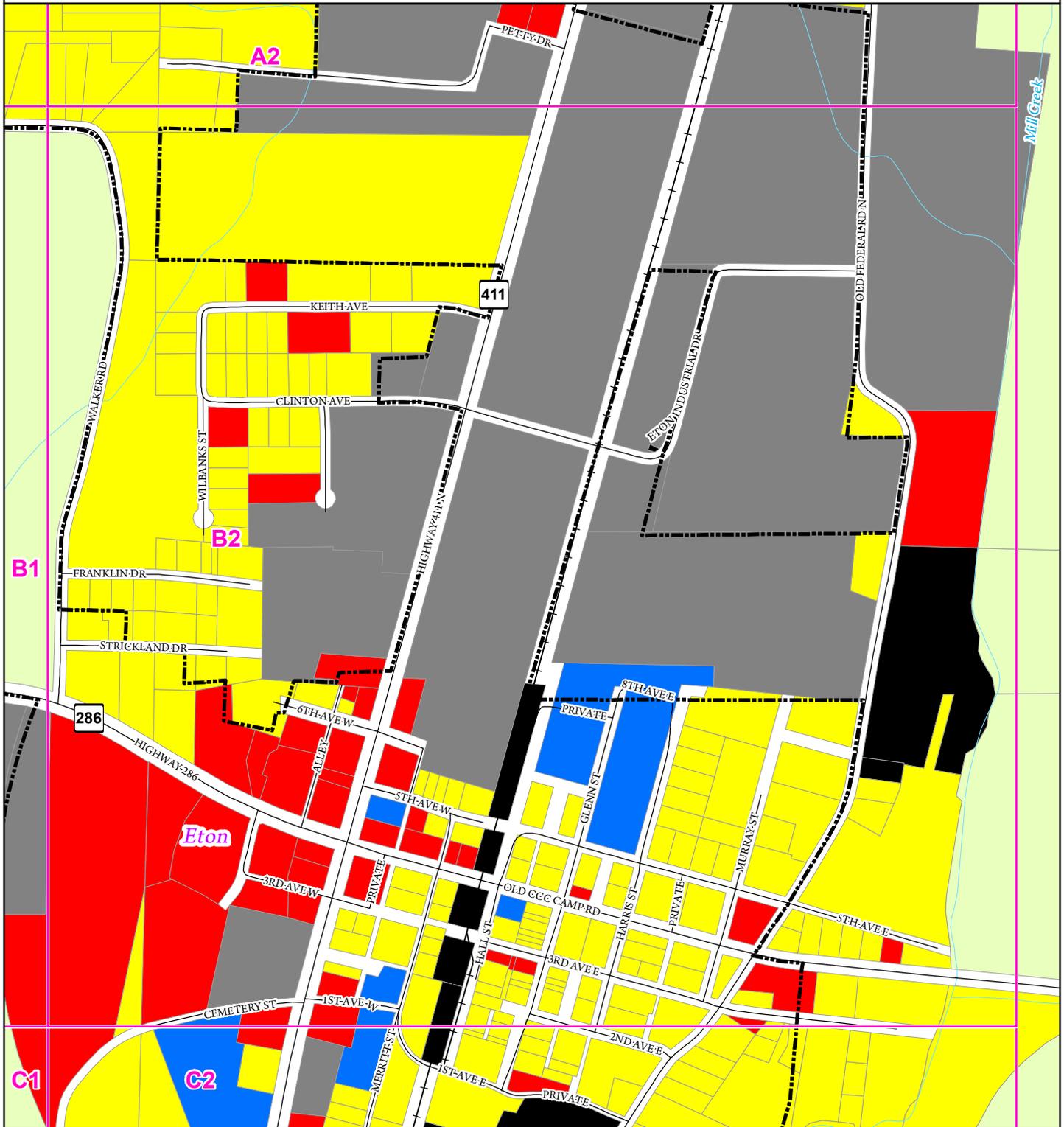
1 inch = 680 feet

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

Page 138

# Eton, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial

- City Limits
- Public / Institutional
- Residential
- Transportation/Communication/Utilities



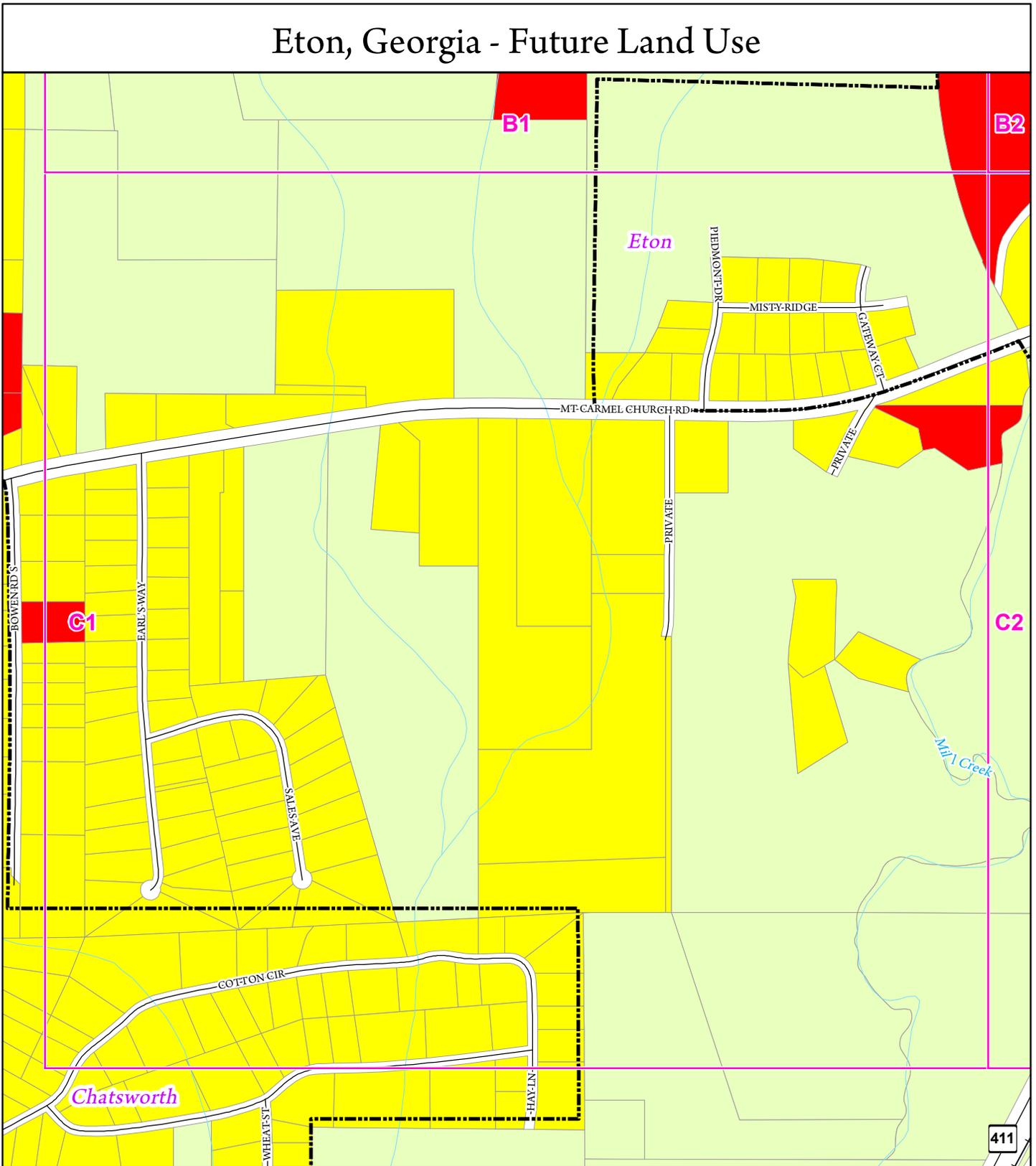
1 inch = 680 feet

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

Page 139

# Eton, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial

City Limits

Residential



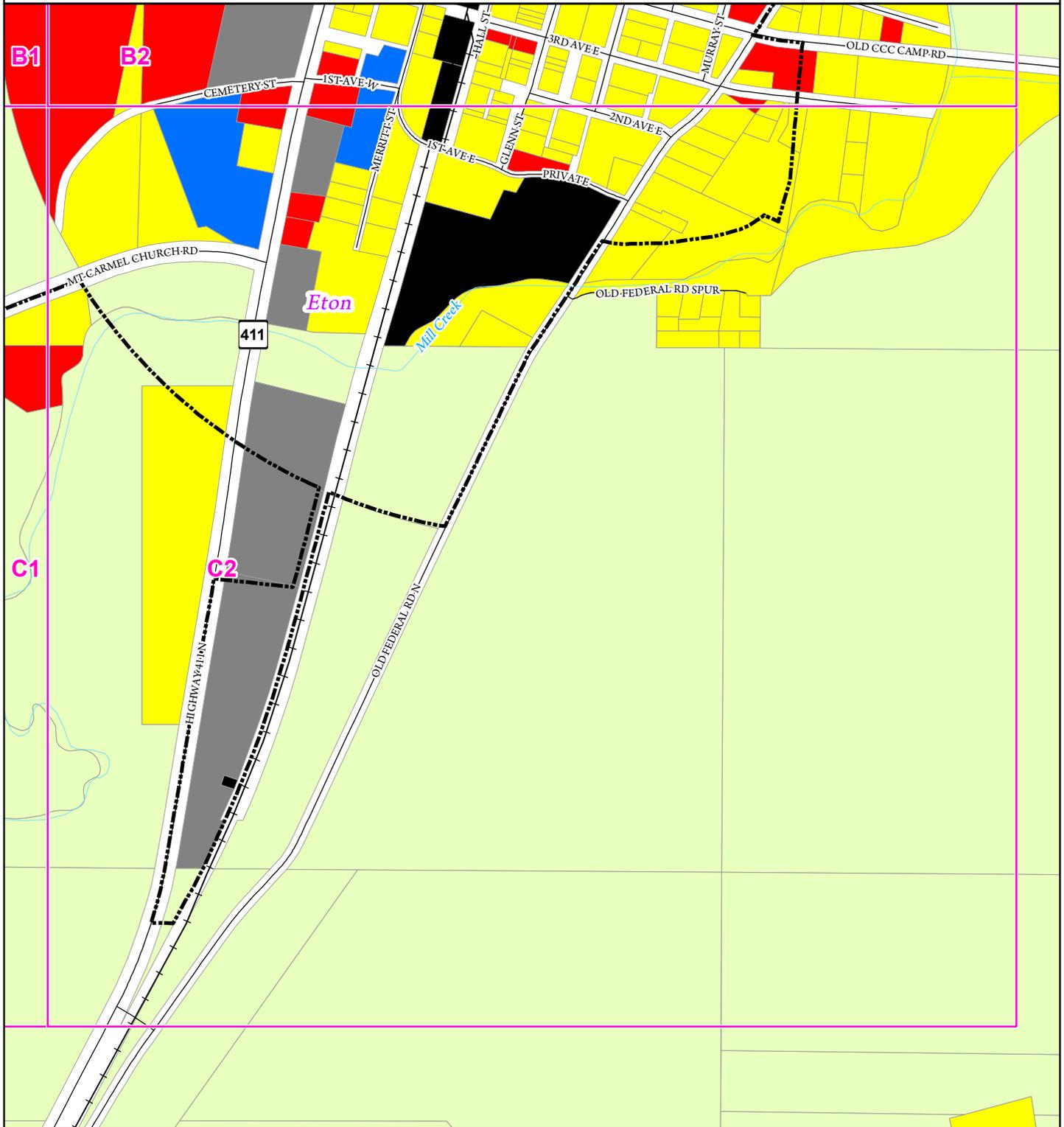
**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

1 inch = 680 feet

© June 2023

Page 140

# Eton, Georgia - Future Land Use



## Future Land Use Category

- Agriculture / Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial

- City Limits
- Public / Institutional
- Residential
- Transportation/  
Communication/Utilities



1 inch = 680 feet

**northwest**  
**GEORGIA**  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

© June 2023

page 141



## 6. COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMS: TOMORROW’S SUCCESSES

The community work programs for each government are at the heart of the comprehensive plan. The work programs contain projects that the governments support, track, and intend to accomplish. However, the work programs are not a binding contract since funding may not yet be available, or the need may be met in another way. Steering committee members from each government reviewed that government’s past work program and chose items to carry forward. As in the needs and opportunities section, the items carried forward are in green in the work program. After the stakeholder meetings, the steering committee members reviewed the new needs and opportunities from the SWOT process. One of the steering committee meetings involved a joint meeting between Chatsworth and Murray County to discuss shared projects. The steering committee members selected the items shown in each government’s table below. The letter/number code in the first column allows tracking of the item from the needs and opportunity list. The next column holds the description of the project, which is the same description found in the needs and opportunities. The timeframe that the project will cover is included, followed by a cost estimate, agency or government that may fund the project, and finally the entity that will manage the project.

An item may be cut from the final work program because of various issues, including lack of funding, staff availability, low overall public interest level, or legal issues. If a work program item was deleted from the draft work program, the planner removed it from the needs and opportunities section as well. Each government creates its own unique work program, but there are a number of overlapping items in the Economic Development section.

Although not required, Eton developed long-range work program items. Their long-range work program table can be found after their short-term work program.



