

NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE PLAN

As Approved and Adopted by the Northwest Georgia Regional Council,

January 19, 2012

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January 19, 2012

Acknowledgements: Portions of this document derive from the Inventory and Assessment for the 2004 Coosa-North Georgia Joint Regional Comprehensive Plan, prepared by the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center and the North Georgia Regional Development Center.

The descriptions and maps of the Environmental Corridors are based on the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' 1976 "Environmental Corridor Study."

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Introduction

This document identifies and maps those resources in Northwest Georgia that have been nominated as potential Regionally Important Resources by agencies of the Federal and State governments, the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission staff, local jurisdictions, historical societies, and other groups and individuals.

This project was occasioned by a provision of the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 authorizing the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to establish rules for identifying and protecting Regionally Important Resources. As a result, each Regional Commission was charged with the responsibility of assembling a comprehensive Regional Resource Plan.

The planning process was initiated by a September 10, 2010 Regional Commission mail-out to Federal and State agencies, local governments, historical and other societies, and various entities, in order to solicit their input into the process. The mail-out was followed up by a public meeting on October 7, 2010 at the Rome office of the Regional Commission.

As nominations came in, Regional Commission staff began listing potential Regionally Important Resources, resulting in a compilation that constitutes the foundation of this present document. In accordance with DCA's rules, Regional Commission staff have suggested best management practices for developers, and general policies and protection measures to assist local governments in managing these resources.

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission's Planning Committee modified and approved the Draft Document at their May 31, 2011 meeting, called for that purpose. Following a June 10, 2011 public hearing at the Regional Commission office in Rome, the Regional Council accepted the Regional Resource Plan for transmission to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs at their regular meeting on June 16, 2011. Following the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' approval of the Plan, the Regional Council approved and adopted the document by resolution at their regular meeting on January 19, 2012.

The Regionally Important Resources Plan is available to the general public, and to local governments for their use in compiling Comprehensive Plans, and in reviewing development proposals. A copy can be accessed on the Regional Commission's website at <http://www.nwgrc.org/regionalresourceplan.pdf>

Identifying Regionally Important Resources

The Department of Community Affairs defines Regionally Important Resources as “*any natural or cultural resource area identified for protection by a Regional Commission following the minimum requirements established by the Department.*”

Every community has natural resources that are vital to its survival. As humans, we are entirely reliant on the natural environment for our sustenance. We depend on surface or groundwater for our drinking needs, and on the soil for our crops. Without these, our lives are not possible. This is a fact of life on earth, and will not change.

There are other resources that are important to communities, from which they draw their identity and sense of place, and through which they express their cultural values. These include natural resources such as mountains and scenic views, but historic and cultural resources are also an integral part of a community’s life. A large historic district is a good example of a resource that helps define local character.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has recognized certain State Vital Areas as regionally important resources, including water supply watersheds, groundwater recharge areas, and river corridors, among others. Many other resources are of regional importance, however, and this Regional Resource Plan is part of an effort to identify and protect those elements of our natural and cultural patrimony. Their importance makes them sensitive, and susceptible to damage and destruction from human activity.

General Threats to Regionally Important Resources

The Atlanta and Chattanooga Metropolitan areas are expanding very rapidly in the Northwest Georgia region, imperiling sensitive natural communities and historic and cultural resources. Paulding, Pickens, Bartow, and Haralson Counties lie within the Atlanta Metro Area, and Dade, Catoosa, and Walker are in the Chattanooga Metro Area. Floyd County, as well as Whitfield and Murray Counties have been considered Metropolitan Statistical Areas since the 2000 Census.

Demand for water increases with population. In North Georgia, especially in Metro Atlanta, demand for water is threatening to exceed current supply. This has resulted in legal wrangling among Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. If water-demand problems continue, Georgia could suffer.

As watersheds are developed, water quality is diminished, and drinking water sources are impaired by pollutants from storm water runoff that picks up contaminants from a myriad of sources. This same polluted runoff degrades the ability of streams and lakes to maintain healthy populations of aquatic plant and animal species. Many waterways in the region no longer support fishing, swimming, and other traditional activities.

While population growth is a factor in land consumption, development patterns are as important. The causes of land consumption are well known: the demand for roads results in their construction, in turn drawing more traffic to exacerbate the problem; schools are built on the fringe of development, encouraging further dispersal of population; utilities extend infrastructure to serve distant customers, encouraging more development; and state and local governments, believing they are helping to grow the economy, subsidize these practices, and enshrine them as policy.

The dispersal of population into once remote and rural areas has caused land consumption to soar. According to the U.S. Bureau of Census Data on Urbanized Areas, from 1970 to 1990, Atlanta experienced a 161.3% growth in total land area, while Chattanooga showed an expansion of 120.1%. These two metro areas are linked by Interstate 75, and as they grow together, they will consume much unprotected land in the fifteen-county Northwest Georgia Region.

Sprawl increases dependence on the automobile and on fossil fuels. The demand for more and more road and highway infrastructure reinforces perceived need for public funding and, once constructed, roads and highways encourage ever-heavier traffic volumes. After it is built, infrastructure must be maintained, almost always at public expense. Along with transportation infrastructure, sprawl requires the extension of water, sewer, electricity, and every other common amenity regarded as normative in the second decade of the twenty-first century.

Low density, highly dispersed residential development is causing the loss of productive agricultural land, expansive open spaces, and other rural characteristics found throughout the region. Water quality of the area's many streams, rivers and reservoirs are also affected through additional runoff. In addition, in the mountainous regions this pattern of development also has a negative impact on scenic views. These views represented by natural, rugged mountain features are a unique asset for an important economic sector to the region, which is tourism. Unless efforts are made to accommodate development while preserving views and other significant natural features, the attractiveness of the area will be diminished.

Much commercial development in the region is characterized by leapfrog, strip development along major thoroughfares leading outward from the major cities, and Industrial sites are scattered throughout the region, having located in response to market forces in vogue at the time they were developed. Environmental concerns were not prominent concerns when the region was more sparsely populated.

These patterns of development, largely in response to the area's primary transportation routes, contribute to traffic congestion that gradually gives rise to demands for more highway infrastructure, which draws yet more traffic, and compounds the problem.

Georgia must be able to compete economically with other states, and to do so, has to offer a high quality of life. Resource conservation is increasingly recognized as vital to quality of life, and in conservation, Georgia lags behind most of the rest of the Southeast.

Description of region

Northwest Georgia is a fifteen county area occupying approximately 3,223,000 acres in the northwest corner of the State, and lying within a triangle formed by Atlanta, GA, Chattanooga, TN, and Huntsville, AL.

The region stretches across the Appalachian Plateau, Ridge and Valley, Blue Ridge, and Piedmont Physiographic Provinces, and encompass all or parts of the Lookout/Pigeon Mountain, Ridge and Valley, Conasauga, Blue Ridge, Talladega/Great Smokies Fault, and Etowah/Chestatee Environmental Corridors. (The fragment of the Etowah/Chestatee Environmental Corridor in the Region is so tiny, it will not be given further consideration here.)

Nature has favored the region, not only in mountain and piedmont scenery, but in natural resources, and a number of important industrial centers based on resource extraction and processing developed during the 19th century, attracting population to the region.

In the latter half of the 20th century, population growth began to escalate, in part due to new highway construction, especially Interstate 75 and, to a large extent, due to its proximity to the rapidly expanding Atlanta metro area.

The 19th century industrial towns and cities, with their well-developed infrastructure, proved attractive to newcomers to the region, and smaller towns began to develop into bedroom communities housing a workforce that commuted to larger cities within the region, and to Chattanooga and Atlanta.

Population

The fifteen county region's population will have grown from 871,968 persons in 2010, to an estimated 1,348,614 in 2030. This represents a projected population growth of almost 55%. Paulding is projected to be the region's most populous county with an estimated 2030 population of 275,726, with Bartow County second in population with an estimated 183,447 persons in 2030. Dade, Fannin, and Chattooga Counties are anticipated to be the region's smallest in population.

Bartow and Gordon Counties' locations along Interstate-75 will probably accelerate their population growth, and Pickens and Paulding Counties' population increase will be stimulated by their proximity to Atlanta and their location within the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

The populations of Walker, Chattooga, Floyd, and Polk Counties are likely to increase more slowly, percentage-wise, than other counties, due to their relative distance from interstate highways.

Perhaps more significant than an absolute number to suggest a population's potential environmental impact is its density. By 2030, anticipated population densities for each county per square mile are: Paulding, 880; Catoosa, 643; Whitfield, 464; Bartow, 399; Pickens, 240; Floyd, 230; Gordon, 223; Murray, 211; Polk, 184; Walker, 182; Haralson, 158; Dade, 126; Gilmer, 122; Chattooga, 110; Fannin, 86.

The numbers anticipate a 55% increase in regional population between the years 2010 and 2030. Atlanta has little legacy of a dense urban core, and rapid population growth is unlikely to change an established development pattern. As the Metro-Atlanta population spreads outward in the region, demand for land for all uses will increase, and it is likely that the rate of land consumption will exceed that of the population, given trends over the past half-century.

Major transportation corridors

The region is traversed by ten major transportation corridors:

Interstate-75 crosses south to north roughly through the middle of the region and, as a link between Atlanta and Chattanooga, constitutes the most important and heavily travelled motor route in the fifteen counties. Many of its exits are sites of major commercial, industrial, and less often, residential development.

Interstate-20, a major route between Birmingham, AL, and Atlanta, is also heavily travelled, but passes through the south of Haralson County, the most southern county in the region. Its location somewhat limits its impact on the region as a whole, though its exits draw commercial development.

Interstate-59, connecting Birmingham, AL, and Chattanooga, passes through Dade County, where it has three exits accessing Rising Fawn, Trenton, and New England (GA). It constitutes a major highway connection to other areas, and serves to relieve its geographical isolation.

Interstate-24 dips down into Georgia from its path through Tennessee, skirting the southern flank of Raccoon Mountain. In the course of its four mile path through Dade County, it intersects I-59.

State Route 515 came about as a phase of the development of Corridor A-1 of the Appalachian Development Highway System, and currently starts near the border

of Pickens and Cherokee Counties, traversing Pickens, Gilmer, and Fannin Counties on its way to Blairsville. This corridor has spurred much commercial development in those three counties, and promises to convert large areas of forest and agricultural land to developed uses. In some areas, local sentiment favors commercial zoning through entire jurisdictions along the alignment.

U.S. Highway 27 is a south to north alignment that links Bremen, Buchanan, Cedartown, Rome, Summerville, LaFayette, Ft. Oglethorpe, and Chattanooga. The road has been widened throughout the Northwest Georgia Region, and carries large volumes of traffic in places. Bypasses built in cities such as Cedartown and Buchanan have encouraged consumption of agricultural and forested land for commercial and other uses.

U.S. Highway 41 was once a heavily travelled south to north route from Florida to Michigan, but today its potential traffic volume is greatly diminished by I-75, which runs roughly parallel to it. It traverses the entire state of Georgia, and links Cartersville, Calhoun, Dalton, Ringgold, and Chattanooga, but does not support a great deal of new commercial development in the region, since its former role has been assumed by I-75 exits. As a consequence, existing businesses along the route must rely on local traffic volume to remain viable.

U.S. Highway 278 is a west to east alignment that links Cedartown, Rockmart, and Dallas in the region to Atlanta to the east. It is a major four-lane conduit for Atlanta metro sprawl into Paulding and Polk Counties, and contributes to the conversion of vast amounts of forest and agricultural land to commercial, residential, and other urbanizing uses.

U.S. Highway 411 crosses Floyd County roughly east and north after entering near Cave Spring, and becomes a four-lane road at Rome. From there it continues eastward to the center of Bartow County, where it turns sharply northward at Cartersville, becoming a two-lane road linking very small towns until it reaches Chatsworth, from which it continues north to the Tennessee line.

U.S. Highway 76 runs roughly east to west through the region, then north. It links Blue Ridge, Ellijay, Chatsworth, Dalton, and Chattanooga, crossing mountainous territory along much of its path across the region, and development tends to be concentrated near the towns.

Environmental Corridors

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources published a report in 1976 entitled Environmental Corridor Study. The concept of an Environmental Corridor is premised on the notion that environmental amenities tend to occur together and that this convergence of amenities tends to produce areas of special value. Because the most prevalent of the environmental amenities, waterways and ridges, are linear by nature, the designated areas will tend to be linear, hence the term "corridor." Environmental corridor is, therefore, defined as an area of concentrated environmental value that tends to be associated with linear land and water patterns and that is distinguished from the remainder of the landscape by an unusual potential for providing tangible benefits to the citizenry of Georgia without the necessity of drastic alteration of its natural character.

An environmental corridor may take several forms. It may be land based, such as major ridges, mountain ranges or other geological features such as fault lines. These generating features most often occur with other key features of value such as upland forests, wildlife habitats, erodible soils and steep slopes. Conversely, they may be water based such a river basin or tidal marsh. Here, too, such generators are most often linked with swamp or hardwood forests, prime wildlife habitats, and alluvial soils. In either case, these generating features are linear in nature and form the basis for corridor selection. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has identified twenty-six major Corridors throughout the State of Georgia. Six of these are contained in whole or in part within the Northwest Georgia area. It is within these corridors that we find a significant portion of the Northwest Georgia area's most scenic rivers, diverse wildlife habitat, striking mountain vistas, and culturally valuable sites.

The Environmental Corridors are areas of environmental concern that shape the regional and urban environments and perform natural system functions such as stability and water purification and filtration. These functions are most essential, and of primary benefit to man's environmental quality maintenance in physical, biological, and psychological ways. These are areas that have high value in their natural state as opposed to value as agricultural, industrial, or urban development uses and have value as scenic, historic, educational or recreational areas. They have value to the environment in the protection of vital systems such as wildlife habitats, water quality control, preservation of vulnerable areas such as steep slopes, erodible soils, major upland or swamp forest, and other systems. Protection of these natural systems has a direct value to man, as well, in the quality of water he consumes, the air he breathes and in the overall quality of life.

