

FINAL

# Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

CITY OF ATLANTA

December 2005



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# Contents

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	<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	vii
	<b>Acronyms and Abbreviations</b> .....	ix
	<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	ES-1
	Introduction.....	ES-1
	Overall Approach.....	ES-1
	Long-Range Planning .....	ES-1
	Implementation Strategy Overview .....	ES-2
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1-1</b>
	1.1 History and Progress to Date.....	1-1
	1.2 Office of Solid Waste Services (SWS).....	1-2
	1.3 Solid Waste Management Plan Organization .....	1-3
	1.4 Solid Waste Management Strategy .....	1-3
	1.5 Defining the Planning Area .....	1-4
	1.6 General Descriptions.....	1-6
	1.6.1 Development in the Major Areas of the City.....	1-6
	1.6.2 Topography/Unique Natural Features.....	1-7
	1.6.3 Population .....	1-7
	1.6.4 Seasonal Population Variation .....	1-8
	1.6.5 Number of Households .....	1-8
	1.6.6 Commercial/Manufacturing/Industrial Businesses.....	1-9
	1.7 Contact Information.....	1-9
<b>2</b>	<b>Waste Disposal Stream Analysis</b> .....	<b>2-1</b>
	2.1 Inventory of Waste Stream Generators .....	2-1
	2.1.1 Residential Waste Generation.....	2-5
	2.1.2 Commercial Waste Generation.....	2-5
	2.1.3 Institutional Waste Generation.....	2-7
	2.1.4 Industrial Waste Generation.....	2-7
	2.1.5 Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Generation .....	2-7
	2.1.6 Yard Trimmings Generation.....	2-8
	2.1.7 Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge.....	2-8
	2.1.8 Used Tire Generation.....	2-9
	2.2 Waste Disposal Characterization .....	2-10
	2.3 Fluctuations in the Quantity of Solid Waste Disposed .....	2-10
	2.4 Waste-Generating Disasters.....	2-12
	2.5 Waste Generation, Disposal, and Recycling Rates for the Planning Period .....	2-13
	2.5.1 Population .....	2-13
	2.5.2 Residential Waste Generation Rate.....	2-13
	2.5.3 Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Waste Generation Rates .....	2-14
	2.5.4 C&D Debris Generation Rate.....	2-16
	2.5.5 Yard Trimmings Generation Rate.....	2-17

	2.5.6	Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Disposal Rate .....	2-17
	2.5.7	Tire Disposal Rate .....	2-18
	2.5.8	Residential Recycling Rate.....	2-18
2.6		Waste Disposal Tonnages for the Planning Period .....	2-20
2.7		Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Reduction Goal .....	2-21
<b>3</b>		<b>Waste Reduction Element .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
	3.1	Source Reduction .....	3-2
	3.1.1	Education Program (Existing Program) .....	3-2
	3.1.2	Assessment of Source Reduction Programs.....	3-2
	3.2	Reuse/Recovery .....	3-3
	3.2.1	Reuse/Recovery Organizations (Existing Program) .....	3-3
	3.2.2	Waste Audits (Existing Program).....	3-4
	3.2.3	Waste Exchanges (Existing Program) .....	3-5
	3.2.4	Assessment of Reuse/Recovery Programs .....	3-5
	3.3	Recycling .....	3-6
	3.3.1	Residential Curbside Collection Program (Existing Program).....	3-6
	3.3.2	Materials Recovery Facility .....	3-7
	3.3.3	Drop-Off Centers (Existing Program) .....	3-8
	3.3.4	Recycling in City Buildings (Existing Program).....	3-8
	3.3.5	Recycled-Content Procurement Policy (Existing Program).....	3-9
	3.3.6	City Auctions (Existing Program) .....	3-9
	3.3.7	Materials for the Arts Program (Existing Program).....	3-9
	3.3.8	Commercial Multi-Family Recycling Programs (Existing Program).....	3-9
	3.3.9	Commercial Business Recycling Programs (Existing Program).....	3-9
	3.3.10	C&D Debris Recycling (Existing Program) .....	3-10
	3.3.11	Tire Recycling (Existing Program).....	3-10
	3.3.12	Yard Trimmings Recycling.....	3-10
	3.3.13	White Goods Recycling (Existing Program) .....	3-11
	3.3.14	Assessment of Recycling Programs.....	3-11
	3.4	Waste Reduction Alternatives for Waste-Generating Disasters.....	3-14
	3.5	Needs and Goals .....	3-15
	3.5.1	Waste Reduction Programs .....	3-15
	3.5.2	Reuse/Recovery Programs.....	3-17
	3.5.3	Recycling Programs .....	3-18
<b>4</b>		<b>Collection Element.....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
	4.1	Service Area and Existing Multi-Jurisdictional Agreements.....	4-1
	4.2	Garbage Collection .....	4-1
	4.2.1	City of Atlanta Garbage Collection .....	4-2
	4.2.2	Private Garbage Collection.....	4-4
	4.2.3	Assessment of Garbage Collection Programs .....	4-4
	4.3	Recycling Collection .....	4-6
	4.3.1	Residential Curbside Recycling Collection (Existing Program).....	4-6
	4.3.2	Multi-Family Recycling Collection (Existing Program) .....	4-7
	4.3.3	Commercial Business Recycling Collection (Existing Program).....	4-8
	4.3.4	Other Recycling Programs (Existing Programs).....	4-8
	4.3.5	Assessment of Recycling Collection Programs.....	4-8

4.4	Yard Trimmings Collection.....	4-10
4.4.1	Residential Curbside Yard Trimmings Collection (Existing Program) .....	4-10
4.4.2	Assessment of Residential Yard Trimmings Collection Programs ..	4-11
4.5	Non-Traditional Solid Waste Collection Services.....	4-11
4.5.1	City-Owned Buildings and Facilities Collection (Existing Program) .....	4-11
4.5.2	City Beautification and Common Good Services (Existing Program) .....	4-12
4.5.3	Assessment of City Beautification and Common Good Services Programs.....	4-12
4.6	Illegal Dumping/Littering.....	4-12
4.6.1	Inventory of Chronic Problem Areas.....	4-12
4.6.2	Prevention/Enforcement Strategy (Existing Program) .....	4-13
4.7	Contingency Strategies .....	4-15
4.7.1	Solid Waste Collection.....	4-15
4.7.2	Recycling Collection.....	4-15
4.7.3	Yard Trimmings Collection.....	4-16
4.7.4	Non-Traditional Collection Services.....	4-16
4.8	Needs and Goals.....	4-16
4.8.1	Garbage Collection Programs.....	4-17
4.8.2	Recycling Collection Programs .....	4-18
4.8.3	Yard Trimmings Collection Programs .....	4-18
4.8.4	Non-Traditional Collection Services Program .....	4-19
4.8.5	Illegal Dumping/Littering Programs.....	4-19
<b>5</b>	<b>Disposal Element.....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.1	Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Practices .....	5-1
5.1.1	Solid Waste Transfer Stations (Existing Program).....	5-2
5.1.2	Landfills (Existing Program).....	5-2
5.1.3	Assurance of 10-Year Disposal Capacity .....	5-3
5.1.4	Assessment.....	5-3
5.1.5	Contingency Strategy.....	5-3
5.2	Inventory of Thermal Treatment Disposal Practices (Existing Programs).....	5-3
5.2.1	Assessment .....	5-6
5.3	Needs and Goals.....	5-6
5.3.1	Combustion Waste-to-Energy Solutions.....	5-7
5.3.2	Regional Landfills (New Program).....	5-10
5.3.3	Use of Transfer Stations to Support Regional Disposal Facilities (New Program) .....	5-11
5.3.4	Eco-Industrial Park (New Program).....	5-13
<b>6</b>	<b>Land Limitation Element .....</b>	<b>6-1</b>
6.1	Natural Environmental Limitations .....	6-1
6.1.1	Floodplains .....	6-2
6.1.2	Wetlands.....	6-2
6.1.3	Groundwater Recharge Areas .....	6-4
6.1.4	Water Supply Watersheds.....	6-4
6.1.5	River Corridors.....	6-7

	6.1.6	Protected Mountains .....	6-7
	6.1.7	Fault Zones, Seismic Impact Zones, and Unstable Areas (Karst Areas).....	6-9
6.2		Land Use Limitations .....	6-9
	6.2.1	Land Use and Zoning Restrictions .....	6-9
	6.2.2	Historic Sites .....	6-11
	6.2.3	Archaeological Sites.....	6-11
	6.2.4	Surface Water Intakes.....	6-12
	6.2.5	Airport Safety .....	6-12
	6.2.6	Scenic View or Vista .....	6-12
	6.2.7	Parkland and Nature Preserves .....	6-14
	6.2.8	Habitat of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants, Animals, and Biological Communities .....	6-14
	6.2.9	Chattahoochee River Corridor .....	6-14
6.3		Disproportionate Environmental Impacts.....	6-14
6.4		Other Regulatory Requirements for Solid Waste Facility Siting.....	6-18
6.5		Procedures to Establish Consistency with Comprehensive SWMP (New Program).....	6-19
6.6		Needs and Goals .....	6-22
<b>7</b>		<b>Education and Public Involvement Element .....</b>	<b>7-1</b>
	7.1	Existing Educational Programs and Public Involvement Opportunities .....	7-1
		7.1.1 Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Team (S.W.E.E.T.) (Existing Program).....	7-1
		7.1.2 Trash Troopers (Existing Program).....	7-2
		7.1.3 Customer Service Center (Existing Program).....	7-3
		7.1.4 SWS Service Schedule Information Campaign (Existing Program) ..	7-3
		7.1.5 Recycling and Education Program (Existing Program) .....	7-3
		7.1.6 Keep Atlanta Beautiful (Existing Program) .....	7-4
		7.1.7 Speaker's Bureau/ Attendance at Neighborhood Planning Unit and APAB Meetings (Existing Program).....	7-4
		7.1.8 Newsletters (Existing Program).....	7-4
		7.1.9 Solid Waste Management Planning Advisory Group (Existing Program).....	7-5
		7.1.10 Public Involvement Related to the Development of Comprehensive SWMP (Existing Program).....	7-5
		7.1.11 Assessment of Programs .....	7-7
7.2		Needs and Goals .....	7-8
		7.2.1 Partnerships with Other Organizations.....	7-9
		7.2.2 Public Outreach.....	7-11
		7.2.3 Educational Materials.....	7-13
<b>8</b>		<b>Implementation .....</b>	<b>8-1</b>
	8.1	Implementation Strategy .....	8-1
	8.2	Financing Mechanisms.....	8-2
	8.3	Updating the Plan .....	8-3

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## Figures

1-1	Atlanta Vicinity Map.....	1-5
2-1	Waste Generating Trends in the City of Atlanta (2001-2003).....	2-4
2-2	Waste Generating Trends for the City of Atlanta Collections Not Including Private Waste Haulers (1995-2000) .....	2-4
2-3	Residential Waste Generation Trends in the City of Atlanta .....	2-5
2-4	Commercial Waste Generation Trends in the City of Atlanta .....	2-6
2-5	C&D Debris Disposal Trends in the City of Atlanta .....	2-8
2-6	Yard Trimmings Generation Trends in the City of Atlanta .....	2-8
2-7	Sludge Generation Trends in the City of Atlanta .....	2-9
2-8	Monthly Fluctuations in Waste Collected by the City of Atlanta in 2003 .....	2-12
2-9	Projected Waste Disposal Volumes by Sector for the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015.....	2-20
5-1	Simplified Process Block Flow Diagram of Eco-Industrial Park .....	5-14
6-1	100 Year FEMA Floodplain .....	6-3
6-2	Groundwater Recharge Areas .....	6-5
6-3	Water Supply Watersheds.....	6-6
6-4	Chattahoochee River Protection Buffers .....	6-8
6-5	Airports in the Atlanta Region .....	6-13
6-6	Conservation Areas and Greenspace.....	6-15
6-7	City of Atlanta Greenway Corridor Plan.....	6-16
6-8	Adjacent Counties Half Mile Buffer.....	6-20
6-9	Facility Siting Process .....	6-21

## Tables

1-1	Population by County and the City of Atlanta .....	1-8
1-2	Employment by Major Industry Sector.....	1-9
2-1	Waste Generated by Sector in 2003.....	2-2
2-2	Waste Composition of MSW Landfills Receiving Waste from the City of Atlanta in 2004 .....	2-11
2-3	City of Atlanta Population Projections for 2004-2015 .....	2-13
2-4	Projected Residential Solid Waste Generation Rates in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015.....	2-14
2-5	Projected Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Solid Waste per Employee Generation Rate in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015.....	2-15
2-6	Projected Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Solid Waste per Capita Generation Rate in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015.....	2-15
2-7	Projected C&D Debris Generation in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015.....	2-16
2-8	Projected Yard Trimmings Generation in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015 .....	2-17
2-9	Projected Sludge Disposal Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015 .....	2-18
2-10	Projected Tire Disposal Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015 .....	2-19
2-11	Projected Residential Recycling Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015.....	2-19
2-12	Projected Waste Disposal Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015 .....	2-20
2-13	Per Capita Reduction Rate in Municipal Solid Waste for the City of Atlanta (1992 vs. 2003) .....	2-23

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## Tables (Continued)