*Chatsworth City Park improvements*

*Murray County Community Work Program*

Items in green are carried forward from report of accomplishment

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028									
MURRAY COUNTY									
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
ED	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT								
ED1	1. Compile the industrial site inventory for availability on IDA website for site selectors. (rewritten)	X					\$15,000 match	State and federal grants, General fund	Murray County Economic Development Director
ED2	2. Coordinate and manage forums and workshops focusing on would-be entrepreneurs while building strong partnerships with the IDA to ensure service after the sell. (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	ARC, General fund	Chamber of Commerce; Murray County; Industrial Development Authority
ED3	3. Develop strong educational attainment and achievement rates for workforce through the Murray Works Program by focusing on career and college readiness after graduation. -(rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	Murray Board of Education	All local Governments, Chamber of C, Murray Board of Education
ED4	4. Partner with chamber to engage grassroots businesses while also recruiting nationally known brands (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$2,000/year	General Fund	Chamber of Commerce; all local governments
ED4	5. Partner with Chamber in beautification projects involving landscaping and signage to encourage downtown retail for tourists and local shoppers using the Chatsworth GA Design Considerations Downtown Renaissance Fellowship Report 2016 UGA (Carl Vinson Institute of Gov)	X	X	X	X	X	1.5 million	General fund, federal and state grants	Chatsworth, Chamber, DDA

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028									
MURRAY COUNTY									
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
ED5	6. Continue to strengthen marketing Murray County and Chatsworth as the western gateway to the Blue Ridge Mountains with Murray Magazine, New Murray Map, Murray Tourism Map, billboards, and Hurry to Murray TV show in the Chattanooga market to encourage day trips and staycations in Murray County (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$2,000/year	General Fund	Murray County, City of Chatsworth, Chamber of Commerce
ED6	7. Enhance the county-wide economic development website with drone footage, inventory maps, and other items.	X	X	X	X	X	\$2,000/year	General Fund	All local governments, IDA, Chamber of Commerce
ED7	8. Consider developing another Strategic Vision Plan with cities, IDA, and Murray Chamber of Commerce	X					\$500	General fund	All local governments
H	<b>HOUSING</b>								
H1	1 The county will coordinate with healthcare providers to improve community access to skilled nursing, long-term care, and assisted living facilities. (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General fund, Private funds	Healthcare providers, Murray County
H2	2. Support the extension of sewer to developable areas of county	X	X	X	X	X	\$200,000	Grants, SPLOST	Chatsworth Water Works; Industrial Development Authority, Murray County
H2	3. Extend fire hydrant service to more areas of county	X	X	X	X	X	\$100,000	Grants, SPLOST	Chatsworth Water Works, Murray County

**COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028**

**MURRAY COUNTY**

CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
H3	4.Partner with Chatsworth and Eton in applying for participation in the GICH training program to develop creative solutions to housing needs	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General Fund	Murray County, City of Chatsworth
H3	5. Explore CHIP program for affordable single-family housing and housing rehabilitation	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General Fund	All local governments
<b>T</b>	<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>								
T1	1. Continue the Mountain Area Transit System (MATS) (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$250,000/year	FHWA; General Fund; GDOT	Murray County
T2	2. Initiate discussions and planning at the regional level and with the State of Tennessee regarding the widening of U. S. 411 Highway.	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	GDOT; General Fund	Murray County; GDOT; TDOT
T2	3. Review and prioritize transportation improvements around inland port area and industrial development areas using the GDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Planning Tool (MTPT) to improve Levels of Service (LOS).	X	X	X	X	X	\$1000/year	GDOT; General Fund	Murray County
T2	4. Identify and pursue improvements to US Route 411 to accommodate port traffic	X	X	X	X	X	\$75,000	GDOT	GDOT, Greater Dalton NPO, Murray County
T3	5.Pursue improvements to safe pedestrian access to downtown, including sidewalks and crossings (rewritten) (moved from Economic Development section)	X	X	X	X	X	\$500	Grants, GDOT	GDOT, Murray County, Chatsworth
T4	6. Replace Mill Creek bridge on Old Federal Road south of Eton to provide emergency access to area east of railroad in Eton (rewritten)	X					\$300,000	TSPLOST ARPA	Murray County
T5	7. Coordinate with GDOT and NPO officials to plan improvements to Smyrna Church Road.	X					\$1000	GDOT General fund	GDOT, Greater Dalton NPO, Murray County

**COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028**

**MURRAY COUNTY**

CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
T6	8. Construct two roundabouts on SR 225 in Spring Place					X	\$13,245,372	General fund, Federal Highway funds	GDOT, Greater Dalton NPO, Murray County
T7	9. Replace bridge on US Highway 411 (SR2/SR61) over Sumac Creek at Petty Park	X	X	X	X	X	\$5,550,000	Federal Highway Funds, GDOT	GDOT
T8	10. Replace bridge on US Highway 411 (SR61) at Perry Creek 6.3 miles north of Crandall	X	X	X	X	X	\$2,650,000	Federal Highway Funds, GDOT	GDOT
T9	11. Replace bridge on SR2 at Conasauga River and Conasauga Overflow.	X	X	X	X	X	\$12,559,980	Federal Highway Funds, GDOT	GDOT
T10	12. Replace bridge on SR225 at Pinhook Creek	X	X	X	X	X	\$2,382,205	Federal Highway Funds, GDOT	GDOT
T11	13. Replace bridge on SR225 at Sumac Creek	X	X	X	X	X	\$3,534,890	Federal Highway Funds, GDOT	GDOT
T12	14. Replace bridge on Dennis Mill Road over Rock Creek	X	X				\$300,000	TSPLOST, ARPA	Murray County
<b>NC</b>	<b>NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>								
NC1	1. Pursue nominations to the National Register of Historic Places as needed with technical assistance from NWGRC	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	Hotel/Motel Tax	Whitfield/Murray Historical Society; NWGRC
NC1	2. Coordinate with DDA to make business owners and homeowners aware of tax incentives to rehabilitate existing structures if the building is eligible or listed on the National/Georgia Register of Historic Places and educate on the requirements of the historic tax credit program (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General Fund, grants	Murray County Commission

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028									
MURRAY COUNTY									
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
NC2	3. Coordinate with DDA and NWGRC to arrange for the resurvey of historic properties and feasibility of establishing historic districts as needed with technical assistance from NWGRC. (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	Georgia Transmission Corporation	Whitfield/Murray Historical Society; NWGRC
NC3	4. Create a Joint Historic Preservation Commission and send members to State training	X	X	X	X	X	\$3000	General Fund	Murray County and cities, NWGRC
NC4	5. Pursue Certified local government status for county and cities to facilitate additional grants for rehabilitating existing structures	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General Fund	Murray County Commission
NC5	6. Provide information to developers for conservation design subdivisions to encourage maximum use of land to meet soil erosion and stormwater management goals (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$1000	General Fund	Murray County Commission
NC6	7. Partner with the Chamber to market historic sites throughout county with Murray Magazine, New Murray Map, Murray Tourism Map, billboards, and Hurry to Murray TV show in the Chattanooga market to encourage day trips and staycations in Murray County (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$1000/year	General Fund	Murray County Commission, Chamber of Commerce
<b>CFS</b>	<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES</b>								
CFS1	1. Develop a back-up 911 center.	X	X	X	X	X	\$300,000	Future SPLOST; Federal & State Grants	Murray County Commission

**COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028**

**MURRAY COUNTY**

CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
CFS2	2. Pursue Justice Center project to provide additional space for all courts and to provide ADA compliance. (rewritten)		X	X	X	X	\$50,000	SPLOST	Murray County Commission
CFS3	3. Partner with Georgia Ports Authority to provide playground equipment and picnic shelter at the Petty-Fairy Valley Recreational Park		X	X			\$50,000	Georgia Ports Authority	Georgia Ports Authority; Murray County Commission
CFS4	4. Apply for funding under the Broadband Ready Program.		X				\$500	General Fund	Murray County
CFS5	5. The county will support expansion or construction of needed hospital facilities	X	X	X	X	X	\$3.5 million	General Fund, SPLOST	Murray County
CFS6	6. Schedule outdoor facilities for paid tournaments	X	X	X	X	X	\$2,000	General Fund	Murray County
CFS7	7. Improvements to recreation facilities: i. Walking track at Veteran’s Memorial Park ii. Recreation opportunities in south end of county	X	X	X	X	X	600,000	Grants and SPLOST	Murray County
CFS8	8. Support healthcare providers to provide more mental health care facilities	X	X	X	X	X	\$50,000	General Fund	Murray County, Advent Health, Georgia Highlands
CFS9	9. Develop sewer line to northern parts of the county along US Highway 411	X	X	X	X	X	\$4 million	SPLOST, ARPA	Murray County
<b>LU</b>	<b>LAND USE</b>								
LU1	1. Develop a corridor overlay zone for the U.S. 76/U.S. 411 corridor regarding better access, parking, connectivity, and site amenities.				X	X	\$5,000	SPLOST, GDOT Grants	Murray County Commission, NWGRC

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028									
MURRAY COUNTY									
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
LU2	2. If Chatsworth Waterworks expands sewer and water, revise the County Zoning Ordinance and Future Land Use Map, to consider the areas for water and sewer expansion to target new and mixed development opportunities.	X	X	X	X	X	\$500	SPLOST	Murray County Commission; Chatsworth Water Works Commission; Murray County Planning Commission
IC	INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION								
IC1	4. Maintain a relationship with the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission for grants, economic development, general planning, aging services, workforce development, historic preservation, and technical assistance.	X	X	X	X	X	\$250/year	Annual Dues, Service Contracts, Grants	Murray County, NWGRC
IC2	1. Utilize resources of ACCG for training, lobbying, and other support.	X	X	X	X	X	\$4,500	General Fund	Murray County Commission

*Chatsworth Community Work Program*

Items in green are carried forward from report of accomplishment

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028									
CITY OF CHATSWORTH									
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
ED	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT								
ED1	1. Compile the industrial site inventory for availability on IDA website for site selectors. (rewritten)	X					\$15,000 match	State and Federal Grants; General Fund	Murray County Economic Development Director
ED2	2. Partner with Chamber of Commerce to engage grassroot businesses while also recruiting nationally known brands	X	X	X	X	X	\$1,000/year	General Fund	IDA, Murray County Chamber of Commerce, Chatsworth
ED2	3. Partner with chamber in beautification projects involving landscaping and signage to encourage downtown retail for tourists and local shoppers using the Chatsworth GA Design Considerations Downtown Renaissance Fellowship Report 2016 UGA (Carl Vinson Institute of Gov)	X	X	X	X	X	1.5 million	General Fund, federal and state grants	Murray County, Chamber of Commerce, DDA, Chatsworth
ED3	4. Implement regulations that encourage the expansion of retail and food service sectors, including resort or meeting/event spaces.	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General Fund	Chatsworth; Industrial Development Authority

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028									
CITY OF CHATSWORTH									
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
ED4	5. Continue to strengthen marketing Murray County and Chatsworth as the western gateway to the Blue Ridge Mountains with Murray Magazine, New Murray Map, Murray Tourism Map, billboards, and Hurry to Murray TV show in the Chattanooga market to encourage day trips and staycations in Murray County (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$30,000/yr	General Fund	DDA, Chamber of Commerce, Chatsworth
ED5	6. Coordinate and manage forums and workshops focusing on would-be entrepreneurs while building strong partnerships with the IDA to ensure service after the sell.	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	ARC, General fund	Chamber of Commerce; Murray County; Industrial Development Authority
ED6	7. Implement the Georgia Main Street program to help revitalize downtown while protecting, enhancing, and promoting its unique character and historic assets.	X	X	X	X	X	\$25,000	General fund	Downtown Development Authority, Chatsworth
ED6	8. Promote the DDA's façade grant program to upgrade downtown	X	X	X	X	X	\$5,000	General fund	Downtown Development Authority, Chatsworth
ED7	9. Enhance the county-wide economic development website with drone footage, inventory maps, and other items.	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General fund	All three governments, IDA, Chamber of Commerce
ED8	10. Consider developing another Strategic Vision Plan with county, Eton, IDA, and DDA, and Murray Chamber of Commerce.	X					\$500	General fund	Murray County, Chatsworth, Eton

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028									
CITY OF CHATSWORTH									
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
H	HOUSING								
H1	1. Partner with Murray County and Eton in applying for participation in the GICH training program to develop creative solutions to housing needs. (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$2000/year	General Fund, DCA	Murray County, Chatsworth, Eton, DCA, NWGRC
H1	2. Explore CHIP program for affordable single-family housing and housing rehabilitation	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General fund, grants	Murray County, Chatsworth, Eton
H2	3. Explore locations surrounding city where land can be annexed for housing	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General fund	Chatsworth
T	TRANSPORTATION								
T1	1. Participate in Greater Dalton MPO planning meetings (Metropolitan Planning Organization, which includes Eton, Chatsworth, and part of Murray County).	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General Fund; SPLOST; GDOT	Mayor and Council; GDOT; NWGRC
T2	2. Initiate discussions and planning at the regional level and with the State of Tennessee regarding the widening of U. S. 411 Highway.	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	GDOT; General Fund	Murray County Commission; GDOT; TDOT
T2	3. Identify and pursue improvements to US Route 411 to accommodate port traffic.	X	X	X	X	X	\$75,000	GDOT	GDOT, Greater Dalton NPO, County Commission
T3	4. Explore federal funding opportunities for electric charging stations throughout the city	X	X	X	X	X	\$500	General fund, Federal Grants	Chatworth

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028									
CITY OF CHATSWORTH									
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
T4	5. Expand sidewalks on South Second Avenue from Chatsworth Water Works to Fort Street (SR 52), as shown in the <i>Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Analysis for the City of Chatsworth</i>	X					\$80,000	ARPA	Chatsworth
T4	6. Pursue improvements to safe pedestrian access to downtown, including sidewalks and crossings	X	X	X	X	X	\$500	Grants, GDOT	GDOT, Murray County, Chatsworth
T5	7. Develop bicycle route to Veteran's Memorial Park	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	GDOT	Murray County, Chatsworth
NC	NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES								
NC1	1. Coordinate with NWGRC to arrange for the resurvey of historic properties and feasibility of establishing historic districts.	X	X	X	X	X	\$1,000	Georgia Transmission Corporation	Chatsworth; NWGRC
NC2	2. Pursue nominations to the National Register of Historic Places in central business district	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General Fund	Chatsworth; NWGRC
NC3	3. Create a Joint Historic Preservation Commission and send members to state training.	X	X	X	X	X	\$3,000	General Fund	Murray County and Cities, NWGRC
NC4	4. Maintain compliance with storm water management regulations.	X	X	X	X	X	\$30,000/yr	General Fund	Chatsworth
CFS	COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES								
CFS1	1. Build a second fire station to serve the western part of the city (subject to annexation growth)	X	X	X	X	X	\$500,000	General Fund	Chatsworth

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028									
CITY OF CHATSWORTH									
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
CFS2	2. Add playground equipment at city parks (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$25,000	General fund	Chatsworth
CFS2	3. Add biking trail at new park located off Industrial Boulevard and South 3rd Avenue (US 411 Highway).	X	X	X	X	X	\$400,000	General fund, grants	Chatsworth
CFS2	4. Add walking trail at new park located at South 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue	X	X	X	X	X	\$150,000	General fund, grants	Chatsworth
CFS3	5. Add wayfinding signage to city outskirts and downtown	X	X	X	X	X	\$3,000	General Fund, Grants	Chatsworth
CFS4	6. Purchase five-acre tract in city to expand the public safety facility and training center					X	\$1.5 million	General fund, grants	Chatsworth
CFS5	7. Continue to develop city's website to improve accessibility and community announcement page	X	X	X	X	X	\$500	General fund, grants	Chatsworth
CFS6	8. Support Murray Arts Council in pursuit of grants and other funding	X	X	X	X	X	\$500	General fund	Chatsworth
CFS6	9. work with Murray Arts Council to develop a plan for outdoor art.	X	X	X	X	X	\$500	General fund	Chatsworth
CFS7	10. Continue updates to water and sewer facilities master plan	X	X	X	X	X	\$1000/year	GEFA, ARC Water Commission revenue; SPLOST	City of Chatsworth, Chatsworth Waterworks Commission

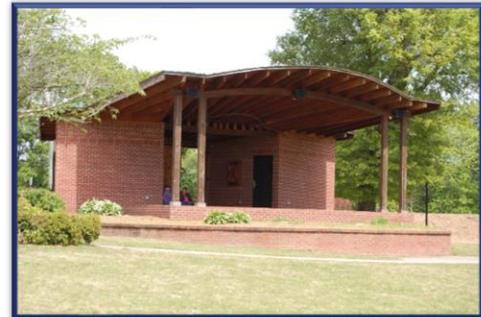
COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028									
CITY OF CHATSWORTH									
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
CFS7	11. Explore extensions to water supply and wastewater treatment facilities	X	X	X	X	X	\$1000	General Fund state and federal grants/loans	City of Chatsworth, Chatsworth Waterworks Commission
CFS8	12. Build Public Service building for training	X					\$500,000	ARPA	Chatsworth
LU	LAND USE								
	No items at this time								
IC	INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION								
	No items at this time								