The five significant environmental corridors in the Northwest Georgia area are as follows:

The **Blue Ridge Corridor (Map 1)** is located in the Appalachian Mountains region of North Georgia from the Cohutta Mountains area in the west to the Tallulah River Basin area in the east. The corridor includes large areas of Chattahoochee National Forest lands; the Blue Ridge Mountains; headwaters of the Conasauga, Coosawattee, Etowah, Chestatee, Chattahoochee, Tallulah, Nottely, Hiawassee, and Toccoa Rivers; the Blue Ridge Crest and high mountains region of Appalachian North Georgia (with the exception of the Chattooga watershed which is a separate corridor); ten wildlife management areas; six state parks; and hundreds of identified natural areas such as rare flora and fauna locales, waterfalls, hemlock, ravines, mountain top meadows (the bald mountains), river shoals and outcrops, caves, springs, scenic and wild rivers, and creeks. The areas in which views are all directionally focalized tend to be the wilder rivers and creeks where high ridges and shoreline canopy extensions frame the channels. Enclosed views occur in the small valley areas, large water impoundments and pasture lands; they are also commonly associated with focalization if the valleys are long and narrow. A large portion of the Blue Ridge is composed of high elevation, panoramic landscapes, where views of the Northwest Georgia area can be quite spectacular and extended. The highest and most extended panoramas occur on the bald mountains (Coosa Bald, Brasstown Bald, Hightower Bald, and Grassy Bald) where high elevation meadows exist with little forest cover to interrupt the vistas. The remainder of the panoramic landscapes have views dependent on the density and leaf cover (seasons) within the hardwoods, the proximity of overlooks and rock outcrops, and the physical composition of the area. Examples of the physical composition would be that some areas in the interior of the Blue Ridge are surrounded by peaks or adjacent ridge lines which restrict long vistas, while to the North the mountains border valleys such as Hiawassee or the Toccoa River Valley where views extend for miles into Tennessee and North Carolina. To the West, some portions of the Cohutta Mountains border directly on the Coosa Valley, and to the south, the Appalachian Foothill Mountains look onto the high ridges and deep river bottoms of the upland Piedmont.

The **Conasauga Corridor (Map 2)** is located along the Conasauga River in Northwest Georgia from the Tennessee/Georgia line to just outside of Nickleville, Georgia. The corridor includes the Conasauga River, the immediate greenbelt of near-natural vegetation along the river, some primitive agricultural areas, and several sections of woodland that penetrate to the river. The corridor is strongly defined by the major status of the river, but limited by the lack of large forested areas throughout the corridor. The river is focalized by high banks and a canopy, which extends over the river in most areas. Where the river focalization is lost, enclosed areas dominate with little penetration away from the river. Panoramic landscapes are limited to the Brackett Ridges area in the southern portions of the corridor, where cleared pastures sometimes afford extensive views of the river.

The **Lookout / Pigeon Mountain Corridor** (Map 3) is located in the northwestern corner of Georgia along the Sand Mountain, Lookout Mountain, and Pigeon Mountain plateaus and valleys as they pass through Georgia from Tennessee to Alabama. The corridor includes the plateau areas, steep slopes along the plateaus, some valley landscapes, a wealth of natural features, a wildlife management Area, one existing state park, many creeks and creek canyons, and a large amount of forest. The corridor is strongly defined by the linear aspects of the mountain plateaus as they move from North to south, the large quantity of natural landscapes along the mountains, and many special features. Focalized landscapes are limited throughout the corridor and occur usually in conjunction with the enclosed creek canyons where enclosure and focalization of views are both present. Panoramic views are dominant with over half of the land within the corridor having views that extend for miles. These panoramic views tend to be quite spectacular along the steep plateau slopes where the drop-off is severe enough for unique overlooks.

The **Ridge and Valley Corridor** (Map 4) is located along Taylor Ridge/Johns Mountain area of Northwest Georgia from the Tennessee/Georgia border to Alabama. The corridor includes Taylor Ridge, Dick Ridge, White Oak Mountain, Rocky Face Mountain, Horn Mountain, Little Sand Mountain, Simms Mountain, Rocky Mountain, Gaylor Ridge, Kincaid Mountain, Heath Mountain, Turnip Mountain, Judy Mountain, sections of the lower valleys and creek canyons around these mountains and ridges, Chattahoochee National Forest lands, two wildlife management areas, and a variety of special features. The corridor is strongly defined by the structure and North-south linear direction of the ridges as combined with the Chattahoochee National Forests and private timberlands. Focalized and enclosed landscapes are usually combined in the corridor in areas where pocket valleys or long, narrow valleys exist between the ridges. The ridge walls enclose the landscape, but usually with views directed in the North-south direction of the ridges. Panoramic views extend throughout much of the corridor on the slopes or high ridge tops. The viewing is somewhat limited by vegetation when leaves are still on, but rock outcrops are abundant for intermittent viewing.

The **Talladega/Great Smokies Fault Corridor** (Map 5) is located along the Talladega, Cartersville, and Great Smokies Faults in North central to Northwest Georgia from Route 5 near Jasper, Georgia to the Alabama/Georgia border. The corridor includes a series of mountains and forested upper Piedmont ridges to the east of the fault zone; a wildlife management Area; two state parks; large areas of mountain and Piedmont forests; several natural areas; the Tallapoosa River; many small creek watersheds; and many special features such as caves, waterfalls, springs, and shoals. The corridor is strongly defined because of the large amount of relatively undisturbed landscape accompanying the fault on the eastern side. Focalized landscapes are confined to the rivers and large creeks where canopy cover and ridges focus views up and down the water channels.

Enclosed landscapes are limited to Lake Allatoona, several small valleys, and agricultural valleys where views aren't directional but are enclosed by vegetation or ridge development. Panoramic landscapes occur along the Appalachian Mountains in the Northern parts of the corridor and along the high ridges and mountains of the Piedmont region to the south. Most of the panoramic views are confined to overlooks, rock outcrops, and cleared fields when leaves are on the hardwoods but when views are not disturbed, extended viewing of the Coosa valley can be quite spectacular with mosaics of valley woodlands, pastures, and small urban communities.

Because benefits cross jurisdictional lines, environmental corridors are of importance to the state as a whole. Therefore, no meaningful or effective management plan could be drawn from a purely local standpoint. Rather, a regional or statewide approach for the management and preservation of the corridors is necessary to ensure their continued viability.

Environmental Corridors have tremendous potential for providing benefits to Northwest Georgia communities while remaining in a natural or near-natural state. The corridors contained throughout the Northwest Georgia area, provide an ideal framework for inter regional amenities such as a scenic trail, road or river systems. Further, as recreational transportation corridors, they can serve to link nodal areas of high environmental value such as State Parks, Natural areas, and Historic Sites, and provide a unique, interconnected recreation system. Where corridors are uninterrupted for extended lengths, they allow long distance movement of wildlife, thus providing the potential for a unique kind of wildlife management area. Further, the Environmental Corridors have great potential as educational tools. They can be ideal laboratories for the study of unspoiled ecosystems and past cultures. Conservation-recreation centers, to serve as focal point for activities that would combine recreation and education, might be placed in some corridors. However, because corridor benefits cross jurisdictional lines and because environmental degradation within one sector of a corridor can affect the corridor as a whole, no meaningful or effective management plan can be drawn from a purely local standpoint. Rather, a regional approach is necessary for the preservation of this valuable yet highly vulnerable system of natural resource amenities. While the total preservation of all of the corridors is not feasible, there does exist the significant opportunity for inter-jurisdictional cooperation for the management and preservation of the highest priority corridors for the use and enjoyment of the public.

State Vital Areas



The Conasauga River

State Vital Areas

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has recognized certain State Vital Areas as regionally important resources, including water supply watersheds, groundwater recharge areas, wetlands, protected river corridors, and steep slopes/protected mountains. This plan will include these resources (Map 6) as regionally important, by virtue of that recognition.

State Vital Area maps by county are:

Bartow, 12; Catoosa , 13; Chattooga, 14; Dade, 15; Fannin, 16; Floyd, 17; Gilmer, 18; Gordon, 19; Haralson, 20; Murray, 21; Paulding 22; Pickens, 23; Polk, 24; Walker, 25; and Whitfield, 26.

Water Supply Watersheds

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) defines water supply watersheds as the areas of land upstream from government owned public drinking intakes or water supply reservoirs. The volume of water in a stream is determined by the amount of precipitation and the capacity and speed of the absorption of water into surrounding soils. Land cover, slope, soil type and the intensity and duration of rainfall all affect the rate of water absorption or infiltration. Water released through soil adds to the overflow to form total runoff. As runoff flows into lower elevations, it organizes into drainage basins, the boundaries of which form watersheds. The runoff from a watershed accumulates in streams, which move water out of the watershed to lower elevations. The following table lists, and Map 7 displays the nineteen public water supply watersheds located wholly or in part within the northwest Georgia area.

Northwest Georgia Public Water Supply Watersheds

County	Surface Water Source	Watershed Size (Sq. mi.)	Reservoir (YIN)	Service Area
Bartow	Lewis Springs	<100'	No	Adairsville
Bartow	Bovilar Springs	<100'	No	Bartow County
Catoosa	South Chickamauga Creek	<100'	No	Ringgold
<u>Chattooga</u>	Raccoon Creek	<100'	No	Summerville
Dade	Lookout Creek	<100'	No	Trenton and Dade County
Fannin	Toccoa River (Blue Ridge Intake)	<100'	Yes	Blue Ridge, Morganton & Mineral Bluff
Fannin	Toccoa River(McCaysville Intake)	<100'	Yes	McCaysville, Copperhill & Epworth
Floyd	Oostanaula	<100'	No	Rome
Gilmer	Ellijay/Cartecay Rivers	<100'	No	Ellijay, East Ellijay, & Gilmer County

Gordon	Coosawattee River	>100'	Yes	Calhoun
Haralson	Tallapoosa River	>100'	No	Haralson County
Murray	Holly Creek	<100'	No	Chatsworth, Eton, Spring Place, & Murray County
Murray	Carter's Lake	>100'	Yes	Chatsworth, Eton, Spring Place, & Murray County
Murray	Eton, O'Neal and Nix Springs	<100'	No	Chatsworth, Eton, Spring Place, & Murray County
Pickens	Cove Creek	<100'	No	Tate, Jasper
Polk	Euharlee	<100'	No	Rockmart
Whitfield	*Conasauga River	>100'	No	Tunnel Hill, Varnell, Cohutta, Whitfield County & portions of Murray County

Whitfield	Coahulla Creek	<100'	No	Tunnel Hill, Varnell, Cohutta, Whitfield County & portions of Murray County
Whitfield	Mill Creek	<100'	Yes	Tunnel Hill, Varnell, Cohutta, Whitfield County & portions of Murray County
Walker	Dry Creek	<100'	No	LaFayette
Walker	Crawfish Springs	<100'	No	Chickamauga

Assessment of vulnerability

As indicated on the Water Supply Watershed map, these areas represent a substantial amount of total land area in the region. They are likewise scattered throughout the region with water supply watersheds located in each county. Based upon information contained in local comprehensive plans, it is projected that approximately 300,000 acres of land within the region will be converted from agriculture, forest or undeveloped to some form of development by 2015. A substantial amount of land has already been developed within public water supply watersheds and will continue to be developed in the future.

Land development within water supply watersheds affects the quantity and quality of raw water flowing into reservoirs or public water intakes. Potential problems in water supply watersheds include point and non-point sources of pollution, the second of which especially may be heightened by increases in impervious surfaces such as buildings, roads, and parking lots. Point sources of pollution include municipal sewerage discharges, industrial waste-water, septic tanks, spills of hazardous material, and leachates from landfills, chemical waste dumps and manure pits. Non-point sources include sediment or chemical contaminants, which are generated over large

areas such as cropland, managed forests, paved surfaces, construction activities, motor vehicles, or following spills of hazardous materials. Increased development increases loading of non-point pollutants into streams. Removal of vegetation from stream channels and pavement of soil surfaces increases the volume and rate of surface runoff, which in turn increases the potential for erosion, flooding and sedimentation of streams.

Identifying Parties

Identified by the Department of Natural Resources as State Vital Areas.

Inherent Value of the Resource

Protects water quantity and quality by providing buffers that filter out pollutants that impact drinking water quality and aquatic species habitat.

Provides natural drainage patterns, absorbs water and slows its flow, mitigating floods, etc.

Provides wildlife habitat and travel corridors, helping to mitigate impacts of habitat fragmentation.

Potential Consequences of Impairment

Lessened potential for filtering out pollutants impacting water quality.

Worsening of floods.

Adverse impact on wildlife, and increasing habitat fragmentation.

Diminishment of biodiversity.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

Comply with all federal, state, and local legislation for the protection of State Vital Areas.

Retain existing vegetation and topography wherever possible.

Locate all construction as far as possible from water resources, including flood prone areas and wetlands.

Use natural features for storm water control whenever possible.

Exceed minimum required buffers wherever possible.

Minimize the amount of impervious surface by using alternative materials and designs.

Install rain gardens, vegetated swales, or other water filtration design mechanisms to improve the quality of stormwater runoff.

General Policies and Protection Measures

Ensure that local regulations meet or exceed minimum State and federal requirements for the protection of State Vital Areas.

Institute an incentive-based conservation easement program to lessen development in water supply watersheds and other ecologically sensitive areas.

Adopt a Water Supply Watershed Protection Ordinance modeled on DCA's Environmental Planning Criteria Model Land Use Management Code §2-2 Water Supply Watersheds. The document can be found online at http://www.dca.ga.gov/development/PlanningQualityGrowth/programs/documents/Part2RegulationsImplementingEnvironmentalPlanningCrite_000.pdf

Adopt a conservation/cluster subdivision ordinance.

Ensure that local development review processes adequately address water quality protection issues.

Promote redevelopment of abandoned sites, and address water quality issues pertaining to those sites.

Develop watershed improvements projects to protect water quality.

Groundwater Recharge Areas

Groundwater is contained in underground geological formations called aquifers. An aquifer is a geological formation that contains sufficient saturated material to yield significant quantities of water. Water in aquifers is released to the surface through wells and springs or by seepage into lakes, streams, and wetlands. Some lakes, streams and wetlands depend upon ground water springs or seepage for supplementary water during drought periods. Additionally, these aquifers store ground water that is used for public and private drinking water supply and irrigation.

A groundwater recharge area is defined as any portion of the earth's surface, where water infiltrates into the ground to replenish the aquifer. While recharge takes place throughout practically all of Georgia's land area, the rate or amount of recharge reaching underground aquifers varies from place to place depending on geological conditions. The most significant recharge areas are mapped by the Department of Natural Resources

based on outcrop area, lithology, soil type and thickness, slope, density of lithologic contacts, geological structure, and the presence of karst.

