

**WALKER COUNTY**  
**Joint Comprehensive Plan 2012-2032**

**Community Assessment Appendix:**  
**Analysis of Supporting Data**

**Prepared for:**  
**Walker County and the Cities of Chickamauga, LaFayette,**  
**Lookout Mountain, and Rossville**

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## INTRODUCTION

This *Community Assessment Appendix: Analysis of Supporting Data* follows the Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-12-1, Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning, effective May 1, 2005. The data, evaluations, and maps presented in this appendix provide the backbone of the *Community Assessment* component of the *Walker County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2012-2032*.

Walker County is part of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, as defined by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The Northwest Georgia Region, referred to as the *region* in this appendix, includes 15 counties, as follows: Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker, and Whitfield.

Walker County also is part of the Chattanooga TN-GA Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the U. S. Census Bureau. The Chattanooga TN-GA Metropolitan Statistical Area, referred to as the *MSA* in this appendix, includes the Georgia counties of Catoosa, Dade, Walker, and the Tennessee counties of Hamilton, Marion, and Sequatchie.

Walker County contains 447 square miles of predominantly rural landscape and includes the municipalities of Chickamauga, LaFayette (the county seat), Lookout Mountain, and Rossville. A small portion of the municipality of Fort Oglethorpe also lies within the boundary of Walker County, and consequently, countywide data presented in this appendix includes the Walker County portion of Fort Oglethorpe.

# POPULATION

## Total Population

### Historic Population

Walker County was created by an act of the General Assembly on December 18, 1833, taking area from Murray County. After several boundary changes from 1837 to 1866, in which Walker County gave up area to Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Gordon, and Whitfield Counties, its population was 9,925 in 1870. The county's population increased to 11,056 in 1880, 13,282 in 1890, and 15,661 in 1900, and continued to increase each decade through 2000. From 1900 to 1980, the county's population increased 260.6%, or at an average annual growth rate of 1.62%. As shown in Tables 2-1 and 2-2, Walker County experienced a population increase of 15.08% from 1980 to 2009, yielding an annual growth rate of 0.49%. While considerably below the average annual growth rate from 1900 to 1980, the annual growth rate has increased modestly from 0.33% for 1980 to 1990, to 0.46% for 1990 to 2000, to 0.70% for 2000 to 2009.

**Table 2-1 Historic Population – County and Cities**

| Area          | 1900   | 1910   | 1920   | 1930   | 1940   | 1950   | 1960   | 1970   |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Walker County | 15,661 | 18,692 | 23,370 | 26,206 | 31,024 | 38,198 | 45,264 | 50,691 |

| Area                        | 1980   |             | 1990   |             | 2000   |             | 2009   |             |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|
|                             | Total  | % of County | Total  | % of County | Total  | % of County | Total  | % of County |
| Walker County               | 56,470 | 100.0       | 58,340 | 100.0       | 61,053 | 100%        | 64,983 | 100.0       |
| Unincorporated <sup>1</sup> | 42,467 | 75.2        | 44,641 | 76.5        | 46,978 | 76.9        | 49,926 | 76.8        |
| Chickamauga                 | 2,232  | 4.0         | 2,149  | 3.7         | 2,245  | 3.7         | 2,621  | 4.0         |
| LaFayette                   | 6,517  | 11.5        | 6,313  | 10.8        | 6,702  | 11.0        | 7,529  | 11.6        |
| Lookout Mountain            | 1,505  | 2.7         | 1,636  | 2.8         | 1,617  | 2.6         | 1,517  | 2.3         |
| Rossville                   | 3,749  | 6.6         | 3,601  | 6.2         | 3,511  | 5.8         | 3,390  | 5.2         |

<sup>1</sup>Unincorporated area includes the incorporated portion of Fort Oglethorpe located in Walker County.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Georgia: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009; Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Incorporated Places in Georgia: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009

In 2009 an estimated 23.1% of the county's population resided within the four municipalities located entirely within its boundaries. Of these, LaFayette, the county seat and largest city, experienced a 15.53% population increase from 1980 to 2009—from 6,517 to 7,529. LaFayette's 2009 population made up 11.6% of the county's total population. Chickamauga experienced the greatest percentage increase in population from 1980 to 2009 at 17.43%. Lookout Mountain's population remained mostly constant over the same period, increasing 0.80%. Rossville, the county's second most-populous city, lost population from 1980 to 2009, declining by 9.58% from 3,749 in 1980 to an estimated 3,390 in 2009.

**Table 2-2 Historic Population Growth Rates – County and Cities**

| Area                        | 1980-1990 |                    | 1990-2000 |                    | 2000-2009 |                    | 1980-2009 |                    |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
|                             | % Change  | Annual Growth Rate | % Change  | Annual Growth Rate | % Change  | Annual Growth Rate | % Change  | Annual Growth Rate |
| Walker County               | 3.31      | 0.33%              | 4.65      | 0.46%              | 6.44      | 0.70%              | 15.08     | 0.49%              |
| Unincorporated <sup>1</sup> | 5.12      | 0.50%              | 5.24      | 0.51%              | 6.28      | 0.68%              | 17.56     | 0.56%              |
| Chickamauga                 | -3.71     | -0.38%             | 4.47      | 0.44%              | 16.75     | 1.74%              | 17.43     | 0.56%              |
| LaFayette                   | -3.13     | -0.32%             | 6.16      | 0.60%              | 12.34     | 1.30%              | 15.53     | 0.50%              |
| Lookout Mountain            | 8.70      | 0.84%              | -1.16     | -0.12%             | -6.18     | -0.71%             | 0.80      | 0.03%              |
| Rossville                   | -3.95     | -0.40%             | -2.50     | -0.25%             | -3.45     | -0.39%             | -9.58     | -0.35%             |

<sup>1</sup>Unincorporated area includes the incorporated portion of Fort Oglethorpe located in Walker County.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Georgia: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009; Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Incorporated Places in Georgia: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009

### 2010 Census Data Update

According to recently released 2010 census data, Walker's population reached 68,756 in 2010, as shown in Table 2-3. Population growth from 2000 to 2010 was 12.6%, considerably higher than anticipated by the U.S. Census Bureau's annual population estimates. The Cities of Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville contained 23.2% of the county's population in 2010. From 2000 to 2010, Chickamauga experienced the largest percentage increase in population, 38.1%. Rossville's population increased 16.9%, and LaFayette's population increased 6.3%. Lookout Mountain experienced a slight, 0.9% decline in population over the decade.

**Table 2-3 Population Trends 2000 and 2010 – County and Cities**

| Geographic Area  | Total Population |        |                    |                              |
|------------------|------------------|--------|--------------------|------------------------------|
|                  | 2000             | 2010   | % Change 2000-2010 | Annual Growth Rate 2000-2010 |
| Walker County    | 61,053           | 68,756 | 12.6               | 1.20%                        |
| Chickamauga      | 2,245            | 3,101  | 38.1               | 3.28%                        |
| LaFayette        | 6,702            | 7,121  | 6.3                | 0.61%                        |
| Lookout Mountain | 1,617            | 1,602  | -0.9               | -0.09%                       |
| Rossville        | 3,511            | 4,105  | 16.9               | 1.58%                        |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF 1; 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1

## Population Growth in Surrounding Counties

Walker County's percentage population growth was lower than that of each of the eight surrounding counties, the MSA, region, and state from 1990 to 2000, as shown in Table 2-4. For 2000 to 2009, Walker County's population growth of 6.44% was more in line with most of its surrounding counties but exceeded only Dade, Floyd, and Chattooga Counties. The fastest growing, surrounding counties, the region, and state still significantly outpaced Walker County's growth rate.

Table 2-4 Population Trends – County, Surrounding Counties, Region, and State

| Area                     | Total Population |           |           | 1990-2000 |                    | 2000-2009 |                    |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
|                          | 1990             | 2000      | 2009      | % Change  | Annual Growth Rate | % Change  | Annual Growth Rate |
| Walker County            | 58,340           | 61,053    | 64,983    | 4.65      | 0.46%              | 6.44      | 0.70%              |
| Dade County              | 13,147           | 15,154    | 16,127    | 15.27     | 1.43%              | 6.42      | 0.69%              |
| Catoosa County           | 42,464           | 53,282    | 64,035    | 25.48     | 2.30%              | 20.18     | 2.06%              |
| Whitfield County         | 72,462           | 83,525    | 93,698    | 15.27     | 1.43%              | 12.18     | 1.29%              |
| Gordon County            | 35,072           | 44,104    | 53,292    | 25.75     | 2.32%              | 20.83     | 2.12%              |
| Floyd County             | 81,251           | 90,565    | 96,250    | 11.46     | 1.09%              | 6.28      | 0.68%              |
| Chattooga County         | 22,242           | 25,470    | 26,619    | 14.51     | 1.36%              | 4.51      | 0.49%              |
| DeKalb County, AL        | 54,651           | 64,452    | 69,380    | 17.93     | 1.66%              | 7.65      | 0.82%              |
| Hamilton County, TN      | 285,536          | 307,896   | 337,175   | 7.83      | 0.76%              | 9.51      | 1.01%              |
| Chattanooga TN-GA MSA    | 433,210          | 476,531   | 524,303   | 10.00     | 0.96%              | 10.02     | 1.07%              |
| Northwest Georgia Region | 548,220          | 697,410   | 842,915   | 27.21     | 2.44%              | 20.86     | 2.13%              |
| State of Georgia         | 6,478,216        | 8,186,453 | 9,829,211 | 26.37     | 2.37%              | 20.07     | 2.05%              |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 1; Census 2000 SF 1; Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009; Annual Estimates of the Population of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Areas: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009

### 2010 Census Data Update

As shown in Table 2-5, Walker County's population growth rate from 2000 to 2010 exceeded five of the eight surrounding counties and the MSA. The county's population growth rate, however, was surpassed by Catoosa, Whitfield, and Gordon Counties, the 15-county northwest Georgia region, and the state.

**Table 2-5 Population Trends 2000 and 2010 – County, Surrounding Counties, MSA, Region, and State**

| Geographic Area          | Total Population |           |                    |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------------------|
|                          | 2000             | 2010      | % Change 2000-2010 | Annual Growth Rate 2000-2010 |
| Walker County            | 61,053           | 68,756    | 12.6               | 1.20%                        |
| Dade County              | 15,154           | 16,633    | 9.8                | 0.94%                        |
| Catoosa County           | 53,282           | 63,942    | 20.0               | 1.84%                        |
| Whitfield County         | 83,525           | 102,599   | 22.8               | 2.08%                        |
| Gordon County            | 44,104           | 55,186    | 25.1               | 2.27%                        |
| Floyd County             | 90,565           | 96,317    | 6.4                | 0.62%                        |
| Chattooga County         | 25,470           | 26,015    | 2.1                | 0.21%                        |
| DeKalb County, AL        | 64,452           | 71,109    | 10.3               | 0.99%                        |
| Hamilton County, TN      | 307,896          | 336,463   | 9.3                | 0.89%                        |
| Chattanooga TN-GA MSA    | 476,531          | 528,143   | 10.8               | 1.03%                        |
| Northwest Georgia Region | 697,410          | 863,217   | 23.8               | 2.16%                        |
| State of Georgia         | 8,186,453        | 9,687,653 | 18.3               | 1.70%                        |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF 1; 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1

### Components of Population Change

The demographic components of population change are natural increase and net migration. Natural increase is the difference between births and deaths in an area. Net migration is the difference between the total number of those who moved into the area and those who moved out of the area. As shown in Table 2-6, Walker County’s population growth depended more heavily on net migration from 2000 to 2009 than did any of its surrounding counties, the MSA, region, or state. Net migration represented 84.8% of Walker County’s total population change, compared to 67.7% and 51.7% for the region and state, respectively.

**Table 2-6 Components of Population Change – County, Surrounding Counties, Region, and State**

| Area                     | Total Population Change <sup>1</sup> | Natural Increase |                        | Net Migration |                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
|                          |                                      | Total            | % of Total Pop. Change | Total         | % of Total Pop. Change |
| Walker County            | 3,933                                | 954              | 24.3                   | 3,336         | 84.8                   |
| Dade County              | 973                                  | 223              | 22.9                   | 812           | 83.5                   |
| Catoosa County           | 10,783                               | 2,543            | 23.6                   | 8,468         | 78.5                   |
| Whitfield County         | 10,143                               | 10,204           | 100.6                  | 363           | 3.6                    |
| Gordon County            | 9,188                                | 3,964            | 43.1                   | 5,502         | 59.9                   |
| Floyd County             | 5,685                                | 3,870            | 68.1                   | 2,411         | 42.4                   |
| Chattooga County         | 1,149                                | 358              | 31.2                   | 930           | 80.9                   |
| DeKalb County, AL        | 4,926                                | 2,650            | 53.8                   | 2,676         | 54.3                   |
| Hamilton County, TN      | 29,282                               | 8,377            | 28.6                   | 8,209         | 28.0                   |
| Chattanooga TN-GA MSA    | 47,801                               | 12,739           | 26.7                   | 23,224        | 48.6                   |
| Northwest Georgia Region | 145,573                              | 50,224           | 34.5                   | 98,546        | 67.7                   |
| State of Georgia         | 1,642,430                            | 684,445          | 41.7                   | 849,133       | 51.7                   |

<sup>1</sup>Total population change includes a residual. This residual represents the change in population that cannot be attributed to any specific demographic component. See State and County Terms and Definitions at <http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/terms/states.html>.

Note: The April 1, 2000 estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population resulting from legal boundary updates, other geographic program changes, and Count Question Resolution actions. All geographic boundaries for the 2009 population estimates series are defined as of January 1, 2009.

## Population Projections

A variety of population projections for Walker County is presented in Table 2-7. For 2030, projections range from a low of 63,058 to a high of 81,254. The 2030 projections by the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (80,005), Dalton State College (80,561), and the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget (81, 254) are the most consistent, representing average annual growth rates from 2000 to 2030 of 0.91%, 0.93%, and 0.96%, respectively.

**Table 2-7 Population Projections – County - Multiple Sources**

| Year                         | Northwest Georgia Regional Plan <sup>1</sup> | Dalton State College <sup>2</sup> | DCA Low <sup>3</sup> | DCA Middle <sup>4</sup> | DCA High <sup>5</sup> | OPB <sup>6</sup> | Exponential Projection <sup>7</sup> |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2010                         | 65,785                                       | 66,425                            | 62,199               | 63,345                  | 64,490                | 66,190           | 63,476                              |
| 2015                         | 68,455                                       | 69,424                            | 62,485               | 64,490                  | 67,068                | 69,994           | 64,724                              |
| 2020                         | 71,614                                       | 71,867                            | 62,772               | 65,636                  | 69,646                | 73,835           | 65,996                              |
| 2025                         | 75,405                                       | 75,704                            | 62,915               | 66,782                  | 73,513                | 77,810           | 67,293                              |
| 2030                         | 80,005                                       | 80,561                            | 63,058               | 67,928                  | 77,380                | 81,254           | 68,615                              |
| 2035                         | NA   | NA                                | 63,130               | 69,073                  | 83,181                | NA               | 69,964                              |
| Growth Rate 2000-2030        | 31.04%                                       | 31.95%                            | 3.28%                | 11.26%                  | 26.74%                | 33.09%           | 12.39%                              |
| Annual Growth Rate 2000-2030 | 0.91%  | 0.93%                             | 0.11%                | 0.36%                   | 0.79%                 | 0.96%            | 0.39%                               |

<sup>1</sup>Projections prepared for the Coosa Valley RDC and North Georgia RDC Joint Regional Comprehensive Plan, Technical Staff Report Update (2004); projection for 2030 by Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (2010)

<sup>2</sup>Projections by Dalton State College, Office of Institutional Research and Planning (2009)

<sup>3</sup>Projections are based on the average rate of change from 1980 to 2000. DCA low projection uses a rate of change multiplier of 0.5, meaning the rate of change will be decreased by 50% every 10 years.

<sup>4</sup>Projections are based on the average rate of change from 1980 to 2000. DCA middle projection uses a 10-year rate of change multiplier of 1.0, meaning the projections will follow the same trend as for 1980 to 2000 (linear projection).

<sup>5</sup>Projections are based on the average rate of change from 1980 to 2000. DCA high projection uses a rate of change multiplier of 1.5, meaning the rate of change will be increased by 50% every 10 years.

<sup>6</sup>Population projections 2010-2030 by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), March 12, 2010

<sup>7</sup>Exponential projection based on an annual growth rate of 0.39% from 1980 to 2000



## Household Size

Walker County's average household size declined to 2.54 persons per household in 2000, which was slightly higher than the MSA's 2.46 persons per household and lower than the region's 2.62 and the state's 2.65 persons per household. Data from the American Community Survey presented in Table 2-8 shows a slight, continued decrease to 2.51 persons per household for Walker County, a similar slight decrease to 2.45 persons per household for the MSA, but an increase for the state to 2.70 persons per household. It is presently unclear if the state increase in average household size marks a reversal in state and national trends toward smaller household size.

Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville all experienced average household size reduction from 1990 to 2000. In 2000 the average household size for Chickamauga, LaFayette, and Rossville was each lower than that of the region and state. Lookout Mountain's average household size was on par with the region and state.

**Table 2-8 Average Household Size – County, Cities, Region, and State**

| Year | Walker County | Chickamauga | LaFayette | Lookout Mountain | Rossville | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | NW Georgia Region | State of Georgia |
|------|---------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1980 | 2.86          | 2.89        | 2.72      | 2.70             | 2.48      | NA                    | 2.89              | 2.84             |
| 1990 | 2.65          | 2.53        | 2.44      | 2.71             | 2.29      | 2.55                  | 2.61              | 2.66             |
| 2000 | 2.54          | 2.50        | 2.33      | 2.62             | 2.26      | 2.46                  | 2.62              | 2.65             |
| 2008 | 2.51          | NA          | NA        | NA               | NA        | 2.45                  | NA                | 2.70             |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau SF 1; 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Walker County's average household size is projected to decline slightly to 2.48 persons in 2015 and then increase to 2.52 persons by 2025, as shown in Table 2-9. Average household size for the region and state are projected to remain fairly constant over the next 15 years.

**Table 2-9 Average Household Size Projection – County, Region, and State**

| Year | Walker County | Northwest Georgia Region | State of Georgia |
|------|---------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 2010 | 2.49          | 2.56                     | 2.63             |
| 2015 | 2.48          | 2.54                     | 2.62             |
| 2020 | 2.50          | 2.56                     | 2.61             |
| 2025 | 2.52          | 2.58                     | NA               |

Source: Coosa Valley RDC and North Georgia RDC Joint Regional Comprehensive Plan/Economic Development Strategy, Technical Staff Report Update, June 18, 2004 (county and region)

## Age

### Age Distribution

Age distribution affects a variety of needs and services as the county and cities plan for the future. Changes for age groups made up of 5-to-19-year-olds (school age) impact services

aimed at children (e.g., schools, parks and recreation, social services, etc.). Changes in those age groups made of 60-year-olds and older impact social services for seniors and the health care industry. The school age population declined 2.4% from 1990 to 2000 and grew 1.8% from 2000 to 2009. It made up a 22.1% share of the population in 1990 and a 19.8% share of the population in 2009. The school age share reduction occurred, in part, due to higher growth of those in retirement or nearing retirement (those 60 years and over). This senior citizen group grew 6.9% from 1990 to 2000 and 19.0 % from 2000 to 2009. It increased its county-wide share from 18.0% in 1990 to 20.6% in 2009. As shown in Table 2-10, the age groups *60 to 64 years* and *85 years and older* experienced the highest rates of growth from 2000 to 2009, 37.3% and 33.5%, respectively.

Table 2-10 Historical Age Distribution – County

| Age Group          | 1990   |            | 2000   |            | 2009   |            | % Change  |           |
|--------------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|-----------|-----------|
|                    | Total  | % of Total | Total  | % of Total | Total  | % of Total | 1990-2000 | 2000-2009 |
| Under 5 years      | 3,797  | 6.5        | 4,002  | 6.6        | 4,087  | 6.3        | 5.4       | 2.1       |
| 5 to 9 years       | 4,046  | 6.9        | 4,205  | 6.9        | 4,241  | 6.5        | 3.9       | 0.9       |
| 10 to 14 years     | 4,520  | 7.7        | 4,319  | 7.1        | 4,443  | 6.8        | -4.4      | 2.9       |
| 15 to 19 years     | 4,350  | 7.5        | 4,083  | 6.7        | 4,152  | 6.4        | -6.1      | 1.7       |
| 20 to 24 years     | 3,771  | 6.5        | 3,792  | 6.2        | 3,684  | 5.7        | 0.6       | -2.8      |
| 25 to 34 years     | 9,124  | 15.6       | 8,083  | 13.2       | 8,417  | 13.0       | -11.4     | 4.1       |
| 35 to 44 years     | 8,604  | 14.7       | 9,512  | 15.6       | 8,952  | 13.8       | 10.6      | -5.9      |
| 45 to 54 years     | 6,714  | 11.5       | 8,410  | 13.8       | 9,482  | 14.6       | 25.3      | 12.7      |
| 55 to 59 years     | 2,894  | 5.0        | 3,397  | 5.6        | 4,133  | 6.4        | 17.4      | 21.7      |
| 60 to 64 years     | 2,741  | 4.7        | 2,811  | 4.6        | 3,860  | 5.9        | 2.6       | 37.3      |
| 65 to 74 years     | 4,673  | 8.0        | 4,684  | 7.7        | 5,222  | 8.0        | 0.2       | 11.5      |
| 75 to 84 years     | 2,478  | 4.2        | 2,875  | 4.7        | 3,135  | 4.8        | 16.0      | 9.0       |
| 85 years and older | 628    | 1.1        | 880    | 1.4        | 1,175  | 1.8        | 40.1      | 33.5      |
| Total              | 58,340 | 100.0      | 61,053 | 100.0      | 64,983 | 100.0      | 4.7       | 6.4       |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 1; Census 2000 SF 1; Population Estimates Program, 2009 Population Estimates

Table 2-11 shows Walker County's share of the population for each age group relative to that of each age group for the state and nation in 2009. The share of school age population for the county is lower than the state and slightly lower than the nation. The senior citizen age group, on the other hand, comprises a larger share of Walker County's population than it does for the state and nation.

**Table 2-11 Age Distribution Comparison – County, State, and Nation – 2009**

| Age Group          | Walker County | State of Georgia | United States |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Under 5 years      | 6.3%          | 7.6%             | 6.9%          |
| 5 to 9 years       | 6.5%          | 7.5%             | 6.7%          |
| 10 to 14 years     | 6.8%          | 6.9%             | 6.5%          |
| 15 to 19 years     | 6.4%          | 7.2%             | 7.0%          |
| 20 to 24 years     | 5.7%          | 7.1%             | 7.0%          |
| 25 to 34 years     | 13.0%         | 14.2%            | 13.5%         |
| 35 to 44 years     | 13.8%         | 14.6%            | 13.5%         |
| 45 to 54 years     | 14.6%         | 14.1%            | 14.5%         |
| 55 to 59 years     | 6.4%          | 5.7%             | 6.2%          |
| 60 to 64 years     | 5.9%          | 4.8%             | 5.2%          |
| 65 to 74 years     | 8.0%          | 5.9%             | 6.8%          |
| 75 to 84 years     | 4.8%          | 3.2%             | 4.3%          |
| 85 years and older | 1.8%          | 1.2%             | 1.8%          |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2009 Population Estimates

## Median Age

The median age for Walker County increased from 31.2 years in 1980 to 38.9 years in 2009, making it older than the state and nation, as shown in Table 2-12. Data for the region for 2009 was not available in the 2009 population estimates that provided the county, state, and national estimates. The county’s median age, however, exceeded the region’s median age in 1980, 1990, and 2000; and with both median ages trending older, Walker County’s median age likely continues to exceed that of the region.

**Table 2-12 Median Age – County, Region, State, and Nation**

| Year | Walker County | Northwest Georgia Region | State of Georgia | United States |
|------|---------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1980 | 31.2          | 30.1                     | 28.6             | 30.0          |
| 1990 | 34.5          | 33.5                     | 31.6             | 32.6          |
| 2000 | 37.1          | 35.7                     | 33.4             | 35.3          |
| 2009 | 38.9          | NA                       | 34.7             | 36.8          |

Source: Coosa Valley RDC and North Georgia RDC Joint Regional Comprehensive Plan/Economic Development Strategy, Technical Staff Report Update, June 18, 2004 (county and region); U. S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2009 Population Estimates

## Age Distribution Population Projections

Table 2-13 shows age distribution projections for 2010 through 2030 provided by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The projections are based on the continuation of age distribution trends from 1980 to 2000. Consequently, the percentages of county population in age groups 25 to 34 years and younger are projected to continue to decline, and the

percentages in age groups *35 to 44 years* and older are projected to continue to increase. These projections indicate that the *65 years and older* age group will increase from 13.8% of the county's population in 2000 to 17.3% in 2030.

**Table 2-13 Age Distribution Projections – Share of Population - County**

| Age Group          | 1980   | 1990   | 2000   | 2010   | 2015   | 2020   | 2025   | 2030   |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Under 5 years      | 7.7%   | 6.5%   | 6.6%   | 6.1%   | 5.8%   | 5.6%   | 5.4%   | 5.1%   |
| 5 to 13 years      | 14.7%  | 14.7%  | 14.0%  | 13.6%  | 13.5%  | 13.3%  | 13.1%  | 13.0%  |
| 14 to 17 years     | 7.2%   | 4.6%   | 4.2%   | 2.9%   | 2.3%   | 1.7%   | 1.1%   | 0.5%   |
| 18 to 20 years     | 4.9%   | 4.3%   | 3.7%   | 3.1%   | 2.9%   | 2.6%   | 2.4%   | 2.1%   |
| 21 to 24 years     | 6.3%   | 5.1%   | 5.0%   | 4.4%   | 4.1%   | 3.9%   | 3.6%   | 3.4%   |
| 25 to 34 years     | 15.2%  | 15.6%  | 13.2%  | 12.4%  | 12.0%  | 11.6%  | 11.2%  | 10.8%  |
| 35 to 44 years     | 12.4%  | 14.7%  | 15.6%  | 17.0%  | 17.7%  | 18.3%  | 19.0%  | 19.6%  |
| 45 to 54 years     | 10.5%  | 11.5%  | 13.8%  | 15.2%  | 15.9%  | 16.6%  | 17.2%  | 17.8%  |
| 55 to 64 years     | 10.1%  | 9.7%   | 10.2%  | 10.2%  | 10.2%  | 10.2%  | 10.2%  | 10.3%  |
| 65 years and older | 11.0%  | 13.3%  | 13.8%  | 15.1%  | 15.7%  | 16.2%  | 16.8%  | 17.3%  |
| Total              | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Note: Projections are based on the average rate of change from 1980 to 2000.

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs (Original Source: U. S. Census Bureau SF 1)

In 2000 the percentage of Walker County's population *65 years and older* (13.8%) exceeded that of both the state (9.6%) and the nation (12.4%). The age distribution estimates presented in Table 2-11 indicate that the percentage of persons *65 years and older* in Walker County (14.6%) continued to exceed the state (10.3%) and nation (12.9%) in 2009. According to the U.S. Administration on Aging, the percent of persons *65 years and older* is projected to be 15.9% for Georgia and 19.7% for the nation in 2030. If these projections prove accurate and the percentage of Walker County's population *65 years and older* continues to exceed that of the nation for the next two decades, more than 20% of the county's population could be *65 years and older* by 2030.

## Race and Ethnicity

### Racial and Ethnic Makeup

The *white* race represented the largest share of Walker County's population with an estimated 93.7% in 2009, as shown in Tables 2-14 and 2-15. The *white* population increased 3.4% from 1990 to 2000 and an estimated 5.6% from 2000 to 2009, both rates of change below those of the county's total population. Consequently, the *white* race's share of the total population declined from 95.6% in 1990, to 94.4% in 2000, to 93.7 % in 2009. The *African American* share of the county's population has increased from 3.8% in 1990, to 3.9% in 2000, to an estimated 4.5% in 2009. From 2000 to 2009, the non-white racial groups (except *other and multi-racial*) increased by a greater percentage than did the white population. Nevertheless, non-white racial groups accounted for only 6.3% of the county's population in 2009. The 2009 population

estimates did not include racial group data for cities. In 2000, however, the *white* race accounted for 99.0% of Lookout Mountain's population, 98.4% of Chickamauga's population, 93.5% of Rossville's population, and 90.6% of LaFayette's population. Only LaFayette (7.1%) and Rossville (3.9%) had *African American* population percentages that equaled or exceeded the county's percentage of 3.9% in 2000.

The U. S. Census Bureau does not include Hispanic as a race. The census accounts for this population under ethnicity. Consequently, *persons of Hispanic origin* generally comprise portions of more than one racial group. Walker County's *Hispanic* population increased 164.0% from 1990 to 2000 and 44.1% from 2000 to 2009, resulting in an estimated *Hispanic* population of 814 in 2009. In 2000, *persons of Hispanic origin* accounted for 1.3% of Rossville's population and 1.1% of LaFayette's population.

Table 2-14 Race and Hispanic Origin Population 1990, 2000, and 2009 – County and Cities

| Area                        | Category           | Total Population | Population By Race |                  |                                |                           |                        | Persons of Hispanic Origin |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
|                             |                    |                  | White              | African American | American Indian/ Alaska Native | Asian or Pacific Islander | Other and Multi-Racial |                            |
| Walker County               | 1990               | 58,340           | 55,779             | 2,246            | 133                            | 131                       | 51                     | 214                        |
|                             | 2000               | 61,053           | 57,652             | 2,310            | 179                            | 182                       | 730                    | 565                        |
|                             | 2009               | 64,983           | 60,875             | 2,926            | 206                            | 310                       | 666                    | 814                        |
|                             | % Change 1990-2000 | 4.7%             | 3.4%               | 2.8%             | 34.6%                          | 38.9%                     | 1,331.4%               | 164.0%                     |
|                             | % Change 2000-2009 | 6.4%             | 5.6%               | 26.7%            | 15.1%                          | 70.3%                     | -8.8%                  | 44.1%                      |
| Unincorporated <sup>1</sup> | 1990               | 44,641           | 42,640             | 1,757            | 111                            | 90                        | 43                     | 169                        |
|                             | 2000               | 46,978           | 44,488             | 1,682            | 147                            | 129                       | 532                    | 426                        |
|                             | %Change 1990-2000  | 5.2%             | 4.3%               | -4.3%            | 32.4%                          | 43.3%                     | 1,137.2%               | 152.1%                     |
| Chickamauga                 | 1990               | 2,149            | 2,139              | 3                | 1                              | 4                         | 2                      | 2                          |
|                             | 2000               | 2,245            | 2,208              | 13               | 6                              | 5                         | 13                     | 9                          |
|                             | %Change 1990-2000  | 4.5%             | 3.2%               | 333.3%           | 500.0%                         | 25.0%                     | 550.0%                 | 350.0%                     |
| LaFayette                   | 1990               | 6,313            | 5,829              | 452              | 9                              | 19                        | 4                      | 24                         |
|                             | 2000               | 6,702            | 6,072              | 478              | 6                              | 33                        | 113                    | 72                         |
|                             | %Change 1990-2000  | 6.2%             | 4.2%               | 5.8%             | -33.3%                         | 73.7%                     | 2,725.0%               | 200.0%                     |
| Lookout Mountain            | 1990               | 1,636            | 1,621              | 4                | 4                              | 5                         | 2                      | 4                          |
|                             | 2000               | 1,617            | 1,601              | 0                | 0                              | 3                         | 13                     | 13                         |
|                             | %Change 1990-2000  | -1.2%            | -1.2%              | -100.0%          | -100.0%                        | -40.0%                    | 550.0%                 | 225.0%                     |
| Rossville                   | 1990               | 3,601            | 3,550              | 30               | 8                              | 13                        | 0                      | 15                         |
|                             | 2000               | 3,511            | 3,283              | 137              | 20                             | 12                        | 59                     | 45                         |
|                             | %Change 1990-2000  | -2.5%            | -7.5%              | 356.7%           | 150.0%                         | -7.7%                     | -                      | 200.0%                     |

<sup>1</sup>Unincorporated area includes the incorporated portion of Fort Oglethorpe located in Walker County.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau SF 1: Population Estimates Program, 2009 Population Estimates

Table 2-15 Race and Hispanic Origin Share of Population 1990, 2000, and 2009 – County and Cities

| Area                        | Year | Population By Race |                  |                                |                           |                        | Persons of Hispanic Origin |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
|                             |      | White              | African American | American Indian/ Alaska Native | Asian or Pacific Islander | Other and Multi-Racial |                            |
| Walker County               | 1990 | 95.6%              | 3.8%             | 0.2%                           | 0.2%                      | 0.1%                   | 0.4%                       |
|                             | 2000 | 94.4%              | 3.9%             | 0.3%                           | 0.3%                      | 1.2%                   | 0.9%                       |
|                             | 2009 | 93.7%              | 4.5%             | 0.3%                           | 0.5%                      | 1.0%                   | 1.3%                       |
| Unincorporated <sup>1</sup> | 1990 | 95.5%              | 3.9%             | 0.2%                           | 0.2%                      | 0.1%                   | 0.4%                       |
|                             | 2000 | 94.7%              | 3.6%             | 0.3%                           | 0.3%                      | 1.1%                   | 0.9%                       |
| Chickamauga                 | 1990 | 99.5%              | 0.1%             | 0.0%                           | 0.2%                      | 0.1%                   | 0.1%                       |
|                             | 2000 | 98.4%              | 0.6%             | 0.3%                           | 0.2%                      | 0.6%                   | 0.4%                       |
| LaFayette                   | 1990 | 92.3%              | 7.2%             | 0.1%                           | 0.3%                      | 0.1%                   | 0.4%                       |
|                             | 2000 | 90.6%              | 7.1%             | 0.1%                           | 0.5%                      | 1.7%                   | 1.1%                       |
| Lookout Mountain            | 1990 | 99.1%              | 0.2%             | 0.2%                           | 0.3%                      | 0.1%                   | 0.2%                       |
|                             | 2000 | 99.0%              | 0.0%             | 0.0%                           | 0.2%                      | 0.8%                   | 0.8%                       |
| Rossville                   | 1990 | 98.6%              | 0.8%             | 0.2%                           | 0.4%                      | 0.0%                   | 0.4%                       |
|                             | 2000 | 93.5%              | 3.9%             | 0.6%                           | 0.3%                      | 1.7%                   | 1.3%                       |

<sup>1</sup>Unincorporated area includes the incorporated portion of Fort Oglethorpe located in Walker County.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau SF 1; Population Estimates Program, 2009 Population Estimates

### 2010 Census Data Update

The *white* race comprised 93.0% of Walker County’s population in 2010, as shown in Table 2-16. The *white* population increased 10.9% from 2000 to 2010, a rate of change below that of the county’s total population. Consequently, the *white* race’s share of the total population declined from 94.4% in 2000 to 93.0 % in 2010. The *African American* share of the county’s population increased from 3.9% in 2000 to 4.1% in 2010. From 2000 to 2010, the non-white racial groups (except *American Indian/Alaska native*) increased by a greater percentage than did the white population. Nevertheless, non-white racial groups accounted for only 7.0% of the county’s population in 2010. In 2010 the *white* race accounted for 97.9% of Lookout Mountain’s population, 95.9% of Chickamauga’s population, 88.6% of LaFayette’s population, and 88.1% of Rossville’s population. Only Rossville (8.0%) and LaFayette (7.5%) had *African American* population percentages that equaled or exceeded the county’s percentage of 4.1% in 2010.

Walker County’s *Hispanic* population increased 97.0% from 2000 to 2010, resulting in a total *Hispanic* population of 1,113 in 2010. This total, however, represented only 1.6% of the county’s population. In 2010 *persons of Hispanic origin* accounted for 2.8% of Rossville’s population and 2.1% of LaFayette’s population.

**Table 2-16 Race and Hispanic Origin Population 2000 and 2010 – County and Cities**

| Geographic Area  | Category                   | Total Population | Population By Race |                  |                                 |                           |                        | Persons of Hispanic Origin |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
|                  |                            |                  | White              | African American | American Indian / Alaska Native | Asian or Pacific Islander | Other and Multi-Racial |                            |
| Walker County    | 2000                       | 61,053           | 57,652             | 2,310            | 179                             | 182                       | 730                    | 565                        |
|                  | 2010                       | 68,756           | 63,918             | 2,829            | 182                             | 327                       | 1,500                  | 1,113                      |
|                  | % Share of Population 2010 | 100.0            | 93.0               | 4.1              | 0.3                             | 0.5                       | 2.2                    | 1.6                        |
|                  | % Change 2000-2010         | 12.6             | 10.9               | 22.5             | 1.7                             | 79.7                      | 105.5                  | 97.0                       |
| Chickamauga      | 2000                       | 2,245            | 2,208              | 13               | 6                               | 5                         | 13                     | 9                          |
|                  | 2010                       | 3,101            | 2,974              | 22               | 4                               | 18                        | 83                     | 35                         |
|                  | % Share of Population 2010 | 100.0            | 95.9               | 0.7              | 0.1                             | 0.6                       | 2.7                    | 1.1                        |
|                  | % Change 2000-2010         | 38.1             | 34.7               | 69.2             | -33.3                           | 260.0                     | 538.5                  | 288.9                      |
| LaFayette        | 2000                       | 6,702            | 6,072              | 478              | 6                               | 33                        | 113                    | 72                         |
|                  | 2010                       | 7,121            | 6,311              | 531              | 25                              | 67                        | 187                    | 147                        |
|                  | % Share of Population 2010 | 100.0            | 88.6               | 7.5              | 0.4                             | 0.9                       | 2.6                    | 2.1                        |
|                  | % Change 2000-2010         | 6.3              | 3.9                | 11.1             | 316.7                           | 103.0                     | 65.5                   | 104.2                      |
| Lookout Mountain | 2000                       | 1,617            | 1,601              | 0                | 0                               | 3                         | 13                     | 13                         |
|                  | 2010                       | 1,602            | 1,569              | 10               | 2                               | 4                         | 17                     | 22                         |
|                  | % Share of Population 2010 | 100.0            | 97.9               | 0.6              | 0.1                             | 0.2                       | 1.1                    | 1.4                        |
|                  | % Change 2000-2010         | -0.9             | -2.0               | -                | -                               | 33.3                      | 30.8                   | 69.2                       |
| Rossville        | 2000                       | 3,511            | 3,283              | 137              | 20                              | 12                        | 59                     | 45                         |
|                  | 2010                       | 4,105            | 3,618              | 329              | 11                              | 18                        | 129                    | 116                        |
|                  | % Share of Population 2010 | 100.0            | 88.1               | 8.0              | 0.3                             | 0.4                       | 3.1                    | 2.8                        |
|                  | % Change 2000-2010         | 16.9             | 10.2               | 140.1            | -45.0                           | 50.0                      | 118.6                  | 157.8                      |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF 1; 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables P1 and P2

### Race and Ethnicity in Surrounding Counties

As indicated in Tables 2-17 and 2-18, Walker County's 2009 population was much less racially and ethnically diverse than that of the State of Georgia. Walker County's racial and ethnic diversity was similar to its neighboring Georgia counties of Catoosa and Dade, while its racial diversity, alone, was similar to Catoosa, Dade, Gordon, and Whitfield. Floyd and Chattooga Counties had considerably larger percentages of *African American* residents, and Whitfield, Gordon, and Floyd Counties had considerably greater percentages of *Hispanic* residents.

**Table 2-17 Race and Hispanic Origin Population of Surrounding Georgia Counties – 2009**

| Category                   | Walker County | Catoosa County | Chattooga County | Dade County | Floyd County | Gordon County | Whitfield County | State of Georgia |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total population           | 64,983        | 64,035         | 26,619           | 16,127      | 96,250       | 53,292        | 93,698           | 9,829,211        |
| White                      | 60,875        | 60,741         | 23,249           | 15,563      | 80,094       | 49,735        | 87,530           | 6,391,950        |
| African American           | 2,926         | 1,869          | 2,869            | 266         | 13,072       | 2,049         | 3,170            | 2,970,607        |
| Other race                 | 1,182         | 1,425          | 501              | 298         | 3,084        | 1,508         | 2,998            | 466,654          |
| Persons of Hispanic origin | 814           | 1,269          | 1,016            | 286         | 8,119        | 7,783         | 29,189           | 819,887          |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2009 Population Estimates

**Table 2-18 Race and Hispanic Origin Share of Population - Surrounding Counties - 2009**

| Category                   | Walker County | Catoosa County | Chattooga County | Dade County | Floyd County | Gordon County | Whitfield County | State of Georgia |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| White                      | 93.7%         | 94.9%          | 87.3%            | 96.5%       | 83.2%        | 93.3%         | 93.4%            | 65.0%            |
| African American           | 4.5%          | 2.9%           | 10.8%            | 1.6%        | 13.6%        | 3.8%          | 3.4%             | 30.2%            |
| Other race                 | 1.8%          | 2.2%           | 1.9%             | 1.8%        | 3.2%         | 2.8%          | 3.2%             | 4.7%             |
| Persons of Hispanic origin | 1.3%          | 2.0%           | 3.8%             | 1.8%        | 8.4%         | 14.6%         | 31.2%            | 8.3%             |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2009 Population Estimates

*2010 Census Data Update*

As indicated in Tables 2-19 and 2-20, Walker County's 2010 population was much less racially and ethnically diverse than that of the State of Georgia. Walker County's racial and ethnic diversity was most similar to its neighboring Georgia counties of Catoosa and Dade. Floyd and Chattooga Counties had considerably larger percentages of *African American* residents, and Whitfield, Gordon, and Floyd Counties had considerably greater percentages of *other race* residents. All of the surrounding Georgia counties had larger percentages of *Hispanic* residents, with Whitfield, Gordon, and Floyd Counties having much larger percentages.

**Table 2-19 Race and Hispanic Origin Population of Surrounding Georgia Counties – 2010**

| Category                   | Walker County | Catoosa County | Chattooga County | Dade County | Floyd County | Gordon County | Whitfield County | State of Georgia |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total population           | 68,756        | 63,942         | 26,015           | 16,633      | 96,317       | 55,186        | 102,599          | 9,687,653        |
| White                      | 63,918        | 59,845         | 21,828           | 15,973      | 74,055       | 47,032        | 78,623           | 5,787,440        |
| African American           | 2,829         | 1,392          | 2,899            | 145         | 13,640       | 2,005         | 3,845            | 2,950,435        |
| Other race                 | 2,009         | 2,705          | 1,288            | 515         | 8,622        | 6,149         | 20,131           | 949,778          |
| Persons of Hispanic origin | 1,113         | 1,469          | 1,043            | 292         | 8,987        | 7,738         | 32,471           | 853,689          |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables P1 and P2

**Table 2-20 Race and Hispanic Origin Share of Population - Surrounding Counties – 2010**

| Category                   | Walker County | Catoosa County | Chattooga County | Dade County | Floyd County | Gordon County | Whitfield County | State of Georgia |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| White                      | 93.0%         | 93.6%          | 83.9%            | 96.0%       | 76.9%        | 85.2%         | 76.6%            | 59.7%            |
| African American           | 4.1%          | 2.2%           | 11.1%            | 0.9%        | 14.2%        | 3.6%          | 3.7%             | 30.5%            |
| Other race                 | 2.9%          | 4.2%           | 5.0%             | 3.1%        | 9.0%         | 11.1%         | 19.6%            | 9.8%             |
| Persons of Hispanic origin | 1.6%          | 2.3%           | 4.0%             | 1.8%        | 9.3%         | 14.0%         | 31.6%            | 8.8%             |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables P1 and P2

**Income**

**Household Income**

Household income distribution changes from 1990 to 2008 shifted a larger share of Walker County's total households to higher income brackets. For example, households earning *less*



*than \$10,000* decreased 45.9%, as shown in Table 2-21. The number of households in all income brackets below \$35,000 decreased, while the number of households in all brackets above \$35,000 increased. Both rising incomes and inflation contributed to these shifts. The largest percentage increase between 1990 and 2008 occurred within the \$100,000-\$124,999 bracket, which experienced a 1,123.7% increase. The percentages of 2008 Walker County households in income brackets below \$60,000 are higher than the statewide percentages, and the percentages in income brackets above \$60,000 were lower than the statewide percentages.

Income data for 2008 is not available at the city level. Tables 2-22 and 2-23 present the household income distribution changes that occurred from 1990 to 2000 for the cities. In Chickamauga, the largest percentage of households in 1990 (18.9%) was in the *less than \$10,000* income bracket; in 2000 the largest percentage (15.6%) was in the \$20,000-\$29,999 bracket. In LaFayette, the largest percentage of households in 1990 (29.0%) was in the *less than \$10,000* income bracket; in 2000 the largest percentage of households (20.3%) remained in the lowest income bracket. In Lookout Mountain, the largest percentage of households in 1990 (10.9%) was in the \$20,000-29,999 and \$50,000-59,000 brackets; while in 2000, the largest percentage (17.2%) was in the \$75,000-99,999 bracket. In 1990 the largest percentage of Rossville's households (29.8%) was in the *less than \$10,000* bracket; while in 2000, the largest percentage (21.0%) was in the \$20,000-\$29,999 income bracket.

**Table 2-21 Household Income Distribution 1990, 2000, and 2008 – County and State**

| Household Income Category | Walker County |            |        |            |        |            | State of Georgia   |                 |                 |                 |                    |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
|                           | 1990          |            | 2000   |            | 2008   |            | % Change 1990-2008 | % of Total 1990 | % of Total 2000 | % of Total 2008 | % Change 1990-2008 |
|                           | Total         | % of Total | Total  | % of Total | Total  | % of Total |                    |                 |                 |                 |                    |
| Less than \$10,000        | 4,375         | 20.2       | 2,852  | 12.0       | 2,366  | 9.4        | -45.9              | 16.8            | 10.1            | 7.9             | -11.6              |
| \$10,000 - \$14,999       | 2,301         | 10.6       | 1,995  | 8.4        | 1,736  | 6.9        | -24.6              | 8.6             | 5.9             | 5.5             | 7.7                |
| \$15,000 - \$19,999       | 2,328         | 10.8       | 1,838  | 7.8        | 1,716  | 6.8        | -26.3              | 8.9             | 5.9             | 5.3             | 3.0                |
| \$20,000 - \$29,999       | 4,210         | 19.5       | 4,132  | 17.4       | 3,530  | 14.1       | -16.2              | 17.1            | 12.7            | 10.5            | -6.0               |
| \$30,000 - \$34,999       | 1,959         | 9.1        | 1,722  | 7.3        | 1,844  | 7.3        | -5.9               | 7.9             | 6.2             | 5.5             | 0.8                |
| \$35,000 - \$39,999       | 1,496         | 6.9        | 1,488  | 6.3        | 1,659  | 6.6        | 10.9               | 6.8             | 5.9             | 5.1             | -0.4               |
| \$40,000 - \$49,999       | 2,282         | 10.5       | 3,274  | 13.8       | 2,803  | 11.2       | 22.8               | 11.0            | 10.9            | 9.6             | 0.2                |
| \$50,000 - \$59,999       | 1,196         | 5.5        | 2,212  | 9.3        | 2,149  | 8.6        | 79.7               | 7.6             | 9.2             | 8.5             | 4.6                |
| \$60,000 - \$74,999       | 858           | 4.0        | 1,934  | 8.2        | 2,471  | 9.8        | 188.0              | 6.8             | 10.5            | 10.5            | 14.2               |
| \$75,000 - \$99,999       | 400           | 1.8        | 1,302  | 5.5        | 2,553  | 10.2       | 538.3              | 4.6             | 10.4            | 12.1            | 33.2               |
| \$100,000-\$124,999       | 76            | 0.4        | 430    | 1.8        | 930    | 3.7        | 1,123.7            | 1.7             | 5.2             | 7.4             | 59.4               |
| \$125,000-\$149,000       | 65            | 0.3        | 128    | 0.5        | 620    | 2.5        | 853.8              | 0.7             | 2.5             | 4.2             | 87.2               |
| \$150,000+                | 95            | 0.4        | 377    | 1.6        | 741    | 3.0        | 680.0              | 1.4             | 4.6             | 7.8             | 95.7               |
| Total Households          | 21,641        | 100.0      | 23,684 | 100.0      | 25,118 | 100.0      | 16.1               | 100.0           | 100.0           | 100.0           | 13.8               |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3, Table P080; Census 2000 SF 3, Table P52; 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, Table B19001

**Table 2-22 Household Income Distribution 1990-2000 – Chickamauga and Lafayette**

| Household Income Category | Chickamauga |            |       |            |                    | LaFayette |            |       |            |                    |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------|-------|------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------|------------|--------------------|
|                           | 1990        |            | 2000  |            | % Change 1990-2000 | 1990      |            | 2000  |            | % Change 1990-2000 |
|                           | Total       | % of Total | Total | % of Total |                    | Total     | % of Total | Total | % of Total |                    |
| Less than \$10,000        | 162         | 18.9       | 79    | 9.5        | -51.2              | 714       | 29.0       | 554   | 20.3       | -22.4              |
| \$10,000 - \$14,999       | 95          | 11.1       | 43    | 5.2        | -54.7              | 274       | 11.1       | 330   | 12.1       | 20.4               |
| \$15,000 - \$19,999       | 92          | 10.8       | 67    | 8.0        | -27.2              | 320       | 13.0       | 277   | 10.2       | -13.4              |
| \$20,000 - \$29,999       | 157         | 18.4       | 130   | 15.6       | -17.2              | 487       | 19.8       | 513   | 18.8       | 5.3                |
| \$30,000 - \$34,999       | 98          | 11.5       | 44    | 5.3        | -55.1              | 153       | 6.2        | 87    | 3.2        | -43.1              |
| \$35,000 - \$39,999       | 59          | 6.9        | 52    | 6.2        | -11.9              | 121       | 4.9        | 159   | 5.8        | 31.4               |
| \$40,000 - \$49,999       | 73          | 8.5        | 112   | 13.4       | 53.4               | 142       | 5.8        | 317   | 11.6       | 123.2              |
| \$50,000 - \$59,999       | 47          | 5.5        | 122   | 14.6       | 159.6              | 94        | 3.8        | 190   | 7.0        | 102.1              |
| \$60,000 - \$74,999       | 41          | 4.8        | 76    | 9.1        | 85.4               | 108       | 4.4        | 189   | 6.9        | 75.0               |
| \$75,000 - \$99,999       | 26          | 3.0        | 55    | 6.6        | 111.5              | 38        | 1.5        | 62    | 2.3        | 63.2               |
| \$100,000-\$124,999       | 5           | 0.6        | 20    | 2.4        | 300.0              | 0         | 0.0        | 24    | 0.9        | -                  |
| \$125,000-\$149,000       | 0           | 0.0        | 11    | 1.3        | -                  | 0         | 0.0        | 16    | 0.6        | -                  |
| \$150,000+                | 0           | 0.0        | 22    | 2.6        | -                  | 10        | 0.4        | 11    | 0.4        | 10.0               |
| Total Households          | 855         | 100.0      | 833   | 100.0      | -2.6               | 2,461     | 100.0      | 2,729 | 100.0      | 10.9               |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3; Census 2000 SF 3

**Table 2-23 Household Income Distribution 1990-2000 – Lookout Mountain and Rossville**

| Household Income Category | Lookout Mountain |            |       |            |                    | Rossville |            |       |            |                    |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|-------|------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------|------------|--------------------|
|                           | 1990             |            | 2000  |            | % Change 1990-2000 | 1990      |            | 2000  |            | % Change 1990-2000 |
|                           | Total            | % of Total | Total | % of Total |                    | Total     | % of Total | Total | % of Total |                    |
| Less than \$10,000        | 35               | 5.8        | 15    | 2.5        | -57.1              | 460       | 29.8       | 312   | 20.6       | -32.2              |
| \$10,000 - \$14,999       | 25               | 4.1        | 23    | 3.8        | -8.0               | 216       | 14.0       | 221   | 14.6       | 2.3                |
| \$15,000 - \$19,999       | 39               | 6.4        | 26    | 4.2        | -33.3              | 169       | 11.0       | 95    | 6.3        | -43.8              |
| \$20,000 - \$29,999       | 66               | 10.9       | 42    | 6.9        | -36.4              | 256       | 16.6       | 318   | 21.0       | 24.2               |
| \$30,000 - \$34,999       | 55               | 9.1        | 29    | 4.7        | -47.3              | 120       | 7.8        | 98    | 6.5        | -18.3              |
| \$35,000 - \$39,999       | 33               | 5.5        | 33    | 5.4        | 0.0                | 78        | 5.1        | 68    | 4.5        | -12.8              |
| \$40,000 - \$49,999       | 58               | 9.6        | 73    | 11.9       | 25.9               | 108       | 7.0        | 120   | 7.9        | 11.1               |
| \$50,000 - \$59,999       | 66               | 10.9       | 56    | 9.2        | -15.2              | 66        | 4.3        | 131   | 8.6        | 98.5               |
| \$60,000 - \$74,999       | 56               | 9.3        | 59    | 9.6        | 5.4                | 23        | 1.5        | 72    | 4.8        | 213.0              |
| \$75,000 - \$99,999       | 64               | 10.6       | 105   | 17.2       | 64.1               | 27        | 1.7        | 26    | 1.7        | -3.7               |
| \$100,000-\$124,999       | 35               | 5.8        | 57    | 9.3        | 62.9               | 15        | 1.0        | 24    | 1.6        | 60.0               |
| \$125,000-\$149,000       | 17               | 2.8        | 22    | 3.6        | 29.4               | 0         | 0.0        | 8     | 0.5        | -                  |
| \$150,000+                | 56               | 9.3        | 72    | 11.8       | 28.6               | 5         | 0.3        | 22    | 1.5        | 340.0              |
| Total Households          | 605              | 100.0      | 612   | 100.0      | 1.2                | 1,543     | 100.0      | 1,515 | 100.0      | -1.8               |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3; Census 2000 SF 3

## Median Household Income

Median household income is the amount that divides the household income distribution into two equal groups, half having income below that amount, and half having income above that amount. Adjusted for inflation, median household income in Walker County declined 6.6% from \$41,879 in 1999 to \$39,123 in 2008, as shown in Table 2-24. Meanwhile, the state and nation experienced declines of 7.8% and 3.9%, respectively. From 1989 to 1999, the county's median household income increased 0.2%, compared to 8.8% for the state and 4.0% for the nation. During the same period, Chickamauga's median household income increased 23.8%, while the median household incomes for LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville declined 4.4%, 4.2%, and 1.6%, respectively.

