Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Planning Resources

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Northwest Georgia

881,568 people
15 counties
49 municipalities
Major responsibilities of the NW Georgia Regional Commission:
(1) Implement the Georgia Planning Act of 1989;
(2) Administer the Area Agency on Aging;
(3) Administer the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; and
(4) Provide planning and development assistance to local governments.
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
Planning, Community and Economic Development

We are here to be a Resource to our Local Governments!
Media

• Subscribe to our newsletter! http://newsletters.nwgrc.org

Find us on Facebook @NorthwestGeorgiaRegionalCommission
What Assistance Can We Provide?

- Assist in meeting State Planning Requirements to keep Qualified Local Government status = comprehensive plans
- Assist with water, sewer, broadband plans and grants
- Assist with Georgia Initiatives for Community Housing (GICH)
- Assist with Mapping and Data
- Technical assistance: Land use, Transportation, Environmental, Historic Preservation

Planning is Best Done Ahead of Time
Qualified Local Government (QLG) Status Renewed

- Bartow County and Cities (2018)
- Catoosa County and Cities (2017)
- Chattooga County and Cities (2017)
- Dade County and Cities (2017)
- Fannin County and Cities (2017)
- Gordon County and Cities (2018)
- Haralson County and Cities (2017)
- Murray County and Cities (2018)
- Paulding County and Cities (2017)
- Pickens County and Cities (2018)
- Polk County and Cities (2017)
- Rome-Floyd and Cave Spring (2018)
- Walker County and Cities (2017)
- Whitfield County and Cities (2018)
Current Plan Updates

Ethan Calhoun,
ecalhoun@nwgrc.org

- Gilmer County Comprehensive Plan Update
  - October 31, 2019

- Regional Plan Update
  - June 30, 2019

- Regionally Important Resources Plan Update
  - June 30, 2019
Checklist for state grants, loans and permits

- Is your project in your Comprehensive Plan and Service Delivery Strategy?
- Are all reporting requirements met?
- Is your community a Qualified Local Government?
- E-Verify?
- [https://apps.dca.ga.gov/LocalGovStatus/planning.asp](https://apps.dca.ga.gov/LocalGovStatus/planning.asp) AND
- [https://apps.dca.ga.gov/LocalGovStatus/financial.asp](https://apps.dca.ga.gov/LocalGovStatus/financial.asp)
PlanFirst and WaterFirst

**PlanFirst Community (DCA)**
- State loan and grant incentives
- Implementation of the comprehensive plan
- We can assist with the application
- Ebony Simpson, ebony.Simpson@dca.ga.gov

**WaterFirst Community (GEFA)**
- Demonstrates a local government's commitment to responsible water stewardship
- Eligible for loan and grant incentives
- GEFA: Amanda Carroll, acarroll@gefa.ga.gov
Community and Economic Development

- Delmos Stone, dstone@nwgrc.org
- Appalachian Regional Commission applications
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- Economic Development and Community Development grant assistance

2017-2018
- Assisted with 37 projects
- $15 Million in funds requested
- Local match of $23 Million available
- 156 jobs created
- 23 communities assisted with grant writing, technical assistance, and project development
Land Use

Ethan Calhoun, ecalhoun@nwgrc.org

• Planning, Land Use and Zoning writing and technical assistance

• Staff planner and secretary for Dalton, Whitfield, Varnell Unified Zoning Ordinance Planning Commission

• Boundary and Annexation Survey Reporting

• Comprehensive Plan Amendments
Historic Preservation

• Kevin McAuliff, kmcauliff@nwgrc.org
• Historic and Architectural Reviews
• Assistance with Predetermination Research, Historic Preservation Grants, Technical Assistance
• Historic Preservation Commissions, local governments
Neighborhood Stabilization Program - McCall Place

Prior to demolition, interior lead paint/asbestos, structural instability, water damage visible.

- McCall Hospital Demolished
- McCall Apartments Built:
  - 28 affordable rental units
  - $300,000 NSP funds to Rome, $771,929 in Low Income Housing Tax Credits (DCA)
  - Private investment of $13.8 million
Transportation

Joseph Davidson, jdavidson@nwgrc.org

- GDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Planning
  - Safe Routes to School Audits
  - Complete Streets Training Charrettes
  - Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
  - Coordination among Metropolitan Planning Orgs.

- GDOT Rural Public Transit Planning
  - Transit Development Plans (Murray, Dade Co.)
  - Asset Management Plans (new requirement)
  - Current legislation for coordinated transit, HB 511

https://appalachianregionalport.com/media
Water, Environmental Resources

- North Georgia Water Resources Partnership
- Assistance to Coosa-North Georgia Water Council
- Regional Water Planning Seed Grants
- May 1, 2019 Annual Water Partnership Meeting - Register Now!
- To RSVP: Email dchristian@nwgrc.org
Is Your Community Broadband Ready?

- www.broadband.Georgia.gov
- Model Broadband Ordinance
- Broadband Element in Comprehensive Plan
- Broadband Ready Application
Northwest Georgia Regional Plan Update

- June 30, 2019
- Regional Plan Survey: www.nwgrc.org/survey
- Broadband
- Transportation
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure
- Land Use
- Healthy Communities
- Economic Development
- Public Input, Steering Committee Guidance (NWGRC Council)
Regionally Important Resources

- Hiking, Biking and Water Trails
- Scenic Byways
- Historic Sites
- Environmental Resources
- Wildlife Management Areas and Forests
- Development Recommendations
- Preservation Guidance
- Are we missing important resources from your community?

- Gretchen Lugthart, glugthart@nwgrc.org
- Kevin McAuliff, kmcauliff@nwgrc.org