2-14	Waste Disposal Target for the City of Atlanta for the 10-Year Planning Period .....	2-24
3-1	Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Rates for the City of Atlanta (1992 vs. 2003) .....	3-1
3-2	Major Organizations in the City of Atlanta that Accept Reusable Materials .....	3-3
3-3	Waste Exchange Organizations .....	3-5
3-4	Post-Consumer Use of Materials Recycled by Dreamsans .....	3-7
3-5	City of Atlanta Operated Recycling Drop-Off Centers.....	3-8
3-6	Privately Operated Recycling Drop-Off Centers in the City of Atlanta.....	3-8
3-7	Tire Recycling Companies in Georgia.....	3-11
4-1	City of Atlanta Solid Waste Collection Substations .....	4-2
4-2	City of Atlanta Solid Waste Collection Vehicles.....	4-3
4-3	Private Waste Haulers That Provide Residential Recycling Service in City of Atlanta .....	4-7
5-1	Inventory of Disposal Facilities to be Used by the City of Atlanta during the Planning Period (2005 - 2014) Include, But Are Not Limited To:.....	5-4
5-2	Disposal Assurance Capacity for the City of Atlanta for the 10-Year Planning Period.....	5-5
7-1	Public Meetings .....	7-5
8-1	City of Atlanta Comprehensive SWMP Implementation Plan.....	8-5

## Appendices

A	Educational Materials
B	Executive Summary from Benchmarking Analysis
C	Assurance of Disposal Capacity
D	References
E	Resolutions

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

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APAB	Atlanta Public Advisory Board
APWA	American Public Works Association
ARC	Atlanta Regional Commission
AST	Aboveground Storage Tank
CAU	Clark Atlanta University
C&D	Construction and Demolition
CDP	Comprehensive Development Plan
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRR	Consolidated Resource Recovery, Inc.
CSWMP	Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan
CY	Cubic Yard
DCA	Department of Community Affairs
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DPW	Department of Public Works
EJ	Environmental Justice
EJRC	Environmental Justice Resource Center
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPD	Environmental Protection Division
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GASF	Georgia Archaeological Site File
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRC	Georgia Recycling Coalition
HDPE	High-density Polyethylene
HIVE	High Intensity Visibility Enforcement
KAB	Keep Atlanta Beautiful
KGB	Keep Georgia Beautiful
MFA	Materials for the Arts
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MRPA	Metropolitan River Protection Act
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NHRP	National Register of Historic Places
NPU	Neighborhood Planning Unit
NRC	National Recycling Coalition
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
O.C.G.A.	Official Code of Georgia Annotated
PAYT	Pay-As-You-Throw
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate

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RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RDC	Regional Development Center
RDF	Refuse-derived Fuel
ROW	Right-of-Way
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SPRC	SP Recycling Corporation
SWANA	Solid Waste Association of North America
S.W.E.E.T.	Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Team
SWIX	Southern Waste Information Exchange
SWMP	Solid Waste Management Plan
SWMPAG	Solid Waste Management Planning Advisory Group
SWRF	Solid Waste Reserve Fund
SWS	Office of Solid Waste Services
TPD	Tons per Day
UPS	United Parcel Service
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USC	United States Code
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UST	Underground Storage Tank

# Executive Summary

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## Introduction

The City of Atlanta's Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) serves as the City's action plan for managing the City's solid waste. The SWMP is a requirement of the State of Georgia's Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and was initiated by the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990. The SWMP addresses the City of Atlanta's waste stream, waste reduction, collection, disposal, land limitations, and education and public involvement. This document covers a 10-year planning period from 2005-2014.

The City's previous SWMP was written in 1995 and expires this year. During this period, the City implemented several recommendations from the 1995 plan, including curbside recycling and yard waste collection. The City also closed its four City-owned landfills in 1991, began utilizing Live Oak Landfill in DeKalb County, and is now utilizing privately owned transfer stations and landfills under short-term renewable contracts for the disposal of its waste.

## Overall Approach

Mayor Shirley Franklin and the current Administration's main vision for the City of Atlanta is to become a Best-In-Class city. In keeping with this goal, the City has developed a long-term strategy to effectively manage the City's solid waste. This strategy will reduce waste, educate residents, ensure compliance with applicable requirements, and provide customer satisfaction, while ensuring cost-effective management and operational efficiency.

The key objectives of this long-term strategy are to:

- Inform and educate the public about solid waste services.
- Position the City to provide solid waste services that are Best-In-Class, including providing efficient, cost-effective, and first-rate services and examining alternative disposal options that will be the best technology for the City.
- Provide opportunities for the public to have meaningful input to the solid waste management process and obtain endorsement of the decisions the City plans to implement.
- Comply with State regulations.

## Long-Range Planning

The City understands that future programs and some of the proposed solid waste management programs in this SWMP are for the long-term management of solid waste and

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not just for the 10-year planning period. The City also understands that solid waste management is an evolving process. Based on the City's assessment and industry trends, the City has identified the following solid waste management components for consideration in the long-range planning for managing solid waste in the City of Atlanta:

- Education and Public Involvement on Source Reduction and Recycling
- Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling
- Eco-Industrial Parks
- City-Owned Transfer Stations
- Waste-to-Energy Solutions
- Landfill Disposal

## Implementation Strategy Overview

The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act set forth the State's waste reduction goal, which requires a 25 percent per capita reduction rate in the amount of solid waste being disposed, from a 1992 baseline year. Since 1992, the City of Atlanta has achieved an 11 percent decrease in the per capita disposal of its solid waste, and has not met the State's waste reduction goal. This per capita disposal includes both the City of Atlanta's and private waste haulers' waste streams for the entire city. In analyzing the amount of solid waste disposed from just the City of Atlanta's municipal collections (not including private waste collections), the per capita disposal reduction from 1992 is 25 percent, which meets the State's reduction goal. Therefore, the 11 percent per capita reduction is most likely impacted by commercial private waste disposal and construction and demolition (C&D) debris. This indicates a need for the City to evaluate current commercial recycling programs and research the potential for C&D debris recycling programs and facilities. Other waste reduction, collection, disposal, and education and public involvement programs will help the City meet or exceed the 25 percent reduction goal for the planning period.

The City has identified over 70 existing and new programs to help the City reduce waste, improve collection, research disposal options, ensure that land limitations on solid waste handling facilities are met, and increase education and public awareness of solid waste management.

It is understood that waste management is everyone's responsibility, from the City to its residents. Because all citizens want a clean place in which to live, everyone in the City of Atlanta must bear an equal share in managing its solid waste. It is a cooperative process, in which the City must provide the best services its residents desire through cost-effective and operationally efficient means, and the residents must do their part in following curbside set-out rules and not illegally dumping solid waste. This cooperation is enhanced when opportunities for waste reduction, education, and public involvement are available during the entire process. A holistic approach to managing the City's solid waste will ensure that Atlanta is a Best-In-Class city for many years to come.

## SECTION 1

# Introduction

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The City of Atlanta's Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Comprehensive SWMP or the Plan) serves as the City's action plan for managing the City's solid waste. The Plan is a requirement of the State of Georgia's Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for local governments in Georgia, and was initiated by the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act (Official Code of Georgia Annotated [O.C.G.A.] §12-8-20) of 1990. The legislation was enacted to ensure that proper solid waste management planning by the State, local governments, and Regional Development Centers in the State will prevent environmental degradation, manage resources, and effectively reduce and manage solid waste for the State and its residents.

## 1.1 History and Progress to Date

The City's previous Solid Waste Management Plan was written in 1995 and expires this year. During this period, the City implemented several recommendations from the 1995 plan, including curbside recycling and yard waste collection. The City also closed its four City-owned landfills in 1991, and began utilizing Waste Management Incorporated's Live Oak Landfill in DeKalb County for the majority of its residential waste. Live Oak Landfill closed in 2004, and the City is now utilizing privately owned transfer stations and landfills under short-term renewable contracts for the disposal of its waste.

The City has recently made strides to become more efficient in providing solid waste management services. The City began with a reorganization of the Department of Public Works (DPW), which previously contained the Department of Public Works, Office of Solid Waste Services (SWS), and the Department of Water and Wastewater Services. Water and wastewater services are now in the new Department of Watershed Management, and the DPW provides solid waste services. SWS is now divided into two divisions—Administration and Operations—providing better management and organization of the services. SWS is funded through the SWS Revenue Fund, which consists primarily of service fees for solid waste collections, frontage fees, and the recycling fee. SWS has also reorganized its cost centers to better track funds and costs with the services it provides. In yard trimmings collection, SWS has also made strides in improving the collection frequency to provide service every other week.

Throughout the development and review of this Plan, SWS solicited and received numerous comments and input from:

- The public, at 22 public and community meetings (prior to preparing the Draft Comprehensive SWMP), and through other community forums such as Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) meetings, public hearings, and neighborhood and civic organizations.
- Environmental and business groups

- 
- The Solid Waste Management Planning Advisory Group (SWMPAG)
  - Mayor Shirley Franklin and the current Administration
  - City Council Members
  - Previous solid waste studies and initiatives, which included: The Solid Waste Management Action Plan for the City of Atlanta, January 1991, and the Solid Waste Handling Facility Task Force, created on May 19, 2003.

The public involvement process is a dynamic process that balances the City's desire to achieve Best-In-Class services, cost-effectiveness, and operational efficiency with the needs and concerns of the public, businesses, and environmental groups. The City's goal is to determine what is best for the City of Atlanta, with input from stakeholders, as decisions are made.

The Short Term Work Plan (2005-2010) and this Comprehensive SWMP (2005-2014) are updates of the 1995 plan. Both documents set forth solid waste management programs for the City to implement over the next 10 years (the planning period).

## **1.2 Office of Solid Waste Services (SWS)**

The primary developer and author of this Plan is SWS, which is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste within the City of Atlanta. SWS also provides a wide range of other solid waste management services that include yard waste collection, recycling, City building collection, bulky waste collection, street sweeping, street basket collection, removal of illegal signage, vacant lot and right-of-way (ROW) cleaning, dead animal removal, illegal dumping cleanup, and assistance with citywide emergency operations. SWS also oversees post-closure/monitoring operations of the City's four landfills.

As noted above, SWS consists of two divisions organized by function in order to increase their efficiency and delivery of services: Administration and Operations. The Administration Division includes Education and Enforcement, Waste Reduction, and Management Analysis. These units are responsible for code enforcement and compliance, maintenance of contracts devoted to waste reduction, recycling, and yard waste processing, route analysis, mapping, off-site plan review, budget preparation, and development of educational publications and activities.

The Operations Division is responsible for household garbage bulk rubbish and yard trimmings collection, as well as curbside recycling for single-family homes within the City of Atlanta. Formerly, these responsibilities were organized by geographic area. The DPW' mission is:

*"To enhance Atlanta's quality of life by working collaboratively with citizens, public and private entities, and other City departments to provide public works services that maintain and improve infrastructure and physical environment, utilizing a highly skilled and motivated work force."*

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SWS's mission is:

*"To provide solid waste services to Atlanta's residents, thereby contributing to an enhanced quality of life by creating clean and safe neighborhoods and public spaces."*

### **1.3 Solid Waste Management Plan Organization**

This Comprehensive SWMP follows guidelines published by the Georgia DCA for completing a SWMP, which were established in DCA's "Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management (Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-4-3.04)." This Plan provides an effective, comprehensive solid waste management strategy that addresses the waste disposal stream, waste reduction, collection, disposal, solid waste facility siting, and public involvement.

This Comprehensive SWMP is organized as follows:

- **Section 1. Introduction** provides background information on the City of Atlanta.
- **Section 2. Waste Disposal Stream Analysis** provides an inventory and analysis of the current and projected solid waste stream in the City.
- **Section 3. Waste Reduction Element** presents an inventory and assessment of existing programs in place to reduce waste and a summary of new waste reduction programs that will be considered for implementation by the City.
- **Section 4. Collection Element** presents an overview of the residential and commercial trash collection in the City and proposed changes that will be considered by the City.
- **Section 5. Disposal Element** provides a summary of how waste is currently disposed and future disposal options that are under consideration by the City.
- **Section 6. Land Limitation Element** sets forth the process, laws, and regulations that will govern the siting of new solid waste management facilities within the City limits of Atlanta.
- **Section 7. Education and Public Involvement Element** presents current educational programs regarding solid waste management and future programs under consideration.
- **Section 8. Implementation** presents the Implementation Strategy that the City will use in continuing existing programs and beginning new ones for the planning period. This section also includes cost estimates for these programs.

### **1.4 Solid Waste Management Strategy**

Mayor Shirley Franklin and the current Administration's main vision for the City of Atlanta is to become a Best-In-Class city. The Mayor's vision includes making the City of Atlanta:

- A safer, cleaner city
- A more responsive and effective government
- Better for seniors, children and working families
- An open and honest City Hall

- 
- A strong and efficient infrastructure

In keeping with these goals, the City has developed a long-term strategy to effectively manage the City's solid waste that will reduce waste, educate residents, ensure compliance, and provide customer satisfaction, while ensuring cost-effective management and operational efficiency.