Table 2-24 Median Household Income

| Area             | 1989     | 1999     | 2008     | % Change  |           |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
|                  |          |          |          | 1989-1999 | 1999-2008 |
| Walker County    | \$41,790 | \$41,879 | \$39,123 | 0.2       | -6.6      |
| Chickamauga      | \$41,880 | \$51,836 | NA       | 23.8      | NA        |
| LaFayette        | \$31,222 | \$29,844 | NA       | -4.4      | NA        |
| Lookout Mountain | \$83,741 | \$80,183 | NA       | -4.2      | NA        |
| Rossville        | \$31,016 | \$30,515 | NA       | -1.6      | NA        |
| State of Georgia | \$50,390 | \$54,838 | \$50,549 | 8.8       | -7.8      |
| United States    | \$52,187 | \$54,270 | \$52,175 | 4.0       | -3.9      |

Note: Values for 1989 and 1999 are adjusted for inflation to 2008 dollars based on the Consumer Price Index.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3, Table P080A; 2000 SF 3, Table P53; 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, Table B19013

## Per Capita Income

Per capita income is the mean income computed for every man, woman, and child in a particular group. It is derived by dividing the total income of a particular group by the total population in that group. The total income is income of eight types for each person 15 years old and over. The eight income categories are as follows: wage and salary income; self-employment income; interest, dividend, or net rental income, Social Security income; Supplemental Security Income; public assistance income; retirement income; and all other income.

Per capita income in Walker County, adjusted for inflation, declined 3.5% from \$20,505 in 1999 to \$19,796 in 2008, as shown in Table 2-25. State and national per capita income also declined during this period. Walker County's percentage decline was lower than the state's decline (6.1%), but it was higher than the nation's decline (1.5%). From 1989 to 1999, the county's per capita income grew 11.7%, compared to the state and national growth rates of 15.5% and 11.4%, respectively. Data for the cities was not available for 2008. From 1989 to 1999, Chickamauga experienced a 16.6% increase in per capita income, Rossville's per capita income

increased 7.6%, LaFayette's per capita income increased 4.8%, and Lookout Mountain's per capita income declined 9.8%.

**Table 2-25 Per Capita Income**

| Area             | 1989     | 1999     | 2008     | % Change  |           |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
|                  |          |          |          | 1989-1999 | 1999-2008 |
| Walker County    | \$18,362 | \$20,505 | \$19,796 | 11.7      | -3.5      |
| Chickamauga      | \$19,633 | \$22,895 | NA       | 16.6      | NA        |
| LaFayette        | \$15,998 | \$16,758 | NA       | 4.8       | NA        |
| Lookout Mountain | \$44,738 | \$40,356 | NA       | -9.8      | NA        |
| Rossville        | \$17,026 | \$18,319 | NA       | 7.6       | NA        |
| State of Georgia | \$23,668 | \$27,338 | \$25,676 | 15.5      | -6.1      |
| United States    | \$25,038 | \$27,898 | \$27,466 | 11.4      | -1.5      |

Note: Values for 1989 and 1999 are adjusted for inflation to 2008 dollars based on the Consumer Price Index.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3, Table P114A; 2000 SF 3, Table P82; 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, Table B19301

## Per Capita Personal Income

Per capita personal income is the mean income for a particular group derived by dividing the group's total personal income by its total population. Total personal income of a group is the income from all sources that is received by, or on behalf of, all the individuals in that group. County, MSA, state, and national per capita personal income data is presented in Table 2-26.

**Table 2-26 Per Capita Personal Income 1989, 1999, and 2008 – County, State, and Nation**

| Area                     | 1989     | 1999     | 2008     | % Change  |           | Annual Growth Rate 1999-2008 |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
|                          |          |          |          | 1989-1999 | 1999-2008 |                              |
| Walker County            | \$22,595 | \$26,890 | \$27,715 | 19.0      | 3.1       | 0.3%                         |
| Chattanooga, TN-GA (MSA) | \$28,057 | \$33,649 | \$34,784 | 19.9      | 3.4       | 0.4%                         |
| State of Georgia         | \$28,924 | \$34,598 | \$34,849 | 19.6      | 0.7       | 0.1%                         |
| United States            | \$31,952 | \$36,616 | \$40,166 | 14.6      | 9.7       | 1.0%                         |

Note: Values for 1989 and 1999 are adjusted for inflation to 2008 dollars based on the Consumer Price Index.

Source: U. S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, BEA Regional Facts (Bearfacts)

In 2008 Walker County's per capita personal income (PCPI) was \$27,715. This PCPI was 79.7% of the MSA's PCPI of \$34,784, 79.5% of the state's PCPI of \$34,849, and 69.0% of the Nation's PCPI of \$40,166. Adjusted for inflation, Walker County's PCPI increased 3.1% from 1999 to 2008, considerably better than the state (0.7%) but not as good as the MSA (3.4%) and the nation (9.7%).

## Poverty

As shown in Table 2-27, the percentage of all Walker County residents considered below U. S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds remained constant from 1989 to 1999, while percentages for the state and nation declined. The percentage of all county residents in poverty, however, followed disturbing state and national trends by increasing from 1999 to 2008. A census-estimated 15.2% of Walker County residents lived in poverty in 2008—a 33.0% increase in the number of people living in poverty since 1999. The estimated percentage of Walker County residents living in poverty in 2008 was higher than the percentage for the state (14.7%) and the nation (13.2%). In 1989 the percentage of all Walker County residents living in poverty (11.9%) was lower than the state (14.9%) and nation (12.8%).

**Table 2-27 Percent of Specified Age Groups in Poverty – County, State, and Nation**

| Age Group            | Area             | 1989       |            | 1999       |            | 2008       |            | % Change  |           |
|----------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
|                      |                  | Total      | % of Total | Total      | % of Total | Total      | % of Total | 1999-2008 | 1989-2008 |
| All Ages in Poverty  | Walker County    | 6,956      | 11.9       | 7,238      | 12.0       | 9,623      | 15.2       | 33.0      | 38.3      |
|                      | State of Georgia | 951,260    | 14.9       | 1,013,862  | 12.7       | 1,388,959  | 14.7       | 37.0      | 46.0      |
|                      | United States    | 31,528,020 | 12.8       | 32,791,272 | 11.9       | 39,108,422 | 13.2       | 19.3      | 24.0      |
| Ages 0-17 in Poverty | Walker County    | 2,211      | 14.3       | 2,808      | 18.7       | 3,206      | 21.3       | 14.2      | 45.0      |
|                      | State of Georgia | 368,025    | 21.1       | 392,824    | 18.3       | 507,967    | 20.2       | 29.3      | 38.0      |
|                      | United States    | 12,589,930 | 19.6       | 12,280,321 | 17.1       | 13,240,870 | 18.2       | 7.8       | 5.2       |
| Ages 5-17 in Poverty | Walker County    | 1,415      | 12.4       | 1,893      | 17.1       | 2,050      | 18.6       | 8.3       | 44.9      |
|                      | State of Georgia | 235,986    | 19.4       | 262,101    | 16.8       | 324,953    | 18.3       | 24.0      | 37.7      |
|                      | United States    | 7,917,622  | 17.7       | 8,188,068  | 15.9       | 8,549,526  | 16.5       | 4.4       | 8.0       |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) 1989, 1999, 2008

## Educational Attainment

Educational attainment rates for Walker county residents 25-years-and-older are presented in Table 2-28. While significant improvements in educational attainment in Walker County have occurred since 1990, the percentage of county residents with an educational attainment of *less than high school graduate* (26.8%) remained much higher than percentages for the state (17.1%) and nation (15.5%) in 2008. At the other end of the educational attainment spectrum, the percentage of county residents with an educational attainment of *bachelor's degree or higher* (11.8%) remains much below the percentages for the state (27.0%) and the nation (27.4%)

**Table 2-28 Educational Attainment 1990, 2000, and 2008 – County, State, and Nation**

| Educational Attainment               | Walker County |       |       | State of Georgia |       |       | United States |       |       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|
|                                      | 1990          | 2000  | 2008  | 1990             | 2000  | 2008  | 1990          | 2000  | 2008  |
| Less than high school graduate       | 41.7%         | 33.1% | 26.8% | 29.1%            | 21.4% | 17.1% | 24.8%         | 19.6% | 15.5% |
| High school grad (incl. equivalency) | 33.3%         | 35.1% | 33.6% | 29.6%            | 28.7% | 30.0% | 30.0%         | 28.6% | 29.6% |
| Some college or associate degree     | 16.6%         | 21.7% | 27.8% | 22.0%            | 25.6% | 25.9% | 24.9%         | 27.4% | 27.5% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher          | 8.4%          | 10.2% | 11.8% | 19.3%            | 24.3% | 27.0% | 20.3%         | 24.4% | 27.4% |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3, 2000 SF 3, 2006-2008 American Community Survey (3-Year Estimates)

The American Community Survey did not include educational attainment data for cities in 2008. In 2000, as shown in Table 2-29, 10.2% of Chickamauga's 25-years-and-older population held a *bachelor's degree or higher*. LaFayette's share of residents in this category was 10.4%; Lookout Mountain's share was 70.3%; and Rossville's share was 8.5%. The percentages in this category for the county, state, and nation in 2000 were 10.2%, 24.3%, and 24.4%, respectively. Lookout Mountain's educational attainment greatly exceeded that of the state and nation, while the other cities lagged the state and national educational attainment rates.

**Table 2-29 Educational Attainment 1990-2000 - Cities**

| Educational Attainment                   | Chickamauga |       | LaFayette |       | Lookout Mountain |       | Rossville |       |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
|  | 1990        | 2000  | 1990      | 2000  | 1990             | 2000  | 1990      | 2000  |
| Less than high school graduate           | 35.8%       | 25.6% | 49.1%     | 41.7% | 5.1%             | 3.6%  | 51.3%     | 38.7% |
| High school graduate (incl. equivalency) | 35.9%       | 35.7% | 31.0%     | 31.1% | 11.1%            | 6.7%  | 26.8%     | 31.8% |
| Some college or associate degree         | 17.8%       | 28.5% | 11.9%     | 16.8% | 22.0%            | 19.4% | 14.3%     | 20.9% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher              | 10.5%       | 10.2% | 8.1%      | 10.4% | 61.8%            | 70.3% | 7.7%      | 8.5%  |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3, 2000 SF 3

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Economic Base

This section defines employment and labor force as follows:

- Employment represents the jobs located in Walker County with no concern for where the employees live.
- Labor force represents the eligible working population of Walker County with no concern for the location of the jobs.

### Employment

As shown in Table 3-1, Walker County's employment declined 18.3% from 2000 to the first quarter of 2010, while state employment declined 4.8% over the same period. The county's employment declined steadily from 15,294 in 2000 to 14,160 in 2005; it then rebounded slightly to 14,708 in 2007. From 2000 to 2007, Walker County employment declined 3.8%, while state employment increased 4.9%. Job losses associated with national economic recession began in 2008 for the county and state. From 2007 to the first quarter of 2010, the county suffered an employment loss of 15.1%, compared to a 9.3% loss for the state. The average number of jobs in Walker County during the first quarter of 2010 was 12,481.

**Table 3-1 Number of Employees 2000-2010 – County and State**

| Year                            | Walker County | State of Georgia |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 2000                            | 15,294        | 3,884,388        |
| 2001                            | 15,066        | 3,866,289        |
| 2002                            | 14,860        | 3,802,128        |
| 2003                            | 14,700        | 3,780,461        |
| 2004                            | 14,476        | 3,835,905        |
| 2005                            | 14,160        | 3,931,719        |
| 2006                            | 14,326        | 4,023,824        |
| 2007                            | 14,708        | 4,076,363        |
| 2008                            | 14,194        | 4,029,673        |
| 2009                            | 12,873        | 3,798,106        |
| 2010 (Q1) <sup>1</sup>          | 12,481        | 3,697,084        |
| % Change 2000-2007              | -3.8          | 4.9              |
| % Change 2007-2010 <sup>1</sup> | -15.1         | -9.3             |
| % Change 2000-2010 <sup>1</sup> | -18.3         | -4.8             |

<sup>1</sup>Data for 2010 represents the first quarter only.

Source: Georgia Department of Labor. These data represent jobs that are covered by unemployment insurance laws.

After declining 5.7% from 2001 to 2008, the annual average number of jobs in Walker County fell 12.2% from 2008 to the first quarter of 2010. As shown in Table 3-2, the MSA, state, and nation, unlike Walker County, experienced modest employment gains from 2000 to 2008. From 2008 to the first quarter of 2010, employment in the MSA, state, and nation similarly declined, but at lower rates of 9.3%, 7.9%, and 6.9%, respectively.

**Table 3-2 Number of Employees 2001-2010 – County, MSA, State, and Nation**

| Year                            | Walker County | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | State of Georgia | United States |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 2001                            | 15,071        | 230,002               | 3,871,763        | 129,635,800   |
| 2002                            | 14,873        | 227,667               | 3,807,915        | 128,233,919   |
| 2003                            | 14,700        | 228,732               | 3,783,232        | 127,795,827   |
| 2004                            | 14,471        | 231,155               | 3,840,663        | 129,278,176   |
| 2005                            | 14,171        | 233,787               | 3,932,315        | 131,571,623   |
| 2006                            | 14,313        | 234,949               | 4,024,699        | 133,833,834   |
| 2007                            | 14,707        | 237,354               | 4,077,184        | 135,366,106   |
| 2008                            | 14,205        | 234,684               | 4,031,467        | 134,805,659   |
| 2009                            | 12,865        | 216,202               | 3,796,429        | 128,607,842   |
| 2010 <sup>1</sup>               | 12,479        | 212,924               | 3,712,234        | 125,568,636   |
| % Change 2001-2008              | -5.7          | 2.0                   | 4.1              | 4.0           |
| % Change 2008-2010 <sup>1</sup> | -12.2         | -9.3                  | -7.9             | -6.9          |

<sup>1</sup>Data for 2010 is preliminary first quarter only

Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

As shown in Table 3-3, the *leisure and hospitality* supersector's 10.3% growth rate from 2000 to 2009 led all supersectors but netted only 104 total jobs. Only two other supersectors, *education*



and health services and public administration, posted employment gains from 2000 to 2009, adding 102 and 10 jobs, respectively. The largest number of job losses (2,110) was suffered by the manufacturing supersector, followed by trade, transportation, and utilities (547), professional and business services (287), and construction (194).

Table 3-3 Historic Average Monthly Employment - County

| NAICS Supersector                    | 1990   |        | 2000   |        | 2009   |        | % Change 1990-2000 | % Change 2000-2009 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Construction                         | 285    | 2.2%   | 539    | 3.6%   | 345    | 2.9%   | 89.1               | -36.0              |
| Education and health services        | 531    | 4.2%   | 2,825  | 19.1%  | 2,927  | 25.0%  | 432.0              | 3.6                |
| Financial activities                 | 361    | 2.8%   | 411    | 2.8%   | 387    | 3.3%   | 13.9               | -5.8               |
| Information                          | 250    | 2.0%   | 59     | 0.4%   | 44     | 0.4%   | -76.4              | -25.4              |
| Leisure and hospitality              | 667    | 5.2%   | 1,005  | 6.8%   | 1,109  | 9.5%   | 50.7               | 10.3               |
| Manufacturing                        | 7,273  | 57.2%  | 6,281  | 42.5%  | 4,171  | 35.6%  | -13.6              | -33.6              |
| Natural resources and mining         | -      | -      | 51     | 0.3%   | 27     | 0.2%   | -                  | -47.1              |
| Other services                       | 407    | 3.2%   | 353    | 2.4%   | 279    | 2.4%   | -13.3              | -21.0              |
| Professional and business services   | 623    | 4.9%   | 622    | 4.2%   | 335    | 2.9%   | -0.2               | -46.1              |
| Public administration                | 212    | 1.7%   | 250    | 1.7%   | 260    | 2.2%   | 17.9               | 4.0                |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities | 2,107  | 16.6%  | 2,382  | 16.1%  | 1,835  | 15.7%  | 13.1               | -23.0              |
| All industries                       | 12,716 | 100.0% | 14,778 | 100.0% | 11,719 | 100.0% | 16.2               | -20.7              |

Source: Georgia Statistics System, Analysis of Employment Changes

Table 3-4 compares Walker County's 2009 average monthly employment by industrial sector to that of the MSA, state, and nation. *Manufacturing* represented the largest share of the county's employment at 32.4%, significantly higher than that of the MSA (13.2%), state (9.4%), and nation (9.2%). *Retail trade* represented 11.0% of the county's employment, the same share as that of the MSA, but significantly higher than that of the state (5.2%) and nation (4.3%). *Accommodation and food services* represented 7.0% of the county's employment, lower than the share for the MSA (9.4%), state (8.9%), and nation (8.6%). *Local government jobs* accounted for 21.3% of Walker County's employment, a significantly higher percentage than that of the MSA (10.6%), state (11.2%), and nation (11.0%).

**Table 3-4 Comparison of Average Monthly Employment 2009 - County, MSA, State, and Nation**

| NAICS Sector                           | Walker County |              | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA |              | State of Georgia | United States |
|--|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
|  | 2009          | % of Total   | 2009                  | % of Total   | % of Total       | % of Total    |
| <b>Goods Producing</b>                 | <b>4,543</b>  | <b>35.3</b>  | <b>37,057</b>         | <b>17.1</b>  | <b>14.6</b>      | <b>15.2</b>   |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing      | **            | -            | 127                   | 0.1          | 0.6              | 0.9           |
| Mining                                 | **            | -            | 92                    | 0.0          | 0.1              | 0.5           |
| Construction                           | 345           | 2.7          | 8,340                 | 3.9          | 4.4              | 4.6           |
| Manufacturing                          | 4,171         | 32.4         | 28,498                | 13.2         | 9.4              | 9.2           |
| <b>Service Producing</b>               | <b>4,763</b>  | <b>37.0</b>  | <b>145,828</b>        | <b>67.4</b>  | <b>67.4</b>      | <b>68.0</b>   |
| Wholesale Trade                        | 223           | 1.7          | 7,891                 | 3.6          | 0.5              | 0.4           |
| Retail Trade                           | 1,420         | 11.0         | 23,838                | 11.0         | 5.2              | 4.3           |
| Transportation and warehousing         | 95            | 0.7          | 14,442                | 6.7          | 11.5             | 11.3          |
| Utilities                              | **            | -            | 393                   | 0.2          | 4.0              | 3.1           |
| Information                            | 44            | 0.3          | 3,575                 | 1.7          | 2.8              | 2.2           |
| Finance and insurance                  | 338           | 2.6          | 14,077                | 6.5          | 4.0              | 4.4           |
| Real estate and rental and leasing     | 49            | 0.4          | 2,515                 | 1.2          | 1.5              | 1.5           |
| Professional, scientific/tech services | 172           | 1.3          | 8,832                 | 4.1          | 5.7              | 5.8           |
| Management of companies/enterprises    | **            | -            | **                    | -            | 1.4              | 1.4           |
| Administrative & Waste Services        | 159           | 1.2          | **                    | -            | 6.4              | 5.6           |
| Educational services                   | 5             | 0.0          | **                    | -            | 1.6              | 1.9           |
| Health care and social assistance      | 865           | 6.7          | **                    | -            | 10.2             | 12.4          |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation     | 208           | 1.6          | 2,450                 | 1.1          | 1.1              | 1.5           |
| Accommodation and food services        | 901           | 7.0          | 20,291                | 9.4          | 8.9              | 8.6           |
| Other services (except government)     | 279           | 2.2          | 6,512                 | 3.0          | 2.5              | 3.4           |
| <b>Unclassified</b>                    | <b>17</b>     | <b>0.1</b>   | <b>38</b>             | <b>0.0</b>   | <b>0.2</b>       | <b>0.1</b>    |
| <b>Total - Private Sector</b>          | <b>9,323</b>  | <b>72.4</b>  | <b>182,886</b>        | <b>84.6</b>  | <b>82.1</b>      | <b>83.2</b>   |
| <b>Total - Government</b>              | <b>3,551</b>  | <b>27.6</b>  | <b>33,317</b>         | <b>15.4</b>  | <b>17.9</b>      | <b>16.8</b>   |
| Federal                                | 119           | 0.9          | 5,864                 | 2.7          | 2.7              | 2.2           |
| State                                  | 695           | 5.4          | 4,483                 | 2.1          | 4.0              | 3.6           |
| Local                                  | 2,737         | 21.3         | 22,970                | 10.6         | 11.2             | 11.0          |
| <b>Total - All Industries</b>          | <b>12,873</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>216,202</b>        | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b>     | <b>100.0</b>  |

\*\* Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards

Source: Georgia Department of Labor (county and state); U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (MSA and nation)

## Wages

The average weekly wages for jobs in Walker County were lower than state and national figures for every sector in 2009, as shown in Table 3-5. Average weekly wages for the county also fell below the MSA in all sectors except *information; arts, entertainment, and recreation; and other services (except government)*. The county's average weekly wages fared somewhat better in comparison to the region. The county had higher average weekly wages than the region in six sectors as follows: *wholesale trade; information; finance and insurance; professional and technical services; arts, entertainment, and recreation; and other services (except government)*. Each of the three sectors with the county's largest number of employees—*manufacturing, retail*

*trade, and accommodation and food services*—provided lower average weekly wages than the MSA, region, state, and nation.

**Table 3-5 Weekly Wages by Industry 2009 – County, MSA, Region, State, and Nation**

| NAICS Sector                           | Walker County | Chatt. TN-GA MSA | NW Georgia Region | State of Georgia | United States | Walker as a % of: |             |             |             |
|--|---------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  |               |                  |                   |                  |               | MSA               | Region      | State       | Nation      |
| Agriculture, forestry, & fishing       | **            | \$421            | \$576             | \$515            | \$501         | -                 | -           | -           | -           |
| Mining                                 | **            | \$1,011          | \$863             | \$1,005          | \$1,645       | -                 | -           | -           | -           |
| Utilities                              | **            | \$1,296          | \$1,488           | \$1,501          | \$1,632       | -                 | -           | -           | -           |
| Construction                           | \$565         | \$856            | \$686             | \$866            | \$948         | 66.0              | 82.4        | 65.2        | 59.6        |
| Manufacturing                          | \$633         | \$845            | \$714             | \$907            | \$1,055       | 74.9              | 88.7        | 69.8        | 60.0        |
| Wholesale trade                        | \$823         | \$953            | \$800             | \$1,230          | \$1,185       | 86.4              | 102.9       | 66.9        | 69.5        |
| Retail trade                           | \$400         | \$481            | \$445             | \$492            | \$503         | 83.2              | 89.9        | 81.3        | 79.5        |
| Transportation and warehousing         | \$572         | \$643            | \$696             | \$878            | \$824         | 89.0              | 82.2        | 65.1        | 69.4        |
| Information                            | \$1,078       | \$825            | \$812             | \$1,382          | \$1,369       | 130.7             | 132.8       | 78.0        | 78.7        |
| Finance and insurance                  | \$819         | \$1,158          | \$802             | \$1,300          | \$1,534       | 70.7              | 102.1       | 63.0        | 53.4        |
| Real estate and rental and leasing     | \$434         | \$792            | \$506             | \$844            | \$813         | 54.8              | 85.8        | 51.4        | 53.4        |
| Professional, scientific/tech services | \$932         | \$988            | \$923             | \$1,332          | \$1,438       | 94.3              | 101.0       | 70.0        | 64.8        |
| Management: companies/enterprises      | **            | **               | \$1,364           | \$1,578          | \$1,758       | -                 | -           | -           | -           |
| Administrative and waste services      | \$467         | **               | \$486             | \$626            | \$627         | -                 | 96.1        | 74.6        | 74.5        |
| Educational services                   | **            | **               | \$670             | \$858            | \$808         | -                 | -           | -           | -           |
| Health care and social services        | \$514         | **               | \$775             | \$833            | \$831         | -                 | 66.3        | 61.7        | 61.9        |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation     | \$349         | \$343            | \$324             | \$598            | \$608         | 101.7             | 107.7       | 58.4        | 57.4        |
| Accommodation and food services        | \$231         | \$280            | \$246             | \$304            | \$321         | 82.5              | 93.9        | 76.0        | 72.0        |
| Other services (except government)     | \$541         | \$537            | \$527             | \$578            | \$554         | 100.7             | 102.7       | 93.6        | 97.7        |
| Unclassified                           | \$518         | \$587            | \$742             | \$1,006          | \$892         | 88.2              | 69.8        | 51.5        | 58.1        |
| Total - Private Sector                 | \$550         | \$712            | \$634             | \$830            | \$868         | 77.2              | 86.8        | 66.3        | 63.4        |
| Total - Government                     | \$554         | \$815            | \$666             | \$797            | \$914         | 68.0              | 83.2        | 69.5        | 60.6        |
| <b>All industries</b>                  | <b>\$551</b>  | <b>\$728</b>     | <b>\$640</b>      | <b>\$824</b>     | <b>\$876</b>  | <b>75.7</b>       | <b>86.1</b> | <b>66.9</b> | <b>62.9</b> |

\*\* Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards

Source: Georgia Department of Labor (county, region, and state); U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (MSA and nation)

Tables 3-6 and 3-7 show the average wages of all industries for Walker County, the MSA, state, and nation and the county's wages as a percentage of the wages for the MSA, state, and nation for 2001 through 2009. Average weekly and annual wages for all industries in Walker County trailed the MSA, state, and nation over this period. The county's average weekly wage of \$551 in 2009 was 75.7% of the MSA's average weekly wage of \$728, 66.8% of the state's average weekly wage of \$825, and 62.9% of the nation's average weekly wage of \$876. In addition, the annual rate of change for wages was lower for the county than for the MSA, state, and nation, indicating that the imbalance widened over the period.

**Table 3-6 Average Wages for All Industries – County, MSA, State, and Nation**

| Year                    | Average Weekly Wages |                       |                  |               | Average Annual Wages |                       |                  |               |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
|                         | Walker County        | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | State of Georgia | United States | Walker County        | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | State of Georgia | United States |
| 2001                    | \$464                | \$575                 | \$676            | \$697         | \$24,124             | \$29,888              | \$35,136         | \$36,219      |
| 2002                    | \$487                | \$587                 | \$687            | \$707         | \$25,309             | \$30,536              | \$35,734         | \$36,764      |
| 2003                    | \$513                | \$612                 | \$704            | \$726         | \$26,653             | \$31,834              | \$36,626         | \$37,765      |
| 2004                    | \$524                | \$629                 | \$728            | \$757         | \$27,252             | \$32,701              | \$37,866         | \$39,354      |
| 2005                    | \$545                | \$649                 | \$752            | \$782         | \$28,333             | \$33,743              | \$39,096         | \$40,677      |
| 2006                    | \$555                | \$680                 | \$776            | \$818         | \$28,836             | \$35,358              | \$40,370         | \$42,535      |
| 2007                    | \$573                | \$702                 | \$811            | \$855         | \$29,781             | \$36,522              | \$42,178         | \$44,458      |
| 2008                    | \$565                | \$716                 | \$819            | \$876         | \$29,386             | \$37,258              | \$42,585         | \$45,563      |
| 2009                    | \$551                | \$728                 | \$825            | \$876         | \$28,645             | \$37,839              | \$42,902         | \$45,559      |
| % Change 2001-2009      | 18.8                 | 26.6                  | 22.0             | 25.7          | 18.7                 | 26.6                  | 22.1             | 25.8          |
| % Annual Change 2001-09 | 2.2                  | 3.0                   | 2.5              | 2.9           | 2.2                  | 3.0                   | 2.5              | 2.9           |

Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

**Table 3-7 Average Annual Walker County Wages as Percentage of MSA, State, and Nation**

| Year | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | State of Georgia | United States |
|------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 2001 | 80.7%                 | 68.7%            | 66.6%         |
| 2002 | 82.9%                 | 70.8%            | 68.8%         |
| 2003 | 83.7%                 | 72.8%            | 70.6%         |
| 2004 | 83.3%                 | 72.0%            | 69.2%         |
| 2005 | 84.0%                 | 72.5%            | 69.7%         |
| 2006 | 81.6%                 | 71.4%            | 67.8%         |
| 2007 | 81.5%                 | 70.6%            | 67.0%         |
| 2008 | 78.9%                 | 69.0%            | 64.5%         |
| 2009 | 75.7%                 | 66.8%            | 62.9%         |

Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

## Labor Force

### Participation

The Walker County labor force grew at a significantly slower rate (12.6%) than did that of the MSA (20.1%), region (45.1%), state (44.5%), and nation (22.5%) from 1990 to 2009, as shown in Table 3-8. The county labor force growth rate of 12.6% compares to a county resident population growth rate of 11.4% over the same period. From 2000 to 2009, the county labor force increased 5.2%, greater than the growth rate for the MSA (3.3%), but well below the growth rate for the region (13.2%), state (12.4%), and nation (8.1%).

**Table 3-8 Historical Labor Force Size**

| Year / Growth Rate                   | Labor Force   |                       |                   |                  |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
|                                      | Walker County | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | NW Georgia Region | State of Georgia | United States |
| 1990                                 | 28,548        | 212,657               | 282,690           | 3,300,136        | 125,840,000   |
| 2000                                 | 30,561        | 247,294               | 362,493           | 4,242,889        | 142,583,000   |
| 2009                                 | 32,153        | 255,463               | 410,215           | 4,768,923        | 154,142,000   |
| Growth Rate 1990-2000                | 7.1           | 16.3                  | 28.2              | 28.6             | 13.3          |
| Average Annual Growth Rate 1990-2000 | 0.7           | 1.5                   | 2.5               | 2.5              | 1.3           |
| Growth Rate 2000-2009                | 5.2           | 3.3                   | 13.2              | 12.4             | 8.1           |
| Average Annual Growth Rate 2000-2009 | 0.6           | 0.4                   | 1.4               | 1.3              | 0.9           |
| Growth Rate 1990-2009                | 12.6          | 20.1                  | 45.1              | 44.5             | 22.5          |
| Average Annual Growth Rate 1990-2009 | 0.6           | 1.0                   | 2.0               | 2.0              | 1.1           |

Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Georgia Department of Labor

### Employment Status

Table 3-9 presents characteristics of the Walker County labor force in 2008. Of the 16-years-and-over population, 59.1% participated in the county's labor force, compared to 64.2% for the MSA and 66.2% for the State of Georgia.

**Table 3-9 Labor Force Employment Status 2008 – County and State**

| Category                     | Walker County |            | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA |            | State of Georgia |            |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
|                              | Total         | % of Total | Total                 | % of Total | Total            | % of Total |
| Population 16 years and over | 50,651        | 100.0      | 409,460               | 100.0      | 7,281,160        | 100.0      |
| In labor force               | 29,957        | 59.1       | 262,993               | 64.2       | 4,823,154        | 66.2       |
| Armed forces                 | 6             | 0.0        | 326                   | 0.1        | 55,858           | 0.8        |
| Civilian labor force         | 29,951        | 59.1       | 262,667               | 64.1       | 4,767,296        | 65.5       |
| Employed                     | 27,514        | 54.3       | 243,501               | 59.5       | 4,436,139        | 60.9       |
| Unemployed                   | 2,437         | 4.8        | 19,166                | 4.7        | 331,157          | 4.5        |
| Not in labor force           | 20,694        | 40.9       | 146,467               | 35.8       | 2,458,006        | 33.8       |
| Unemployment rate            | 8.1%          |            | 7.3%                  |            | 6.9%             |            |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

### Occupations

Walker County's shares of its civilian labor force in the occupation categories shown in Table 3-10 differed only slightly from the MSA and State of Georgia in 2008. Compared to the MSA and state, the county's labor force had a larger share employed in *construction, extraction, and maintenance* and *production, transportation, and material moving* occupations and a smaller share employed in *management, professional, and related* and *service* occupations.

**Table 3-10 Employed Civilian Labor Force by Occupation 2008 – County, MSA, and State**

| Occupation                                      | Walker County |            | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA |            | State of Georgia |            |
|---|---------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
|   | Total         | % of Total | Total                 | % of Total | Total            | % of Total |
| Management, professional, and related           | 6,566         | 23.9       | 77,751                | 31.9       | 1,508,202        | 34.0       |
| Service   | 4,049         | 14.7       | 40,051                | 16.4       | 686,320          | 15.5       |
| Sales and office                                | 7,223         | 26.3       | 64,336                | 26.4       | 1,153,013        | 26.0       |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry                  | 107           | 0.4        | 534                   | 0.2        | 25,808           | 0.6        |
| Construction, extraction, and maintenance       | 3,342         | 12.1       | 21,396                | 8.8        | 466,642          | 10.5       |
| Production, transportation, and material moving | 6,227         | 22.6       | 39,433                | 16.2       | 596,154          | 13.4       |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Employed civilian labor force occupation data for 2008 is not available for the cities. Therefore, this data for 2000 is presented in Table 3-11 for the county, its cities, the MSA, and state. Lookout Mountain had a significantly higher percentage of its labor force employed in *management, professional, and related* occupations than did the MSA and state. In *service* occupations, LaFayette had a higher percentage of its labor force employed than did the MSA and state. Both Chickamauga and Lookout Mountain had higher percentages of their labor forces employed in *sales and office* occupations than did the MSA and state. Chickamauga and LaFayette had percentages of their labor forces employed in *construction, extraction, and maintenance* occupations that were higher than those for the MSA and state, as did Chickamauga, LaFayette, and Rossville in *production, transportation, and material moving* occupations.

**Table 3-11 Employed Civilian Labor Force by Occupation 2000 –County, Cities, MSA, and State**

| Occupation                                      | Walker County | Chickamauga | LaFayette | Lookout Mountain | Rossville | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | State of Georgia |
|---|---------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Management, professional, and related           | 20.9%         | 25.6%       | 17.6%     | 54.3%            | 20.1%     | 29.9%                 | 32.7%            |
| Service   | 13.9%         | 11.5%       | 16.5%     | 5.6%             | 13.1%     | 13.5%                 | 13.4%            |
| Sales and office                                | 24.0%         | 28.7%       | 19.6%     | 33.6%            | 24.8%     | 26.8%                 | 26.8%            |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry                  | 0.6%          | 0.0%        | 0.0%      | 0.3%             | 0.0%      | 0.2%                  | 0.6%             |
| Construction, extraction, and maintenance       | 13.6%         | 13.2%       | 14.6%     | 3.0%             | 10.3%     | 9.8%                  | 10.8%            |
| Production, transportation, and material moving | 27.1%         | 20.9%       | 31.7%     | 3.2%             | 31.7%     | 19.8%                 | 15.7%            |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF 3

### Personal Income

As shown in Table 3-12, Walker County’s households received 75.0% of their personal income from *wages and salaries* in 2000, compared to 78.2% for the state. County households received 5.6% of their personal income from *self employment* and 4.3% from *interest, dividends, or net rental*, compared to 5.6% and 5.3%, respectively, for the state. County households received 12.2% of their personal income from *Social Security* and *retirement*, compared to 8.6% for the state. Among the cities, Chickamauga households had the highest percentage (78.4%) of personal income from *wages and salaries*, followed by households in LaFayette (70.5%), Rossville (65.1%), and Lookout Mountain (63.3%). Compared to the state, county, and other

cities, Lookout Mountain households had significantly higher percentages of personal income from *interest, dividends, or net rental and self employment*, 17.9% and 10.1%, respectively.

**Table 3-12 Personal Income by Type – County, Cities, and State**

| Category                           | Walker County |       | Chickamauga |       | LaFayette |       | Lookout Mountain |       | Rossville |       | State of Georgia |       |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------------|-------|
|                                    | 1990          | 2000  | 1990        | 2000  | 1990      | 2000  | 1990             | 2000  | 1990      | 2000  | 1990             | 2000  |
| Wages and/or salaries              | 76.6%         | 75.0% | 76.8%       | 78.4% | 76.0%     | 70.5% | 57.5%            | 63.3% | 70.5%     | 65.1% | 78.5%            | 78.2% |
| Other types                        | 1.3%          | 2.1%  | 1.5%        | 2.9%  | 1.2%      | 3.1%  | 1.2%             | 1.6%  | 1.0%      | 4.4%  | 1.1%             | 1.7%  |
| Self employment                    | 6.2%          | 5.6%  | 4.4%        | 6.1%  | 2.6%      | 4.9%  | 16.4%            | 10.1% | 7.4%      | 6.2%  | 6.3%             | 5.6%  |
| Interest, dividends, or net rental | 4.2%          | 4.3%  | 5.2%        | 2.9%  | 4.2%      | 3.4%  | 18.1%            | 17.9% | 4.7%      | 4.3%  | 5.6%             | 5.3%  |
| Social Security                    | 7.8%          | 8.0%  | 7.5%        | 6.4%  | 11.4%     | 11.9% | 4.0%             | 4.6%  | 11.9%     | 11.6% | 4.3%             | 4.0%  |
| Public assistance                  | 0.7%          | 0.8%  | 0.7%        | 0.4%  | 1.1%      | 1.7%  | 0.3%             | 0.1%  | 1.4%      | 1.2%  | 0.7%             | 0.1%  |
| Retirement                         | 3.0%          | 4.2%  | 3.9%        | 2.8%  | 3.3%      | 4.4%  | 2.6%             | 2.4%  | 3.1%      | 7.3%  | 3.4%             | 4.6%  |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3; Census 2000 SF 3

## Unemployment

As shown in Table 3-13, the unemployment rate for Walker county was 6.0% in 1990 and 3.5% in 2000. From 2001 through 2007, the county’s unemployment rate ranged from 4.2% to 4.8%, consistently below the national unemployment rates during this period and below the state unemployment rates except for 2001. As a result of the national economic recession, however, the county’s unemployment rate increased to 6.6% in 2008 and 10.4% in 2009. The monthly, not seasonally adjusted, unemployment rate for September 2010 was 10.3%. County unemployment rates for 2008 and later are consistent with the northwest Georgia region but are somewhat higher than those for the state and nation.

**Table 3-13 Historical Unemployment Rates – County, Region, State, and Nation**

| Year              | Walker County | Northwest Georgia Region | State of Georgia | United States |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1990              | 6.0%          | 6.5%                     | 5.2%             | 5.6%          |
| 2000              | 3.5%          | 3.3%                     | 3.5%             | 4.0%          |
| 2001              | 4.2%          | 4.0%                     | 4.0%             | 4.7%          |
| 2002              | 4.3%          | 4.4%                     | 4.8%             | 5.8%          |
| 2003              | 4.2%          | 4.4%                     | 4.8%             | 6.0%          |
| 2004              | 4.2%          | 4.4%                     | 4.7%             | 5.5%          |
| 2005              | 4.8%          | 4.8%                     | 5.2%             | 5.1%          |
| 2006              | 4.4%          | 4.3%                     | 4.7%             | 4.6%          |
| 2007              | 4.5%          | 4.5%                     | 4.6%             | 4.6%          |
| 2008              | 6.6%          | 6.6%                     | 6.2%             | 5.8%          |
| 2009              | 10.4%         | 10.8%                    | 9.6%             | 9.3%          |
| 2010 <sup>1</sup> | 10.3%         | 10.5%                    | 9.9%             | 9.2%          |

<sup>1</sup>Monthly not seasonally adjusted data for September 2010

Source: Georgia Department of Labor, Workforce Information & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

## Labor Force Employment by Industry

Tables 3-14 and 3-15 show county labor force employment by industry and share of labor force employment by industry for 1990 and 2000. In 1990, 35.6% of the county's employed civilian labor force was employed in *manufacturing*, followed by 14.7% in *retail trade* and 11.8% in *educational, health and social services*. From 1990 to 2000, the number employed in *manufacturing* and *retail trade* each declined 16.9%, while the number employed in *educational, health and social services* increased 35.6%. Consequently, in 2000, 28.3% of the county's employed civilian labor force was employed in *manufacturing*, 15.3% was employed in *educational, health and social services*, and 11.7% was employed in *retail trade*. The percentage of the county's employed civilian labor force employed in *manufacturing* was considerably higher than for the MSA and state, the percentage employed in *retail trade* was on a par with the MSA and state, and the percentage employed in *educational, health and social services* was somewhat lower than for the MSA and state. From 1990 to 2000, the largest percentage increase in labor force employment by industry (1,146.7%) came in *arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services*, followed by *professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services* (57.0%).

**Table 3-14 Labor Force Employment by Industry 1990-2000 – County, MSA, and State**

| Category   | Walker County |        |                       | Chattanooga<br>TN-GA MSA | State of<br>Georgia   |
|--|---------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
|  | 1990          | 2000   | % Change<br>1990-2000 | % Change<br>1990-2000    | % Change<br>1990-2000 |
| Total employed civilian population   | 26,571        | 27,753 | 4.4                   | 10.7                     | 24.3                  |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and mining                                     | 434           | 303    | -30.2                 | -69.4                    | -35.5                 |
| Construction   | 1,729         | 2,214  | 28.1                  | 26.1                     | 42.1                  |
| Manufacturing  | 9,455         | 7,861  | -16.9                 | -5.5                     | -2.8                  |
| Wholesale trade  | 1,365         | 1,104  | -19.1                 | -15.8                    | -5.6                  |
| Retail trade   | 3,903         | 3,244  | -16.9                 | -26.6                    | -9.7                  |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities   | 1,799         | 1,411  | -21.6                 | -13.7                    | -12.2                 |
| Information  | NA            | 358    | NA                    | NA                       | NA                    |
| Finance, insurance, and real estate  | 1,255         | 1,513  | 20.6                  | 33.4                     | 24.7                  |
| Professional, scientific, management,<br>administrative, and waste management services | 972           | 1,526  | 57.0                  | 99.4                     | 139.9                 |
| Educational, health and social services  | 3,134         | 4,250  | 35.6                  | 33.6                     | 46.5                  |
| Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation,<br>and food services                   | 137           | 1,708  | 1,146.7               | 775.7                    | 760.0                 |
| Other services   | 1,707         | 1,291  | -24.4                 | -30.6                    | -31.7                 |
| Public administration  | 681           | 970    | 42.4                  | 11.4                     | 15.6                  |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3; Census 2000 SF 3



Table 3-15 Share of Labor Force Employment by Industry 1990-2000 – County, MSA, and State

| Category  | Walker County |        | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA |        | State of Georgia |        |
|---|---------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
|   | 1990          | 2000   | 1990                  | 2000   | 1990             | 2000   |
| Total employed civilian population  | 100.0%        | 100.0% | 100.0%                | 100.0% | 100.0%           | 100.0% |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and mining                                  | 1.6%          | 1.1%   | 1.8%                  | 0.5%   | 2.7%             | 1.4%   |
| Construction  | 6.5%          | 8.0%   | 6.0%                  | 6.8%   | 6.9%             | 7.9%   |
| Manufacturing   | 35.6%         | 28.3%  | 23.0%                 | 19.6%  | 18.9%            | 14.8%  |
| Wholesale trade   | 5.1%          | 4.0%   | 4.9%                  | 3.7%   | 5.1%             | 3.9%   |
| Retail trade  | 14.7%         | 11.7%  | 16.9%                 | 11.2%  | 16.5%            | 12.0%  |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities  | 6.8%          | 5.1%   | 8.7%                  | 6.8%   | 8.5%             | 6.0%   |
| Information   | NA            | 1.3%   | NA                    | 1.7%   | NA               | 3.5%   |
| Finance, insurance, and real estate   | 4.7%          | 5.5%   | 6.9%                  | 8.3%   | 6.5%             | 6.5%   |
| Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services | 3.7%          | 5.5%   | 4.0%                  | 7.2%   | 4.9%             | 9.4%   |
| Educational, health and social services   | 11.8%         | 15.3%  | 15.3%                 | 18.5%  | 14.9%            | 17.6%  |
| Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services                   | 0.5%          | 6.2%   | 0.9%                  | 7.1%   | 1.0%             | 7.1%   |
| Other services  | 6.4%          | 4.7%   | 8.3%                  | 5.2%   | 8.6%             | 4.7%   |
| Public administration   | 2.6%          | 3.5%   | 3.3%                  | 3.3%   | 5.4%             | 5.0%   |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3; Census 2000 SF 3

Walker County's labor force employment in *manufacturing* further declined 23.7% from 2000 to 2008 and represented 21.8% of the total in the latter year, as shown in Table 3-16.

Employment in *educational, health and social services* increased 20.0% and represented 18.5% of the total in 2008, and *retail trade* employment increased a modest 2.3% and represented 12.1% of the total. The county's percentage of labor force employment in *manufacturing* (21.8%) continued to significantly exceed that of the MSA (15.3%) and state (11.4%). From 2000 to 2008, the largest percentage increases in Walker County's labor force employment occurred in *professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services* (38.9%), *finance, insurance, and real estate* (35.0%), and *construction* (27.3%); and the largest percentage declines in labor force employment occurred in *agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining* (47.5%), *arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services* (34.7%), and *wholesale trade* (29.3%).

**Table 3-16 Labor Force Employment by Industry 2008 – County, MSA, and State**

| Category  | Walker County |            |                    | Chattanooga TN-GA<br>MSA |                    | State of Georgia |                    |
|---|---------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|   | Employment    | % of Total | % Change 2000-2008 | % of Total               | % Change 2000-2008 | % of Total       | % Change 2000-2008 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and mining                                  | 159           | 0.6        | -47.5              | 0.4                      | -3.9               | 1.2              | -2.6               |
| Construction  | 2,819         | 10.2       | 27.3               | 7.3                      | 16.8               | 8.6              | 25.3               |
| Manufacturing   | 5,997         | 21.8       | -23.7              | 15.3                     | -14.9              | 11.4             | -11.1              |
| Wholesale trade   | 780           | 2.8        | -29.3              | 3.0                      | -12.1              | 3.6              | 6.7                |
| Retail trade  | 3,317         | 12.1       | 2.3                | 11.2                     | 9.1                | 11.6             | 12.0               |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities  | 1,679         | 6.1        | 19.0               | 7.0                      | 11.7               | 6.2              | 18.7               |
| Information   | 373           | 1.4        | 4.2                | 1.8                      | 14.5               | 2.9              | -5.9               |
| Finance, insurance, and real estate   | 2,043         | 7.4        | 35.0               | 8.5                      | 11.8               | 6.8              | 20.0               |
| Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services | 2,120         | 7.7        | 38.9               | 8.3                      | 25.7               | 10.6             | 29.7               |
| Educational, health and social services   | 5,101         | 18.5       | 20.0               | 20.5                     | 21.2               | 19.0             | 24.5               |
| Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services                   | 1,115         | 4.1        | -34.7              | 8.2                      | 24.9               | 8.2              | 32.9               |
| Other services  | 1,007         | 3.7        | -22.0              | 5.2                      | 8.1                | 4.9              | 18.3               |
| Public administration   | 1,004         | 3.6        | 3.5                | 3.3                      | 10.5               | 5.2              | 18.8               |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF 3; 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Tables 3-17 and 3-18 provide labor force employment by industry and share of labor force employment by industry for Walker County’s cities in 1990 and 2000. In the latter year, labor force employment by industry for Chickamauga, LaFayette, and Rossville followed somewhat similar patterns as that of the county as a whole. In each case, the three industries with the largest share of labor force employment were *manufacturing*, *educational, health and social services*, and *retail trade*, in that order. For Lookout Mountain in 2000, 20.5% of the employed labor force was employed in *educational, health and social services*, followed by 16.9% in *professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services*, 15.3% in *finance, insurance, and real estate*, 11.2% in *retail trade*, and 10.1% in *manufacturing*.