The Department of Natural Resources has identified a single isolated area of significant ground water recharge in Pickens County. However, relatively extensive areas of significant, high pollution susceptibility ground water recharge areas have been identified throughout Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Gordon, Polk Murray, and Whitfield Counties (Map 8). Fannin and Gilmer Counties do not contain ground water recharge areas.

Assessment of Vulnerability

Aquifer recharge areas are vulnerable to urban development activities as well as agricultural activities such as poultry and beef production. Pesticides and herbicides sprayed on crops, animal wastes, and septic tank effluent can threaten the health of residents relying on well water. Development usually means an increase in the amount of land covered impervious surfaces. Paving land in aquifer recharge areas can alter or impair their recharge characteristics thereby decreasing ground water supplies. Unfortunately, the relatively flat areas of thick soils which often overlay aquifer recharge areas, are also choice sites for commercial and industrial development as well as for sitting sanitary landfills.

As indicated on Map 8, groundwater recharge areas represent a substantial amount of total land area in the region. They are likewise scattered throughout the region except in Fannin and Gilmer Counties. Based upon information contained in local comprehensive plans, it is projected that approximately 300,000 acres of land within the region will be converted from agriculture, forest or undeveloped to some form of development by 2015. A substantial amount of land has already been developed within ground water recharge areas and will continue to develop in the future. Other areas of the region are planned for agricultural activities, which have the potential for impacting groundwater recharge areas.

Identifying Parties

Identified by the Department of Natural Resources as State Vital Areas.

Inherent Value of the Resource

Allows water infiltration that replenishes groundwater that supplies wells.

Filters impurities out of water as it filters down to aquifer.

Potential Consequences of Impairment

Pollution of groundwater can render well water unsuitable for human and animal consumption.

Impaired aquifers are difficult or impossible to purify.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

In any development, preserve topographical and hydrological features and cultural and historic resources to the greatest extent possible.

Limit the proportion of impervious surfaces, including roofs, in developments.

Install pervious pavement whenever possible to allow water infiltration into the soil, and limit street width and length to the minimum possible within development regulations.

Construct vegetated swales in preference to tiles and drainage pipes wherever possible.

Take advantage of clustering and greenspace development options wherever they are permitted in development regulations.

Limit clearing, grading, and soil disturbance to only those areas where it is required for construction.

Construct bioretention areas or rain gardens in parking lot islands, and in appropriate locations in residential areas.

When establishing new agricultural uses, consult with the County Extension Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission to identify and implement best management practices.

When establishing new forestry uses, consult with the Georgia Forestry Commission to identify and implement best management practices.

General Policies and Protection Measures

Institute an incentive-based conservation easement program to lessen development in ecologically sensitive areas.

Adopt ordinances to enable cluster and greenspace development.

Adopt an Ordinance to Protect Groundwater Recharge Areas modeled on DCA's Environmental Planning Criteria Model Land Use Management Code §2-1 Groundwater Recharge Areas. The document can be found online at

http://www.dca.ga.gov/development/PlanningQualityGrowth/programs/documents/Part2RegulationsImplementingEnvironmentalPlanningCrite_000.pdf

Assist landowners and developers in implementing appropriate development and best management practices.

Wetlands

Freshwater wetlands are defined by Federal law as "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically abated for life in saturated soil conditions". Under normal conditions, wetlands help to maintain and enhance water quality by filtering out sediments and associated non-point source pollutants from adjacent land uses. They also store water, thereby stabilizing dry weather stream flows and flood hazards. In addition, wetlands serve important functions as fish, wildlife and plant habitats.

Comprehensive wetland site information is presently still in the process of being mapped for much of northwest Georgia. Available data indicates that there are many isolated though not significantly large wetland areas throughout the northwest Georgia area. Wetland acreage information for the northwest Georgia area is contained in the table below and Map 9.

Northwest Georgia Area Wetlands Acreage			
County	Total Acres	Wetland Acres	% Of Total Acres
Bartow	291,917	633	.002
Catoosa	103,930	646	.006
Chattooga	200,570	620	.003
Dade	112,429	448	.004
Fannin	250,964	0	0
Floyd	331,942	1,768	.005
Gilmer	277,288	87	0
Gordon	227,181	1,002	.004
Haralson	180,857	1,857	1.000
Murray	222,210	661	0
Paulding	199,891	2,396	1.200
Pickens	149,585	82	0
Polk	199,315	29	0

Walker	285,421	428	.001
Whitfield	186,543	634	0
North West GA	5,353,492	11,291	.002
Georgia	37,140,514	3,933,856	10.600

Source: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1995

Assessment of vulnerability

Although there are limited wetland areas located in northwest Georgia, there is a strong likelihood that, given the amount of development occurring in the region, some wetland loss has occurred and will continue to occur in the future, unless local governments take a more aggressive role in monitoring potential impacts.

Identifying Parties

Identified by the Department of Natural Resources as State Vital Areas.

Inherent Value of the Resource

Helps preserve water quality through natural filtration processes.

Retains water, mitigating flooding and erosion.

Provides habitat for aquatic species, wildlife, and vegetation.

Potential Consequences of Impairment

Decline of water quality as a result of disruption of natural filtration capacity.

Worsening of flooding due to loss of water retention capacity.

Habitat loss.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

Comply with all federal, state, and local legislation for the protection of State Vital Areas.

Retain existing vegetation and topography wherever possible.

Locate all construction as far as possible from water resources, including flood prone areas and wetlands.

Use natural features for storm water control whenever possible.

Exceed minimum required buffers wherever possible.

Minimize the amount of impervious surface by using alternative materials and designs.

General Policies and Protection Measures

Ensure that local regulations meet or exceed minimum State and federal requirements for the protection of State Vital Areas.

Ensure that development ordinances prohibit or limit the placement of structures in flood prone areas.

Institute an incentive-based conservation easement program to lessen development in wetlands and other ecologically sensitive areas.

Adopt a Wetlands Protection Ordinance modeled on DCA's Environmental Planning Criteria Model Land Use Management Code §2-3 Wetlands. The document can be found online at

http://www.dca.ga.gov/development/PlanningQualityGrowth/programs/documents/Part2RegulationsImplementingEnvironmentalPlanningCrite_000.pdf

Protected River Corridors

Protected Rivers, as defined under the Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, adopted by Georgia Department of Natural Resources includes any perennial river or water course with an average flow of at least 400 cubic feet per second. The Chattooga, Conasauga, Coosa, Coosawattee, Etowah, Oostanaula, Tallapoosa, and Toccoa Rivers meet this criterion (See Map 10). The Department of Natural Resources has deemed that rivers of this size are of vital importance to the State of Georgia in that they help preserve those qualities that make a river suitable for habitat for wildlife, a site for recreation, and a source for clean drinking water. These river corridors also allow the free movement of wildlife from area to area within the state, help control erosion and river sedimentation, and help absorb flood waters.

Assessment of Vulnerability

The environmental quality of the Chattooga, Conasauga, Coosa, Coosawattee, Etowah, Oostanaula, Tallapoosa, and Toccoa River corridors is highly vulnerable to unregulated development and potential runoff from agricultural activities. Development and intensive forestry activities in the immediate vicinity of these rivers increases storm water runoff that can contain sediment and other contaminating pollutants that can destroy water quality and plant and animal habitat. Further development along stream banks can infringe on the recreational aspects of these river corridors by limiting access by the public. Development along the stream banks will also remove vegetation and destroy the

scenic and aesthetic attributes of the river corridors that add to the quality of life in the northwest Georgia area.

A great deal of subdivision activity in Gilmer and Fannin Counties has occurred within the drainage basins of the Coosawattee and Toccoa Rivers respectively, with many lots adjacent to or near the river's edge. It is anticipated that many of these lots will be developed in the future. A portion of the Coosawattee also passes through the urbanized areas of the City of Ellijay. Although much of the area along the river is already developed, there still remain sizable vacant tracts, which are likely to develop over time. In addition, it is expected that mountain subdivision development will likely occur along other sections of the river, possibly causing further sedimentation and non-point source pollution. Such development will be incremental and cumulative, with adverse impacts unless mitigation measures are put in place.

The Etowah River is also affected by land development activities but principally in Cherokee, Forsythe, and Dawson Counties. The river is still also impacted by PCB's, which were introduced into the river several years ago. The river is considered usable for limited activities.

Historically, the Conasauga River has been negatively impacted by wastewater discharges by Dalton Utilities. In the late 1990's the Utility effected substantial improvements to its land application system, which adjoins the river, and has mitigated negative impacts to the river.

The Oostanaula remains somewhat degraded by the lingering effects of water from the Conasauga but is considered to be of good quality. Most of the impacts occur as a result of non-point source pollution from forestry and agricultural activity.

The Tallapoosa River is considered to be of good quality but is impacted by limited non-point source pollution from forestry and agricultural activity.

Identifying Parties

Identified by the Department of Natural Resources as State Vital Areas.

Tallapoosa and Conasauga Rivers identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Inherent Value of the Resource

Protects water quantity and quality by providing buffers that filter out pollutants that impact drinking water quality and aquatic species habitat.

Provides natural drainage patterns, absorbs water and slows its flow, mitigating floods, etc.

Provides wildlife habitat and travel corridors, helping to mitigate habitat fragmentation.

Potential Consequences of Impairment

Lessened potential for filtering out pollutants impacting water quality.

Worsening of floods.

Adverse impact on wildlife, and increasing habitat fragmentation.

Diminishment of biodiversity.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

Comply with all federal, state, and local legislation for the protection of State Vital Areas.

Retain existing vegetation and topography wherever possible.

Locate all construction as far as possible from water resources, including flood prone areas and wetlands.

Use natural features for storm water control whenever possible.

Exceed minimum required buffers wherever possible.

Minimize the amount of impervious surface by using alternative materials and designs.

Install rain gardens, vegetated swales, or other water filtration design mechanisms to improve the quality of stormwater runoff.

Undertake stream restoration or bank stabilization for compromised areas.

General Policies and Protection Measures

Ensure that local regulations meet or exceed minimum State and federal requirements for the protection of State Vital Areas.

Ensure that development ordinances prohibit or limit the placement of structures in flood prone areas.

Institute an incentive-based conservation easement program to lessen development in ecologically sensitive areas.

Adopt a Protected River Corridors Ordinance modeled on DCA's Environmental Planning Criteria Model Land Use Management Code §2-4 Protected River Corridors.

The document can be found online at

http://www.dca.ga.gov/development/PlanningQualityGrowth/programs/documents/Part2RegulationsImplementingEnvironmentalPlanningCrite_000.pdf

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:

RE: Tallapoosa River -- Protect the FEMA-delineated 100-year floodplain or a 100-foot fixed width buffer, whichever is wider, on both sides of the Tallapoosa River mainstem and several tributaries, including (from upstream to downstream) McClendon Creek, Brooks Creek, Watermill Creek, Little River, Big Creek, Beach Creek and Little Creek in Paulding and Haralson Counties. Buffering these streams would protect riparian buffers that maintain bank stability, filter runoff from adjacent land use, and mitigate flood flows that currently mobilize floodplain contaminants and scour shallow water habitats.

RE: Conasauga River -- Protect the FEMA-delineated 100-year floodplain or a 100-foot fixed width buffer, whichever is wider, on both sides of the Conasauga River mainstem from the Tennessee border to Georgia's Tibbs Bridge Road, and several tributaries including, the Holly Creek watershed downstream from the Chatthoochee National Forest boundary to the confluence with Chicken Creek; the Rock Creek watershed downstream from the Chatthoochee National Forest boundary to the confluence with Holly Creek; and outparcels within the Chatthoochee National Forest in Murray County's Alaculsey Valley.

Steep Slopes/Protected Mountains

Mountainous areas are defined as crests, summits, and ridges characterized by steep slopes and high elevations. The Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Planning Criteria require that local governments identify and map mountain slopes with a percentage slope of twenty-five percent (25%) or greater for at least 500 feet horizontally, which are at an elevation of 2,200 feet or above. Map 11 not only shows these areas, but also all areas where slopes exceed 25 % or greater in the northwest Georgia area. The only mountains exceeding 2,200 foot in elevation in Northwest Georgia are in Fannin, Gilmer, Murray and Pickens Counties. Most mountain slopes are high in open space potential, particularly since they are related to water features and woodlands. Areas of steep slopes preserved in their natural state may also have scenic potential both as something to view and as vantage points from which to view surrounding areas. Ridges and valleys are also scenic features, which are useful for passive recreation. The mountainous areas of northwest Georgia contain vital headwaters for numerous rivers,

which provide water supplies to not only northwest Georgia, but also adjacent areas. They provide unique habitat for a variety of vegetation and wildlife.

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Assessment of Vulnerability

Historically, development within northwest Georgia area has occurred with little regard for visual or environmental impacts on steep slopes. Mountainous areas are geologic features constituting environmentally sensitive and fragile slope, soil, geologic, and vegetative characteristics. Development in mountainous areas affects the natural equilibrium of these characteristics, and the associated removal of vegetation affects soil and slope stability, which can result in slippage and rock slides. Loss of soil stability increases erosion and the siltation of rivers and streams that affect fish and wildlife habitat. Extensive development, particularly in regards to second home and retirement homes has occurred in Fannin, Gilmer and Pickens Counties and is having a significant impact on these mountain slopes. Projections indicate that additional second home/retirement home development will continue in these counties into the future.

Identifying Parties

Identified by the Department of Natural Resources as State Vital Areas.

Inherent Value of the Resource

Collects and helps filter water that often enters public drinking water supplies.

Provides wildlife habitat and corridors.

Provides scenic views, encouraging tourism and consequent economic benefits.

Potential Consequences of Impairment

Lessened potential for filtering out pollutants impacting water quality.

Adverse impact on wildlife, increasing habitat fragmentation, and diminishment of biodiversity.

Slope destabilization, with potential for slippage and rock slides.

Loss of scenic views.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

Comply with all federal, state, and local legislation for the protection of State Vital Areas.

Retain existing vegetation and topography wherever possible.

Locate all construction as far as possible from water resources, including flood prone areas and wetlands.

Use natural features for storm water control whenever possible.

Exceed minimum required buffers wherever possible.

Minimize the amount of impervious surface by using alternative materials and designs.

Install rain gardens, vegetated swales, or other water filtration design mechanisms to improve the quality of stormwater runoff.