The key objectives of this long-term strategy are to:

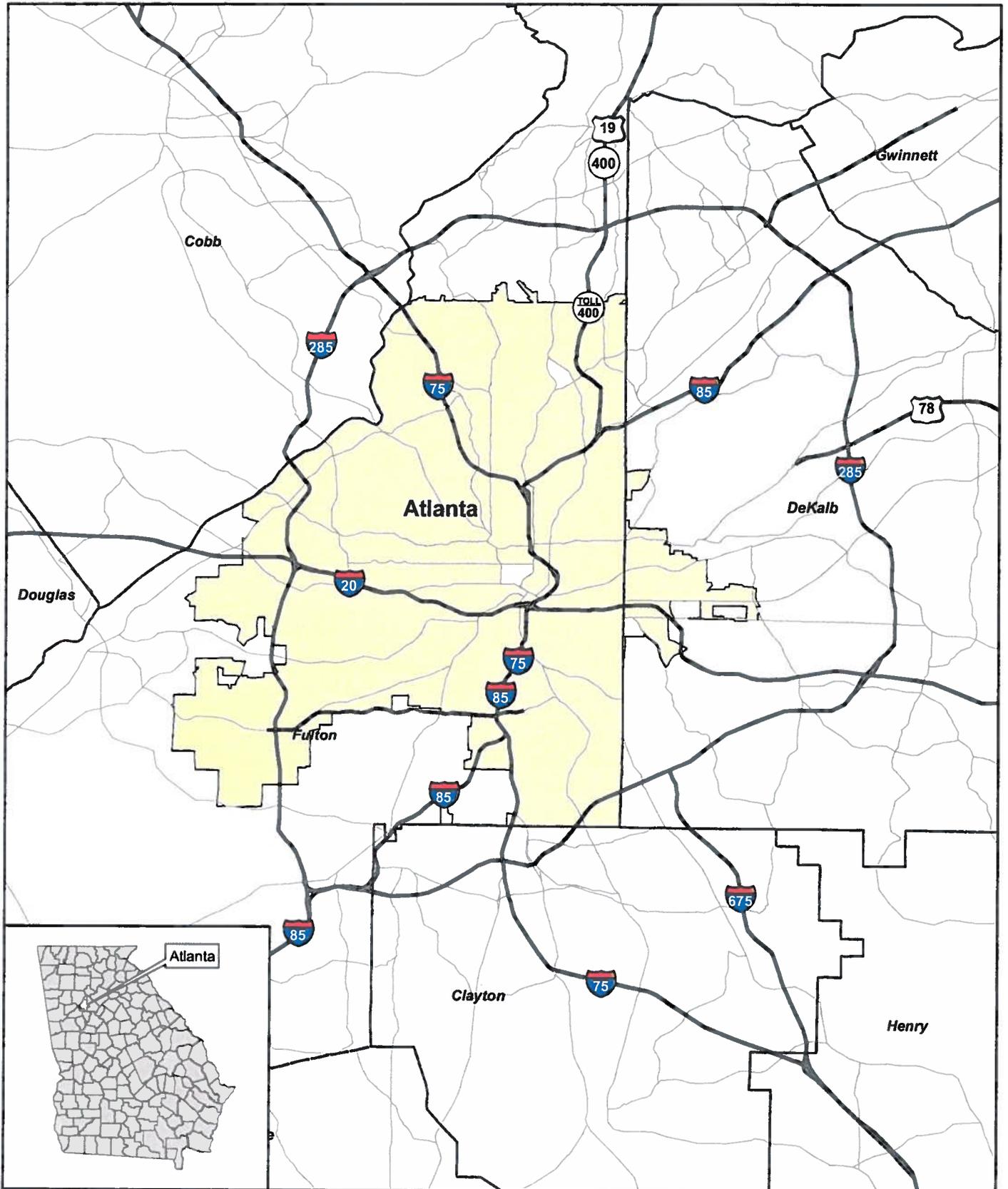
- Inform the public about solid waste services.
- Position the City to provide solid waste services that are Best-In-Class, including providing efficient, cost-effective, and first-rate services and examining alternative disposal options that will be the best technology for the City.
- Provide opportunities for the public to have meaningful input to the solid waste management process and obtain endorsement of the decisions the City plans to implement.
- Comply with State regulations.

The City understands that future programs and some of the proposed solid waste management programs in this Plan are for the long-term management of solid waste and not just for the 10-year planning period. The City also understands that solid waste management is an evolving process; therefore, the City will perform annual reviews of this Plan, submit annual reports to the State, and submit the Short-Term Work Program progress report to the State every 5 years. The City also reserves the right to make any necessary changes or amendments to the Plan.

It is understood that waste management is everyone's responsibility, from the City to its residents. Because all citizens want a clean place in which to live, everyone in the City of Atlanta must bear an equal share in managing its solid waste. It is a cooperative process, in which the City must provide the best services its residents desire through cost-effective and operationally efficient means, and the residents must do their part in following curbside set-out rules and not illegally dumping solid waste. This cooperation is enhanced when opportunities for waste reduction, education, and public involvement are available during the entire process. A holistic approach to managing the City's solid waste will ensure that Atlanta is a Best-In-Class city for many years to come.

## 1.5 Defining the Planning Area

The City of Atlanta is primarily located in Fulton County in north Georgia, as shown in Figure 1-1. A small portion of Atlanta, known as East Atlanta, is located within DeKalb County. The service area for the City of Atlanta is approximately 131.6 square miles located within the city limits. The City, located in the center of a 10-county metro Atlanta region, is a member of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Regional Development Center (RDC). The City is bounded on the west by the Chattahoochee River and on the east by the City of Decatur and DeKalb County. The City limits extend from the area south of Doraville to the cities of East Point and Hapeville to the south.



**Figure 1-1**  
**Atlanta Vicinity Map**  
**City of Atlanta**

**Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan**

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Land use within the City ranges from the highly urbanized Central Business District and other high-rise commercial areas to suburban residential areas. Atlanta is a hub for rail transportation, the intersection of major interstate highways, and has an international airport.

The 2000 Census population for the City was 416,474 and estimates prepared by the ARC indicate that the 2004 population for the City of Atlanta is approximately 434,900 (City of Atlanta Bureau of Planning). ARC population projections indicate that the City of Atlanta has experienced an average annual growth of 1.1 percent, with 4,607 new residents each year, between 2000 and 2004.

## **1.6 General Descriptions**

### **1.6.1 Development in the Major Areas of the City**

Since the SWMP was last updated in 1995, the City has experienced some significant changes. Many of these changes were stimulated by the increase in growth and development that occurred during and after Atlanta hosted the 1996 Olympics. A series of redevelopment plans were completed for neighborhoods that included Olympic venues. Since the Olympics, there have been efforts to revitalize Olympic ring neighborhoods through infill housing programs and redevelopment of public housing projects. The Atlanta Housing Authority has also redeveloped a series of housing projects into mixed income housing developments. In turn, private developers have taken the initiative to convert many old industrial buildings into loft apartments and condominiums.

The Central Business District has historically been a commercial center; however, since the Olympics, there has been a resurgence of downtown living as new residential housing has been developed in this area. Downtown serves as the corporate headquarters for Georgia Pacific, Georgia Power, SunTrust Bank, Turner Broadcasting, Cable News Network, and is home to Georgia State University. The Central Business District also includes the Georgia State Capitol, Atlanta City Hall, Atlanta Public Schools Central Office, Underground Atlanta, a variety of State Government agencies, Centennial Olympic Park, and major sports and convention center facilities.

The Midtown area includes several of the older in-town neighborhoods as well as high-density commercial development. During the 1980s, several large office towers were constructed in this area. Since 1995, this area has also experienced growth in residential, commercial, and office development. Midtown is home to the Coca-Cola Headquarters, the High Museum of Art, and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Growth in this area is anticipated to continue with the redevelopment of the former Atlantic Steel site into Atlantic Station - a mixed-use commercial, housing, and office development. When completed, this redevelopment is expected to add up to 7 million square feet of office space, 1.5 million square feet of retail space, and 4,000 residential units.

The Buckhead area includes a thriving commercial area associated with Lenox Square and the Phipps Plaza shopping area. In recent years, this area has experienced some growth in high-rise residential towers.

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The southeast areas of Atlanta are primarily residential and include many of Atlanta's older neighborhoods. Population in these areas in the last 5 years has gradually declined. This area is home to several manufacturing industries which sharply declined in the early 1990s but have recently stabilized to some extent.

Southwest Atlanta is primarily residential and includes many of the City's older residential neighborhoods as well as the Atlanta University Center. Southwest Atlanta has experienced tremendous population growth and development over the last 5 years.

The portion of Atlanta in DeKalb County saw the conversion of the East Lake Meadows public housing project into a mixed-use development centered around the historic East Lake Country Club.

The northwest Atlanta area is a primarily residential area with some industrial areas located along the railroad corridor. During the 1990s, some portions of this area were converted to more service-oriented uses.

### **1.6.2 Topography/Unique Natural Features**

The topography of Atlanta is predominantly characterized by rolling hills and broad, smooth uplands. Atlanta is located within the Atlanta Plateau and is part of the greater Georgia Piedmont Province of the Southern Piedmont Region of the United States. The areas with the largest change in elevation (areas with slopes of 15 percent or greater) are located in the northwest and southwest quadrants of the City. Elevations in Atlanta range from 960 to 1,050 feet above sea level.

The Chattahoochee River is one of the most prominent natural features of Atlanta. The Chattahoochee River forms the northwestern boundary of the City, flowing through a valley which ranges from 150 to 400 feet in depth and from 2 to 5 miles in width from rim to rim.

### **1.6.3 Population**

The population in the metro Atlanta area has been rapidly increasing over the last decade. In comparison, the City of Atlanta has experienced only small gains in population. Table 1-1 shows historical and projected population growth for the City of Atlanta and the metro Atlanta region.

Four of the 10 fastest growing counties in the nation are located in the metro Atlanta area. As a result, the Atlanta area has added 650,000 people and 850,000 jobs since 1990 (City of Atlanta Comprehensive Development Plan, 2004). The metro Atlanta region has a diverse economic base which includes growing white collar industries that have resulted in an increased per capita income in the metro region. Population and job growth are anticipated to continue and the overall population of the region is expected to reach more than 2 million residents over the next 25 years. The majority of the growth that has occurred in the metro Atlanta region has occurred in the northern suburbs and the north side of Atlanta. As jobs and population have shifted to the northern portion of metro Atlanta and adjacent suburbs, a large area of little or no population growth, economic decline, and concentrations of poverty continues within the City of Atlanta.

**TABLE 1-1**  
**Population by County and the City of Atlanta**

	1980 Census	1990 Census	2000 Census	2003 ARC Estimate	2004 ARC Estimate	Average Annual Change 80-90	Average Annual Change 90-00	Average Annual Change 2000- 2004		Change 2003-2004	
								Persons	%	Persons	%
Atlanta Region	1,896,182	2,557,800	3,429,379	3,669,300	3,716,100	66,162	87,158	71,680	2.0	46,800	1.3
City of Atlanta	424,922	415,200	416,474	432,900	434,900	-972	127	4,607	1.1	2,000	0.5
In DeKalb	37,183	35,300	29,775	31,900	31,800	-188	-553	506	1.7	-100	0.3
In Fulton	387,739	379,900	386,699	401,000	403,100	-784	680	4,100	1.0	2,100	0.5

Source: Atlanta Regional Commission, 2004, City of Atlanta Comprehensive Development Plan 2004-2011.

### 1.6.4 Seasonal Population Variation

The City of Atlanta has some seasonal fluctuation in population. The City is known as a conference and convention destination for many national organizations and, as such, experiences temporary increases in population throughout the year. Additionally, the City's sports venues are host to bowl games and other large events which draw large groups of people throughout the year. The City is also home to several colleges and universities, including the Atlanta University Center, Georgia State University, and Georgia Tech, all of which have fluctuations in enrollment significant enough to impact population variance.

### 1.6.5 Number of Households

The City of Atlanta experienced an increase of 11,308 housing units between 2000 and 2003. This 3-year increase was 2.5 times the net increase in housing units during the decade of the 1990s in the City. The total housing units in the City of Atlanta as of April 2003 were estimated at 198,306 according to the ARC. Approximately 48.8 percent (96,846 units) were single-family homes compared to 50.7 percent (100,518 units) that were multi-family units. (Population and Housing 2003, ARC, December 2003). This increase in housing development has not significantly impacted the volume of solid waste that the City manages. The majority of this housing development has been infill housing and redevelopment of existing urban areas which are in the City's current service area. This incremental growth is expected to continue at a manageable pace unless real estate market conditions drastically change. Overall, if this rate of housing growth continues over the next ten years, it is not anticipated to significantly impact the level of service provided by SWS.

The City of Atlanta ranks seventh of the 100 largest cities in terms of multi-family housing stock. The City has a large supply of multi-family dwellings; however, rents have increased significantly faster than the national average, with 4 in 10 renters paying at least 30 percent of their income for rent. Similarly, the City ranks low in home-ownership among the nation's largest cities. However, on the west side of the City, there is a large number of first-time homebuyers as well as senior citizens who own their own homes.

SWS estimates that it services approximately 87,000 single-family homes and 33,600 multi-family residences in the City of Atlanta. Likewise, it is estimated that approximately 63,762 multi-family homes are serviced by private waste collection entities.