Fountain at Chatsworth City Park



Historic Railroad Section House Chatsworth City Park



New stage at Chatsworth City Park

*Eton Community Work Program*

Items in green are carried forward from report of accomplishment

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028									
CITY OF ETON									
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
<b>ED</b>	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>								
ED1	1. Compile the industrial site inventory for availability on IDA website for site selectors. (rewritten)	X					\$15,000 match	State and federal grants, General fund	Murray County Economic Development Director
ED2	2. Carry out beautification projects involving landscaping and signage to encourage downtown retail for tourists and local shoppers in Eton	X	X	X	X	X	\$1000/year	General fund	Eton
ED3	3. Diversify businesses and industries by working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Development Authority	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General fund	Eton; Chamber of Commerce
ED4	4. Work with Chamber of Commerce to identify and market available land for boutique lodging oriented toward outdoor recreation tourists and broader dining options, including a coffee shop.	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General fund	Eton; Chamber of Commerce
ED5	5. Consider developing another Strategic Vision Plan with county, Chatsworth, IDA, and Murray Chamber of Commerce.	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General fund	Murray County, Chatsworth, and Eton, Chamber of Commerce
<b>H</b>	<b>HOUSING</b>								
H1	1. Offer sewage connection financing to rehabilitate neighborhoods	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General Fund; CDBG Grants; Federal Grants	Eton; Georgia DCA

**COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028**

**CITY OF ETON**

CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
H2	2. Work with local builders to plan and construct affordable housing developments	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General Fund; CDBG Grants; Federal Grants	Eton; Georgia DCA
H3	3. Encourage healthcare providers to consider building assisted living facilities in city	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General fund, Private funds	Healthcare providers, Eton
H4	4. Annexation land for housing (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General fund	Eton
H5	5. Partner with Murray County and Chatsworth in applying for participation in the GICH training program to develop creative solutions to housing needs	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General fund, DCA	Murray Co, Chatsworth, Eton, DCA, NWGRC
H5	6. Explore CHIP program for affordable single-family housing and housing rehabilitation	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	General fund, grants	Murray Co, Chatsworth, Eton
<b>T</b>	<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>								
T1	1. Participate in Greater Dalton MPO planning meetings (Metropolitan Planning Organization, which includes Eton, Chatsworth, and part of Murray County).	X	X	X	X	X	\$500/year	GDOT; General Fund	Eton; GDOT
T2	2. Review and prioritize transportation improvements around inland port area and industrial development areas using the GDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Planning Tool (MTPT) to improve Levels of Service (LOS).	X	X	X	X	X	\$1000/year	GDOT; General Fund	Murray County Commission

**COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028**

**CITY OF ETON**

CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
T3	3. Obtain traffic signal on Highway 411 in Eton to accommodate port traffic and residential and business expansion (rewritten)	X					\$75,000	GDOT	GDOT, Greater Dalton NPO, County Commission
T4	4. Implement the Eton Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan by applying for funding through LMIG for sidewalks on US 411 to increase walkable access to businesses (rewritten)	X	X	X	X	X	\$1000/year	GDOT; General Fund	Eton; GDOT
T4	5. Implement the Eton Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan by working with Murray Chamber to develop a bike path in Eton (rewritten)		X	X			\$500/year	GDOT TA Grant, General Fund, other grants	Eton; Murray Chamber of Commerce
T5	6. Review Subdivision Regulations and street standards for adequacy relative to commercial or industrial application and establish better guidelines for ingress/egress.	X	X	X	X	X	\$1,000	General Fund	Eton;
<b>NC</b>	<b>NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>								
NC1	1. Coordinate with NWGRC to arrange for the resurvey of historic properties	X	X	X	X	X	\$500	Georgia Transmission Corporation	Eton; NWGRC
NC2	2. Work with NWGRC staff and local historian to facilitate state re-evaluation of Eton's National Historic District status	X	X	X	X	X	\$1,000	General Fund	Eton; NWGRC
NC3	3. Create a Joint Historic Preservation Commission and send members to state training.	X	X	X	X	X	\$2,000	General Fund; Local Service Contract	Murray County Eton, Chatsworth, NWGRC

**COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028**

**CITY OF ETON**

CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
<b>CFS</b>	<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES</b>								
CFS1	1. Locate and purchase land at a new location for a city park (rewritten)	X	X				\$300,000	State and Federal Grants, General Fund	Eton
CFS2	2. Develop facilities at new park location: i. Two picnic pavilions ii. Electrical outlets for vendors iii. Build restroom iv. Build stage (rewritten)	?		X	X	X	\$200,000	State Grants; SPLOST, General Fund	Eton
CFS3	3. Develop and expand a water and sewer facilities master plan.	X	X	X	X	X	\$50,000	State & Federal grants/loans; Future SPLOST; General Fund	Eton; Chatsworth Water Works Commission
CFS3	4. Investigate multi-jurisdictional use of water supply resources and wastewater treatment facilities.	X	X	X	X	X	\$1,000	State & Federal grants/loans; General Fund	Eton; Chatsworth Water Works Commission, NW GA Regional Water Resource Partnership
CFS4	5. Participate in the Broadband Ready Community program, with adopted ordinance and designation of unserved areas.	X	X	X	X	X	\$500	General Fund	Eton
CFS4	6. Apply for funding under the Broadband Ready Program.	X	X	X	X	X	\$500	General Fund	Eton

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM, 2024-2028									
CITY OF ETON									
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Responsible Party
CFS5	7. Add storm sirens for Eton to Hazard Mitigation Plan	X	X	X	X	X	\$500	General Fund	Eton
CFS5	8. Apply for GEMA funds for 2 storm sirens	X	X	X	X	X	\$85,000	grants	Eton
LU	LAND USE								
LU1	1. Develop corridor overlay zones for the U.S. 411/Georgia 286 corridors dealing with better access, parking, connectivity, and site amenities.	X	X	X	X	X	\$3,000	General Fund; GDOT	Murray County Commission; Eton; NWGRC
LU2	2. Implement Neighborhood Committee for recommendations on park facilities and walking paths			X	X	X	\$500	General Fund; GDOT; SPLOST	Eton; GDOT
LU3	Review zoning ordinances and development regulations to keep pace with new development and new types of businesses and housing	X	X	X	X	X	\$500	General Fund	Eton; NWGRC
IC	INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION								
IC1	No items at this time								

CITY OF ETON	
LONG RANGE WORK PROGRAM ITEMS	
CODE:	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION
ED1 Long Term	Participate in Georgia Main Street Program (DCA/Nat Trust for Historic Preservation).
ED2 Long Term	Participate in Renaissance Strategic Visioning and Planning Program

## APPENDIX A: PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION DOCUMENTATION

August 30, 2022. NWGRC Planning Director Julianne Meadows, Transportation Planner Joseph Davidson and Planner Gretchen Lugthart traveled to Murray County for steering committee meetings. The first meeting was with Chatsworth Mayor KB Gong and Dolley Marshal Flood who is both the City Zoning, Floodplain, Stormwater Administrator and Code Enforcement Official. The second meeting was with Murray County Commissioner Greg Hogan, County Manager/Finance Officer Tommy Parker, and Land Use/Zoning Administrator Dick Barnes. Gretchen took photos for the plan at the Chatsworth City Park.



*First Stakeholder Meeting 1-26-23*

October 12, 2022. Notice of the First Public Hearing scheduled for November 1, 2022, for the Joint Comprehensive Plan was published in the *Chatsworth Times* newspaper in the form of a legal advertisement.

October 13, 2022. Julianne Meadows, Joseph Davidson, and Gretchen Lugthart met with Kim Hall, City Clerk of Eton for that city's first steering committee meeting.

October and November 2022-Gretchen Lugthart worked with Eton and Chatsworth on their report of accomplishments via email and phone.

November 1, 2022. First Public Hearing for the Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan Update held in Chatsworth, Georgia at the Murray County Annex Building.

November 30, 2022 through April 11, 2023. Murray County Community Vision Survey available online. On December 8 it was posted on the county's website and Facebook page. Shortly thereafter, it was posted on the Chatsworth and Eton websites. Paper copies were available at the first, second and third stakeholder meetings in January, February, and March. It was also distributed at Murray County High School.

November 16, 2023. Welcome and explanation of process sent to stakeholders of Murray County, Chatsworth, and Eton via email.

January 2023. First Stakeholder meeting is advertised in *Chatsworth Times* newspaper, and on Eton website. Email announcement of all three stakeholder meetings sent to stakeholders on January 10, and information packet sent via email to stakeholders on January 13.

January 24, 2023 Steering Committee phone meeting with Murray County to review and create first draft of Report of Accomplishments.

January 26, 2023. First Stakeholder Meeting for Murray County Comp Plan Update, held at 6-7:30 pm., media room, Veteran's Memorial Park, 651 Hyden Tyler Road, Chatsworth.

February 1, 2023. Reminder of February stakeholder meeting sent to stakeholders via email.

February 2, 2023. Updated announcement of February Stakeholder meeting sent to county and cities to post on their websites. City of Eton posted it on their website, Murray County posted it on Facebook. Sent announcement to *Chatsworth Times* to put in the Community Calendar. Editor posted the notice on their websites and on their social media.

February 23, 2023. Gretchen Lugthart gives presentation on the Comprehensive Plan update to Young Professionals of the Murray County Chamber of Commerce and collects input for the SWOT process.

February 23, 2023. Second Stakeholder meeting for Murray County Comp Plan Update, 6-7:30 pm., in the media room of the Murray County Veteran's Memorial Park, 651 Hyden Tyler Road, Chatsworth.

March 2023. Reminders were sent to stakeholders via email for third stakeholder meeting, announcement was sent to *Chatsworth Times* to publish, and to the three governments to post on their websites and social media.

March 23, 2023. Third Stakeholder meeting for Murray County Comp Plan Update, 6-7:30 pm., in the media room of the Murray County Veteran's Memorial Park, 651 Hyden Tyler Road, Chatsworth. This meeting was in the form of a drop-in open house with refreshments.

April 13, 2023. Gretchen Lugthart and Patrick Vickers, Georgia DCA Region 1 Representative met with Kim Hall for the second Eton Steering committee meeting to finalize the work program.

April 17, 2023. Gretchen Lugthart and Joseph Davidson met with leaders of Chatsworth and Murray County for a joint Steering Committee meeting to finalize the work program and the land use maps.

April 24, 2023. Gretchen Lugthart met with Kim Hall to review Eton's proposed Future Land Use map changes.

April 24, 2023. Phone conference call with Murray County steering committee to review, correct, and refine work program

April 25, 2023. Phone conference call with Chatsworth to review, correct, and refine on work program.

May 16, 2023. Gretchen Lugthart gives a presentation on the comprehensive plan update progress to the Murray County Chamber of Commerce Board.

June 28, 2023. Legal advertisement for the Second Public Hearing for the Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan update runs in the *Chatsworth Times*.

July 19, 2023. Gretchen Lugthart delivered paper copies of draft plan with comment sheet to each government office

August 1, 2023. Second Public Hearing for the Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan update held in Chatsworth, Georgia at the Murray County Annex Building.

September 5, 2023. Murray County and Eton adopt Murray County Comprehensive Plan at their regularly scheduled meetings.

Sept 11, 2023. Chatsworth adopts plan at their regularly scheduled city council meeting.

## APPENDIX B. MURRAY COUNTY COMMUNITY VISION SURVEY

### *Discussion of Survey Results related to Needs and Opportunities and Work Program*

How do the public's comments in the Community Vision Survey relate to what is in the updated comprehensive plan work programs? The survey results were handed out at the joint Chatsworth and Murray County steering committee meeting and at the Eton Steering Committee meeting in April 2023 as the steering committees discussed which proposed items to include in the final community work programs. Many issues brought up at the stakeholder meeting SWOT activity were also selected by the survey participants as important. Many of these issues highlighted as significant in the survey are addressed in all three governments' work programs.

This survey cannot be assessed with an in-depth statistical analysis; the participants were not randomly selected, and no barriers were in place to prevent a participant from taking the survey multiple times online. However, the opinions of 864 interested residents, workers, students, and visitors were recorded. This is a small group compared to the 39,973 Murray residents (US Decennial Census count 2020), but still gives insight into the community. The following discussion uses frequencies and percentages to discuss highlights of the results. The complete tabulated survey results follow this discussion.

The first question showed that the largest number of respondents live in Chatsworth. According to the second question, the largest segment of respondents, 36%, work in another county, unsurprising when one considers the employment opportunities in the larger nearby metropolitan areas of Dalton, Chattanooga, and Cleveland. Question #3 showed that survey respondents were mainly working-age adults. The largest number of respondents (42%) were from the 35-54 age group, followed by the 18-34 age group (26%). Those 70 and older were not well represented. The survey was distributed at one of the local high schools. This helped increase the participation of young people, but there were still few respondents in the less than 18 years age category.

Question 4 asked the participants to rate the county on a scale of 1-10, from "poor" to "excellent". The ratings of 7 and 8, the "good" category, were chosen most frequently. Overall, almost 70% chose "ok" to "good" ratings. Survey participants' perception of the county seems to be on the better side of average, with room for improvement.

The next three questions had lists of items from which the respondents could choose as many as they wished. In Question 5, participants were asked what they liked about Murray County (including the cities). The top five choices reflect the rural and small-town aspect of the county, with its abundance of natural treasures. The top choice, selected by almost 80% of the respondents, was "scenic views and natural wildlife assets," with the second choice being "small town atmosphere". These were followed by "outdoor activities (hunting, fishing, hiking, etc.)," "friendly and helpful neighbors," and "homes far apart allow greater privacy."

Question #6 reveals the downside of living in a rural area. The top four choices had to do with lack of entertainment, not enough major retail stores, or local stores and restaurants, and not enough good jobs. These are the same top four choices as the 2018 community survey. The updated work programs address these economic issues. The active Murray Chamber of Commerce focuses on attracting and retaining local businesses and national chain establishments. The next two most frequently selected choices were the litter problem (shared with many other counties in Northwest Georgia), and problems with internet access. The litter problem will remain intractable until cultural change comes to Georgia, and it is reflected in state and local policies. In the meantime, the county routinely supports the local efforts of the "Keep Murray

Chatsworth Beautiful” organization to combat litter. Murray County and Eton are now Broadband Ready and plan to Improve internet access in the county by applying for funds to increase broadband coverage.

Question 7 asked participants to select as many methods as they wished to manage growth. The respondents’ top answer was “Agriculture and forest conservation”, with 52.6% including this among their choices. This is significant because there already is an abundance of forested public land in the county, found in the state park, Forest Service land, DNR Wildlife Management Areas, and Army Corps of Engineers Carters Lake area. This shows how important it is to residents to have this open space available. The second most-selected choice was “limiting mountain slope development”, again showing how much the residents value the Blue Ridge Mountains. The third choice was “Provide sidewalks /bike lanes.” As more intense development looms on the horizon, the inclusion of bike lanes and sidewalks in development plans allows for more livable space. Bike routes and/or pedestrian access figure in all three governments’ work programs. Respondents indicated their support for the governments’ existing system of land use regulations and zoning by making this the fourth-most frequently chosen management method. All three governments have zoning, and both Murray County and Eton have work program items related to updating zoning. The fifth-most popular choice was “Growth limitation boundaries.” Urban growth boundaries set an outer limit to cities to control suburban sprawl, which allows greenbelts and agriculture to continue, and promotes denser, more walkable and bikeable cities, where people live closer to their work. This would figure as a novel idea in Murray County.