**Table 3-17 Labor Force Employment by Industry 1990, 2000 - Cities**

| Category  | Chickamauga |       |                    | LaFayette |       |                    | Lookout Mountain |      |                    | Rossville |       |                    |
|---|-------------|-------|--------------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|------------------|------|--------------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|
|   | 1990        | 2000  | % Change 1990-2000 | 1990      | 2000  | % Change 1990-2000 | 1990             | 2000 | % Change 1990-2000 | 1990      | 2000  | % Change 1990-2000 |
| Total employed civilian population  | 1,066       | 1,027 | -3.7               | 2,576     | 2,458 | -4.6               | 725              | 694  | -4.3               | 1,429     | 1,402 | -1.9               |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and mining                                  | 8           | 6     | -25.0              | 29        | 0     | -100.0             | 6                | 6    | 0.0                | 24        | 0     | 100.0              |
| Construction  | 53          | 68    | 28.3               | 104       | 197   | 89.4               | 37               | 28   | -24.3              | 121       | 87    | -28.1              |
| Manufacturing   | 359         | 277   | -22.8              | 1,253     | 818   | -34.7              | 83               | 70   | -15.7              | 443       | 353   | -20.3              |
| Wholesale trade   | 57          | 22    | -61.4              | 121       | 68    | -43.8              | 56               | 27   | -51.8              | 44        | 61    | 38.6               |
| Retail trade  | 149         | 129   | -13.4              | 276       | 275   | -0.4               | 89               | 78   | -12.4              | 271       | 186   | -31.4              |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities  | 56          | 70    | 25.0               | 133       | 98    | -26.3              | 42               | 10   | -76.2              | 105       | 68    | -35.2              |
| Information   | NA          | 27    | -                  | NA        | 22    | -                  | NA               | 9    | -                  | NA        | 21    | -                  |
| Finance, insurance, and real estate   | 69          | 94    | 36.2               | 84        | 122   | 45.2               | 104              | 106  | 1.9                | 75        | 61    | -18.7              |
| Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services | 49          | 77    | 57.1               | 102       | 128   | 25.5               | 29               | 117  | 303.4              | 60        | 111   | 85.0               |
| Educational, health and social services   | 152         | 158   | 3.9                | 246       | 335   | 36.2               | 165              | 142  | -13.9              | 150       | 210   | 40.0               |
| Arts, entertainment, accommodation, and food services                               | 13          | 49    | 276.9              | 0         | 146   | -                  | 6                | 36   | 500.0              | 12        | 149   | 1,141.7            |
| Other services  | 66          | 36    | -45.5              | 142       | 70    | -50.7              | 101              | 57   | -43.6              | 104       | 74    | -28.8              |
| Public administration   | 35          | 14    | -60.0              | 86        | 179   | 108.1              | 7                | 8    | 14.3               | 20        | 21    | 5.0                |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3; Census 2000 SF 3

**Table 3-18 Share of Labor Force Employment by Industry 1990, 2000 - Cities**

| Category  | Chickamauga |       | LaFayette |       | Lookout Mountain |       | Rossville |       |
|---|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
|   | 1990        | 2000  | 1990      | 2000  | 1990             | 2000  | 1990      | 2000  |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and mining                                  | 0.8%        | 0.6%  | 1.1%      | 0.0%  | 0.8%             | 0.9%  | 1.7%      | 0.0%  |
| Construction  | 5.0%        | 6.6%  | 4.0%      | 8.0%  | 5.1%             | 4.0%  | 8.5%      | 6.2%  |
| Manufacturing   | 33.7%       | 27.0% | 48.6%     | 33.3% | 11.4%            | 10.1% | 31.0%     | 25.2% |
| Wholesale trade   | 5.3%        | 2.1%  | 4.7%      | 2.8%  | 7.7%             | 3.9%  | 3.1%      | 4.4%  |
| Retail trade  | 14.0%       | 12.6% | 10.7%     | 11.2% | 12.3%            | 11.2% | 19.0%     | 13.3% |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities  | 5.3%        | 6.8%  | 5.2%      | 4.0%  | 5.8%             | 1.4%  | 7.3%      | 4.9%  |
| Information   | NA          | 2.6%  | NA        | 0.9%  | NA               | 1.3%  | NA        | 1.5%  |
| Finance, insurance, and real estate   | 6.5%        | 9.2%  | 3.3%      | 5.0%  | 14.3%            | 15.3% | 5.2%      | 4.4%  |
| Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services | 4.6%        | 7.5%  | 4.0%      | 5.2%  | 4.0%             | 16.9% | 4.2%      | 7.9%  |
| Educational, health, and social services  | 14.3%       | 15.4% | 9.5%      | 13.6% | 22.8%            | 20.5% | 10.5%     | 15.0% |
| Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services                   | 1.2%        | 4.8%  | 0.0%      | 5.9%  | 0.8%             | 5.2%  | 0.8%      | 10.6% |
| Other services  | 6.2%        | 3.5%  | 5.5%      | 2.8%  | 13.9%            | 8.2%  | 7.3%      | 5.3%  |
| Public administration   | 3.3%        | 1.4%  | 3.3%      | 7.3%  | 1.0%             | 1.2%  | 1.4%      | 1.5%  |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3; Census 2000 SF 3

### Labor Force Employment by Industry Projections - County

Projections for share of county labor force employment by industry are shown in Table 3-19. From 2000 to 2030, employment is expected to increase in all industry categories except *transportation, warehousing, and utilities; manufacturing; and agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining*. The industries projected to have the greatest shares of the county labor

force in 2030 are *educational, health and social services, manufacturing, and retail trade*, followed closely by *arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services* and *construction*. These projections reflect the labor force for Walker County and do not reflect jobs that may actually locate in the county over the next two decades. Ideally, the county will attract jobs in the high-growth industries in order to provide opportunities for residents to live near their work.

**Table 3-19 Labor Force Employment by Industry Projections - County**

| Category  | 2000   | 2010   | 2015   | 2020   | 2025   | 2030   | % Change 2000-2030 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| Total employed civilian population  | 27,753 | 30,288 | 31,556 | 32,823 | 34,091 | 35,358 | 27.4               |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and mining                                  | 303    | 279    | 266    | 254    | 242    | 230    | -24.1              |
| Construction  | 2,214  | 2,557  | 2,728  | 2,899  | 3,070  | 3,242  | 46.4               |
| Manufacturing   | 7,861  | 7,213  | 6,888  | 6,564  | 6,240  | 5,916  | -24.7              |
| Wholesale trade   | 1,104  | 1,280  | 1,367  | 1,455  | 1,543  | 1,631  | 47.7               |
| Retail trade  | 3,244  | 3,293  | 3,317  | 3,341  | 3,365  | 3,390  | 4.5                |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities  | 1,411  | 1,188  | 1,077  | 965    | 854    | 742    | -47.4              |
| Information   | 358    | NA     | NA     | NA     | NA     | NA     | -                  |
| Finance, insurance, and real estate   | 1,513  | 1,729  | 1,836  | 1,944  | 2,052  | 2,160  | 42.8               |
| Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services | 1,526  | 1,901  | 2,089  | 2,276  | 2,464  | 2,651  | 73.7               |
| Educational, health and social services   | 4,250  | 5,176  | 5,638  | 6,101  | 6,564  | 7,027  | 65.3               |
| Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services                    | 1,708  | 2,237  | 2,502  | 2,766  | 3,031  | 3,295  | 92.9               |
| Other services  | 1,291  | 1,731  | 1,950  | 2,170  | 2,390  | 2,610  | 102.2              |
| Public administration   | 970    | 1,171  | 1,272  | 1,372  | 1,473  | 1,573  | 62.2               |

Note: Projections are based on the average rate of change from 1980 to 2000

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF 3

## Commuting Patterns

As shown in Table 3-20, only 41.3% of Walker County's workers were employed in the county in 2000, down from 44.1% in 1990. Employment in other Georgia counties increased 16.5% from 1990 to 2000 and represented 23.5% of the county's workers in 2000. Out-of-state employment increased 5.5% from 1990 to 2000 and accounted for 35.2% of the county's workers in the latter year.

**Table 3-20 Commuting Patterns – Inside/Outside County 1990, 2000**

| Category                         | 1990   |            | 2000   |            | % Change<br>1990-2000 |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|-----------------------|
|                                  | Number | % of Total | Number | % of Total |                       |
| Total: Workers 16 years and over | 26,054 | 100.0      | 27,223 | 100.0      | 4.5                   |
| Worked in State of Georgia       | 16,974 | 65.1       | 17,642 | 64.8       | 3.9                   |
| Worked in Walker County          | 11,483 | 44.1       | 11,244 | 41.3       | -2.1                  |
| Worked outside Walker County     | 5,491  | 21.1       | 6,398  | 23.5       | 16.5                  |
| Worked outside State of Georgia  | 9,080  | 34.9       | 9,581  | 35.2       | 5.5                   |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3; Census 2000 SF 3

Table 3-21 shows commuter patterns for the county's cities in 2000. Only in LaFayette did a majority (51.4%) of the city's workers work in the city. The great majority of LaFayette's workers were employed in Walker County (71.4%) and the State of Georgia (91.2%). More than 80% of the workers in each of the other three cities were employed outside of their respective communities; and in Lookout Mountain and Rossville, as might be expected due to their proximity to the Tennessee state line, a majority of workers were employed outside of the state.

**Table 3-21 Commuting Patterns – Inside/Outside Cities 2000**

| Category                          | Chickamauga |            | LaFayette |            | Lookout Mountain |            | Rossville |            |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
|                                   | Number      | % of Total | Number    | % of Total | Number           | % of Total | Number    | % of Total |
| Total: Workers 16 years and over  | 1,006       | 100.0      | 2,402     | 100.0      | 681              | 100.0      | 1,381     | 100.0      |
| Worked in place of residence      | 170         | 16.9       | 1,234     | 51.4       | 124              | 18.2       | 172       | 12.5       |
| Worked outside place of residence | 836         | 83.1       | 1,168     | 48.6       | 557              | 81.8       | 1,209     | 87.5       |
| Worked in State of Georgia        | 640         | 63.6       | 2,190     | 91.2       | 217              | 31.9       | 687       | 49.7       |
| Worked in Walker County           | 432         | 42.9       | 1,716     | 71.4       | 198              | 29.1       | 328       | 23.8       |
| Worked outside Walker County      | 208         | 20.7       | 474       | 19.7       | 19               | 2.8        | 359       | 26.0       |
| Worked outside State of Georgia   | 366         | 36.4       | 212       | 8.8        | 464              | 68.1       | 694       | 50.3       |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF 3

Table 3-22 provides the county of employment for employed Walker County residents and the county of residence for workers employed in Walker County. As can be seen, 41.3% of Walker County's workers were employed in Walker County, 33.4% were employed in Hamilton County (Tennessee), 10.3% were employed in Catoosa County, 7.6% were employed in Whitfield County, and 7.4% were employed elsewhere. Of the workers employed in Walker County in 2000, 63.1% resided in Walker County, 10.9% resided in Catoosa County, 9.5% resided in Hamilton County (Tennessee), 7.5% resided in Chattooga County, 4.2% resided in Dade County, and 4.8% resided elsewhere.

**Table 3-22 County Labor Force Commuter Patterns 2000**

| Employed Residents of Walker County |        |            | Persons Working in Walker County |        |            |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------------|----------------------------------|--------|------------|
| County Where Employed               | Number | % of Total | County of Residence              | Number | % of Total |
| Walker                              | 11,244 | 41.3       | Walker                           | 11,244 | 63.1       |
| Hamilton, TN                        | 9,098  | 33.4       | Catoosa                          | 1,937  | 10.9       |
| Catoosa                             | 2,795  | 10.3       | Hamilton, TN                     | 1,695  | 9.5        |
| Whitfield                           | 2,067  | 7.6        | Chattooga                        | 1,345  | 7.5        |
| Chattooga                           | 591    | 2.2        | Dade                             | 747    | 4.2        |
| Murray                              | 328    | 1.2        | Whitfield                        | 140    | 0.8        |
| Gordon                              | 167    | 0.6        | Marion, TN                       | 92     | 0.5        |
| Bradley, TN                         | 104    | 0.4        | DeKalb, AL                       | 90     | 0.5        |
| Other                               | 826    | 3.0        | Other                            | 533    | 3.0        |
| Total                               | 27,220 | 100.0      | Total                            | 17,823 | 100.0      |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2000 County-to-County Worker Flow Files; Georgia Department of Labor

## Economic Resources

### Development Agencies

#### Walker County Planning & Development Office & Planning Commission

The Walker County Planning & Development Office, in conjunction with the Walker County Planning Commission, includes four full-time staff members and a twelve-member, appointed board. The staff reports to Walker County's Sole Commission and the members are all appointed by the County Commissioner for four-year staggering terms. The Planning & Development office offers a wide range of services including zoning, permitting, floodplain information and maps, and development standards and guidelines. The state-mandated Stormwater Management Program is also housed out of the Planning & Development Office. This office should be the first stop for any new development in Walker County to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal development guidelines. The Planning Commission is basically the review board for zoning requests, new subdivision developments, consideration of new development guidelines and fee schedules, and to ensure compliance with Walker County's comprehensive plan.

#### Walker County Chamber of Commerce

The Walker County Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary, membership organization of professionals who have joined for promoting the civic and commercial progress of the county. The Chamber is governed by an annually-elected board of directors. The vision of the organization is "united to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Walker County by promoting business, communities, tourism, and economic development. To accomplish its vision, the Chamber is comprised of six divisions, as follows: executive, education and community development, member services, governmental and legislative affairs, business development, and special events.

### Walker County Development Authority

This seven-member authority is a non-profit, public corporation created by an amendment to Article VII, Section V, Paragraph I of the Constitution of Georgia, proposed by Resolution Act No. 176 of the 1962 General Assembly which was ratified at the 1962 general election (Ga. L. 1962, p. 912), and local legislation introduced at the January 1964 session of the General Assembly of Georgia, known as the “Walker County Development Authority Act,” approved on March 18, 1964. The purpose of the authority is the development, promotion, and expansion of industry, commerce, agriculture, natural resources, and vocational training and the making and promulgation of long-range plans for the coordination of such development, promotion, and expansion within the territorial limits of Walker County.

### Northwest Georgia Joint Development Authority

Northwest Georgia Joint Development Authority (NWGAJDA) exists to promote the expansion of existing business and industry and the recruitment of new business and industry in Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade and Walker counties. These communities focus on economic development to create economic opportunity for all citizens, stimulate business investment, diversify the public revenue base and enhance the quality of life of Northwest Georgia. NWGAJDA provides location and planning assistance to prospective companies through cooperation with the state and local companies. In addition, the NWGAJDA maintains an inventory of buildings and industrial, commercial and tourism development sites available for prospective investors and new companies. The NWGAJDA is governed by the board of directors made of members appointed by the county commissioners of each county member.

### Development Authority of LaFayette

The Development Authority of LaFayette is an industrial development authority created on September 2, 1971, under the authority of the Development Authorities Law of 1963, as amended (O.C.G.A. § 36-62-1). The authority’s seven-member board of directors focuses on industrial recruitment, retention, and growth to support the city’s economic development and to improve the quality of life for its citizens.

### Downtown Development Authority of the City of LaFayette Downtown Development Authority of the City of Rossville

These downtown development authorities are public corporations created by the Downtown Development Authority Law of 1981, as amended (O.C.G.A. § 36-42-1), and activated by a resolution of their respective local governing authority. The Rossville DDA was created on August 8, 1983, and the LaFayette DDA was created on August 4, 1989. Each DDA consists of seven directors appointed by the local governing authority and has broad powers so that it can own and lease property; make loans to finance projects; issue bonds, notes, and other obligations to pay the cost of projects; and otherwise act as a stimulus to economic development in the downtown development area. The DDA can undertake commercial, business, office, industrial, parking, or certain public projects that will benefit the revitalization and redevelopment of the city’s central business district.

## OneGeorgia Authority

OneGeorgia Authority uses the state's tobacco settlement to invest in the most economically-disadvantaged areas of Georgia. OneGeorgia focuses on rural communities like Chattooga County. The agency has a 25-year lifespan. Various funds, ranging from *AirGeorgia*, *BRIDGE*, and *EDGE* to the *Equity Fund* and the *Strategic Industries Loan Fund*, are available for cities, counties, government authorities, and multi-county or multi-jurisdictional authorities.

## Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

ARC is a federal-state partnership that works with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life. ARC provides funding limited to 30-50% of total project cost for projects that follow in accordance with one of four ARC strategic goals and include infrastructure, tourism, health care, education, etc.

## Georgia Economic Development Administration (EDA)

EDA provides funding for public facility expansion essential to industrial and commercial growth. Typical projects include industrial parks, access roads, water transmission and sewer collection lines; and airport terminal developments.

## NGCDC, Inc.

NGCDC, Inc. is a private non-profit U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)-certified corporation that facilitates small business development through business financing assistance. NGCDC, Inc. works on behalf of small businesses to provide financing for their start-ups and expansions, information and referral services, and technical assistance. NWGRC serves as the administrative entity and staff for the NGCDC, Inc. NWGRC works with the NGCDC, Inc. to make loans under the SBA's 504 loan program, EDA's Revolving Loan Fund Program, and other business financing services.

## Programs

### Georgia Power

Georgia Power offers assistance through its Community Development Department and its Resource Center. The Community Development Department offers development assistance in six program areas: research and information, business retention and expansion, leadership development, downtown revitalization, board governance, industrial location and demographic and labor market analysis. The Resource Center maintains a database of industrial parks and sites located throughout the state and serves as an *entrée* to the state's economic development resources for prospective out-of-state and international industries.



## University of Georgia Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The University of Georgia's SBDC provides management consulting for entrepreneurs and conducts marketing analyses and surveys designed to evaluate a community's economic development potential. The Dalton regional office is the closest office to Walker County.

## Technical College System of Georgia Quick Start Employee Training Program

The Quick Start Employee Training Program, which operates under the wing of the Technical College System of Georgia, is designed to train workers for specific, clearly designed jobs in a new or expanding company. Employees learn new skills and receive the opportunity to earn higher pay. Additionally, the company realizes one of its primary goals: increase production with minimum expenditures of time and money. The program will provides customized comprehensive training at no cost to the company. Quick Start can provide pre-hire and post-hire training on-site with Quick Start trainers.

## Georgia Department of Labor

Georgia Department of Labor can provide labor recruiting and screening services for each available position for new or expanding companies. The department's State Employment Agency in nearby Dalton recruits, tests and screens applicants in accordance with company specifications.

## **Tools**

### Job Tax Credits

Walker County businesses engaged in manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, processing, telecommunications, broadcasting, tourism, and research and development industries are eligible for job tax credits of \$3,000 each year for five years for each full-time job, if at least ten jobs are created. Credits may be used to offset up to 100% of a company's Georgia corporate income tax liability in any taxable year following the year the credits are earned. Unused credits can be carried forward and applied for up to ten years.

### Industrial Revenue Bonds

At the local level, industrial revenue bonds (IRBs) are issued by a local development authority to assist a private company that is unable to obtain other financing or unwilling to undertake a project on its own. Generally, IRBs can be issued for almost any purpose permitted by the Georgia Constitution and the laws governing the establishment and operation of development authorities. The bonds may be taxable or tax exempt. Basically, an IRB is a loan to a private company for construction or expansion of manufacturing or other facilities. The bond issuer does not make the loan. An investor buying the bond makes the loan, and the company must

find its own bond purchaser. The bond issuer technically owns title to the bond-financed facility and leases it to the company for which the IRBs were issued at a price from which the principal and interest could be repaid to the IRB holder (bond purchaser). IRBs can have tax benefits, but their economics depend on a number of variables.

### Freeport Tax Exemption

Freeport is the general term used for the exemption of *ad valorem tax* on inventories as defined by state law. The law offers manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and warehouse operations an attractive inventory tax exemption. Walker County has elected to approve a 100% property tax exemption for three classes of inventories: manufacturer's raw materials and goods-in-process; finished goods held by the original manufacturer; and finished goods held by distributors, wholesalers and manufacturers destined for out-of-state shipment. The cities of LaFayette and Rossville also have elected to exempt 100% of all qualified inventory.

### Education and Training

The Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC)-Walker County campus, located at Rock Spring, operates under the Technical College System of Georgia. GNTC offers on-campus and distance education programs leading to certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees and provides adult education and economic development services, customized business and industry training, and personal enrichment programs to meet the workforce needs of area citizens, communities, and companies.

Other post-secondary education opportunities exist in adjacent counties. Covenant College is located on Lookout Mountain in Dade County, Dalton State College is located in Whitfield County, and Shorter University, Berry College, and Georgia Highlands College are located in Floyd County. In addition, the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, Chattanooga State Community College, Miller-Motte Technical College, and a variety of private educational institutions are located in Hamilton County, Tennessee.

Other training options include Georgia's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP), the University System of Georgia's economic development program. ICAPP Advantage is an economic development incentive to help companies meet immediate human resources needs through an expedited curriculum that a company designs with a college or university to prepare students for a specific knowledge jobs at that company. The educational needs being addressed must be needs not addressed by existing programs at Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE) institutions in the service area.

## Economic Trends

### Sector Trends

As shown in Table 3-23, the Georgia Department of Labor has projected employment increases of more than 5,000 jobs from 2006 to 2016 for the following industries in the northwest Georgia region: *educational services; food services and drinking places; telecommunications; and administrative and support services*. The industries projected to have the largest percentage increases in jobs over the same time period are as follows: *telecommunications; ambulatory health care services; administrative and support services; and nursing and residential care facilities*.

Table 3-23 Largest Job Growth Industries – Northwest Georgia Region

| Industry   | Employment |        | Change<br>2006-2016 | % Change | Annual<br>Growth Rate |
|--|------------|--------|---------------------|----------|-----------------------|
|  | 2006       | 2016   |                     |          |                       |
| Educational services                                       | 25,970     | 34,960 | 8,990               | 34.6     | 3.0%                  |
| Food services and drinking places                          | 17,960     | 24,580 | 6,620               | 36.9     | 3.2%                  |
| Telecommunications   | 2,290      | 7,400  | 5,110               | 223.1    | 12.4%                 |
| Administrative and support services                        | 13,420     | 18,490 | 5,070               | 37.8     | 3.3%                  |
| Total self-employed and unpaid family workers, primary job | 26,780     | 30,220 | 3,440               | 12.8     | 1.2%                  |
| Ambulatory health care services                            | 7,650      | 11,030 | 3,380               | 44.2     | 3.7%                  |
| Professional and technical services                        | 9,320      | 12,090 | 2,770               | 29.7     | 2.6%                  |
| Local government, excluding education and hospitals        | 10,710     | 12,520 | 1,810               | 16.9     | 1.6%                  |
| Nursing and residential care facilities                    | 4,180      | 5,730  | 1,550               | 37.1     | 3.2%                  |
| Hospitals  | 9,200      | 10,730 | 1,530               | 16.6     | 1.6%                  |

Source: Georgia Department of Labor

As shown in Table 3-24, the Georgia Department of Labor has projected employment losses of more than 1,000 jobs from 2006 to 2016 for the following industries in the northwest Georgia region: *textile product mills; textile mills; crop production; and transportation equipment manufacturing*. The industries projected to have the largest percentage declines in jobs are as follows: *miscellaneous manufacturing; management of companies and enterprises; membership associations and organizations; and paper manufacturing*.

**Table 3-24 Industries with the Most Job Decline – Northwest Georgia Region**

| Industry  | Employment |        | Change<br>2006-2016 | % Change | Annual Growth<br>Rate |
|---|------------|--------|---------------------|----------|-----------------------|
|   | 2006       | 2016   |                     |          |                       |
| Textile product mills                               | 30,840     | 28,270 | -2,570              | -8.3%    | -0.9%                 |
| Textile mills                                       | 12,100     | 10,090 | -2,010              | -16.6%   | -1.8%                 |
| Crop production                                     | 5,290      | 3,900  | -1,390              | -26.3%   | -3.0%                 |
| Transportation equipment manufacturing              | 4,730      | 3,600  | -1,130              | -23.9%   | -2.7%                 |
| General merchandise stores                          | 8,120      | 7,390  | -730                | -9.0%    | -0.9%                 |
| Miscellaneous manufacturing                         | 650        | 10     | -640                | -98.5%   | -34.1%                |
| Membership associations and organizations           | 790        | 320    | -470                | -59.5%   | -8.6%                 |
| State government, excluding education and hospitals | 4,940      | 4,560  | -380                | -7.7%    | -0.8%                 |
| Paper manufacturing                                 | 1,330      | 950    | -380                | -28.6%   | -3.3%                 |
| Furniture and related product manufacturing         | 2,650      | 2,280  | -370                | -14.0%   | -1.5%                 |
| Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.             | 2,870      | 2,540  | -330                | -11.5%   | -1.2%                 |
| Personal and laundry services                       | 2,100      | 1,780  | -320                | -15.2%   | -1.6%                 |
| Chemical manufacturing                              | 2,850      | 2,530  | -320                | -11.2%   | -1.2%                 |
| Management of companies and enterprises             | 490        | 180    | -310                | -63.3%   | -9.5%                 |
| Food and beverage stores                            | 5,850      | 5,550  | -300                | -5.1%    | -0.5%                 |
| Construction of buildings                           | 2,510      | 2,280  | -230                | -9.2%    | -1.0%                 |
| Printing and related support activities             | 2,260      | 2,050  | -210                | -9.3%    | -1.0%                 |
| Furniture and home furnishings stores               | 1,900      | 1,700  | -200                | -10.5%   | -1.1%                 |
| Warehousing and storage                             | 3,020      | 2,830  | -190                | -6.3%    | -0.6%                 |
| Building material and garden supply stores          | 3,340      | 3,160  | -180                | -5.4%    | -0.6%                 |

Source: Georgia Department of Labor

### Major Employers

The *2011 Official Georgia Manufacturers Directory*, published in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Economic Development and Georgia Chamber of Commerce, identifies and provides data for companies comprising manufacturers, machine shops, fabricators, assemblers, and printers. Table 3-25 lists Walker County manufacturing companies with 50 or more employees.

**Table 3-25 Largest Manufacturing Employers 2010 - County**

| Employer                        | Industry/Product   | Number of Employees |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Roper Corp.                     | Household ranges, small appliances                       | 1,250               |
| Shaw Industries Group, Inc.     | Spun carpet yarn   | 750                 |
| Blue Bird Body Co. <sup>1</sup> | Truck and bus bodies                                     | 275                 |
| Crystal Springs Print Works     | Printing, bleaching, and dyeing cotton broadwoven fabric | 225                 |
| Color Spectrum, Inc.            | Yarn processing  | 150                 |
| Curbs Plus, Inc.                | Sheet metal roof decks                                   | 100                 |
| Solution First                  | Carpet and rug cushions                                  | 80                  |
| U.S. Vinyl Manufacturing Corp.  | Wallpaper, adhesives, and sealants                       | 70                  |
| Unique Fabricating, Inc.        | Gaskets, motor vehicle parts, and plastic foam products  | 50                  |
| United Synthetics, Inc.         | Polyester fibers   | 50                  |

<sup>1</sup>Manufacturing plant closed August 30, 2010

Source: Harris Infosource, 2011 Official Georgia Manufacturers Directory, June 2010

The *2011 Official Georgia Services Directory* identifies and provides data for services companies with 25 or more employees comprising agriculture, contractors, wholesale/distribution, mining, construction, transportation, finance, insurance, real estate, lodging, repair, entertainment, health, legal, social and business services, engineering, communications, and utilities (and corporate offices pertaining to these services). Walker County services companies identified in the *Directory* with 80 or more employees are listed in Table 3-26.

**Table 3-26 Largest Services Employers – County**

| Employer  | Service   | Number of Employees |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Georgia Department of Human Services (Mental Health)    | Outpatient mental health clinic; public health program services | 300                 |
| Valley Mechanical Inc.                                  | Mechanical contractor; sheet metal work contractor              | 150                 |
| Rossville Bank (Rossville and Flintstone)               | State commercial bank   | 120                 |
| Viking Industrial Inc.                                  | Pipe laying service   | 120                 |
| Walker County Board of Education                        | Public school; child day care service                           | 120                 |
| Bank of LaFayette                                       | State commercial bank; national commercial bank                 | 115                 |
| Pruitt Corp. (Shepherd Hills Health Center)             | Skilled nursing care facility                                   | 105                 |
| National Healthcare Corp                                | Skilled nursing care facility                                   | 100                 |
| Parkside Nursing Home                                   | Skilled nursing care facility                                   | 80                  |
| Mariner Health Care Inc. (LaFayette Health Care Center) | Extended care facility  | 80                  |

Source: Harris Infosource, 2011 Official Georgia Services Directory, June 2010

According to the Georgia Department of Labor, Walker County's five largest employers for the third quarter of 2009 were as follows:

- Blue Bird North Georgia
- McDonald's
- Roper Corporation
- Shaw Industries Group, Inc.
- Wal-Mart

These employers are listed alphabetically, not by number of employees, and represent employment covered by unemployment insurance excluding all government agencies except correctional institutions, state and local hospitals, and state colleges and universities. The above lists mostly exclude government jobs, but as previously shown in Table 3-4, government jobs in 2009 represented a significantly higher percentage of total employment in Walker County than in the MSA, state, and nation. Local government jobs accounted for 21.3% of the county's employment, and all government jobs accounted for 27.6% of the county's employment. The estimated 2,737 local government jobs in 2009 were approximately equivalent to the number of jobs provided by the county's six largest manufacturers.

# HOUSING

## Housing Types and Trends

### Composition of Housing Stock

Walker County’s housing stock grew from 20,895 units in 1980 to an estimated 28,706 units in 2008, an increase of 37.4%. The housing stock increased an estimated 12.2% from 2000 to 2008. As shown in Table 4-1, the county’s housing stock since 1980 has consisted primarily of *1 unit (detached)* and *mobile home* housing types. The percentage of the county’s total housing units that are the *1 unit (detached)* type has decreased from 79.7% in 1980 to 72.3% in 2008, while the percentage of units that are the *mobile home* type has increased from 10.0% in 1980 to 18.1% in 2008. Together, these two housing types accounted for 90.4% of all housing units in the county in 2008.

Table 4-1 Types of Housing and Mix - County

| Category            | 1980   |        | 1990   |        | 2000   |        | 2008   |        | 1980-2008 |                    | 2000-08  |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------------------|----------|
|                     | Units  | %      | Units  | %      | Units  | %      | Units  | %      | % Change  | Annual Growth Rate | % Change |
| Total housing units | 20,895 | 100.0% | 23,347 | 100.0% | 25,577 | 100.0% | 28,706 | 100.0% | 37.4      | 1.1%               | 12.2     |
| 1 unit (detached)   | 16,651 | 79.7%  | 17,503 | 75.0%  | 19,075 | 74.6%  | 20,756 | 72.3%  | 24.7      | 0.8%               | 8.8      |
| 1 unit (attached)   | 134    | 0.6%   | 167    | 0.7%   | 224    | 0.9%   | 228    | 0.8%   | 70.1      | 1.9%               | 1.8      |
| 2 units             | 907    | 4.4%   | 843    | 3.6%   | 859    | 3.4%   | 1,044  | 3.6%   | 15.1      | 0.5%               | 21.5     |
| 3 to 9 units        | 533    | 2.6%   | 746    | 3.2%   | 912    | 3.6%   | 887    | 3.1%   | 66.4      | 1.8%               | -2.7     |
| 10 to 19 units      | 365    | 1.7%   | 225    | 1.0%   | 205    | 0.8%   | 253    | 0.9%   | -30.7     | -1.3%              | 23.4     |
| 20 or more units    | 203    | 1.0%   | 127    | 0.5%   | 165    | 0.6%   | 347    | 1.2%   | 70.9      | 1.9%               | 110.3    |
| Mobile home         | 2,096  | 10.0%  | 3,522  | 15.1%  | 4,113  | 16.1%  | 5,191  | 18.1%  | 147.7     | 3.3%               | 26.2     |
| All other           | 6      | 0.0%   | 214    | 0.9%   | 24     | 0.1%   | 0      | 0.0%   | -100.0    |                    | -100.0   |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau (SF3); 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, Selected Housing Characteristics

Table 4-2 compares the county’s types of housing and mix in 2008 to that of the Chattanooga TN-GA MSA and the State of Georgia. Walker County’s share of the *1 unit (detached)* housing

type was slightly higher than that of MSA and state, while its share of housing units in the *mobile home* category greatly exceeded that of the MSA and state. In all other categories of housing except the *2 units* category, the county had a smaller share of total housing units than did the MSA and state. In the *2 units* category, the county's share (3.6%) was less than that of the MSA (5.6%) but greater than that of the state (2.4%).

Table 4-2 Types of Housing and Mix 2008 – County, MSA, and State

| Category          | Walker County |                  | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA |                  | State of Georgia |                  |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                   | % of Total    | % Change 2000-08 | % of Total            | % Change 2000-08 | % of Total       | % Change 2000-08 |
| 1 unit (detached) | 72.3          | 8.8              | 70.5                  | 16.6             | 66.2             | 33.0             |
| 1 unit (attached) | 0.8           | 1.8              | 2.3                   | 24.5             | 3.5              | 61.7             |
| 2 units           | 3.6           | 21.5             | 5.6                   | 10.0             | 2.4              | 22.5             |
| 3 to 9 units      | 3.1           | -2.7             | 6.0                   | 0.3              | 8.3              | 19.8             |
| 10 to 19 units    | 0.9           | 23.4             | 3.0                   | 34.4             | 4.8              | 66.7             |
| 20 or more units  | 1.2           | 110.3            | 3.6                   | -9.8             | 4.5              | 27.9             |
| Mobile home       | 18.1          | 26.2             | 9.0                   | 12.9             | 10.1             | 16.8             |
| All other         | 0.0           | -100.0           | 0.1                   | 0.6              | 0.0              | -35.6            |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Tables 4-3 through 4-6 present housing types and mix for the cities in 1980, 1990, and 2000, since the American Community Survey estimates are not available. Chickamauga's total housing units increased 7.0% from 1990 to 2000. The *1 unit (detached)* category made up 77.4% of the total in 2000, the percentage remaining steady since 1980. *Mobile homes* were 13.1% of the total in 2000, this percentage also remaining fairly constant since 1980. The *2 units* housing type comprised 6.6% of Chickamauga's total housing units in 2000, up from 4.8% in 1980. Together, these three housing types comprised 97.1% of Chickamauga's total housing units in 2000.

Table 4-3 Types of Housing and Mix - Chickamauga

| Category            | 1980 |        | 1990 |        | 2000 |        | % Change  |           |
|---------------------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|-----------|-----------|
|                     |      |        |      |        |      |        | 1980-1990 | 1990-2000 |
| Total housing units | 812  | 100.0% | 889  | 100.0% | 951  | 100.0% | 9.5       | 7.0       |
| 1 unit (detached)   | 629  | 77.5%  | 681  | 76.6%  | 736  | 77.4%  | 8.3       | 8.1       |
| 1 unit (attached)   | 9    | 1.1%   | 7    | 0.8%   | 0    | 0.0%   | -22.2     | -100.0    |
| 2 units             | 39   | 4.8%   | 54   | 6.1%   | 63   | 6.6%   | 38.5      | 16.7      |
| 3 to 9 units        | 16   | 2.0%   | 11   | 1.2%   | 11   | 1.2%   | -31.3     | 0.0       |
| 10 to 19 units      | 17   | 2.1%   | 9    | 1.0%   | 13   | 1.4%   | -47.1     | 44.4      |
| 20 or more units    | 0    | 0.0%   | 0    | 0.0%   | 0    | 0.0%   | 0.0       | 0.0       |
| Mobile home         | 102  | 12.6%  | 119  | 13.4%  | 125  | 13.1%  | 16.7      | 5.0       |
| All other           | 0    | 0.0%   | 8    | 0.9%   | 3    | 0.3%   | -         | -62.5     |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau (SF3)



LaFayette's total housing units increased 13.1% from 1990 to 2000. The *1 unit (detached)* housing type accounted for 70.0% of LaFayette's total housing units in 2000, down slightly from 73.9% in 1980. In 2000 the *3 to 9 units* housing type made up 12.6% of the total, and the *2 units* type made up 10.0%. Together, these three housing types comprised 92.6% of LaFayette's total housing units in 2000.

Table 4-4 Types of Housing and Mix – LaFayette

| Category            | 1980  |        | 1990  |        | 2000  |        | % Change  |           |
|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|
|                     | Units | %      | Units | %      | Units | %      | 1980-1990 | 1990-2000 |
| Total housing units | 2,500 | 100.0% | 2,627 | 100.0% | 2,971 | 100.0% | 5.1       | 13.1      |
| 1 unit (detached)   | 1,847 | 73.9%  | 1,847 | 70.3%  | 2,080 | 70.0%  | 0.0       | 12.6      |
| 1 unit (attached)   | 81    | 3.2%   | 26    | 1.0%   | 39    | 1.3%   | -67.9     | 50.0      |
| 2 units             | 271   | 10.8%  | 273   | 10.4%  | 296   | 10.0%  | 0.7       | 8.4       |
| 3 to 9 units        | 149   | 6.0%   | 282   | 10.7%  | 373   | 12.6%  | 89.3      | 32.3      |
| 10 to 19 units      | 66    | 2.6%   | 57    | 2.2%   | 52    | 1.8%   | -13.6     | -8.8      |
| 20 or more units    | 33    | 1.3%   | 40    | 1.5%   | 69    | 2.3%   | 21.2      | 72.5      |
| Mobile home         | 53    | 2.1%   | 86    | 3.3%   | 62    | 2.1%   | 62.3      | -27.9     |
| All other           | 0     | 0.0%   | 16    | 0.6%   | 0     | 0.0%   | -         | -100.0    |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau (SF3)

Lookout Mountain's total housing units increased a modest 2.5% from 1990 to 2000. The *1 unit (detached)* category comprised 92.2% of the city's total housing units in 2000, a very slight increase from 1980. The *10 to 19 units* housing type accounted for 4.0% of the total in 2000, an 85.7% increase from 1990.

Table 4-5 Types of Housing and Mix – Lookout Mountain

| Category            | 1980  |        | 1990  |        | 2000  |        | % Change  |           |
|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|
|                     | Units | %      | Units | %      | Units | %      | 1980-1990 | 1990-2000 |
| Total housing units | 582   | 100.0% | 640   | 100.0% | 656   | 100.0% | 10.0      | 2.5       |
| 1 unit (detached)   | 534   | 91.8%  | 584   | 91.3%  | 605   | 92.2%  | 9.4       | 3.6       |
| 1 unit (attached)   | 2     | 0.3%   | 6     | 0.9%   | 5     | 0.8%   | 200.0     | -16.7     |
| 2 units             | 0     | 0.0%   | 3     | 0.5%   | 4     | 0.6%   | -         | 33.3      |
| 3 to 9 units        | 16    | 2.7%   | 29    | 4.5%   | 16    | 2.4%   | 81.3      | -44.8     |
| 10 to 19 units      | 23    | 4.0%   | 14    | 2.2%   | 26    | 4.0%   | -39.1     | 85.7      |
| 20 or more units    | 4     | 0.7%   | 0     | 0.0%   | 0     | 0.0%   | -100.0    | 0.0       |
| Mobile home         | 3     | 0.5%   | 0     | 0.0%   | 0     | 0.0%   | -100.0    | 0.0       |
| All other           | 0     | 0.0%   | 4     | 0.6%   | 0     | 0.0%   | -         | -100.0    |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau (SF3)

Rossville's total housing units declined by 0.5% from 1990 to 2000. The *1 unit (detached)* housing type made up 73.5% of Rossville's total housing units in 2000, up slightly from 70.3% in 1980. The *3 to 9 units* category accounted for 9.0% of the city's total housing units in 2000; the *2 units* category accounted for 6.9% of the total; and the *10 to 19 units* category accounted for

6.3% of the total. Together, these four housing types comprised 95.7% of Rossville's total housing units in 2000.

**Table 4-6 Types of Housing and Mix – Rossville**

| Category            | 1980  |        | 1990  |        | 2000  |        | % Change  |           |
|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|
|                     | Units | %      | Units | %      | Units | %      | 1980-1990 | 1990-2000 |
| Total housing units | 1,564 | 100.0% | 1,679 | 100.0% | 1,670 | 100.0% | 7.4       | -0.5      |
| 1 unit (detached)   | 1,099 | 70.3%  | 1,176 | 70.0%  | 1,228 | 73.5%  | 7.0       | 4.4       |
| 1 unit (attached)   | 15    | 1.0%   | 14    | 0.8%   | 14    | 0.8%   | -6.7      | 0.0       |
| 2 units             | 162   | 10.4%  | 179   | 10.7%  | 116   | 6.9%   | 10.5      | -35.2     |
| 3 to 9 units        | 67    | 4.3%   | 156   | 9.3%   | 150   | 9.0%   | 132.8     | -3.8      |
| 10 to 19 units      | 87    | 5.6%   | 109   | 6.5%   | 105   | 6.3%   | 25.3      | -3.7      |
| 20 or more units    | 113   | 7.2%   | 25    | 1.5%   | 40    | 2.4%   | -77.9     | 60.0      |
| Mobile home         | 21    | 1.3%   | 8     | 0.5%   | 17    | 1.0%   | -61.9     | 112.5     |
| All other           | 0     | 0.0%   | 12    | 0.7%   | 0     | 0.0%   | -         | -100.0    |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau (SF3)

### Recent Trends in Types of Housing Provided

From 2000 through 2009, local governments in Walker County issued permits for 3,402 structures containing 3,630 housing units, as shown in Table 4-7. It should be noted, however, that the issuance of a building permit does not always result in the construction of new housing units, since construction plans often change. The number of units permitted by Walker County's governments increased from 334 in 2000 to 572 units in 2004; permitted units thereafter declined steadily to a ten-year low of 105 units in 2009.

**Table 4-7 Housing Permit Trends - County**

| Year            | Number of Buildings Permitted | Number of Units Permitted | Value of Permitted Structures |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2000            | 309                           | 334                       | \$33,804,073                  |
| 2001            | 336                           | 384                       | \$40,412,320                  |
| 2002            | 351                           | 425                       | \$39,623,555                  |
| 2003            | 423                           | 439                       | \$50,155,486                  |
| 2004            | 516                           | 522                       | \$68,105,076                  |
| 2005            | 490                           | 490                       | \$61,246,911                  |
| 2006            | 415                           | 424                       | \$53,998,039                  |
| 2007            | 281                           | 317                       | \$43,163,385                  |
| 2008            | 181                           | 190                       | \$20,565,471                  |
| 2009            | 100                           | 105                       | \$14,357,248                  |
| Total 2000-2009 | 3,402                         | 3,630                     | \$425,431,564                 |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Annual New Privately-Owned Residential Building Permits (values shown in 2009 dollars)

Table 4-8 shows a 14.5% increase in the number of housing units in Walker County, from 25,577 in 2000 to 29,275 in 2009. The county's percentage increase in housing units from 2000 to 2009 was greater than five of the eight surrounding counties and the MSA, but it was less than Catoosa, Gordon, and Whitfield Counties, the northwest Georgia region, and the state.

**Table 4-8 Housing Unit Trends in Surrounding Counties, Region, MSA, and State**

| Area                     | Housing Units<br>2000 | Housing Units<br>2009 | Annual<br>Growth Rate | % Change<br>2000-2009 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Walker County            | 25,577                | 29,275                | 1.5%                  | 14.5                  |
| Dade County              | 6,224                 | 6,521                 | 0.5%                  | 4.8                   |
| Catoosa County           | 21,794                | 26,589                | 2.2%                  | 22.0                  |
| Whitfield County         | 30,722                | 35,813                | 1.7%                  | 16.6                  |
| Gordon County            | 17,145                | 21,394                | 2.5%                  | 24.8                  |
| Floyd County             | 36,615                | 40,376                | 1.1%                  | 10.3                  |
| Chattooga County         | 10,677                | 10,977                | 0.3%                  | 2.8                   |
| DeKalb County, AL        | 28,051                | 29,390                | 0.5%                  | 4.8                   |
| Hamilton County, TN      | 134,692               | 151,114               | 1.3%                  | 12.2                  |
| Chattanooga TN-GA MSA    | 205,343               | 232,443               | 1.4%                  | 13.2                  |
| Northwest Georgia Region | 280,622               | 355,246               | 2.7%                  | 26.6                  |
| State of Georgia         | 3,281,737             | 4,063,548             | 2.4%                  | 23.8                  |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of Housing Units for Counties in Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009

*2010 Census Data Update*

Table 4-9 shows a 17.7% increase in the number of housing units in Walker County, from 25,577 in 2000 to 30,100 in 2010. The county's percentage increase in housing units from 2000 to 2010 was greater than five of the eight surrounding counties and the MSA, but it was less than Catoosa, Gordon, and Whitfield Counties, the northwest Georgia region, and the state.

**Table 4-9 Housing Unit Trends in Surrounding Counties, Region, MSA, and State**

| Area                     | Housing Units<br>2000 | Housing Units<br>2010 | Annual<br>Growth Rate | % Change<br>2000-2010 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Walker County            | 25,577                | 30,100                | 1.64%                 | 17.7                  |
| Dade County              | 6,224                 | 7,305                 | 1.61%                 | 17.4                  |
| Catoosa County           | 21,794                | 26,606                | 2.02%                 | 22.1                  |
| Whitfield County         | 30,722                | 39,899                | 2.65%                 | 29.9                  |
| Gordon County            | 17,145                | 22,278                | 2.65%                 | 29.9                  |
| Floyd County             | 36,615                | 40,551                | 1.03%                 | 10.7                  |
| Chattooga County         | 10,677                | 10,977                | 0.28%                 | 2.8                   |
| DeKalb County, AL        | 28,051                | 31,109                | 1.04%                 | 10.9                  |
| Hamilton County, TN      | 134,692               | 151,107               | 1.16%                 | 12.2                  |
| Chattanooga TN-GA MSA    | 205,343               | 234,440               | 1.33%                 | 14.2                  |
| Northwest Georgia Region | 280,622               | 361,306               | 2.56%                 | 28.8                  |
| State of Georgia         | 3,281,737             | 4,088,801             | 2.22%                 | 24.6                  |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table H1

## Condition and Occupancy

### Housing Age

As shown in Table 4-10, 13.1% of Walker County's housing units were built after 2000, compared to 12.1% for the MSA, 17.7% for the state, and 11.6% for the nation. A majority (56.4%) of the county's housing units in 2008 were built before 1980, a figure that was in line with the MSA and nation but considerably higher than the state (41.5%). An estimated 7.7% of the county's housing units were built prior to 1940.

Table 4-10 Housing Age 2008 – County, MSA, State, and Nation

| Category              | Walker County |            | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA |            | State of Georgia |            | United States |            |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
|                       | Units         | % of Total | Units                 | % of Total | Units            | % of Total | Units         | % of Total |
| Total Housing Units   | 28,706        | 100.0      | 228,782               | 100.0      | 3,953,206        | 100.0      | 127,762,925   | 100.0      |
| Built 2005 or later   | 1,025         | 3.6        | 7,530                 | 3.3        | 174,757          | 4.4        | 3,803,406     | 3.0        |
| Built 2000 to 2004    | 2,740         | 9.5        | 20,162                | 8.8        | 526,026          | 13.3       | 10,988,172    | 8.6        |
| Built 1990 to 1999    | 4,995         | 17.4       | 35,938                | 15.7       | 870,560          | 22.0       | 18,075,830    | 14.1       |
| Built 1980 to 1989    | 3,762         | 13.1       | 31,843                | 13.9       | 740,007          | 18.7       | 18,331,452    | 14.3       |
| Built before 1980     | 16,184        | 56.4       | 133,309               | 58.3       | 1,641,856        | 41.5       | 76,564,065    | 59.9       |
| Built 1970 to 1979    | 5,008         | 17.4       | 41,437                | 18.1       | 609,529          | 15.4       | 21,261,171    | 16.6       |
| Built 1960 to 1969    | 3,596         | 12.5       | 30,725                | 13.4       | 402,161          | 10.2       | 14,745,292    | 11.5       |
| Built 1950 to 1959    | 3,357         | 11.7       | 26,213                | 11.5       | 283,985          | 7.2        | 14,626,965    | 11.4       |
| Built 1940 to 1949    | 2,022         | 7.0        | 15,110                | 6.6        | 135,749          | 3.4        | 7,529,057     | 5.9        |
| Built 1939 or earlier | 2,201         | 7.7        | 19,824                | 8.7        | 210,432          | 5.3        | 18,401,580    | 14.4       |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, Selected Housing Characteristics

Housing age data for cities are not available in the American Community Survey data sets. Therefore, Table 4-11 gives 2000 housing age information for the cities. In Chickamauga, 16.2% of the total housing units in 2000 were built in 1990 or later; and 25.1% were built in 1980 or later. In LaFayette, 9.9% were built in 1990 or later; and 19.3% were built in 1980 or later. The share of total housing units built in 1990 or later in Lookout Mountain was 5.2%, while the share built in 1980 or later was 13.3%. The share of total units built in 1990 or later in Rossville was 3.9%, and the share built in 1980 or later was 12.2%. The percentages of 2000 housing units built in 1980 or later for the cities were considerably lower than the percentages for the county (32.5%) and the state (49.9%).

**Table 4-11 Housing Age 2000 – County, Cities, and State**

| Category            | Walker County |            | Chickamauga |            | LaFayette |            | Lookout Mountain |            | Rossville |            | State of Georgia |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------------|
|                     | Units         | % of Total | Units       | % of Total | Units     | % of Total | Units            | % of Total | Units     | % of Total | % of Total       |
| Total Housing Units | 25,577        | 100.0      | 951         | 100.0      | 2,971     | 100.0      | 656              | 100.0      | 1,670     | 100.0      | 100.0            |
| Built 1990 or later | 4,381         | 17.1       | 154         | 16.2       | 293       | 9.9        | 34               | 5.2        | 65        | 3.9        | 27.9             |
| Built 1980 to 1989  | 3,943         | 15.4       | 85          | 8.9        | 280       | 9.4        | 53               | 8.1        | 138       | 8.3        | 22.0             |
| Built before 1980   | 17,253        | 67.5       | 712         | 74.9       | 2,398     | 80.7       | 569              | 86.7       | 1,467     | 87.8       | 50.1             |
| Built 1970-79       | 4,574         | 17.9       | 152         | 16.0       | 517       | 17.4       | 67               | 10.2       | 251       | 15.0       | 18.6             |
| Built 1960-69       | 4,313         | 16.9       | 153         | 16.1       | 735       | 24.7       | 107              | 16.3       | 251       | 15.0       | 12.7             |
| Built 1950-59       | 3,492         | 13.7       | 104         | 10.9       | 553       | 18.6       | 158              | 24.1       | 297       | 17.8       | 8.6              |
| Built 1940-49       | 2,612         | 10.2       | 82          | 8.6        | 244       | 8.2        | 116              | 17.7       | 439       | 26.3       | 4.4              |
| Built before 1940   | 2,262         | 8.8        | 221         | 23.2       | 349       | 11.7       | 121              | 18.4       | 229       | 13.7       | 5.9              |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF3, Table H34

### Housing Condition

As noted, the housing conditions data shown in Table 4-12 are for occupied housing units. In 2008 the percentage of Walker County's occupied units *lacking complete plumbing facilities* (0.8%) was a bit higher than that of the MSA (0.6%) and state (0.4%). The percentage of the county's occupied units *lacking complete kitchen facilities* (0.4%) was lower than that of the MSA (0.7%) mirrored that of the state (0.4%). The percentages for all housing units (including unoccupied units) generally would be higher than those shown in Table 4-12. For example, the percentage of all Walker County housing units *lacking complete plumbing facilities* in 2008 was 2.2%, compared to 1.7% for the state; and the percentage of all county housing units *lacking complete kitchen facilities* was 2.0%, compared to 2.6% for the state.

**Table 4-12 Housing Condition 2000 and 2008 – County, MSA, State, and Cities**

| Year | Area                  | Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities |            | Lacking Complete Kitchen Facilities |            |
|------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
|      |                       | Units                                | % of Total | Units                               | % of Total |
| 2008 | Walker County         | 202                                  | 0.8        | 108                                 | 0.4        |
|      | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | 1,187                                | 0.6        | 1,529                               | 0.7        |
|      | State of Georgia      | 14,324                               | 0.4        | 16,387                              | 0.4        |
| 2000 | Walker County         | 163                                  | 0.7        | 145                                 | 0.6        |
|      | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | 972                                  | 0.5        | 1,183                               | 0.6        |
|      | State of Georgia      | 17,117                               | 0.6        | 15,161                              | 0.5        |
|      | Chickamauga           | 4                                    | 0.4        | 7                                   | 0.8        |
|      | LaFayette             | 6                                    | 0.2        | 27                                  | 1.0        |
|      | Lookout Mountain      | 8                                    | 1.3        | 2                                   | 0.3        |
|      | Rossville             | 0                                    | 0.0        | 0                                   | 0.0        |

Note: Data is for occupied housing units

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 (SF3); 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

## Housing Tenure

Walker County's housing vacancy rate was 12.5% in 2008, somewhat higher than the MSA (10.8%) and somewhat lower than the state (13.4%), as shown in Table 4-13. More than 64% of the county's housing units were *owner occupied* in 2008, compared to 62.4% for the MSA and 58.7% for the state. The number of *owner occupied* units in Walker County increased only 1.6% from 2000 to 2008, however, compared to 10.3% for the MSA and 14.4% for the state.

Table\_4-13 Housing Tenure 2008 – County, MSA, and State

| Category            | Walker County   |            |                    | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA |                    | State of Georgia |                    |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|                     | Number of Units | % of Total | % Change 2000-2008 | % of Total            | % Change 2000-2008 | % of Total       | % Change 2000-2008 |
| Total Housing Units | 28,706          | 100.0      | 12.2               | 100.0                 | 14.1               | 100.0            | 20.5               |
| Owner Occupied      | 18,478          | 64.4       | 1.6                | 62.4                  | 10.3               | 58.7             | 14.4               |
| Renter Occupied     | 6,640           | 23.1       | 22.4               | 26.8                  | 9.8                | 27.8             | 12.6               |
| Vacant              | 3,588           | 12.5       | 81.9               | 10.8                  | 62.4               | 13.4             | 93.0               |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

The American Community Survey data sets do not include housing tenure data for the cities. Therefore, Tables 4-14 and 4-15 present housing tenure data for 1990 and 2000 for the county, state, and cities. In 2000 the county and state had similar vacancy rates of 7.7% and 8.4%, respectively. Also in 2000, Chickamauga, at 4.8%, had the lowest vacancy rate of the county's cities, followed by Lookout Mountain at 5.9%. LaFayette had a vacancy rate of 8.0% in 2000, on a par with the county and state; while Rossville's vacancy rate of 10.8% somewhat exceeded the rates for the county and state. *Owner occupied* units in 2000 comprised a larger share of all units in Walker County (71.1%) and the state (61.8%) than in any of the cities except Lookout Mountain (80.2%). Chickamauga's *owned occupied* units accounted for 61.3% of the total, close to the state's share; while LaFayette's *owned occupied units* represented 54.7% of the total, and Rossville's *owned occupied* units represented 49.9% of the total.