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## 1.6.6 Commercial/Manufacturing/Industrial Businesses

Table 1-2 indicates the types of commercial, manufacturing, and industrial businesses that operate in the City of Atlanta. The table also indicates the approximate number of people employed in each of these sectors in 2000. Because of the large number of persons commuting into the City for work and recreation, it is expected that the commercial waste volume in Atlanta is higher on a per capita basis than in most comparable cities. Specific data on commercial solid waste amounts are provided in Section 2 of this Plan.

**TABLE 1-2**  
Employment by Major Industry Sector, City of Atlanta, 2000

Sector	Number Employed
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	674
Construction	9,551
Manufacturing	13,998
Wholesale Trade	6,103
Retail Trade	17,148
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	10,884
Information	10,476
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	15,328
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	31,406
Educational, health and social services	30,754
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	19,017
Other services (except public administration)	8,683
Public administration	8,914

Source: North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

## 1.7 Contact Information

The following DPW personnel serve as contacts for this Plan:

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CPM - Deputy Commissioner  
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Fax: (404) 658-7704  
<http://www.atlantaga.gov/Government/PublicWorks.aspx>

## SECTION 2

# Waste Disposal Stream Analysis

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### Goal of This Planning Element:

*To determine the amount and composition of the solid waste generated within each community or area to have a sound information foundation upon which to base solid waste management decisions and to determine if statewide and local goals have been met.*

This section provides information about the amount of waste generated and disposed from residential, commercial, and industrial sectors in the City of Atlanta. It also discusses the volume of construction and demolition (C&D) debris and yard trimmings generated in the City. This waste stream analysis provides information on the types and amounts of waste disposed, potential fluctuations in quantities due to seasonal variations, fluctuations in quantities due to waste-generating disasters, waste disposal projections for the 10-year planning period, and waste disposal reduction goals.

The City of Atlanta collects residential single- and multi-family solid waste, waste from City buildings and facilities, some C&D debris, and yard trimmings from residents and City-owned properties; and performs various beautification services. Private hauling companies collect some residential multi-family solid waste; all commercial, non-residential solid waste and yard trimmings; and C&D debris in the City of Atlanta.

Complete data for the various waste generating sectors in the City of Atlanta were not always available. Therefore, years with the most data available were used (specifically 2001 through 2003). In gathering available data, it became apparent that the City needed to collect better data associated with each generating sector – particularly the multi-family residential waste sector serviced by private haulers, the commercial waste sector, yard trimmings collected by private companies, and tires collected by private companies. The City will consider implementing a reporting system to determine who collects waste within the City, where the waste is sent (either through disposal or recycling facilities), and how much waste is disposed or recycled. More accurate data will help the City better manage and plan for its solid waste management and waste reduction goals for the planning period.

## 2.1 Inventory of Waste Stream Generators

Table 2-1 lists the amount of waste generated by sector in 2003 for the City of Atlanta. It should be noted that the generation rate is disposal plus recycling. Complete waste generation data were not available for 2004. The City had previously announced projected tonnage for 2004 in various public meetings held throughout the year; however, the projection was used for informational purposes only and did not include an accurate account of waste tonnage, primarily because complete tonnage reports for 2004 were not available until several months into 2005. Sections 2.1.1 through 2.1.8 provide a detailed description and additional information on each generating sector.

**TABLE 2-1**  
Waste Generated by Sector in 2003

Generating Sector	City of Atlanta (tons)			Private Hauling Companies (tons)			City of Atlanta + Private Hauling Companies (tons)	
	Disposed	Recycled	Total Generated (Disposed + Recycled)	Disposed	Recycled	Total Generated (Disposed + Recycled)	Disposed	Recycled
Residential	146,101 <sup>1</sup>	6,985	153,086	36,422 <sup>2</sup>	N/A <sup>3</sup>	36,422	182,523	6,985
Commercial/Industrial/ Institutional	741 <sup>4</sup>	N/A <sup>5</sup>	741	358,814 <sup>6</sup>	N/A <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>8</sup>	359,555	N/A
Construction and Demolition Debris	45,521	0 <sup>9</sup>	45,521	49,820	0 <sup>9</sup>	49,820	95,341	0
Yard Trimmings	0	20,837	20,837	N/A <sup>10</sup>	N/A <sup>11</sup>	NA	N/A	20,837
Used Tires	0	88	88	1,144	4,601 <sup>12</sup>	5,745 <sup>13</sup>	1,144	4,689
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>192,363</b>	<b>27,910</b>	<b>220,273</b>	<b>446,200</b>	<b>4,601</b>	<b>450,801</b>	<b>638,563</b>	<b>32,511</b>
Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge	46,984 <sup>14</sup>	71,741 <sup>15</sup>	118,725	0	0	0	46,984	71,741
<b>Total</b>	<b>239,347</b>	<b>99,651</b>	<b>338,998</b>	<b>446,200</b>	<b>4,601</b>	<b>450,801</b>	<b>685,547</b>	<b>104,252</b>

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> Includes all single-family residences and some multi-family residences that the City serves.
- <sup>2</sup> Includes remainder of multi-family residences that the City does not serve.
- <sup>3</sup> N/A = not available. Some residential recycling is provided by private waste companies; however, recycling data were not available.
- <sup>4</sup> Institutional solid waste only.
- <sup>5</sup> Although there is recycling in some City buildings, recycling data was not available.
- <sup>6</sup> From Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Private Disposal Landfill Reports. Some quarters were missing data.
- <sup>7</sup> Commercial recycling data was not available from private haulers or other sources for the City of Atlanta.
- <sup>8</sup> NA = not applicable. Since commercial recycling data was not available, the total generation of commercial solid waste in the City is not known.

**TABLE 2-1**  
Waste Generated by Sector in 2003

Generating Sector	City of Atlanta (tons)			Private Hauling Companies (tons)			City of Atlanta + Private Hauling Companies (tons)		
	Disposed	Recycled	Total Generated (Disposed + Recycled)	Disposed	Recycled	Total Generated (Disposed + Recycled)	Disposed	Recycled	

Notes: (cont.)

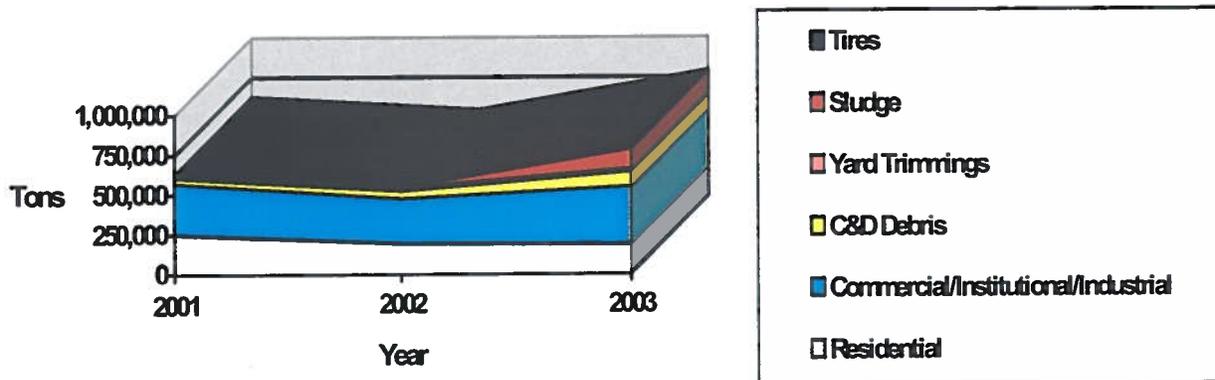
- <sup>9</sup> The City of Atlanta does not recycle C&D debris. From phone interviews, private C&D landfills that serve the City do not recycle or separate C&D debris.
- <sup>10</sup> Yard trimmings disposal data was not available through the Georgia DCA or Georgia EPD.
- <sup>11</sup> No data was available. In phone interviews with three major landscaping companies that operate in the City, yard trimmings are either mulched/composted or sent to C&D landfills.
- <sup>12</sup> Based on national trend of 80.4% recycling and applied to population in City of Atlanta (Tire data for City of Atlanta and Georgia was not available). From "U.S. Scrap Tire Markets: 2003 Edition," Rubber Manufacturers Association, July 2004).
- <sup>13</sup> Based on tire generation rate per person for entire U.S. and applied to population in City of Atlanta (Tire data for City of Atlanta and Georgia was not available). From "U.S. Scrap Tire Markets: 2003 Edition," Rubber Manufacturers Association, July 2004).
- <sup>14</sup> Also includes grit and other non-sludge waste, such as catch basin trash, rocks, wood, branches, gravel, etc.
- <sup>15</sup> Sludge is incinerated, and the ash is sent to a brick-making facility.

Sources of Data:

City of Atlanta, Department of Public Works, Office of Solid Waste Services records  
 City of Atlanta, Department of Watershed Management records  
 Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
 Georgia Environmental Protection Division private disposal landfill reports  
 Rubber Manufacturers Association  
 Phone interviews

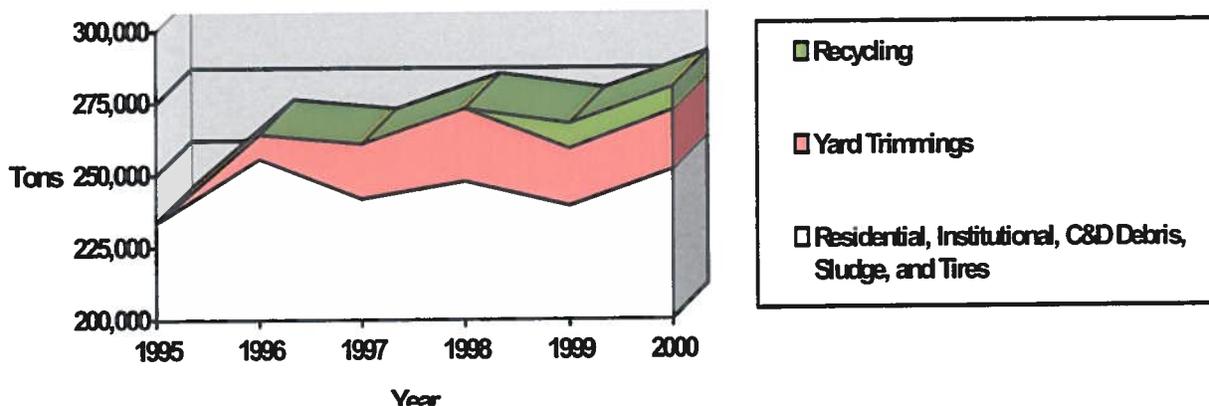
Figure 2-1 provides waste generation trends in the City of Atlanta for the past 3 years (2001 to 2003). It should be noted that some data were not available for some months or quarters in these years. Yard trimmings data were only available for the amount the City collected, and does not include private landscaping companies. Also, for some waste sectors (sludge and tires), data were only available for 2003.

**FIGURE 2-1**  
Waste Generating Trends in the City of Atlanta (2001-2003)



Data from the years 2001 through 2003 were used for this analysis, because the most consistent data for both the City of Atlanta and private waste hauling companies were available for these years. Private waste hauling data prior to 2001 were not available or complete. However, data from what the City of Atlanta collects were available for the years 1995 through 2000. These waste disposal, yard trimmings generation, and recycling trends for the City of Atlanta collections are provided in Figure 2-2. It should be noted that separate yard trimmings collection did not begin until 1996 in the City of Atlanta. Recycling data prior to 1999 were not available.

**FIGURE 2-2**  
Waste Generating Trends for the City of Atlanta Collections Not Including Private Waste Haulers (1995-2000)



### 2.1.1 Residential Waste Generation

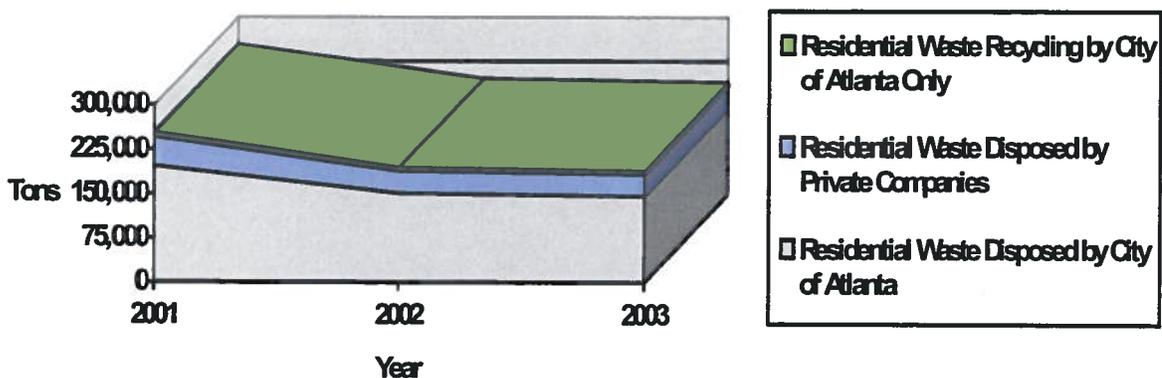
Residential solid waste is collected by the City of Atlanta from two primary sources: single-family and multi-family residences. The City services approximately 87,000 single-family units and 33,600 multi-family units weekly. Private hauling companies also collect solid waste from residential multi-family units and services approximately 63,762 multi-family residences in the City of Atlanta.