Housing is an issue of current concern across Northwest Georgia, and Question 8 asked respondents what types of housing development they would be interested in seeing their communities. The overall winner here was “workforce/affordable housing”, probably reflecting the pandemic-driven spike in housing prices and supply-chain problems. The county and cities added an item to the work programs to apply to the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing program (GICH). GICH allows communities to assemble a local team to explore housing needs and develop solutions tailored to their specific issues.

The next question was an open-ended one, asking the respondent to describe the most important issue facing the community that he/she identified as home in Question 1. The answers covered a huge range of issues, but word searches revealed several recurring themes which were also identified in the previous question #6 and in the SWOT analysis at the stakeholder meetings. See the word count lists after each community’s responses. For all three governments, there were many write-in comments about roads and road repair. The governments have work program items for road improvements. Eton’s write-in question had several comments on traffic on US 411, and it plans to pursue an additional traffic light on that route. For Murray County, there are six bridge replacements on the work program. In the 2017 survey for the previous plan, there were seventeen negative write-in comments about the inland port. This time there were only 3 that directly mentioned the port. This may mean that people do not think the port is as much of a problem as they initially perceived it would be. On the other hand, the port is several years old, and they may be accustomed to its impacts by now. Each government has a transportation work program item aimed at improving US 411 to accommodate port traffic. The lack of restaurants, retail, and entertainment received many comments, as did the need for more jobs and housing. Some may want more retail, but the desired quality is significant; several spoke out against more dollar stores. Complaints about litter and concerns about the schools were numerous. Not all of the comments were negative. Several people mentioned the mountains and the scenic beauty.

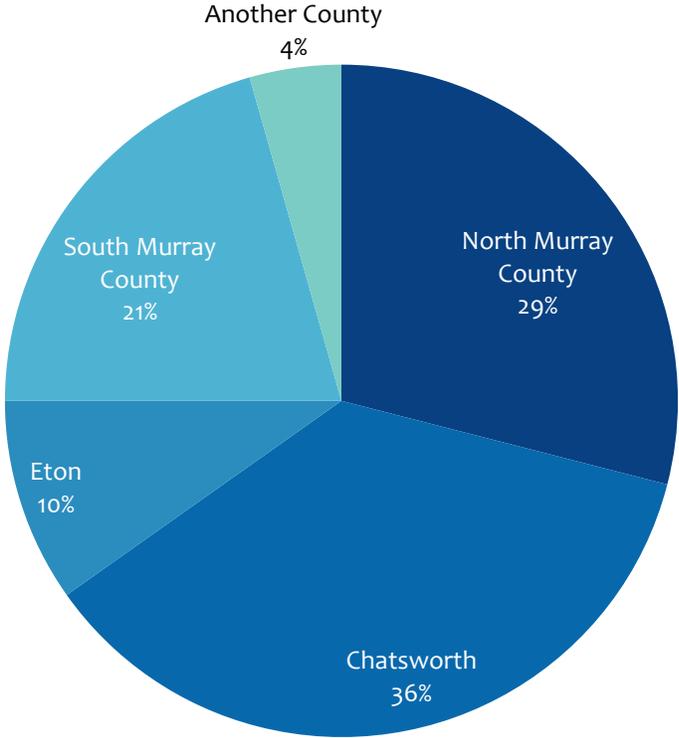
The final question asked participants what types of projects they would support to make Murray County a better place. Not surprisingly, considering the responses to other questions, the choice of improvements to transportation infrastructure was selected most often, followed by recruiting retail and dining, and more local businesses. Investing in downtowns to preserve historic landmarks, improving walkability and

improving parking was the fourth most frequently selected choice. The fifth and sixth choices involved protecting more scenic open spaces and woodlands and preserving farms and agricultural land.

The tabulated results of the Murray County Community Vision Survey are found below.

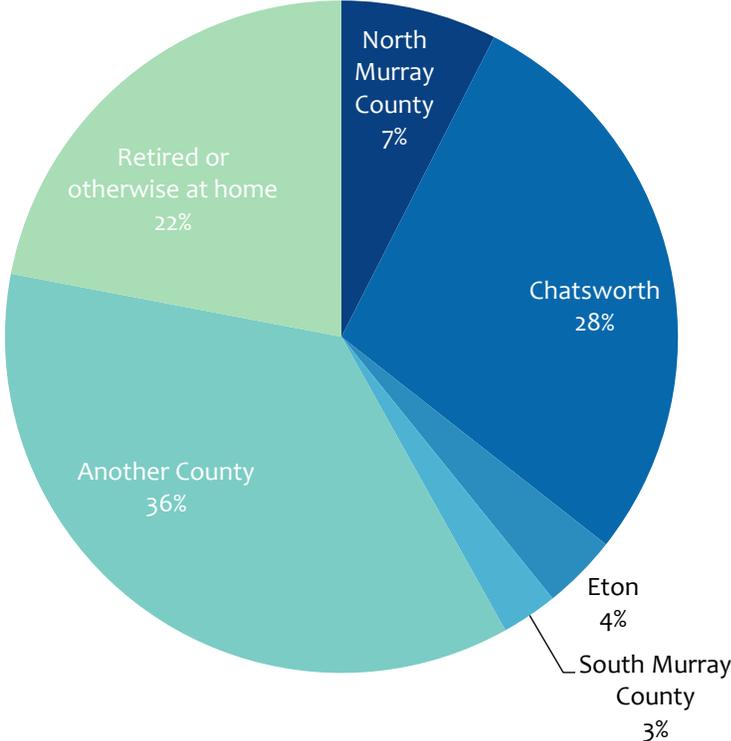
Surveys completed: 864.

1. In what community do you live?



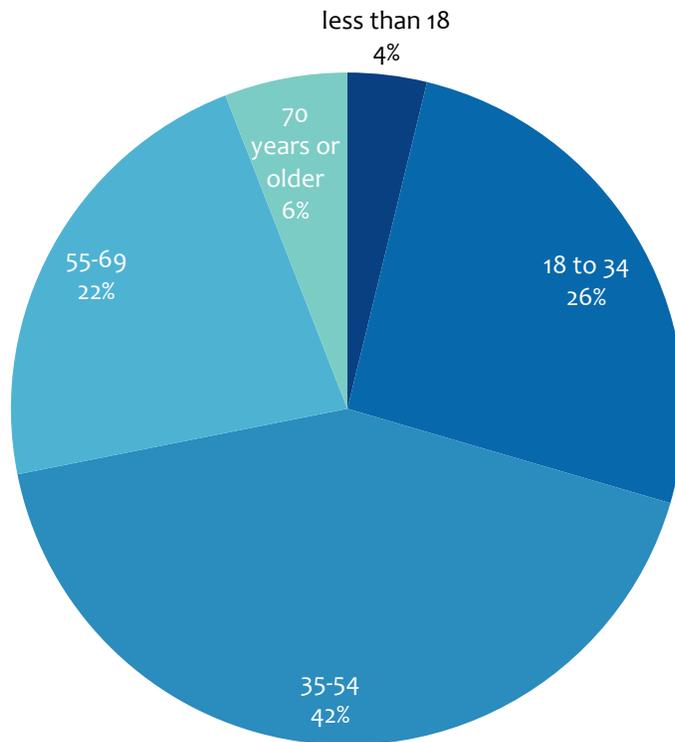
<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
North Murray County	29.0%	250
Chatsworth	36.2%	312
Eton	9.8%	84
South Murray County	20.6%	177
Another County	4.4%	38
	Totals	861

2. In what community do you work?



<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
North Murray County	7.5%	64
Chatsworth	28.1%	241
Eton	3.6%	31
South Murray County	2.7%	23
Another County	36.1%	310
Retired or otherwise at home	22.0%	189
	Totals	858

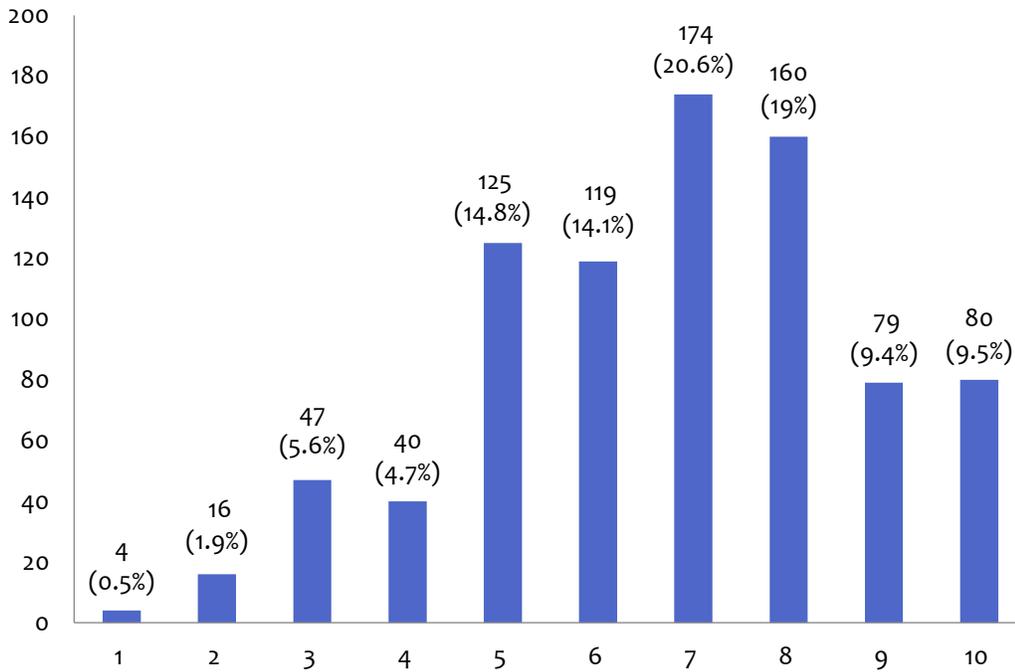
### 3.What is your age?



<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
less than 18	3.8%	33
18 to 34	25.7%	221
35-54	42.3%	364
55-69	22.2%	191
70 years or older	5.9%	51
	Totals	860

**4. Rate your community on a scale of 1-10, using the slider below.**

**Rating scale: 9 - 10 Excellent place to live; 7 - 8 Good; 5 - 6 Ok; 3 - 4 Fair; 1 - 2 Poor**



**5. What do you like about Murray County (including the cities)? (Check ALL that apply)**

Value	Percent	Count
Scenic views and natural wildlife assets	79.5%	679
Small town atmosphere	76.1%	650
Outdoor activities (hunting, fishing, hiking, etc.)	57.8%	494
Friendly and helpful neighbors	47.4%	405
Homes far apart allow greater privacy	45.1%	385
Good EMS, fire, and police protection	40.5%	346
Local restaurants	34.0%	290
Well-located schools and libraries	34.7%	296
Many neighborhood churches	32.2%	275
Access to hospital facilities	28.8%	246
Accessible public buildings and parks	28.7%	245
Variety of housing choices	8.2%	70



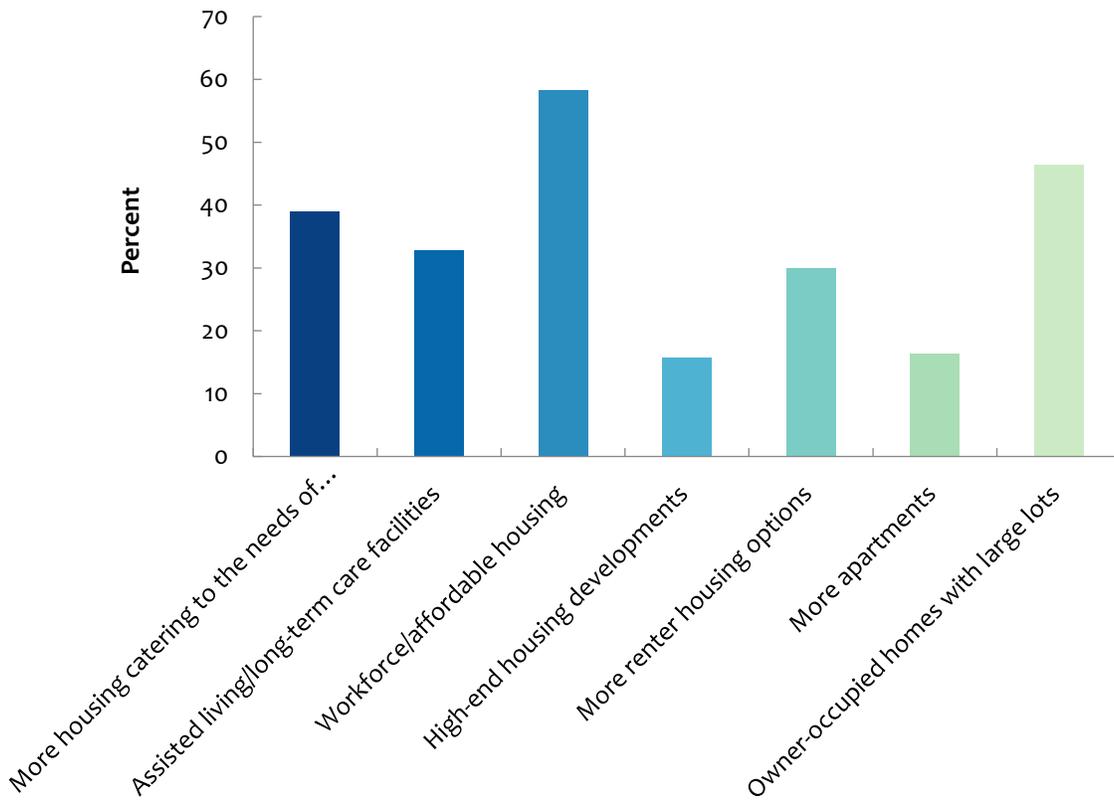
**6. What don't you like about Murray County (including the cities)? (Check ALL that apply)**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Lack of entertainment for all ages	64.5%	551
Not enough major retail stores	59.5%	508
Not enough local stores and restaurants	55.6%	475
Not enough good jobs	45.2%	386
Too much litter	36.5%	312
Poor access to high-speed internet broadband	35.6%	304
Concerns over local schools	28.7%	245
Lack of sidewalks/bike lanes	23.4%	200
Inadequate housing choices	22.7%	194
Limited public transportation	21.1%	180
Loss of scenic views and natural areas	20.5%	175
Not enough tourists	18.4%	157
Inadequate public services	17.2%	147
Too much development	11.4%	97
Too much traffic	7.8%	67
Too many tourists	3.6%	31
Isolated homes too far apart	0.6%	5

**7. What type of growth management actions would you support? (Check ALL that apply)**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Agricultural and forest conservation	52.6%	431
Limiting mountain slope development	40.1%	329
Provide sidewalks/bike lanes	34.8%	285
Land use regulations/zoning	28.8%	236
Growth limitation boundaries	24.1%	198
Limited development in floodplains	22.8%	187
Lower density in planned rural areas	21.3%	175
Acquisition of land for public uses	22.3%	183
Requiring stream buffers	20.1%	165
Higher density in planned city areas	16.6%	136
Limiting total annual development	14.5%	119
None	12.6%	103
Impact fees to offset cost of growth	8.9%	73

**8. What type of housing are you interested in seeing developed in your community? (Select ALL that apply)**



<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Workforce/affordable housing	58.3%	480
Owner-occupied homes with large lots	46.4%	382
More housing catering to the needs of retirees and/or seniors	39.0%	321
Assisted living/long-term care facilities	32.8%	270
More renter housing options	30.0%	247
More apartments	16.3%	134
High-end housing developments	15.8%	130

## Most important issue question with write-in responses

Respondents covered a huge range of topics in their write-in comments and often included several issues in one answer, regardless of the instructions. However, a number of themes or issues were cited repeatedly. A list of words representing these issues were selected to help analyze the write-in comments. Staff used word searches and then reviewed the results separately for residents of the county, Chatsworth, Eton, and for respondents from outside the county.