Table 4-14 Housing Tenure 1990 and 2000 – County and State

| Category            | Walker County |            |            |            |                    | State of Georgia |            |            |            |                    |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
|                     | 1990          |            | 2000       |            | % Change 1990-2000 | 1990             |            | 2000       |            | % Change 1990-2000 |
|                     | # of Units    | % of Total | # of Units | % of Total |                    | # of Units       | % of Total | # of Units | % of Total |                    |
| Total Housing Units | 23,347        | 100.0      | 25,577     | 100.0      | 9.6                | 2,638,418        | 100.0      | 3,281,737  | 100.0      | 24.4               |
| Owner Occupied      | 16,775        | 71.9       | 18,181     | 71.1       | 8.4                | 1,536,829        | 58.2       | 2,029,293  | 61.8       | 32.0               |
| Renter Occupied     | 4,922         | 21.1       | 5,424      | 21.2       | 10.2               | 829,786          | 31.5       | 977,076    | 29.8       | 17.8               |
| Vacant              | 1,650         | 7.1        | 1,972      | 7.7        | 19.5               | 271,803          | 10.3       | 275,368    | 8.4        | 1.3                |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau (SF3)

**Table 4-15 Housing Tenure 2000 - Cities**

| Category            | Chickamauga      |            |            |            |                    | LaFayette  |            |            |            |                    |
|---------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
|                     | 1990             |            | 2000       |            | % Change 1990-2000 | 1990       |            | 2000       |            | % Change 1990-2000 |
|                     | # of Units       | % of Total | # of Units | % of Total |                    | # of Units | % of Total | # of Units | % of Total |                    |
| Total Housing Units | 889              | 100.0      | 951        | 100.0      | 7.0                | 2,627      | 100.0      | 2,971      | 100.0      | 13.1               |
| Owner Occupied      | 596              | 67.0       | 583        | 61.3       | -2.2               | 1,475      | 56.1       | 1,625      | 54.7       | 10.2               |
| Renter Occupied     | 255              | 28.7       | 322        | 33.9       | 26.3               | 985        | 37.5       | 1,108      | 37.3       | 12.5               |
| Vacant              | 38               | 4.3        | 46         | 4.8        | 21.1               | 165        | 6.3        | 238        | 8.0        | 44.2               |
| Category            | Lookout Mountain |            |            |            |                    | Rossville  |            |            |            |                    |
|                     | 1990             |            | 2000       |            | % Change 1990-2000 | 1990       |            | 2000       |            | % Change 1990-2000 |
|                     | # of Units       | % of Total | # of Units | % of Total |                    | # of Units | % of Total | # of Units | % of Total |                    |
| Total Housing Units | 640              | 100.0      | 656        | 100.0      | 2.5                | 1,679      | 100.0      | 1,670      | 100.0      | -0.5               |
| Owner Occupied      | 508              | 79.4       | 526        | 80.2       | 3.5                | 844        | 50.3       | 834        | 49.9       | -1.2               |
| Renter Occupied     | 95               | 14.8       | 91         | 13.9       | -4.2               | 681        | 40.6       | 656        | 39.3       | -3.7               |
| Vacant              | 37               | 5.8        | 39         | 5.9        | 5.4                | 154        | 9.2        | 180        | 10.8       | 16.9               |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau (SF3)

**2010 Census Data Update**

Tables 4-16 and 4-17 provide housing tenure data for the county, state, and cities. As shown, Walker County experienced a 17.7% increase in the number of housing units from 2000 to 2010. Chickamauga had a 42.4% increase in housing units from 2000 to 2010, by far the largest percentage increase of Walker County’s cities. Rossville’s housing units increased 15.0% from 2000 to 2010, LaFayette’s housing units increased 9.7%, and Lookout Mountain’s housing units increased 0.9%. In 2010 Lookout Mountain, at 10.4%, had the lowest vacancy rate of the county’s cities, followed by Chickamauga, at 11.5%. LaFayette’s vacancy rate of 13.3% and Rossville’s vacancy rate of 14.1% exceeded the rates for the county and state.

**Table 4-16 Housing Tenure 2000 and 2010 – County and State**

| Housing Units | Walker County |            |            |            |                    | State of Georgia |            |            |            |                    |
|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
|               | 2000          |            | 2010       |            | % Change 2000-2010 | 2000             |            | 2010       |            | % Change 2000-2010 |
|               | # of Units    | % of Total | # of Units | % of Total |                    | # of Units       | % of Total | # of Units | % of Total |                    |
| Total         | 25,577        | 100.0      | 30,100     | 100.0      | 17.7               | 3,281,737        | 100.0      | 4,088,801  | 100.0      | 24.6               |
| Occupied      | 23,605        | 92.3       | 26,497     | 88.0       | 12.3               | 3,006,369        | 91.6       | 3,585,584  | 87.7       | 19.3               |
| Vacant        | 1,972         | 7.7        | 3,603      | 12.0       | 82.7               | 275,368          | 8.4        | 503,217    | 12.3       | 82.7               |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF 3; 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table H1

**Table 4-17 Housing Tenure 2000 and 2010 - Cities**

| Housing Units | Chickamauga      |            |            |            |                    | LaFayette  |            |            |            |                    |
|---------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
|               | 2000             |            | 2010       |            | % Change 2000-2010 | 2000       |            | 2010       |            | % Change 2000-2010 |
|               | # of Units       | % of Total | # of Units | % of Total |                    | # of Units | % of Total | # of Units | % of Total |                    |
| Total         | 951              | 100.0      | 1,354      | 100.0      | 42.4               | 2,971      | 100.0      | 3,258      | 100.0      | 9.7                |
| Occupied      | 905              | 95.2       | 1,198      | 88.5       | 32.4               | 2,733      | 92.0       | 2,826      | 86.7       | 3.4                |
| Vacant        | 46               | 4.8        | 156        | 11.5       | 239.1              | 238        | 8.0        | 432        | 13.3       | 81.5               |
| Housing Units | Lookout Mountain |            |            |            |                    | Rossville  |            |            |            |                    |
|               | 2000             |            | 2010       |            | % Change 2000-2010 | 2000       |            | 2010       |            | % Change 2000-2010 |
|               | # of Units       | % of Total | # of Units | % of Total |                    | # of Units | % of Total | # of Units | % of Total |                    |
| Total         | 656              | 100.0      | 662        | 100.0      | 0.9                | 1,670      | 100.0      | 1,921      | 100.0      | 15.0               |
| Occupied      | 617              | 94.1       | 593        | 89.6       | -3.9               | 1,490      | 89.2       | 1,650      | 85.9       | 10.7               |
| Vacant        | 39               | 5.9        | 69         | 10.4       | 76.9               | 180        | 10.8       | 271        | 14.1       | 50.6               |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF 3; 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table H1

## Housing Costs

### Median Property Values

Walker County's median property value trailed the MSA and state from 1990 to 2008, as shown in Table 4-18. In 2008, the county's median property value was 78.4% of the MSA's median property value and only 64.5% of the state's median value. Adjusted for inflation to 2008 dollars, the county's median property value increased 41.1% from 1990 to 2008, a rate slightly higher than that of the state (40.4%) and slightly lower than that of the MSA (43.6%). Median property values for the cities in 2008 are not available. In 2000, the median property values for Chickamauga and Lookout Mountain exceeded the county's median value, while LaFayette's and Rossville's median property values trailed the county's median value. Except for Lookout Mountain, the cities' median property values trailed those of the MSA and state. Lookout Mountain's median property value of \$233,432 in 2000 was 208.6% of the MSA's median value and 167.9% of the state's median value.



**Table 4-18 Median Property Values 1990, 2000, and 2008 – County, Cities, MSA, and State**

| Area                  | Median Value |           |           | % Change  |           |           | 2008 Median Value as % of: |       |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|-------|
|                       | 1990         | 2000      | 2008      | 1990-2000 | 2000-2008 | 1990-2008 | MSA                        | State |
| Walker County         | \$74,788     | \$89,022  | \$105,500 | 19.0      | 18.5      | 41.1      | 78.4                       | 64.5  |
| Chickamauga           | \$79,071     | \$102,775 | NA        | 30.0      | NA        | NA        | NA                         | NA    |
| LaFayette             | \$63,257     | \$73,143  | NA        | 15.6      | NA        | NA        | NA                         | NA    |
| Lookout Mountain      | \$201,136    | \$233,432 | NA        | 16.1      | NA        | NA        | NA                         | NA    |
| Rossville             | \$61,609     | \$66,891  | NA        | 8.6       | NA        | NA        | NA                         | NA    |
| Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | \$93,732     | \$111,903 | \$134,600 | 19.4      | 20.3      | 43.6      | 100.0                      | 82.3  |
| State of Georgia      | \$116,465    | \$139,034 | \$163,500 | 19.4      | 17.6      | 40.4      | 121.5                      | 100.0 |

Note: Median property values are for owner-occupied housing units; 1990 and 2000 median values have been adjusted to 2008 dollars.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census (STF3), 2000 Census (SF3); 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

## Median Rent

Walker County's median rent also trailed the MSA and state from 1990 to 2008, as shown in Table 4-19. The county's median rent in 2008 was 95.7% of the MSA's median rent, but it was only 77.0% of the state's median rent. When adjusted for inflation to 2008 dollars, the county's median rent increased 11.2% from 1990 to 2008, a rate greater than that of the MSA (6.5%) and state (10.8%). Median rent for the cities in 2008 is not available. In 2000, the median rent for Chickamauga and Lookout Mountain exceeded the county's median rent, while the median rent for LaFayette and Rossville trailed the county's median rent. Lookout Mountain's median rent was 143.9% of the MSA's median rent and 116.3% of the state's median rent in 2000. Median rents in the other three cities trailed both the MSA's and state's median rents. LaFayette's and Rossville's median rents also trailed the county's median rent in 2000.

**Table 4-19 Median Rent 1990, 2000, and 2008 – County, Cities, MSA, and State**

| Area                  | Median Rent |       |       | % Change  |           |           | 2008 Median Rent as % of: |       |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|
|                       | 1990        | 2000  | 2008  | 1990-2000 | 2000-2008 | 1990-2008 | MSA                       | State |
| Walker County         | \$547       | \$551 | \$608 | 0.7       | 10.3      | 11.2      | 95.7                      | 77.0  |
| Chickamauga           | \$563       | \$605 | NA    | 7.5       | NA        | NA        | NA                        | NA    |
| LaFayette             | \$422       | \$469 | NA    | 11.1      | NA        | NA        | NA                        | NA    |
| Lookout Mountain      | \$776       | \$891 | NA    | 14.8      | NA        | NA        | NA                        | NA    |
| Rossville             | \$535       | \$528 | NA    | -1.3      | NA        | NA        | NA                        | NA    |
| Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | \$596       | \$619 | \$635 | 3.9       | 2.6       | 6.5       | 100.0                     | 80.4  |
| State of Georgia      | \$713       | \$766 | \$790 | 7.4       | 3.1       | 10.8      | 124.4                     | 100.0 |

Note: 1990 and 2000 median values have been adjusted to 2008 dollars.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census (STF3), 2000 Census (SF3); 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

## Home Sale Prices

Annual home sales in Walker County during the period from 1997 to 2006 ranged from a low of 716 in 1997 to a high of 1,430 in 2005, as shown in Table 4-20. The average sale price over this ten-year period went from \$66,134 in 1997 to \$114,190 in 2006, a 72.7% increase. When adjusted for inflation to 2009 dollars, the average sale price increased 37.5% from 1997 to 2006 and 22.0% from 2000 to 2006. Due to the national economic recession and housing market conditions experienced at both the local and national levels, data for 2007 and later will most likely show substantial reductions in the number of sales as well as a reduction in average sale prices.

**Table 4-20 Number of Annual Home Sales and Annual Average Prices - County**

| Sales Year                      | Number of Sales | Average Sale Price | Average Sale Price (2009 Dollars) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1997                            | 716             | \$66,134           | \$88,400                          |
| 1998                            | 774             | \$70,066           | \$92,219                          |
| 1999                            | 840             | \$76,724           | \$98,800                          |
| 2000                            | 800             | \$79,973           | \$99,635                          |
| 2001                            | 848             | \$78,487           | \$95,078                          |
| 2002                            | 844             | \$89,693           | \$106,962                         |
| 2003                            | 1,091           | \$83,574           | \$97,444                          |
| 2004                            | 908             | \$105,261          | \$119,547                         |
| 2005                            | 1,430           | \$101,113          | \$111,073                         |
| 2006                            | 1,415           | \$114,190          | \$121,518                         |
| Rate of Change 1997-2006        |                 | 72.7%              | 37.5%                             |
| Rate of Change 2000-2006        |                 | 42.8%              | 22.0%                             |
| Annual Rate of Change 1997-2006 |                 | 6.3%               | 3.6%                              |

Source: Georgia Statistics System, Analysis of Land Prices, 1997-2006

## Affordability for Residents and Workers

As illustrated in Tables 4-18 and 4-19, both the county's median property value and median rent increased from 1990 to 2008 (as well as from 2000 to 2008). In Table 4-20, data for home sales collected for 2000 through 2006 shows a jump in average home sale prices for the 2004-2006 period as compared to the 2000-2003 period. Generally, increased costs can be attributed to increased land valuations, larger floor plans in new construction, and increased building costs. Walker County's share of renter occupied housing units is low relative to the MSA and state, as shown in Table 4-13. While new multi-family units have come online since 2000, the county's share of housing units of 10 units or more in 2008 made up only 2.1% of all housing units, compared to 6.6% for the MSA and 9.3% for the state.

## Cost-Burdened Households

As shown in Table 4-21, Walker County's households considered to be cost-burdened (having monthly housing costs that exceed 30% of household income) made up 15.6% of all households in 2000, compared to 17.7% for Chickamauga, 23.8% for LaFayette, 23.3% for Lookout Mountain, 23.6% for Rossville, and 20.6% for the state. Households considered to be severely cost-burdened (having monthly housing costs that exceed 50% of household income) in 2000 made up 6.2% of the county's households, 5.7% of Chickamauga's households, 8.7% of LaFayette's households, 9.6% of Lookout Mountain's households, 11.1% of Rossville's households, and 8.5% of the state's households. Countywide, cost-burdened and severely cost-burdened households in 2000 made up considerably smaller percentages of total households than statewide. From 1990 to 2000, the number of cost-burdened households in Walker County increased 23.2%, while the number in the state increased 29.8%.

Table 4-21 Cost-Burdened Households – County, Cities, and State

| Area             | 1990                |                 |            | 2000                |            |            |                 |            |                 |            |                    |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|
|                  | Total Housing Units | 30% and Greater |            | Total Housing Units | 30% to 49% |            | 50% and Greater |            | 30% and Greater |            |                    |
|                  |                     | Units           | % of Total |                     | Units      | % of Total | Units           | % of Total | Units           | % of Total | % Change 1990-2000 |
| Walker County    | 23,347              | 3,242           | 13.9       | 25,577              | 2,399      | 9.4        | 1,595           | 6.2        | 3,994           | 15.6       | 23.2               |
| Chickamauga      | 889                 | 142             | 16.0       | 951                 | 114        | 12.0       | 54              | 5.7        | 168             | 17.7       | 18.3               |
| LaFayette        | 2,627               | 591             | 22.5       | 2,971               | 451        | 15.2       | 257             | 8.7        | 708             | 23.8       | 19.8               |
| Lookout Mountain | 640                 | 92              | 14.4       | 656                 | 90         | 13.7       | 63              | 9.6        | 153             | 23.3       | 66.3               |
| Rossville        | 1,679               | 425             | 25.3       | 1,670               | 208        | 12.5       | 186             | 11.1       | 394             | 23.6       | -7.3               |
| State of Georgia | 2,638,418           | 521,113         | 19.8       | 3,281,737           | 397,964    | 12.1       | 278,401         | 8.5        | 676,365         | 20.6       | 29.8               |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 STF 3, Tables H050 and H058; 2000 Census SF 3, Tables H69 and H94

## Foreclosures

As shown in Table 4-22, Walker County's 7.0% foreclosure rate from January 2007 through June 2008 was higher than that of the MSA, region, state, and all surrounding counties except Chattooga (10.0%). Also, the number of foreclosure starts in Walker County (807) was greater than any surrounding county other than Hamilton County, Tennessee. Of the county's cities, Lookout Mountain had the lowest foreclosure rate at 3.5%. Chickamauga's foreclosure rate equaled the county's rate at 7.0%; and Rossville's and LaFayette's foreclosure rates exceeded the county's rate at 8.1% and 8.2%, respectively.

**Table 4-22 Estimated Foreclosures and Foreclosure Rates for January 2007 through June 2008 – County, Cities, Surrounding Counties, MSA, Region, and State**

| Area                     | Foreclosure Starts | % of Total County Foreclosure Starts | Number of Mortgages | Foreclosure Rate |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Walker County            | 807                | 100.0                                | 11,531              | 7.0%             |
| Unincorporated           | 645                | 79.9                                 | 9,286               | 6.9%             |
| Chickamauga              | 31                 | 3.8                                  | 445                 | 7.0%             |
| LaFayette                | 84                 | 10.4                                 | 1,029               | 8.2%             |
| Lookout Mountain         | 12                 | 1.5                                  | 339                 | 3.5%             |
| Rossville                | 35                 | 4.3                                  | 432                 | 8.1%             |
| Dade County              | 132                | -                                    | 2,341               | 5.6%             |
| Catoosa County           | 674                | -                                    | 12,953              | 5.2%             |
| Whitfield County         | 713                | -                                    | 14,508              | 4.9%             |
| Gordon County            | 443                | -                                    | 8,410               | 5.3%             |
| Floyd County             | 620                | -                                    | 12,196              | 5.1%             |
| Chattooga County         | 245                | -                                    | 2,446               | 10.0%            |
| DeKalb County, AL        | 292                | -                                    | 7,799               | 3.7%             |
| Hamilton County, TN      | 2,567              | -                                    | 73,186              | 3.5%             |
| Chattanooga TN-GA MSA    | 4,713              | -                                    | 108,051             | 4.4%             |
| Northwest Georgia Region | 9,003              | -                                    | 160,927             | 5.6%             |
| State of Georgia         | 101,630            | -                                    | 1,981,801           | 5.1%             |

Source: U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Local Level Foreclosure Data

## Special Housing Needs

### Elderly

According to the American Community Survey, an estimated 14.7% of Walker County's population, or 9,532 residents, were aged 65 or older in 2009. It is likely that many of these residents have or will have special housing needs in terms of affordability or personal care.

Affordable housing options in Walker County consist of independent retirement communities (subsidized) and subsidized rental housing. Independent retirement communities (subsidized) are residential facilities, apartments, and/or planned communities that offer a variety of choices appropriate for independent older adults where rent is reduced or based on income. On-site activities or other amenities may be available. Independent retirement communities (subsidized) operating in Walker County are as follows:

- LaFayette Housing Authority, 300 Oak Street, LaFayette
- Woodlands Village Apartments, 1201 West North Main Street, LaFayette

Subsidized rental housing facilities serve low-income individuals and families through federal and local housing programs, are built partially from government funds in conjunction with a non-profit, civic, or religious organization, and offer reduced rents. Subsidized rental housing options in Walker County include the following facilities:

- Amberwood Apartments, 1212 West North Main Street, LaFayette
- Carriage Hill Apartments, 1135 Campbell Avenue, LaFayette
- Happy Valley Apartments, 1209 Indian Avenue, Rossville
- LaFayette Gardens Apartments, 709 Patterson Road, LaFayette
- LaFayette Housing Authority, 300 Oak Street, LaFayette
- Rossville Apartments, 800 Walker Avenue, Rossville
- Yester Oaks Apartments, 51 Yester Oaks Drive, LaFayette

Housing options for elderly citizens requiring personal care assistance include personal care homes and nursing homes. The following personal care homes are located in Walker County:

- Ballard's Personal Care Home, 138 Ballard Drive, LaFayette
- Cozy Manor Personal Care Home, 706 North Main Street, LaFayette
- Majestic Manor, 67 Pin Oak Drive, Rock Spring
- Mary and Martha's Personal Care Home, 616 Mohawk Street, Rossville
- Thurston's PCH, 3440 Garrett's Chapel Road, Chickamauga
- Tucker's PCH II, 322 New Home Road, LaFayette

There are 4 nursing homes, with a total of 433 beds, located in Walker County. In SFY 2008, the average occupancy of these facilities was 95.8%. The county's nursing homes are as follows:

- Parkside at Hutcheson, 110 Park City Road, Rossville
- Heritage Healthcare of LaFayette, 205 Roadrunner Blvd., LaFayette
- NHC Healthcare of Rossville, 1425 McFarland Avenue, Rossville
- Heritage Healthcare at Shepherd Hills, 800 Patterson Road, LaFayette

## **Homeless**

The only homeless shelter in Walker County is the Family Crisis Center of Walker, Dade, Catoosa, and Chattooga Counties located in LaFayette. See Victims of Domestic Violence, below.

## Victims of Domestic Violence

Police and sheriff actions related to family violence in Walker County from 2000 through 2009 are shown in Table 4-23. The total number of actions in 2009 (1,029) was about the same as the total in 2000 (1,024). The highest number of actions (1,466) occurred in 2004, and the lower number (707) occurred in 2006. For the ten-year period, the average annual number of police and sheriff actions related to family violence in Walker County was 940.

**Table 4-23 Police and Sheriff Actions Related to Domestic Violence - County**

| Action Type | 2000  | 2001 | 2002 | 2003  | 2004  | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009  |
|-------------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Arrested    | 249   | 235  | 231  | 233   | 274   | 276  | 196  | 218  | 216  | 222   |
| Citation    | 1     | 1    | 1    | 0     | 0     | 0    | 0    | 3    | 0    | 0     |
| Separation  | 280   | 207  | 182  | 250   | 359   | 130  | 154  | 255  | 194  | 343   |
| Mediation   | 48    | 24   | 42   | 57    | 46    | 20   | 30   | 31   | 31   | 28    |
| Other       | 339   | 263  | 324  | 368   | 629   | 288  | 265  | 254  | 272  | 371   |
| No Action   | 107   | 128  | 98   | 134   | 158   | 89   | 62   | 65   | 57   | 65    |
| Total       | 1,024 | 858  | 878  | 1,042 | 1,466 | 803  | 707  | 826  | 770  | 1,029 |

Source: Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Family Violence Statistics, 2000-2009

The Family Crisis Center of Walker, Dade, Catoosa, and Chattooga Counties is located in LaFayette and serves the four-county area. This facility provides emergency shelter for women and children in abusive situations or domestic crisis.

## Migrant Farm Workers

Based on the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the population of migrant farm workers is not large enough to warrant special housing in Walker County. The Census of Agriculture, generated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, recorded only fourteen migrant farm workers in the county in 2007.

## Persons with Disabilities

In 2000 the percentage of Walker County residents age 21 to 64 with a disability was 25.5%. As shown in Tables 4-24 and 4-25, the county's share of population with a disability was somewhat higher than the MSA (21.4%) and the state (19.9%). Of the cities, Chickamauga's share of population with a disability was 30.0%, Rossville's share was 29.4%, and LaFayette's share was 28.3%. Only Lookout Mountain has a share of population with a disability lower than the county as a whole. Just 7.1% of Lookout Mountain's population has a disability in 2000.

**Table 4-24 Population with a Disability 2000 – County, Cities, and State**

| Classification                  | Walker County | Chickamauga | LaFayette | Lookout Mountain | Rossville | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | State of Georgia |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Age 21 to 64 with a Disability  | 8,852         | 375         | 965       | 60               | 534       | 57,905                | 940,344          |
| Employed                        | 4,743         | 243         | 460       | 39               | 229       | 32,862                | 539,195          |
| Not employed                    | 4,109         | 132         | 505       | 21               | 305       | 25,043                | 401,149          |
| Age 21 to 64 with no Disability | 25,921        | 874         | 2,446     | 781              | 1,280     | 212,915               | 3,792,568        |
| Employed                        | 20,299        | 690         | 1,820     | 598              | 1,028     | 166,586               | 2,942,874        |
| Not employed                    | 5,622         | 184         | 626       | 183              | 252       | 46,329                | 849,694          |
| Age 21 to 64 Total              | 34,773        | 1,249       | 3,411     | 841              | 1,814     | 270,820               | 4,732,912        |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 (SF3), Table P42

**Table 4-25 Share of Population with a Disability 2000 – County, Cities, and State**

| Classification                  | Walker County | Chickamauga | LaFayette | Lookout Mountain | Rossville | Chattanooga TN-GA MSA | State of Georgia |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Age 21 to 64 with a Disability  | 25.5%         | 30.0%       | 28.3%     | 7.1%             | 29.4%     | 21.4%                 | 19.9%            |
| Employed                        | 13.6%         | 19.5%       | 13.5%     | 4.6%             | 12.6%     | %                     | 11.4%            |
| Not employed                    | 11.8%         | 10.6%       | 14.8%     | 2.5%             | 16.8%     | %                     | 8.5%             |
| Age 21 to 64 with no Disability | 74.5%         | 70.0%       | 71.7%     | 92.9%            | 70.6%     | 78.6%                 | 80.1%            |
| Employed                        | 58.4%         | 55.2%       | 53.3%     | 71.1%            | 56.7%     | %                     | 62.2%            |
| Not employed                    | 16.2%         | 14.7%       | 18.4%     | 21.8%            | 13.9%     | %                     | 18.0%            |
| Age 21 to 64 Total              | 100.0%        | 100.0%      | 100.0%    | 100.0%           | 100.0%    | 100.0%                | 100.0%           |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 (SF3), Table P42

As shown in Table 4-26, the three most common types of disability in Walker County in 2000 were *physical* (24.8% of all disabilities), *employment* (23.0% of all disabilities), and *go-outside-home* (18.7% of all disabilities). Statewide, the same three types of disability also were the most common, except *employment* disabilities comprised the largest share of all disabilities statewide, followed by *physical* and *go-outside-home* disabilities.

**Table 4-26 Types of Disabilities 2000 – County and State**

| Type of Disability | Walker County |                       | State of Georgia |                       |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
|                    | Number        | % of All Disabilities | Number           | % of All Disabilities |
| Total              | 26,684        | 100.0                 | 2,638,739        | 100.0                 |
| Sensory            | 2,874         | 10.8                  | 255,072          | 9.7                   |
| Physical           | 6,619         | 24.8                  | 606,215          | 23.0                  |
| Mental             | 3,927         | 14.7                  | 358,052          | 13.6                  |
| Self-care          | 2,140         | 8.0                   | 194,854          | 7.4                   |
| Go-outside home    | 4,998         | 18.7                  | 558,551          | 21.2                  |
| Employment         | 6,126         | 23.0                  | 665,995          | 25.2                  |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 (SF3), Table P41

The county's independent retirement communities and subsidized rental housing facilities are generally wheelchair accessible, and most facilities have a limited number of units that are fully handicapped equipped. Some of the personal care homes can possibly serve persons with dementia or developmental disabilities, on a case-by-case basis, depending on the level of care required.

### **Persons with HIV/AIDS**

According to the Georgia Statistics System, a total of 58 HIV/AIDS cases were reported in Walker County from 1980 to 2007, ranking it 62<sup>nd</sup> out of Georgia's 159 counties. As of December 2008, 6 persons were reported living with HIV and 33 persons were reported living with AIDS in Walker County, ranking it 115<sup>th</sup> in the number of persons with HIV and 56<sup>th</sup> in the number of persons living with AIDS. Walker County does not have special housing options for HIV/AIDS patients. Due to the number of cases in the county, however, there may be an unmet special housing need for this group.

### **Persons Recovering from Substance Abuse**

One facility in Walker County provides housing for persons recovering from substance abuse:

- Penfield Christian Home, 702 East Villanow Street, LaFayette

Penfield offers a six-week residential program for men, age 18 and over, that desire to stop using alcohol and/or drugs.

### **Job-Housing Balance**

Jobs available in a community ideally should match workforce skills, and housing should be available in locations and sizes and at prices appropriate for workers who desire to live in the area. A community's land use plan can have a significant influence on whether workers can get to their jobs in a timely manner or whether they even have a choice of living near their jobs. A spatial mismatch between job locations and affordable housing locations results in longer commutes and traffic congestion, increases driver frustration, harms air quality, and reduces worker productivity.

Job-housing balance is a planning technique that can be used by communities to achieve an approximately equal number of jobs and housing units or households in a particular geographic area. Communities can use two measurements to gauge their ability to achieve a balance of jobs and housing:



- Jobs (employment) to housing units ratio; and
- Jobs (employment) to employed residents (labor force) ratio

The Atlanta Regional Commission’s *Jobs-Housing Balance Community Choices Quality Growth Toolkit* indicates a jobs to housing units ratio of 1.3 to 1.7 implies balance. For the jobs to employed residents ratio, a target range of 0.8 to 1.25 implies balance.

Table 4-27 presents the jobs/housing units ratio and the jobs/employed residents ratio for Walker County. The county’s 2009 employment/housing units ratio of 0.44 (down from 0.60 in 2000) falls well short of the target range of 1.3 to 1.7. The county’s 2009 employment/employed residents (labor force) ratio of 0.45 (down from 0.52 in 2000) also falls short of the target range of 0.8 to 1.25.

Table 4-27 Jobs-Housing Balance - County

| Category                                | 2000   | 2008   | 2009   |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Population                              | 61,053 | 64,335 | 64,803 |
| Average Household Size                  | 2.54   | 2.51   | 2.51   |
| Number of Households                    | 23,605 | 25,118 | 25,256 |
| Housing Units                           | 25,577 | 28,706 | 29,100 |
| Civilian Labor Force                    | 30,561 | 33,155 | 32,153 |
| Civilian Labor Force (employed)         | 29,495 | 30,965 | 28,809 |
| Employment                              | 15,294 | 14,194 | 12,873 |
| Employment/Population Ratio             | 0.25   | 0.22   | 0.20   |
| Employment/Housing Unit Ratio           | 0.60   | 0.49   | 0.44   |
| Employment/Labor Force Ratio            | 0.50   | 0.43   | 0.40   |
| Employment/Labor Force (employed) Ratio | 0.52   | 0.46   | 0.45   |

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF 1; 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates; 2007-2009 American Community Survey; Georgia Department of Labor, Workforce Information & Analysis

## Supply of Affordable Housing

The generally accepted definition of affordability is for a household to pay no more than 30% of its annual income on housing costs. A lack of affordable housing is a significant hardship on low-income households, preventing them from meeting other basic needs. Households paying more than 30% of their income on housing costs may have difficulty affording other necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care. Tables 4-28 and 4-29 show the correlation of average wages to housing prices and household income to housing prices, respectively. These tables show equivalent house prices based on 2.5 and 3.5 multipliers, used widely in the finance and real estate industries to calculate affordable housing prices. These multipliers are applied to annual wages or annual household income to determine approximate affordability.

As shown in Table 4-20, the average sale price of homes in Walker County was \$121,518 in 2006 (adjusted for inflation to 2009 dollars for comparison to other data). As shown in Table 4-28, the average annual wage for all Walker County industries in 2009, \$28,645, would support a house price of \$71,613 to \$100,258. The house price thus supported would be between 58.9% and 82.5% of the 2006 inflation-adjusted average sale price. The county's largest private job sector, *manufacturing* (32.4% of total employment/jobs), paid an average annual wage of \$32,910 which would support a house price of \$82,275 to \$115,185. *Retail trade*, the county's second largest job sector (11.0% of total jobs), paid an average annual wage of \$20,789 which would support a house price of \$51,973 to \$72,762. *Accommodation and food services*, the third largest sector, paid an average annual wage of \$12,022 which would support a house price of \$30,055 to \$42,077. *All government jobs* accounted for 27.6% of all county jobs and paid an average annual wage of \$28,808, just slightly higher than the county average for all industries. Average wages for any of these job sectors would have to be supplemented with additional household income in order for the average house price of \$121, 518 to be affordable.

**Table 4-28 Correlation of Average Weekly Wages to Housing Prices for Workers 2009**

| Sector  | Average Wage        |                     |                      | Monthly Income Available for Housing | Equivalent House Price <sup>1</sup> (2.5 multiplier) | Equivalent House Price <sup>1</sup> (3.5 multiplier) |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
|   | Average Weekly Wage | Average Annual Wage | Average Monthly Wage |                                      |  |  |
| Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>2</sup> | **                  | **                  | **                   | **                                   | **   | **   |
| Mining <sup>2</sup>                             | **                  | **                  | **                   | **                                   | **   | **   |
| Construction                                    | \$565               | \$29,362            | \$2,447              | \$734                                | \$73,405   | \$102,767  |
| Manufacturing                                   | \$633               | \$32,910            | \$2,743              | \$823                                | \$82,275   | \$115,185  |
| Utilities <sup>3</sup>                          | -                   | -                   | -                    | -                                    | -  | -  |
| Wholesale trade                                 | \$834               | \$43,394            | \$3,616              | \$1,085                              | \$108,485  | \$151,879  |
| Retail trade                                    | \$400               | \$20,789            | \$1,732              | \$520                                | \$51,973   | \$72,762   |
| Transportation and warehousing                  | \$572               | \$29,731            | \$2,478              | \$743                                | \$74,328   | \$104,059  |
| Information                                     | \$1,078             | \$56,035            | \$4,670              | \$1,401                              | \$140,088  | \$196,123  |
| Finance and insurance                           | \$819               | \$42,575            | \$3,548              | \$1,064                              | \$106,438  | \$149,013  |
| Real estate and rental and leasing              | \$434               | \$22,578            | \$1,882              | \$565                                | \$56,445   | \$79,023   |
| Professional and technical services             | \$932               | \$48,488            | \$4,041              | \$1,212                              | \$121,220  | \$169,708  |
| Management of companies and enterprises         | \$750               | \$39,015            | \$3,251              | \$975                                | \$97,538   | \$136,553  |
| Administrative and waste services               | \$467               | \$24,274            | \$2,023              | \$607                                | \$60,685   | \$84,959   |
| Educational services                            | \$319               | \$16,610            | \$1,384              | \$415                                | \$41,525   | \$58,135   |
| Health care and social services                 | \$514               | \$26,738            | \$2,228              | \$668                                | \$66,845   | \$93,583   |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation              | \$349               | \$18,150            | \$1,513              | \$454                                | \$45,375   | \$63,525   |
| Accommodation and food services                 | \$231               | \$12,022            | \$1,002              | \$301                                | \$30,055   | \$42,077   |
| Other services (except public admin.)           | \$541               | \$28,146            | \$2,346              | \$704                                | \$70,365   | \$98,511   |
| All government                                  | \$554               | \$28,808            | \$2,401              | \$720                                | \$72,020   | \$100,828  |
| All industries – County 2000 <sup>4</sup>       | \$573               | \$29,801            | \$2,483              | \$745                                | \$74,503   | \$104,304  |
| All industries – County 2009                    | \$551               | \$28,645            | \$2,387              | \$716                                | \$71,613   | \$100,258  |
| All industries – State 2009                     | \$825               | \$42,902            | \$3,575              | \$1,073                              | \$107,255  | \$150,157  |

<sup>1</sup>Multipliers are applied to the average annual wage – 2.5 and 3.5 are used widely to calculate affordable housing prices

<sup>2</sup>BLS did not release data for these sectors in 2009

<sup>3</sup>BLS reported no employment in this sector in 2009

<sup>4</sup>Average wages adjusted to 2009 dollars via the BLS Inflation Calculator

Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Georgia Department of Labor

In 2009 the county's median household income of \$38,382 could support a house price of approximately \$95,955 to \$134,337, as shown in Table 4-29. The house price thus supported was 79.0% to 110.5% of the 2006 inflation-adjusted average sale price. The county's mean, or average, household income of \$49,723 could support a house price of approximately \$124,308 to \$174,031. Thus, the average house price of \$121,518 could be marginally within the means of a household having the county's median income, but it would be more comfortably with the means of a household having the county's average income. Approximately 38.8% of all Walker County households in 2009 had an annual income equal to or greater than the average.

**Table 4-29 Correlation of Household Income to Housing Prices for County Residents**

| Annual Household Income      | Maximum Annual Income | Maximum Monthly Income | Maximum Monthly Income for Housing (30%) | Equivalent House Price (2.5 multiplier) | Equivalent House Price (3.5 multiplier) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|---|---|
| Less than \$15,000           | \$15,000              | \$1,250                | \$375                                    | \$37,500                                | \$52,500                                |
| \$15,000 - \$24,999          | \$25,000              | \$2,083                | \$625                                    | \$62,500                                | \$87,500                                |
| \$25,000 - \$34,999          | \$35,000              | \$2,917                | \$875                                    | \$87,500                                | \$122,500                               |
| \$35,000 - \$49,999          | \$50,000              | \$4,167                | \$1,250                                  | \$125,000                               | \$175,000                               |
| \$50,000 - \$74,999          | \$75,000              | \$6,250                | \$1,875                                  | \$187,500                               | \$262,500                               |
| \$75,000 - \$99,999          | \$100,000             | \$8,333                | \$2,500                                  | \$250,000                               | \$350,000                               |
| \$100,000 - \$149,999        | \$150,000             | \$12,500               | \$3,750                                  | \$375,000                               | \$525,000                               |
| \$150,000 - \$249,999        | \$250,000             | \$20,833               | \$6,250                                  | \$625,000                               | \$875,000                               |
| \$250,000 - \$499,999        | \$500,000             | \$41,667               | \$12,500                                 | \$1,250,000                             | \$1,750,000                             |
| \$500,000 or more            | NA                    | NA                     | NA                                       | NA                                      | NA                                      |
| Mean Household Income 2009   |                       |                        |  |   |   |
| Mean Household Income        | \$49,723              | \$4,144                | \$1,243                                  | \$124,308                               | \$174,031                               |
| Median Household Income 2009 |                       |                        |  |   |   |
| Median Household Income      | \$38,382              | \$3,199                | \$960                                    | \$95,955                                | \$134,337                               |

Note: Multipliers are applied to

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2007-2009 American Community Survey

## Barriers to Affordability

Average weekly wages in Walker County lag those of the MSA and the northwest Georgia region for most job sectors and trail those of the state and nation for all sectors (see Table 3-5 in Chapter 3). In 2008 average wages for all industries in Walker County were 78.9% of those in the MSA, 69.0% of those in the state, and 64.5% of those in the nation. In the meantime, the

county's median property value in 2008 was 78.4% of that of the MSA and 64.5% of that of the state.

An availability of housing for mean and median income households, however, does not necessarily mean the county has met the housing needs of those employed within its borders. The county's lower-paid workers do face challenges in finding quality, affordable housing close to their places of employment.

In 2000, 41.3% of Walker County's civilian labor force was employed in Walker County, while 58.7% was employed in other counties—most notably, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Walker County residents comprised 63.1% of the persons working in the county, which means that 36.9% of those employed in the county commuted from outside the county. Updated data from the 2010 census is not yet available.

## **NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **Physiography**

Physiography is the scientific name for the study of the surface features of the earth. It divides the earth's surfaces into natural regions of similar subsurface geology, land form structure, development, and surface characteristics. These natural regions are called physiographic provinces. Walker County encompasses parts of two distinct physiographic provinces, the Appalachian (or Cumberland) Plateau and the Valley and Ridge. The provinces are divided further into smaller, more distinct regions called physiographic districts.

The Appalachian Plateau Province occupies a strip along the western side of Walker County, with a thumb trending from southwest to northeast that juts into the center of the county. The Appalachian Plateau is generally described as a plateau with a surface elevation of from 2,000 to 3,000 feet above mean sea level that slopes to the west. Its streams are deeply cut into the surrounding landscape, and stream valleys are narrow and winding. The portion of the Appalachian Plateau in Walker County is located entirely in what is called the Lookout Mountain District, composed of two flat-topped mountains, Lookout-Pigeon and Sand Mountains, separated by Lookout Valley. The mountains are capped with relatively new sandstone from the Pennsylvanian period and, though relatively flat, slope gently to the southwest. The highest elevation in the district is 2,200 feet, but surface elevation slopes off to about 2,000 feet near the Georgia-Alabama border. The southeastern escarpment of Lookout-Pigeon Mountain drops off sharply to the Chickamauga Valley and forms the boundary between the Appalachian Plateau Province and the Valley and Ridge Province and also between their respective Lookout Mountain and Chickamauga Valley Districts.

The Valley and Ridge Province comprises the remainder and large majority of Walker County. This province is generally characterized by parallel and alternating valleys and mountainous ridges. Elevations generally range from 1,000 feet in the valley bottoms to 3,000 feet at the ridge crests. In Walker County, the Valley and Ridge Province encompasses parts of two physiographic districts, the Chickamauga Valley and the Armuchee Ridges, that both trend in a northeast to southwest direction.

The central portion of Walker County is a part of the Chickamauga Valley District that is characterized by a series of gently rolling, discontinuous, northeast-trending valleys interrupted by limestone and dolomite which dates to the Cambro-Ordovician era. Ridge tops are capped by chert from the same period as the bedrock in the valleys. The ridges in the Chickamauga Valley are about 1,000 feet above sea level, while the valley has an elevation of 700-800 feet. The streams occupy the valley floors and run parallel to one another.

The southeastern section of Walker County is a part of the Armuchee Ridges District of the Valley and Ridge Province. This district is described as a series of prominent, narrow, chevron-shaped ridges that rise abruptly 600-700 feet above the adjoining Chickamauga Valley. The Armuchee ridges are capped with Red Mountain sandstone of the Silurian age and range in elevation from 1,400 to 1,600 feet. The intervening valley bottoms are generally underlain by shales and limestone of Mississippian and Cambro-Ordovician age, respectively.

## **Environmental Planning Criteria**

The Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning (“Local Planning Requirements”) require that local government comprehensive plans identify resources defined in the Rules of Environmental Planning Criteria (water supply watersheds, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, protected rivers, and protected mountains) and, if present, indicate the status of the local governments’ compliance with the Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria through the adoption of locally enforceable ordinances. The *environmental planning criteria* were developed by the Department of Natural Resources as mandated in Part V of the Georgia Planning Act and in the Mountains and River Corridors Protection Act.

Table 5-1 shows the presence of these critical natural resources and indicates if the local governments have adopted protective measures. The locations of the environmental planning criteria resources are depicted on Map 1 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix.

**Table 5-1 Compliance with Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria**

| Resource                   | Definition <sup>1</sup>   | Location   | Local Protection Effort   |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Water Supply Watershed     | Area of land upstream from a government-owned public drinking water intake  | Land area upstream from LaFayette's water intake on Dry Creek; land area upstream from Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority's water intake on Crawfish Spring Lake | Walker County - Water Supply Watersheds Protection Ordinance    |
|                            |   |  | Chickamauga – Water Supply Watersheds Protection Ordinance      |
|                            |   |  | LaFayette - Water Supply Watersheds Protection Ordinance        |
|                            |   |  | Lookout Mountain – N/A  |
|                            |   |  | Rossville – N/A   |
| Groundwater Recharge Areas | Any portion of the earth's surface where water infiltrates into the ground to replenish an aquifer  | Countywide, as delineated by the DNR in Hydrologic Atlas 18, 1989 edition  | Walker County - Groundwater Recharge Areas Protection Ordinance |
|                            |   |  | Chickamauga – Groundwater Recharge Areas Protection Ordinance   |
|                            |   |  | LaFayette - Groundwater Recharge Areas Protection Ordinance     |
|                            |   |  | Lookout Mountain – N/A  |
|                            |   |  | Rossville – N/A   |
| Wetlands                   | Areas inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions | Countywide, as delineated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory  | Walker County – Wetlands Protection Ordinance                   |
|                            |   |  | Chickamauga - Wetlands Protection Ordinance                     |
|                            |   |  | LaFayette - Wetlands Protection Ordinance                       |
|                            |   |  | Lookout Mountain – N/A  |
|                            |   |  | Rossville - No  |
| Protected Rivers           | Any perennial river or watercourse with an average annual flow of at least 400 cubic feet per second, as determined by appropriate U.S. Geological Survey documents   | There are no protected rivers in Walker County.  | Walker County – N/A   |
|                            |   |  | Chickamauga – N/A   |
|                            |   |  | LaFayette – N/A   |
|                            |   |  | Lookout Mountain – N/A  |
|                            |   |  | Rossville – N/A   |
| Protected Mountains        | All land area 2,200 feet or more above mean sea level with a 25% or greater slope for at least 500 feet horizontally, and include the crests, summits, and ridge tops which lie at elevations higher than any such area                 | Round Top and High Point on Lookout Mountain (Durham Quadrangle) and High Point on Pigeon Mountain (Cedar Grove Quadrangle)  | Walker County - No  |
|                            |   |  | Chickamauga – N/A   |
|                            |   |  | LaFayette – N/A   |
|                            |   |  | Lookout Mountain – N/A  |
|                            |   |  | Rossville – N/A   |

<sup>1</sup>As defined by the DNR Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria (Chapter 391-3-16)

## Other Environmentally Sensitive Areas

### Public Water Supply Sources

The Safe Drinking Water Act and derivative legislation define “public water system” as an entity that provides water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances to at least 15 service connections or serves at least 25 people for at least 60 days a year. Table 5-2 provides the water supply sources for Walker County’s public water systems. The data in Table 5-2, however, dates from February 2005 and is not current in all cases. For example, the City of Chickamauga reports that their Well #2 (inactive), as shown in Table 5-2, is now owned by the Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority.

**Table 5-2 Public Water System Supply Sources 2005**

| Public Water System Name | Source Name                      | Source Type         | Water Type      | Status   | Usage   |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------|---------|
| Chickamauga              | Well # 1                         | Well                | Groundwater UDI | Inactive | Regular |
| Chickamauga              | Crawfish Spring                  | Well                | Groundwater UDI | Inactive |         |
| Chickamauga              | Well # 2                         | Well                | Groundwater UDI | Inactive | Regular |
| Chickamauga              | Walker County WSA                | Purchase Connection | Surface Water   | Active   | Back-up |
| Chickamauga              | Coke Oven Well # 105             | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| LaFayette                | Dry Creek                        | Intake              | Surface Water   | Inactive | Regular |
| LaFayette                | Upper Spring                     | Spring              | Groundwater UDI | Active   | Regular |
| LaFayette                | Lower Spring                     | Spring              | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| LaFayette                | Walker County WSA                | Purchase Connection | Surface Water   | Active   | Regular |
| LaFayette                | Catoosa Utility District         | Purchase Connection | Surface Water   | Active   | Regular |
| LaFayette                | Dixon Spring Well # 1            | Well                | Groundwater UDI | Inactive | Regular |
| LaFayette                | Dixon Spring Well # 2            | Well                | Groundwater UDI | Inactive | Regular |
| LaFayette                | Lee School Well # 3              | Well                | Groundwater UDI | Active   | Regular |
| LaFayette                | Lee School Well # 5              | Well                | Groundwater UDI | Inactive | Regular |
| Walker County WSA        | Plant Well # 1                   | Well                | Groundwater UDI | Active   | Regular |
| Walker County WSA        | Plant Well # 2                   | Well                | Groundwater UDI | Active   | Regular |
| Walker County WSA        | Plant Well # 3                   | Well                | Groundwater UDI | Active   | Regular |
| Walker County WSA        | Plant Well # 4                   | Well                | Groundwater     | Inactive |         |
| Walker County WSA        | Crawfish Spring Lake             | Intake              | Surface Water   | Active   | Regular |
| Walker County WSA        | Coke Ovens Well # 1              | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| Walker County WSA        | Coke Ovens Well # 2              | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| Walker County WSA        | Coke Ovens Well # 3              | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| Walker County WSA        | Kensington Well # 1              | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| Walker County WSA        | Kensington Well # 2              | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| Walker County WSA        | Kensington Well # 3              | Well                | Groundwater UDI | Inactive |         |
| Walker County WSA        | Tennessee American Water Company | Purchase Connection | Surface Water   | Active   | Back-up |
| Valley View Ranch        | Well # 1                         | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| Valley View Ranch        | Well # 2                         | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Back-up |
| Camp Woodmont            | Well # 1                         | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| Walker County Rural WSA  | Well # 1                         | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| Walker County Rural WSA  | Well # 2                         | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| Walker County Rural WSA  | Well # 3                         | Well                | Groundwater UDI | Active   | Back-up |
| Walker County Rural WSA  | Walker County Water System       | Purchase Connection | Surface Water   | Active   | Regular |
| Camp Adahi               | Well # 1                         | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| Camp Adahi               | Well # 2                         | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| USFS – Keown Falls Area  | Well # 1                         | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| Yates Bleachery          | Well # 1                         | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |
| Favorite Market # 104    | Well # 1                         | Well                | Groundwater     | Active   | Regular |

Note: Groundwater UDI is groundwater under direct influence of surface water, determined in accordance with criteria established by the Georgia EPD.

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (February 2005)



## Water Quality

Walker County is located in two of Georgia's fourteen major river basins. The northern portion and most of the western portion of the county is in the Tennessee River basin, while the southeastern, south-central, and extreme southwestern portions of the county are in the Coosa River basin. Walker County's major streams are Chattanooga Creek, West Chickamauga Creek, and the Chattooga River.

The Northwest Georgia Regional Water Resources Partnership (NGRWRP) was created in 2002. The NGRWRP is an organization of water permit holders, local governments, industry, environmental, and other advocacy entities with an interest in water issues in the fifteen-county Northwest Georgia Region that includes Walker County. The Partnership's purposes are to monitor and contribute to the development of federal, state, and local water policy; educate the citizenry on water-related issues; seek funding and facilitate the development of regional water-related assessment and planning activities; and coordinate the activities of federal, state, and local entities. The Partnership has undertaken a series of planning initiatives, including the *Northwest Georgia Regional Comprehensive Water Management Plan*, a *Regional Preliminary Reservoir Siting Plan*, and a *Regional Watershed Assessment*.

The Coosa River Basin Initiative (CRBI) is a nonprofit, grassroots, environmental organization that advocates for the wise stewardship of the basin's natural resources. CRBI works to enforce the Clean Water Act by monitoring pollution and polluters; and when pollution problems are identified, the organization uses all possible means, including legal action, to correct the problems. The Initiative operates throughout the Coosa River basin, which includes a portion of Walker County.

### National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

The Clean Water Act of 1972 originally established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit system to control wastewater discharges from various industries and wastewater treatment plants known as "point" sources. The Water Quality Control Act of 1987, Section 405, amended Section 402 of the Clean Water Act to expand the NPDES permit program to address "nonpoint" source pollution through schedules for permitting municipal stormwater discharges. The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) stormwater discharge permit system establishes guidelines for municipalities to minimize pollutants in stormwater runoff to the "maximum extent practicable."

Georgia has been delegated the NPDES program and is responsible for its implementation to control stormwater discharges. Phase I of NPDES, issued in 1990, targeted medium and large municipal MS4s serving 100,000 or more residents. Phase II, issued in 1999, required MS4s serving 10,000 to 100,000 residents to implement stormwater management programs consisting of six "minimum control measures" to minimize polluted stormwater runoff. The portion of

Walker County within the Chattanooga Urbanized Area, including the Cities of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville, received Phase II NPDES permit coverage under General Permit No. GAG6100000, issued in December 2002.

### The 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters

Every body of water in Georgia has been assigned one or more designated uses (e.g., fishing, recreation, and drinking water). To protect these uses, the state also has adopted water quality criteria. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) determines if a water body is supporting its designated use(s) by collecting water quality data and comparing the data to the water quality criteria. If a water body is determined not to be supporting its designated use, the EPD generally will develop a total maximum daily load (TMDL) to begin a process of restoring the water quality. A TMDL determines how much of a particular pollutant a water body can contain while still supporting its designated use.

The Clean Water Act, Section 305(b), requires states to assess and describe the quality of its waters every two years. Section 303(d) of the act also requires states to submit a list of all waters not meeting their designated uses and that need to have a TMDL prepared. Every two years, Georgia submits a combined or integrated 305(b)/303(d) report. In preparing this report, the EPD gathers data that has been collected across the state by the EPD, other state agencies, federal agencies, local governments, and environmental groups and compares it to the state's water quality criteria. The EPD then places each water body into one of three broad groups: 1) supporting their designated use; 2) not supporting their designated use; or 3) assessment pending. Further, at the request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2008, the Georgia EPD adopted a five-part categorization of its waters. Each category corresponds to one of the three broad groups (supporting, not supporting, and assessment pending) as described below.