General Policies and Protection Measure

Adopt a Protected Mountains Ordinance modeled on DCA's Environmental Planning Criteria Model Land Use Management Code §2-5 Protected Mountains. The document can be found online at http://www.dca.ga.gov/development/PlanningQualityGrowth/programs/documents/Part2RegulationsImplementingEnvironmentalPlanningCrite_000.pdf

Protected Natural Resources



National Forests and Wildlife Management Areas

In Northwest Georgia, there is already what might be considered a skeletal greenspace infrastructure in the form of National Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, a national park, state parks and historic sites, and public trails.

The value of National Forests and Wildlife Management Areas as Regionally Important Resources will be considered in this chapter. The next chapter, Cultural and Historic Resources (below, p. 38), will consider a National Park, State Parks and Historic Sites, and large rural National Register Districts.

National Forests and Wildlife Management Areas are shown on Map 27.

A very important and often overlooked aspect of the resources enumerated above is their crucial role in providing the building blocks of a Region- and State-wide greenspace/greenway infrastructure.

The Chattahoochee National Forest

The United States Forest Service began purchasing land in Northwest Georgia in 1911, and currently owns 220,498 acres in nine of the region's fifteen counties, including the Cohutta and Rich Mountain Wilderness Areas.

A breakdown of acreages by county is as follows:

Catoosa County, 9 acres

Chattooga County, 19,572 acres

Fannin County, 48,227 acres

Floyd County, 6,521 acres

Gilmer County, 55,383 acres

Gordon County, 8,307 acres

Murray County, 52,219 acres

Walker County, 18,621 acres

Whitfield County, 11,684 acres

Originally, much of the Forest Service land was acquired for restoration and management of areas that had been degraded by poor stewardship, and to ensure a

national reserve of forest products. Much of the National Forest land was never intended to be a pristine forest, but as actively productive timber land, combined with the Forest Service's responsibility to manage water, wildlife, and grazing areas.

Currently, recreation represents a major land use in the National Forests of the region, and the variety of offerings is impressive, and important to the Region. Among activities supported by the National Forests are: hunting, hiking, fishing, camping and cabins, horseback riding, swimming, boating, picnicking, scenic driving, target shooting, geocaching, historic and Civil War site exploration and others. National Forests could be considered Regionally Important Resources for recreational activities alone, but in addition, the Forests can furnish connectivity between greenspaces located outside their boundaries, and should be considered for the possibilities offered.

For more information go to: www.fs.fed.us/conf/

Wildlife Management and Natural Areas

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources maintains Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) primarily to provide public access to lands suited to hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities. In some instances, the land is owned by the State of Georgia or in a National Forest, but there are a number of WMA's that are in private or corporate ownership, and managed by DNR under any of a variety of possible arrangements. While State-owned WMA's can be generally regarded as permanent greenspace for practical purposes, that is not the case on DNR-managed private lands. Management agreements between the DNR and privately owned lands managed as WMA's are subject to termination, and the owner can develop the property, or sell it to another entity for development or other purposes. As a consequence, those privately-owned WMA's will not be considered in this discussion.

Like National Forest land, WMA's are important for the recreational activities offered, including hunting, hiking, boating, fishing, camping, horseback riding, and other activities noted in the listings below.

As is the case with National Forest land, WMA's and Natural Areas can furnish connectivity between greenspaces located outside its boundaries.

Below is a list of WMA's and their locations by county. Only governmentally, or mostly governmentally owned WMA's are included, since managed areas in private hands can be converted to other, developed uses.

Floyd County:

Arrowhead WMA. Thirteen miles north of Rome. 377 acres. Hunting, fishing, hiking, interpretive trail.

Paulding County:

Paulding Forest WMA. Seven miles west of Dallas. 26,200 acres. Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, field trail access.

Polk County:

J. L. Lester WMA. Five miles south of Cedartown. 500 acres. Hunting, camping, field trail access.

Walker County:

Crockford-Pigeon WMA. Five miles southwest of Lafayette. 16,400 acres. Hunting, camping, fishing, field trail access, horseback riding.

Otting Tract WMA. One-and-a-half miles north of Cloudland. 700 acres. Hunting, camping, fishing, field trail access.

Zahnd Natural Area. Thirteen miles north of Cloudland. 1,400 acres. Hiking.

Multi-county:

Floyd, Gordon, Walker and Whitfield Counties: **John's Mountain WMA.** Twelve miles northeast of Calhoun. 24,000 acres. Hunting, fishing, camping, field trail access, observation tower, firearms shooting range.

Fannin, Gilmer, and Murray Counties: **Cohutta WMA.** Fifteen miles northwest of Ellijay. 96,503 acres. Hunting, fishing, camping, horseback riding, field trail access, observation tower, firearms shooting range.

Fannin and Gilmer Counties: **Rich Mountain WMA.** Eleven miles northwest of Ellijay. 22,097 acres. Hunting, fishing, camping, archery, field trail access, horseback riding.

For more information on the above, go to:

<http://www.n-georgia.com/wildlife.htm>

Inherent Value of the Resource

Managed timber and wildlife lands promote the health of natural resources.

Managed lands provide a wide variety of important recreational opportunities.

National Forest and WMA lands afford the public access to many valuable resources.

Land kept in woods and fields helps filter and purify water in the watershed, and provides opportunities for groundwater recharge.

Managed lands shelter a huge variety of fauna and flora, some of which are rare or endangered.

National Forests and WMA's often insure the preservation of cultural, historic, and archaeological sites.

Users of managed lands bring money into the local economy.

Potential Consequences of Impairment

Degradation of natural resources, and lessening of water quality.

Loss of recreational opportunities and local income derived from them.

Loss of cultural, historic, and archaeological sites.

Degradation of habitat, and loss of rare and endangered species.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

Ensure that development is sensitive to the natural and historic contexts of the resource.

In any development, preserve topographical and hydrological features and cultural and historic resources to the greatest extent possible.

Limit clearing, grading, and other land disturbing activities to areas where construction will occur.

Establish buffers to shield the resource from development.

Implement greenspace/cluster subdivision design to preserve as much natural land as possible.

Observe all water quality and sedimentation and erosion regulations, especially upstream from National Forests and WMA's.

General Policies and Protection Measures

Encourage development that is sensitive to the natural and historic contexts of the resource.

Enact ordinances to enable cluster and greenspace development.

Promote incentive-based conservation easements.

Enable conservation strategies such as transfer of development rights.

Consider acquisition of environmentally sensitive areas adjacent to National Forest and WMA lands.

Cultural and Historic Resources



The Vann House

National and State Parks and Historic Sites

As noted in the Protected Natural Resources chapter (above, p. 32), in Northwest Georgia, there is already what might be considered a skeletal greenspace infrastructure in the form of National Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, a national park, state parks and historic sites, and public trails, and that a very important and often overlooked aspect of the resources enumerated above is their crucial role in providing the building blocks of a Region- and State-wide greenspace/greenway infrastructure.

This chapter will consider a national park, State Parks and Historic Sites, and large rural National Register Districts. These resources are shown on Map 28.

Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park

The Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park encompasses preserved portions of the Chickamauga and Lookout Mountain Battlefields. The former battlefield lies in Georgia, and the latter in both Tennessee and Georgia.

The 5,500 acre site of the Chickamauga Battlefield is in Walker and Catoosa Counties, and the 3,000 acre Lookout Mountain Battlefield extends southward from Tennessee into Dade County, Georgia. These areas have been preserved by the federal government as a permanent military park, with a network of trails accommodating hiking and horseback riding.

On the battlefields, numerous monuments, historical tablets, and wayside exhibits commemorate the 1863 battles in the War Between the States.

State Parks and Historic Sites

There are eight state parks and historic sites in the fifteen-county region. They are diverse in their attractions and offerings.

Bartow County:

Etowah Mounds State Historic Site preserves 54 acres of a Mississippian village site, occupied from ca. 1000 -1550 A.D. With six mounds, a plaza, and defensive wall, it is the best-preserved Mississippian Cultural site in the Southeast.

The complex is located at 813 Indian Mounds Road, Cartersville, five miles southwest of I-75 exit 288. More information can be found at: <http://www.gastateparks.org/Etowah>.

Red Top Mountain State Park features a reconstructed 1860's homesite, and offers twelve miles of hiking trails in addition to camping, swimming, boating, and fishing opportunities.

The park is at 50 Lodge Road, Cartersville, 1.5 miles east of I-75 exit 285. More information is available at: <http://www.gastateparks.org/RedTopMountain>.

Chattooga County:

James N. (Sloppy) Floyd State Park's 561 acres is surrounded by National Forests, and near the Pinhoti Trail, offers three miles of trails in addition to camping, fishing, and boating opportunities.

The park, at 2800 Sloppy Floyd Lake Road, Summerville, is located three miles southeast of Summerville, near the junction of US 27 and Georgia Highway 100. Information can be found at: <http://www.gastateparks.org/Sloppy>.

Dade County:

Cloudland Canyon State Park offers 3,485 acres of spectacular scenery around a deep gorge on Lookout Mountain. There are approximately 21 miles of hiking trails, distributed over several routes, and camping is available.

The park is located near the junction of SR 136 and I-59, eight miles east of Trenton, and 18 miles west of LaFayette. More information is at: <http://www.gastateparks.org/CloudLand>.

Gordon County:

New Echota State Historic Site is the location of the last Cherokee national capitol, and features twelve original and reconstructed buildings, a one-mile nature trail, and a boat ramp and fishing in the Coosawattee River.

The site is located at 1211 Chatsworth Highway, NE, Calhoun, one mile east of I-75 exit 317 on Georgia Highway 225. For more information see: <http://www.gastateparks.org/NewEchota>.

Murray County:

Fort Mountain State Park encompasses 3,712 acres with an 855 ft. long stone wall on the summit of the mountain. Though probably of Indian construction, there is no universal consensus on its origin or function. The park offers 27 miles of mountain biking trails, 25 miles of horseback riding trails, and 14 miles of hiking and backpacking trails, along with camping and fishing.

The park, at 181 Fort Mountain Road, Chatsworth, is eight miles east of Chatsworth on Georgia Highway 52. More information can be found at: <http://www.gastateparks.org/FortMt>.

The Vann House State Historic Site occupies 109 acres of Cherokee Chief James Vann's plantation, and preserves his 1804 Cherokee mansion. There are springs and log out-buildings on the property, and a half-mile nature trail.

The Vann House is located in the National Register listed historic township of Spring Place at 82 Georgia Highway 225 North, at the intersection of 225 and Georgia Highway 52 Alt., three miles west of Chatsworth. For more information see: <http://www.gastateparks.org/ChiefVann>.

Paulding County:

Pickett's Mill Battlefield Historic Site preserves 765 acres of battlefield from the War Between the States. Roads from the time and earthen defenceworks still survive, and four miles of hiking trails are available.

The site is located at 4432 Mt. Tabor Church Road southeast of its intersection with the Dallas-Acworth Road. For more information go to: <http://www.gastateparks.org/Picketts>.

Identifying Parties

Department of Natural Resources (David Van DeGenachte)

Threats

Adjacent and nearby incompatible development, encroachment bother uses, loss of significant out-parcels, and inadequate funding.

Inherent Value of the Resource

Already preserved areas of significant state-identified historical, archaeological, cultural, natural or recreational value, often in combination with each other.

Preserves significant resources accessible to the general public.

Sometimes preserves working agricultural or domestic landscapes.

Often provide significant animal and species habitat, greenspaces and various recreational resources.

Potential Consequences of Impairment

Loss of distinctive cultural or natural ambience.

Fragmentation of habitats, and loss of biodiversity.

Destruction of historic and natural viewsheds experienced from the resource.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

Consider and avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts on viewsheds experienced from the resource.

Avoid land disturbing activities near potential subsurface resources.

Consider donating a conservation easement or establishing permanent buffers to mitigate developmental impacts on the resource.

Consider provision of multi-purpose trails linking development to public access points of the resource.

General Policies and Protection Measures

Identify and catalogue historic, cultural, and sensitive natural resources in the vicinity of parks and historic sites, and include heritage resource conservation in Comprehensive Plans, and Zoning and Development Ordinances.

Use infrastructure availability to mitigate adverse impacts of development on parks and historic sites, and other areas of natural, cultural, historic, and environmentally sensitive resources.

Establish regulations and incentives to encourage preservation of regional heritage resources near parks and historic sites.

Educate the public about the substantial tax benefits accruing from rehabilitation of historic structures in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Historic and Archaeological Resources

Historic and archaeological 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 inventory which follows is a listing of those historic and archaeological resources in the region that have 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 meet the definition of "regionally significant" because the historic resources cross jurisdictional boundaries.

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, the inventory which follows is only as complete as the existing level of survey, evaluation, and designation data will allow.

National Historic Landmarks

National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Though most National Historic Landmarks are also listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the National Historic Landmark Program is separate from the National Register. Today, fewer than 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction.

The following properties (Map 29), two of which are large, rural historic districts, are listed as National Historic Landmarks:

Bartow County:

Etowah Mounds State Historic Site (located within the Etowah Mounds National Register Historic District) -- Bartow County. Fortified ceremonial center that thrived during the Mississippian Period, from 1000 to 1500 A.D. The site consists of three large platform mounds, two plaza areas, and a surrounding ditch attached to large borrow pits. The largest mound is sixty-three feet high and covers three acres.



Etowah Mounds



Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home

Floyd County:

Chieftains Museum -- Rome. Originally the home of Major Ridge, leader of the minority faction of Cherokees who signed the Treaty of New Echota in 1835, resulting in the removal of the Cherokees to the west. The house began as a log building in c.1794 and was expanded to an eight-room plantation house in the early nineteenth century. Its present Colonial Revival appearance is the result of a c.1923 renovation. Now Chieftains Museum.

Gordon County:

New Echota State Historic Site -- Gordon County. First truly "national" capital of the Cherokees, their having adopted a constitution in 1827, two years after the establishment of the town. A high point in the cultural transition of the Cherokee nation, it was here that their adopted Anglo-American culture was institutionalized. Restored and reconstructed buildings and museum.



New Echota

Walker County:

John Ross House -- Rossville, Walker County. Two-story log house built c.1797. Ross moved from here to a new home, "Head of Coosa" (now Rome), in 1827. Elected first chief under new Cherokee Constitution in 1828. The ablest political figure of Cherokee history, he fought against the removal of Cherokees from this region, ultimately leading them on the "Trail of Tears" to Oklahoma in 1838. The house is now a museum.