### 9. If you are from unincorporated Murray County, describe the most important issue facing the county in 10-15 words or less.

1.	Damaged roads
2.	Our school systems need to be evaluated. All the staff, from schools to central office
3.	We have to bring in business that attracts from other countries if we want to grow. And fix the crappy road that we are already taxed on
4.	Need more retail stores to keep the money in Murray County.
5.	Better traffic planning and control.
6.	Lack of jobs and food choices
7.	Lack of large lots for privacy, lack of speed control devices in neighborhoods, littering in sides of back roads, dogs and cats running wild in the neighborhood.
8.	Places to shop and eat
9.	Lack of retail
10.	1. No sewage system reaching unincorporated areas. 2. Limited access to high-speed internet broadband.
11.	Astronomical land fill fees that will encourage litter instead of landfill use.
12.	Sustainable growth, maintaining our hometown feel while advancing into the future.
13.	We are a travel thru kind of town. People don't generally come here for a purpose. This is mostly due to being 30 min off the interstate, but a lot of folks travel through our town for various reasons. Downtown needs to be improved and updated, while focusing on restoring its history. People want more retail stores and eating establishments such as a steak house, but people still gravitate toward other towns for shopping. We do desperately need somewhere to buy clothes, shoes and appliances.
14.	Road maintenance
15.	No good shopping or restaurants
16.	Affordable housing Safe housing
17.	Poor road management, my road is cracking and ccww has 4 holes dug in a 1/2 mile road, the buses are cracking the rest
18.	Growth limitations from the older generation within the County.
19.	Jobs to sustain the population. Maintenance of downtown traffic/parking. Addition of shops/restaurants but that can only be sustained with good economic income
20.	I love our town history, but we love new restaurants beside Mexican food. We need more job opportunities and retail shops.
21.	We need a Wal-Mart! Losing tax money!
22.	Not everyone in North Murray has access to internet.

23.	No access to municipal water in areas of North Murray along with no access to high-speed internet
24.	No access to municipal water or high-speed internet.
25.	Lack of high paying jobs
26.	Money being spent on unnecessary items and salaries for the county employees are far off average
27.	Too much low-income housing and too many trailer parks.
28.	Increase in crime. Infrastructure does not support recent growth in county. Lack of shops and entertainment
29.	Too many people moving in here from bigger cities and areas.
30.	Require trailer parks and other housing to upkeep their property, littering roads, and paving roads
31.	Not enough light on 225
32.	Clean up our county. Help with lower cost at the Landfill. Put thieves in jail.
33.	To many people moving into the county
34.	Outrageous rentals and not enough retail stores. I would like to see a small outlet mall or a target/Walmart.
35.	Needs grocery store and food choices on southern end around Maple Grove Church Road. Those who cannot journey to town due to ailing loved ones need to be able to get produce and meats. No restaurants deliver here. Plus, it would reduce traffic going to town.
36.	Too many dollar generals. We need more options other than a dollar store.
37.	Less government involvement on personal property.
38.	The landfill prices are a huge problem it is making people throw the trash on the back roads
39.	Not enough business or growth in the county. The county needs to allow more growth and development
40.	Better maintenance of roads and road sides.
41.	Lack of incoming tourist dollars
42.	Housing availability and land availability for residential living is low.
43.	Not enough people willing to work at jobs available in Murray County
44.	We are losing money for this county without more shopping activities a d restaurant
45.	Unsure
46.	Fire Department (inadequate/poorly trained). 911 Center (terrible at best). Too much development.
47.	Drugs, illegals, crime, poverty, lack of jobs, lack of high-end stores- not all \$ stores... Build something ppl traveling on 411 to/from ATL-KNX would want to spend \$ on/to see.
48.	Crime, drugs, unemployment, no major shops, lack of transportation updates, no services for North/South ends, lack of housing.
49.	Backroads need to be paved
50.	Not using veterans park for tournaments
51.	Way under paid public safety; run down neighborhoods and trailer parks. Not enough retail or good paying jobs. Money goes to Whitfield County
52.	Not enough entertainment for residents so I pushes them to seek it elsewhere
53.	Murray County is too full of fast food restaurants, no entertainment hardly for any ages, large housing developments are popping up everywhere and too close together, love mom and pop stores but we need something besides them in Chatsworth. Simply not enough room to make an entire list.

54.	Growth. Lack of diversity in business. Commissioner Hogan isn't doing enough and some of us are starting to feel he's bought by some of the wealthy families here in Murray to keep bigger corporations away for their own businesses to do well. Not all corporations are bad.
55.	We need more homeowners that pay taxes for schools. Schools cannot pay for themselves.
56.	We need less Dollar Stores! A better commissioner and better sheriff.
57.	Drugs, roads, lack of restaurant choice, clothing stores.
58.	Lack of affordable housing, retail for families. Roads are in horrible shape
59.	Need of local business. And some major retail stores. Development a plan for growth
60.	Need to recycle paper and cardboard Pave garbage drop sites
61.	Litter is pretty bad. Increased landfill fees is causing illegal dumping. Fee's need to be reduced.
62.	One man acting as the ruler of all
63.	People use their positions to complain about everyone's property but theirs. MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!!!
64.	Lack of retail stores such as target or Walmart. Always having to go to Dalton for food, clothing etc.
65.	Being overcrowded with chicken farms!
66.	No tax money
67.	Methamphetamine addiction. The amount of trash being dumped in our Rivers and public lands.
68.	Traffic created by the inland port is worse every day in North Murray.
69.	Too many run-down properties and lawns/property with trash and debris piled up. Unsightly.
70.	We have ZERO recreational activity for our youth/young adults. Spent way too much on a rec center that is NEVER open. Young people should have access to the basketball courts just like the school age kids. Open for all ages!!! With that said the water pad is a great addition. Great prices and normal hours.
71.	No internet access off Booger Branch and Shields Road and no one cares... it's like I don't pay taxes or something.
72.	Too much traffic and noise increase
73.	Too much commercial growth. We live out in the country for a reason.
74.	No Retail Shopping
75.	The roads all need to be redone. The litter problem is ridiculous. Dumping trash and debris in our beautiful mountains needs to be monitored and cleaned up. We have a beautiful state park that literally has thousands of people from other states and countries visiting each year. But half of Murray County don't even know it's there. The overlooks are covered in graffiti and trash. The roads leading to the park is covered in trash in both sides. People literally asked all the time why there is so much road trash in such a beautiful place. There needs to be better clothing and shoe stores. No more DGS please. The rent on the buildings inside the city is ridiculous. Eton needs a new school. There needs to be more help for people having trouble putting food on the table. The drug problem needs to be addressed.
76.	We need a Drive through coffee shop that is affordable. Dunkin doughnuts ☺ would be perfect in or near Central
77.	There is so much poverty here. Hardly any parent is involved in the education of their children. Many tend to want to stay in poverty situations due to not understanding there is better or have been taught to live that way. More affordable housing options are necessary-yet we should also be focused on conserving the scenic and wildlife areas. I feel it's important to not over populate. Old, abandoned trailers (such as the one that's almost in front of the new dollar store in Crandall) need to be removed. Those are an eyesore to people traveling through our community. Maybe increased fines on the owner? Or if the owner has passed and it's truly abandoned-someone to remove it. And literally-NO MORE DOLLAR STORES.
78.	Speeding, roadside trash & recycling locations
79.	Safety of our children/grandchildren in Murray County School System. Good Ole boy System in Murray Co.

80.	Safety on Hwy 52, between cars and motorcycles racing up and down Fort Mountain, to the debris and dust generated by Carmuse facilities and trucks, entering town.
81.	Accountability in education. Focusing on educating the children, not manipulating the graduation rate.
82.	Consumer spending in other counties.
83.	Lack of retail stores to buy quality clothing and shoes. Also lack of a good steak house like golden corral
84.	We have a Chamber who does not seem to want to do the legwork to support existing small businesses and seems more focused on a country club wannabe status.
85.	All this unnecessary destruction to our nature
86.	Rampant nepotism in government. Overzealous development/tourism. Poor Fire and EMS protection. 911 Center.
87.	Rising taxes with nothing to show for it
88.	The recreation department needs to be better. It feels as if minimum effort is put into recreation programs. We underutilize the resources we have to drive increased tourism business.
89.	Mcsh and most county gov. Is run very poorly.
90.	Taxes are too high
91.	Corruption, poor schools, poor access roads, Lack of retail, major drug problems
92.	Affordable housing Retail have to go to Dalton
93.	Not enough broadband internet choices
94.	Needs more stores restaurant family places
95.	We need to grow and let more businesses come here
96.	The schools need an upgrade. A lot of the schools do not have enough bright lighting outside in the mornings. Or bathrooms look awful, etc.
97.	Hwy 225 needs widened, at least emergency lanes!
98.	There are TOO MANY chicken farms in the south end of the county!
99.	Drug use taxing the public system, unemployed moving here with no intention of work, it's a welfare state that does not contribute to the community only Uses it resources, unsightly junk and trash, they don't work and junk up the area
100.	Taking scenic areas for large business. Litter everywhere isn't there fines for littering?
101.	Loss of and lack of good paying jobs
102.	Our school system is corrupt before the Terry incident and roads are terrible housing is too high
103.	Not enough housing for young adults, think it is time to allow small houses in county!
104.	Mack if good internet options for remote school and work, not enough competition to lower cost.
105.	Accountability on every tax dollar that is collected and spent. Also, sole commissioner.
106.	There's nothing for teens to do, so they get in trouble.
107.	Landfill
108.	Need more retail, and nicer restaurants, and entertainment
109.	High land field fees is contributing to illegal dumping
110.	So much traffic associated with the inland port need a red light on 411 and halls chapel

111.	Need more business beside dollar general stores
112.	The school systems here are horrible. Need to revamp.
113.	Need more for our money
114.	Road maintenance, trash pickup.
115.	Trash on roads!! Too much traffic. No firehouse in Crandall.
116.	Low wages, student to teacher ratio, cable and internet options
117.	Dennis mill road bridge. Junk/trash in residential yards. 911 addresses not posted at driveway and house. Inaccessible driveways enforced (ambulance and Fire trucks) accessible.
118.	More concentration on our public works department. More employees to provide more for the people.
119.	Leave everything alone
120.	Keeping the sides of the roads mowed.
121.	Trash on roadside. Littering.
122.	Crime in general is rising, violent crimes seem a lot more prevalent than 10 years ago
123.	Less regulation especially on building.
124.	The county is failing to capitalize on potential for development and tourism.
125.	Drugs
126.	We need major road repair all over Murray County
127.	Not enough activities for teens.
128.	Less favoritism toward Rich Landowners...
129.	Lack of retail, including restaurants, and decent lodging means tax dollars going to surrounding counties!!
130.	Low incomes. Drug problems.
131.	Maintaining small town charm while embracing enough growth to thrive, but not becoming Atlanta North like Ellijay/Blue Ridge
132.	commercial development
133.	We most definitely need a Walmart
134.	Need road improvements
135.	The roadways
136.	We need more non fast-food restaurants
137.	Too much commercial poultry development
138.	Poor education. Drug use and resulting crime. Animals abandoned. Expensive landfill resulting in dump sites.
139.	Too many schools on one road causing too much traffic. Not enough good jobs and no retail
140.	Too much farmland is being developed as industrial park in South Murray.
141.	Roads, Jobs, Schools, Land Development. Too much Government
142.	The quality of development. The lack of enforcement of any type of zoning codes.
143.	Need broadband

144.	Not enough affordable housing.
145.	Keeping our small town feel. Limiting number of mega chicken houses.
146.	Too many Dollar Generals and not enough chain restaurants. Need a Walmart.
147.	The number of poor people in our county who need help with housing. I believe Tiny homes should be allowed to be built so they can own or rent their own home.
148.	City water and high-speed internet
149.	Need better paying jobs for the cost of living, most people can only live check to check and usually can't even rent an apartment by themselves because the rent is too high.
150.	Roads, rent!
151.	Too many chicken houses / farms, we are being overrun with chicken houses & chicken Trucks are destroying our roads.
152.	Too many chicken houses. Too many chicken trucks.
153.	Need Walmart or other large retailer. Stop with the Dollar stores! Need more variety of grocery stores. Hard for most seniors to travel to Dalton for the variety!
154.	Too many dollar stores and trailers.
155.	Fear of law enforcement and the education system.
156.	Need to improve paved roads all over the county
157.	Need more jobs and businesses in here
158.	There is no access to appliances or big box stores without traveling 30 miles
159.	Better grocery stores and restaurants
160.	Roads
161.	Development does not include growth without affordable rental housing or apartments. People leave the county as things are so expensive.
162.	There are way too many building restrictions. No one should tell you how many square feet to build on your on land
163.	I enjoy being rural. Too much development in some areas.
164.	Bored youth! Need more things for kids and teens to do.
165.	littering along the roadways and streams. Nothing for seniors to do.
166.	High taxes, we are getting raped! Enough is enough
167.	Roads in bad need of repair
168.	Not enough entertainment, poor roads, emergency response time
169.	Controlled growth, keep Murray's rural areas rural
170.	No new taxes and stay out of everyone's business
171.	Need more places to shop for our families.
172.	Tractor trailers speeding on south 411 and driving aggressively.
173.	Police and law enforcement do not appear interested in serving the public.
174.	Lack of reading, writing, and arithmetic in school. School is relying on their Chromebooks not their teaching skills

175.	It's a filthy garbage pit up here in the Chattahoochee National Forest where I live
176.	Drugs. And trash
177.	Too much traffic around the inland port.
178.	Lack of code enforcement in run down housing.
179.	School system is trash and favoritism is big. No more new age teaching in schools. Clean up landscaping at schools. Keep the sides of the roads mowed more than twice a year.
180.	Trying to keep it the best small community that it is but still trying to have business here that we need. i.e. Shoe store, a steakhouse, etc.
181.	Too much tax revenue from property tax. Not equally distributed with sales tax, there's not enough retail for more sales tax
182.	High rent.
183.	Lack of industrial park for future growth related to inland port.
184.	Development for younger generations and future county success
185.	Need more variety of businesses
186.	The trash along the roads and in peoples yards. No ordinance laws enforcement.
187.	Lack of long term sustainability for new residents due to limited retail.
188.	I am on the far eastern edge, almost in Gilmer. Emergency services are too far to be of any realistic use.
189.	Drug problems/ need more law enforcement deputies
190.	Keeping the property taxes down by cutting spending at the local level
191.	More people and housing development than there is jobs and businesses
192.	Drug use and manufacturing.
193.	Need more attraction for everyone. There's nothing to do.
194.	Stores providing affordable foods. We need a Walmart! Sadly, small business' does not serve the community in what we truly need. Housing rentals are far above the monthly cost they should be.
195.	Property taxes are too high for senior citizens.
196.	All the dang development going on. Please please don't make this small town into something like Calhoun or Ellijay. We don't want it. Folks can move if they don't like it here.
197.	Too many dollar stores. Need better shopping & a Chick-fil-a
198.	Commissioners selling Murray Co. Like Kirby Patterson & that Crazy Lady! It's NOT a Good Thing!
199.	We need tourism like our surrounding counties & a chamber that cares about our county
200.	The lack of affordable places to live.
201.	Money leaving community due to lack of major department stores and restaurants. Too many Dollar Stores!!!!
202.	Litter Run down property Justice center
203.	We need growth. Different commissioner and different sheriff. Maybe not a town ran by certain families. Roads need fixed. Central office needs to clean house.
204.	events, entertainment, parks, beauty
205.	Not enough retail stores to choose from.