- Category 1 – Data indicate that waters are supporting their designated use(s).
- Category 2 – A water had more than designated use and data indicate that at least one designated use is being supported, but there is insufficient evidence to determine that all uses are being supported. (Note: To date, the EPD has not placed any waters in this category.)
- Category 3 – There is insufficient data or other information to make a determination as to whether or not the designated use(s) is being supported.
- Category 4a – Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being supported, but TMDL(s) have been completed for the parameter(s) that are causing a water not to meet its use(s).
- Category 4b – Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being supported, but there are actions in place (other than a TMDL) that are predicted to lead to compliance with water quality standards.
- Category 4c – Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being supported, but the impairment is not caused by a pollutant. (Note: To date, the EPD has not placed any waters in this category.)

- Category 5 – Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being supported and TMDL(s) need to be completed for one or more pollutants. Waters in Category 5 make up the 303(d) list.

Table 5-3 provides a list of Walker County waters that are not supporting their designated use and waters with assessments pending. Since water bodies, such as streams and rivers, are typically many miles long, it usually is not feasible to assess the entire water as a single unit. Consequently, each water body generally is divided into shorter lengths called “reaches.” Each row in Table 5-3 represents an assessed reach.

**Table 5-3 Waters Not Supporting Their Designated Use and Waters with Assessments Pending**

| Reach Name                             | Reach Location  | Category       | Designated Use | Criterion Violated | Source |
|--|---|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------|
| Cane Creek                             | Dry Creek to Chattooga River (7 miles)  | 4a             | Fishing        | FC                 | UR     |
| Chattooga River                        | Towns Creek to Duck Creek (10 miles)  | 4a             | Fishing        | Bio F              | NP     |
| Duck Creek                             | Headwaters to Chattooga River (13 miles)  | 4a             | Fishing        | FC                 | NP     |
| Snake Creek                            | Headwaters to Oostanaula River (11 miles)   | 4a             | Fishing        | Bio F, FC          | NP     |
| Spring Creek                           | Walker/Chattooga Counties (5 miles)   | 4a             | Fishing        | FC                 | NP     |
| Town Creek                             | Queen City Lake to Chattooga River (3 miles)  | 4a             | Fishing        | Bio F              | NP     |
| Chattanooga Creek                      | High Point to Flintstone (7 miles)  | 4a             | Fishing        | FC                 | NP     |
| Chattanooga Creek                      | Flintstone to state line (4 miles)  | 4a             | Fishing        | FC                 | UR     |
| Dry Creek                              | Headwaters to Chattanooga Creek at state line (5 miles)                                   | 4a             | Fishing        | FC, Bio F          | UR     |
| Little Chickamauga Creek               | Headwaters to Coulter Creek (9 miles)   | 4a             | Fishing        | Bio F              | NP     |
| Little Chickamauga Creek Tributary # 1 | Headwaters to Little Chickamauga Creek near SR 95 at McIntire Road (3 miles)              | 4a             | Fishing        | Bio F              | NP     |
| McFarland Branch                       | Rossville to state line (1 mile)  | 4a             | Fishing        | FC, DO             | UR     |
| Peavine Creek                          | Headwaters to Rock Spring Creek (4 miles)   | 4a             | Fishing        | Bio F              | NP     |
| West Chickamauga Creek                 | Mill Creek to Crawfish Creek (16 miles)   | 4a             | Fishing        | FC                 | NP     |
| East Armuchee Creek                    | Dry Creek to West Armuchee Creek (formerly Furnace Creek to West Armuchee Creek) 15 miles | 3 <sup>1</sup> | Fishing        | -                  | -      |
| West Fork Little River                 | Headwaters to Alabama state line (6 miles)  | 3 <sup>1</sup> | Fishing        | -                  | -      |
| Coke Oven Branch                       | Headwaters to West Chickamauga Creek (4 miles)  | 3 <sup>1</sup> | Fishing        | -                  | -      |

<sup>1</sup> The water is being placed in Category 3 because macroinvertebrate data are currently under evaluation for listing assessment purposes. A listing decision should be made by 2012.

Source: Georgia 2010 Integrated 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (November 10, 2010)

## Step Slopes

Most steep slopes in Walker County are located in the Lookout/Pigeon Mountains and Armuchee Ridges Districts, as shown on Map 2 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix. Lookout Mountain (2,391 feet) and Pigeon Mountain (2,329 feet) are the only mountains or ridges with elevations greater than 2,200 feet above sea level. Prominent ridges and mountains in the Chattahoochee Forest area of Walker County include the following: Taylor Ridge (1,541 feet), Dick Ridge (1,413 feet), Horn Mountain (1,608 feet), Johns Mountain (1,883 feet), Strawberry

Mountain (1,390 feet), and Mill Creek Mountain (1,800 feet). Other ridges in the county include Missionary Ridge (1,132 feet) and Hawkins Ridge (900 feet). Land characterized by slopes of 15 percent or greater is considered to have moderate to severe development limitations. Steep slopes can be developed, but costs are higher and environmental deterioration results due to accelerated runoff, increased soil erosion, and water quality degradation. Steep slopes should be retained in recreation and open space use or developed at very low net residential densities.

## **Floodplains**

Flooding is the temporary covering of soil with water from overflowing streams or by runoff from adjacent slopes. A floodplain is any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source. In their natural or relatively undisturbed state, floodplains are important water resource areas, serving three major purposes: natural water storage and conveyance, water quality maintenance, and groundwater recharge. Inappropriate development can destroy their value. Fill material placed in a floodplain, for example, eliminates essential water storage capacity, causing water elevation to rise and previously dry land to flood.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has identified and mapped areas of Walker County with the highest flooding risk in order to establish actuarial flood insurance rates and promote sound floodplain management planning. The most recently updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) for Walker County became effective in September 2007. Map 3 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix presents the Walker County's 100-year floodplains.

## **Soils**

Soil properties are important in determining how land can be most safely and economically used. This fact is basic to modern practices in agriculture, engineering, forestry, recreation, and construction. Soils regulate water, sustain animal and plant life, filter potential pollutants, cycle nutrients, and support buildings and structures. Knowledge of area soil types provides a good indication of topography (slope), erosion patterns, the presence and depth of rock, and the presence of water. In turn, these characteristics help indicate the suitability of a soil type for a specific land use. For this reason, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, in cooperation with the Coosa Valley Area Planning and Development Commission, prepared a report, *Soils Interpretation for the Coosa Valley Area* (1969), which included general soil maps for the region's twelve counties. With the General Soil Map for Walker County and the supporting descriptive and interpretative materials in the *Soils Interpretation* report, existing scientific information about the county's soils were made available to many potential users, such as county and city planning departments, other agencies, and private developers.

## General Soil Map

A general soil map shows several main patterns of soils called soil associations. A soil association is a group of defined and named kinds of soils associated together in a characteristic geographic pattern. As a rule, each association contains a few major soils and several minor soils in a pattern that is characteristic although not strictly 'uniform. The soils within any one association are likely to differ from each other in a number of properties (e.g., slope, depth, stoniness, color, or natural drainage). Thus, the general soil map does not show the kind of soil at a particular location. It shows, rather, patterns of soils, on the same slope ranges, in each of which there are several different kinds of soils. Each soil association is named for the major soil series in it, but as noted, soil of other series may also be present. The major soils of one association may also be present in another association, but on a different slope range or in a different pattern.

Map 4 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix presents the General Soil Map for Walker County. Soil associations shown on Map 4, and briefly described below, are grouped into four general types of landscapes for broad interpretative purposes.

### *Level to nearly level soils on low bottomland and floodplains*

- The **Cartecay–Wehadkee** association (Map Code #1) is comprised of moderately well drained to somewhat poorly and poorly drained soils on nearly level floodplains. This association consists of long, narrow, nearly level floodplains developing in alluvium along streams that overflow more often than once every 2 years. The streams have well-defined channels and in some places are clogged and silted. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. The depth to the seasonal high water table is about 2 feet. The soils in this association are considered to have severe limitations for most nonfarm uses due to flood hazards.
- The **Cartecay-Taft-Wehadkee** association (Map Code #39) is comprised of moderately well to somewhat poorly drained soils on low bottomland. This association consists of alluvial soils on narrow to fairly broad, nearly level floodplains. The soils lie along the creeks and rivers subject to flooding more than once every 2 years. Stream channels are not always well defined. In some spots water is ponded for several days due to excess flooding. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. The seasonal high water table is less than 2 feet from the surface, and the depth to hard rock generally ranges from 4 to 8 feet. The soils in this association vary in crop suitability because of variability in drainage and flooding. These soils have severe limitations for residential or industrial development. Most areas are favorable for wetland wildlife development.

### *Level to moderately sloping soils on stream terraces, low ridges, and mountain foot slopes*

- The **Whitwell-Toccoa-Wolftever** association (Map Code #2) is comprised of well-drained to moderately well drained, nearly level first bottom soils and low stream

terraces. This association consists of nearly level, long, first bottoms and low stream terraces along the drainageways of the larger streams and is subject to flooding once in 5 to 10 years. Slopes range from 0 to 4 percent. The soils in this association are well suited to row crops and pasture. The association's dominant soils are considered to have a severe limitation for most nonfarm uses due to flood hazard.

- The **Tyler-Robertsville-Taft** association (Map Code #3) is comprised of somewhat poorly to poorly drained soils on low stream terraces. This association is characterized by narrow, level to very gently sloping low stream terraces formed in old alluvium adjacent to the smaller streams that overflow more often than once every 5 years. Stream channels are not always well defined. Slopes range from 0 to 6 percent. Depth to hard rock ranges from 3 to 7 feet, and the seasonal high water table ranges between the surface and 2 feet. Limitations are severe for most farm and nonfarm uses due to high water table and frequent flooding. Limitations for sewage trunk lines and sewage lagoons are moderate.
- The **Captina-Capshaw-Leadvale** association (Map Code #4) is comprised of moderately well drained, level to gently sloping soils on low stream terraces and level upland areas. This association is located along the larger streams and level upland areas. These soils have developed in old alluvium 4 to 8 feet thick and are underlain by acid shale or limestone. They flood once in 5 to 20 years. Slopes range from 0 to 10 percent, and the seasonal high water table is 1 to 3 feet. This association has moderate limitations for most locally grown crops. It is considered to have moderate to severe limitations for nonfarm uses due to flood hazard. Limitations are moderate for sewage trunk lines, sewage lagoons, picnic areas, trafficways, and campsites.
- The **Allen-Etowah-Holston** association (Map Code #5) is comprised of well-drained, level to gently sloping soils on high stream terraces and mountain foot slopes. This association consists of broad, level stream terraces on short, gently sloping side slopes along the larger streams and mountain foot slopes. The soils in this association have developed in alluvium washed from soils underlain by limestone, sandstone, siltstone, and shale. Slopes range from 0 to 10 percent, and the depth to hardrock is 6 to 8 feet. The dominant soils in this association are considered to have slight to moderate limitations for nonfarm uses. [Note: The soil association legends in the *Soils Interpretation for the Coosa Valley Area* and for the General Soil Map for Walker County identify Map Code #5 as the **Etowah-Wolftever-Holston** association. The soil association description in the *Soils Interpretation* report for Map Code #5, however, is for the **Allen-Etowah-Holston** association. There is no soil association description for an **Etowah-Wolftever-Holston** association in the report.]
- The **Colbert-Enders-Armuchee** association (Map Code #26) is comprised of well-drained and moderately well to somewhat poorly drained, very gently sloping to gently sloping soils on upland landscapes. This association is characterized by broad, level flats to gently sloping low ridges. About half of the slopes are less than 6 percent,

although some are as steep as 10 percent. In most places, the floodplains along the drainageways are narrow. Depth to hard rock is 2 to 6 feet, but in a few places, it is less than 2 feet. The seasonal high water table is 1 to 5 feet. The dominant soils in this association are considered to have severe limitations for nonfarm uses due to shrink-swell potential. These soils are poorly suited for cultivation and moderately suited for pine trees, campsites, and picnic areas.

- The **Leadvale-Holston-Wolftever** association (Map Code #41) is comprised of moderately well to well-drained soils on level to gently sloping stream terraces. This association consists of broad, nearly level to gently sloping areas which are subject to infrequent flooding. These soils occur on stream terraces that are commonly 5 to 10 feet above the floodplains. In about 75 percent of the association, slopes are uniform and range from 2 to 6 percent. A few areas are nearly level, and a few occur on slopes of 6 to 10 percent. Depth to hard rock is 4 to 8 feet and deeper, and the seasonal high water table generally ranges from 1 to 3 feet beneath the surface. The soils in this association are well suited for general farming and are better suited for row crops than the upland soils in other associations. This association has moderate to severe limitations for nonfarm uses due to occasional flood hazards. Filling, diversion ditches, and other methods can be used to reduce hazards for residential and industrial uses.

*Moderately sloping soils on narrow ridges, side slopes, and mountains*

- The **Minvale-Fullerton-Decatur** association (Map Code #7) is comprised of well-drained, very gently sloping and gently sloping, upland, residual soils along narrow ridges and side slopes. This association consists of hills and ridges with small, shallow depressions. Most areas are cherty on the surface and throughout the profile. Slopes range from 2 to 10 percent. The depth to hard rock is 6 to 40 feet. The dominant soils in this association are well suited for most farm uses. They have slight to moderate limitations for most nonfarm uses.
- The **DeKalb-Hartsells-Steekee** association (Map Code #13) is comprised of well-drained, very gently sloping and gently sloping soils on mountains. This association consists of broad, very gently and gently sloping mountain tops dissected by small draws and depressions. Slopes range from 2 to 10 percent. Depth to hard rock varies from 15 to 50 inches, and depth to the seasonal high water table is over 10 feet. The majority of soils in this association are moderately well suited for most farm uses. They have moderate to severe limitations for most nonfarm uses due to the depth to hard rock, and they have severe limitations as residential sites requiring a septic tank filter field and for sewage lagoons or sewage trunk lines.



*Moderately steeply sloping to steeply sloping soils on high stream terraces, hillsides, mountain side slopes, and mountain ridges*

- The **Allen-Etowah-Holston** association (Map Code #6) is comprised of well-drained, sloping and strongly sloping soils on high stream terraces. This association consists of soils developed in old alluvium along the moderately steep slopes of drainageways and at the toe of slopes. Slopes range from 10 to 25 percent. The depth of hard rock is 6 to 8 feet, and the depth of the seasonal high water table is more than 10 feet. The dominant soils in this association are considered to have moderate limitations for residential sites, trafficways, picnic areas, and farm uses. Because of the slopes, the limitations are severe when used as foundation for light industrial and commercial buildings, sewage lagoons, sewage trunk lines, and campsites.
- The **Minvale-Fullerton-Decatur** association (Map Code #8) is comprised of well-drained, sloping to steep upland soils. This association is characterized by hills, narrow ridges that have short sloping to steep side slopes, and deep draws. Slopes range from 10 to 60 percent. Depth to hard rock varies from 6 to 40 feet, and the seasonal high water table is more than 10 feet. The dominant soils in this association are considered to have severe limitations for farm uses and most nonfarm uses due to steep slopes. They have moderate limitations for public picnic areas.
- The **Steekee-DeKalb-Hartsells** association (Map Code #9) is comprised of excessively drained to well-drained, sloping to steep soils on short upper slopes and mountain ridges. This association consists of sloping to steep mountain tops, side slopes, and steep slopes at the heads of small drainageways, most of which originate in the association. Slopes range from 10 to 60 percent. Depth to hard rock varies from 1 to 5 feet, and the seasonal high water table is more than 10 feet. The dominant soils in this association are considered to have severe limitations for most nonfarm uses due to the slopes and depth to hard rock.
- The **Armuchee-Enders** association (Map Code #11) is comprised of well-drained to moderately well drained, moderately steep to steep soils on short slopes. This association is characterized by steep, narrow ridges and moderately steep to steep, short side slopes. Approximately 55 percent of the association consists of slopes of 25 to 60 percent; 25 percent consists of slopes from 15 to 25 percent; and 20 percent consists of slopes from 10 to 15 percent. The depth to hard rock is 2 to 5 feet, and the depth to the seasonal high water table is 2 to 6 feet. This association has low potential for agricultural uses. About 80 percent of it is poorly suited for crops, pasture, or nonfarm uses because of steep slopes and droughty soils.
- The **Allen-Holston stony-Bodine stony-Montevallo shaly** association (Map Code #12) is comprised of well-drained to excessively drained, sloping to steep soils on ridges and mountain slopes. The larger areas of this association are along mountain side slopes. In a few places the depth of hard rock is less than 1 foot. In most places, there



are large stones and boulders on the surface. Approximately 75 percent of the association consists of slopes from 25 to 60 percent; 20 percent consists of slopes from 15 to 25 percent; and 5 percent consists of slopes from 10 to 15 percent. Depth to the seasonal high water table is over 10 feet. This association has low potential for agricultural uses. At least 85 percent of it is poorly suited for crops, pasture, or urban use due to steep slopes and the stony soils.

- The **Minvale-Bodine-Fullerton** association (Map Code #43) is comprised of steep, well-drained upland soils along the ridges and side slopes. This association is characterized by steep, cherty ridges and rolling, sloping hillsides dissected by narrow drainageways that are well defined. Except for about 15 percent of this association, the soils occur on 10 to 60 percent slopes. The depth to hard rock ranges from 4 to more than 10 feet, and the seasonal high water table is 10 feet or more. This association is not suited for row crops, except for the areas along the colluvial draws and drainageways. Because of steep slopes and numerous cherty and stony fragments, the association has severe limitations for industrial and most nonfarm uses.
- The **Montevallo-Armuchee** association (Map Code #44) is comprised of steep, well-drained upland soils on ridges and hillsides. This association typically has many platy, shaly fragments on the surface and within the soil. It occupies short and long, steep hillsides and is dissected by many narrow drainageways that are well defined. Most of this association is very steep, having slopes ranging from 15 to 60 percent, but about one-fourth has slopes ranging from 10 to 15 percent. A few short escarpments are steeper than 60 percent. The depth to hard rock ranges from 2 to 6 feet but is deeper in some places. The seasonal high water table ranges from 2 to 10 feet or more because of the variable depth to bedrock. About 80 percent of the association is poorly suited for crops, pasture, or urban use because of steep, shallow, droughty, fragmental soils. The association has severe limitations for residential and industrial development.
- The **Apison gravelly-Allen-Holston stony** association (Map Code #45) is comprised of steep, gravelly, and stony soils derived from mixed acid shale, siltstone, and sandstone on mountainous ridges. This association is characterized by narrow ridge tops and steep side slopes cut by narrow, shallow draws. There are numerous outcrops of rocks and boulders. Slopes range from 25 to 60 percent in about two-thirds of the association but from 10 to 25 percent in about one-fourth of the area. Depth to hard rock varies from 2 to 8 feet, and the seasonal high water table is 10 feet or more. Because of steep slopes and gravelly and stony conditions, this association is not suited for cultivation or pastures. Trees are suited to these soils and grow moderately well. This association could be developed for recreation uses such as hunting, hiking, and camping. It has severe limitations for industrial and residential development due to steep slopes and rock fragments.

## Plant and Animal Habitats

The Nongame Conservation Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, maintains a database of rare plant and animal species thought to be in need of conservation. Information in the conservation database comes from a variety of sources, including museum and herbarium records, literature, reports from individuals and organizations, and field surveys by DNR biologists. In most cases, this information is not the result of a recent on-site survey by DNR staff, and only occasionally can the Nongame Conservation Section provide definitive information on the presence or absence of rare species in a given area. As of May 2010, known rare plant, animal, and natural community EOs (element occurrences) generalized to Walker County are shown in Tables 5-4 through 5-11.

The following abbreviations are used to indicate the status of state-protected plants and animals or those proposed for state-protection in Georgia (Georgia Department of Natural Resources, GA-DNR):

- **E** - Listed as endangered. A species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or part of its range.
- **T** - Listed as threatened. A species which is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future throughout all or parts of its range.
- **R** - Listed as rare. A species which may not be endangered or threatened but which should be protected because of its scarcity.
- **U** - Listed as unusual (and thus deserving of special consideration). Plants subject to commercial exploitation would have this status.

The following abbreviations are used to indicate the legal status of federally-protected plants and animals (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USFWS):

- **LE** - Listed as endangered. The most critically imperiled species. A species that may become extinct or disappear from a significant part of its range if not immediately protected.
- **LT** - Listed as threatened. The next most critical level of threatened species. A species that may become endangered if not protected.

Table 5-4 Species of Special Concern in Walker County - Amphibians

| Species                                 |                            | Status  |       | Habitat  |
|---|----------------------------|---------|-------|--|
| Scientific Name                         | Common Name                | Federal | State |  |
| <i>Aneides aeneus</i>                   | Green Salamander           |         | R     | Moist rock crevices; new information suggests <i>Aneides</i> also frequents canopies of trees; within hardwood forests |
| <i>Gyrinophilus palleucus palleucus</i> | Tennessee Cave Salamander  |         | T     | Streams in caves; substrates include rock, gravel, sand, and mud   |
| <i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>           | Four-toed Salamander       |         |       | Swamps; boggy streams & ponds; hardwood forests  |
| <i>Plethodon petraeus</i>               | Pigeon Mountain Salamander |         | R     | Moist, rocky woods; cave entrances   |
| <i>Pseudacris brachyphona</i>           | Mountain Chorus Frog       |         |       | Hardwood forests with fishless breeding pools  |

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Nongame Conservation Section (May 2010)

**Table 5-5 Species of Special Concern in Walker County -Birds**

| Species                     |                         | Status  |       | Habitat  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------|--|
| Scientific Name             | Common Name             | Federal | State |  |
| <i>Aimophila aestivalis</i> | Bachman's Sparrow       |         | R     | Open pine or oak woods; old fields; brushy areas |
| <i>Falco peregrinus</i>     | Peregrine Falcon        |         | R     | Rocky cliffs & ledges; seacoasts                 |
| <i>Picoides borealis</i>    | Red-cockaded Woodpecker | LE      | E     | Open pine woods; pine savannas                   |

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Nongame Conservation Section (May 2010)

**Table 5-6 Species of Special Concern in Walker County -Fish**

| Species                        |                    | Status  |       | Habitat   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------|-------|---|
| Scientific Name                | Common Name        | Federal | State |   |
| <i>Cyprinella spiloptera</i>   | Spotfin Shiner     |         |       | Medium-sized rivers to large streams in flowing runs with substrate of gravel to bedrock                |
| <i>Etheostoma jessiae</i>      | Blueside Darter    |         |       | Sluggish to moderate current over silty or fine substrates  |
| <i>Etheostoma jordani</i>      | Greenbreast Darter |         |       | Medium-sized creeks to rivers in riffle areas over gravel to bedrock substrate                          |
| <i>Etheostoma rufilineatum</i> | Redline Darter     |         |       | Swift shallow riffles of rocky streams  |
| <i>Etheostoma zonale</i>       | Banded Darter      |         |       | Swift riffles in medium-sized rivers over large gravel, cobble, or boulder substrate                    |
| <i>Fundulus catenatus</i>      | Northern Studfish  |         | R     | Margins of small to medium streams in areas of sluggish to moderate current                             |
| <i>Hemitremia flammea</i>      | Flame Chub         |         | E     | Springs & springfed streams   |
| <i>Hybopsis lineapunctata</i>  | Lined Chub         |         | R     | Upland creeks over sandy substrate with gentle current  |
| <i>Lythrurus fasciolaris</i>   | Scarlet Shiner     |         |       | Small to medium-sized streams in moderate current over rocky substrates                                 |
| <i>Lythrurus lirus</i>         | Mountain Shiner    |         |       | Cool, clear streams in flowing water over sandy to rocky substrates                                     |
| <i>Notropis asperifrons</i>    | Burrhead Shiner    |         | T     | Small streams to medium-sized rivers in pools, riffles, and midwater areas                              |
| <i>Notropis telescopus</i>     | Telescope Shiner   |         |       | Rocky streams and small rivers over gravel in swift current   |
| <i>Noturus flavipinnis</i>     | Yellowfin Madtom   | LT      |       | Pools and backwaters of medium-sized creeks; gravel and pebble substrate                                |
| <i>Percina sciera</i>          | Dusky Darter       |         | R     | Large creeks and rivers in moderate current associated with woody debris, undercut banks, or vegetation |

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Nongame Conservation Section (May 2010)

**Table 5-7 Species of Special Concern in Walker County -Invertebrates**

| Species                            |                          | Status  |       | Habitat   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|-------|---|
| Scientific Name                    | Common Name              | Federal | State |   |
| <i>Cambarus extraneus</i>          | Chickamauga Crayfish     |         | T     | Small to medium shallow rocky streams with moderate current   |
| <i>Cambarus scotti</i>             | Chattooga River Crayfish |         | T     | rather swift water flowing over rock-littered beds  |
| <i>Cambarus unestami</i>           | Blackbarred Crayfish     |         | T     | only 2 streams about 333 to 500 meters altitude, moderate to swiftly flowing over bedrock or rock-littered sand |
| <i>Gomphus consanguis</i>          | Cherokee Clubtail        |         | T     | Mountain streams and adjacent terrestrial areas   |
| <i>Hamiota altilis</i>             | Finelined Pocketbook     | LT      | T     | Large rivers to small streams   |
| <i>Lasmigona holstonia</i>         | Tennessee Heelsplitter   |         |       | Small to large creeks   |
| <i>Lestes congener</i>             | Spotted Spreadwing       |         |       | Georgia habitat information not available   |
| <i>Lestes forcipatus</i>           | Sweetflag Spreadwing     |         |       | Georgia habitat information not available   |
| <i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>      | Alabama Moccasinshell    | LT      | T     | Large rivers to medium sized creeks   |
| <i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>       | Southern Pigtoe          | LE      | E     | Large rivers to medium sized creeks   |
| <i>Pleurocera pyrenella</i>        | Skirted Hornsnail        |         |       | Mountain streams  |
| <i>Pleurocera vestita</i>          | Brook hornsnail          |         |       | Aquatic habitats  |
| <i>Pseudanopthalmus fastigatus</i> | Tapered Cave Beetle      |         |       | Caves   |
| <i>Pseudanopthalmus georgiae</i>   | Georgian Cave Beetle     |         |       | Caves   |
| <i>Villosa vanuxemensis</i>        | Mountain Creekshell      |         |       | Large to medium sized TN Basin tributaries  |

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Nongame Conservation Section (May 2010)

**Table 5-8 Species of Special Concern in Walker County -Mammals**

| Species                              |                              | Status  |       | Habitat  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|-------|--|
| Scientific Name                      | Common Name                  | Federal | State |  |
| <i>Myotis grisescens</i>             | Gray Myotis                  | LE      | E     | Caves with flowing water                                 |
| <i>Myotis leibii</i>                 | Eastern Small-footed Myotis  |         |       | Caves; mines; abandoned buildings                        |
| <i>Neotoma floridana haematoreia</i> | Southern Appalachian Woodrat |         |       | High-elevation forests; rock ledges                      |
| <i>Sorex hoyi</i>                    | Pygmy Shrew                  |         |       | Mountain bogs; grassy openings in high elevation forests |

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Nongame Conservation Section (May 2010)

**Table 5-9 Species of Special Concern in Walker County –Natural Communities**

| Species                                    |  | Status  |       | Habitat                                   |
|--|--|---------|-------|---|
| Scientific Name                            | Common Name                              | Federal | State |   |
| Bare rock/lichens, cu/rv sandstone outcrop | Sandstone Outcrop Rock/lichens           |         |       | Georgia habitat information not available |
| Cu/rv cave                                 | Cumberland Plateau/ridge and Valley Cave |         |       | Georgia habitat information not available |
| Cu/rv submesic needleleaf ever. forest     | Cedar Glade                              |         |       | Georgia habitat information not available |
| Forest, sagpond                            | Sagpond Forest                           |         |       | Georgia habitat information not available |
| Herbaceous veg., cu-rv sandstone outcrop   | Sandstone Outcrop Herb Community         |         |       | Georgia habitat information not available |
| Mountain spring                            | Mountain Spring                          |         |       | Georgia habitat information not available |
| Shrub/scrub veg., cu-rv sandstone outcrop  | Sandstone Outcrop Shrub/scrub Community  |         |       | Georgia habitat information not available |

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Nongame Conservation Section (May 2010)

**Table 5-10 Species of Special Concern in Walker County -Reptiles**

| Species                                   |                    | Status  |       | Habitat                                    |
|---|--------------------|---------|-------|--|
| Scientific Name                           | Common Name        | Federal | State |  |
| <i>Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum</i> | Eastern Milk Snake |         |       | Open woods; fields; forests; rock outcrops |

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Nongame Conservation Section (May 2010)

**Table 5-11 Species of Special Concern in Walker County -Plants**

| Species  |                                | Status  |       | Habitat   |
|--|--------------------------------|---------|-------|---|
| Scientific Name                                | Common Name                    | Federal | State |   |
| <i>Aesculus glabra</i>                         | Ohio Buckeye                   |         |       | Mesic forests in circumneutral soil   |
| <i>Agalinis decemloba</i>                      | Purple Foxglove                |         |       | Dry, open woods over clays and sands  |
| <i>Amorpha nitens</i>                          | Shining Indigo-bush            |         |       | Rocky, wooded slopes; alluvial woods  |
| <i>Astranthium integrifolium</i>               | Wild Daisy                     |         |       | Limestone glades  |
| <i>Baptisia australis</i> var. <i>aberrans</i> | Glade Blue Indigo              |         |       | Limestone glades and barrens  |
| <i>Buchnera americana</i>                      | Bluehearts                     |         |       | Wet meadows; seasonally moist barrens and limestone glades  |
| <i>Camassia scilloides</i>                     | Wild Hyacinth                  |         |       | Floodplain and mesic hardwood forests over limestone  |
| <i>Carex albursina</i>                         | White Bear Lake Sedge          |         |       | Rich, calcareous woods  |
| <i>Carex platyphylla</i>                       | Broadleaf Sedge                |         |       | Mesic hardwood forests over basic rock  |
| <i>Carex purpurifera</i>                       | Purple Sedge                   |         |       | Mesic hardwood forests over limestone   |
| <i>Carex stricta</i>                           | Tussock Sedge                  |         |       | Sag ponds and other seasonal depression ponds   |
| <i>Carya laciniosa</i>                         | Shellbark Hickory              |         |       | Bottomland forests  |
| <i>Cheilanthes alabamensis</i>                 | Alabama Lipfern                |         |       | Limestone ledges  |
| <i>Cotinus obovatus</i>                        | American Smoketree             |         |       | Mixed oak-redcedar forests on rocky limestone slopes  |
| <i>Crataegus triflora</i>                      | Three-flowered Hawthorn        |         | T     | Hardwood forests on rocky, limestone slopes   |
| <i>Cypripedium acaule</i>                      | Pink Ladyslipper               |         | U     | Upland oak-hickory-pine forests; piney woods  |
| <i>Cystopteris tennesseensis</i>               | Tennessee Fragile Fern         |         |       | Seepy limestone-shale outcrops  |
| <i>Dalea gattingeri</i>                        | Gattinger Prairie Clover       |         |       | Limestone glades and barrens  |
| <i>Dasistoma macrophylla</i>                   | Mullein Foxglove               |         |       | Rocky limestone woods   |
| <i>Delphinium tricornes</i>                    | Dwarf Larkspur                 |         |       | Mesic hardwood forests in calcareous areas  |
| <i>Desmodium ochroleucum</i>                   | Cream-flowered Tick-trefoil    |         | T     | Open, calcareous woodlands, including lower slope of Pigeon Mountain                              |
| <i>Diarrhena americana</i>                     | American Dropseed              |         |       | Mesic hardwoods over limestone  |
| <i>Dryopteris celsa</i>                        | Log Fern                       |         |       | Floodplain forests; lower slopes of rocky woods   |
| <i>Erigenia bulbosa</i>                        | Harbinger-of-spring            |         |       | Mesic hardwood forests over basic soils   |
| <i>Fothergilla major</i>                       | Mountain Witch-alder           |         | T     | Rocky (sandstone, granite) woods; bouldery stream margins   |
| <i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i>                  | Blue Ash                       |         |       | Mesic hardwood forests over limestone   |
| <i>Helianthus smithii</i>                      | Smith Sunflower                |         |       | Dry open woods and thickets   |
| <i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>                    | Goldenseal                     |         | E     | Rich woods in circumneutral soil  |
| <i>Hypericum dolabriforme</i>                  | Glade St. Johnswort            |         |       | Limestone glades and barrens  |
| <i>Isoetes appalachiana</i>                    | Bigspore Engelmann's Quillwort |         |       | Shallow water (one foot deep) of slow moving streams; mucky stream margins, periodically droughty |
| <i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>                    | Twinleaf                       |         | R     | Mesic deciduous forests over limestone  |
| <i>Juncus filipendulus</i>                     | Texas Plains Rush              |         |       | Remnant prairies; limestone barrens   |
| <i>Juncus gymnocarpus</i>                      | Naked-fruit Rush               |         |       | Seepy streamsidings; open swamps; mountain bogs   |
| <i>Leavenworthia exigua</i> var. <i>exigua</i> | Least Gladecress               |         | T     | Limestone glades  |
| <i>Leavenworthia uniflora</i>                  | Gladecress                     |         |       | Limestone glades  |
| <i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>                   | Wood Lily                      |         | E     | Wet meadows over sandstone  |
| <i>Lithospermum latifolium</i>                 | Broadleaf Gromwell             |         |       | Mixed deciduous hardwood forests over limestone   |
| <i>Lygodium palmatum</i>                       | Climbing Fern                  |         |       | Acid soils of thickets and open upland forests  |
| <i>Lysimachia fraseri</i>                      | Fraser's Loosestrife           |         | R     | Moist, open, bouldery gravel bars and streambanks; edges of sandstone and granite outcrops        |
| <i>Matelea obliqua</i>                         | Limerock Milkvine              |         |       | Mesic deciduous hardwood forests over limestone   |
| <i>Mertensia virginica</i>                     | Virginia Bluebells             |         |       | Floodplain forests in limestone valleys   |
| <i>Muhlenbergia sobolifera</i>                 | Sprouting Muhly                |         |       | Dry, wooded limestone slopes  |

|   |                             |    |   |   |
|---|-----------------------------|----|---|---|
| <i>Neviusia alabamensis</i>                       | Alabama Snow-wreath         |    | T | Along wet weather streams over limestone  |
| <i>Onosmodium molle</i> ssp. <i>occidentale</i>   | Marble-seed                 |    |   | Limestone glades and adjacent woods   |
| <i>Ophioglossum engelmannii</i>                   | Limestone Adder-tongue Fern |    |   | Rocky limestone glades; rarely on granite outcrops (Heggies Rock)   |
| <i>Panax quinquefolius</i>                        | American Ginseng            |    |   | Mesic hardwood forests; cove hardwood forests   |
| <i>Paronychia argyrocoma</i>                      | Silverling                  |    |   | Sandstone and granite outcrops  |
| <i>Phacelia purshii</i>                           | Miami-mist                  |    |   | Mesic hardwood forests over basic soils   |
| <i>Philadelphus pubescens</i>                     | Hairy Mockorange            |    |   | Limestone ledges and rocky banks  |
| <i>Phlox amplifolia</i>                           | Broadleaf Phlox             |    |   | Mesic hardwood forests over basic soils   |
| <i>Polymnia laevigata</i>                         | Tennessee Leafcup           |    |   | Bouldery slopes   |
| <i>Ponthieva racemosa</i>                         | Shadow-witch Orchid         |    |   | Calcareous swamps; marly outcrops   |
| <i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>                    | Bigleaf Pondweed            |    |   | Sluggish streams; ponds   |
| <i>Ribes curvatum</i>                             | Granite Gooseberry          |    |   | Rocky upland forests; bouldery mesic slopes   |
| <i>Sabatia capitata</i>                           | Cumberland Rose Gentian     |    | R | Meadows over sandstone or shale   |
| <i>Saxifraga careyana</i>                         | Carey Saxifrage             |    |   | Moist rock ledges   |
| <i>Scutellaria montana</i>                        | Large-flowered Skullcap     | LT | T | Mesic hardwood-shortleaf pine forests; usually mature forest with open understory, sometimes without a pine component |
| <i>Silene rotundifolia</i>                        | Roundleaf Catchfly          |    |   | Moist sandstone ledges and cliffs, often with <i>Heuchera villosa</i>   |
| <i>Spiraea virginiana</i>                         | Virginia Spirea             | LT | T | Bouldery gravel bars and ledges along major streams   |
| <i>Stachys nuttallii</i>                          | Nuttall's Hedge-nettle      |    |   | Mesic hardwood forests over basic soils; alluvial bottomlands   |
| <i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>                      | Celandine Poppy             |    |   | Mesic hardwood forests over limestone   |
| <i>Symphotrichum ericoides</i>                    | Heath Aster                 |    |   | Limestone glades  |
| <i>Symphotrichum phlogifolium</i>                 | Phlox-leaved Aster          |    |   | Mesic hardwood forests over basic soil  |
| <i>Symphotrichum praealtum</i>                    | Willow-leaf Aster           |    |   | Lowland forests over limestone  |
| <i>Symphotrichum sericeum</i>                     | Silky Aster                 |    |   | Limestone glades  |
| <i>Thermopsis mollis</i>                          | Downy Bush-pea              |    |   | Dry slopes and ridges; mostly in open pine-oak forests  |
| <i>Trichomanes boschianum</i>                     | Appalachian Filmy Fern      |    |   | Acidic ledges and overhangs   |
| <i>Trichomanes petersii</i>                       | Dwarf Filmy Fern            |    |   | Acidic boulders, ledges and overhangs; Altamaha Grit outcrops   |
| <i>Trillium flexipes</i>                          | Bent Trillium               |    |   | Mesic hardwood forests over limestone   |
| <i>Trillium lancifolium</i>                       | Lanceleaf Trillium          |    |   | Floodplain forests; also lower rocky slopes over basic soils  |
| <i>Trillium sulcatum</i>                          | Barksdale Trillium          |    |   | Mesic hardwood forests  |
| <i>Ulmus serotina</i>                             | September Elm               |    |   | Mesic hardwood forests over limestone   |
| <i>Veratrum woodii</i>                            | Ozark Bunchflower           |    | R | Mesic hardwood forests over basic soils   |
| <i>Viburnum bracteatum</i>                        | Limerock Arrow-wood         |    | E | Mesic hardwood forests over limestone   |
| <i>Viola egglestonii</i>                          | Glade Violet                |    |   | Limestone glades  |
| <i>Woodsia scopulina</i> ssp. <i>appalachiana</i> | Appalachian Cliff Fern      |    |   | Sandstone and shale cliffs  |

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Nongame Conservation Section (May 2010)

## Significant Natural Resources

### Scenic Areas

Walker County abounds in scenic beauty, and several of the county's significant natural and historic resources are scenic areas. A 14-mile segment of the 51-mile Ridge and Valley Scenic Byway, both a designated National Forest and Georgia Scenic Byway, allows for scenic views of the Armuchee Ridges District of the county and the Chattahoochee National Forest. Along Pocket Road, the byway allows access to the Keown Falls Scenic Area, including Keown Falls and the John's Mountain Overlook.

The Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area is a beautiful, primitive area featuring numerous picturesque and scenic areas such as Rock Town, 100-plus acres of shaped rocks and crevices, and the Pocket, a secluded cove surrounded by steep rock walls, a wet-season waterfall, and many native wild flowers and plant species. Scenic vistas are also afforded at many points along the cliff-side trails.

Lying between Pigeon and Lookout Mountains, mostly south of Georgia Highway 136, is the National Register-listed McLemore Cove Historic District. At 50,141 acres, it is the largest rural historic district in Georgia. According to the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, the district “contains outstanding rural vistas and is one of the most intact rural landscapes remaining in the state.”

Across McLemore Cove on Lookout Mountain, an overlook on the east side of Georgia Highway 157 offers scenic vistas of McLemore Cove and Pigeon Mountain. Further north on Lookout Mountain, the Lula Lake Land Trust’s core property offers outstanding scenic beauty from Rock Creek, two waterfalls, Lula Lake, and interesting rock outcrops and other geological features. Also, dramatic views of Chattanooga Valley are afforded from the east rim of Lookout Mountain. Rock City Gardens, a tourist attraction in the City of Lookout Mountain, also affords magnificent scenic views and rock formations.

### Agricultural and Forested Land

The amount of Walker County land used for farming declined from 1997 to 2007, as shown in Table 5-12. In 2007 the county’s 71,152 acres in farms ranked 56<sup>th</sup> and its 24.91 percent of total land in farms ranked 79<sup>th</sup> out of Georgia’s 159 counties. Walker County’s forested land, likewise, declined from 1997 to 2008, as shown in Table 5-13. After increasing modestly from 1982 to 1997, the county’s forested land declined from 67.3% of total land area 1997 to 58.4% of total land area in 2008. In the latter year, the county’s area in forested land ranked 63<sup>rd</sup> and its percentage of land use area in forested land ranked 102<sup>nd</sup> out of Georgia’s 159 counties.

Table 5-12 Farmland in Walker County – 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007

| Land in Farms (Acres) |        |        |        |                    | Land in Farms<br>% of Total Land 2007 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1992                  | 1997   | 2002   | 2007   | % Change 1992-2007 |                                       |
| 88,829                | 92,457 | 81,730 | 71,152 | -19.9              | 24.9                                  |

Source: Georgia Statistics System, University of Georgia

Table 5-13 Forested Land in Walker County – 1982, 1989, 1997, and 2008

| Forested Land as % of Total Land Area |      |      |      | Forested Land (Acres)<br>2008 |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|-------------------------------|
| 1982                                  | 1989 | 1997 | 2008 |                               |
| 63.2                                  | 64.6 | 67.3 | 58.4 | 163,000                       |

Source: Georgia Statistics System, University of Georgia



## **Parks, Recreation, and Conservation**

Major park, recreation, and conservation areas in Walker County are shown on Map 5, located in Chapter 9 of this appendix, and are described below.

### **Chattahoochee National Forest**

Managed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, the Chattahoochee National Forest occupies 18,621 acres in the Armuchee Ridges District of southeastern Walker County. The Chattahoochee National Forest affords scenic and recreation opportunities while conserving significant areas of forested land, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources. The *Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (2004)* sets management standards for the two national forests to guide natural resource management activities. Plan goals include maintaining forest as a land use on private lands within the surrounding national forest areas and working with landowners and conservation groups regarding lands adjacent to, or in proximity to, land in Forest Service ownership. The purpose of these conservation efforts includes land acquisition, reintroduction of threatened and endangered species, restoration of plant and animal habitat, and demonstration of better natural resources management practices.

A portion of the John's Mountain Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, is located, mostly on national forest lands, in this section of Walker County. Recreation areas within the forest in Walker County include the Keown Falls Scenic Area.

### **Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area**

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources maintains wildlife management areas (WMAs) primarily to provide public access to lands suited for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities. The Crockford-Pigeon Mountain WMA, located five miles southwest of LaFayette in the Lookout Mountain District of the Appalachian Plateau and the Chickamauga Valley District of the Ridge and Valley Province, includes 19,951 acres owned by the state of Georgia. A beautiful, primitive area with no developed facilities, the Crockford-Pigeon Mountain WMA offers a multitude of natural wonders including eight caves, two of which are classified as major caves in the eastern United States; rock formations and fossils; scenic waterfalls; and a natural amphitheater with near perfect acoustic reproduction. The area also includes over 40 miles of trails shared by hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders.

### **Zahnd Natural Area**

The state-owned Zahnd Natural Area covers some 1,400 acres of the Lookout Mountain District of the Appalachian Plateau, sitting on the eastern edge of Lookout Mountain and across McLemore Cove from Pigeon Mountain. This area contains a number of spectacular sandstone rock formations, large sandstone bluffs on the brow of Lookout Mountain, several waterfalls



(except during dry periods), three caves and several rare species. Hiking, hunting, rock climbing, bird watching, and nature study are popular activities. Although there are no designated hiking trails, paths, side trails, and old logging roads afford numerous opportunities for exploration.

In 2008 the Georgia Board of Natural Resources approved the acquisition of 1,564 acres at the Crockford-Pigeon Mountain WMA, connecting the WMA and the Zahnd Natural Area. The acquisition was formerly a part of the Mountain Cove Farm. Partnering with the State of Georgia and others, Walker County acquired 295 acres in McLemore Cove, including all the buildings that once made up the Mountain Cove Farm.

#### Lula Lake Land Trust

The Lula Lake Land Trust (LLLT), a private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, has protected over 4,400 acres in northwestern Walker County within the Rock Creek and Bear Creek watersheds on Lookout Mountain. The LLLT owns some 3,500 acres and protects another 900 acres with conservation easements and other landowner agreements. The LLLT lands embrace natural landscapes, rural landscapes, and historic settlements; contain biodiversity and include rare species; and possess dramatic physiography and geology typical of the Appalachian Plateau. These conservation lands connect to state-owned lands in Walker County that are a portion of Cloudland Canyon State Park (located primarily in Dade County), thereby forming a conservation corridor from Lula Lake to Cloudland Canyon. A Cloudland Connector Trail is in the process of construction. The Lula Lake Land Trust's core property, through which Rock Creek flows, contains two outstanding waterfalls, Lula Lake, numerous geological features, and spectacular vistas accessed by more than six miles of hiking trails. Contact the land trust for public access information.

#### Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

A minority portion of the 5,300-acre Chickamauga Battlefield unit and a very small portion of the 3,000-acre Lookout Mountain Battlefield unit of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park are located in Walker County and are shown on Map 5. The Chickamauga Battlefield includes monuments, historical tablets, wayside exhibits, a driving tour route, and hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails. Since the entire Chickamauga Battlefield park lies within the City of Fort Oglethorpe, it falls under the jurisdiction of the *Catoosa County Joint Comprehensive Plan, 2011-2031*.

## Significant Cultural Resources

### Historic Resources Surveys

A formal survey of historic resources in Walker County was conducted for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section, in 1975. A total of 572 survey forms or review sheets were completed. Most of the survey forms documented a single historic

resource, although several forms documented multiple resources. Of the 572 survey forms, 130 forms were completed for historic resources in LaFayette, 52 forms were for historic resources in Chickamauga, 40 forms were for historic resources in Rossville, and 350 forms were for historic resources in the unincorporated portion of the county. Historic resources surveyed in 1975 were generally built before 1920 and survey coverage was very incomplete.

During the period from April 1993 through April 1994, Coosa Valley RDC staff conducted preliminary historic resources surveys of the Cities of Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville as part of the local comprehensive planning process. These surveys were undertaken to more accurately determine the number, types, and distribution of historic resources in Walker County's cities.

The preliminary historic resources survey of the City of Chickamauga was conducted in March 1994. It involved the visual examination of the community from an automobile aided by a 1942 edition of the USGS topographic map of the Fort Oglethorpe Quadrangle and a 1946 edition of the USGS topographic map of the Kensington Quadrangle. Two approaches were taken in determining which historic resources to include in the survey. For the two mill village areas, all of the historic buildings were included in the survey, without consideration of their individual historic integrities. For the remainder of the city, all historic resources built c. 1943 or earlier that retained fair or better historic integrity, in the judgment of the surveyor, were included in the preliminary survey.

Using this methodology, a total of 327 historic resources were identified by the preliminary survey. Residential resources comprised 290, or 88.7%, of the total. Of the residential resources, 154 were located in the mill village and 136 were located elsewhere in the city. The remaining historic resources consisted of seventeen commercial resources, ten institutional resources, seven industrial resources, and three sites. The historic Crystal Springs Bleachery Company complex consisted of six historic buildings or connected building groups and accounted for six of the seven industrial resources identified. These 327 historic resources are shown on Map 7 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix. (Note: The city's corporate limits have expanded since the 1994 preliminary survey.)

Although several important resources have been lost, the City of Chickamauga retains an outstanding and varied collection of historic resources that represent every significant period of the community's development. As would be expected from the community's history, however, the great majority of Chickamauga's pre-1944 buildings were constructed from c. 1908 to c. 1930--the period from the founding of the Crystal Springs Bleachery Company to the beginning of the Great Depression.

The preliminary historic resources survey of the City of LaFayette was conducted in the summer of 1993. It involved the visual examination of the community aided by a 1946 U. S. Geological Survey topographic map of the Estelle quadrangle. Because of the existence of this map showing the locations of buildings existing at the time of a TVA field examination in 1946, it was decided to include in the preliminary survey all currently existing buildings appearing on the 1946 map that have fair or better historic integrity.

Using this methodology, 621 historic resources were identified by the preliminary survey. Residential resources comprised 589, or 95 percent, of the identified resources. The remaining resources consisted of sixteen commercial resources, six industrial resources, six institutional resources, three rural resources, and one site. These 621 resources are shown on Map 8 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix.

While conducting the preliminary survey of LaFayette, an attempt was made to identify the resources surveyed in 1975. At least thirty-two previously surveyed properties, or 25 percent, were determined to have been destroyed. This rate of loss is quite high and probably exceeds the average for similar communities. Although there are numerous exceptions, many of the identified historic resources had only fair historic integrity, and a great many, especially in the West Lafayette and Linwood areas, were in fair to poor condition. As would be expected from the community's history, very few pre-railroad resources were identified. The great majority of extant, pre-1946 buildings was constructed after c. 1900 and consists of many of the building types and styles common throughout rural Georgia during that period.

The preliminary historic resources survey of the City of Lookout Mountain was conducted in April 1993. It involved the visual examination of the community aided by a 1940 Walker County road map, prepared by the State Highway Board of Georgia, and a 1942 U. S. Geological Survey topographic map of the Fort Oglethorpe quadrangle. Historic resources built c. 1942 or earlier that possessed a reasonable degree of historic integrity, as determined by the surveyor, were identified and are shown on Map 9 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix. Approximately 162 individual historic resources were identified within the city's corporate boundaries. The great majority of these are residential resources, although a few institutional and commercial resources were observed. Of the total, 78 percent were located within the boundaries of the original Fairyland Estates subdivision or were closely associated with it. All historic resources observed in the community dated from the twentieth century and very few appeared to predate the Fairyland development.

Building construction in the Fairyland development began in c. 1924-25 and extended through the 1950s and beyond. Historic buildings constructed c. 1942 and earlier were distributed throughout the subdivision and comprised approximately 45 percent of the total. The buildings dating from 1925 to c. 1935 are mostly English Vernacular Revival, Colonial Revival, or Rustic (round log construction) in style. Only two or three buildings showed a Craftsman influence. Dwellings built from c. 1935 to c. 1942 are generally Colonial Revival or Minimal Traditional. Exterior building materials found in the development were round pine logs, stone, brick, stucco, horizontal wood siding, wood shingles, and various combinations thereof. Integrity and condition were generally good, although it has been popular to cover much of the horizontal wood siding with artificial siding.

The remaining 22 percent of the historic resources identified in 1993 were located along or off of Lula Lake Road, McFarland Road (SR 157), and Lookout Mountain Scenic Highway (SR 189). The few historic resources located along SR 189 strongly resembled those within the Fairyland Estates subdivision. Along Lula Lake Road and McFarland Road, however, historic dwellings generally tended to be more modest house types, with bungalow types the most common.

The preliminary historic resources survey of the City of Rossville was conducted in April 1994. It involved the visual examination of the community from an automobile, aided by a 1942 edition of the USGS topographic map of the Fort Oglethorpe Quadrangle. Observed historic resources built c. 1942 or earlier that retained fair or better historic integrity, in the judgment of the surveyor, were included in the preliminary survey. Approximately 25 percent of the total historic resources observed were not included in the preliminary survey due to severe loss of historic integrity. Many of the pre-1943 historic resources included in the preliminary survey had, at best, borderline integrity to justify their inclusion.

Using this methodology, a total of 454 historic resources were identified by the preliminary survey. Residential resources comprised 419, or 92.3 percent, of the total. The remaining historic resources consisted of sixteen commercial resources, eleven institutional resources, seven industrial resources, and one site. These 454 historic resources are shown on Map 10 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix.

With very few exceptions, the most notable being the John Ross House, Rossville's pre-1943 historic buildings date from the 1900s and later. The 1920s were by far the city's most significant historic building period, especially for residential building.

