

**2012 STWP Update**  
*Union County*

**Introduction**

As part of the rules and standards enacted for local comprehensive plans in Georgia, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) requires updates to the work-program elements every 5 years. This document, the Union County Short-Term Work Program Update 2012, provides this required element until a full update to the Comprehensive Plan in 2017. This includes the provision of the status of all projects previously identified for implementation between 2009 and 2011, as well as the projection of work items for the next 5 years.

**Identified Issues and Policies**

The following issues have been recognized as critical for the community to address in moving forward for the next 5 years. These issues are considered to be complimentary (in addition) to those already identified within the full 2004 Comprehensive Plan.

- Need to increase job opportunities, especially within goods production sectors.
- Need to revitalize the Hwy 19 corridor outside Blairsville
- Lack of defined character areas for county
- Several public facilities need expansion/improvements
- Lack of formal historic resource inventory
- Need to update geographic information and property records for GIS

In addition, several items have been identified as policies, general objections and directions for the County in regards to different areas of concern. These policies will be used as guidelines for general, long-term practices for the County.

- Continue working to improve coordination and collaboration with Blairsville and local civic partners, such as the School Board and the Development Authority
- Maintain enforcement of mountain protection measures and other policies that support the County's mountain character and tourism
- Maintain enforcement of environmental protection measures that sustain water quality
- Continue promotion campaigns that seek to increase in-migration

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**Short Term Work Program**  
**2012 - 2016**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
2012	Complete historic restoration old school	\$ 200,000	SPLOST	County
2012	Develop historic resource mgmt. policy	\$5,000	HPD, DCA, County	GMRC, County
2012	Restore Old Gym	\$850,000	SPLOST	County
2012	Update GIS data for land use and environmental conditions	\$5,000	Local, DNR	County, GMRC
2012	Suches Community Center	\$150,000	SPLOST	County
2012	Identify and train primary and secondary teams for business recruitment	TBD	County; GDED	County, IDA
2012	Appoint a NGT representative to serve on the UCDA Board.	NA	NA	UCDA, NGT
2012	Expand NGT curriculum offering job training and entrepreneurship, higher education	TBD	NGT	NGT, UCDA
2013	Byron Herbert Reece Farm Improvements	\$200,000	SPLOST	County
2013	Continue Roads and Bridges	\$1,250,000	SPLOST	County
2013	Old Courthouse Elevator	\$100,000	SPLOST	County
2013	Develop plan to support entrepreneurs and small businesses in include a SCORE chapter, small business training at NGT.	TBD	County; GDED	County, IDA
2013	Evaluate, update, and adopt the Nottely River water supply watershed protection ordinance	\$1,000	EPD	County, GMRC
2013	Develop Bicycle Trails	\$800,000	DNR, Grants, Local	County
2013	Study to identify house for a voting precinct	NA	NA	County
2014	Meeks Park Amphitheater and north recreation park	\$500,000	Grants, Loans, Local	County
2014	Develop Historic Resources Report	\$5,000	HPD	County, GMRC
2014	Expand Fire Dept. Station 1	TBD	Local, GEMA, GEFA	County
2014	Publish and distribute a guide of historic properties, scenic routes and tourist excursions	\$5,000	CoC, HPD, County	County, CoC, GMRC
2014	Host economic development forum concerning Hwy 19, US 76 and related industrial sites	NA	NA	County, UCDA, CoC
2014	Pull over lanes on mountain (19/129S)	\$1,500,000	SPLOST, GDOT	County
2015	Spec buildings for industrial park	\$5,000,000	DED, Loans	UCDA, County
2015	Update Union County SDA	\$3,000	DCA, County	GMRC
2015	Joint Comp Plan update - Community Assessment and Participation Program (including Character Areas)	\$30,000	DCA	GMRC

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
2015	Senior Center Expansion	TBD	Grants, Loans, SPLOST, Local	County
2015	Scenic overlooks and trail system to Bridal Falls (US19/129S)	\$1,000,000	SPLOST, GDOT	County
2016	Joint Comp Plan update – Community Agenda	\$30,000	DCA	GMRC
2016	Expand Jail	\$2,500,000	SPLOST	County
2016	Improve Solid Waste Facility	\$850,000	SPLOST	County
2016	Expand Annex building	TBD	Grants, Loans, SPLOST, Local	County

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**Report of Accomplishments**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Improve Civic Center and Annex	<b>Complete</b>	Annex to be done later
Complete road and bridge projects.	In Progress	
Purchase property for Meeks Park expansion and new farmers market	<b>Complete</b>	
Build Picnic Pavilion	<b>Complete</b>	
Provide direction and assistance in the planning of infrastructure and utility improvements.	<b>Complete</b>	
Revise the Union County/City of Blairsville SDA as necessitated by growth.	Postponed	Plan due date moved
Develop a marketing plan for targeted industry/business to include sales, incentives, and measurable goals.	<b>Complete</b>	
Appoint a North Georgia Tech representative to serve on the UCDA Board.	Postponed	To be addressed by NGT in 2012
Apply for Opportunity Zone along Hwy 19 and two industrial sites	<b>Complete</b>	
Place roof over horse arena	<b>Complete</b>	
Develop character areas	Postponed	Plan due date moved
Develop historic resource report	Postponed	Awaiting updated list from UGA/ GMRC
Update GIS data for land use and environmental conditions	In Progress	
Build combination Chamber, Econ Dev., Community Room and Pro shop	<b>Complete</b>	
Expand Fire Dept	In Progress	
Adjust development fees appropriately (Growth pays for itself).	<b>Complete</b>	
Publish and distribute a list of historic properties and direct scenic routes and tourist excursions to historic property destinations. (Through the Chamber of Commerce)	Postponed	Awaiting updated list from UGA/ GMRC
Begin proactively recruiting from targeted industry/business list.	<b>Complete</b>	
Expand and communicate an existing industries program to develop and strengthen existing industries.	<b>Complete</b>	
Study of subdivision policies and land use management	<b>Complete</b>	
Expand Jail	Postponed	Lack of funding
Improve Solid Waste Facility	Postponed	Lack of funding; Lower priority
Expand Animal Control Facility	<b>Complete</b>	
Complete historic restoration old school	In Progress	
Evaluate, update, and adopt the Nottely River water supply watershed protection ordinance in concurrence with regulations.	Postponed	To be done in 2013
Expand NGT curriculum offering job training and entrepreneurship, higher education and targeting high school high achievers.	In Progress	
Host economic development forum concerning Hwy 19, US 76 and related industrial sites	Postponed	Future joint effort with CoC

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF  
UNION COUNTY, GEORGIA  
ADOPTING THE SHORT-TERM WORK PROGRAM UPDATE TO THE  
UNION COUNTY JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**WHEREAS:** The County Commissioner, as the governing authority of the Union County, Georgia has participated in developing a Short-Term Work Program update to the Union County Joint Comprehensive Plan; and

**WHEREAS:** The Short-Term Work Program Update was prepared in accordance with the Rules and Procedures of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; and

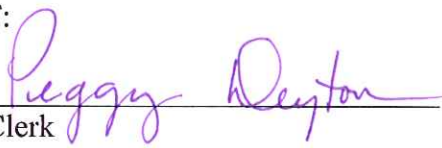
**WHEREAS:** The Short-Term Work Program Update has been reviewed and approved by the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs;

Now, therefore, **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Commissioner that the Short-Term Work Program Update is adopted and it becomes part of the Union County Joint Comprehensive Plan.

Adopted by the County Commissioner this 2 day of April, 2012.

  
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Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
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County Clerk