John Ross House

Regional National Register of Historic Places Listings

In addition to resources considered above, most of which should be considered building blocks for a Regional and State-wide greenspace/greenways system, there are historic cultural resources that are important for their recognized, intrinsic historic value, though most of them would not be candidates for inclusion in greenspace planning

The National Register is a list maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interior recognizing historic sites, buildings, structures, objects, and districts that are significant for events or activities that took place there, for important persons associated with the property in the past, or for architectural, landscaping, or engineering history.

Archaeological sites that have potential to yield information about the past are also eligible for listing.

National Register listings maps by county are:

Bartow, 30; Catoosa , 31; Chattooga, 32; Dade,33; Fannin, 34; Floyd, 35; Gilmer, NA, ; Gordon, 36; Haralson, 37; Murray, 38; Paulding 39; Pickens, 40; Polk, NA; Walker, 41; and Whitfield, 42.

National Register/Georgia Register listed properties with national level of significance are as follows:

Bartow County:

Corra White Harris House, Study, and Chapel Complex -- Log house and study associated with Corra Harris, a nationally famous writer popular during the early twentieth century, and stone chapel (1935) containing her grave.

Valley View (located within the Etowah Mounds National Register Historic District). Exceptional two-story, brick Greek Revival plantation house, outbuildings, and formal boxwood gardens, built about 1850 by Col. James Caldwell Sproull.

Chattooga County:

Camp Juliette Low -- A Girl Scout leadership training center founded in 1921 by Juliette Gordon Low, organizer of the Girl Scout movement in the United States. Now an independent camp owned by a nonprofit corporation.

Paradise Gardens – Pennville. A four-acre visionary art complex in a residential neighbourhood in Pennville. Local artist Harold Finster, considered one of the most significant artists in Georgia history, created the complex as an outdoor museum and garden to display his work.

Floyd County:

Berry Schools -- Rome. Significant as an educational innovation and built under the personal direction of Martha Berry to provide educational opportunity for the mountain children of north Georgia. The 5,300-acre Berry Schools district contains more than sixty historic buildings. (Note that as a private institution, the Berry Schools property is not a likely candidate for inclusion in a plan for publically accessible greenspace, with the exception of the portion managed by the Department of Natural Resources as a Wildlife Management Area.)



Fort Mountain

Murray County:

Fort Mountain -- Ancient serpentine wall of piled native stone once thought to be a fort, now thought to have been built for ceremonial purposes during the Woodland Period, at least one thousand years ago. The park, which encompasses 3,712 acres, is considered in the State Parks section (above) of this chapter.

Vann House State Historic Site – Spring Place (unincorporated). Federal-style, brick I-house featuring a cantilevered stairway and Cherokee-influenced carved wooden mantles. Built in 1805 by half-Cherokee James Vann, noted for his promotion of Indian education. Restored 1958. House museum. Includes outbuildings salvaged from various locations. Site encompasses 109 acres of Vann's original plantation, and should be considered in greenspace/greenway planning.

Paulding County:

Pickett's Mill Battlefield Historic Site -- Preserves 765 acres of battlefield from the War Between the States. Roads from the time and earthen defenceworks still survive, and four miles of hiking trails are available. This large, rural district should be considered an important element in regional greenspace/greenways planning.

Pickens County:

Tate House – Tate (unincorporated). Neoclassical Revival mansion built in 1923 of Georgia Etowah (pink) and white marble by Samuel C. Tate, owner and president of the Georgia Marble Company. Designed by Walker and Weeks of Cleveland, Ohio.

Walker County:

Gordon-Lee House -- Chickamauga. Originally built in 1840-47 by James Gordon, it is one of the most important plantation homes in North Georgia. Served as General Rosecrans headquarters and as a field hospital before and during the Battle of Chickamauga. Remodelled by the Lee family in c.1900.

Whitfield County:

Railroad Tunnels at Tunnel Hill. Original Chetoogetta Mountain Tunnel constructed in 1848-50 was the first railroad tunnel constructed in Georgia and one of the first in the South. This section of railroad, including the tunnel, became General Sherman's supply line, essential to his Atlanta Campaign. It is significant for its history and as an example of mid-nineteenth century engineering technology. The adjacent tunnel built in 1927-28 illustrates twentieth century technological advances. Together, the tunnels are an unusual resource, and connect to an approximately 80 acre County-owned Civil War site being developed as a park. This resource affords a node for greenspace/greenways planning.

Bartow and Floyd Counties:

Etowah Valley District -- Bartow and Floyd Counties. A large 40,202-acre, meandering district following the Etowah River and its major creeks from Allatoona Dam in Bartow County to Reynolds Bend in Floyd County. Contains more than sixty-five archaeological sites, twenty-four historic and prehistoric fish weirs, three communities -- Kingston, Euharlee, and Atco, numerous historic buildings, ruins of two industrial areas, Civil War fortifications, early roads, an abandoned railroad line, and several areas of scientific interest.

National Register/Georgia Register listed properties with state level of significance are as follows:

Bartow County:

Bartow County Courthouse --Cartersville. Neoclassical Revival building designed by Kenneth McDonald and J.W. Golucke and built in 1902.



Bartow County Courthouse

Benham Place-- Unique, excellent example of a mid-nineteenth-century, one-and-one-half story brick Georgian cottage with Gothic Revival stylistic elements, rebuilt after the Civil War in c. 1865-67 using much of the foundation and walls of an earlier two-story house.

Noble Hill School -- Built in 1923 and financed through the Rosenwald Fund that provided monetary assistance for school buildings and quality education for African-Americans throughout the South. Rehabilitated and opened to the public in 1989 as the Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center, a history museum and cultural center.

Old Bartow County Courthouse --Cartersville. Italianate building that served as the county courthouse from 1869 to 1902.

Roselawn --Cartersville. Nineteenth-century home of Sam P. Jones, noted evangelist, lecturer, and author. House museum.

Catoosa County:

Ringgold Depot --Ringgold. Constructed of native sandstone in 1850 for the Western & Atlantic Railroad, it was within Federal lines during the battle of Ringgold Gap. Damaged during the war, it was repaired shortly thereafter.



Ringgold Depot

Stone Church -- Built c.1850-52 of native sandstone, it was used extensively as a hospital after the battles of Chickamauga and Ringgold Gap.

Whitman-Anderson House --Ringgold. Two-story, brick house built c.1858, it served as temporary headquarters for General U.S. Grant following the Battle of Ringgold Gap.

Ringgold Gap Battlefield – The 110-acre battlefield along White Oak Mountain, Taylors Ridge, and Ringgold Gap includes the New York Brigade Monument, The Ringgold Gap Wayside Park, and the site of the Catoosa Platform.

Chattooga County:

Chattooga County Courthouse -- Summerville. Neoclassical Revival building designed by the Bryan Architectural Firm of Saint Louis, Missouri, and built in 1909.

Georgia Site No. 9 CG 43-- Prehistoric, early Archaic processing site.

Sardis Baptist Church – Chattoogaville. Rare, Italianate, frame, rural church. Built ca. 1860. One of the oldest rural religious buildings continuously serving the original congregation in the State.

Dade County:

Dade County Courthouse -- Trenton. Vernacular building constructed in 1926, with Dutch Colonial Revival stylistic influences.

Fannin County:

Fannin County Courthouse -- Blue Ridge. Neoclassical Revival building designed by Edwards, Sayward & Robert B. Logan Associates and constructed in 1937.

Floyd County:

Dr. Robert Battey House -- Rome. A Gothic Revival cottage built in 1851 as the home of Dr. Robert Battey, a world-renowned pioneer in the field of gynaecological medicine. House moved in 1974 and rehabilitated for commercial use in 1979.

Between The Rivers Historic District -- Rome. Encompasses the contiguous historic commercial, residential, institutional, and industrial areas of the oldest section of the city.

Cave Spring Railroad Station – Cave Spring. Late 19th century, Victorian-eclectic, frame structure, typical of similar railroad stations of its time.

Chubb Methodist Episcopal Church – Chubbtown (unincorporated). Vernacular Gothic Revival church built in 1870. It is the only intact historic resource from the once-thriving community of Chubbtown, established by the free-black Chubb family in the early 1860s.

Floyd County Courthouse (located within the Between the Rivers National Register Historic District) -- Rome. Romanesque Revival building designed by Bruce & Morgan and constructed in 1892.

Jackson Hill Historic District -- Rome. Fifty-acre district comprised of two adjoining hills, including three historic developments: the 1863-64 Civil War fortifications; the 1892 to 1939 water reservoir and filter plant; and the 1935-37 WPA community clubhouse, stonework, roads, trails, bridges, and gardens.

Main High School District – Rome. Campus of the “Main Colored School.” Colonial Revival, brick building constructed in 1934, with later structures added

to the campus between 1955 and 1963. Significant for African-American education.

Mayo's Bar Lock and Dam -- Built in 1911-13 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as northernmost point of an extensive navigation system for the Coosa River between Rome and Wetumpka, Alabama. The only remaining intact structure of the six original locks and dams, it is now the centerpiece of a 70-acre county park containing modern improvements as well as several historic and prehistoric archaeological sites.

Old Brick Mill – Lindale. Rare surviving brick antebellum grist mill built c. 1830's.

Oliver P. Fannin House – Cave Spring. Two-story, mid-19th century frame, octagonal house with single story wings. A highly vernacular interpretation of Jefferson's Monticello. House of first principal of the Georgia School for the Deaf.

Rome Clock Tower (located within the Between the Rivers National Register Historic District) -- Rome. Surviving remnant of the first public waterworks in North Georgia, built in 1871 by the Noble Brothers. A city landmark since its construction.

Sardis Presbyterian Church and Cemetery District – Built in 1855. Many Confederate veterans are buried in the cemetery.

Wesley O. Conner House --Cave Spring. An unusual example of mid-nineteenth-century eclectic residential architecture built in 1869 and the home of Wesley O. Conner, superintendent of the Georgia School for the Deaf from 1867 to 1916.

William D. Cowdry Plantation -- Cave Spring. Outstanding example of Federal-style, brick plantation house. Built c.1840 for William D. Cowdry, trustee of Hearn Academy and third pastor of Cave Spring Baptist Church.

William S. Simmons Plantation -- Cave Spring. Fine example of brick, Greek Revival plantation house, built c.1840.

Gordon County:

Freeman-Hurt House/Rockdale Plantation -- Very early nineteenth-century Indian farm, a supply post on the Tennessee Road, and an antebellum plantation. The original portion of the main house is the largest known log building in the state.

Haralson County:

Haralson County Courthouse -- Buchanan. Queen Anne building designed by Bruce & Morgan and constructed in 1891-92.

Murray County:

Carter's Quarters -- Very early nineteenth century plantation plain house built by John Martin, who was half Cherokee, in what was then Indian territory. Additions designed by Ivey & Crook, 1930s.

Murray County Courthouse -- Chatsworth. Neoclassical Revival building designed by Alexander Blair and built in 1917.

Pleasant Valley Historic District – A rare, intact, approximately 905 acre historic agricultural district that has changed little since the early 19th century. Public greenspace potential is limited by private ownership.

Paulding County:

Hiram Colored School – A historically African-American school built in 1930 with funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, a philanthropic organization.

Paulding County Courthouse -- Dallas. Queen Anne building designed by Bruce & Morgan and constructed in 1892. Rehabilitation 1984-85, 1991.

Pickens County:

Georgia Marble Company & Tate Historic District – Encompasses late 19th and early 20th century Georgia Marble Company mines and processing facilities, along with the mill village and associated civic, religious, and commercial structures.

Griffith-Pendley House – Rare, intact example of a late 19th century log dogtrot house that remains largely unchanged since 1905.

Pickens County Courthouse – Jasper. Two story, marble, Stripped Classical structure, designed by Bothwell and Nash and constructed in 1949.

Walker County:

Cavender's Store -- Villanow. Brick general store constructed c.1840, believed to be the oldest, free-standing country store remaining in Georgia.

Chattooga Academy -- LaFayette. Federal, two-story, brick building constructed in 1836. One of the oldest academy buildings remaining in Georgia, it was renamed John B. Gordon Hall in 1925. Grounds served as General Bragg's headquarters just before the Battle of Chickamauga.

Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company Coke Ovens – A battery of 36 beehive ovens associated with the iron and steel industry in North Georgia, northern Alabama, and southeastern Tennessee during the New South period (1870-1929). The Chickamauga coke ovens are among the few known to exist in Georgia.

Lane House (located within the McLemore Cove National Register Historic District). Outstanding example of a board-and-batten Gothic Revival plantation house. Built in c.1855-59 by Richard A. Lane, it is similar to an illustration in A.J. Downing's *The Architecture of Country Houses*.

Lookout Mountain Fairyland Club -- Lookout Mountain. District consisting of a clubhouse, ten cottages, and landscaped grounds. Planned and built by Fairyland Estates developer Garnet Carter and his wife, Frieda, to be the social center of the Fairyland community, 1924-28.

McLemore Cove Historic District -- Situated between Lookout and Pigeon Mountains, it is the largest National Register district in Georgia at 50,141 acres. Still relatively agricultural in nature, the district contains outstanding rural vistas and is one of the most intact rural landscapes remaining in the state. WHERE IS DNR's 1,565 A? WALKER'S 295 A?

Walker County Courthouse -- LaFayette. Beaux Arts/Italian Renaissance Revival building designed by Charles E. Bearden and constructed in 1917-18.

Whitfield County:

Crown Mill National Register Historic District -- Dalton. Mill complex and village. The mill was the first large manufacturing plant in Dalton. The 1885 mill building was converted from textile manufacturing to office and warehouse use after 1969, in the 1990's was rehabilitated for apartments and condominiums.

Western and Atlantic Depot -- Dalton. Brick terminal built in 1852. From this depot, a telegraph operator warned General Ledbetter that Union forces had stolen the engine "General". Rehabilitated as a restaurant.

Inherent Value of the Resource

National Register-listed buildings, structures, districts and agricultural or domestic landscapes possess significant, state and federally-identified historical, archaeological, or cultural value, often in combination with each other.

Historic, privately-owned resources are eligible for certain rehabilitation tax benefits, both State and Federal, to encourage their preservation.

Many resources included here represent significant tangible evidence of our past and our Northwest Georgia history and heritage.

Historic districts and agricultural or domestic landscapes sometimes provide significant animal and species habitat, greenspaces, and various other resources. This lends the sites a scientific importance.