The Walker County government and the Walker County Historical Society partnered to have a Georgia Historic Resources survey of unincorporated Walker County conducted in 1994-95. This survey identified a total of 783 historic resources in the unincorporated portion of the county. Of this total, 623 (79.6%) were residential resources; 27 were institutional resources (20 churches, 6 schools, 1 fraternal hall); 17 were commercial resources (16 general stores, 1 medical office); 1 was an industrial resource; 1 was a transportation resource; and 114 were domestic, secondary structures or agricultural outbuildings of 17 different types. Barns (44 resources), smokehouses (22 resources), and corn cribs (19 resources), however, accounted for 75% of the secondary structures and outbuildings.

An architectural analysis of the survey can be found in a "Report on a Survey of Historic Resources in Unincorporated Walker County, Georgia" (Ottesen, 1995). Copies of this report can be found at the Walker County Commissioner's Office and at the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission's Rome office. The survey data is accessible to the public through GNAHRGIS, a web-based geographic information system designed to store and display information about Georgia's natural, archaeological, and historic resources (<http://www.gnahrgis.org/nahrgis/index.do>).

Several problems with the survey data, however, limit its usefulness. For the 783 resources surveyed, there are missing and unlabeled photographs/negatives; surveyed resources shown on survey field maps in two, different locations; surveyed resources not shown on survey field maps; and resources shown on survey field maps but lacking survey forms. These problems complicated the entry of survey data into the state database, and consequently, a NAHRGIS query yields only 678 surveyed resources in unincorporated Walker County. Further, an observed omission of a number of significant historic resources in unincorporated Walker County suggests that survey coverage was less than thorough.

In October 2008, the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center and the Georgia Historic Preservation Division, with the support of the Walker County Commissioner, initiated efforts to resurvey Walker County utilizing the FindIt Survey Program. The FindIt Survey Program is a cultural resource survey program sponsored by the Georgia Transmission Corporation (GTC) in partnership with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, and the University of Georgia's College of Environment and Design. A Walker County FindIt Survey was initiated in 2009, designed to cover the county in sections (i.e., U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangle maps). Only a few sections were surveyed in SFY 2009, however, before funding issues and a change in the GTC's survey priorities resulted in a stoppage of survey work in Walker County. Consequently, only 93 resources were surveyed. This FindIt Walker County Survey data, like the data from the 1994-95 Georgia Historic Resources Survey of unincorporated Walker County, is available to the public on the GNAHRGIS website.

Also in the fall of 2008, the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center and the Georgia Historic Preservation Division, with the support of the LaFayette Historic Preservation Commission, initiated efforts to conduct a new historic resources survey of the City of LaFayette. Field work for Phase I of the new survey began in July 2009 and was funded by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, through a survey contract. The contract with Quatrefoil Consulting, Savannah, Georgia, called for 140 properties to be surveyed. The survey area for Phase I was limited primarily to qualifying resources lying within the Downtown Development Authority boundaries (N. Main Street corridor and the historic core of the downtown commercial area) and later to the mixed use areas lying along and west of Cherokee Street between Culberson Avenue and Colerain Street. Following completion of the field survey, data and digital photographs were entered into GNAHRGIS, Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources Geographic Information System online database (<http://www.gnahrgis.org/nahrgis/index.do>). The 140 properties surveyed during Phase I are shown on Map 8 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix. (Note: Historic resources identified by both the 1993 preliminary survey and the 2009 Phase I survey are shown on Map 8 as identified by the 2009 Phase I survey only.)

To provide information for planning future survey phases within the City of LaFayette, Phase I included a windshield survey of most of the remainder of the city. This windshield survey identified 493 additional historic properties. A report on the City of LaFayette Historic Resources Survey was completed in June 2010 and is available to the public at the LaFayette Downtown Development Authority office at 306 North Main Street.

### **Properties Listed in the National Register of Historic Places**

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. Properties listed in the National Register must, generally, be fifty years of age or more and must possess historic significance and integrity. Historic significance is the importance of a property to the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture of a community, the state, or the nation. It is achieved by a property's association with events, activities, or patterns of history; association with important persons; distinctive physical characteristics of design, construction, or form; or potential to yield important information. In addition, significance is defined by the area of history in which a property made important contributions and by the period of time when these contributions were made. Historic integrity is the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's prehistoric or historic period of significance. An eligible property not only must resemble its historic appearance, but it must retain historic materials, design features, and aspects of construction. For archaeological resources, integrity is generally based on the degree to which remaining evidence can provide important information.

In Georgia, properties are nominated to the National Register by the Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division. HPD invites nominations from property owners, historical societies or preservation organizations, civic or business associations, governmental agencies, and other individuals or groups interested in using the National Register to preserve historic properties. Proposed nominations are reviewed by HPD and the Georgia National Register Review Board. If approved, nominations are submitted by HPD to the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, DC for final review and listing.



Currently, Walker County has sixteen properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, shown in Table 5-14, below. Portions of two additional National Register-listed properties, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (a portion of the Chickamauga Battlefield unit and a portion of the Lookout Mountain unit) and the Fort Oglethorpe Historic District, are located in Walker County. National Register listed properties (unless the address is restricted) are shown on Maps 6 through 10 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix.

**Table 5-14 Properties Listed in the National Register of Historic Places**

| Resource Name  | Address/Location   | Date Listed | Jurisdiction             |
|--|--|-------------|--------------------------|
| Ashland Farm   | SW of Rossville off GA 193   | 10-18-1973  | Walker County            |
| Cavender's Store   | Jct. of GA 136 and GA 201, Villanow  | 03-20-1992  | Walker County            |
| Chattooga Academy  | 306 North Main Street, LaFayette   | 02-15-1980  | City of LaFayette        |
| Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company<br>Coke Ovens                            | GA 341   | 04-09-2009  | City of Chickamauga      |
| Chickamauga Historic District  | Roughly centered on Cove Rd. (GA 341) and bounded by Crescent, Pearl, and Sixth Streets and Central of GA RR | 07-20-2007  | City of Chickamauga      |
| Chickamauga Lodge No. 221, Free and Accepted Masons, Prince Hall Affiliate | 1378 Highway 341 South   | 08-30-2006  | Walker County            |
| Gordon-Lee House   | 217 Cove Road, Chickamauga   | 03-22-1976  | City of Chickamauga      |
| Lane House   | Address restricted   | 12-12-1976  | Walker County            |
| Lee and Gordon Mill  | Red Belt Road  | 02-08-1980  | City of Chickamauga      |
| Lookout Mountain Fairyland Club  | 1201 Fleetwood Drive, Lookout Mountain   | 06-21-1990  | City of Lookout Mountain |
| Marsh-Warthen House  | North Main Street, LaFayette   | 01-12-2005  | City of LaFayette        |
| McLemore Cove Historic District  | 3 mi. south of Chickamauga, in an area roughly bounded by Lookout and Pigeon Mountains. and GA 136           | 09-23-1994  | Walker County            |
| Miller Brothers Farm   | Kensington Road, Kensington  | 08-06-1987  | Walker County            |
| Ross, John, House  | Lake Avenue and Spring Street, Rossville   | 11-07-1973  | City of Rossville        |
| US Post Office-Rossville Main  | 301 Chickamauga Avenue, Rossville  | 08-06-1986  | City of Rossville        |
| Walker County Courthouse   | Duke Street, LaFayette   | 09-18-1980  | City of LaFayette        |

Source: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places database

### McLemore Cove Historic District

The McLemore Cove Historic District is a large (50,141 acres), relatively intact, farming area situated between Lookout and Pigeon Mountains. It is a type of historic property known as a rural historic landscape. A rural historic landscape is defined as a geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activities, occupation, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features. Large acreage and a proportionately small number of buildings and structures differentiate rural historic landscapes from other kinds of historic properties. A rural historic landscape is distinguished from its immediate surroundings by its spatial organization, concentration of historic characteristics or features, and evidence of its historic period of development.

According to the National Register Registration Form (7/27/94), "the McLemore Cove Historic District is significant as a geographically well-defined rural area reflecting the patterns of agricultural and rural development in Northwest Georgia for more than a century." It is listed at the state level of significance (level of significance can be local, state, or national) in the areas

of architecture, agriculture, commerce, education, industry, landscape architecture, military history, religion, transportation/community development, and archaeology. The district's period of significance is 1832-1944.

A rural historic landscape, like other historic properties, changes over time; but to be eligible for the National Register, it must retain the essential features that enable it to convey its historic identity. Regarding its overall integrity as a historic district, the Registration Form for the McLemore Cove Historic District states as follows:

Overall, the area retains a sufficient level of integrity to qualify as a single historic rural district. The generally unobstructed vistas of the historic landscape of the Cove and mountain regions is the key factor that ties the district together and creates a unified cultural landscape. Also contributing to the "sense of district" are the relationships between natural terrain and historic settlement patterns and the relationships among the various historic communities and farmsteads.

Regarding the relationship between the natural terrain and the historic settlement and development patterns of the Cove, the Registration Form states that:

The natural landscape of McLemore Cove serves as both a setting and a container for settlement and development. The resultant pattern of settlement, with the open valley floor reserved for agriculture, the valley edges and other points of higher ground used for development, and the steeper, higher ground around the valley held largely in reserve to physically and visually close the valley, is characteristic of settlement and development in the mountain valleys of north Georgia and is strikingly different from the more evenly dispersed settlement and development patterns elsewhere in the state.

Other characteristics or features that contribute to the McLemore Cove Historic District's National Register eligibility include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Its large open areas used for pastureland and agricultural fields;
- Its irregular historic field patterns defined by historic shrub lines, fences, forest edges, and creeks;
- Its intact farm complexes and historic farm layouts;
- Its numerous agricultural outbuildings and structures;
- Its numerous historic farm houses and numerous vernacular building types;
- Its several historic churches, schools, and rural stores;
- Its several examples of historic residential landscape gardening;
- Its use of limestone for construction and landscape features;
- Its several historic community types (linear, crossroads, railroad);
- Its historic transportation patterns;
- Its several simple, historic concrete stringer bridges; and
- Its known and assumed prehistoric and historic archaeological sites.

An eligible property or district can become ineligible through the degradation or loss of the characteristics that make it eligible for the National Register. The historic integrity of a rural historic landscape, such as the McLemore Cove Historic District, can be threatened by the following types of non-historic changes:

- Changes in land use or management practices that alter vegetation, change the size or shape of fields, erase boundary demarcations, or flatten the contours of the land;
- Abandonment, realignment, widening, or resurfacing of historic roadways;
- Introduction of non-historic land uses such as quarries, open-pit mining, tree farms, sanitary landfill, recreational areas, public utilities, and subdivision for residential, commercial, or industrial development;
- Deterioration, abandonment, relocation, demolition, or substantial alteration of historic buildings and structures;
- Construction of new buildings and structures;
- Loss of boundary demarcations and small-scale landscape features; and
- Disturbance of archaeological sites.

While new construction and incompatible land uses covering extensive acreage cause the greatest damage to integrity, the repeated loss of buildings, structures, and small-scale elements as well as gradual changes to land use, boundaries, and roadways can cumulatively destroy historic integrity. Large rural districts, such as McLemore Cove, can usually absorb new development and maintain their overall historic integrity, as long as large-scale intrusions are concentrated in relatively few locations and cover a small percentage of the district's overall acreage.

Changes to the McLemore Cove Historic District, both minor and major, have occurred since its listing in the National Register in 1994. Possibly the most serious change has been the acquisition by developers of the 11,000-acre Mountain Cove Farms property that anchored the southern end of the historic district. The subdivision of Mountain Cove Farms into a rural community of "mini-farms," "brow estates," and recreational areas threatens the integrity of the most pristine 20% of the historic district. There has been, however, no formal evaluation of the effect of recent changes to the overall historic integrity or National Register eligibility of the McLemore Cove Historic District.

National Register listing provides a limited degree of protection from state and federally assisted projects, but it does not place restrictions on the use, treatment, or disposition of private property or obligate private property owners in any way. Listing does not prevent the alteration, moving, or demolition of historic buildings or structures within the designated area; automatically invoke local historic district designation; or require property owners to conform to design guidelines or preservation standards (unless specific preservation incentives are involved) when working on or developing their properties. Consequently, National Register listing does little to protect the pastoral and agricultural character of a rural historic landscape or the qualities, characteristics, or features that contribute to its eligibility. If the unique rural environment of McLemore Cove is to be protected, a great deal more than National Register designation must be involved. Protection must involve a strategy of tools and techniques that integrates natural resource protection, scenic protection, farmland retention, and historic preservation.

### **Properties Potentially Eligible for the National Register**

In addition to properties already listed in the National Register of Historic Places, many additional Walker County properties are potentially eligible for National Register designation. Because of the numerous deficiencies of the 1994-95 historic resources survey of unincorporated Walker County, the incomplete status of the 2009 FindIt survey, and a lack of recent historic resources surveys of the cities (except for the City of LaFayette Phase I survey),



nothing approaching a complete inventory of Walker County properties potentially eligible for National Register designation can be compiled. Nevertheless, a limited discussion of National Register potential in Walker County follows.

With the recent National Register listings of the Chickamauga Historic District and the Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company Coke Ovens, most of the City of Chickamauga's eligible resources west of the railroad now have National Register designation. A few other significant resources, such as the A. S. Bowen House, appear to be eligible for the National Register. Eligibility of the Crystal Springs Bleachery Company mill and mill villages is more problematic but could be investigated after further study.

Many of the City of LaFayette's significant commercial, institutional, and residential historic resources were included in the 2009 Phase I Historic Resources Survey. According to the survey report, 112 of the 140 properties surveyed were evaluated as appearing to be individually eligible for listing in the National Register. Three of the 140 properties surveyed already were listed in the National Register. Completion of the City of LaFayette Historic Resources Survey would be needed to evaluate the National Register eligibility of individual properties or potential districts outside of the Phase I survey area.

The City of Lookout Mountain is the outgrowth of the historic Fairyland Estates development, a planned residential and recreational community designed by one of America's foremost landscape architects, Warren H. Manning. The historic development plan, with its concern for the natural and man-made landscape, and the numerous historic buildings located within the development essentially define the community's character and have, in many cases, provided inspiration for later development. To date, there has been only a relatively minor diminution of the integrity of the historic development plan through the loss of buildings and landscape features or design elements and occasional inappropriate new development. When the preliminary historic resources survey was conducted by Coosa Valley RDC staff in 1993, approximately 45 percent of the buildings in the original Fairyland development were historic; but today, a great majority is historic. Consequently, there is strong potential that the original Fairyland Estates development area is eligible for the National Register as a historic district.

Rossville's growth and development, to a great extent, resulted from the location there of four textile manufacturing facilities in the early twentieth century. The city, therefore, is most historically significant as an early twentieth century textile manufacturing community. A considerable portion of the city's housing stock is historic mill-type houses—over 500 individual buildings. A developmental history of Rossville and a new, comprehensive survey of historic resources are needed to adequately assess the National Register potential of the historic properties and areas within the city.

In the unincorporated portion of Walker County, several hundred additional properties are likely eligible for the National Register. An examination of the 783 paper survey forms from the 1994-95 survey found 390 surveyed resources evaluated by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as "appears to meet National Register criteria." These 390 resources are shown on Map 6 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix and include 286 residential resources (73.3%), 14 institutional resources, 11 commercial resources, and 79 secondary structures and outbuildings. At least 47 of these resources, however, were located within the McLemore Cove Historic District and are considered listed in the National Register as resources contributing to that district. Therefore, based on the 1994-95 survey and the SHPO evaluation of surveyed resources, at least 343 resources in unincorporated Walker County are potentially eligible for the National Register. A basic historic resources data query on the GNAHRGIS website

(<http://www.gnahrgis.org/nahrgis/index.do>) will produce a list of most of the 390 potentially eligible, surveyed resources. Because of problems with the survey data affecting data entry, however, the GNAHRGIS query of the state database produces a slightly shorter list of 357 resources.

## **Civil War Resources**

The Civil War Sites Study Act of 1990 (P. L. 101-628) established the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission to identify the nation's significant Civil War sites, determine their condition, assess threats to their integrity, and offer alternatives for their preservation and interpretation. Because of limited time and resources, the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission concentrated on battlefields. The Commission identified 384 conflicts as the principal battles and classified them according to their military significance. Class A and B battlefields represent the principal strategic operations of the war; and Class C and D battlefields represent operations with limited tactical objectives of enforcement and occupation.

In Georgia, 28 battlefields were identified; and two of them, Chickamauga (Class A) and Davis' Cross Roads (Class C), are located, at least partially, in Walker County. Both of these battlefields were evaluated to have good integrity with moderate levels of threat. Good integrity means that the appearance of the site is essentially unchanged from its period of significance in regard to terrain, land use, road network, and mass and scale of buildings.

Study areas and core areas of the Chickamauga and Davis' Cross Roads battlefields, developed as part of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's field survey and mapping activities in 1992, are shown on Map 6 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix. The study areas provide the strategic settings for the battles and encompass all of the features associated with the command, deployment, and movement of troops, beginning when battle is initiated and ending when forces disengage. The core areas encompass all of the tactical objectives of the battlefield, including areas of decisive maneuver and intense fighting (i.e., the area of confrontational deployment or the "killing zone"). Battlefield study and core area outlines necessarily are subjective; they are meant to represent the historical extent of battle actions, but they do not technically establish battlefield boundaries.

In 1994 the Chattanooga Area Civil War Sites Assessment, a study of significant Civil War sites associated with the 1863 Chickamauga and Chattanooga Campaigns, was initiated by the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in partnership with the American Battlefield Protection Program; the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites; the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center; the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division; the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency; the Southeast Tennessee Development District; and the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. Project partners identified and evaluated 38 sites in Catoosa and Walker Counties, Georgia, and Hamilton County, Tennessee. Of the 21 Georgia sites, 9 are located totally or partially in Walker County (see Table 5-15). These sites include significant battle actions, encampments, hospital sites, and troop movement corridors. Many of the sites have been greatly degraded because of a lack of knowledge about them.

**Table 5-15 Civil War Study Sites in Walker County, Georgia**

| Site No. | Site Name  | Significant Date(s)     |
|----------|--|-------------------------|
| GA-1     | Actions and engagements in McLemore Cove   | September 1863          |
| GA-5     | Actions, skirmishes and engagements around Lee and Gordon's Mill   | September 6-20, 1863    |
| GA-6     | Actions in Dry Valley (Position of and withdrawal of federal right/furthest extent of Confederate assault) | September 20, 1863      |
| GA-7     | Actions and engagements at Glass's Mill  | September 19-20, 1863   |
| GA-10    | Skirmishes at Gower's and Owen's Fords   | September 17-18, 1863   |
| GA-12    | Actions near Rock Spring   | September 7-19, 1863    |
| GA-14    | Actions in Rossville/Rossville Gap   | September-November 1863 |
| GA-16    | Union staging area and hospital depot at Crawfish Springs (Chickamauga, Georgia)                           | September 16-30, 1863   |
| GA-21    | Actions at McFarland Gap   | September 20, 1863      |

Source: Chattanooga Area Civil War Sites Assessment, 1998

Study sites were ranked according to four criteria (significance, historic integrity, level of threat, and preservation/interpretation potential) and are shown in the table in decreasing priority order from top to bottom. The highest priority sites are those deserving the most immediate and intensive preservation and interpretation attention. The top priority site in Walker County is “actions and engagements in McLemore Cove.” A National Park Service publication, *Chattanooga Area Civil War Sites Assessment* (1998), provides an abbreviated assessment of each site, including a detailed map, statements of significance, and preservation/interpretation recommendations. Limited copies of the *Assessment* report are available at the National Military Park and the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission. The National Military Park also has copies of more extensive assessments of each of the sites.

### **Regionally Significant Historic Resources**

The *Coosa Valley RDC and North Georgia RDC Joint Regional Plan* (1999) identified 66 regionally significant historic resources. Historic resources of regional significance are defined as those “important enough to be noteworthy from a multi-jurisdictional perspective, as opposed to being of import or concern to a single local government.” The historic resources inventoried were those that had been identified and documented by a recognized state or federal authority to be of state or national significance, as opposed to being of only local significance, or that otherwise met the definition of “regionally significant” because they cross jurisdictional boundaries. The following properties in Walker County were inventoried as regionally significant: (1) Cavender’s Store, Villanow, Walker County; (2) Chattooga Academy, LaFayette; (3) Chickamauga Battlefield, Catoosa and Walker Counties; (4) Davis’ Crossroads Battlefield, Walker and Dade Counties; (5) Fort Oglethorpe Historic District, Fort Oglethorpe, Catoosa and Walker Counties; (6) Gordon-Lee House, Chickamauga; (7) John Ross House, Rossville; (8) Lane House, Walker County; (9) Lookout Mountain Fairyland Club, Lookout Mountain; (10) Marsh-Warthen House, LaFayette; (11) McLemore Cove Historic District, Walker County; and (12) Walker County Courthouse, LaFayette. Subsequently, the Chickamauga Coal & Iron Company Coke Ovens property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places at a state level of significance on April 9, 2009, and also meets the above criteria for a regionally significant historic resource. It should be noted that only a fraction of the region’s historic resources have been identified and only a small fraction of those identified have been evaluated for their level of significance. Thus, this list is only as complete as the existing level of survey, evaluation, and designation data allows.

## Archaeological Sites

The earliest known human inhabitants of the region now known as Walker County came into the area approximately 11,500 years ago, toward the end of the last Ice Age. European settlers began to enter the area in the early eighteenth century. Over the 11,500 years, humans have left a substantial material record of their lives. The study of this material record forms the basis of archaeology and the basic unit of this record is the archaeological site. As of April 6, 2011, there have been **330** archaeological sites in Walker County recorded in the Georgia Archaeological Site File (GASF). Archaeological sites in Walker County range from locations where hunters manufactured stone tools 11,500 years ago to small late nineteenth/early twentieth century farmsteads. Generalized locations of recorded sites are shown on Maps 6 through 10 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix.

Archaeological sites, like historic buildings, are considered cultural resources and, if they meet eligibility requirements set forth in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), historic properties. Unlike historic buildings, however, archaeological sites are not always evident to the untrained eye. While some archaeological sites have obvious above ground indicators such as earth mounds, or chimney remnants, most consist of artifacts (object made or modified by humans such as stone tool, pottery, bottle glass) and features (post holes, trash pits, stone hearths, human burials, etc.) that are underground.

The only sure way to know if an area contains an archaeological site is to have a professional archaeologist sample, or survey, the area. Some general criteria, however, can be applied to help prioritize areas. Prehistoric (Indian) sites are most commonly located near water sources such as streams, springs, or lime sinks. Historic (Euro/Afro-American) sites are commonly located close to old/historic roads. Both prehistoric and historic sites are generally located on level to gently sloping ground and on well-drained soils. Previous disturbance can also affect a location's potential to contain archaeological sites. For example, road and utilities rights-of-way have usually been subjected to heavy disturbance and are not likely to contain any intact archaeological deposits. Cultivation, however, does not necessarily destroy archaeological sites and does not, by itself, indicate a low potential area. These criteria should only be used as a tool at the most basic planning level. Hiring a professional archaeologist/consultant is an effective way of streamlining the compliance process and insuring that archaeological resources are being treated according to the law.

While cultural resources work is most often done in response to Section 106 of the NHPA, meaning that there is some federal involvement (i.e., federal funds, permits, etc.), it is important to remember that there are also state laws to consider. Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) 12-3-621 states that a person who is not operating under Section 106 must have written landowner permission to conduct archaeology on private property and must provide written notification to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at least five (5) business days prior to excavation. Other code sections apply more generally to human remains, but are relevant because of the possibility of discovering such remains at archaeological sites. OCGA 31-21-6 requires notification of local law enforcement upon the disturbance of human remains. If law enforcement determines that it is not a crime scene, DNR is notified of the discovery.

Key points to remember when considering archaeology in development and compliance:

- Humans have been in the area now known as Walker County for at least 11,500 years, so the potential for finding evidence of past human activity (i.e., archaeological sites) is generally high.
- Unlike historic buildings, archaeological sites often have no above ground components that would indicate their presence.
- While factors such as distance to water and/or old roads, slope, soil drainage, and previous disturbance can help prioritize areas of archaeological concern, the only sure way to know whether an area contains archaeological sites is to conduct an archaeological survey.
- Most archaeology is done in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and regulations implementing that act (36 CFR Part 800). These laws insure that projects receiving federal funds (CDBG/EIP grants, FDIC loans, etc) or requiring federal permits (e.g., Section 404 of Clean Water Act) take effects to archaeological resources into account.
- In addition to federal laws, there are state laws to consider as well. Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) 12-3-621 requires written landowner permission and DNR notification of intent to conduct non-Section 106 archaeology on private property. OCGA 31-21-6 requires notification of local law enforcement upon discovery or disturbance of human remains.

### **Georgia Historical Markers**

The first organized effort to erect a series of historical markers in the state was funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) from 1936 until 1942. A variety of markers were installed around the state, but few still stand.

In 1951 the Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Historical Commission (GHC), with one of its responsibilities being to mark “objects, sites, areas, structures, and ruins of historic or legendary significance.” During the remainder of the 1950s, the GHC erected official state historical markers at most county courthouses, at countless Civil War sites, and other locations around the state. Few new markers were erected after 1959, and the GHC decided to stop erecting new markers in 1968.

The 1972 Executive Reorganization Act abolished the GHC and, beginning in 1973, transferred its responsibilities to the new Georgia Department of Natural Resources, State Parks and Historic Sites Division. During the next 25 years, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) erected comparatively few new markers, putting its efforts, instead, into maintaining, repairing, and replacing the existing network of approximately 2,000 state historical markers.

In 1997 the General Assembly transferred responsibility for erecting new historical markers from DNR to the Georgia Historical Society (GHS), a private, non-profit organization chartered by the state legislature in 1839. The Georgia DNR, however, will continue to maintain the system of GHC and DNR historical markers erected prior to July 1998 (if there is money in the budget for marker repair / replacement).

In addition to official state historical markers erected by the Georgia Historical Commission (GHC), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Georgia Historical Society (GHS), hundreds of “unofficial” historical markers have been erected around the state by various cities, educational institutions, churches, and organizations.

There are 16 official state historical markers in Walker County. They are listed in Table 5-16, below, and are shown on Maps 6 through 10 located in Chapter 9 of this appendix.

**Table 5-16 Georgia Historical Markers**

| Title                               | Type | Number | Location   | Jurisdiction        |
|-------------------------------------|------|--------|--|---------------------|
| The Army of Tennessee               | GHC  | 146-13 | John B. Gordon Hall on North Main Street, LaFayette                    | City of LaFayette   |
| The Battle of LaFayette             | GHC  | 146-16 | John B. Gordon Hall on North Main Street, LaFayette                    | City of LaFayette   |
| Chestnut Flat                       | GHC  | 146-5  | GA 95, 0.4 mile southeast of Catlett                                   | Walker County       |
| Fort Cumming                        | GHC  | 146-1  | Indiana Street, several blocks west of North Main Street, LaFayette    | City of LaFayette   |
| General Lafayette                   | GHC  | 146-11 | John B. Gordon Hall on North Main Street, LaFayette                    | City of LaFayette   |
| Gordon Springs Gap                  | GHC  | 146-6  | GA 151, 1.5 miles northeast of junction with GA 95                     | Walker County       |
| John B. Gordon Hall                 | GHC  | 146-2  | John B. Gordon Hall on North Main Street, LaFayette                    | City of LaFayette   |
| John Ross Home                      | GHC  | 146-12 | Spring Street, two blocks west of US 27, Rossville                     | City of Rossville   |
| Lee and Gordon's Mill               | GHC  | 146-15 | Red Belt Road, 0.2 miles east of US 27, Chickamauga                    | City of Chickamauga |
| McPherson's Army at Snake Creek Gap | GHC  | 146-10 | GA 136, 0.3 miles west of Villanow                                     | Walker County       |
| Old Federal Road                    | DNR  | 146-14 | US 27 between Mc Farland Street and Gordon Street, Rossville           | City of Rossville   |
| Old Tavern Road                     | GHC  | 146-4  | West of US 27 at junction with GA 95 at Rock Spring                    | Walker County       |
| Ship's Gap                          | DNR  | 146-7  | GA 136 at Old Villanow Road, 1 mile east of jct. with GA 151           | Walker County       |
| Villanow                            | GHC  | 146-9  | GA 201 at junction with GA 136, Villanow                               | Walker County       |
| Walker County                       | GHC  | 146-3  | John B. Gordon Hall on North Main Street, LaFayette                    | City of LaFayette   |
| West Armuchee Valley                | GHC  | 146-8  | At junction of GA 136 and West Armuchee Road, 4 miles west of Villanow | Walker County       |

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Coosa Valley Regional Development Center, Historical Markers of the Coosa Valley Region, 2003



## COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES

### Water Supply and Treatment

#### Water Service Providers and Service Areas

Water service in Walker County is provided by Catoosa Utility District, Chattooga County Water District, City of Chickamauga, City of LaFayette, Dade County Water Authority, Dalton Utilities, Tennessee American Water Company, Walker County Rural Water and Sewer Authority, and Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority. The service area for each provider is shown on Map 11 in Chapter 9 of this appendix.

#### Water Distribution and Treatment Systems

Table 6-1 shows water source and type, permitted withdrawal capacity, and average daily production for Walker County’s community-type public water systems. For 2010, all operated under capacity.

**Table 6-1 Water Treatment and Distribution Systems**

| Permit Holder                                 | Water Source Name   | Water Type                                      | Permitted Withdrawal Capacity (MGD) <sup>1</sup> | Average Daily Production (MGD) <sup>2</sup> |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Chickamauga                                   | Coke Oven Well #105   | Groundwater                                     | 1.800  | 0.957                                       |
| LaFayette                                     | Big Spring (upper spring and lower spring)                      | Groundwater<br>Groundwater UDI                  | 1.310  | 1.102                                       |
| LaFayette                                     | Lee School (2 wells)  | Groundwater UDI                                 | 1.100  | 0.846                                       |
| Walker County Rural Water and Sewer Authority | 3 Wells   | Groundwater                                     | 0.400  | 0.214                                       |
| Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority    | Water Treatment Plant (4 wells and Crawfish Spring Lake Intake) | Groundwater<br>Groundwater UDI<br>Surface Water | 4.500  | 1.225                                       |
| Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority    | Coke Oven Wells (3 wells)                                       | Groundwater                                     | 2.800  | 1.763                                       |
| Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority    | Kensington Wells (3 wells)                                      | Groundwater                                     | 1.000  | 0.380                                       |

<sup>1</sup>Permit Limit Monthly Average (millions of gallons/day)

<sup>2</sup>Average daily production for January 2010 through December 2010 (millions of gallons/day)

Source: Georgia Department of Natural resources, Environmental Protection Division; City of Chickamauga; City of LaFayette; Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority

In addition to the information shown in Table 6-1, the City of LaFayette has active surface water purchase connections with Catoosa Utility District and Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority to provide additional water for its distribution system. LaFayette also holds a groundwater withdrawal permit (0.85 MGD) for its Dixon Spring wells and a surface water withdrawal permit (0.90 MGD) for its Dry Creek intake. Both of these water sources, however, are currently inactive. In addition to its three active wells, the Walker County Rural Water and Sewer Authority has a purchase connection with Catoosa Utility District for full-time/regular use and a purchase connection with the City of LaFayette for emergency use. Also for emergency or backup use, the City of Chickamauga has an active surface water purchase connection with the Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority, and the Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority has a purchase connection with the Tennessee American Water Company.

The Cities of Fort Oglethorpe, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville do not own or operate community water treatment and distribution systems. Water service for these cities is provided by the Tennessee American Water Company.

## **Sewerage System and Wastewater Treatment**

### **Service Areas**

The Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority and the Cities of Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville provide publicly-operated sewerage collection and/or sewerage collection and wastewater treatment systems in Walker County. A privately-operated, municipal-type sewerage and wastewater treatment system serves the 430-acre Canyon Ridge community on Georgia Highway 157 atop Lookout Mountain. Service areas are shown on Map 12 in Chapter 9 of this appendix.

### **Collection and Treatment**

The Cities of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville own and operate their respective sewerage collection systems but do not own or operate wastewater treatment facilities. Wastewater from the Lookout Mountain and Rossville collection systems flows to the Moccasin Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant, a major regional treatment facility, via the City of Chattanooga's interceptor sewer system. Wastewater from the Chickamauga collection system flows to the Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority's Wastewater Treatment Plant at Chickamauga.

The City of LaFayette owns and operates a sewerage collection and wastewater treatment system serving the city limits of LaFayette and a few areas extending slightly beyond. The LaFayette Wastewater Treatment Plant, located at 710 South Cherokee Street, has a permitted treatment capacity of 3.50 MGD. The annual average daily discharge for October 2009 through September 2010 was 2.3 MGD, well under the permitted capacity.



The above-mentioned Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant also has a permitted treatment capacity of 3.50 MGD. This facility treats wastewater from the City of Chickamauga's sewerage collection system as well as the Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority's collection system in the vicinity of Chickamauga; in the vicinity of Marble Top Road, west and southwest of Chickamauga; and in the vicinity of U.S. 27, southeast of Chickamauga (Rock Spring and Noble areas). The annual average daily discharge for this treatment facility for October 2009 through September 2010 was 1.25 MGD, also well under permitted capacity. The average daily flow from the City of Chickamauga's sewerage collection system accounted for 0.90 MGD or 72% of the total average daily discharge, the remaining 0.35 MGD or 28% being from the Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority's sewerage collection system described above.

The Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority operates three additional sewerage collection systems in the Chattanooga Creek and Dry Creek Valleys and in portions of the Lakeview/Beverly Hills area between Fort Oglethorpe and Rossville. Sewerage from these systems is transferred to the Moccasin Bend plant via the City of Chattanooga's interceptor sewer system. Collectively, the annual average daily flow for these collection systems was 0.60 MGD for October 2009 through September 2010.

### **On-site Sewage Disposal Systems**

The proper treatment and disposal of sewage is a major factor influencing public health in areas where public or community sewerage is not available. In Walker County, the widespread reliance on private, on-site sewage disposal systems creates potential problems for individual wells and general water quality concerns in portions of the county. Along with an inventory and existing conditions assessment of individual septic systems, a mandatory septic tank maintenance program needs to be in place countywide.

The Walker County Health Department, Environmental Health Office, through its on-site sewage program, provides numerous services including septic tank permits, repair permits, existing system evaluations, site evaluations, and subdivision plan review. Inspections are required on both septic tank permits and repair permits. Each inspection is performed according to the Rules of the Department of Human Resources for On-Site Sewage Management Systems (Chapter 290-5-26). For additional information concerning the on-site sewage management program, see DHR's Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems (available online at: [http://www.nwgapublichealth.org/env/links/pdfs/On-site\\_manual.pdf](http://www.nwgapublichealth.org/env/links/pdfs/On-site_manual.pdf)).

## Other Facilities and Services

### Fire Protection

Fire protection in Walker County is provided by Walker County Emergency Services and the LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville municipal fire departments. Walker County Emergency Services serves unincorporated areas of the county as well as the City of Chickamauga. The LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville fire departments serve their respective cities. Fire protection facilities are shown on Map 13 in Chapter 9 of this appendix.

#### Walker County Emergency Services

Walker County Emergency Services (WCES) operates 19 fire stations, as shown in Table 6-2, with a total of 36 full-time firefighters and 138 volunteer firefighters. The WCES headquarters is located at 107 Alex Drive, approximately 4.8 miles west of US 27 on GA 136. Walker County has a countywide, dual ISO rating of 4/9, with approximately 97% of the developed portion of the county having a Class 4 rating. Future plans call for a new station on Lookout Mountain in the vicinity of the intersection of GA 136 and GA 157.

Table 6-2

| Station Number          | Station Location   | Service Area                 |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Station 1 <sup>1</sup>  | 7249 North Highway 27  | Rock Spring community        |
| Station 2 <sup>1</sup>  | 63 Cubine Road   | Chattanooga Valley community |
| Station 3               | 5172 Highway 95  | Catlett community            |
| Station 4               | 116 Hinkle Community Road  | Hinkle community             |
| Station 5               | 2171 North Highway 341   | Wallaceville community       |
| Station 6 <sup>1</sup>  | 404 Cove Road  | Chickamauga community        |
| Station 7 <sup>1</sup>  | 207 Jenkins Road   | Fairview community           |
| Station 8               | Walker State Prison  | Countywide                   |
| Station 9               | 4995 Kensington Road   | Kensington community         |
| Station 10 <sup>2</sup> | WCES Supply Depot, South Ave., Flintstone                          | N/A                          |
| Station 11 <sup>1</sup> | 1853 Old Mineral Springs Road                                      | Mineral Springs community    |
| Station 12              | 5395 West Cove Road  | Cedar Grove community        |
| Station 13              | 4072 East Highway 136  | Naomi community              |
| Station 14              | 11471 East Highway 136   | Villanow community           |
| Station 15              | 18 Old Lee School Road   | Cane Creek community         |
| Station 16              | 3189 East Broomtown Road   | Wilson community             |
| Station 17              | 3839 West Armuchee Road  | Armuchee Valley community    |
| Station 18              | 23716 Highway 157  | Dougherty Gap community      |
| Station 19              | 72 Pace Road   | High Point community         |
| Station 20              | 107 Alex Drive   | Camp Road area               |
| Station 21 <sup>2</sup> | Cave & Cliff Rescue Unit, 1853 Old Mineral Springs Road, LaFayette | Countywide                   |

<sup>1</sup>Station also serves as an EMS station

<sup>2</sup>Station does not operate as a fire station

Source: Walker County Emergency Services

### LaFayette Fire Department

The LaFayette Fire Department operates one station at 208 North Main Street with 5 full-time firefighters and 12 volunteer firefighters. The department has two 1,200-gallon pumpers and one 75-foot ladder on truck/pumper. The city has a Class 6 ISO rating.

### Lookout Mountain Fire Department

The City of Lookout Mountain's Police/Fire Department operates a station at 1214 Lula Lake Road. In addition to the Police/Fire Chief, the department has 6 full-time employees, splitting time between police and firefighting duties, and 15 volunteer firefighters. Firefighting equipment consists of two 750-gallon pumpers. The City of Lookout Mountain has a Class 5 ISO rating.

## Rossville Fire Department

The Rossville Fire Department operates one station at 500 McFarland Avenue with 4 full-time firefighters and 20 volunteer firefighters. The department operates with an ISO insurance rating of 4.

## Emergency Medical Services

Walker County operates the countywide EMS service as part of its fire and emergency services. The county-operated EMS has a total of 11 transport-ready vehicles, including 4 straight-up ambulances, 4 additional on standby at all times, and 3 fire-medical trucks, based in Chattanooga Valley, Chickamauga, Fairview, Mineral Springs, and Rock Spring. All EMS stations are associated with fire stations (see Table 6-2). The fire-medical trucks are rescue ambulances carrying firefighting, rescue, and extrication equipment. The Walker County EMS operates with a 34-member staff, 33 members being in-field EMTs and paramedics.

## Public Safety

The Walker County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services for unincorporated areas of the county. Each city in the county operates a municipal police department. Also, the Georgia State Patrol operates Post 41 in LaFayette. Public safety facilities are shown on Map 13 in Chapter 9 of this appendix.

### Walker County Sheriff's Office

Located at 105 South Duke Street in LaFayette, the Walker County Sheriff's Office is a full-service law enforcement agency with over 100 employees. The sheriff's office is responsible for a wide variety of duties, including providing uniform patrol and investigative services to the county, providing security to the Superior Court, performing civil process, and operating a county jail. The sheriff's office is comprised of seven divisions, as follows: uniform patrol, detective, court services, detention, training, administrative, and community affairs. The Walker County Jail has an inmate capacity of 225. As of December 2, 2010, the jail was operating at 98% of capacity, housing 81 inmates sentenced to state institutions, 130 inmates awaiting trial, and 10 inmates serving county sentences. The County recently built a new satellite office inside the Armuchee Valley Community Center building.

### Walker County Police Department

Located at 91 Industrial Drive in Chickamauga, the Walker County Police Department is a full-service, state-certified law enforcement agency with two employees. The WCPD is responsible for codes enforcement in the unincorporated limits of Walker County.

### Chickamauga Police Department

The Chickamauga Police Department, located at 103 Crittenden Avenue, employs, in addition to the Police Chief, four full-time and five part-time patrol officers and one detective.

### LaFayette Police Department

LaFayette's Department of Public Safety, located at 208 North Main Street, combines the fire and police departments. The police department has 21 sworn officers and 2 administrative employees divided into three divisions: patrol, investigative, and administrative. The patrol division has 14 fully-equipped, marked patrol units.

### Lookout Mountain Police Department

The Lookout Mountain Police/Fire Department, in addition to the Police/Fire Chief, has six full-time employees, splitting time between police and firefighting duties, and two, part-time police officers. Police equipment consists of two patrol units, a jeep, and an unmarked car.

### Rossville Police Department

Rossville Public Safety is comprised of the fire and police departments located at 500 McFarland Avenue, adjacent to Rossville City Hall. The Rossville Police Department employs eight full-time patrol officers and one detective.

### Emergency 911 Service

The Walker County Emergency 911 Center, which began service on October 1, 1992, serves as the Emergency Operations Center for Walker County. Currently the center operates with a total of 21 employees. The center is responsible for all emergency communications throughout the county including Walker County Sheriff's Office, Lookout Mountain fire and police departments, Rossville fire and police departments, Chickamauga Police Department, LaFayette fire and police departments, and Walker County Emergency Services (fire, EMS, cave and cliff rescue unit, and HAZMAT team).

### Georgia Department of Corrections

Walker State Prison, operated by the Georgia Department of Corrections, is located at 97 Kevin Lane, near Rock Spring, in unincorporated Walker County. State prisons house violent or repeat criminals or nonviolent offenders who have exhausted all other forms of punishment. Constructed in 1972 and renovated in 2000, Walker State Prison is a medium security facility with an inmate capacity of 646. Housing consists of 12 open dormitories, 10 housing from 50 to 74 offenders with one housing nine incentive offenders. Ten offenders are housed at the Fire Hall. The prison houses adult male medium security general population offenders and provides labor for a Correctional Industries Metal Fabrication Plant and contract details for other state

agencies. Medium security offenders have no major adjustment problems and most may work outside the prison fence if under constant supervision. The mission of the Georgia Department of Corrections is to ensure public safety and effectively house offenders while operating a safe and secure facility.

### Georgia Department of Public Safety

Georgia State Patrol Post 41, serving Dade and Walker Counties, is located at 1212 North Main Street in LaFayette. Georgia State Patrol troopers investigate traffic accidents and enforce traffic and criminal laws on the state's roads. The mission of the Georgia Department of Public Safety is to work cooperatively with all levels of government to provide a safe environment for residents and visitors to our state. Although focused primarily on the enforcement of traffic laws and investigation of traffic crashes, the Department of Public Safety will support the efforts of all public safety agencies to reduce crime, apprehend those who commit them, and respond to natural and manmade disasters.

## **Parks and Recreation**

### Walker County

Although Walker County does not have an official Parks and Recreation Department, Walker County does support its communities in the unincorporated limits of the County with community centers and community-operated athletic programs. These programs include the Rock Spring Athletic Association, the Chattanooga Valley Athletic Association, and the Walker County Soccer Association. Community Centers throughout unincorporated Walker County include Dewberry, High Point, Prospect, Hinkle, Armuchee Valley, West Armuchee, Cedar Grove, and Center Post. Also, the County helps support the parks and recreation programs in the cities through the SPLOST supported projects.

### City of Chickamauga

The City of Chickamauga owns and operates Holland-Watson Memorial Park, located at the northwest corner of West 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Crittenden Avenue, which features a picnic shelter, playground, and walking trail. Additional park and recreational facilities include Coke Oven Park, located on Chickamauga Road/GA 341 and featuring a picnic shelter, and Crawfish Springs Wetland Wildlife Viewing Area, featuring a viewing platform overlooking the wetland. The latter two facilities are connected by a multi-use walking trail. The city also owns recreation property that is managed by the non-profit Chickamauga Recreation Association, Inc., that offers youth baseball, basketball, and football programs.

The construction of a multi-use trail from downtown Chickamauga to the Chickamauga Battlefield unit of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park will provide pedestrians and bicyclists safe access to recreational, historical, educational, and aesthetic

resources of the area. The project has been funded and is expected to begin construction in late 2011.

#### LaFayette Parks & Recreation Department

The City of LaFayette owns and operates the following six park and recreation facilities:

- Municipal Park Center, 638 South Main Street, features a gymnasium, game room, two meeting rooms, kitchen, four baseball/softball fields, three tennis courts, swimming pool, fitness trail with Par-Fit Course, one outdoor volleyball court, four picnic shelters with grills, playground, and walking trails. The department's main office is at this location.
- Ross Abney Complex, 101 First Street, features a football stadium, practice field, and walking track.
- Max Stoker Center, 700 Glenn Street, features a meeting room, an activities room for dance classes, four soccer fields, and a walking track.
- Lowell Greene Center, 301 Webb Wheeler Road, features a gymnasium and a new softball complex.
- Simmons Memorial Park, 12 Mill Street, features a picnic shelter, outdoor basketball court, playground, and a baseball/softball practice field.
- Joe Stock Memorial Park, 208-B North Main Street, is a passive park used for numerous seasonal events.

The LaFayette Parks & Recreation Department offers programs that include youth basketball, youth baseball, girls' softball, youth swimming lessons, youth football, youth cheerleading, youth soccer, and youth and adult volleyball.

#### City of Lookout Mountain

The City of Lookout Mountain's Recreation Department offers youth athletic programs in football, baseball, basketball, wrestling, and soccer. The recreation department uses a baseball field located behind Fairyland Elementary and a soccer field located on Whitt Road at McFarland Road. The basketball program uses the Fairyland Elementary School gymnasium as well as a gymnasium at Lookout Mountain (Tennessee) Elementary School. The football and wrestling programs also share facilities located in Lookout Mountain, Tennessee. The City of Lookout Mountain also maintains a small greenspace/park on Lula Lake Road at Red Riding Hood Trail.

#### City of Rossville

The City of Rossville operates two recreation/athletics facilities. Rossville City Park, located at 200 Ellis Road, is a city-owned facility featuring eight baseball and softball fields, a football practice field, play park, walking track, and picnic pavilion. The county-owned Rossville Athletics Center, located at 500 Williams Street, features a football field, gymnasium, indoor batting facility, and weight training facility (under development). Rossville Recreation programs

are open to all Walker County residents and include youth baseball, softball, basketball, football, wrestling, and cheerleading. Rossville Recreation also operates a state-funded karate program.

## **Solid Waste Management**

Walker County operates a solid waste transfer station, an inert waste landfill, a construction and demolition (C&D) landfill, and a small recycling collection center at 5120 North Marble Top Road. The county contracts with Environmental Trust Company to transport the household waste from their transfer station to Meadow Branch Landfill in McMinn County, Tennessee, for disposal. While Walker County does not provide curbside garbage collection, a number of private companies provide waste collection services throughout much of unincorporated Walker County.

All of the solid waste generated in Walker County that requires disposal in a municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill is exported. A relatively small amount of this waste may be exported directly to a nearby MSW landfill in Georgia, but the great majority is exported out of state for disposal at regional landfills in Alabama and Tennessee via the Walker County Transfer Station or other transfer stations in Dade, Catoosa, and Chattooga Counties in Georgia, and Hamilton County, Tennessee. The Cities of Chickamauga and Lookout Mountain operate their own waste collection services and haul their municipal waste to the Walker County Transfer Station for disposal in McMinn County, Tennessee. The City of LaFayette also operates a municipal waste collection service and transports its waste to White Sanitation's Transfer Station in Chattooga County for disposal at Three Corners Landfill in Cherokee County, Alabama. The City of Rossville contracts with Allied Waste for residential curbside pickup. Rossville's municipal waste is disposed at the Sand Valley Landfill in DeKalb County, Alabama, via the Allied Waste transfer station in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

## **Education**

### **Primary/Secondary Education (Public)**

Two public school districts operate in Walker County. The Walker County School District provides public school services for unincorporated Walker County and the cities of LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville. The Chickamauga City School District provides public school services for Chickamauga residents and non-city residents who pay an annual tuition. As shown in Table 6-3, the Walker County School District enrolled 9,073 students for the 2009-2010 school year on 14 campuses located throughout the county. The Walker County School District includes 2 high schools, 3 middle schools, and 9 elementary schools. For the 2009-2010 school year, the Chickamauga City School District enrolled 1,336 students in its high school, middle school, and elementary school described in Table 6-3.



**Table 6-3 Public Schools in Walker County – 2009-2010 School Year**

| Walker County School District            |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| School Name                              | Location                                | Enrollment |
| Chattanooga Valley Elementary School     | 3420 Chattanooga Valley Rd., Flintstone | 641        |
| Chattanooga Valley Middle School         | 847 Allgood Rd., Flintstone             | 529        |
| Cherokee Ridge Elementary School         | 2423 Johnson Rd., Chickamauga           | 812        |
| Fairyland Elementary School              | 1306 Lula Lake Rd., Lookout Mountain    | 264        |
| Gilbert Elementary School                | 87 South Burnt Mill Rd., LaFayette      | 426        |
| LaFayette High School                    | 5178 Round Pond Rd., LaFayette          | 1,193      |
| LaFayette Middle School                  | 419 Roadrunner Blvd., LaFayette         | 953        |
| Naomi Elementary School                  | 4038 E. Highway 136, LaFayette          | 435        |
| North LaFayette Elementary School        | 610 North Duke St., LaFayette           | 565        |
| Ridgeland High School                    | 2478 Happy Valley Rd., Rossville        | 1,305      |
| Rock Spring Elementary School            | 372 Highway 95, Rock Spring             | 387        |
| Rossville Elementary School              | 1250 Wilson Rd., Rossville              | 486        |
| Rossville Middle School                  | 316 Bulldog Trail, Rossville            | 635        |
| Stone Creek Elementary School            | 1600 Happy Valley Rd., Rossville        | 442        |
| Total – Walker County School District    |   | 9,073      |
| Chickamauga City School District         |   |            |
| School Name                              | Location                                | Enrollment |
| Chickamauga Elementary School            | 210 Crescent Ave., Chickamauga          | 539        |
| Gordon Lee High School                   | 105 Lee Circle, Chickamauga             | 452        |
| Gordon Lee Middle School                 | 300 Crescent Ave., Chickamauga          | 345        |
| Total – Chickamauga City School District |   | 1,336      |

Source: Georgia Department of Education

### Primary/Secondary Education (Private)

Oakwood Christian Academy is a Baptist-affiliated, private school located at 113 Oakwood Street in Chickamauga. Founded in 1992, the school offers prekindergarten and kindergarten classes, 1-5<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school classes, 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school classes, and in 2009, it began a 9<sup>th</sup> grade class. High school development is expected to be completed by 2012-2013. As of 2010, Oakwood Christian Academy had 263 students enrolled in prekindergarten through the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Post-Secondary Education

Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC) has Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Floyd, Gordon, Polk, and Walker Counties as its service area and operates campuses in the four latter counties. GNTC was established in 2009 from a merger of Coosa Valley Technical College, in Floyd County, and Northwestern Technical College, in Walker County, and operates under the

Technical College System of Georgia. GNTC's Walker County Campus enrolls more than 2,300 students and operates on 34 acres in Rock Spring. Offering both on-campus and distance education programs leading to certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees, GNTC supports the communities of the northwest Georgia service area by providing adult education and economic development services, customized business and industry training, and personal enrichment programs that meet the workforce needs of area citizens, communities, and companies.

## **Libraries**

Walker County has three library facilities available to the public, as follows:

- Chickamauga Public Library, 306 Cove Road, Chickamauga

The Chickamauga Public Library has approximately 25,000 materials ready for circulation. There are ten Internet accessible computers for use by the public. These computers also have the Microsoft Office suite of products which includes Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. Anyone with a library card in good standing may use these computers free of charge. The Friends of the Chickamauga Public Library was formed in 1999. Members volunteer to work on projects and activities which benefit the library. A pre-school Story hour is offered each Thursday morning at 10:00 AM.