Until December of 2004, the City of Atlanta disposed of its residential and institutional solid waste at Waste Management Incorporated's Live Oak Landfill in DeKalb County, and solid waste data used in this Plan were obtained from Live Oak Landfill records. In 2003, the City of Atlanta collected 146,101 tons of residential solid waste for disposal at Live Oak Landfill. Approximately 6,985 tons of recyclable material were collected by the City for recycling.

Since private hauling companies that service multi-family residences in the City of Atlanta are not required to report the tonnage of residential waste collected to the City, typical multi-family generation rates from other cities were used to estimate the amount of solid waste collected. It was estimated that multi-family units produce approximately 45 percent of the amount of solid waste that single-family units produce. Therefore, for the 63,762 multi-family residences served by private companies, it was estimated that approximately 36,422 tons of solid waste were collected. In interviews with five major private waste haulers that collect residential waste from the city, it was reported that they provide some residential recycling to multi-family units. Recycling data from these companies, however, were not available.

Figure 2-3 provides residential waste generation and recycling trends in the City of Atlanta for the past 3 years. The figure indicates that the amount of waste generated by residential units has decreased.

**FIGURE 2-3**  
Residential Waste Generation Trends in the City of Atlanta



### 2.1.2 Commercial Waste Generation

Approximately 20,000 commercial establishments exist within the city limits of Atlanta. In 2000, approximately 182,936 employees were in the City. The commercial waste stream consists of waste from facilities such as County, State, and federal governmental facilities,

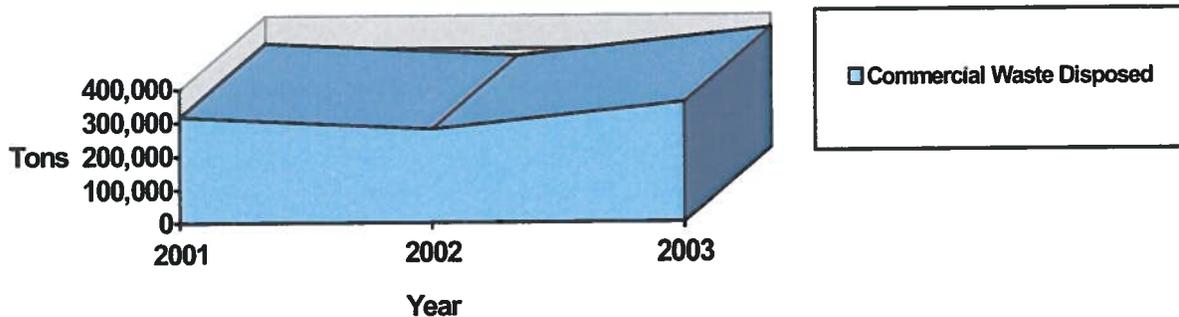
sports facilities, exhibit halls, convention centers, museums, theaters, shopping areas, airports, restaurants, nightclubs, hotels, colleges, universities, hospitals, corporate offices, some multi-family residential housing, and many other retail, wholesale, and service establishments. Consequently, because of the large number of persons commuting into the City for work and recreation, it is expected that the commercial waste volume in Atlanta is higher on a per capita basis than in most communities.

In the City of Atlanta, commercial solid waste is collected by private hauling companies and includes commercial non-residential solid waste, some institutional solid waste, and industrial-sector solid waste. These private hauling companies are not required to provide the City with tonnage information for waste collected from the commercial sector. Since no reports are available to provide actual tonnage data, to estimate the amount of commercial waste generated for the purposes of this Plan, the Georgia EPD Private Disposal Landfill Reports were used. The quarterly landfill reports provide the amount of commercial solid waste delivered from private haulers and denote what municipality the waste comes from. The landfill reports may include tonnages from metro Atlanta, since private haulers may have only reported Atlanta as the jurisdiction from which the waste was collected, instead of the City of Atlanta only. It should also be noted that some data were not available for some quarters of the year.

In 2003, private haulers collecting solid waste from the City of Atlanta delivered approximately 359,958 tons of commercial solid waste for disposal to four private landfills: Oak Grove Landfill in Barrow County, Pine Ridge Landfill in Butts County, Live Oak Landfill in DeKalb County, and Eagle Point Landfill in Forsyth County. Commercial recycling data were not available for the City of Atlanta. The City needs to collect more data associated with the commercial waste sector, and in response to this need, the City is considering implementing a reporting system requiring haulers and recyclers who collect waste within the City to report this information directly to the City.

Figure 2-4 provides commercial waste disposal trends in the City of Atlanta for the past 3 years. The amount of commercial waste generated within the City has increased by 42,606 tons from 2001 to 2003.

**FIGURE 2-4**  
Commercial Waste Generation Trends in the City of Atlanta



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### **2.1.3 Institutional Waste Generation**

The City of Atlanta collects institutional solid waste from City-owned buildings and facilities. The City collected approximately 741 tons of institutional waste from City-owned buildings in 2003. Some City buildings recycle their office wastes; however, recycling data were not available.

Institutional solid waste that is not collected by the City is collected by private haulers and is included in their commercial solid waste collection figures, as discussed in Section 2.1.2, Commercial Waste Generation.

### **2.1.4 Industrial Waste Generation**

The quantity of waste generated by industrial processes in Atlanta is relatively small and is handled entirely by private haulers and disposal facilities. For the purposes of this Plan, the solid waste generated at industrial facilities is considered to be handled as commercial solid waste, and is included in Section 2.1.2, Commercial Waste Generation. The other waste generated by industrial facilities is classified as hazardous waste, which is not addressed in this Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

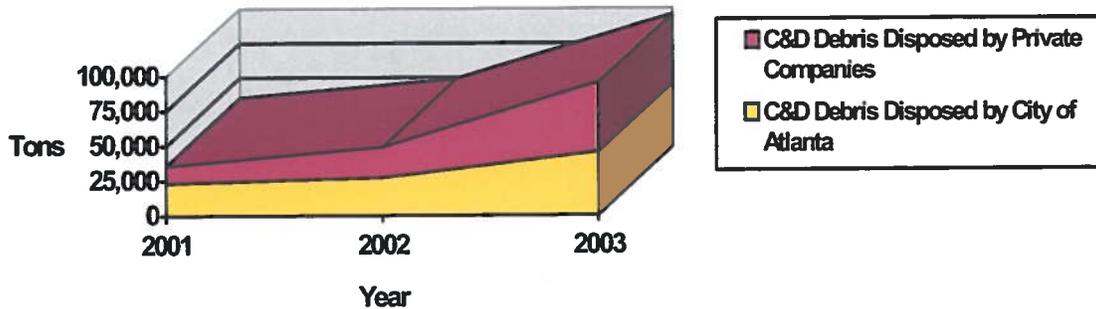
### **2.1.5 Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Generation**

In the City of Atlanta, C&D debris is collected by both private haulers and the City of Atlanta and is disposed of in private C&D landfills. The City of Atlanta previously sent C&D debris to Live Oak Landfill, which is a municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill. Since the City is now currently using transfer stations (discussed further in Section 5, Disposal Element), which do not accept C&D debris, the City will now begin using private dedicated C&D landfills for C&D disposal. No C&D recycling program currently exists in the City of Atlanta, and there are also no C&D recycling facilities in Georgia. In 2003, the City of Atlanta collected 45,521 tons of C&D debris.

Data on C&D debris collected by private haulers were obtained from EPD's Private C&D Debris Disposal Landfill reports. In 2003, private haulers collected approximately 49,820 tons of C&D debris from the City and delivered the debris to four private C&D landfills for disposal: Rogers Lake Road C&D and APAC/GA Donzi Lane Landfills in DeKalb County, Eagle Point Landfill in Forsyth County, and Reliable Tire Service Landfill in Hall County. Small amounts of C&D debris are also sent to municipal solid waste landfills. In 2004, approximately 6 percent of the solid waste at municipal solid waste landfills was C&D debris.

Figure 2-5 provides C&D debris disposal trends in the City of Atlanta for the past 3 years. EPD's C&D landfill reports may include tonnages from metro Atlanta, since private haulers may have reported Atlanta as the jurisdiction where the waste came from, instead of the City of Atlanta only. It should also be noted that some data were not available for some quarters of the year. The figure indicates that the amount of C&D debris disposed has increased significantly since 2001. This increase could be due to the fact that the majority of C&D debris was disposed in MSW landfills in the past, and the data show an increase in the use of dedicated C&D landfills for disposal, since MSW landfills typically charge a higher tipping fee to accept C&D debris when compared to C&D landfills. The increase in C&D debris generation may also be a result of increased development in the City of Atlanta.

**FIGURE 2-5**  
C&D Debris Disposal Trends in the City of Atlanta

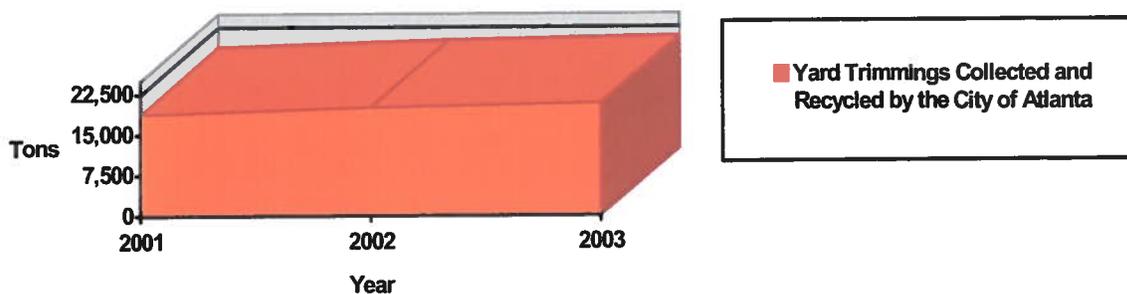


### 2.1.6 Yard Trimmings Generation

In 1996, the City began collecting yard trimmings separately from residential refuse. In 2003, the City collected approximately 20,837 tons of yard waste. The City does not dispose of yard trimmings, but instead processes the yard trimmings and sells the material for reuse as boiler fuel to various mills. Yard trimmings disposal and recycling data from private companies were not available. In phone interviews conducted with three major landscaping companies that operate within the City, it was reported that yard trimmings are both recycled and disposed. These companies stated that recycling yard trimmings consisted mostly of mulching and composting, while disposing yard trimmings involved sending yard trimmings to inert landfills.

Figure 2-6 provides trends in the amount of yard trimmings generated in the City (by the City of Atlanta only) for the past 3 years. The amount of yard trimmings increased by 2,019 tons from 2001 to 2003.

**FIGURE 2-6**  
Yard Trimmings Generation Trends in the City of Atlanta



### 2.1.7 Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge

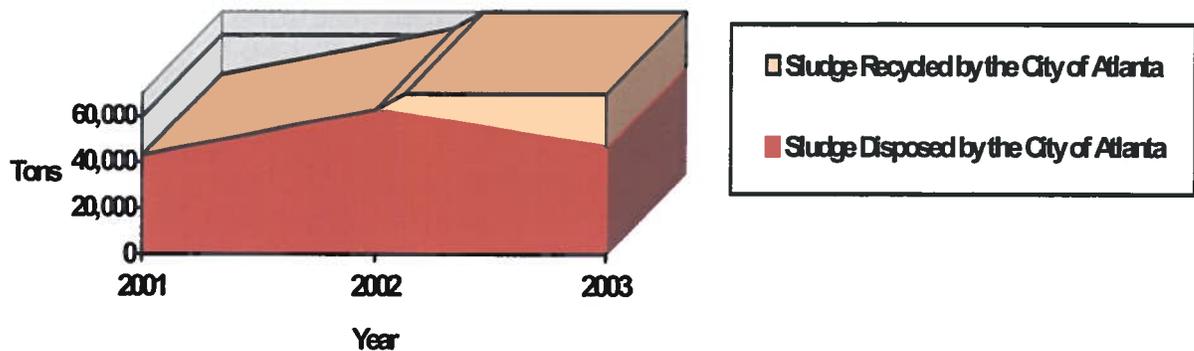
Sewage sludge and other similar wastes are not considered residential or commercial solid waste; however, information about sludge is provided in this Plan as additional information for planning purposes. This section only covers sludge generated from City-owned

treatment systems, such as water and wastewater treatment plants, and combined sewer overflows. For the purposes of this Plan, sludge also includes grit and other non-sludge waste, such as catch-basin trash, rocks, wood, branches, and gravel.

In 2003, approximately 118,725 tons of sludge were generated from City-owned treatment works. Of this amount, approximately 46,984 tons were sent to Live Oak Landfill for disposal. The remaining 71,741 tons were incinerated at the treatment works, and the ash was sent to a brick facility for recycling as an amendment in the manufacturing of bricks.

Figure 2-7 provides trends in the amount of sludge generated by the City of Atlanta for the past 3 years. The total amount of sludge disposed was available for 2001 through 2003; however, the total amount of sludge incinerated/recycled was not available for 2001 and 2002.

**FIGURE 2-7**  
Sludge Generation Trends in the City of Atlanta



### 2.1.8 Used Tire Generation

Currently, the City picks up tires when they are identified at illegal dump sites. Courtesy notices, which are reminders about proper curbside set-outs, are left with residences if tires are placed at the curbside. Residents and businesses are expected to deliver used tires to auto mechanic shops, tire shops, or tire recycling vendors. The City takes the tires it collects to a tire recycling vendor. In 2003, the City collected approximately 88 tons of tires for recycling.