Potential Consequences of Impairment

Impairment of the historic integrity of structures, districts and agricultural or domestic landscapes can cause the loss of eligibility for rehabilitation tax incentives, as well as their historic significance as tangible links to the past.

Degradation of significant natural areas can result in loss of species habitat.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

Design of new development and infill in historic districts and near historic resources should be compatible with the historic environment in scale and aesthetics. Appropriate considerations include compatibility in size, massing, height, setbacks, lot configurations, construction materials, and rhythms of solids and voids in facades. Historic street grids should be respected.

In the case of resources involving viewsheds, especially in rural areas, avoid or mitigate adverse impacts from development.

Donation of conservation easements or establishment of permanent buffers may, at times, mitigate negative impacts.

In proximity to archaeological resources, avoid land disturbing activities at or near potential subsurface resources.

Use greenspace/cluster development techniques to preserve sensitive areas and open space in developments.

General Policies and Protection Measures

Identify and catalogue historic, cultural, and sensitive natural resources, and include heritage resource conservation in Comprehensive Plans and Zoning and Development Ordinances.

Use infrastructure availability mitigate adverse effects of development on areas of natural, cultural, historic, and environmentally sensitive resources.

Establish regulations and incentives to encourage preservation of regional heritage resources. In areas with concentrations of historic resources, local jurisdictions should consider establishing a Historic Preservation Commission to exercise oversight.

Educate the public about the substantial tax benefits accruing from rehabilitation of historic structures in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Civil War Battlefields



Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

The Northwest Georgia Region preserves evidences of two Civil War military campaigns, the Chickamauga Campaign in the far north and northwest of the Region, and the Atlanta Campaign in a swath roughly following the old Western and Atlantic Railroad from Catoosa County to the southeast corner of Bartow County. (See Map 28.)

The Chickamauga Campaign, a Union offensive, was, during its five-week course, waged primarily in Tennessee and Alabama, with occasional skirmishes in Georgia, notably at Davis' Cross Roads on September 10-11, 1863. The Campaign culminated in the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19-20, 1863.

The Atlanta Campaign began in May of 1864. In that year, Abraham Lincoln appointed Ulysses S. Grant as Commander-in-Chief of all Federal forces to bolster flagging support for the Union's war efforts. Part of Grant's strategy involved sending General Sherman to destroy General Johnston's Army of Tennessee, headquartered in Dalton. After a few skirmishes north of that city, Sherman moved against Confederate forces entrenched on Rocky Face Ridge and across Crow Valley in May of 1864. The Campaign continued on its southeastward trajectory until the Union occupation of Atlanta at the beginning of September, 1864.

In 1990, the U.S. Congress appointed the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) to identify the most important and most threatened battlefields in the nation. CWSAC identified and assessed most of the following battlefields in the Northwest Georgia Region:

Davis Cross Roads, September 10-11, 1863. Dade and Walker Counties. Principal battle. Good integrity. Threat moderate.

Chickamauga, September 18-20, 1863. Catoosa and Walker Counties. Decisive battle. Good integrity. Threat moderate.

Ringgold Gap, November 27, 1863. Catoosa County. Major battle. Fair integrity. Threat moderate. **Listed on the National Register during this nomination process.**

Dalton I, February 22-27, 1864. Whitfield County. Importance not found. Fair integrity. Threat high.

Rocky Face Ridge, May 7-13, 1864. Whitfield County. Principal battle. Good integrity. Threat high.

Resaca, May 13-15, 1864. Gordon and Whitfield Counties. Principal battle. Good integrity. Threat high.

Armuchee (Farmers Bridge), May 16, 1864. Floyd County. Not assessed by CWSAC

Adairsville, May 17, 1864. Bartow and Gordon Counties. Principal battle. Good integrity. Threat low.

New Hope Church, May 25-26, 1864. Paulding County. Principal battle. Fair integrity. Threat high.

Dallas, May 26-June 1, 1864. Paulding County. Principal battle. Poor integrity. Threat high.

Pickett's Mill, May 27, 1864. Paulding County. Principal battle. Good integrity. Threat low.

Dalton II, August 14-15, 1864. Whitfield County. Importance not found. Integrity undetermined. Threat level not found.

Allatoona, October 5, 1864. Bartow County. Major battle. Good integrity. Threat moderate.



Rocky Face Ridge

For battle summaries, see the American Battlefield Protection Program website at <http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/GAmap.htm>

A portion of Chickamauga Battlefield is included within the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, and Pickett's Mill is a State Historic Site.

The Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and Pickett's Mill Battlefield Site are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, much of the Davis' Crossroads battlefield area lies within the McLemore Cove Historic District.



Picketts Mill Battlefield

Of the eighteen battlefields identified in Georgia with fair or good integrity, ten are within the region.

According to the CWSAC study, the core areas of four battlefields --Chickamauga, Adairsville, Resaca, and Ringgold Gap --cross jurisdictional boundaries. Core areas are the places where combat engagement and key associated actions and features were located. The maximum delineation of the historic battlefield sites are the study areas. Eight of the ten battlefield study areas cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Inherent Value of the Resource

The battlefields in the region preserve a physical record of the events there during the War Between the States, a defining event in American history. In many places the defenceworks remain in almost pristine condition.

If preserved and developed for public access, these battlefields could become a major tourism draw, and serve as an engine of economic development.

Potential Consequences of Impairment

Once impaired, battlefields cease to testify of the events of the War, and a portion of history is lost forever, and with it the promise of a Civil War tourism industry.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

It is best to not develop battlefields, since part of their integrity is visual, and will be lost even in the case of low intensity development.

If land must be developed for residential use, principals of conservation subdivision design should be followed.

For development on nearby non-historic land, consider impact on viewsheds from battlefield land.

General Policies and Protection Measures

Develop local greenspace conservation programs.

Consider establishing Historic Preservation Commissions to establish local historic districts, and to acquire battlefield land.

Owners should be offered incentives for establishing conservation easements on battlefield land.

Other Regionally Significant Resources

Other Regionally Significant Resources include properties that have been 1) listed in the National Register/Georgia Register with a local level of significance but that cross jurisdictional boundaries; 2) documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) or the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER); 3) otherwise evaluated to be of state or national significance; or 4) nominated during the 1992 Regionally Significant Resources process. Other regionally significant properties (See Map 43.) are as follows:

Old Federal Road— The Old Federal Road began as a federally subsidized road project to fostering trade and tying communities together. Begun around 1810, the road traversed Pickens, Murray, Whitfield, Walker, and Catoosa Counties. For much of its length, it is overlain or closely paralleled by modern roads, and traces of its path remain, sometimes as prominent features, especially in Pickens County. (See Map 44.)

Catoosa County Courthouse (NR listed for local significance. Documented by HABS.) -- Ringgold, Catoosa County. Colonial Revival building designed by Crutchfield and Law and constructed in 1939.

Fort Oglethorpe Historic District (NRHP) --Fort Oglethorpe, Catoosa and Walker Counties. Consists of thirty-six architecturally and historically significant buildings and several large landscaped areas which constitute the legacy of Fort Oglethorpe, an army cavalry base established during the first decade of the twentieth century and decommissioned after WWII.

Thornwood (Documented by HABS.) -- Rome, Floyd County. Two-story, frame Greek Revival mansion built c.1848 by Col. Alfred Shorter. Considered one of the most successful adaptations of Greek architecture in Georgia. Shorter was one of Rome's leading financiers and businessmen and a cofounder of Shorter College.

Marsh House (NR listed for local significance. Documented by HABS.)-- LaFayette, Walker County. Two-story, frame Greek Revival mansion built ca. 1836 by Spence Marsh, pioneer businessman and one of the organizers of the cotton factory at Trion in 1845.

Confederate Cemetery in Resaca – Located on the Resaca Battlefield on Confederate Cemetery Road off U.S. Highway 41, two miles north of Resaca. Established at the end of the Civil War for the burial of Confederates who fell at Resaca.

Polk's Confederate Line at Resaca – Located on Resaca Battlefield about one mile west of Resaca on Camp Creek. Well preserved Confederate trenches.

Site of Federal Blockhouse – Located on the Resaca Battlefield on a hill on the north side of the Oostanaula River at the railroad bridge.

Van Den Corput's Cherokee Battery -- On Resaca Battlefield on a ridge on the east side of U.S. 41 just south of the Whitfield County line. Confederate artillery fortifications.

Cassville Atlanta Campaign Tablet and Roadside Park – Located on U.S. Highway 41, north of Cartersville, at the site of Cassville, an ante-bellum town destroyed by the 5th Ohio Cavalry in 1864. Three churches and three houses survive. The town was once a commercial and cultural hub of the region, and is commemorated by fourteen historical markers.

Stilesboro Academy – Located near the community of Euharlee. Offered private education to the children of planters in the ante-bellum cotton belt along the

Etowah River. A landmark often mentioned in the official reports of military activities in 1864.

Atlanta Campaign Roadside Park – Located on the Battlefield at New Hope Church on GA Highway 92. A marker describes military movements in the vicinity of New Hope Church, Dallas, and Picketts Mill.

Boston Creek and Stamp Creek Basin – Located along Boston Creek and Stamp as they enter Lake Allatoona in Bartow County. Existing and potential archaeological sites of Indian and Paleo-Indian cultures. Also present are furnaces, cemeteries, and buildings from the period of early White settlement to the late 19th century.

Bee Hive Ovens – Massive stone ovens resembling bee hives in shape, and used during iron mining operations in Dade County during the early to mid-1800's.

Billy Goat Point – Located on Lookout Mountain in Dade County. Fifty acres of early mining operation ruins, natural waterfalls, and an Indian rock shelter.

Coke Ovens – Located in northwest Dade County. Associated with mid-19th to early 20th century coal mining operations.

Fox Mountain – Located in Dade County, and extends into Alabama. Byers, Cemetery, and Rusty Caves are nationally known among cavers, and the mountain is abundant in wildlife and spectacular views.

Hooker, Tunnacuahee, and Townsend Mounds – Indian burial mounds from the Woodland period. Located in Dade County.

Johnson Crook – Located in Dade County. A natural crook on the western side of Lookout Mountain from the top near New Salem to the foot at Rising Fawn. Several popular caves are in the area. Johnson Crook is the site of several Indian villages, and was the site of significant iron operations from the mid-19th to the early 20th century. The old iron furnace still exists. During the Civil War, over 40,000 troops marched up the Crook to cross Lookout Mountain within a 24 hour period, shortly before the Battle of Chickamauga.

Black's Bluff Preserve – The 263 acre tract in Floyd County is the site of the only major bluff overlooking the Coosa River. A rich oak-hickory forest grows on a 500 million year old outcrop of Conasauga limestone, sheltering a huge variety of rare species.

Marshall Forest – Located in the City of Rome, this is one of the original fourteen national natural landmarks designated by the U.S. Department of the

Interior. The 250 acre Nature Conservancy-owned property supports a 100 acre forest and 150 acres of fields and woods that are habitat for over 300 species of plants and numerous animals. (Map 57)

Oakdene Place National Register Historic District – National Register listed at the local level of significance, the District exemplifies architectural styles and landscaping practices typical of late 19th and early 20th century residential neighborhoods. It is significant as a planned subdivision in the City of Rome.

Lower Coosawattee River Valley – The valley lies between Carters Lake in Murray County and the City of Calhoun in Gordon County. Almost 100 archaeological sites, representing every indigenous cultural period from 10,000 B.C. to the 1839 Indian removal, have been identified in the 20 mile area between Carters Dam and New Echota. Of particular significance are three areas of Mississippian mounds in the valley. Several villages of the Chiefdom of Coosa, an area visited by De Soto in the 16th century, have been located there.

Dallas Military Lines – Located on the Battlefield at Dallas. Remnants of both Confederate and Federal lines significant during the Atlanta Campaign survive.

Sweet Water Creek – One of the last areas near Atlanta to remain relatively undisturbed, with pristine wetlands, old growth forest, and plant and animal habitat, flowing through Carroll, Douglas, and Paulding Counties.

Ascalon Church Road Wet Meadow – Located in Walker County. A very significant natural area of high ecological, scientific, and aesthetic value. Rose Gentian and Wood Lily, both rare species, are found in this area.

Walnut Grove – Gordon County. Dr. Robert Maxwell Young's 1839 Classical Revival house served as a hospital for Sherman's troops during the Civil War.

Inherent Value of the Resource

National Register-listed buildings, structures, districts and agricultural or domestic landscapes possess significant, state and federally-identified historical, archaeological, or cultural value, often in combination with each other. Many equally worthy resources are not National Register listed, simply because no one ever thought to nominate them, and exhibit identical value.

Historic, privately-owned resources are eligible for certain rehabilitation tax benefits, both State and Federal, to encourage their preservation.

Many resources included here represent significant tangible evidence of our past and our Northwest Georgia history and heritage.

Historic districts and agricultural or domestic landscapes sometimes provide significant animal and species habitat, greenspaces, and various other resources. This lends the sites a scientific importance.

Potential Consequences of Impairment

Impairment of the historic integrity of structures, districts and agricultural or domestic landscapes can cause the loss of eligibility for rehabilitation tax incentives, as well as their historic significance as tangible links to the past.

Degradation of significant natural areas can result in loss of species habitat.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

Design of new development and infill in historic districts and near historic resources should be compatible with the historic environment in scale and aesthetics. Appropriate considerations include compatibility in size, massing, height, setbacks, lot configurations, construction materials, and rhythms of solids and voids in facades. Historic street grids should be respected.

In the case of resources involving viewsheds, especially in rural areas, avoid or mitigate adverse impacts from development.

Donation of conservation easements or establishment of permanent buffers may, at times, mitigate negative impacts.

In proximity to archaeological resources, avoid land disturbing activities at or near potential subsurface resources.

Use greenspace/cluster development techniques to preserve sensitive areas and open space in developments.

General Policies and Protection Measures

Identify and catalogue historic, cultural, and sensitive natural resources, and include heritage resource conservation in Comprehensive Plans and Zoning and Development Ordinances.

Use infrastructure availability to mitigate potential adverse effects of development on areas of natural, cultural, historic, and environmentally sensitive resources.

Establish regulations and incentives to encourage preservation of regional heritage resources, including enabling greenspace/open space subdivision design.