206.	We need city water!!!
207.	This town needs to be cleaned up. It is absolutely disgusting.
208.	911 dispatch issues, too much development all over
209.	Property owners get the brunt of school / property taxes.
210.	Pot holes and inadequate lighting on rural roads mark roadways better! That's all! COMING SOON?
211.	Traffic on 225 with no realistic plan to manage.
212.	Not interested in tourism - improvements should be for our residents
213.	Ability to maintain livestock. Need more agriculture.
214.	Need more parks for children and adult recreation. Less fast food and more restaurants and shopping in town
215.	I don't know
216.	Too much litter
217.	Things for people to do.
218.	Too many people here. In order to get a good house to live or rent you have to go out of county.
219.	There definitely not enough things to do such as entertainment.
220.	the roads are bad
221.	Can't think of one.
222.	the people
223.	not enough funding for local businesses and to bring new local businesses
224.	the horrible school system
225.	We need more activities to do
226.	we need more tourist places.
227.	Beautiful, but too many people flow through.
228.	More job opportunities.
229.	Less land and road development to keep the natural beauty.
230.	The biggest issue is the internet we need better Wi-Fi.
231.	the police pull over way too many people and like to follow people for miles
232.	Needing more homes with 5 to 6 bedrooms that are on flat land. Also, a Walmart and more retail restaurants would be nice
233.	Not enough retail entertainment

Summary of the word search results for the 233 comments from Murray County residents:

Traffic: 10 comments

Roads: 29 comments

Lack of restaurants retail, entertainment, attractions: 47 comments

Too many Dollar General stores: 10 comments

Mountains, natural beauty, nature, beautiful: 8 comments

- Business: 18 comments
- Need more jobs: 13 comments
- Drugs: 12 comments
- Over development, stop development: 11 comments
- Not enough development: 5 comments
- Too much trash litter: 27 comments
- Land fill landfill: high land fill fees: 7 comments
- Internet, Wi-Fi: 11 comments
- Affordable housing, house, housing: 21 comments
- Agriculture farm: 2 comments
- Too many chicken houses, chicken trucks: 10 comments
- Public safety: 1 comment
- Tourist tourism in a negative light: 3 comments
- Tourist tourism positive : 2 comments
- Police, crime, law enforcement 11 comments
- Junk, Junk in yards 3 comments
- Poverty: 3 comments
- Schools, education 26 comments
- Inland port, port: 3 comments

**9b. If you are from Chatsworth, describe the most important issue facing Chatsworth in 10-15 words or less.**

1.	Too many dollar generals.
2.	retail, retail, retail. we need more retail.
3.	I personally believe that it is more convenient and appropriate for the black bear festival to be in the city park. I have talked with some people who believe that it looks better and is more historical to keep it at the city park.
4.	Too many accidents due to people disregarding traffic control devices, due to lack of enforcement.
5.	My only complaint about Chatsworth is the lack of nice, dine-in restaurants.
6.	Main Street Needs To Be Paved Badly
7.	Poor road maintenance. Unenforced city ordinances. One person commission not feasible.
8.	There isn't a lot to do around Chatsworth. So, people have to go elsewhere to buy products and find entertainment. So, Chatsworth brings in less revenue.
9.	We need more places for tourists to stay. Bed and breakfast would be great.
10.	Lack of positive growth!
11.	The overall lack of educated/ qualified leadership, disrespect of female professionals, not providing jobs for our young people once they return from college by giving the entry level positions to retired educators instead of giving our kids and grandkids the start they deserve forcing them to have to seek employment and even housing outside of their hometown. We need to get "business" ready before we recruit for businesses to come here by cleaning up the litter, plant flowers, and renovate rundown buildings so new businesses will want to relocate here, rooftops before restaurants it's economic development 101. The data shows that Murray's median age resident is 38.8 over 39 your community is no longer "business ready" hence why we should be a tiny bit smarter in who we are hiring and who's running our community numbers don't lie and simply knowing the data and continuing to ignore it is detrimental to the success and longevity of Murray County. The same 4 families running the town isn't working for us anymore good ol boy politics is not productive and at the end of the day progress is progress change is no longer a choice it's a necessity ... it don't matter who does what as long as it gets done for the greater good of the whole. ❤️

12.	More funds need to go towards childcare, animal control and shelter, affordable housing.
13.	Not enough attractions to bring people and revenue into our city.
14.	Same thing goes on time after time
15.	Less litter/traffic/road parking on CCC Camp dirt road. Write tickets for unauthorized parking!! It's unsafe and overpopulated on summer days, making it unsafe and increases litter and destruction of natural habitat tremendously!
16.	The need for affordable housing
17.	Lack of affordable housing and wasteful spending and taxes are way too high for our area
18.	Lack of sidewalks/ biking paths. Factory blocks the beautiful view of the mountains. Needs more restaurant, coffee shops downtown.
19.	Chatsworth is outgrowing itself. We want a small town
20.	Keeping new business's open and higher paying jobs.
21.	Too many fast food, auto shops, and no clothing stores
22.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unpaved roads</li> <li>• Property tax increase (We pay for land than Dalton does)</li> <li>• School board administration</li> <li>• No changes to draw in more revenue</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
23.	Roadway quality is very poor! Potholes and entryways into businesses tear vehicle up
24.	The main road that goes through Chatsworth is terrible. Please resurface the entire road, not just potholes.
25.	Infrastructure for job growth. Better Retail options.
26.	Road improvements, quality school development, economic development
27.	Keep the small-town atmosphere. Pave the damaged streets. Clean up streets so vision is clear of oncoming traffic. Bushes need to be cut.
28.	Roads need to be fixed, better jobs, less Dollar Stores, better retail stores.
29.	The school system
30.	I personally feel that we need more retail stores. We have nothing to offer. We lose a lot of tax revenue because we have to shop out of town for most anything. We could also use a nice hotel.
31.	The sidewalks in the downtown area need improvement. I have tried using a stroller and it's almost unusable because of the path you have to take.
32.	Limited recreational things to do! Need more activities for everyone!
33.	Litter, better store fronts more community events
34.	Not enough variety in shopping
35.	We need more businesses
36.	Lack of zoning and code enforcement.
37.	I honestly feel we should have more apartments here we have to much land in north Georgia to not have a lot of apartments here and not a lot of jobs here ridiculous
38.	Law Enforcement needs better resources and pay
39.	Needing our natural parks like in top of Grassy Mountain not bring maintained well enough.
40.	There's a serious misuse in proper development appropriations. The county needs to plan more effectively.
41.	The political corruption in this county.

42.	Both residential and business areas are trashy, lots of junk in yards and around commercial business. This limits new business opportunities and could prevent people from choosing to live here. Landfill is too expensive for most residents.
43.	landfill, lack of support for nonprofit organizations & lack of local entertainment
44.	Not enough housing options.
45.	Chatsworth needs leadership that ensures the growth in Murray is good growth, not growth with the cost of destroying what makes our county special.
46.	The quality of people seems to be on the decline. Many people don't care about their appearance or the appearance of their homes and yards.
47.	We need more jobs. I drive to Chattanooga and hate it.
48.	We aren't using the positives of Chatsworth to attract businesses and give educated/trained citizens a reason to stay or move back here.
49.	Yards full of junk
50.	Speeder in our neighborhoods. Slow them down.
51.	Stuck in its ways / good ole boy system of governing
52.	The need for more local shopping, dining, and activities
53.	Highway 411 needs more traffic lanes to be added north to the Tennessee state line.
54.	issues with schools, teachers, administrators.....children who are not perfect being mistreated.
55.	No entertainment more the younger crowds
56.	Get rid of the pot whole covers in the roads going into Chatsworth.
57.	Speeders. Not enough law enforcement to enforce traffic violators. Way too much litter!!!!
58.	People wanting to turn our small town into a busier place - if you do that, it no longer will be a small town and local business will disappear. I've seen it happen before. I don't want to see it happen to OUR town.
59.	Public transportation is non-existing which can be very difficult to get around without your own transportation.
60.	Not enough business options for tourists.
61.	Have to go to bigger cities for most things so no money comes into our community
62.	Better tasting water.
63.	lack of growth in Murray County. many want to keep the small town feel and not grow
64.	Clean up or take down old buildings. Clean up the city and surrounding area.
65.	Adapting to 21st century
66.	cannot explain in less than 15 words.
67.	We need more major stores and restaurants!!!!
68.	There are no places to shop for clothes and bigger items. Dollar stores aren't enough.
69.	I don't know if the statistics support it, but the ignorance I hear when speaking to people makes me worry about the quality of schools.
70.	We don't need the industrial south 500 acres forest land destroyed
71.	Roadway issues, No kid friendly entertainment.

72.	To have bigger places to shop for clothes like target or Walmart. A few bigger named restaurant chains with things for youth to hang out like a bowling alley. I love all the new things in town like the stage in the park and that progress!
73.	The county is too corrupt. Still going for the good old boy system
74.	Limited retail as far as clothing
75.	The lack of growth from outside business is harming the overall growth of the community. By not bringing in more dining, retail, and other consumer-oriented businesses we are losing out on tax revenue, growth opportunities, and ultimately resident retention.
76.	Lack of education. Our children are graduating and they are unable to count change or figure out how to get the correct amount.
77.	Depressed incomes leading to Poverty Excessive Litter Lack of code enforcement and blight
78.	Poverty in our area
79.	Need better animal control. Need more handicap accessible fishing and hunting areas. Maybe a drive-in for family fun and a Walmart
80.	Narrow minded leadership not interested in making the community better than it has always been.
81.	Not pedestrian friendly except for maybe downtown. Try walking to the new rec center to vote; I'm not taking the risk, as it seems too dangerous.
82.	We need a retail store that isn't a dollar general or resale shop. And a sit-down restaurant.
83.	The government is a small-town good ole boy system that needs to be purged and redone
84.	Drugs. People need more resources to help fight poverty and addiction.
85.	Litter and ordinance enforcement
86.	Not enough jobs and to many people being homeless
87.	There aren't enough things for families to do
88.	We need better jobs locally.
89.	It needs to stay a small town. Leave that for Dalton. Keep the trees. No development
90.	Not really an issue but would love to see stores on main street successfully occupied.
91.	high property taxes. Better job opportunities for the younger workforce other than just carpet mills.
92.	Jobs, restaurants, entertainment, inadequate affordable housing, shopping,
93.	Litter/trash and drugs.
94.	Need more locally owned business investment
95.	There needs to be a steak house or a better restaurant than fast food built.
96.	Chattanooga and Atlanta developers trying to buy and develop land into subdivisions that are too far out of price for local working residents
97.	Boring
98.	Need low-income housing
99.	Need more industry other than textiles that have been dying for the last 20 years
100.	Infrastructure development beyond city boundaries: water, sewer in county areas
101.	Need additional retail options

102.	No one is supporting more businesses opening up. You would think it was like a scene from beauty and the beast every time someone wants to open something the angry villagers shut it down or run them out. This town needs growth, even the food trucks were a great idea until people who owned the few local businesses we had shut it down. Everyone should have a chance to grow here but no one wants to due to they get pushed out.
103.	More parks would be nice.
104.	The increase of low-income families that under educated and unemployed.
105.	Lack of use of ball fields and new recreation department. Poor leadership at recreation department
106.	The Wi-Fi is bad Needs a Walmart
107.	We need better retail stores. No more dollar general stores
108.	diversity in the community would be very nice. and bullying and racism in school
109.	The housing prices are astronomical. As a person who works 50 hours a week, I should be able to afford a home for me and my 2 children. But as it stands the only things that are within our budget are homes that need ALOT of repair or almost too dangerous to live. Working as many hours as I do, I don't have time to take on such a big project and because of the high prices I don't have the funds to pay someone to fix.
110.	More stores like Walmart and more clothing shops
111.	More industry so people have other job options to improve their quality of living. Less litter.
112.	We need to make sure the administration of the school system are screened so we do not have to worry about the child molesters preying on our children. We have plenty of roads that need repaired. Preserve our natural environment. I love our town.
113.	Giving people a reason to come back. Highlight health and community outdoors
114.	All the potholes on 411 through Chatsworth.
115.	Public transportation bike lanes and clean environment.
116.	We need to create more tourist growth. I came from Ellijay and it was small, tiny no growth there back 10 yrs. but when they started adding more tourists things Ellijay expanded and got more stuff & were able to grow now. It's a win win more money for Chatsworth. Also better the school!
117.	Bringing in major retail stores and restaurants
118.	Lack of shopping like Walmart Target and others ppl have to go outside the county and we lose revenue
119.	Affordable housing, the opioid epidemic, public transportation, lack of resources to help homeless individuals.
120.	Development of business IE restaurants/shops in the downtown area.
121.	Limited resources for alcoholics, meth, & pill addicts. Mental health of people living here.
122.	We could use a decent local turf field so we don't have to go to travel to Dalton as often invest more into sports so more home grown talent stays in Murray and not moving to Whitfield County
123.	Good ole boy policies. The same people/families control outcomes of policies for personal gain.
124.	Roads need work. Downtown has no entertainment.
125.	Corrupt, inept law enforcement, the town is run by the old guard and old money. There is no diversity, no opportunities, and any growth is vapid and short-lived
126.	Lack of high-tech industry. Floor covering industry keeps wages suppressed
127.	The disconnected and uneducated make up the bulk of the population.
128.	Rental and home purchase amounts far too high

129.	Prices at landfill
130.	No nicer restaurants and no major retail stores.
131.	Needs more affordable housing with sidewalk access to schools, stores and jobs.
132.	Lack of industrial growth and diversification
133.	Stop the Dollar stores and Mexican restaurants. Get something worth having
134.	Not enough retail stores, except food city, and dollar general. Need a Walmart, or Sams club.
135.	Commercial/retail growth is necessary for Chatsworth.
136.	Workforce
137.	We need 411 4 laned to I 75
138.	Regulations on building new housing, rules seem to not apply to those with money.
139.	Small town is great, but we need major retailers for growth of our city. Having to go to Dalton for everything is frustrating
140.	We could use some public use area like a Greenway trail near Holly creek and a nice dog park.
141.	Terrible roads needing repaved
142.	All the food here is either good or bad. we need a change and new food places
143.	Fun things for our older kids to do. No more Dollar Generals, please!!!
144.	Not enough decent retail stores, shops, restaurants. Don't want a Walmart.
145.	I hate property taxes
146.	Our roads need help.
147.	Years ago, we seemed to have more festivals, things like that keep locals interested, involved, and keeps the money in Murray County. I've lived here for around 20 years. Most of the time people travel to Dalton to spend their money, if we had more festivals, parades, stores, restaurants, we would have happier and occupied residents who don't travel outside the county looking for food and entertainment.
148.	Keeping property taxes affordable.
149.	Lack of proactive focus from our community leaders. They are all reactive and not driving us toward the future.
150.	Upgrade the look of the old buildings in town. it looks run down... so we don't have to go to the next country shopping We need a verity of shopping stores that includes the entire family infant to elderly not a dollar store. stores that include verity. we need entertainment for the family and youth. movie theater, bowling, more community activities, and festivals, we need to be open to grow just like the counties around us have.
151.	Deplorable work, living, all ages entertainment, shopping, housing, education AND community and government/safety/medicine.
152.	Loss of natural forests and housing allowed to populate mountains facing Chatsworth that does not blend into the forest landscape-the greatest draw to this area is the mountain uncluttered views... Dalton lost theirs by allowing structures to litter their beautiful Mountain View's
153.	Seems like a dying town! Need shopping options and GOOD restaurants
154.	Chatsworth needs a TRAINED animal control!
155.	Outside businesses need to be 'courted' to come to Murray. Make Main Street (411) more appealing... buildings need work.
156.	Lack of locally owned retail stores...not huge corporate chains....
157.	Not feeling as safe anymore going out for a walk, going to stores, etc.