Data on tires collected by private companies for disposal or recycling were not available through Georgia EPD or DCA. Therefore, to estimate the amount of tires disposed and recycled by private companies, U.S. data were used. There is an estimated national tire generation rate of 1.03 tires per person ("U.S. Scrap Tire Markets: 2003 Edition," Rubber Manufacturers Association, July 2004). Applying this number to the total population in the City of Atlanta, and using an average weight of passenger and truck tires, it is estimated that approximately 5,833 tons of tires are generated in the City of Atlanta annually. Subtracting the amount of tires collected by the City of Atlanta, it is estimated that private companies collect approximately 5,745 tons of tires for recycling or disposal.

A national trend of 80.4 percent recycling of tires ("U.S. Scrap Tire Markets: 2003 Edition," Rubber Manufacturers Association, July 2004) was also applied to the total population in the City of Atlanta, to determine the amount of tires recycled by private companies. It was

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estimated that private companies recycle approximately 4,601 tons of tires from the City of Atlanta, and dispose of 1,144 tons. Tire data were not available for years prior to 2003.

## **2.2 Waste Disposal Characterization**

Table 2-2 provides a breakdown of the types of waste disposed for the residential and commercial sectors in the ARC's RDC, which includes the following counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale. Waste stream sampling data were obtained from the Georgia DCA and R.W. Beck, and sampling was conducted in each of four seasons beginning in 2004. The waste stream sampling data provide draft results for the metro Atlanta region. It is assumed that the draft results for the metro Atlanta region are similar to what would be expected in the City of Atlanta.

The types of waste disposed and the amount of each type of waste will help the City determine which materials can potentially be diverted from disposal. The City already diverts materials such as newspaper, office paper, junk mail, aluminum and other metal cans, glass, plastic, phone books, yard trimmings, corrugated cardboard, and tires from disposal.

## **2.3 Fluctuations in the Quantity of Solid Waste Disposed**

To anticipate fluctuations in the quantity of solid waste disposed, the City of Atlanta must account for known events such as seasonal variations in population, public events (that is, fairs, festivals, concerts), shifts in manufacturing or production processes, landfill bans, and the like.

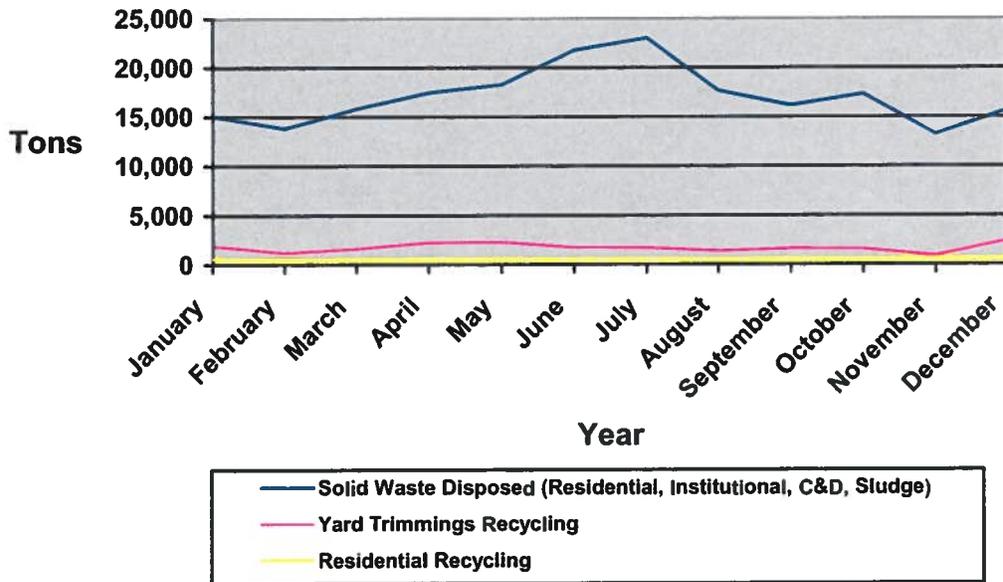
Figure 2-8 provides monthly trends in solid waste disposed (includes residential, institutional, C&D, and sludge), yard waste recycling, and residential recycling for 2003. The figure only provides data on solid waste collected by the City of Atlanta, and does not include private collection, since private monthly collection data were not available. This figure shows an increase in solid waste disposed during the summer months in 2003. It is typical for summer months to have increased solid waste disposal amounts. The City of Atlanta is capable of handling this seasonal increase. The yard trimmings generation rate in 2003 remained fairly steady, with typical increases in the spring and winter months.

**TABLE 2-2**  
**Waste Composition of MSW Landfills Receiving Waste from the City of Atlanta in 2004**

<b>Material Group</b>	<b>Material Category</b>	<b>Residential (%)</b>	<b>Commercial (%)</b>
<b>Paper</b>	Newspaper	6.8	3.0
	Corrugated Cardboard	5.6	15.0
	Office	3.2	4.5
	Magazine/Glossy	3.4	1.3
	Paperboard	4.8	2.1
	Mixed Paper (Other Recyclable)	3.5	2.9
	Other Paper (Non-recyclable)	10.7	11.5
	<b>Total Paper (%)</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>40.2</b>
<b>Plastic</b>	#1 Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET #1) Bottles	1.6	1.2
	#2 High-density polyethylene (HDPE) Bottles	1.4	1.1
	#3 - #7 Bottles	0.3	0.1
	Expanded Polystyrene	1.5	1.2
	Film Plastic	7.8	7.3
	Other Rigid Plastic	4.4	4.3
	<b>Total Plastic</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>15.2</b>
<b>Glass</b>	Clear	2.5	1.6
	Green	0.5	0.5
	Amber	1.3	1.3
	Other	0.5	0.2
	<b>Total Glass</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Metal</b>	Steel Cans	1.7	0.9
	Aluminum Cans	0.9	0.5
	Other Ferrous	1.8	3.5
	Other Non-Ferrous	0.6	0.6
	<b>Total Metal</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>Organic</b>	Yard Waste	1.0	3.4
	Wood (non-C&D)	1.5	1.5
	Food Waste	13.6	13.4
	Textiles	5.2	2.8
	Diapers	3.5	1.6
	Fines	2.8	2.7
	Other Organics	1.2	0.6
	<b>Total Organic</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>26.0</b>
<b>Inorganic</b>	Televisions	0.0	0.0
	Computers	0.0	0.0
	Other Electronics	1.6	2.0
	Tires	0.0	0.3
	Household Hazardous Waste	0.3	0.8
	Other Inorganics	1.0	0.5
	<b>Total Inorganic</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>C&amp;D</b>	Drywall	0.4	0.6
	Wood	1.1	2.3
	Inerts	0.1	0.4
	Carpet	1.5	1.8
	Other C&D	0.6	0.7
	<b>Total C&amp;D</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>

Source: R.W. Beck and Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

**FIGURE 2-8**  
 Monthly Fluctuations in Waste Collected by the City of Atlanta in 2003



## 2.4 Waste-Generating Disasters

The City of Atlanta has emergency procedures in place to handle waste-generating disasters. Section 3.4, Waste Reduction Alternatives for Waste-Generating Disasters, provides details on how the City will manage significant increases in volumes of waste resulting from disasters. Section 4.7, Contingency Strategies, provides information about emergency collection procedures in the event of a waste-generating disaster or in the event the primary collection option becomes interrupted. That section also describes emergency procedures in the event that the current disposal option becomes interrupted.

In the event of a waste-generating disaster, the City of Atlanta has Emergency Response Standard Operating Procedures in place, also known as the Emergency Response Plan. This document outlines the DPW's responsibilities during an emergency and the level of interaction with other agencies. The plan also establishes emergency communication, emergency protocol guidelines and procedures, and the type of emergencies covered by the plan.

Monthly fluctuations in waste generation rate from other years showed trends similar to that in Figure 2-8. The yard trimmings generation rate tends to increase during the spring and winter months. Based on an analysis of trends during years of storm events, there was no significant increase in yard trimmings over the months of the year. For projecting waste-generation quantities for the planning period, the City expects the waste-generation rate to remain fairly steady.

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## 2.5 Waste Generation, Disposal, and Recycling Rates for the Planning Period

Based on population projections, trends in job growth, building starts and demolitions, unique conditions and seasonal variations, and the potential for waste-generating disasters, the anticipated waste amounts for the 10-year planning period were projected. Per capita per day waste generation rates were estimated and applied to several generating sectors to calculate projected waste amounts.

### 2.5.1 Population

The 2000 Census population for the City of Atlanta was 416,474. ARC prepared population estimates for 2004 and estimated a population of 434,900 for the City of Atlanta (News Release, August 2004). ARC population projections indicate that the City of Atlanta has experienced an average annual growth of 1.1 percent (4,607 new residents) between 2000 and 2004. The City of Atlanta's Department of Planning and Community Development has projected population growth for the City as shown in Table 2-3 (Comprehensive Development Plan [CDP], December 2003):

**TABLE 2-3**  
City of Atlanta Population Projections for 2004-2015

Year	Projected Population
2004	434,900
2005	438,393
2006	441,781
2007	445,169
2008	448,556
2009	451,944
2010	455,332
2011	461,178
2012	467,024
2013	472,870
2014	478,716
2015	484,562

Source: Population estimates based on ARC 2003 Forecasts, and the City of Atlanta Bureau of Planning Forecast Interpolations, "Comprehensive Development Plan," December 2003.

### 2.5.2 Residential Waste Generation Rate

In 2003, the City of Atlanta generated approximately 189,508 tons of residential (single-family and multi-family) solid waste. The estimated population in 2003 for the City of Atlanta was 432,900 people (ARC, 2003). Based on this information, the residential waste-generation rate in the City of Atlanta for 2003 was 2.4 pounds per capita per day. For the

planning period of 2004 through 2015, the residential waste-generation rate is expected to remain fairly steady, not fluctuating significantly. Table 2-4 presents the projected residential waste generation rates based on the projected population growth for the City of Atlanta for the 10-year planning period.

**TABLE 2-4**  
Projected Residential Solid Waste Generation Rates in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015

Year	Projected Population (persons)	Projected Residential Solid Waste Generation [Generation Rate of 2.4 lbs/capita/day] (tons)
2004	434,900	190,384
2005	438,393	191,913
2006	441,781	193,396
2007	445,169	194,879
2008	448,556	196,362
2009	451,944	197,845
2010	455,332	199,328
2011	461,178	201,887
2012	467,024	204,446
2013	472,870	207,005
2014	478,716	209,565
2015	484,562	212,124

Notes:

- 1) Residential waste-generation rate is estimated at 2.4 lbs/capita/day.
- 2) The following conversion units were used in the calculations; 1 ton = 2,000 pounds and 1 year = 365 days.

### 2.5.3 Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Waste Generation Rates

In 2003, the City of Atlanta disposed of approximately 359,555 tons of commercial, institutional, and industrial solid waste. This disposal estimate does not account for the amount of commercial, institutional, and industrial waste that was recycled but not reported to the City. The estimated employment population in 2003 for metro Atlanta was 445,559 employees (City of Atlanta Bureau of Planning). Based on these numbers, the commercial, institutional, and industrial solid waste generation rate in the City of Atlanta for 2003 was approximately 4.4 pounds per employee per day. For the planning period, the commercial waste per employee generation rate is expected to remain fairly steady and not fluctuate significantly. Table 2-5 presents the projected waste generation rate based on the projected employment growth for the City of Atlanta for the 10-year planning period.

**TABLE 2-5**

Projected Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Solid Waste Per Employee Generation Rate in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015

Year	Projected Employees <sup>1</sup> (persons)	Projected Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Solid Waste Generation Rate [Generation Rate of 4.4 lbs/employee/day] (tons)
2004	448,221	362,854
2005	450,883	365,009
2006	453,545	367,164
2007	456,207	369,319
2008	458,870	371,475
2009	461,532	373,630
2010	464,194	375,785
2011	468,818	379,528
2012	473,442	383,272
2013	478,065	387,014
2014	482,689	390,757
2015	487,313	394,501

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Number of employees in metro Atlanta. ARC Atlanta Employment Forecast for 2000-2030.

In comparing the 2003 commercial, institutional, and industrial solid waste generation to a per capita rate, the City of Atlanta had a population of approximately 432,900 persons in 2003. Therefore, on a per capita basis, the commercial, institutional, and industrial solid waste generation rate in the City of Atlanta for 2003 was approximately 4.6 pounds per capita per day. For the planning period, the commercial waste per capita generation rate is expected to remain fairly steady and not fluctuate or increase significantly. Table 2-6 presents the projected waste generation rate based on the projected population growth for the City of Atlanta for the 10-year planning period. For the purposes of projecting waste disposal volumes for the planning period, the per capita commercial, institutional, and industrial solid waste generation rate was used.