Educate the public about the substantial tax benefits accruing from rehabilitation of historic structures in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Established Trails, Greenspaces, and Greenways

There are a number of established trails in the region that can provide connectivity between greenspace areas, even if they are located some distance from one another. Among the most important and best-known trails in the region are the Pinhoti, Silver Comet, and Benton Mackaye Trails. There is also a short segment of the Appalachian Trail. (See Map 45.)



Pinhoti Trail

The Pinhoti Trail links trail systems in Alabama to the Appalachian Trail via the Benton Mackaye Trail. This is in accordance with the original 1925 plan for the Appalachian Trail, which envisioned a spur leading from the Georgia mountains into northwest Alabama. The entire 164-mile Georgia Pinhoti Trail is within the fifteen-county region, where it extends from the northwest corner of Polk County, passes into Floyd County heading northward until it enters the Arrowhead WMA, and begins its traverse, mostly through National Forest land, of the Ridge and Valley Province through Chattooga County, the southeast corner of Walker County, and into Whitfield County, crossing the Rocky Face Ridge Battlefield

just before it enters the Great Valley near Dalton. The trail continues eastward across Whitfield County, and crosses the Conasauga River as it enters Murray County. On the eastern side of Murray County, the trail enters the Blue Ridge Province, passing in and out of the Chattahoochee National Forest, crosses the northwest corner of Gilmer County, where it briefly exits then re-enters the National Forest, through which it continues into Fannin County where it joins the Benton Mackaye Trail.

The Benton MacKaye Trail begins at Springer Mountain in southeast Fannin County, and intersects the Appalachian Trail not far from there. It leads northward in Fannin County, then turns to the west, passing through part of Gilmer County before veering northward back into Fannin County, and then on to Tennessee.

The Appalachian Trail cuts a small crescent into the southeast corner of Fannin County, but enters the region nowhere else. However, it links to the Benton McKaye Trail there, and so is accessible from the region.

The Silver Comet Trail began as a rails-to-trails conversion of a 36-mile railroad bed through Polk and Paulding Counties abandoned by CSX Transportation in 1989, and later acquired by the Georgia Department of Transportation. The trail was eventually extended to the City of Smyrna, and as of 2010 represents 61.5 paved miles for non-motorized multi-use.

The trail enters Georgia in West Polk County at the Georgia-Alabama border. From there it extends through Cedartown, Rockmart, Paulding Forest, and the Dallas Battlefield, just southeast of the city from which its name derives, and continues on to the Paulding-Cobb County border, where it leaves the fifteen county region.

Identifying Parties

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

Inherent Value of the Resource

Provides recreational opportunities, and generates local revenue.

Often preserves linear greenspace, and sometimes areas of historic or cultural value.

Provides important links among resources, and can be readily incorporated into greenway plans.

Sometimes provides wildlife corridors.

Potential Consequences of Impairment

Loss of important recreational opportunities, and associated local revenue.

Loss of greenspace, wildlife corridors, and existing and potential linkage among heritage resources.

Loss of important viewsheds.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

Provide buffers to mitigate loss of rural and scenic viewsheds due to development.

Offset impact of development by conservation easement donation.

Use greenspace/cluster development techniques to preserve sensitive areas and open space in developments

General Policies and Protection Measures

Consider ordinances to enable greenspace/cluster subdivision design.

Nominations from Various Jurisdictions and Organiza- tions

Nominations from Various Jurisdictions and Organizations

Nominations listed here were submitted by various jurisdictions, in addition to those included in the State and Regional Commission's nominations above.

Bartow County (Map 46)

Cultural Resources

Booth Western Art Museum – Located on the northern edge of the Cartersville Downtown Local Historic District. The 120,000 square foot museum opened with main galleries featuring historic art of the American West.

Tellus Northwest Georgia Science Museum – Located just off Interstate-75 at exit 293 (U.S. Highway 411). Exhibits are housed in four main galleries: The Weinman Mineral Gallery, The Fossil Gallery, Science in Motion, and The Collins Family My Big Back Yard. A 120-seat digital planetarium and an observatory are also located at the Museum.

Historic

Adairsville National Register Historic District – Listed on the Register as of local significance for commerce/trade, domestic use, and transportation.

ATCO Mill Village National Register Historic District – Located in Cartersville, and bounded roughly by Sugar Valley Road, Cassville Road, and Pettit Creek, Wingfoot Trail and Litchfield Street. The Mill was established by The American Pad and Textile Company around 1903 for the manufacture of cotton “drill” cloth, and provided workforce housing and other amenities in the adjacent mill village. In 1928, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company purchased the mill, and operated it until the early 2000's.

Barnsley Gardens – A 19th century estate. The main house is conserved as a ruin, and the grounds operate as for-profit gardens.

Bartow Carver Park – Opened in the era of Separate-but-Equal as a Negro State Park in 1950, and now operated by Bartow County.

Cartersville Downtown Local Historic District – A local historic district featuring both National Register listed and non-listed properties. Among the listed properties are the 1869 and 1903 Bartow County Courthouses, the 1853 First Presbyterian Church, and the 1910 Grand Theatre. The district also includes the 1854 Cartersville Depot, the 1904 First Baptist Church, the 1914 Post Office, and other structures.

Cassville Historic Village – Destroyed by Federal forces in 1864. Three churches and three houses survive. Site features fourteen historical markers. The town was once a commercial and cultural hub of the region.

Cooper's Iron Works – At the east end of Old River Road, north of Emerson, in the Cooper Day Use Area, which features a loop trail. An iron furnace, now the only surviving remnant of the industrial town of Etowah, burned by Sherman in 1864. In the late 1940's, remnants of the town were covered by the flooding of Lake Allatoona.

Euharlee Historic District and Covered Bridge – A local historic district of almost 133 acres, designated by the City in 2000. The district includes the Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, a Black Pioneer Cemetery, the Baptist Church and Cemetery, a covered bridge, and many other historic resources.

Hickory Log Vocational School – Located just north of White on U.S. Highway 411. Now an assisted living facility, the building was once a vocational school, and was once associated with the County's "PoorFarm."

Kingston – A town burned in 1864, and rebuilt during Reconstruction. Located approximately 10 miles north of Cartersville on State Route 293. A Civil War museum sits in a park that was formerly the Kingston Rail Yard. The town is important in railroad history, and Sherman had his headquarters there during the Civil War

Oak Hill Cemetery – Located northwest of downtown Cartersville on Erwin Street near its intersection with Cassville Road (State Route 293). Established in 1838 in association with Ebenezer Methodist Church, which move to a new location in 1848. Final resting place of many famous individuals, including a number of legislators and politicians.

Pine Log Methodist Church, Campground, and Cemetery – Located on Pine Log Road, just off U.S. Highway 411 in Rydal, north of the intersection with State Route 40. National Register listed at a local level of significance. It is the oldest church in continuous use in Bartow County. The grounds feature a large number of wooden structures used for camp meetings.

Thompson Log House -- Located at 4600 U.S. Highway 411, north of State Route 140 and just south of Falling Springs Road. Home of Johnson Thompson, a White man married to a Cherokee woman. Oldest log house in Bartow County.

Natural

Allatoona North Shore Conservation Area – A proposed conservation area of approximately 6,500 acres including eight significant lakeside recreation sites; six areas of natural significance, including Stamp Creek; and six historic frontier sites, of significance from 1838 to 1864, and located on Lake or Stamp Creek. A Historical and Cultural Resource Study has been completed.

Allatoona Wildlife Management Area – On the north side of Lake Allatoona. Approximately 7,000 acres. Hunting.

Bartow County Gatewood Park, beach and campground – Operated by Bartow County Recreation Department, and originated in the days of “separate but equal.” Campground is popular attraction. Shoreline fishing access on Lake Allatoona.

Beasley Gap Trail – Also known as the Pine Log -- Beasley Gap Trail. Located in northeast Bartow County. Construction funded by Georgia DNR.

Drummond Swamp/Blue Hole Spring/GA Alder threatened species – Located adjacent to and west of Hardin Bridge road near its intersection with Bill Nelson Road. Threatened tree habitat.

Pettit Environmental Preserve – Approximately 70 acres of forest and lake ecosystem, dedicated to Margaret and Luke Pettit, and located off the Dallas-Cartersville Highway and entered from Douthit Bridge Road. The private, non-profit corporation is committed to preserving nature for ecological studies, providing a research area and outdoor teaching laboratory of educational and scientific value.

Kingston Saltpeter Caves Nature Preserve – Approximately 40 acres of largely hardwood forest, acquired for preservation in 1983 by the Felburn Foundation. The Kingston Saltpeter Cave was an important source of saltpeter for the Confederacy. The saltpeter works were destroyed by advancing Union forces in 1864, and no trace remains today. Not open to the public.

Spring Bank – A County owned 37 acre greenspace, located in north Bartow County, 1.4 mile north of State Route 293 on Connesena Creek. The site boasts a one mile tree identification trail, the second-largest oak tree in Georgia, and a Civil War cemetery. The property is used for educational field trips.

Catoosa County (Map 47)

Anderson Cemetery – Located on Lafayette Street in Ringgold. Started as cemetery for slaves, then the Anderson family and friends, and finally became a community cemetery.

Yates House – Located off GA Highway 151 on Yates Springs Road. Maj. Presley Yates was an early settler, and a major slave holder. As a County representative at the secession convention in Milledgeville, he voted against secession.

Catoosa County Training Center – Located on GA Highway 2. Established in 1898 as a practice range for Fort Oglethorpe soldiers during the Spanish American War. It remains in use as a tank gunnery range.

Ringgold Cemetery – Located on Lafayette Street, Ringgold's oldest cemetery was next to the Methodist Church that was destroyed by Federal troops for lumber to build corrals.

Reed's Bridge – Crosses West Chickamauga Creek on Reed's Bridge Road, just west of its intersection with Walker Road. Site of the beginning of the Battle of Chickamauga.

Nick-A-Jack Trail – Indian Trail that linked New Echota, the Cherokee capital, with Leets Springs (Beaumont), Crawfish Springs (Chickamauga), and Nick-A-Jack Cave across Lookout Mountain. Follows roughly the current Nick-A-Jack Road in Catoosa County, and Houston Valley Road in Whitfield County.

Nellie Ward House – Located on Gray Street in Graysville. Used as headquarters of Gen. R. W. Johnson (USA) during the winter of 1863-1864.

Joseph Standing – Mormon Monument – Located in Whitfield County on Standing Road, it stands at the site of the mob murder of Joseph Standing, a Mormon missionary. The monument was dedicated in 1952 in commemoration of the event.

Leets Springs – Located on Mt. Pisgah Road. Site of a tannery where Confederate Gen. Bragg orders for the Battle of Chickamauga were issued.

Grave of Mrs. Posey – East side of West Nick-A-Jack Road. Wife of a Baptist missionary to the Cherokee, who started many churches in the area. Very likely the oldest marked grave in the County.

The General Monument – Located on GA Highway 151 North. Commemorates the “Great Locomotive Chase.” The General, a locomotive, was hijacked by a band of Union soldiers near Marietta, with the Confederates in pursuit. The General ran out of water near the marker, and was recaptured.

Fort Oglethorpe Historic District – National Register listed at a local level of significance. Established as army post in 1902, and opened in 1904, serving largely as a cavalry post for the 6th Cavalry. During WW I and II, it served as an induction and processing center. It was declared surplus after WW II, and sold.

Evans Home – Southwest corner of Nashville and Guyler Streets in Ringgold. Served as a boarding house for Confederate nurses whose diaries provide a vivid picture of wartime the town. Soon to be demolished.

Ellis Spring – Located on Boynton Drive in Ringgold. Settled in 1836 by Joshua Ellis. Site of the first skirmish in the Battle of Chickamauga.

Dixie Highway – Established in 1910 to connect cities and towns from Florida to Wisconsin.

Downtown Ringgold Drugstore Buildings – Three stores built by Whitman and Whitsett in 1850 at the corner of Nashville and Tennessee Streets. They are located within the Ringgold Commercial National Register District, a district listed at a local level of significance.

Catoosa County Courthouse – Listed on the National Register at a local level of significance. Located in Downtown Ringgold. Constructed in 1939 as a Federal Works Project.

Civil War Park – Located in Ringgold Gap on US Highway 41. Approximate location of Confederate cannon during the Battle of Ringgold Gap. Constructed of local rock in the 1930’s as a WPA project.

Ringgold Gap Historic Area – A proposed historic area that would include the Depot, the Historical Park, and everything in the area that was involved in the Battle of Ringgold Gap. **Listed as a National Register District during compilation of this nomination.**

City of Chickamauga (Map 48)

Historic

Lee and Gordon's Mill – Located at 71 Red Belt Road on West Chickamauga Creek, just east of Georgia Highway 27. The current building, listed on the National Register at a local level of significance, dates from 1867 or shortly thereafter, and replaces the mill that had stood at the site during the Civil War.

Natural

Crawfish Spring—Limestone spring located in downtown Chickamauga along GA Highway 341. Served as the City's principal water source until the 1990's. The City leases and manages the surrounding property as a local historic landmark and municipal park.

City of Dalton (Map 49)

General Johnston's Headquarters (The Huff House) – Located on Selvedge Street. Confederate Gen. Johnston's headquarters from December of 1863 to March of 1864. The vernacular frame building with Gothic Revival influence is currently a private office building.

The Hamilton House – Located on Chattanooga Avenue in the Crown Mill and Village National Register District in Dalton. Dalton's oldest house is a brick, Georgian Plan Cottage, constructed in the Federal Style in 1840, just after the Indian removal. A very early addition boasts a Palladian window, doubtless a minor architectural marvel, given the time and place. John Hamilton came to Dalton as a civil engineer for the W&A Railroad, and rose to great local prominence.

The Old W&A Freight Depot – Located on Depot Street at the east end of King Street in Dalton. The Depot was built by the State of Georgia in 1852. The Depot served as an ordnance depot and reception area for wounded soldiers being transported to hospitals in Dalton, 1862 to 1864. During the "Great Locomotive Chase" of 1862 when Union spies hijacked the Confederate locomotive "The General," a telegrapher sent from this depot a message to Confederates in Chattanooga to stop the locomotive. The depot is now a restaurant.

The Blunt House – Located on Thornton Avenue in Dalton. A frame, Federal style house built in 1848 for Ainsworth Emery Blunt, Dalton's first mayor, and first post-master. Blunt had come to the region as a missionary to the Cherokee, and was one of the founders of the First Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga.