- LaFayette-Walker County Public Library, 305 South Duke Street, LaFayette

The LaFayette-Walker County Library has a materials circulation of approximately 76,985 (FY 2008). Twelve Internet accessible computers are available for public use, each with the Microsoft Office 2007 suite of products (Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint). Anyone with a PINES library card in good standing may use these computers free of charge. The LaFayette-Walker County Library is also Wi-Fi ready. The library also offers a wide variety of magazines and newspapers for public use. The LaFayette-Walker County Library is supported by the local Friends of the Library whose members volunteer to work on projects and activities which benefit the library. The Friends of the Library host an annual Open House and Book Sale to raise funds that go to support the LaFayette-Walker County Library's Summer Reading Program and other material needs. The Friends of the Library also provide a gift shop that is open daily to the public during normal library hours. The Friends of the Library meet regularly on the second Thursday of each month at 3:30 PM.

The LaFayette Walker County Library is home to the Doris Coulter Hetzler Memorial Georgia History & Genealogy Room which houses a special collection of books, microfilm, files, and other materials needed for genealogical and historical research. Although the collection focuses on Georgia (primarily Northwest Georgia), adjoining

states and migration route states are represented. The Walker County Historical Society collection is also in the Georgia Room, along with other materials donated by local organizations and individuals. The LaFayette-Walker County Library offers weekly pre-school Story Hour each Monday morning at 10:00 AM. A monthly Home School program is offered the third Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM. Other programs for all ages are scheduled periodically. A meeting room (seating capacity: 50) is available for public use by contacting the Library Manager for desired dates.

- Rossville Public Library, 504 McFarland Avenue, Rossville

The Rossville Public Library opened to the public in January 1944, housed in one of the front offices of the Rossville City Hall. The book collection consisted of about 1000 books. Later that year, the library joined the Cherokee Regional Library System, becoming their first branch in Walker County. After several moves, the library opened in its present location in May 1987 with over 35,000 materials to circulate.

The Library houses the genealogical collection of the Delta Genealogical Society which meets in the Fleming Room of the library the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. This collection consists of local and regional histories in the states of Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. Collection features include local newspapers on microfilm: *Walker County Messenger* (1880 to present) and *Rossville Open Gate* (1925 to 1965). Also available on microfilm is federal census data for Walker County, Georgia, and surrounding Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama counties.

Preschool story time is offered each Wednesday morning at 11:00 AM with stories, crafts, and games. A story time program for home school children is offered each Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 PM with stories, crafts, games and experiments. The Friends of the Rossville Public Library was formed in 1986. Members volunteer to work on projects and activities which benefit the library. Annual events include the Fall Book Sale, the Summer Reading Club Party, and the Craft Exhibit. The Friends also produce their own newsletter, *Friends' Bulletin*, which keeps members informed about new projects and events occurring at the library. An annual summer reading program is offered at the end of the school year, with prizes and certificates awarded to participants.

These three facilities along with the Dade County Public Library in Trenton and the North Georgia Talking Book Outreach Center in LaFayette (recently consolidated with the Rome Subregional Library for People with Disabilities) comprise the Cherokee Regional Library system. The LaFayette-Walker County Public Library is the largest branch of the Cherokee Regional Library system and serves as its headquarters.

The libraries are funded by appropriations from Walker County; the cities of Chickamauga, LaFayette, and Rossville; the school systems; and state, federal, and foundation grants. The Rossville Public Library was renovated within the past ten years, the Chickamauga Public

Library completed an addition/renovation in 2008, and plans for an addition/renovation of the LaFayette-Walker County Public Library are underway.

## **Health Care**

Hutcheson Medical Center, located just outside of Walker County at 100 gross Crescent Circle in Fort Oglethorpe, is a regional hospital serving Walker, Catoosa, and Dade Counties. Two public health clinics also provide health care services to Walker County residents. The Walker County Health Department, located at 603 East Villanow Street in LaFayette, is a county health department within the ten-county Northwest Georgia Public Health district. A satellite office is located at Rock Spring and a Teen Resource Center is located at 109 Bryan Street in Rossville. The Primary Health Care Center, located at 1430 Suggs Street in Rossville, provides outreach to the most vulnerable populations in the county: school-age children, adults with chronic diseases, and the elderly. A majority of PHCC patients are low-income, uninsured individuals who were previously unable to access health care.

# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

## Adjacent Local Governments

Walker County includes all or part of five municipalities: Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe (only a small portion of which lies within Walker County). Walker County is surrounded by the Georgia county governments of Catoosa (northeast), Whitfield (east), Gordon (southeast), Floyd (south), Chattooga (south), and Dade (west). Walker County also shares a boundary with DeKalb County, Alabama (southwest), and Hamilton County, Tennessee (north). Additionally, along the Georgia-Tennessee state line, Walker County shares boundary with the Cities of Chattanooga and East Ridge, Tennessee, and the Town of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee; the City of Lookout Mountain, Georgia, shares boundary with the Town of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee; and the City of Rossville shares boundary with the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

## Independent Special Authorities and Districts

### Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority

This five-member authority is a public corporation created by local legislation introduced at the 1977 regular session of the General Assembly of Georgia, known as the “Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority Act,” approved March 23, 1977. Authority members are appointed by the Commissioner of Walker County (the Commissioner can serve as a member of the Authority) and must be residents of Walker County for two years prior to appointment. The purpose of the authority is to acquire, construct, add to, extend, improve, equip, operate, and maintain projects embracing sources of water supply and distribution and sale of water and related facilities to individuals, private concerns, municipal corporations, the State of Georgia, its political subdivisions and instrumentalities; and to acquire, construct, add to, extend, improve, equip, operate, and maintain sewerage systems, both sanitary and storm, sewerage disposal and treatment plants, and any and all other related facilities.

### **Walker County Rural Water and Sewer Authority**

This five-member authority is a public corporation created by local legislation introduced at the 1967 session of the General Assembly of Georgia, known as the “Walker County Rural Water and Sewer Act,” approved April 21, 1967. Authority members are appointed by the Grand Jury empaneled by the Superior Court of Walker County and must be residents of unincorporated Walker County. The authority’s purpose is to acquire, construct, operate, and maintain projects embracing sources of water supply and the distribution and sale of water and related facilities to individuals, private concerns, and municipal corporations; and to acquire, construct, operate, and maintain sewer systems, both sanitary and storm, sewage disposal and treatment plants, and any other related facilities.

### **Hospital Authority of Walker, Dade, and Catoosa Counties**

This multi-jurisdictional hospital authority was created under the authority of O.C.G.A. § 31-7-70 on May 15, 1947. It is an independent government authority that is responsible for the management and coordination of public health facilities in Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties. The authority leases the hospital building to Hutcheson Medical Center and oversees the forty-year lease through a nine-member board appointed by county commissioners.

### **LaFayette Housing Authority**

The Housing Authority of the City of LaFayette is a public corporation created on July 10, 1957, under the authority of the Housing Authorities Act of 1937, as amended (O.C.G.A. § 8-3-1), and activated by a resolution of the local governing authority. Its five-member board of commissioners is appointed by the mayor. The housing authority exercises a broad range of powers necessary for the provision of safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations for persons of low income.

## **Independent Development Authorities and Districts**

### **Northwest Georgia Joint Development Authority**

The Northwest Georgia Joint Development Authority (NWGAJDA) is a multi-jurisdictional joint development authority, created in 1998 under authority of the O.C.G.A. § 36-62-1, that serves Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, and Walker Counties. The NWGAJDA’s mission is to improve the quality of life and increase community wealth for the four-county service region by promoting the expansion and growth of industry and diversification of the regional economy. The NWGAJDA serves as a marketing arm of economic development for its service region and is involved with new business recruitment. Also, the authority meets with existing industries to discuss expansion or retention needs, helps promote and foster small business and entrepreneurship in the service region, and provides area demographic and statistical information to existing and

prospective companies. The NWGAJDA's board consists of twelve members, three from each of the four represented counties, appointed by the county commissioner(s).

### **Walker County Development Authority**

This seven-member, multi-jurisdictional authority is a non-profit, public corporation created by an amendment to Article VII, Section V, Paragraph I of the Constitution of Georgia, proposed by Resolution Act No. 176 of the 1962 General Assembly which was ratified at the 1962 general election (Ga. L. 1962, p. 912), and local legislation introduced at the January 1964 session of the General Assembly of Georgia, known as the "Walker County Development Authority Act," approved on March 18, 1964. The purpose of the authority is the development, promotion, and expansion of industry, commerce, agriculture, natural resources, and vocational training and the making and promulgation of long-range plans for the coordination of such development, promotion, and expansion within the territorial limits of Walker County.

## **School Boards**

### **Chickamauga City Schools Board of Education**

The Chickamauga City Schools Board of Education oversees the Chickamauga City School District and its facilities within the incorporated boundaries of the City of Chickamauga. The five-member board receives its powers from state legislation.

### **Walker County Schools Board of Education**

The Walker County Board of Education manages the Walker County School District and its facilities in unincorporated Walker County and the municipalities of LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville. The five-member, elected board receives its powers from state legislation and has the authority to appoint the Walker County School Superintendent. Within this school district, there are two high schools, three middle schools, and nine elementary schools.

## **Federal, State, or Regional Programs and Activities**

### **Northwest Georgia Regional Commission**

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC) is a multi-county organization consisting of 15 northwest Georgia counties and 49 municipalities. Major responsibilities of the regional commission include the following: implementation of the Georgia Planning Act of 1989; administration of the Area Agency on Aging; administration of the Workforce Investment Act; and the provision of planning and development assistance to member governments. The

regional commission also assists local governments with the preparation of solid waste management plans as required by the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act.

### **Northwest Georgia Regional Water Resources Partnership**

The Northwest Georgia Regional Water Resources Partnership (NGRWRP), comprised of water withdrawal permit holders, local governments, and other advocacy entities, was organized to address the long-term needs to protect water quality and plan for adequate water supply within the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC) 15-county area. The NGRWRP, with staff support provided by the NWGRC, strives to monitor and contribute to the development of federal, state, and local water policy; educate citizens on water-related issues; seek funding and facilitate regional water-related activities; and coordinate the activities of federal, state, and local entities.

### **Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization**

Created in 1977 in compliance with the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1973 and the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Hamilton County, Tennessee, and the northern portions of Dade, Walker, and Catoosa Counties, Georgia, is known as the Chattanooga-Hamilton County / North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization (CHCNGA-TPO). The TPO coordinates *comprehensive* (including all modes), *cooperative* (involving a broad array of stakeholders and other interested parties), and *continuous* (ever improving and evolving) or **3-C process** transportation activities within the CHCNGA urban area along with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the Georgia department of Transportation (GDOT). The TPO produces three basic documents which include the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TPO also evaluates traffic congestion, air quality, mobility, and alternative transportation modes.

### **Georgia Department of Transportation**

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) plans, constructs, maintains and improves the state's road and bridges; provides planning and financial support for other modes of transportation; and provides airport and air safety planning. Additionally, GDOT is responsible for waterways and rail transit. A majority of GDOT's resources are directed toward maintaining and improving the state's network of roads and bridges. Proceeds from the state's motor fuel taxes are constitutionally earmarked solely for use on Georgia's roads and bridges. Non-road and bridge construction projects are supported by a combination of state general funds, federal funds, and local funds. GDOT has a wide range of transportation programs, plans and services that aid local government agencies in maintaining and operating their local transportation



systems including local funding programs, intermodal programs, research and planning, and local technical assistance.

### **Georgia Department of Community Affairs**

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) provides a variety of community development programs to help the state's communities realize their growth and development goals; offers a variety of economic development incentives and tools designed to help promote growth and job creation; promotes sustainability, environmental protection, and enhanced quality of life by encouraging local implementation of generally accepted best growth and development practices; and helps put all Georgia's citizens in decent housing through a range of programs designed to foster new housing development, homeownership, and improved housing choices. DCA has several management responsibilities regarding Georgia's coordinated planning program and reviews comprehensive plans for compliance with the state's minimum planning standards. The department also provides a variety of grant funding and technical assistance opportunities to local governments

### **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

The Department of Natural Resources has statewide responsibilities for the management and conservation of Georgia's natural and cultural resources. Most of this work is conducted by DNR's six operating divisions which include: Coastal Resources Division, Environmental Protection Division, Historic Preservation Division, Sustainability Division, Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division and Wildlife Resources Division. The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources for present and future generations, while recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices.

The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) protects Georgia's air, land, and water through the authority of state statutes and major parts of five federal environmental statutes. These laws regulate public and private facilities having to do with water quality, air quality, hazardous waste, water supply, solid waste management, surface mining and other areas. It issues and enforces all state permits in these areas. It has received the authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue and enforce all permits required by federal laws.

### **Consistency with Service Delivery Strategy**

The State of Georgia passed the Service Delivery Strategy Act (HB 489) in 1997. This law mandates the cooperation of local governments regarding service delivery issues. Each county was required by the act to adopt a Service Delivery Strategy that included an identification of the

services provided by various entities; assignment of responsibility for service delivery; and identification of service areas, funding sources, and implementation measures.

Summarized in Table 7-1, the Walker County Service Delivery Strategy was adopted by Walker County and the cities of Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe in 1999.

**Table 7-1 Walker County Service Delivery Strategy Summary**

| Service Provided            | Service Delivery Strategy   | Notes |
|-----------------------------|---|-------|
| Airport                     | LaFayette will provide this service countywide.   |       |
| Animal Control              | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries.                                       |       |
| Archives/Records            | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries.                                       |       |
| Beverage Control Board      | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; LaFayette and Lookout Mountain will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries.   |       |
| Building Inspection/Permits | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries.                                       |       |
| Cemetery                    | Chickamauga and LaFayette will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries.   |       |
| Chamber of Commerce         | Walker County Chamber of Commerce, Inc. will provide this service countywide.   |       |
| Civic Center                | Walker County, Chickamauga, and Rossville each have civic center facilities that are open to the general public through user fees.  |       |
| Code Enforcement            | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries.  |       |
| Commodities Distribution    | Walker County will provide this service countywide.   |       |
| Courts                      | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries.                                       |       |
| DFACS                       | Walker County will provide this service countywide.   |       |
| Drug Task Force             | Walker County will provide this service countywide.   |       |
| E-911                       | Walker County will provide this service countywide.   |       |
| Economic Development        | Northwest Georgia Joint Development Authority will provide this service countywide; LaFayette will provide this service within its incorporated boundaries.   |       |
| Electric Utility            | Chickamauga and LaFayette will provide this service within their designated service areas.  |       |
| Extension Service           | Walker County will provide this service countywide.   |       |
| Family Connection           | Walker County will provide this service countywide.   |       |
| Fire Inspection             | Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries; this service will not be provided in unincorporated areas.   |       |
| Fire Protection             | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas and within the Chickamauga incorporated boundaries; LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries. |       |
| Food Pantry                 | Walker County will provide this service countywide.   |       |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Gas Department                           | LaFayette will provide this service within its incorporated boundaries.   |   |
| Hospital                                 | Hutcheson Medical Center will provide this service countywide.  |   |
| Jail                                     | Walker County will provide this service countywide; Rossville will provide this service within its incorporated boundaries.   |   |
| Law Enforcement                          | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries. |   |
| Library                                  | Cherokee Regional Library will provide this service countywide.   |   |
| Litter Control                           | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; LaFayette will provide this service within its incorporated boundaries.  |   |
| Mosquito Control                         | Walker County will provide this service countywide.   |   |
| Museum                                   | Chickamauga and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries.   |   |
| Parks and Recreation                     | Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries; this service will not be provided in unincorporated areas.       |   |
| Planning/Zoning                          | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries. |   |
| Property Appraisal                       | Walker County will provide this service countywide.   |   |
| Recycling                                | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries. |   |
| Road and Street Construction/Maintenance | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries. |   |
| Senior Citizen Programs                  | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; LaFayette, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries.                                |   |
| Solid Waste Collection                   | Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries; this service will not be provided in unincorporated areas.       |   |
| Solid Waste Disposal                     | Walker County maintains the public landfill facility for all the cities and unincorporated areas and will provide this service countywide; LaFayette maintains an inert landfill for city use only.       |   |
| Stormwater Management                    | Walker County will provide this service in unincorporated areas; Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, Rossville, and Fort Oglethorpe will provide this service within their incorporated boundaries. |   |
| Transit                                  | Walker County will provide this service countywide.   |   |
| Water/Sewer                              | See note (right column of this table)   | Additional clarification of the service delivery strategies for water and sewer is desired. |

Source: Walker County Service Delivery Strategy 1999

This existing Service Delivery Strategy for Walker County, however, must be updated concurrent with this comprehensive plan update. To ensure consistency between the comprehensive plan and the agreed upon strategy, the services to be provided by a local government, as identified in the comprehensive plan, cannot exceed those services identified in the agreed upon strategy. Further, the identified service areas for individual services to be provided by the local government must be consistent between the comprehensive plan and the service delivery strategy.

# TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

## Introduction

This chapter provides an inventory of the county's existing transportation infrastructure, plans, and projects. This inventory provides a basis for future analyses and helps identify an appropriate mix of strategies and projects needed to address transportation and land use needs in Walker County.

Information collected for this chapter comes in part from the Chattanooga-Hamilton County / North Georgia (CHCNGA) 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The CHCNGA 2035 LRTP is a comprehensive planning document, with a 20-year planning horizon, for moving people and goods safely and efficiently within the Chattanooga urbanized area. Such urbanized areas of 50,000 people or more are defined as Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). Created in 1977 in compliance with the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1973 and the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, the MPO for Hamilton County, Tennessee, and the northern portions of Dade, Walker, and Catoosa Counties in Georgia is known as the Chattanooga-Hamilton County / North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization (CHCNGA-TPO). The portion of Walker County within the TPO boundary includes the municipalities of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville. The TPO coordinates *comprehensive* (including all modes), *cooperative* (involving a broad array of stakeholders and other interested parties), and *continuous* (ever improving and evolving) or **3-C process** transportation activities within the CHCNGA urban area along with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the Georgia department of Transportation (GDOT).

Managed by Transportation Planning Division of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency (RPA), the CHCNGA-TPO is comprised of a policy board known as the Executive Board, a technical committee known as the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and professional staff. Documents produced by the TPO include the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The 2035 LRTP, adopted on February 16, 2010, was developed in accordance with the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) planning regulations and meets federal transportation and air quality planning requirements.

## Road Network

In 2009, there were 926.55 miles of roads in Walker County, 177.46 miles of state routes, 654.91 miles of county roads, and 94.18 miles of city streets. Table 8-1 provides the road mileage by road type for Walker County and its cities.

Table 8-1 Road Mileage by Road Type 2009 – County and Cities

| Area                                       | Road Mileage |              |              |             |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
|  | State Routes | County Roads | City Streets | Total Roads |
| Walker County                              | 177.46       | 654.91       | 94.18        | 926.55      |
| Unincorporated                             | 156.65       | 629.24       | -            | 785.89      |
| Chickamauga                                | 2.56         | 6.38         | 12.89        | 21.83       |
| LaFayette                                  | 11.55        | 9.72         | 47.93        | 69.20       |
| Lookout Mountain                           | 2.68         | 2.24         | 12.03        | 16.95       |
| Rossville                                  | 0.87         | 5.05         | 20.61        | 26.53       |
| Fort Oglethorpe (portion in Walker County) | 3.15         | 2.28         | 0.72         | 6.15        |

Source: Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Transportation Data

The Walker County road network is comprised of a system of federal, state, and local routes. The road jurisdiction classification is shown on Map 15 and the GDOT road network functional classification is shown on Map 16, both located in Chapter 9 of this appendix. The following is a listing of the major roads that serve the county:

- **US-27/SR-1** is a major north-south corridor, traversing the entire western length of the state. In Walker County, the four-lane corridor is in place and open to traffic. It begins at the Tennessee state line at Rossville and runs south through the county, twice entering and exiting Catoosa County before passing through LaFayette and entering Chattooga County.
- **SR-2** begins at the intersection with GA-193, northeast of Flintstone, and runs east into Catoosa County at Fort Oglethorpe.
- **SR-95** begins at the intersection with US-27/GA-1 at Rock Spring and ends at the intersection with GA-151, southeast of Catlett.
- **SR-136** enters Walker County from Dade County on top of Lookout Mountain, just west of its intersection with GA-157, and runs in a southeasterly direction across the county, exiting at the southeast corner into Gordon County.
- **SR-151** begins at the intersection with US-27/GA-1, just north of the Chattooga County line and runs northeasterly through the southeast section of the county into Catoosa County.

- **SR-157** begins at the intersection with GA-48 at Cloudland in Chattooga County, enters the southwestern corner of Walker County, and runs north up the west side of the county, repeatedly entering and exiting Dade County before passing through the City of Lookout Mountain and ending at the Tennessee state line south of Chattanooga, becoming TN-58/Ochs Highway.
- **SR-193** begins at the intersection with US-27/GA-1 Business at LaFayette and ends at the Tennessee state line south of Chattanooga, becoming TN-17/St. Elmo Avenue.
- **SR-201** begins at the intersection with GA-136 at Villanow and runs north into Whitfield County.
- **SR-337** begins at the Alabama state line southwest of Menlo in Chattooga County and runs in a northeasterly direction, entering Walker County just south of Centerpost and ending at the intersection with US-27/GA-1 south of LaFayette.
- **SR-341** begins at the intersection with GA-193 at Davis Crossroads, passes through the City of Chickamauga, and ends at the intersection with GA-193 south of Flintstone.

The annual average daily traffic (AADT) count is a simple and useful measurement of how busy a road is over a one year period. AADT is the volume of traffic passing a point or segment of a highway facility, in both directions, for one year, divided by 365. For 2008 the five top AADT counts in Walker County were recorded along US 27/SR 1 from the Catoosa County line at Fort Oglethorpe to the Tennessee state line at Rossville. These AADT counts ranged from 17,920 to 21,860. Other AADT counts in the top ten recorded in Walker County in 2008 were as follows: US 27 from North Main Street to Pickard Drive, LaFayette (17,040), SR 2 from Schmidt Road to the Catoosa County line, Fort Oglethorpe (17,000), US 27 from SR 136 to Wheeler Road, LaFayette (15,520), US 27 from Gordon-Lee Road to Gordon-Lee Circle, Chickamauga (13,990), and US 27 Business from Warthen Street to US 27, LaFayette (13,860).

The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) lists federally-funded transportation projects that are located outside Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundaries. The STIP lists projects for the next four years and is updated and approved annually. Also included in the STIP are non-federally-funded, regionally significant transportation projects, including highway, bridge, bicycle, pedestrian, safety, transportation enhancement activities, and public transportation (transit) projects. Table 8-2 identifies Walker County roadway projects in the FY 2011-2014 STIP.

**Table 8-2 FY 2011-14 STIP Roadway Projects**

| Project Description   | Project Type             | Year |
|---|--------------------------|------|
| US 27/SR 1 at CR 587/Bicentennial Trail                     | Intersection improvement | 2011 |
| SR 1 at 2 locs.; SR 1 BUS at 5 locs.; and SR 193 at 2 locs. | Signals                  | 2013 |

Source: Georgia Department of Transportation, FY 2011-14 State Transportation Improvement Program

The Chattanooga Urban Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is essentially the same document for the portion of Walker County within the CHCNGA-TPO boundary as is the STIP for the portion of the county lying outside the TPO boundary. Table 8-3 identifies Walker County roadway projects in the FY 2011-2014 TIP.

**Table 8-3 FY 2011-2014 TIP Roadway Projects**

| Jurisdiction in which project is located | Project Description      | Project Type             | Type of Work | Fiscal Year |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Walker County                            | Osburn Road improvements | Intersection improvement | PE, CONST    | 2011        |

Source: Chattanooga Urban Area Transportation Improvement Program FY 2011-2014

The Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) identifies long-range transportation goals and specific long- and short-range investment strategies for all transportation modes to support meeting these goals. A key element in the 2035 LRTP update is the integration of multi-modal and sustainable transportation concepts. The LRTP is fiscally constrained (project costs do not exceed projected revenues), supports regional land use and economic development plans and policies, and meets national air quality conformity requirements. For the first time, the 2035 LRTP primarily consisted of a project deselection rather than planning for and programming new projects. Streamlining the number and type of projects to ensure the most cost-effective, sustainable, and efficient investments was in response to recent national, state, and local funding limitations. Also for the first time, the planning approach considered the national trend of performance-based planning to support more effective project selection.

The 2035 LRTP presents a tiered program of projects to improve the transportation system within the TPO boundary over the planning period. It identifies transportation improvement strategies that support attainment of the long-range transportation goals and address travel and congestion issues for the 2035 horizon in three tiers: 2015 (Tier I), 2025 (Tier II), and 2035 (Tier III). Table 8-4 presents Walker County roadway projects included in the 2035 LRTP. All are long-range, Tier III projects.

**Table 8-4 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan: Roadway Projects**

| Jurisdiction |       | Project Description  | Project Type | Priority |
|--------------|-------|--|--------------|----------|
| City/County  | State |  |              |          |
| Chattanooga  | TN/GA | New 2-lane facility (extension) from Central Ave. to GA-193            | New roadway  | Tier 3   |
| Rossville    | GA    | Widen McFarland Ave. from 2 to 4 lanes from Chickamauga Ave. to GA-341 | Widening     | Tier 3   |

Source: Chattanooga-Hamilton County / North Georgia Long-Range Transportation Plan 2035



In 2001, U.S. 27 was relocated to route traffic around Chickamauga Battlefield Park. Using Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds, the National Park Service (NPS) sponsored a consultant study in 2003 to investigate changes in traffic patterns in and around the Chickamauga Battlefield Park resulting from the U.S. 27 relocation in Walker County. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) managed and administered the study which had two components: a *Traffic Impact Study* of an area outside the Chickamauga Battlefield Park bounded by Three Notch Road, SR 146, SR 193, and the City of Chickamauga; and a *Subarea Transportation Plan* for the Chickamauga Battlefield Unit of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The *Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Traffic Impact Study and Subarea Transportation Plan (2004)* identified current travel patterns in the study area, predicted future traffic patterns and conditions, and recommended short- and long-term transportation improvements to address issues and needs identified in the study. All recommendations took into account the needs of both the Chickamauga Battlefield Park and the surrounding communities, the interrelationships between their transportation systems, and the impacts of the area's future growth and development.

## Bridges

Walker County's transportation system includes 149 bridges according to the FHWA's National Bridge Inventory (NBI), updated on November 13, 2009. Of this total, twelve of the county's bridges are rated "structurally deficient" and an additional thirteen are rated "functionally obsolete." Bridge sufficiency ratings provide an overall measure of a bridge's condition and are used to determine eligibility for federal funds. According to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), a structurally deficient bridge is one that has significant load-bearing elements in deteriorated condition, requiring significant maintenance and repair to remain in service and eventual rehabilitation or replacement to address the deficiencies. A functionally obsolete bridge is one that was built to now-outdated standards, resulting in deficiencies such as inadequate lane or shoulder widths. Classification as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete is not meant to imply a bridge is unsafe. Tables 8-5 and 8-6 list bridge improvement projects in the FY 2011-2014 TIP and the FY 2011-2014 STIP, respectively.

Table 8-5 FY 2011-2014 TIP Bridge Projects

| Jurisdiction in which project is located | Project Description                   | Type of Work | Fiscal Year |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Walker County                            | CR 835 / Happy Valley Rd. at Overflow | CONST        | 2011        |

Source: Chattanooga Urban Area Transportation Improvement Program FY 2011-2014

Table 8-6 FY 2011-2014 STIP Bridge Projects

| Project Description                                       | Project Type       | Year |
|---|--------------------|------|
| SR 136 at West Chickamauga Creek, 5.7 mi. NW of LaFayette | Bridge replacement | 2012 |

Source: Georgia Department of Transportation, FY 2011-14 State Transportation Improvement Program



## **Railroads**

### **Freight Rail**

The Chattooga and Chickamauga Railway (reporting mark: CCKY) is a shortline freight railroad headquartered in LaFayette. It operates a 49-mile, light-density line (one that transports less than 3 million gross ton-miles per mile per year) from Lyerly, Georgia (Chattooga County) to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where it interchanges with Norfolk Southern. In Walker County, the Lyerly to Chattanooga line passes through LaFayette, Chickamauga, and Rossville. Formerly part of the Central of Georgia Railroad system, it is leased from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) which purchased it from Norfolk Southern in 1998. Since then, GDOT has worked with the Chattooga and Chickamauga Railway to increase freight traffic over the line. From 1999 to 2003, GDOT invested in a series of projects to rehabilitate this rail line segment; and as of December 2010, GDOT is in the beginning stages of additional rehabilitation work on this line segment from Lyerly to East Alton Park Junction, near Chattanooga. This proposed project would include the replacement of damaged rail, deck, or cross ties, as necessary, on the railroad and the in-kind replacement, as necessary, of members of bridges, such as caps and cross braces.

### **Passenger Rail**

Passenger rail operations in Georgia are provided by Amtrak, which is the only entity authorized to operate on any freight railroad nationwide. Currently, Atlanta is the closest city to Walker County that is served by Amtrak. The Crescent service offers daily trips between New York City and New Orleans via Atlanta.

The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum offers excursion passenger train services to Chickamauga on weekends from April through mid-November, departing from and returning to Grand Junction Station in Chattanooga. These trips last approximately 6  $\frac{3}{4}$  hours and include a 1  $\frac{3}{4}$ -hour layover in Chickamauga and a shorter stop at Wilder Tower in the Chattanooga-Chickamauga National Military Park during the return trip to Chattanooga. Excursion rail services are a valuable part of the state's economic development since these services attract tourists to the areas served.

## **Trucking**

In Georgia, trucking is the dominant mode for transporting freight, accounting for 72% of the freight tonnage and 82% of the value. Trucks carry almost all of the intrastate shipments of freight in Georgia. The mode share for trucking is projected to be 79% by weight and 86% by volume by 2035. The interstate highways carry the highest volumes of freight at present and are expected to remain the principal facilities for transporting truck freight well into the future. The Governor's Road Improvement Program (GRIP) highways in rural areas and other arterial

roads that connect urban areas to the interstate highways also are expected to carry significant volumes of truck freight in the future.

I-75, to the east, I-24, to the north, and I-59, to the west, are in close proximity to Walker County. These interstate highways carry a large volume of truck freight due to their ability to link local businesses with national markets and ocean ports for international markets. According to the *2005-2035 Georgia Statewide Freight Plan*, significant highways within Walker County for transporting truck freight are US-27/GA-1, especially from Rock Spring to the Chattooga County line; GA-151; GA-95; Ga-136, especially from the intersection with GA-151 to the Gordon County line and from the intersection with US-27/GA-1, north of LaFayette, to the Dade County line; and GA-341/GA-193 from Chickamauga to the Tennessee state line. Only the route following GA-95, GA-151 from the intersection with GA-95 to the intersection with GA-136, and GA-136 from the intersection with GA-151 to the Gordon County line, however, carries in excess of one million tons of freight annually. Forecasts for 2035 also show the portion of GA-136 from the intersection of GA-193 to the Dade County line and the portion of US-27/GA-1 from the intersection with GA-151 to the Chattooga County line to increase in volume of freight carried to more than one million tons annually.

## Airports

The nearest commercial service airport to Walker County is the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport, with services by Allegiant Air, American Eagle, Delta, and US Airways. One general aviation airport, Barwick-LaFayette Airport (FAA LID: 9A5), is located in Walker County. This public airport, owned and operated by the City of LaFayette, is located one mile south of LaFayette's central business district and can be accessed from the north and south via US-27 / GA-1 and from the southeast and northwest via GA-136. The Barwick-LaFayette Airport accommodates a variety of aviation-related activities, including recreational flying, agricultural spraying, and law enforcement. According to the Georgia Aviation System Plan, the Barwick-LaFayette Airport has been classified as a Level II public use airport, capable of accommodating all business and personal use single and twin-engine general aviation aircraft and a broad range of the corporate/business jet fleet. Types of aircraft that Level II airports should be able to accommodate include the Gulfstream I-III and the Cessna Citation. Based aircraft at the Barwick-LaFayette Airport have increased from 30 in 1990 to 47 at present. Aircraft based at the airport are expected to increase to 57 by 2021. For the 12-month period ending June 11, 2009, the airport had approximately 6,708 aircraft operations. Of these, 52% were transient general aviation, 47% were local general aviation, and 1% were military. The number of aircraft operations is projected to increase to 7,214 by 2021, by which time the Barwick-LaFayette Airport is expected to reach 9% of its available annual operating capacity.

There are also several private landing strips in Walker County, all located in the southwestern section of the county. These private facilities include the following: Gibson Field Airport (GE05), Hogjowl Airport (GE11), Mount Cove Airport (7GA5), and Valley View Ranch Airport.

Other general aviation airports located within 25 nautical miles of the Barwick-LaFayette Airport are as follows: Dalton Municipal Airport (21nm E), Isbell Field Airport, Fort Payne, Alabama (25 nm SW), Lovell Field Airport, Chattanooga, Tennessee (21 nm N), Richard B. Russell Airport, Rome (21 nm S), and Tom B. David Field Airport, Calhoun (22 nm SE).

## **Public Transit**

### **Walker County Transit**

Local transit service is provided by a federally-funded public service for non-urbanized areas that is administered by GDOT. The “Section 5311” grant program facilitates a dial-a-ride service that is available to Walker County residents for various trip purposes. The transit system, dispatched from the Walker County Road Department at 91 Industrial Drive, Chickamauga, operates eleven wheelchair-accessible vans Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. WCT vans provide pre-scheduled, curb-to-curb transportation to destinations within Walker County and most of Catoosa County (excluding the City of Ringgold). Much of the Chattanooga area also is covered, including downtown and as far north as Gunbarrel Road at Shallowford Road for medical purposes. Transportation appointments should be scheduled by noon the day before. Cost is \$2.00 for each one-way trip. Clients covered by Medicaid must use a Medicaid transportation provider for medical appointments.

### **Lookout Mountain Community Services (LMCS) Board**

The Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) contracts with Lookout Mountain Community Services (LMCS), a nonprofit organization, to provide transportation services to six northwest Georgia counties: Dade, Catoosa, Walker, Chattooga, Floyd, and Paulding. The LMCS Transportation Department maintains over 115 vehicles in support of its demand-response, door-to-door transit service for consumers and seniors that participate in DHR-approved programs. Trip purposes include medical/healthcare, employment, and social / recreational activities.

### **Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority**

There is potential for public transit services also to be provided by the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA). CARTA is currently the only provider of fixed route mass transit in the Chattanooga area. The authority currently operates 16 bus routes that serve the City of Chattanooga, but it is authorized to provide transit in Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties.

CARTA and the TPO published the *Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan* in October 2007. The goals of the plan included: (1) enabling financially disadvantaged individuals to access job opportunities and childcare services to move them toward permanent economic independence; (2) providing additional tools to

overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society; and (3) improving mobility for elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities throughout the TPO area. The plan's steering committee generally noted a great need for public transportation outside of the city limits of Chattanooga. Areas in the TPO area that were of particular concern included Lookout Mountain and Rossville.

## **Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities**

### **Bicycle**

Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia (BWNWGA) is a membership organization of citizens, government agency representatives, and business representatives interested in transportation planning pertaining to bicycling and pedestrian activities. The mission of BWNWGA is to devise a plan and programs to facilitate and promote the safe use of bicycles and walking as viable modes of transportation and recreation for all ages and skill levels through the pursuit of infrastructure improvements, such that all cities and counties in the Northwest Georgia region are interconnected with bike and pedestrian trails and paths.

BWNWGA has identified a network of 18 bike routes connecting cities and points of interest in the 15-county Northwest Georgia region and connecting to adjacent bike routes in Georgia and Tennessee. The identified routes are roads typically used by local cyclists for transportation and recreation. Map 17 in Chapter 9 of this appendix shows the eight BWNWGA bike routes that have mileage in Walker County. Most routes share the road with other vehicles. Signing of the BWNWGA bike routes is in progress throughout the region, but currently, no routes are signed in Walker County. Signing of the eight routes in Walker County is expected to be completed in 2011.

For additional information about Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia and its bike routes, go to <http://www.bwnwga.org>. For recommended bicycle accommodations within the Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO boundary, see the *Chattanooga Area Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* (2010), available at [http://www.chcrpa.org/TPO/Plans\\_and\\_Projects.htm](http://www.chcrpa.org/TPO/Plans_and_Projects.htm).

### **Pedestrian**

Sidewalks in Walker County are primarily situated around the downtown areas of Chickamauga, LaFayette, Lookout Mountain, and Rossville. Recreational walking tracks, trails, and multi-use trails are provided in the Cities of Chickamauga, LaFayette, and Rossville (see Parks and Recreation in Chapter 6 of this appendix). Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia provides a list of Walker County trails for recreational walking and hiking. These trails, located in the county's major conservation and recreation areas, include the following: Chickamauga Creek Trail, John's Mountain Trail, Keown Falls Trail, Pinhoti Trail, and Pocket Trail in the Chattahoochee National Forest; North Pocket Trail, Rock Town Trail, and South Pocket Trail in the Crockford-

Pigeon Mountain WMA; and Glen Falls Trail in the Lookout Mountain Battlefield unit of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. There are also more than six miles of trails on the Lula Lake Land Trust's core property that are periodically open to the public (see Park, Recreation, and Conservation Areas in Chapter 5 of this appendix).

Walker County subdivision regulations require sidewalks (7-foot minimum width) to be placed on both sides of streets in a commercial subdivision and may require sidewalks (4-foot minimum width) in a residential subdivision in the vicinity of schools or other community facilities. The Coosa Valley Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (June 2005) identified three schools in Walker County that could benefit from additional sidewalks: LaFayette High School, 301 North Cherokee Street, LaFayette (new high school now located at 5178 Round Pond Road); LaFayette Middle School, 419 Road Runner Boulevard, LaFayette; and Gilbert Elementary School, 87 South Burnt Mill Road, LaFayette.

The Chattanooga Area Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (April 2010) is a comprehensive plan for walking and bicycling travel in the TPO region. The plan recommends sidewalk accommodations on all federally classified arterial roadways within an Urban Growth Boundary of the Hamilton County portion of the TPO area and within a city limit in the Georgia portion of the TPO area.

## **Complete Streets**

Complete Streets, in essence, is the concept of completing our streets to better connect people and places with multimodal transportation options. Rather than viewing multimodal streets as special projects that require additional planning and funding, the intent of the Complete Streets approach is to view all transportation improvements as opportunities to create safer, more accessible streets for all users, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit passengers of all ages, as well as automobiles, trucks, and buses. Ideally, Complete Streets policies should result in the development of a complete transportation network for all transportation modes. These policies do not envision a system where every street is ideal for every user, but rather a network of interwoven streets that emphasize different modes and provide quality accessibility for everyone, without the need for some users to take long detours. Complete Streets design elements include striped bicycle lanes, sidewalks, ADA elements, and transit-supportive, non-roadway infrastructure (e.g., bus stops and bus shelters).

The complete streets concept was integrated into the 2035 LRTP development process, including a complete streets performance measure as part of the performance-based planning framework. Table 8-7 identifies potential Complete Streets projects in Walker County.

**Table 8-7 Potential Complete Streets Projects in Walker County**

| Jurisdiction in which project is located | Project Description   | Potential Complete Streets Elements <sup>1</sup> | Complete Streets Modes |         |      |     |
|--|---|--|------------------------|---------|------|-----|
|  |   |  | Auto                   | Transit | Bike | Ped |
| Rossville                                | Widen (2 to 4 lanes) McFarland Ave. from Chickamauga Ave. to SR 341 | √  | √                      |         | √    | √   |

<sup>1</sup>Indicates projects that include more than automobile elements (i.e., transit, bicycle, and/or pedestrian)

Source: Chattanooga-Hamilton County / North Georgia Long-Range Transportation Plan 2035

## **ATLAS OF MAPS**

**Map 1: Environmental Planning Criteria**

**Map 2: Slope Analysis**

**Map 3: 100-Year Floodplains**

**Map 4: General Soil Map**

**Map 5: Major Park, Recreation, and Conservation Areas**

**Map 6: Cultural Resources – Walker County**

**Map 7: Cultural Resources – City of Chickamauga**

**Map 8: Cultural Resources – City of LaFayette**

**Map 9: Cultural Resources – City of Lookout Mountain**

**Map 10: Cultural Resources – City of Rossville**

**Map 11: Water Service Areas**

**Map 12: Sewer Service Areas**

**Map 13: Fire Protection and Public Safety**

**Map 14: Community Facilities**

**Map 15: Road Jurisdiction Classification**

**Map 16: Road Network Functional Classification**

**Map 17: Bicycle Routes**



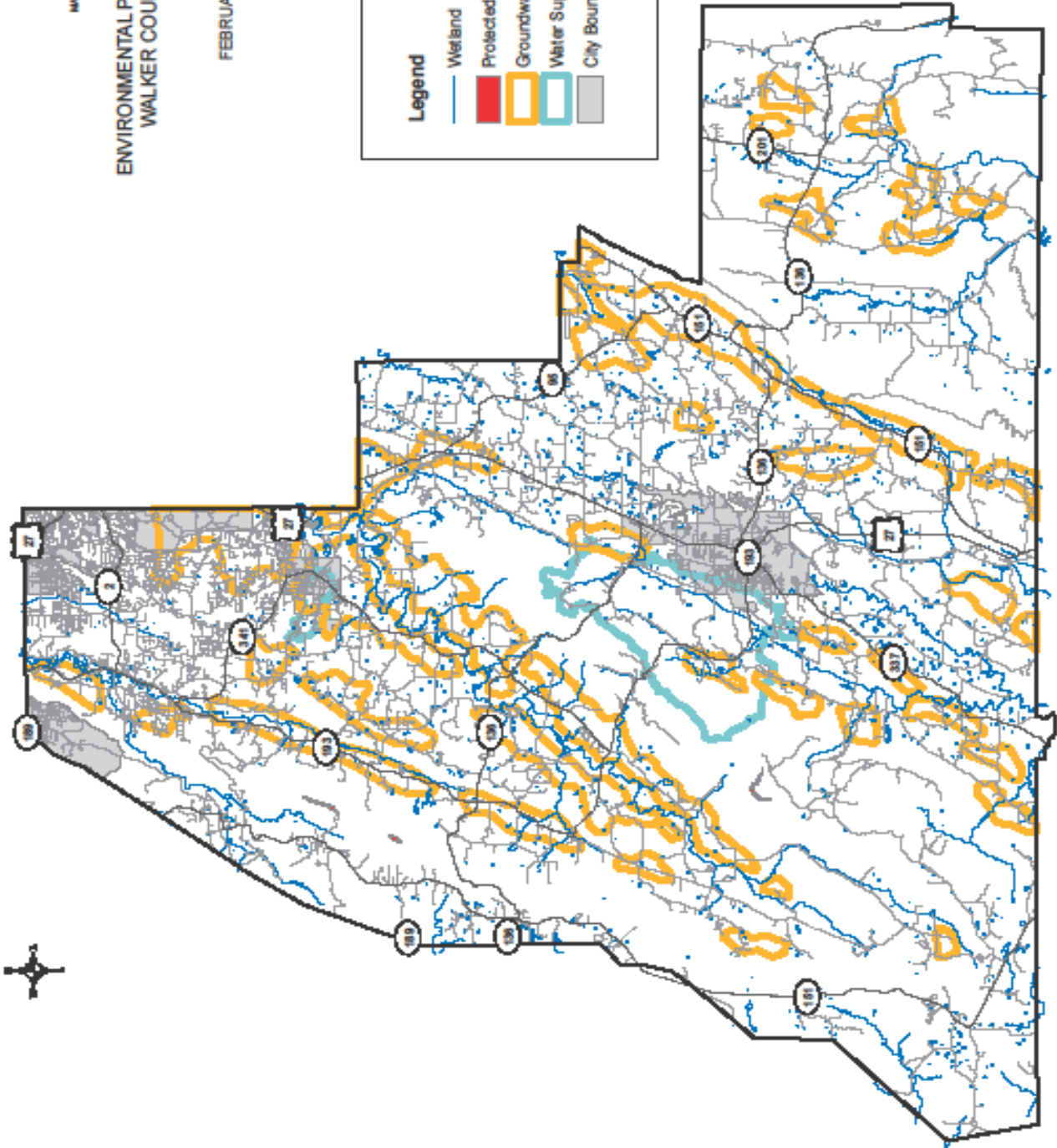
MAP 1

# ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING CRITERIA WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY, 2011

**Legend**

- Wetland
- Protected Mountain
- Groundwater Recharge Area
- Water Supply Watershed
- City Boundary

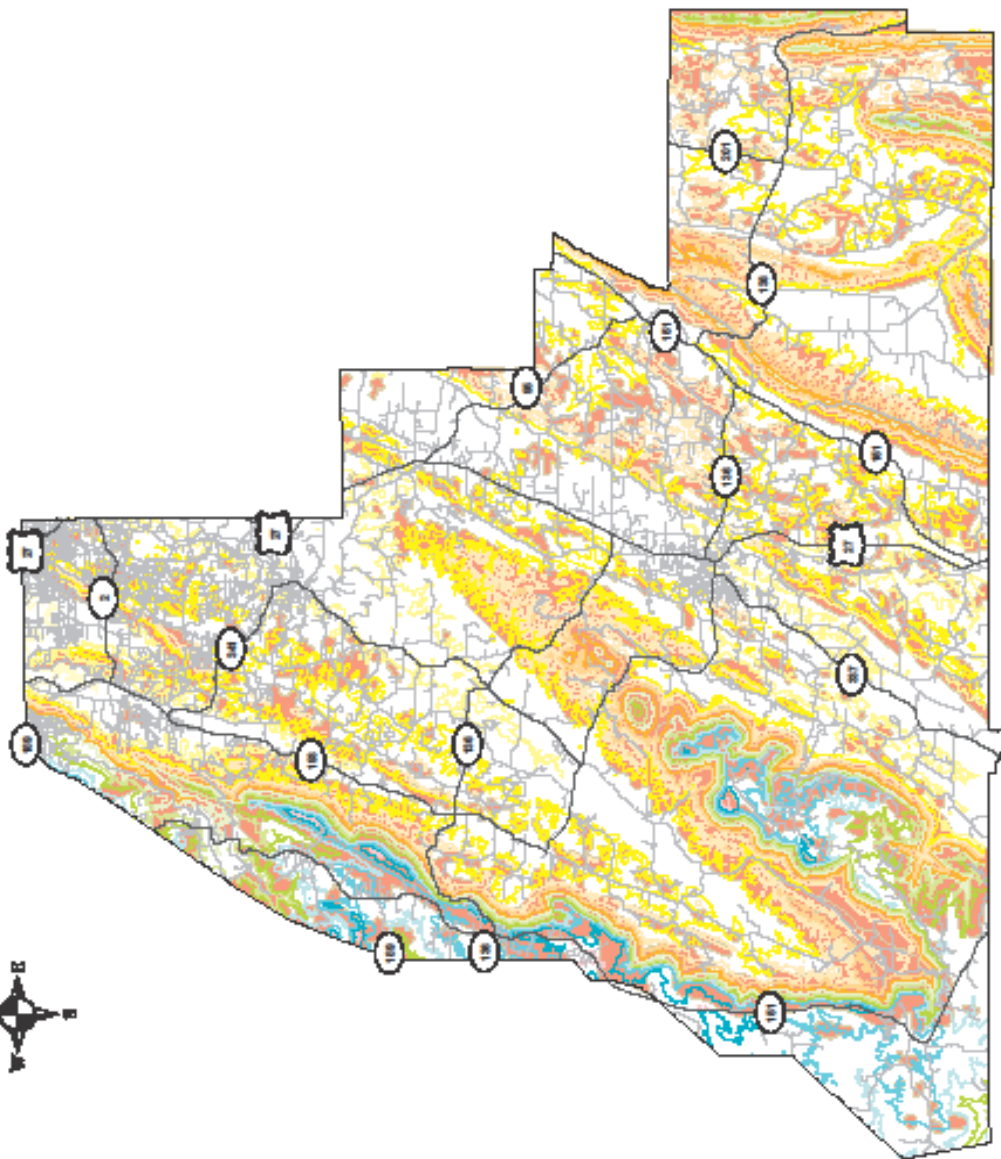




MAP 2

# SLOPE ANALYSIS WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY, 2011



**Legend**

**Contours**

- 666
- 787
- 918
- 1049
- 1181
- 1312
- 1443
- 1574
- 1706
- 1837
- 1968
- 2099
- 2230
- 2362