158.	Remaining a small-town atmosphere
159.	Under development
160.	Too many dollar generals with not all merchandise needed have to travel to get materials and merchandise in Dalton; Walmart!
161.	Poor roads, no men's clothing
162.	Spending tax money wisely
163.	Lack of restaurants & entertainment
164.	Infrastructure
165.	Limited use of downtown area due to parking in front of stores. We also have several strip malls that need to be revitalized. They are eyesores.
166.	People not caring about Chatsworth or the people who live here
167.	The courthouse needs to be replaced. Keep the one we have as offices, but a new handicapped accessible courtroom is needed.
168.	Lack of Main Street parking since Main Street is on 411!
169.	Need wider variety of jobs OR lack of reasonably priced housing
170.	We need more diverse industrial growth mixed with greater housing choices. Move away from mobile homes to apartment/duplex complexes for affordable housing
171.	Poor road management and abandoned and condemned housing needs to be cleared and cleaned out.
172.	Bullying in schools not being addressed properly.
173.	Lack of jobs
174.	Need more restaurants and capitalize on the downtown area making it more attractive and a place where families and visitors want to come to shop and eat.
175.	need more places for outdoor activities like disc golf and walking trails
176.	Speeding in residential areas. Neighbors in nice neighborhoods who do not keep their property neat and clean and never mow their yards and have junk in the yard. Too many people living in one house with numerous cars.
177.	Needs work opportunities, entertainment!
178.	No where to buy clothes. No where to buy good quality everyday items.
179.	Lack of good restaurants to eat and no hotel for tourists
180.	Keep Walmart away
181.	I don't feel safe sitting on my porch anymore. I don't feel safe going out after dark.
182.	1. Affordable Housing and renting options 2. Lack of diverse activities for children and families 3. Lack of retail stores and grocery store options
183.	Families need places to work and shop
184.	Need to promote tourism. We have beautiful trout streams with little easy access
185.	Hogan
186.	It seems like people from heavier populated areas are coming to Chatsworth, which is fine but don't come in and try to change our small town. If you want malls, more choices to eat and activities then go somewhere else. (It beats the reason of having a small town) Chatsworth is a small town with beautiful views. Please keep it that way.
187.	The few sidewalks we have are horrendous. A lack of a public park and/or greenway is sad.

188.	One thing is bad internet, No Fire Hydrants makes our house INS. HIGH NO CITY WATER IN MY AREA. BAD ROADS from Chicken trucks, And Log trucks.
189.	Worst roads in any county I've ever lived! Pot holes everywhere!
190.	No more dollar stores. Add a clothing store for the community to keep revenue in Chatsworth.
191.	Lack of small business promotion.
192.	We need more mom and pop restaurants because I feel that it would attract more people to town and more people passing through to Fort mountain would stop and shop at small local stores.
193.	There is a lack of businesses and higher end restaurants drawing people into the area. People have to go out of Chatsworth to "invest" in this manner.
194.	I would say zoning of certain types of houses. I feel like this has improved some, but we need to more closely regulate the types of housing being built and/or brought into the city. It is also a problem of the county, but especially the city.
195.	It's still too much of a "good ole' boys network" community
196.	No place to shop besides dollar stores
197.	No Major retail stores, better restaurants. Spend a lot of money in Dalton area. (Walmart, Academy, Chick Fil A etc.
198.	Junky property/businesses on major routes. Appliance store Ft. Mtn., Lawnmowers 225 South
199.	improve county garbage service in county workers a raise git rid of drugs out of Murray county
200.	Need more industry and more major retail stores more larger type restaurants.
201.	Promote and encourage new local businesses. Restaurants and shops /markets. No big corporations.
202.	Drug use because young kids are bored.
203.	Speeding on Leonard Bridge Rd between the two schools.
204.	Too much development. Mismanagement at 911 Center.
205.	Good choices of fine dining, and development of downtown we need more growths in the city limits
206.	Drugs
207.	Chatsworth is so beautiful and needs to stay beautiful with less buildings...too much bullying in our schools
208.	methheads get rid of them and get rid of pedos to.
209.	Aging population with needed transportation and assisted living.
210.	People wanting to bring in business and change our small town.
211.	Downtown needs more foot traffic and businesses
212.	Storm water management, Development of downtown, Housing! Workforce, sliding scale public housing, high-end! Promotion of Murray as a destination! More support of the arts!
213.	More retail options.
214.	Over industrial development. Too much housing development on scenic mountain slopes.
215.	Need a good sit-down restaurant other than Mexican
216.	There's not enough open field spaces to play sports and walk pets.
217.	Crime prevention, homelessness, substance abuse & mental health prevention/treatment, support for local businesses.
218.	No high-end retailers

219.	Too much littering happening in Chatsworth.
220.	not many jobs or first-time home renting options
221.	It is awful here, I hate it.
222.	I do not know the issues that Chatsworth is facing.
223.	Not enough big retail store.
224.	there isn't enough to do in Chatsworth most of what's good has been taken long ago so there's really nothing keeping me here
225.	No high paying jobs and it's boring here.
226.	The people and their mindset.
227.	I think we need more growth here that will make it easier to hang out and have fun without having to go to another town to find something to do.
228.	The different drugs in the area and kids in schools are getting ahold of it.
229.	not too many places to go
230.	The biggest problem is the trash.
231.	There is really not anything entertaining to do in Chatsworth. It is boring.
232.	Not enough stores and jobs
233.	I'm not involved enough to know
234.	litter and pollution
235.	The lack of newer restaurants coming to Chatsworth. Private owned businesses are restricting newer restaurants from coming to Chatsworth.
236.	Not enough places to visit not much to do here in Chatsworth
237.	nothing
238.	disrespect to our town
239.	It's a beautiful place, I like where I live it looks like a nice place to me.
240.	I think we need better schooling, and the curriculum needs to be changed
241.	The most important issue we are facing in the Chatsworth area is that many people of all ages are taking and selling drugs to others.
242.	I think the weather is the worst, especially during spring.
243.	Unplanned development with no strategic pattern. IE: industry spreading into non-industrial areas. Need for redevelopment in blighted areas.

Summary of the word search results for the 243 comments from Chatsworth residents:

traffic: 1 comment

Roads, street, roadwork: 23 comments

Lack of restaurants retail, entertainment: 57 comments

Too many Dollar Generals: 6 comments

Benefits of mountains, outdoors, natural, nature, beautiful surroundings: 16 comments

Need for infrastructure: 3 comments

Business: 28 comments

Need more jobs: 14 comments  
 Drugs: 6 comments  
 Over development, stop development: 5 comments  
 Not enough development: 12 comments  
 Too much trash, litter: 14 comments  
 Landfill, high land fill fees: 3 comments  
 Internet problems: 1 comment  
 Affordable housing, house, housing: 25 comments  
 chicken trucks: 1 comment  
 Tourist, tourism positive: 7 comments  
 Police crime law enforcement; 3 comments  
 Junk, junk in yards; 4 comments  
 Poverty: 3 comments  
 Schools, education: 16 comments

**9c. If you are from Eton, describe the most important issue facing Eton in 10-15 words or less.**

1.	Need more police patrolling around. To many crimes and people acting stupid
2.	Dilapidated commercial buildings not being used.
3.	No major home improvement store. We need Lowes or Home Depot we constantly have to drive to Dalton for those two stores so end up getting groceries and eating out over there. We need big business to keep our money local.
4.	Tourist damage / litter to our wilderness areas.
5.	Lack of law enforcement used for littering and immense increase in overpowering odor from chicken houses
6.	Rebuild or restore the old one lane bridge. Reopen the road!
7.	Lack of enforcement of litter laws Increase in immensely overpowering chicken house odor
8.	Eton is great
9.	Out of space to expand
	Trash, eyesores in neighborhoods, bridge on Old Federal North needs repaired and opened, more sidewalks.
11.	Control growth towards a future that lends itself to a scenic community
12.	Too many unused buildings along 4-11. They could all definitely be used for something else and made to look nicer.
13.	Lack of variety in housing, jobs, restaurants, or places for social gatherings (i.e. mall). Also, the water needs to be better & internet options as well!
14.	We are turning into a town like Benton, TN
15.	Overall, I am happy living in Eton. I would like an explanation for the tiny houses on CCC. I was told no.
16.	Stuff to do
17.	At one point Eton seemed to be developing and growing. That all has seemed to stall out in recent years.
18.	Eton needs to find ways to draw tourists. Hikers, Mtn bikers, campers, etc.
19.	Need more mobile home restrictions. Too many and they are all rundown within 5 years
20.	Need more for residents to do/enjoy. A nice park or walking track closer to town than Petty Park

21.	Apartments are needed very bad!
22.	Expanding sewer services
23.	Too much high speed traffic on ccc camp rd.. Creek is over run in summer, filth on the Creek I have voiced my concern on this road 2 years ago nothing has been done and it probably won't be! Traffic on 411 at traffic light unreal in the mornings. There is a lot I could say about this area but nobody couldn't do anything before I don't think I'll be taken seriously this time. (I've seen the speeding first hand up towards the creek)
24.	When it rains, my subdivision floods. Need bigger retention pond behind Eton elementary
25.	People have too much junk in their yards. This lowers property values and is an eyesore for their neighborhoods.
26.	Empty and or unkept industrial buildings; lack of sidewalks and green space/parks; beautification projects to enhance the city (I do love the new welcome sign - thank you!)
27.	That we don't have many places to eat out go to drive to Chatsworth or go to Cleveland.
28.	I've not been in Eton long enough
29.	Nothing that I know of. Besides toooo many Mexican restaurants.
30.	Landfill fees are extremely too high.
31.	We need retail stores instead of going outside the county with tax dollars
32.	I don't like the idea of commercial chicken houses being here
33.	I don't know enough to have an opinion.
34.	I believe that the roadwork on old ccc is horrible.
35.	Not enough jobs nor resources for the spectrum children Not enough to do Have to drive a far distance to get to a Walmart or target
36.	Eton police to strict
37.	The apartments that were just built, they require way too much to be rented out. The community is going downhill with inflation itself, we can't afford anything anywhere.
38.	Willingness of public workers to do their job correctly without requiring more restrictions.
39.	Eton is a speed trap and police are rude.
40.	Fix Eton bridge. So I don't have to go to Chatsworth for shopping
41.	Uneducated population. Growth not in line with 2023 era.
42.	Traffic on Hwy 286 at Eton school if they are building another subdivision
43.	As Eton grows there needs to be a grid pattern for the city growth.
44.	Needs to spend tax dollars more wisely
45.	We need more access to get across the railroad tracks when there is a train. If there is an emergency and there is a train you are unable to pass
46.	We need a way to be able to dispose of larger items. Not everyone owns a truck or has a way to be able to haul large items and appliances to be disposed of.
47.	Distance from quality healthcare
48.	Less trailers need better schools need bigger shelter need tornado shelters
49.	There is not enough development both residential and commercial.
50.	Corruption of local police

51.	I don't really have an issue
52.	The city roads are crumbling and need a long term remake.
53.	The need for higher paying jobs.
54.	Too much development. Stop building. It's taking away the views and small town
55.	The kids around here have nothing to do or nowhere to hang out which leads to boredom and drug use among our youth.
56.	Growth and traffic flow.
57.	Infrastructure overload, traffic, crime from large housing developments. Keep our area "small town".
58.	The food
59.	roads
60.	There needs to be a light coming off of mount caramel on 411. very risky place
61.	Reckless drivers
62.	I am not sure.
63.	no entertainment
64.	Jobs and housing are the main things to be fixed in my opinion.
65.	Eton Police overusing their jobs. They are too strict inside city limits.
66.	not many places to go or eat, Eton doesn't have anything for entertainment
67.	Loss of possible fire dept. trash service. city refuses to care about residents west of tracks.

Summary of the word search results for the 67 comments from Eton residents:

traffic: 6 comments, traffic on 411 specifically

roads, roadwork: 5 comments

lack of restaurants retail, entertainment: 5 comments

Business: 1 comment

need more Jobs: 4 comments

Drugs: 1 comment

Over-development: 2 comments

Not enough development: 1 comment

Too much trash, litter 4 comments

landfill: 1 high land fill fees comment

lack of Internet: 1 comment

Tiny houses, housing: 4 comments

Too many chicken houses: 3 comments

Tourist tourism in a negative light: 1 comment

Tourist tourism positive : 1 comment

Police, crime, law enforcement 8 comments

floods: 1 comment

Junk, dilapidated structures: 2

Schools: 2 comments

**9d. If you are from another county, comment on Murray County in 10-15 words or less.**

1.	30 years behind the times. No emphasis on public safety. Especially fire department
2.	I think Murray County is extremely beautiful. I think it has HUGE potential to be a great tourist destination if marketed similar to Aspen, Colorado. Murray could even follow a bit in Chattanooga's footsteps as far as bike trails, hiking, etc. It might help to have more locally owned restaurants too. Most people that are outdoors enjoy alternatives to fast food. It would be really beautiful to have downtown resemble a colonial design/ architecture with more parks. Something that lets people see how gorgeous and special it is here. I'm from here, but I don't live here. Does that count? : )
3.	I live in Whitfield County. I am participating in Leadership Murray through the Chamber of Commerce. I have been impressed with the non-profits, the public library, and the education sector in Murray.
4.	Great place. Imperfect, but overall good.
5.	Great "old fashion" county. if there are any left around here Murray is one
6.	Very beautiful place
7.	I lived in Murray County for 5yrs and I loved it there. Close enough to Dalton/Chattanooga without living in the city. Beautiful views of nature and mountains. Still working Farms. Keep it natural
8.	It's good place to work
9.	Poor access to the community from interstate. Poor cell phone signal on 225 for long stretches. Need to focus on infrastructure. Promote business and housing growth.
10.	Born and raised in Murray County.
11.	Do not become Whitfield County.
12.	People vocalizing their opinion when they don't have the correct information or knowledge to express in an appropriate manner.
13.	Could use part time fireman
14.	Need to stop building chicken houses
15.	Murray needs more retail such as big business Walmart market would do good we have 20 dollar generals
16.	I go to Murray County too much for the mountains! I absolutely love the mountains, going up fort mountain and viewing the mountains off the back road of ccc camp, I love the Mexican restaurants. I love the car shows they have! But there should be more activity!
17.	I was born and raised in Murray County. I love the country atmosphere. Good folks there, beautiful fort mountains.
18.	I grew up Murray and want to see it grow sensibly.
19.	Murray is home and Daddy's still there. Need less DG stores!
20.	I only use Advent Health drs. I would move to Murray if houses were more affordable.
21.	Nice to visit
22.	It's where I grew up and currently work. So many things are still in the dark ages.
23.	Work and spend all of M-F in Murray.
24.	Overdevelopment that may take away from the natural beauty of Murray. County controlled smart development w/diversity of job opportunities. Nice community with an abundance of natural resources.
25.	Beautiful, accessible.
26.	there is way too many stores that are needed and Murray County doesn't have.
27.	Dalton

28.