The Confederate Cemetery – Located in West Hill Cemetery in Dalton, and in the Thornton Avenue-Murray Hills National Register District. During the Civil War, Dalton was the site of many hospitals for the wounded. The injured were treated in public buildings, in temporary structures built as hospitals, and in private houses. Many died, and were buried to the west of the City Cemetery, the area now known as the Confederate Cemetery.

Emery Street School -- Located on Emery Street in Dalton on the old Spring Square. In 1886, leading citizens organized a school system for the City of Dalton. The same year, construction began on a school for Black children at the site of the current Emery Street School. In 1968, the Dalton City Schools were integrated, but a group of Emery Street School alumni remained active, and established an African-American history and heritage center in the building.

Mt. Rachel – Located at the north end of North Hamilton Street in Dalton. Site of a Civil War defence emplacement. The principal surviving earthwork appears to be an intact redan with a raised earthen platform in the middle. Battery A on Mt Rachel (along with the vanished Battery B [just to the east of City Park?]) was positioned to defend against Federal incursions along the East Tennessee Railroad, the Cleveland Road, and other roads. That this fortification was constructed as part of the efforts to defend Dalton is certain.

Southern Freight Depot – Located next to the Morris Street crossing of the railroad in downtown Dalton. The single-story, red brick, multi-bay structure with wooden freight doors, bracketed eaves, and a loading dock on the track side is representative of a typical freight depot ca. 1912. The building has been rehabilitated according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, and serves as the headquarters of the Dalton-Whitfield Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Whitfield County Historic Preservation Commission (Map 50)

In addition to nominating all battlefields in Whitfield County (see pp. 53-55, above), the Preservation Commission would like to single out the following:

Rocky Face Ridge Battlefield Historic District – Located on Rocky Face Ridge in Whitfield County, east of I-75. An approximately 657 acre locally designated, county-owned, historic district preserving thousands of linear feet of defenceworks including stone breastworks, earthen trenches, gun emplacements, rifle pits and other structures. The district is significant as a battlefield in the early phases of the Civil War, a defining experience in American history; as a representative collection of a variety of intact military structures; and as having potential of yielding archaeological evidence to improve knowledge of the battle fought there.

Blue Mountain – Located on the east side of U.S. Highway 41 between Tunnel Hill and Rocky Face Ridge. The 15 acre, county-owned, fortified mountain top was the site of a Confederate signal tower, and served as a vantage point for U.S. General Sherman to assess the strength of Confederate defences near Dalton. The Whitfield County Historic Preservation Commission will consider a local historic district designation for the site.

Conasauga River Alliance (Map 51)

Varnell Springs Historic Park – This three acre parcel includes three springheads from which groundwater forms several streams that support a wide variety of fauna and flora. Over 100 different species of plants have been identified there. Due to an abundance of fresh water, a field hospital was located here during the Civil War. Erosion and invasive species threaten this site.

(Added by NWGRC Planning Committee) The **Varnell House**, adjacent to Varnell Springs Historic Park, built in 1847 by Dryden Dold, was used as a Confederate and Federal hospital and was headquarters for several Federal generals. A number of skirmishes were fought around the house, including a Confederate victory when Confederate cavalry great, "Fighting" Joe Wheeler swung around the Union left flank on May 12, 1864, taking the town, inflicting casualties, and capturing 100 prisoners, including nine officers.

Euharlee Valley Historical Society (Map 52)

Historic Van Wert Church and Cemetery – The church building is the oldest such structure in Polk County, and dates from the late 1840's or early 1850's. The associated cemetery is believed to be one of the earliest established by the post-Removal White settlers of Northwest Georgia, and is the site of many Confederate soldiers' graves. The Euharlee Valley Historical Society holds the title to the property, and has done considerable work to stabilize the church and clean up the cemetery.

Lula Lake Land Trust (Map 53)

Lula Lake Land Trust Core Area – The diversity of land forms on this tract, and its sheltered nature, has led to the persistence of federally listed species in areas characterized as high priority habitats in the Georgia State Wildlife Action Plan. The tract's assets make it an invaluable research asset to the academic community. Changing land use patterns in the watershed constitute a severe threat to the ecological integrity of this tract.

Whitfield-Murray Historical Society (Map 54)

The Wright Hotel – Located in Chatsworth, the three-story, 17-room Hotel was built by Thomas Wright in 1910 of locally made brick. Due to its proximity to the courthouse, it often housed judges, attorneys, jurors, and politicians, and offered excellent meals in the dining room. The Hotel now functions as a museum, and contains many of the original furnishings.

The Depot in Chatsworth – The railroad came through Murray County in 1906, and constructed depots in Tennga, Cisco, Crandall, Eton, Chatsworth and Ramhurst. The depot in Chatsworth is the only one of those still standing, and is a contributing structure in the Chatsworth Downtown National Register District. It is significant as a representative of a building-type once common.

Spring Place National Register Historic District – Spring Place has been inhabited since time immemorial, but its historic significance could be said to begin when Cherokee Chief Vann invited Moravian missionaries to come to the area to establish a school for educating Indian children. The mission established there, together with the Vann House and Plantation, became the nucleus of a town that became the County Seat of Murray County, and a center of trade and commerce. The National Register District preserves a variety of historic buildings dating from Indian and ante-bellum days to the 1950's.

Old Spring Place Methodist Church – The current building is located within the Spring Place National Register District, and was built around 1875 on the brick foundation of the earlier church, which had burned. The church is the oldest public-use building in Murray County, and houses items of historical interest. It also functions as a meeting space for various functions.

Praters Mill – Constructed near Varnell as a grist mill in 1855, the National Register-listed Praters Mill expanded its operations to include a saw mill, a cotton gin, a syrup mill, a wool carder, a blacksmith shop, and a general store. The site was once occupied by Indian villages, and a mound still remains, along with slave and Indian graves. During the Civil War, both sides used the mill grounds as campsites. Today, the mill is the site of a popular annual fair.

Cave Spring Historical Society (Map 45)

Two-Story Log House – In 2010, a demolition proposal led to an investigation that confirmed the existence of a two-story log house in a downtown Cave Spring building that had historically been a hotel. It is believed to be of Cherokee construction, and dendro-chronology suggests that possibility. Cave Spring is a Department of the Interior Certified Trail of Tears Site.



Praters Mill

Trail of Tears Association (Map 45)

Department of the Interior Certified Trail of Tears Sites – The Cedartown Encampment in Cedartown and the Ross to Ridge Road are sites associated with the 1830 Indian Removal when the federal government forced the Cherokee off their lands, and compelled them to relocate to Oklahoma. Other Certified Sites in the Region are the Chief John Ross House in Rossville (p. 46), the Chieftains Museum in Rome (pp. 44-45), the Rockdale Plantation/Freeman-Hurt House in Oakman (p. 53), the Vann House pp. 38, 41, 48, and New Echota pp. 40-41.

Inherent Value of the Resource

National Register-listed buildings, structures, districts and agricultural or domestic landscapes possess significant, state and federally-identified historical, archaeological, or cultural value, often in combination with each other. Many equally worthy resources are not National Register listed, simply because no one ever thought to nominate them, and exhibit identical value.

Historic, privately-owned resources are eligible for certain rehabilitation tax benefits, both State and Federal, to encourage their preservation.

Many resources included here represent significant tangible evidence of our past and our Northwest Georgia history and heritage.

Historic districts and agricultural or domestic landscapes sometimes provide significant animal and species habitat, greenspaces, and various other resources. This lends the sites a scientific importance.

Potential Consequences of Impairment

Impairment of the historic integrity of structures, districts and agricultural or domestic landscapes can cause the loss of eligibility for rehabilitation tax incentives, as well as their historic significance as tangible links to the past.

Degradation of significant natural areas can result in loss of species habitat.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices

Design of new development and infill in historic districts and near historic resources should be compatible with the historic environment in scale and aesthetics. Appropriate considerations include compatibility in size, massing, height, setbacks, lot configurations, construction materials, and rhythms of solids and voids in facades. Historic street grids should be respected.

In the case of resources involving viewsheds, especially in rural areas, avoid or mitigate adverse impacts from development.

Donation of conservation easements or establishment of permanent buffers may, at times, mitigate negative impacts.

In proximity to archaeological resources, avoid land disturbing activities at or near potential subsurface resources.

Use greenspace/cluster development techniques to preserve sensitive areas and open space in developments.

General Policies and Protection Measures

Identify and catalogue historic, cultural, and sensitive natural resources, and include heritage resource conservation in Comprehensive Plans and Zoning and Development Ordinances.

Use infrastructure availability to mitigate adverse impacts of development on areas of natural, cultural, historic, and environmentally sensitive resources.

Establish regulations and incentives to encourage preservation of regional heritage resources, including enabling greenspace/open space subdivision design.

Educate the public about the substantial tax benefits accruing from rehabilitation of historic structures in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Greenway Infrastructure Proposal

Greenspace/Greenways Vision and Goals (Map 55)

Vision: There will be a network of interconnected greenspaces throughout the fifteen counties of Northwest Georgia, preserving especially the region's environmental corridors and historic and natural sites, which will be linked by means of greenspace corridors and public trails such as the Silver Comet, Pinhoti, Benton McKaye, Appalachian, and others.

Goals: Land and easement acquisition, and development of contiguity among acquisitions will be primary goals. Parties striving to establish a greenspace network must seek out willing donors and sellers, and find funding to purchase both land and easements. While public accessibility is desirable, in the case of conservation easements this may not always be possible. Greenspace such as wetlands, marshes, and steep slopes perform important ecological functions, and should be conserved even when public access is not a possibility, or not even desirable. The same is true of farmland.

Connectivity is desirable not only in the case of publically accessible trails, but is necessary to protect species habitat from the kind of fragmentation that imperils local fauna populations as the human element becomes more invasive.

Assets on Hand: In Northwest Georgia, there is already what might be considered a skeletal greenspace infrastructure in the form of National Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, a national park, state parks and historic sites, and public trails. These resources can be thought of as nodes to link together to form a network of greenways and greenspaces.

In addition to existing trails in the region, floodplains, which generally have inherently low development value, can serve to link nodes together.

A comprehensive treatment of greenway/greenspace planning can be found in *Northwest Georgia Greenspace Conservation and Greenway Planning*, 2010, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, Rome, GA. On-line copies of the Plan, the Map and Design Guidelines can be downloaded at:

http://www.nwgrc.org/Final_Greenspace_Plan_2010.pdf

http://www.nwgrc.org/NWGRC_Region_Greenway_2010_07_26.pdf

http://www.nwgrc.org/Design_Guidelines.pdf

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The Old W&A Freight Depot, p. 75

The Blunt House, p. 75

The Confederate Cemetery in West Hill, p. 76

Emery Street School, p. 76

Mt. Rachel, p. 76

Southern Freight Depot, p. 76

Whitfield County Historic Preservation Commission

Rocky Face Ridge Battlefield Historic District, p. 76

Blue Mountain Fort Site, p. 71

Conasauga River Alliance

Varnell Springs Historic Park, p. 77 (plus Varnell House)

Euharlee Valley Historical Society

Historic Van Wert Church and Cemetery, p. 77

Lula Lake Land Trust

Lula Lake Land Trust Core Area, p. 77

Whitfield-Murray Historical Society

The Wright Hotel, p. 78

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Spring Place National Register District, p. 78

Old Spring Place Methodist Church (In National Register District), p. 78

Praters Mill p. 78

Cave Spring Historical Society

Two-story Log House in Cave Spring p. 78

Trail of Tears Association

Cedartown Encampment p. 79

Ross to Ridge Road p. 79

List of Parties Invited to Participate in the Nomination Process

The following were notified and invited to participate in the Resources of Regional Importance nomination process by letter carried by the U.S. Postal Service.

Local Governments:

Bartow County

Adairsville

Cartersville

Emerson

Euharlee

Kingston

Taylorsville

White

Catoosa County

Fort Oglethorpe

Ringgold

Chattooga County

Lyerly

Menlo

Summerville

Trion

Dade County

Trenton

Fannin County

Blue Ridge

McCaysville

Morganton

Floyd County

Rome

Cave Spring

Gilmer County

Ellijay

East Ellijay

Gordon County

Calhoun

Fairmont

Plainville

Ranger

Haralson County

Buchanan

Bremen

Tallapoosa

Waco

Murray County

Chatsworth

Eton

Paulding County

Dallas

Hiram

Pickens County

Jasper

Nelson

Talking Rock

Polk County

Aragon

Cedartown

Rockmart

Walker County

Chickmauga

LaFayette

Lookout Mountain

Rossville

Whitfield County

Dalton

Cohutta

Rocky Face

Tunnel Hill

Varnell

State and Federal Agencies

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Commissioner's Office

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, State Parks and Historic Sites

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division

Georgia Forestry Commission

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Georgia Ecological Services

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Director's Office

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Supervisor's Office

Rolling Hills Resource Conservation and Development

Limestone Valley Resource Conservation and Development

Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors

Historical Societies:

Cassville Historical Society

Etowah Valley Historical Society

Pine Log Historical Society

Catoosa County Historical Society

Chattooga County Historical Society

Dade County Historical Society

Fannin County Heritage

Cave Spring Historical Society

Rome Area Heritage Foundation

Gilmer County Historical Society

Haralson County Historical Society

Tallapoosa Historical Society

Whitfield-Murray Historical Society

Paulding County Historical Society

Marble Valley Historical Society

Aragon Historical Society

Euharlee Valley Historical Society

Polk County Historical Society

Walker County Historical Society

Conservancies/Land Trusts

Georgia Land Conservation Center

Upper Etowah River Alliance

Black Family Land Trust

Chattooga Conservancy

Georgia Piedmont Land Trust

Lula Lake Land Trust

Coosa River Basin Initiative

Chattahoochee Hill Country Conservancy

Chattowah Open Land Trust

Georgia Wildlife Federation

Mountain Conservation Trust of Georgia

Coosawattee Watershed Alliance

Audubon Environmental Land Trust

Chattahoochee Valley Land Trust

Georgia Agricultural Land Trust

Lookout Mountain Conservancy

National Wild Turkey Federation

Natural Lands Trust

Southeast Land Preservation Trust

Southeastern Climbers Coalition

The Conservation Fund

The Trust for Public Land

North American Land Trust

Southeast Regional Land Trust

Southern Conservation Land Trust

The Karst Conservancy

Wetlands Conservation Trust

Rails to Trails Conservancy

Southeastern Cave Conservancy

The Archaeological Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy in Georgia

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Maps