**TABLE 2-6**

Projected Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Solid Waste Per Capita Generation Rate in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015

Year	Projected Population (persons)	Projected Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Solid Waste Generation Rate [Generation Rate of 4.6 lbs/capita/day] (tons)
2004	434,900	362,365
2005	438,393	365,276
2006	441,781	368,099

**TABLE 2-6**

Projected Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Solid Waste Per Capita Generation Rate in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015

Year	Projected Population (persons)	Projected Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Solid Waste Generation Rate [Generation Rate of 4.6 lbs/capita/day] (tons)
2007	445,169	370,921
2008	448,556	373,744
2009	451,944	376,567
2010	455,332	379,390
2011	461,178	384,261
2012	467,024	389,132
2013	472,870	394,003
2014	478,716	398,874
2015	484,562	403,745

#### 2.5.4 C&D Debris Generation Rate

In 2003, private haulers and the City of Atlanta collected approximately 95,341 tons of C&D debris from the City of Atlanta for disposal. Due to the increase in the amount of C&D debris from the City of Atlanta from 2002 to 2003, it is assumed that the amount of C&D debris will increase by 30 percent from 2003 to 2004. It is assumed that C&D debris will continue to increase by 30 percent for 3 years, and then start gradually declining to 1 percent by the end of the planning period, as efforts to recycle and divert C&D debris from C&D landfills increase.

Table 2-7 presents the projected C&D debris generation for the City of Atlanta for the 10-year planning period.

**TABLE 2-7**

Projected C&D Debris Generation in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015

Year	Projected C&D Debris Generation (tons)	Percent Increase from Previous Year (%)
2004	123,943	30
2005	161,126	30
2006	209,464	30
2007	251,357	20
2008	276,493	10
2009	304,142	5
2010	319,349	3
2011	328,930	2
2012	335,509	2

**TABLE 2-7**  
**Projected C&D Debris Generation in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015**

Year	Projected C&D Debris Generation (tons)	Percent Increase from Previous Year (%)
2013	338,864	1
2014	342,253	1
2015	345,676	1

### 2.5.5 Yard Trimmings Generation Rate

In 2003, the City of Atlanta collected approximately 20,837 tons of yard trimmings, and processed the yard trimmings for reuse as boiler fuel for various mills. Yard trimmings disposal and recycling data from private companies were not available. From 1997 to 2003, the amount of yard trimmings collected by the City of Atlanta increased by approximately 252 tons per year. Therefore, this amount was used to project the amount of yard trimmings generation for the City. Table 2-8 presents the projected yard trimmings generation for the City of Atlanta for the 10-year planning period.

**TABLE 2-8**  
**Projected Yard Trimmings Generation in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015**

Year	Projected Yard Trimmings Generation (tons)
2004	21,089
2005	21,341
2006	21,593
2007	21,845
2008	22,097
2009	22,349
2010	22,601
2011	22,853
2012	23,105
2013	23,357
2014	23,609
2015	23,861

### 2.5.6 Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Disposal Rate

In 2003, the City of Atlanta disposed of approximately 46,984 tons of sludge, and incinerated and recycled approximately 71,741 tons of sludge. The only historical data available for sludge were the amount of sludge disposed in 1992 (1995 City of Atlanta Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan). The amount of sludge recycled or incinerated in 1992 was not available. In 1992, the amount of sludge disposed by the City of Atlanta was 18,299 tons. From 1992 to 2003, the amount of sludge disposed increased by approximately 14.25 percent

each year, or 2,608 tons per year. Therefore, this amount was used to project the amount of sludge disposal for the City. Table 2-9 presents the projected sludge disposal amounts for the City of Atlanta for the 10-year planning period.

**TABLE 2-9**  
Projected Sludge Disposal Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015

Year	Projected Sludge Disposal (tons)
2004	49,592
2005	52,200
2006	54,808
2007	57,416
2008	60,024
2009	62,632
2010	65,240
2011	67,848
2012	70,456
2013	73,064
2014	75,672
2015	78,280

### 2.5.7 Tire Disposal Rate

Historical data were not available for tire disposal, so a percentage projection trend could not be applied to the amount of tires disposed each year. Therefore, a 1 percent increase in tire disposal each year was assumed. In 2003, approximately 1,144 tons of tires were disposed in the City of Atlanta. Using a figure of 1 percent increase per year increases the tire disposal tonnage by 11 tons per year. Therefore, this amount was used to project the amount of tire disposal for the City. Table 2-10 presents the projected tire disposal amounts for the City of Atlanta for the 10-year planning period.

### 2.5.8 Residential Recycling Rate

In 2003, approximately 6,985 tons of residential solid waste from single- and multi-family residences serviced by the City were collected for recycling. Residential recycling data from private waste companies were not available.

The estimated population in 2003 for the City of Atlanta was 432,900 people (ARC, 2003). Based on these numbers, the residential recycling rate in the City of Atlanta for 2003 was approximately 0.09 pound per capita per day. This rate is presumably higher because some residents may utilize drop-off centers or other mechanisms for recycling. The amount of residential solid waste disposed has also decreased steadily since 2001 (see Figure 2-2), which indicates an increase in source reduction and/or recycling. Table 2-11 presents the

projected residential recycling amounts for the City of Atlanta for the 10-year planning period.

**TABLE 2-10**  
**Projected Tire Disposal Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Tire Disposal (tons)</b>
2004	1,155
2005	1,166
2006	1,177
2007	1,188
2008	1,199
2009	1,210
2010	1,221
2011	1,232
2012	1,243
2013	1,254
2014	1,265
2015	1,276

**TABLE 2-11**  
**Projected Residential Recycling Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Residential Recycling Amounts (tons)</b>
2004	7,017
2005	7,074
2006	7,128
2007	7,183
2008	7,238
2009	7,292
2010	7,347
2011	7,441
2012	7,536
2013	7,629
2014	7,724
2015	7,819

## 2.6 Waste Disposal Tonnages for the Planning Period

The projected waste generation and recycling amounts for each sector were used to determine the projected waste to be disposed of for the 10-year planning period. This waste disposal projection does not account for waste reduction initiatives (such as increased recycling efforts, waste-to-energy solutions, etc.) and thus only estimates waste amounts based on status quo operations.

In Section 2.7, Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Reduction Goal, waste reduction initiatives were accounted for in determining the City's annual municipal solid waste disposal reduction target/goal.

Figure 2-9 summarizes the projected amount of waste to be disposed by sector for the 10-year planning period. It should be noted that per capita generation rates were used for the commercial, institutional, and industrial waste disposal projection, and not the per employee generation rate. Also, Figure 2-9 does not include projected yard trimmings or residential recycling, since these materials are not disposed of in a landfill.

**FIGURE 2-9**  
Projected Waste Disposal Volumes by Sector for the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015

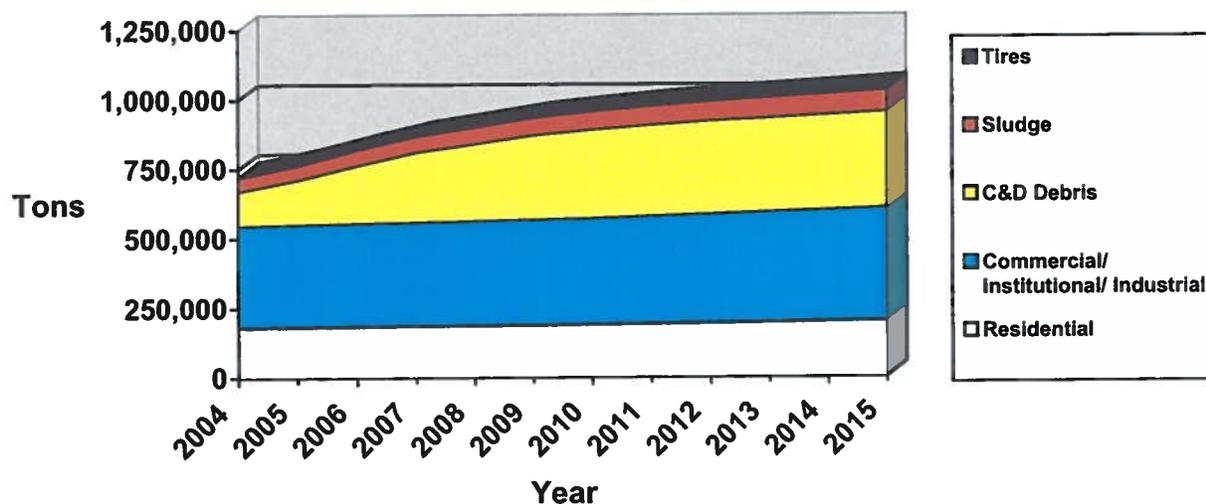


Table 2-12 presents the amount of disposal capacity required by the City of Atlanta for the planning period.

**TABLE 2-12**  
Projected Waste Disposal Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015

Year	Projected Waste Disposed (tons)
2004	720,922
2005	764,607
2006	819,816
2007	868,578

**TABLE 2-12**  
**Projected Waste Disposal Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015**

Year	Projected Waste Disposed (tons)
2008	900,584
2009	935,104
2010	957,181
2011	976,717
2012	993,250
2013	1,006,561
2014	1,019,905
2015	1,033,282

## 2.7 Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Reduction Goal

The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act (O.C.G.A. §12-8-20) set forth the State's waste reduction goal, which requires a 25 percent per capita reduction rate in the amount of solid waste being disposed, from a 1992 baseline year. Table 2-13 presents the per capita rate of solid waste disposed by the City of Atlanta in 1992, and the per capita rate of solid waste disposed in 2003, for three main categories: (1) total waste disposed (including City of Atlanta and private waste haulers), (2) total waste disposed by just the City of Atlanta (not including private waste haulers), and (3) total waste disposed by just the City of Atlanta and not including sludge disposal.

As shown in Table 2-13, there has been an 11 percent decrease in the per capita disposal of all waste in the City of Atlanta since 1992. This decrease includes both the City of Atlanta's collections and private waste hauler collections. Therefore, the City of Atlanta has not achieved the State's 25 percent per capita waste reduction goal.

In further analyzing the amount of solid waste disposed from just the City of Atlanta collections, the per capita disposal reduction from 1992 is actually 25 percent, which meets the State's reduction goal. If sludge disposal were removed from the analysis, the per capita reduction increases to 36 percent. Therefore, it can be seen that the 11 percent per capita reduction is impacted by commercial private waste disposal and C&D debris. The extent to which commercial private waste disposal has impacted the 11 percent per capita reduction has not been determined, since the City has insufficient data on the amount of commercial recycling conducted by private waste companies. Commercial recycling may show a reduction percentage comparable to the City of Atlanta's 25 percent reduction. The amount of C&D debris disposal impacts the 11 percent per capita reduction, since there is no current C&D debris recycling in the City and C&D debris contributed over 95,000 tons of disposed waste in 2003. This analysis shows a need for the City to gather more accurate data on commercial solid waste disposal and recycling and to investigate whether commercial recycling is being effective in reducing commercial solid waste. There is also a need to research the potential for C&D debris recycling programs and new C&D recycling facilities.

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In order to meet the State's 25 percent per capita reduction in solid waste disposal, the City will promote source reduction, reuse, composting, recycling, and other waste reduction programs. The new waste reduction, collection, disposal, and education and public involvement programs identified in this SWMP will help the City achieve this goal.

Table 2-14 provides the waste reduction goal projections for the 10-year planning period. In 1992, the per capita waste disposal rate for the City of Atlanta was 9.77 pounds per capita per day. Therefore, to meet the 25 percent reduction goal each year, the City of Atlanta must ensure that a per capita waste disposal rate is at or below 7.33 pounds per capita per day.

**TABLE 2-13**  
**Per Capita Reduction Rate in Municipal Solid Waste for the City of Atlanta (1992 vs. 2003)**

	1992			2003			Percent Reduction from 1992 (%)
	Waste Disposed (tons)	Population (persons)	Waste Disposal Rate (lbs/capita/day)	Waste Disposed (tons)	Population (persons)	Waste Disposal Rate (lbs/capita/day)	
<b>Total Waste Disposed</b> (Includes both the City and Private Haulers)	740,162 <sup>1</sup>	415,200 <sup>2</sup>	9.77	685,547	432,900	8.68	11
<b>Total Waste Disposed by the City</b> (Does not include Private Haulers)	306,232	415,200	4.04	239,347	432,900	3.03	25
<b>Total Waste Disposed by the City Not Including Sludge</b> (Does not include Private Haulers)	287,933	415,200	3.80	192,363	432,900	2.43	36

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> From 1995 City of Atlanta Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. Includes residential, sludge, and commercial waste disposed. Residential and sludge amounts were obtained from City records. Commercial waste data were obtained from Georgia EPD Private Disposal Landfill Reports.

<sup>2</sup> Population in City of Atlanta in 1990. U.S. Census Bureau.

**TABLE 2-14**  
**Waste Disposal Target for the City of Atlanta for the 10-Year Planning Period**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Population (persons)</b>	<b>Waste Disposal Rate Goal (lbs/capita/day)</b>	<b>Projected Waste Disposed (tons)</b>	<b>Percent Reduction from 1992 (%)</b>
2004	434,900	7.33	581,777	25
2005	438,393	7.33	586,449	25
2006	441,781	7.33	590,981	25
2007	445,169	7.33	595,514	25
2008	448,556	7.33	600,045	25
2009	451,944	7.33	604,577	25
2010	455,332	7.33	609,109	25
2011	461,178	7.33	616,929	25
2012	467,024	7.33	624,750	25
2013	472,870	7.33	632,570	25
2014	478,716	7.33	640,390	25
2015	484,562	7.33	648,211	25

SECTION 3

# Waste Reduction Element

**Goal of This Planning Element:**

*To ensure, at a minimum, from a 1992 baseline year, a 25 percent per capita reduction of the amount of solid waste being received at disposal facilities by promotion of source reduction, reuse, composting, recycling, and other waste reduction programs today and in the future, thereby maintaining and enhancing the quality of life of the citizens of the area.*

This section provides information on the current waste reduction programs (both public and private) in the City of Atlanta. Each program is inventoried and assessed to determine its effectiveness in helping to meet the State's waste-reduction goal. This section also includes needs and goals for waste reduction for the 10-year planning period.