Severe Slopes 2.5% or Greater



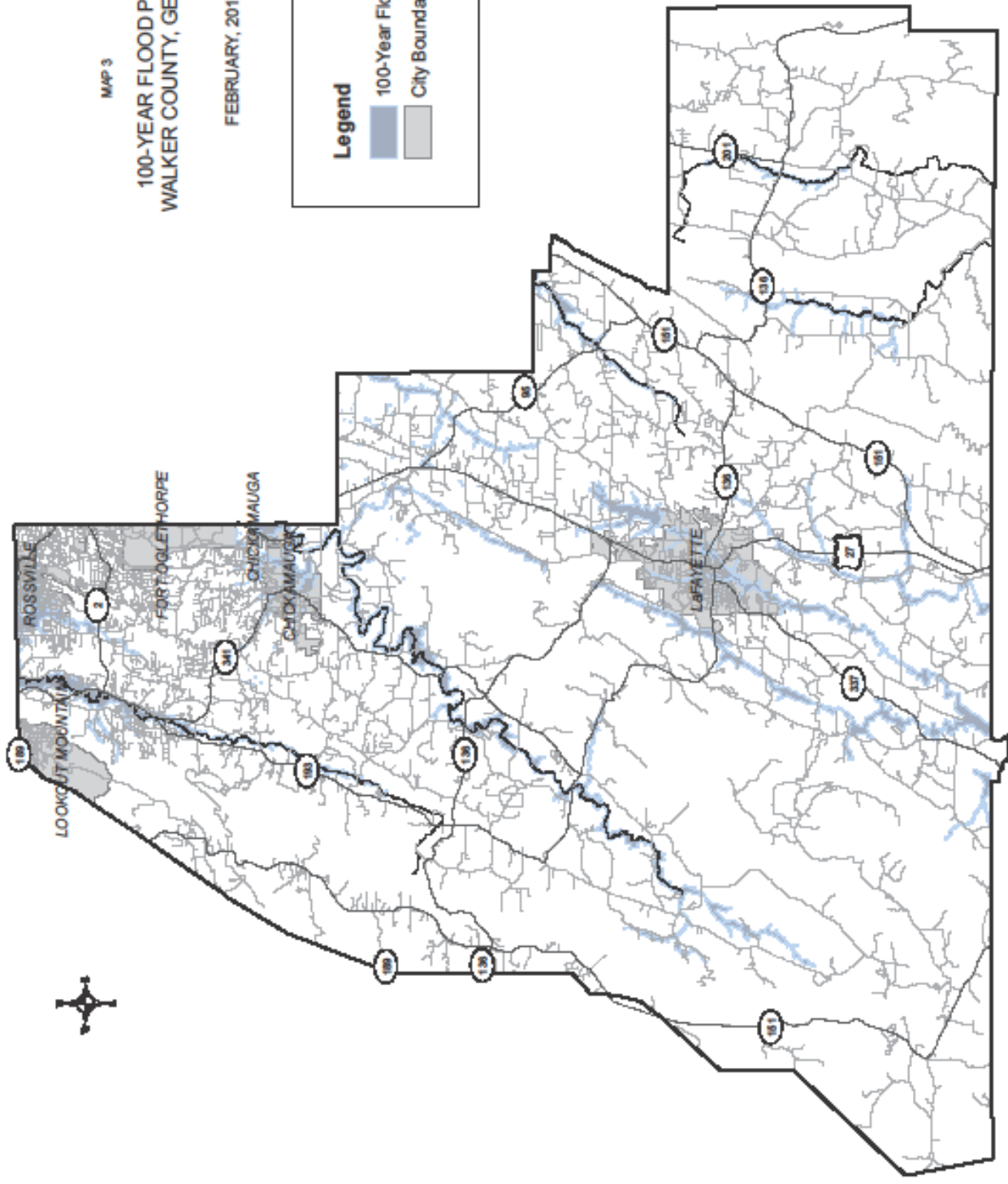
MAP 3

# 100-YEAR FLOOD PLAIN WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY, 2011

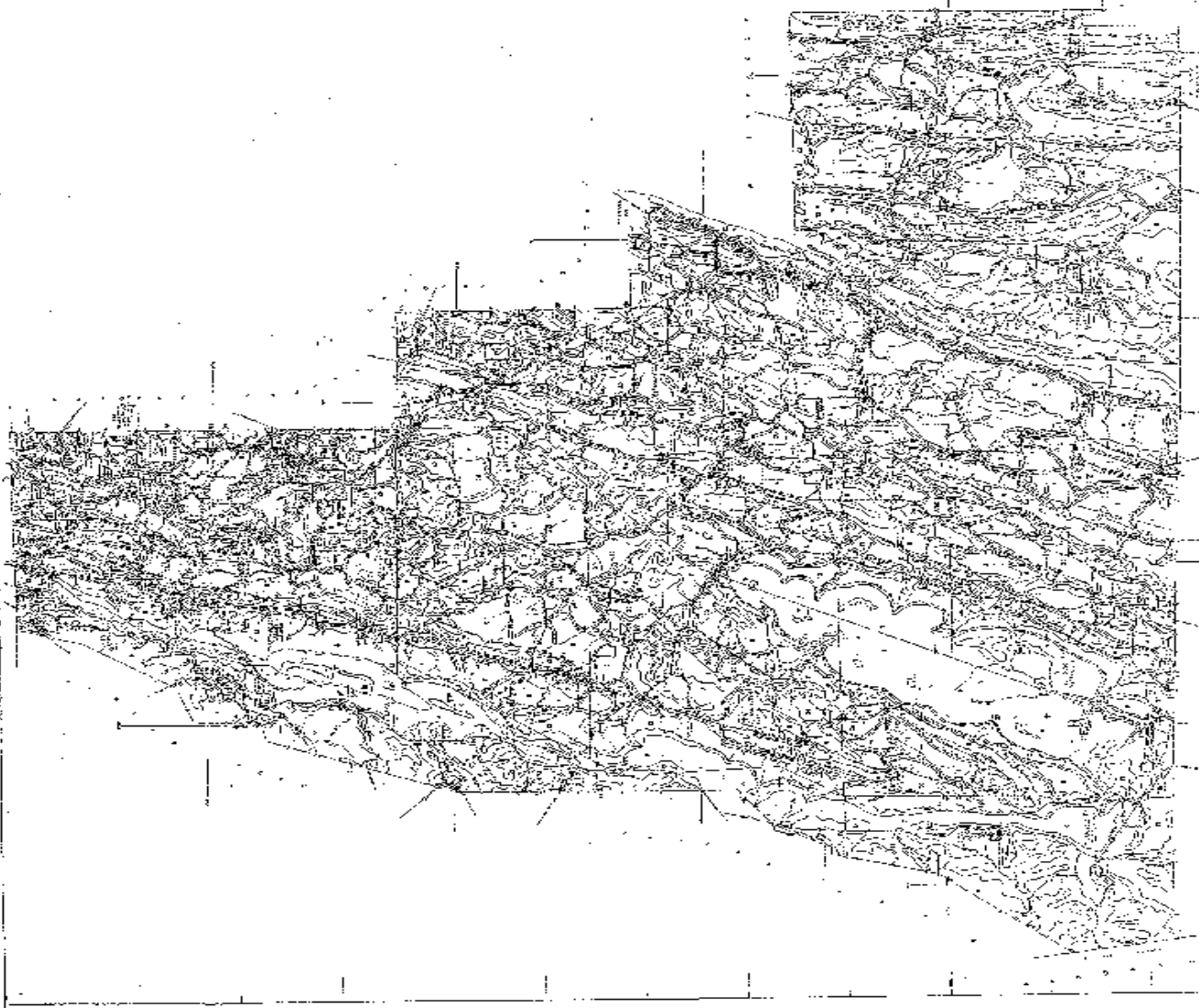
### Legend

- 100-Year Flood Plain
- City Boundary



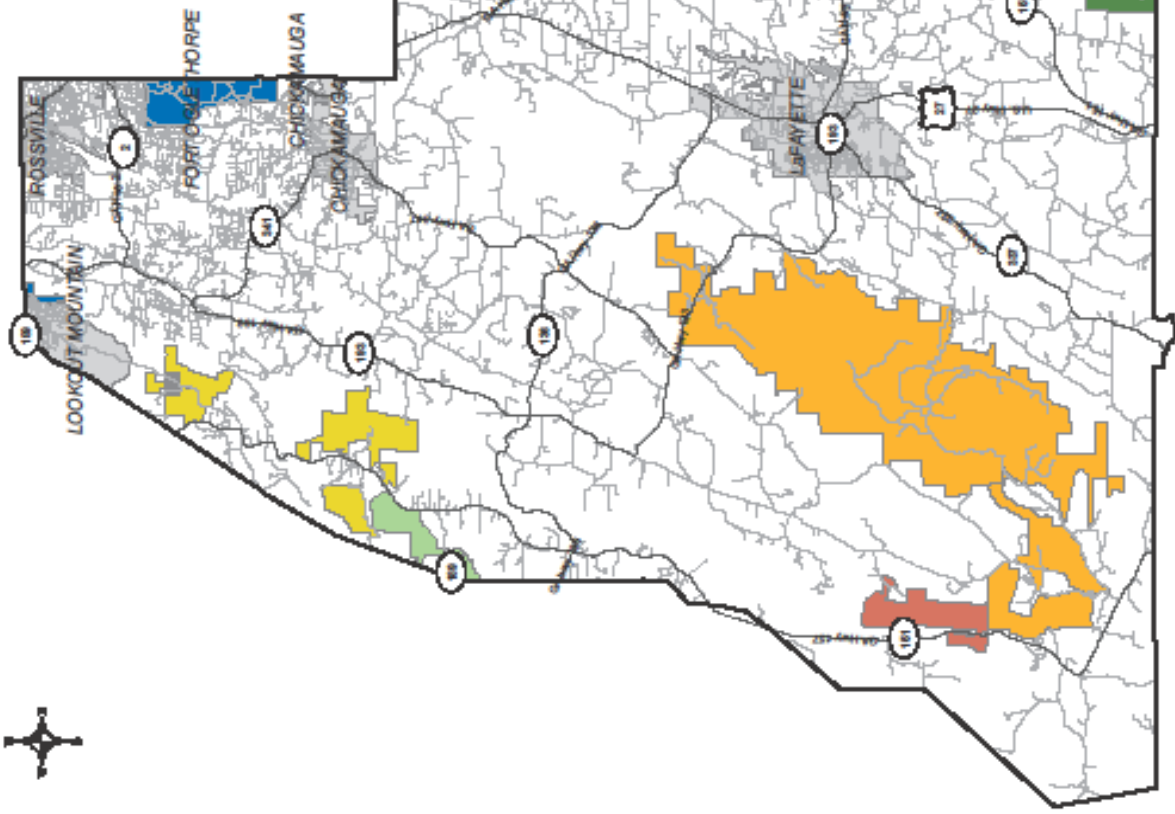
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MAP 4  
 ORIGINAL COL. MAP  
 WALKER COUNTY  
 GEORGIA  
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 1:250,000  
 1:500,000  
 1:1,000,000  
 1:2,000,000  
 1:5,000,000  
 1:10,000,000  
 1:20,000,000  
 1:50,000,000  
 1:100,000,000  
 1:200,000,000  
 1:500,000,000  
 1:1,000,000,000



# MAJOR PARK, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AREAS WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY, 2011





MAP 6

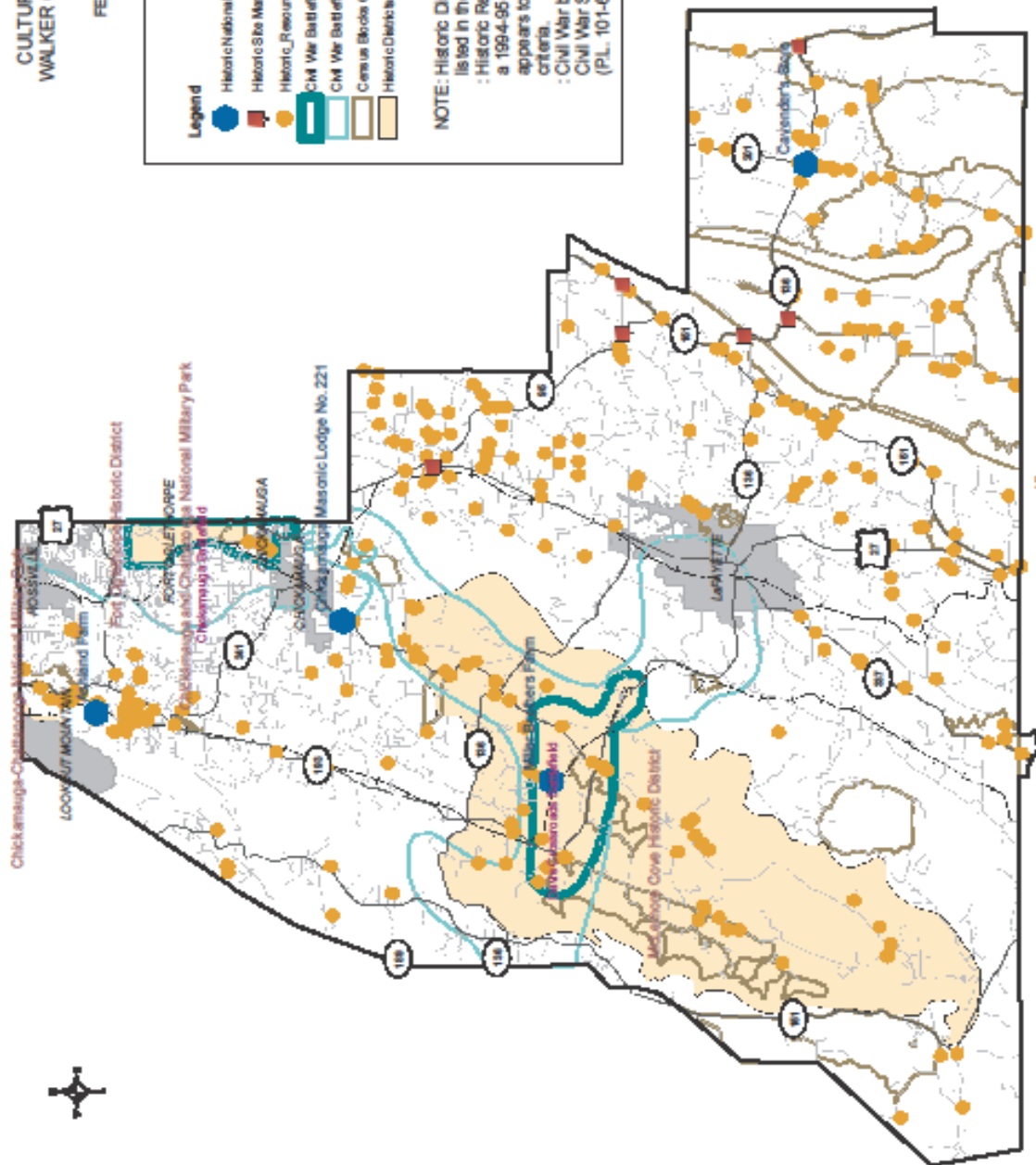
CULTURAL RESOURCES  
WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

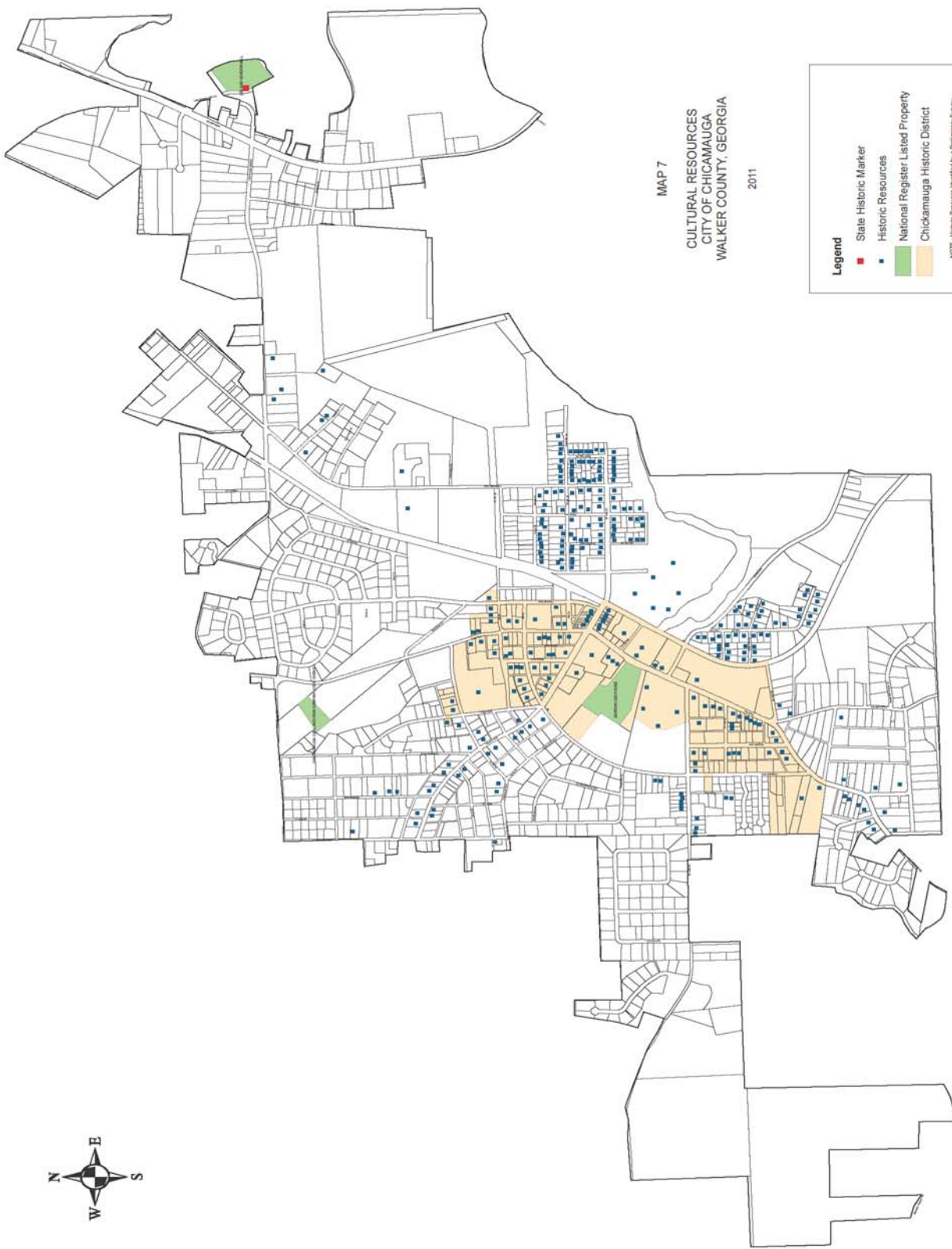
FEBRUARY, 2011

**Legend**

- Historic National Register Site
- Historic Site Marker
- Historic Resource
- Civil War Battlefield Core Area
- Civil War Battlefield Study Area
- Census Block Containing Recorded Archeological Site(s)
- Historic Districts

**NOTE:** Historic Districts are areas listed in the National Register.  
: Historic Resource, identified by a 1994-95 DNR survey, that appears to meet National Register criteria.  
: Civil War Sites Advisory Committee (PL. 101-628)





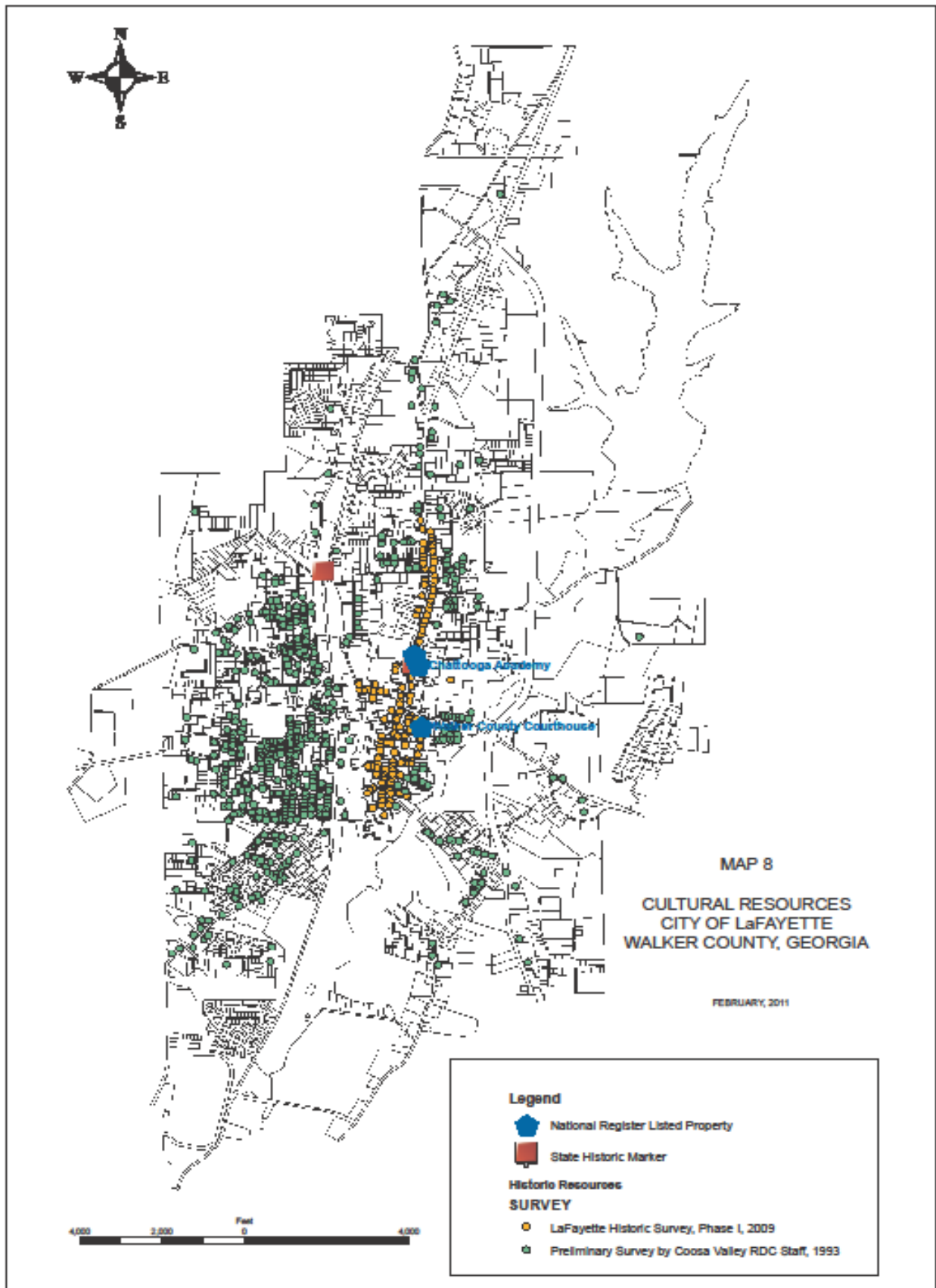
MAP 7  
CULTURAL RESOURCES  
CITY OF CHICAMAUGA  
WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA  
2011

**Legend**

- State Historic Marker
- Historic Resources
- National Register Listed Property
- Chickamauga Historic District

NOTE: Historic Resources identified by a Professional Survey  
Conducted by Chickamauga HPC Staff, 2008.



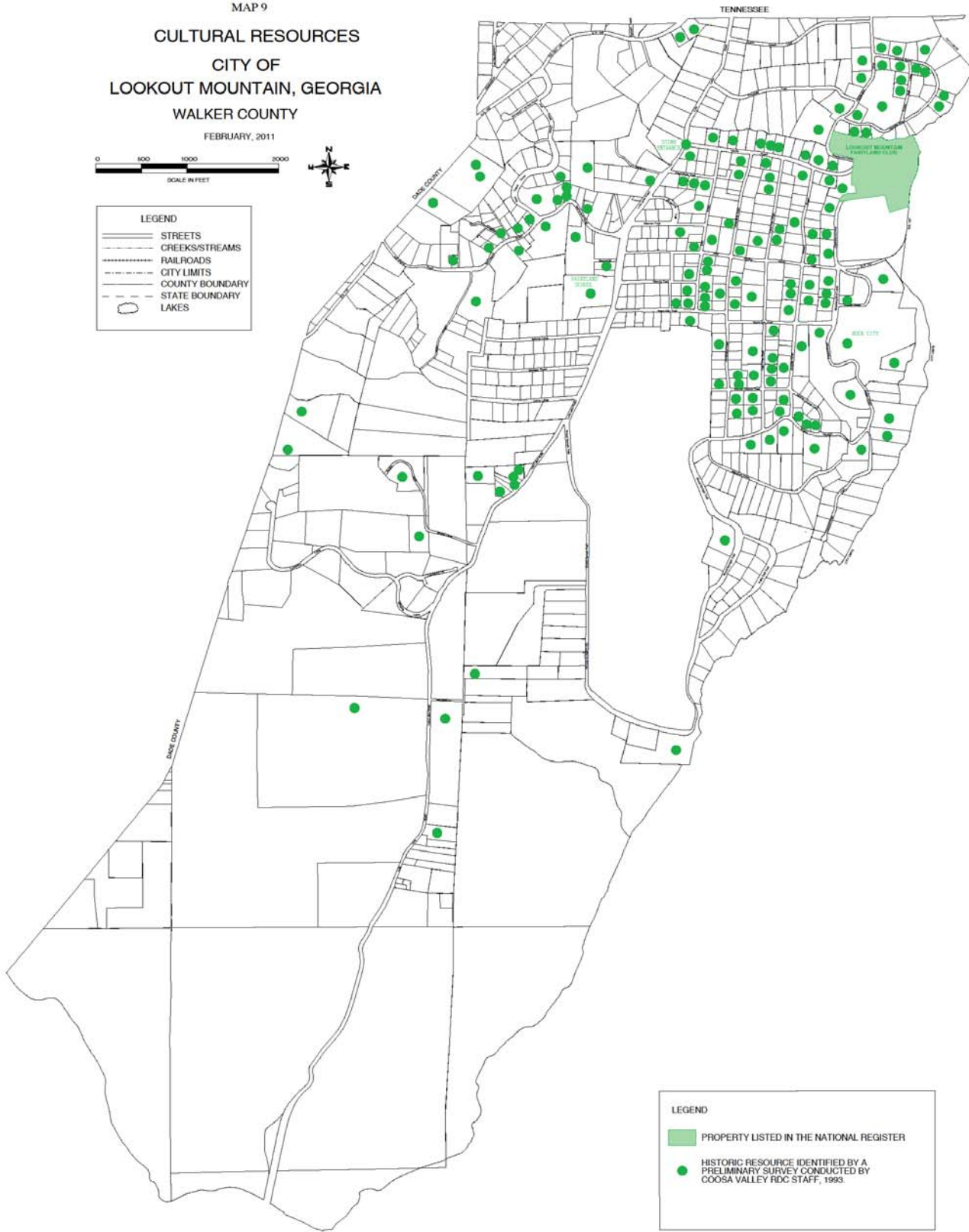


MAP 9  
**CULTURAL RESOURCES**  
**CITY OF**  
**LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA**  
**WALKER COUNTY**

FEBRUARY, 2011



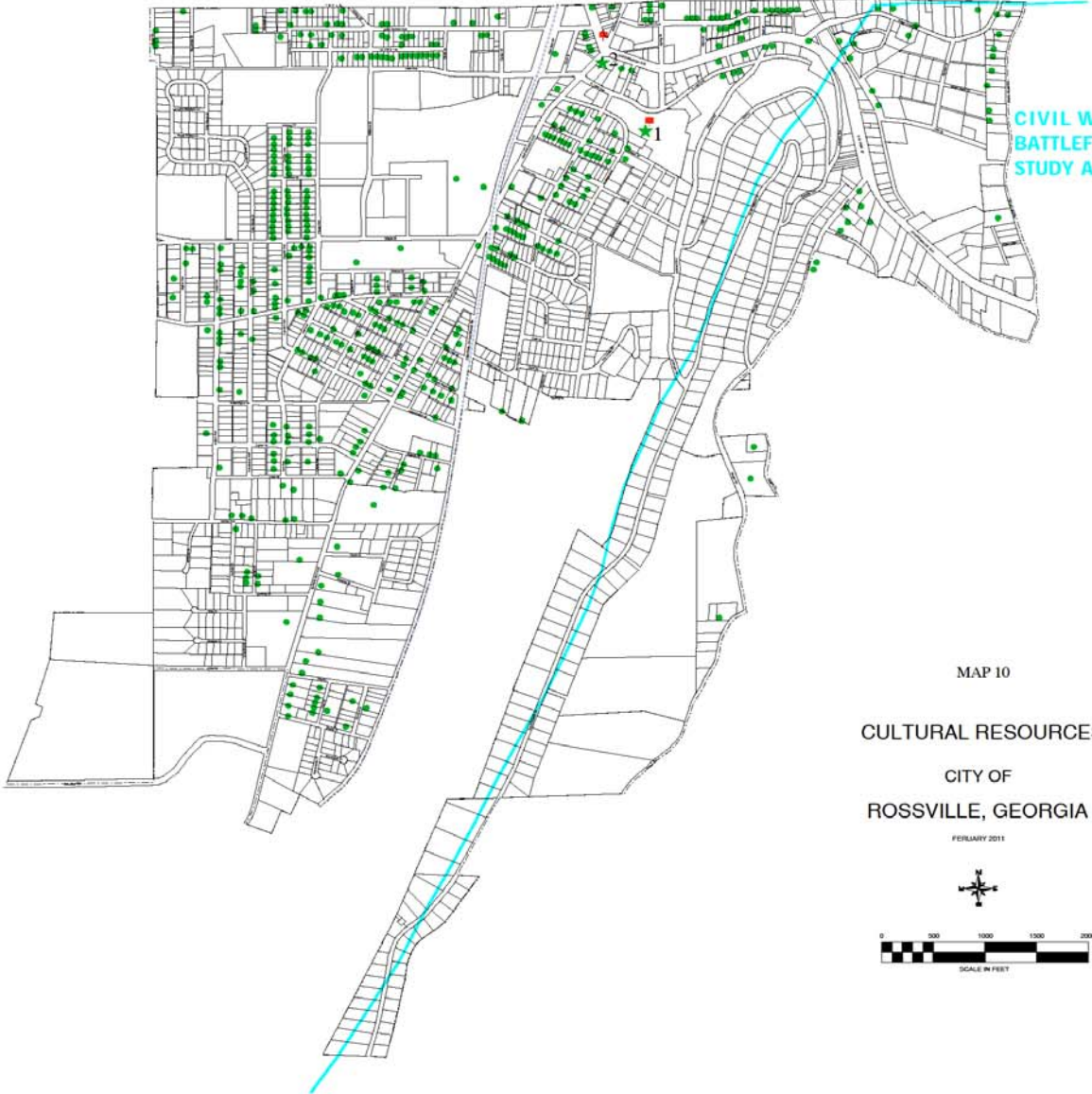
| LEGEND |                 |
|--------|-----------------|
|        | STREETS         |
|        | CREEKS/STREAMS  |
|        | RAILROADS       |
|        | CITY LIMITS     |
|        | COUNTY BOUNDARY |
|        | STATE BOUNDARY  |
|        | LAKES           |



| LEGEND |   |
|--------|---|
|        | PROPERTY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER  |
|        | HISTORIC RESOURCE IDENTIFIED BY A PRELIMINARY SURVEY CONDUCTED BY COOSA VALLEY RDC STAFF, 1993. |

PREPARED BY THE COOSA VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER.  
 THIS MAP IS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY. ADDITIONAL RESEARCH  
 MAY BE NECESSARY FOR SITE SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS.





CIVIL WAR  
BATTLEFIELD  
STUDY AREA

MAP 10

CULTURAL RESOURCES  
CITY OF  
ROSSVILLE, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY 2011

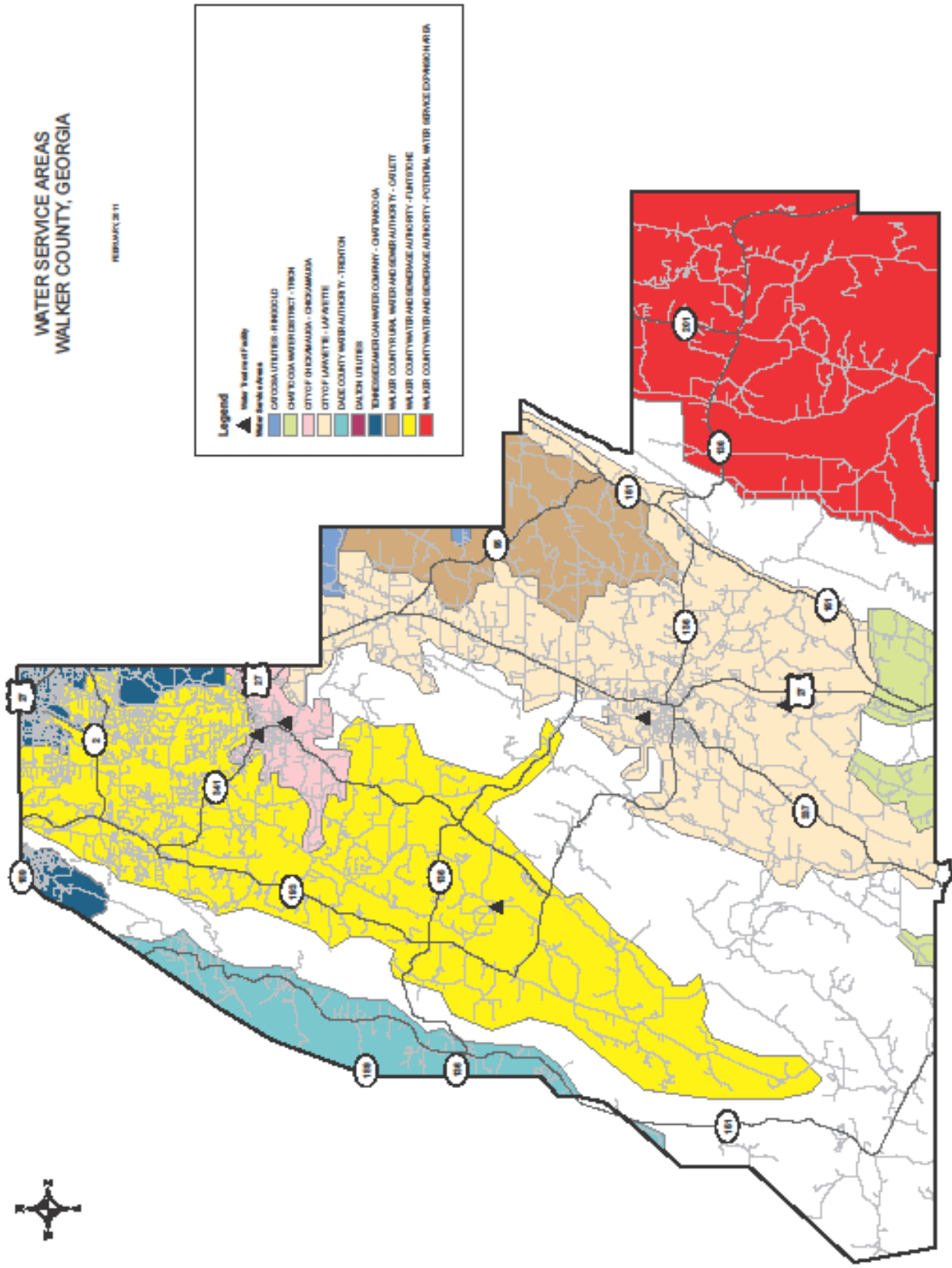


- LEGEND
- RESOURCE IDENTIFIED BY A PRELIMINARY SURVEY CONDUCTED BY COGESA VALLEY FRC STAFF, 1994.
  - ★ PROPERTY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
1 - JOHN PICES HOUSE  
2 - U.S. POST OFFICE - HICKSVILLE MAIN
  - STATE HISTORICAL MARKER

PREPARED BY THE COGESA VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
THIS MAP IS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY. ADDITIONAL RESEARCH  
MAY BE NECESSARY FOR SITE SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS.

# WATER SERVICE AREAS WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY 2011



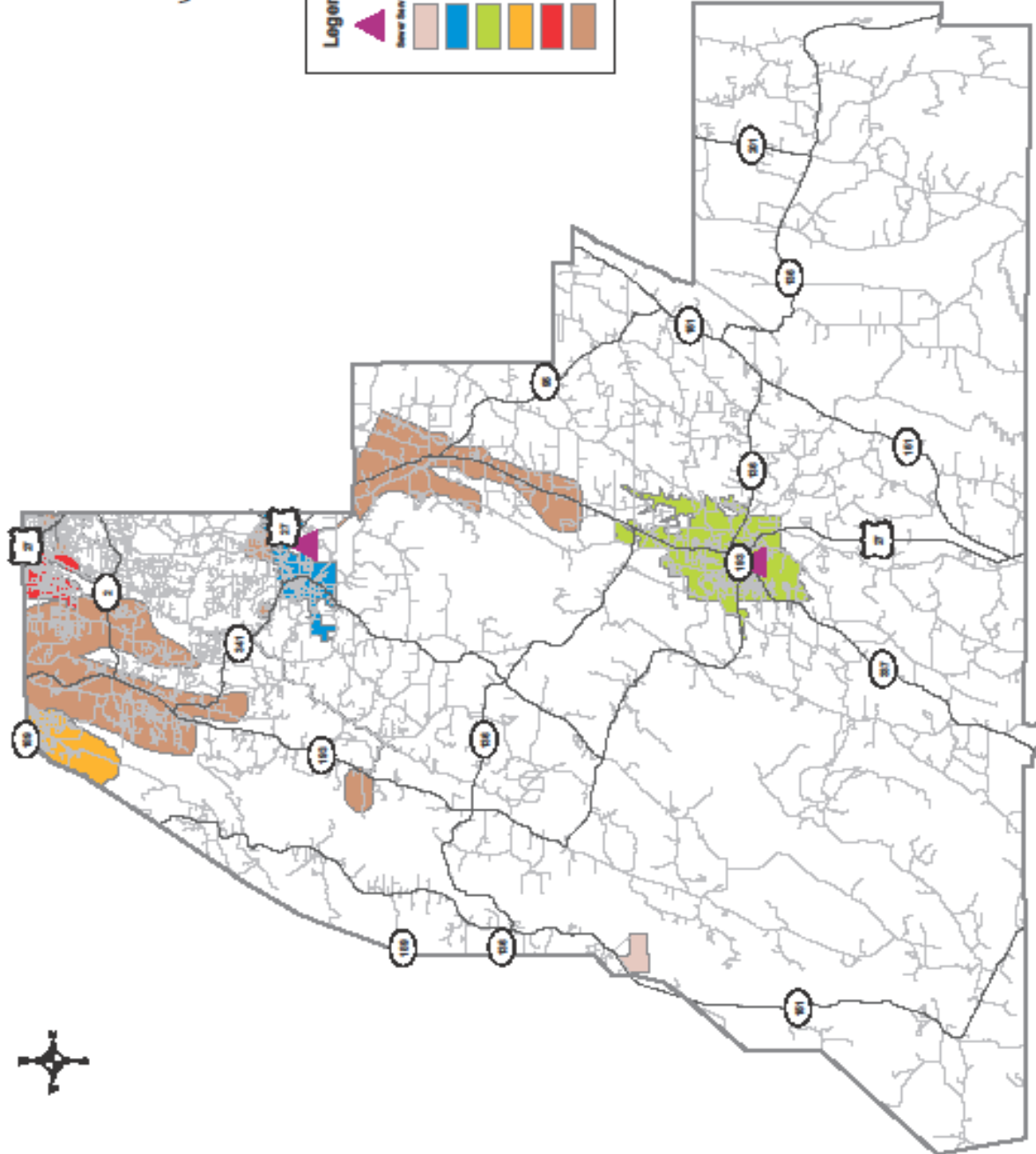
MP-13

SEWER SERVICE AREAS  
WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY, 2011

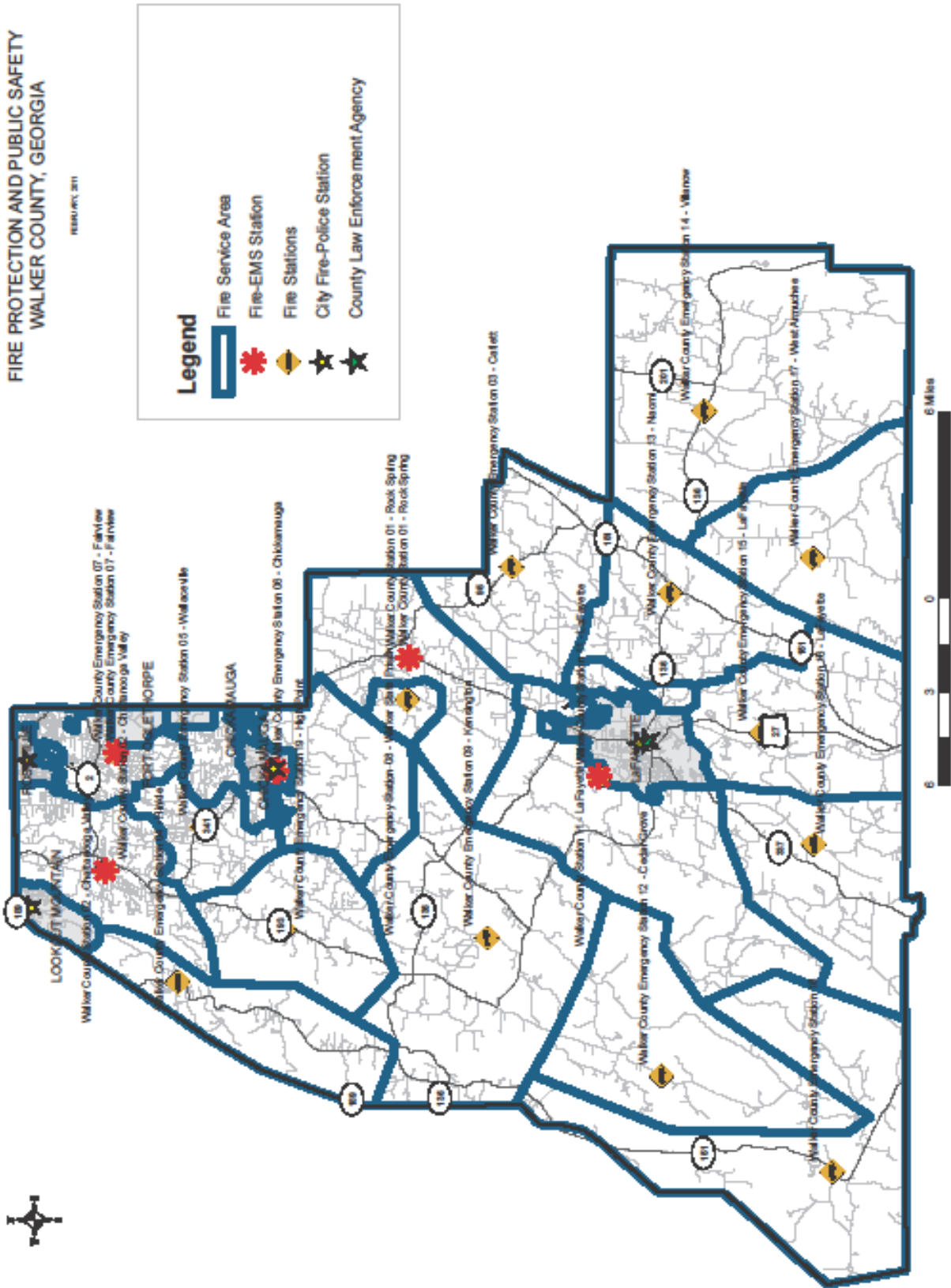
Legend

- Water Pollution Control Plant
- Sewer Service Area
- Carroll Ridge Sewer Service Area
- Chickamauga Sewer Service Area
- LeFayette/Sewer Service Area
- Leitch/McIntosh Sewer Service Area
- Northwest Sewer Service Area
- Walker Water and Sewer Authority Sewer Service Area



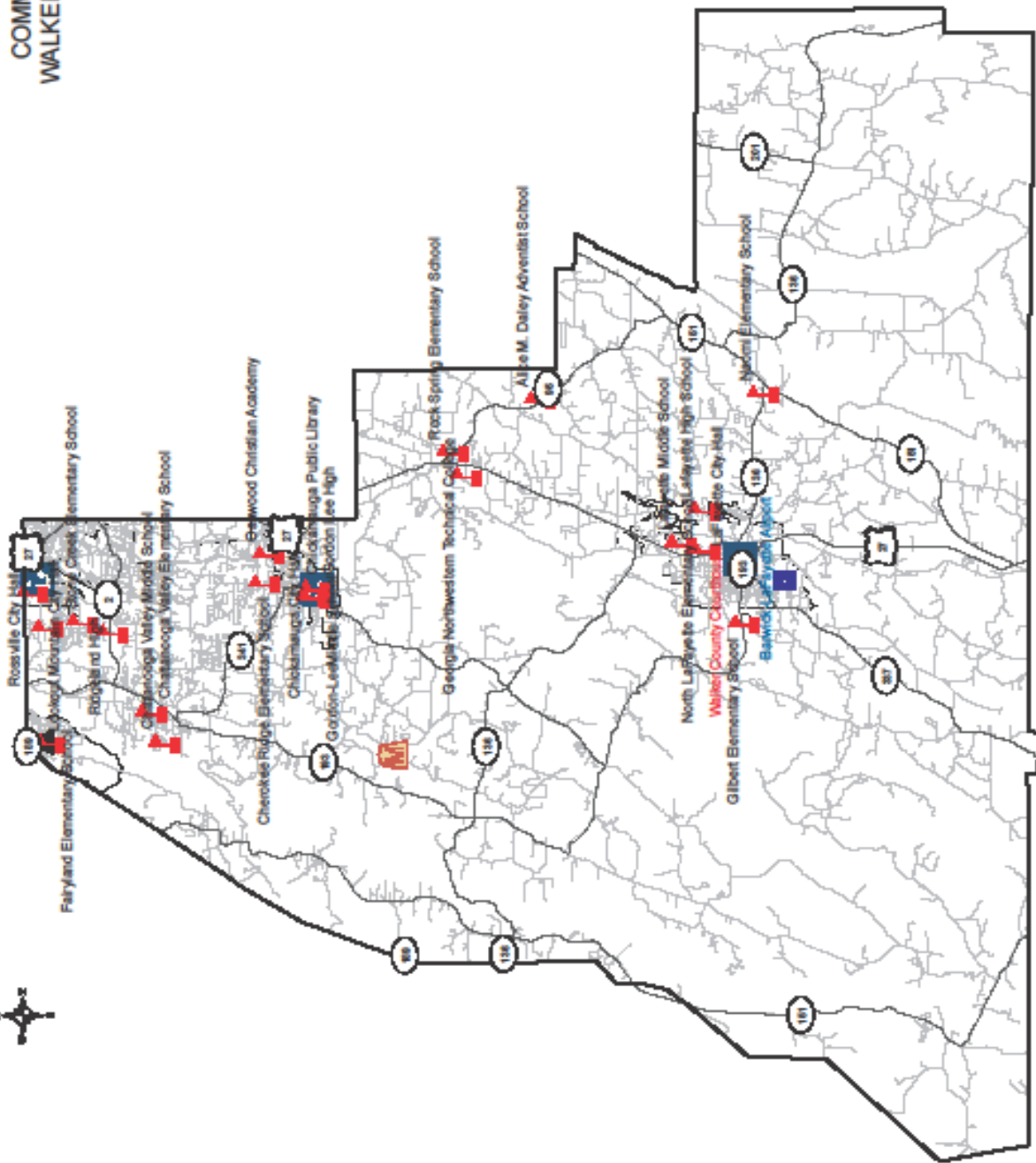
# FIRE PROTECTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

REVISION: 2011



# COMMUNITY FACILITIES WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

February, 2011

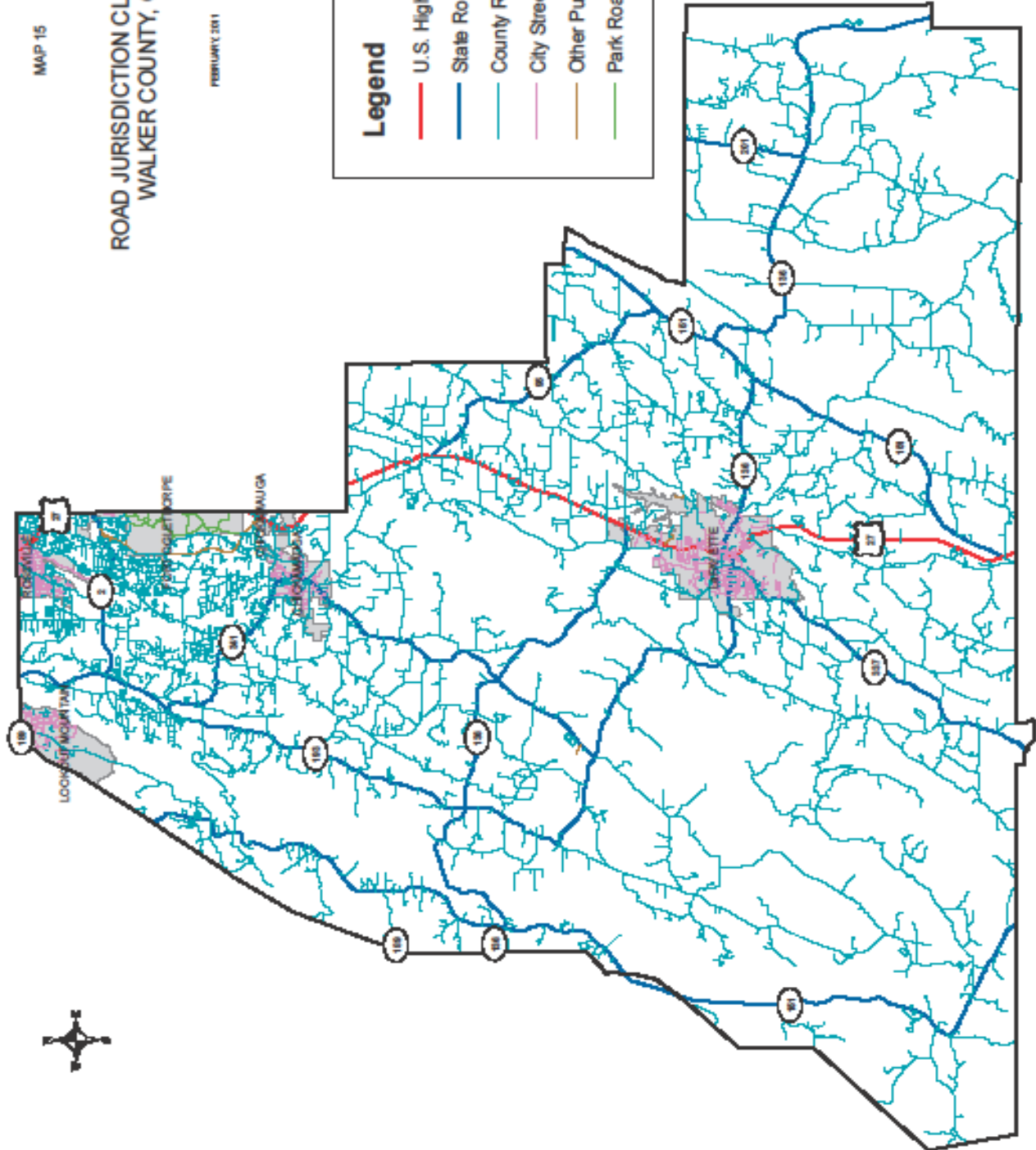




MAP 15

# ROAD JURISDICTION CLASSIFICATION WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

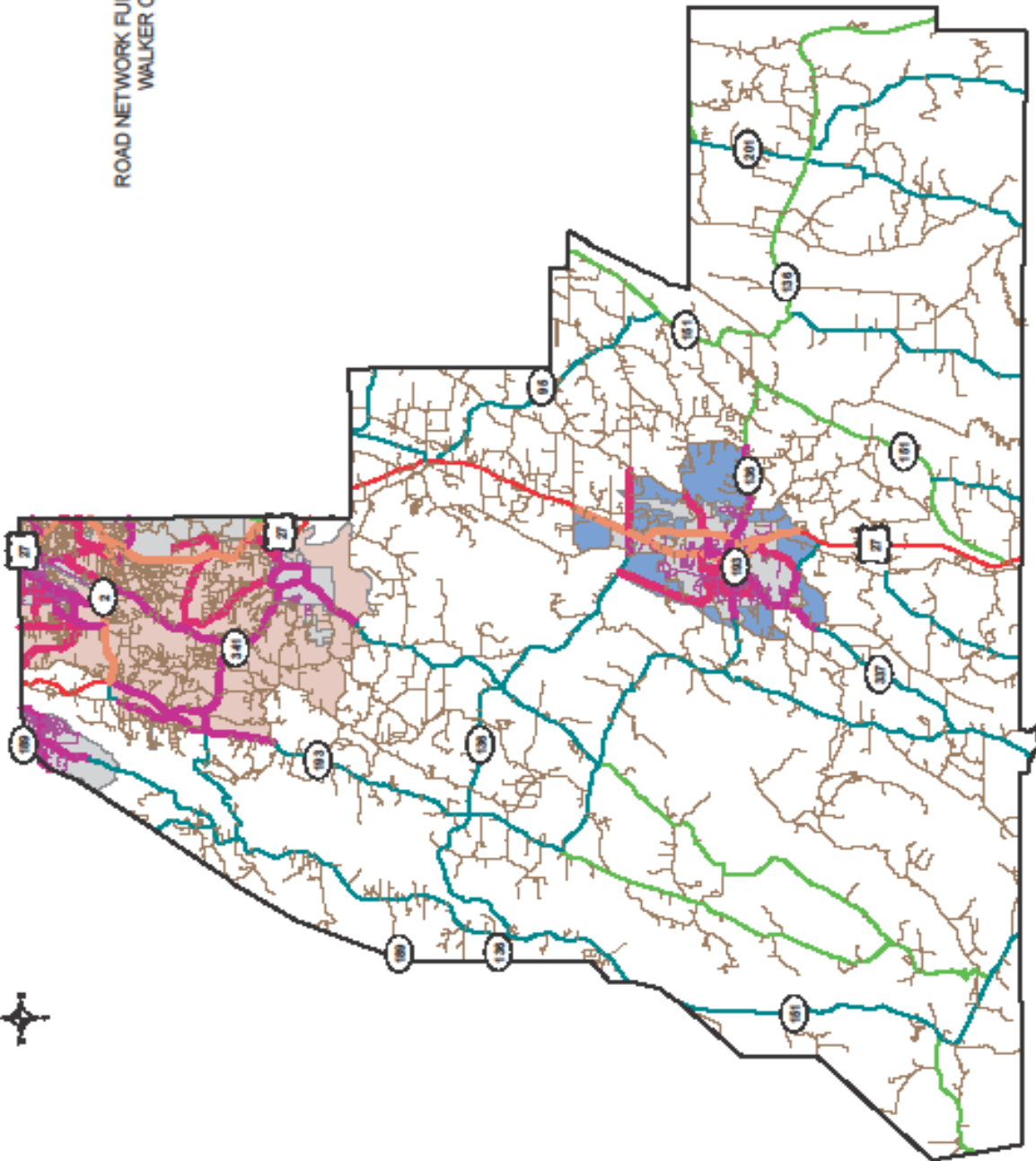
FEBRUARY 2011



MAP 10

# ROAD NETWORK FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY 2016



**Legend**

- Road Function
  - Principal Arterial (Red line)
  - Minor Arterial (Green line)
  - Major Collector (Blue line)
  - Minor Collector (Yellow line)
  - Local Basic (Brown line)
  - Principal Arterial (Orange line)
  - Minor Arterial (Purple line)
  - Collector Street (Pink line)
  - Local Street (Light Purple line)
- Challenge Urban Area Boundary (Light Brown shaded area)
- Urban Area Boundary (Light Blue shaded area)



MAP 17  
**BICYCLE ROUTES**  
**WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA**

FEBRUARY 2011

**Legend**

| Bike Route | Route No.     |
|------------|---------------|
|            | 103           |
|            | 108           |
|            | 109           |
|            | 112           |
|            | 117           |
|            | 121           |
|            | 139           |
|            | 145           |
|            | City Boundary |