Murray county is small, everybody knows everybody. I feel there is not enough entertainment unless you want to sit in the park. I think there also needs to be more "fancy" restaurants.

Summary of the word search results for the 28 comments from those living outside the county:

Lack of restaurants, retail, entertainment: 4 comments

Too many Dollar General stores: 2 comments

Benefits of Mountains, outdoors, natural resources, natural, nature, beautiful surroundings: 16 comments

Need for Infrastructure: 1 comment

Over-development: 1 comment

Lack of cell phone signal: 1 comment

Housing issues: 1 comment

Benefits of Agriculture, farm, farming: 1 comment

Too many chicken houses: 1 comment

Public safety: 1 comment

Benefits of tourists , tourism: 1 comment

doctor, health care: 1 comment

**10. What types of projects would you support to make Murray County a better place?  
(Check ALL that apply)**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Improvements to transportation infrastructure such as: roads, intersections, street lighting, etc.	60.0%	512
Recruit more commercial retail and dining businesses	56.4%	482
Recruit more local businesses	55.3%	472
Invest into the downtowns to preserve historic landmarks, improve walkability, increase parking, etc.	53.0%	453
Preserve more farms and agricultural land	50.5%	431
Protect more scenic open spaces and woodlands	50.4%	430
Improve high speed internet broadband access throughout county	45.3%	387
Projects aimed at improving education	44.8%	383
Improvements to public parks such as: parking, trails, signs, and other amenities	42.0%	359
Increase and improve public water and sewer infrastructure	34.1%	291
Invest in and improve public safety	33.4%	285
Increase efforts to promote tourism	31.9%	272
More sidewalks and bike lanes	28.0%	239
Increase number of free public Wifi locations	23.8%	203
Recruit more industrial and manufacturing companies	23.7%	202
More strict land use ordinances to control future growth	19.6%	167
Enhanced public transportation program	17.1%	146

## APPENDIX C: NEWSPAPER COVERAGE/WEB COVERAGE

The following announcement appeared in the January 25, 2023 *Chatsworth Times* in the Community Calendar to advertise the First Stakeholder meeting, which took place on January 26, 2023. (It was not in the Jan 18 issue)

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

**JANUARY 13**  
Parkison, Robert Dewayne, 40, of 205 Fog Road, Resaca, was charged with driving with a suspended license, no insurance, not registering vehicle within 30 days of moving to state and no obtaining a license.

Ryan Chad Duckett, 27, of 1791 Brushtown Road, Chatsworth, was charged with failure to appear in court-misdemeanor, probation violation-misdemeanor, battery, willful obstruction of law enforcement, and theft by taking-misdemeanor.

Nicholson, Laura Kay, 40, of 10020 Old Hwy 411, Chatsworth, was charged with simple battery-family violence and battery/simple battery-family violence.

Gray, Crystal Lynne, 40, of 464 Falcon Circle, Chatsworth, was charged with failure to appear in court.

Noland, Sanna Rose, 42, 401 Carbondale Road, Dalton, was held on a pending warrant.

Webb, Caleb West Clint, 29, of 209 N. 1st Ave., Chatsworth, was being held for another agency.

**JANUARY 14**  
Williams, Chelsea Glynn, 33, of 710 Stalans Road, Eton January 9

Jackson, Treyquan Jerome Jacob, 24, of 8671 Cotton Circle, Chatsworth, was charged with failure to appear in court.

**JANUARY 10**  
Nichols, Ryan Dean, 33, of 300 N. 5th Ave., Chatsworth, was charged with probation violation-misdemeanor.



Submitted photo

### Happy birthday Madison

Happy seventh birthday to Madison Melton, a first grader at Eton Elementary. Gigi and PopPop love you. (Birthday photos are published for free in the Chatsworth Times.)

## What's happening

**JANUARY 26**  
The Murray County Chamber of Commerce will host its annual meeting at Rock Bridge Church on Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The church is at 40 Bowie Blvd. in Chatsworth. The featured speaker will be Steven Johnson, a veteran economic developer with extensive experience in the St. Louis area.

Breakfast is included. To RSVP, contact Karson@murraycountychamber.org or call 706-695-6060.

The public is invited to the first stakeholder meeting to gather public input for Murray County's Comprehensive Plan. The meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday in the media room at the Murray County Veteran's Memorial Park, 651 Hyden Tyler Road in Chatsworth.

The group will be brainstorming on a wide range of issues facing Murray County and cities of Chatsworth and Eton.

**JANUARY 28**  
A session of the Murray County Singing Convention will be at Smyrna Baptist Church on Saturday. Singing starts at 2 p.m. There is no admission charge. Soups, sandwiches, and desserts to follow.

For more information see the church website or call Tim Howard at 706-695-2740. The church is at 1913 Smyrna Church Road, Chatsworth.

**FEBRUARY 1**  
The Murray County Chamber of Commerce is hosting Murray Night on

### RIDLEY: Budget work

FROM PAGE 1

projects, result of HB 511 (2021 Session).

**WHAT'S NEXT?**  
House Appropriation subcommittees will further study budget proposals, eventually passing portions of the suggested budget out of their respective committees. Following this process, those individually passed budgets will then go before the full House Appropriations Committee. Soon after, the budget will receive a full vote on the House floor.

When passed by the House, it then moves over to the Senate, where the process begins all over again. The Senate will either agree with House proposals or make their own changes. Once both chambers agree on the budget, it goes to the governor's desk for his signature.

**\$92 million to support the state's reinsurance program which has lowered premiums participating in the program to ensure affordable healthcare.**

**Public safety**  
\$25 million to prepare a new state prison that aims meet the correction system's space needs.

\$26 million in bond funds to address emergency maintenance and repairs on existing facilities and prisons.

\$3.2 million in a loan repayment plan for 800 state and local law enforcement officers.

Transportation  
\$51 million for the Transportation Trust Fund for transportation

The following announcement appeared in the *Dalton Daily Citizen* newspaper on February 21, 2023 to advertise the second stakeholder meeting.



### Murray County residents invited to comprehensive plan meeting

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

The Murray County sole commissioner's office will host its second stakeholder meeting for the Murray County Comprehensive Plan on Thursday at 6 p.m. in the media room of the Murray County Veterans Memorial Park, 651 Hyden Tyler Road in Chatsworth.

The Murray County Commissioner's Office posted the following announcement on February 16, 2023 for the second stakeholder meeting.

**From:** Julianne Meadows <[jmeadows@nwgrc.org](mailto:jmeadows@nwgrc.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 4:14 AM  
**To:** Gretchen Lugthart <[glugthart@nwgrc.org](mailto:glugthart@nwgrc.org)>  
**Subject:** Murray Commissioner's FB post for comp plan

Passing along, in case you haven't already got it.

---



**Murray County - Commissioner's Office**

...

X

12h · 🌐

Thanks to all who participated in the first Murray Comprehensive Plan stakeholder meeting January 26. All are welcome to the second stakeholder meeting for the Murray Comprehensive Plan Thursday, February 23, 2023, 6 pm, Media Room, Murray County Veteran's Memorial Park, 651 Hyden Tyler Road, Chatsworth. Come and learn about issues in the county and explore solutions

  You and 13 others      5 comments   4 shares

---

 Like

 Comment

 Share

---

The City of Eton posted this announcement of and the second stakeholder meeting and link to the Community Survey on its website. The city also posted an announcement of their first stakeholder meeting here. Murray County Chatsworth also posted links to the survey on their websites.



[Home](#)

[Live](#)

[Work](#)

[Play](#)

[Government](#)

[Events](#)

[C](#)

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

### **Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan**

Your input is needed as Murray County, Chatsworth, and Eton update their comprehensive Plan, which covers everything from economic development and transportation improvements to historic and natural resources. Tell us what you like about your community and what could be improved by taking the Community Survey. Your responses shed light on vital issues facing your community. A meeting to brainstorm on a wide range of issues facing Murray County, Eton, and Chatsworth is scheduled for February 23rd at 6 p.m. in the media room at the Murray County Veteran's Memorial Park, 651 Hyden Tyler Road. All are welcome to join in the process.

**[Take Survey here](#)**



Murray County Commissioner's Office Facebook page had this post for the Third Stakeholder meeting March 23, 2023:



City of Eton had this announcement on their website for the Third Stakeholder Meeting:



Home Live Work Play Government Events

### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### **Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan**

Your input is needed as Murray County, Chatsworth, and Eton update their comprehensive Plan, which covers everything from economic development and transportation improvements to historic and natural resources. Tell us what you like about your community and what could be improved by taking the Community Survey. Your responses shed light on vital issues facing your community. The third stakeholder meeting for Murray Comprehensive Plan update will be a drop-in open house on Thursday, March 23rd from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the media room at the Murray County Veteran's Memorial Park, 651 Hyden Tyler Road. Ideas from the public and the government will be shared with the community. The meeting is open to the public and all are welcome to come and review the public input so far.

[Take Survey here](#)



Chatsworth Times announced the Third Stakeholder meeting in their Community Calendar in the print version of the paper March 15, 2023 and on their Facebook page.



### Outstanding student

FFA's Chase Owens was recently selected the January outstanding student. For the past two years he has represented the Three Ring Model of Agricultural Education which includes classroom instruction, FFA and a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) project. Owens has worked extra time in the classroom and school greenhouse watering, fertilizing, and detecting disorders on plants. He has also worked on his SAE project maintaining flower beds at home, helping with the family garden, and planting wildlife food plots under the supervision of his dad, Chris Owens. Chase's involvement in the FFA includes attending Summer Leadership Camp, competing in the Agricultural Mechanics CDE and FFA Record Book. He has also received his FFA Discovery Degree.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

### FFA Week

Bagley Middle School FFA chapter officers Jackson Pannell (vice president), Kendall Kopsak (president) and Finley Langham (treasurer) met during winter break to plan activities for National

FFA Week. Plans included promotional videos, a kickoff for the can tab collection (to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House) dress up days, and contests for teachers.

## What's happening

**March 18**  
The Murray County Schools Foundation spring gala will be March 18 at the Dalton Convention Center. Cocktails will be served at 5:30 with dinner starting at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Murray.k12.Ga.US or by calling Derichia Lynch at 706-695-4531.

**March 19**  
The Whitfield-Murray Historical Society's regular meeting will be on Sunday, March 19, at 2:30 p.m. at Liberty Baptist Church in Tenna. The church is at 1019 Liberty Church Rd. in Crandall.

**MARCH 23**  
The third stakeholder meeting for the Murray Comprehensive Plan update will be a drop-in open house Thursday, March 23 from 6-7:30 pm in the media room at Murray County Veteran's Memorial Park (651 Hyden Tyler Road) in Chatsworth. The meeting is open to the public and all are welcome.

## Statins increase blood sugar

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** My question regards the results of my fasting glucose tests for the past couple of years. I am 81 and weigh around 150 pounds. The medications I am taking concern me, with relevance to the A1C



that this does not exist, but it seems to me that there is a conflict on this. Should I perhaps  
**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I am a 64-year-old man

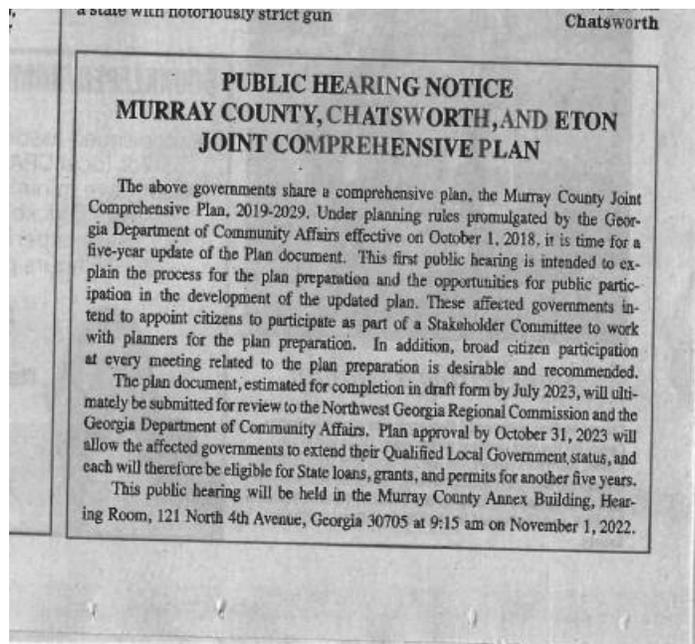
### Tax collections strong

Connect with The Chatsworth Times on Facebook

Log In or Create new account

## APPENDIX D: LEGAL NOTICES

This legal advertisement of the First Public Hearing for the update of the Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan appeared in the *Chatsworth Times* Wednesday, October 12, 2022.



Legal advertisement of the Second Public Hearing for the update of the Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan appeared in the *Chatsworth Times* on June 28, 2023.

tion of their academic of Resaca, majoring in Johns of Chatsworth,

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
MURRAY COUNTY, CHATSWORTH AND ETON  
UPDATE OF JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton have prepared a draft Joint Comprehensive Plan Update for 2024-2028 according to the 2018 Minimum Planning Standards set by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Planning Act of 1989.

Accordingly, a joint public hearing is scheduled for the County and Cities to accept comments on the "Draft Joint Comprehensive Plan for Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton," for the period 2024-2028. This draft plan was prepared by Murray County and the cities of Chatsworth and Eton with broad public participation, and with guidance from a Steering Committee of public and private sector individuals. After the public hearing and receipt of public comment, the draft plan will be submitted for review by the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Plan approval by October 31, 2023 is required to maintain Qualified Local Government (QLG) status for each local government per the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, allowing continued eligibility for State loans, grants, and permits for another five years.

The public hearing on the draft plan will be held at the Murray County Annex Building, Hearing Room, 121 North 4th Avenue, Chatsworth, Georgia, 30705 at 9:15 AM on Tuesday, August 1, 2023.

A copy of the draft plan will be available for review on the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission website, nwgrc.org.

**A**

T  
Isa  
quc  
woi  
wit  
cor  
tre:  
B  
39,  
Dri  
cha  
L  
Rol  
He:  
wa:  
age

H  
Ry:  
cia  
wa:  
anc  
D  
Let  
W:  
vill  
wit