The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act set forth the State's waste reduction goal, requiring a 25 percent per capita reduction rate in the amount of solid waste being disposed, from a 1992 baseline year. Since 1992, the City of Atlanta has achieved an 11 percent decrease in the per capita disposal of its solid waste, and has not met the State's waste reduction goal. In analyzing the amount of solid waste disposed from just the City of Atlanta collections, the per capita disposal reduction from 1992 is 25 percent, which meets the State's reduction goal. If sludge disposal were removed from the analysis, the per capita reduction increases to 36 percent. Therefore, the 11 percent per capita reduction is most likely impacted by commercial private waste disposal and C&D debris. This indicates a need for the City to evaluate current commercial recycling programs and research the potential for C&D debris recycling programs and facilities. Other waste reduction, collection, disposal, and education and public involvement programs will help the City meet or exceed the 25 percent reduction goal for the planning period. Table 3-1 compares the waste generation rates between 1992 and 2003.

**TABLE 3-1**  
Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Rates for the City of Atlanta (1992 vs. 2003)

	1992	2003	Percent Reduction from 1992 (%)
<b>Waste Disposal Rate</b> (lbs/capita/day)	9.77	8.68	11
<b>Waste Disposal Rate for City of Atlanta Collections Only</b> (Does not include Private Haulers) (lbs/capita/day)	4.04	3.03	25
<b>Waste Disposal Rate for City of Atlanta Collections Only and Not Including Sludge</b> (Does not include Private Haulers) (lbs/capita/day)	3.80	2.43	36

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## 3.1 Source Reduction

Source reduction of solid waste is any action taken to prevent the generation of the waste in the first place. It can include reducing the amount of solid waste generated at the source; redesigning products or packaging with less material; promoting behavioral changes in the use of materials; or increasing the durability and reusability of materials to result in longer-lasting products. Source reduction is fundamentally different from the other elements of the solid waste hierarchy. Recycling and disposal options all come into play after goods have been used. Source reduction, in contrast, occurs before materials have been identified as "waste."

### 3.1.1 Education Program (Existing Program)

The City of Atlanta has an educational source-reduction program that promotes "buying smart," buying in bulk, buying items with less packaging, and buying more durable goods, to help reduce the source of solid waste generation. Over the past 5 years, the City has promoted source reduction through the following activities:

- Backyard Composting - At certain events in the past, the City has provided backyard composting kits, which included an instructional book, chicken wire, posts, and bacterial starter to City residents. The City also assisted community gardening centers with composting.
- Educational Material - The City has promoted source reduction through a variety of flyers, newsletters, and brochures. The material is disseminated by canvassing neighborhoods during regular collection routes, attendance at neighborhood meetings and community events, bi-annual recycling and DPW newsletters, presentations during "Public Works Week" at City Hall and the City of Atlanta's March of Dimes campaign, and presentations at City schools and parent-teacher organization meetings. A few examples of these materials are presented in Appendix A.
- Shopping Bags - The City has provided net-like reusable shopping bags for residents to use at grocery stores or other shops to help reduce the disposal of shopping bags.
- Puppet Shows - Educational puppet shows have been provided to City schools and communities to promote source reduction. The City utilized its recycling contractor Dreamsan, Inc., to conduct the educational events. In 2004, more than 7 shows were provided to schools in the City.

### 3.1.2 Assessment of Source Reduction Programs

The City believes that education, awareness, and marketing campaigns are the main components in promoting source reduction of solid waste. The City's current source reduction programs, however, are not adequate. In the past, these programs were conducted superficially just to convey the message on source reduction instead of through a direct public involvement campaign. Since the City did not meet the State's 25 percent reduction goal, the City must continue its current educational programs and add new programs, to increase the City's per capita reduction rate (currently at 11 percent). Public input, provided at several public meetings held for the solid waste management planning

process in 2004 and the beginning of 2005, indicated a desire for more education, public outreach, and marketing of source reduction and recycling information.

## 3.2 Reuse/Recovery

The concept behind reuse/recovery of items before they become solid waste is to reuse items by repairing them, donating them to charity and community groups, or selling them, all of which reduces waste. Reusing products, when possible, is even better than recycling, because the item does not need to be reprocessed before it can be used again. Reusing items delays or avoids that item's entry into the waste collection and disposal system. The following sections list reuse/recovery programs in the City of Atlanta and provide an assessment on the effect of those programs in the City of Atlanta.

### 3.2.1 Reuse/Recovery Organizations (Existing Program)

Several non-profit and for-profit organizations collect or accept items for reuse. These organizations reuse donated items by either giving them back to the community at no charge, or by selling them at lower prices.

Table 3-2 provides a list of the major organizations in the City of Atlanta that accept or collect donations of reusable materials.

**TABLE 3-2**  
Major Organizations in the City of Atlanta that Accept Reusable Materials

Agency	Address/Phone Number	Items Accepted	Items Not Accepted	Pickup/ Drop-off Service
Atlanta Union Mission	P.O. Box 1807 Atlanta, Georgia 30301 (404) 588-4004	Clothing and accessories, furniture, appliances, tools, bicycles, toys, grills, beds, clean mattresses, linen, computers, stereo equipment, music, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, lighting, housewares, office equipment, filing cabinets, lawn equipment, household decorations, books, recyclable metals, non-perishable foods, medical supplies, automobiles (working), boats, industrial equipment, farm equipment	Tires, broken or tempered glass, paint, pianos or organs not in good working order, fiberglass bath tubs and showers, porcelain commodes and sinks, waterbeds, irreparable pressboard furniture, non-working plastic shelled TVs, console stereos, mobile homes, wet or soiled clothing, and wet, soiled, ripped, or torn upholstery pieces or bedding.	Both
Goodwill Industries	2201 Glenwood Ave. SE Atlanta, GA 30316 (404) 486-8400	All household goods and clothing	Appliances	Drop-off service only
Salvation Army	740 Marietta St. NW Atlanta, GA 30318 (404) 522-9785	All household goods and clothing, appliances, gently used vehicles	Tires or building supplies	Both

**TABLE 3-2**  
Major Organizations in the City of Atlanta that Accept Reusable Materials

Agency	Address/Phone Number	Items Accepted	Items Not Accepted	Pickup/ Drop-off Service
National Kidney Foundation	2951 Flowers Rd, South, Suite 211 Atlanta, GA 30341 (800) 488-CARS	Cars, vans, trucks, or boats	N/A	Pickup service only
Atlanta Community Tool Bank	55 Ormond St. Atlanta, GA 30315 (404) 880-0054	Usable tools and building materials, such as fixtures, paint, doors, sinks, commodes, lumber, etc.	N/A	Both
Metro Atlanta Furniture Bank	538 Permalume Pl. NW Atlanta, GA 30318 (404) 355-8530	Furniture and household goods. Provides eviction protection service, which includes free pickup and storage for 60 days.	N/A	Both

Source: <http://georgia.earth911.org/usa/master.asp>

Dell Computers, Inc., also works with the City of Atlanta and Georgia State University in collecting old or used computers once a year for reuse and recycling. The Dell Recycling National Tour is designed to educate consumers that "No Computer Should Go to Waste." While computers are safe to use, they do contain some environmentally sensitive materials that should not go into landfills. More than 98 percent of a computer can be recycled or reused. In the City of Atlanta, Dell collected 74 tons of used computers and computer parts in 2004.

Dell offers U.S. consumers and businesses the ability to recycle used computers and computer hardware directly through their company. Dell also allows consumers and businesses to donate computers and computer hardware to help disabled and economically disadvantaged children and adults. For additional information on the Dell Recycling and Donation Programs, please visit Dell's website at [http://www1.us.dell.com/content/topics/segtopic.aspx/dell\\_recycling?c=us&cs=19&l=en&s=dhs](http://www1.us.dell.com/content/topics/segtopic.aspx/dell_recycling?c=us&cs=19&l=en&s=dhs).

### 3.2.2 Waste Audits (Existing Program)

Twenty-three Atlanta businesses were surveyed as part of an assessment of commercial solid waste collection in the City. Authors of the Commercial Solid Waste Assessment Report (2004) contacted five solid waste haulers: United Waste Services, BFI, Waste Management Inc, Rock-Tenn Recycling, and American Recycling Company. In addition to providing residential and commercial waste collection services as well as some recycling services, each hauler reported that they provide commercial customers with waste audits upon request. These audits help the customer identify items that can be recycled, thereby reducing the amount and cost of solid waste disposal.

Waste audits involve conducting a random sampling of waste to determine what types of items are being thrown away and whether any of these items can be reused, recycled, or otherwise diverted from the waste stream. Waste audits involve sorting through trash to

determine the composition and quantities of waste being generated. Trash is collected from a facility and labeled to identify the source of the waste (kitchen, offices, etc.). The waste is then sorted in a well-ventilated location using proper health and safety procedures. Each bag of waste is sorted and weighed to provide an overall summation of each type of waste (i.e., food waste, glass, office paper, plastics, metal). Data for each bag are entered into a database and then analyzed to determine the overall composition of the waste stream. Waste audits can be used to measure the effectiveness of existing waste management systems, identify opportunities for improving waste management systems and strategies, and collect baseline data for measuring the effectiveness of waste management and minimization.

### 3.2.3 Waste Exchanges (Existing Program)

Several organizations can provide waste exchange services to residents and businesses in Atlanta. Waste exchange services provide current listings, catalogs, or classified ads of items that can be exchanged, recycled, or reused by companies and individuals. Items that can be exchanged include construction and building materials, equipment, metal and metal sludges, oils and waxes, chemicals, plastic and rubber, solvents, textiles and leather, and wood and paper. The Georgia EPD and the Georgia DCA websites provide links to waste exchange programs. Table 3-3 provides a list of waste exchange organizations that the City could utilize.

**TABLE 3-3**  
Waste Exchange Organizations

Name	Website Address	Description
Southern Waste Information Exchange (SWIX)	<a href="http://www.electronicexchange.org">http://www.electronicexchange.org</a>	Non-profit organization that operates a website and publishes a catalog. Serves as a marketplace where reused items can be bought, sold, and traded.
Recycler's World	<a href="http://www.recycle.net/recycle/index.htm">http://www.recycle.net/recycle/index.htm</a>	Trading site for recyclable commodities, used materials, and collectible items. Also lists trade associations, publications, and online market prices.
Global Recycling Net	<a href="http://grn.com">http://grn.com</a>	Worldwide waste collection, disposal, and recycling marketplace.
Recycle America	<a href="http://www.recycleamerica.com">http://www.recycleamerica.com</a>	Commercial website maintained by Waste Management Inc. for post-industrial scrap of all kinds.

Sources:

Georgia EPD: [http://www.ganet.org/dnr/p2ad/rec\\_links.html](http://www.ganet.org/dnr/p2ad/rec_links.html)

Georgia DCA: <http://www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental/recycling/options.html>

### 3.2.4 Assessment of Reuse/Recovery Programs

#### 3.2.4.1 Reuse/Recovery Organizations

Although many organizations accept reusable items, these programs are underutilized in Atlanta. In the future, the City will partner with these organizations and promote their capabilities to the public on reuse opportunities. Information on non-profit and for-profit

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reuse organizations in the City will be collected in a database for the "Don't Dispose - Donate" Program, which is discussed in Section 3.5.2. 1, Don't Dispose--Donate.

The City will continue its partnership with Dell Computers to continue the Dell Recycling Tour. Although the past recycling tour was successful, Dell Computers expressed a desire for better coordination with the City on the recycling event. The City also currently offers a drop-off center for "E-Waste" at the William B. Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant. The types of "E-Waste" accepted include cell phones, computers, monitors, electronics, televisions, and stereos. More information on this program is provided in Section 3.3.3, Drop-Off Centers.

#### **3.2.4.2 Waste Audits**

Although the City does not conduct waste audits, it will promote the use of waste audits by private waste haulers. Waste audits can help the customer identify recyclable items, thereby reducing the amount and cost of solid waste disposed.

#### **3.2.4.3 Waste Exchanges**

The use of waste exchanges also is underutilized by Atlanta, and the information on these waste exchanges is not advertised or promoted well to the residents of the City. Waste exchange services reduce waste being disposed to a landfill by helping companies and individuals to exchange, recycle, or reuse items. The City will consider posting information on these organizations on the City's website and including the information in educational outreach programs.

The City of Atlanta also may consider sponsoring and leading a metro Atlanta waste exchange for the institutional sector. This program is discussed in more detail in Section 3.5.2.2, Metro Atlanta Waste Exchange.

### **3.3 Recycling**

Recycling is any process by which materials that would otherwise become solid waste are collected, separated, or processed, and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products. The following subsections present the available recycling programs followed by the City of Atlanta and private companies.

#### **3.3.1 Residential Curbside Collection Program (Existing Program)**

The City currently contracts with Dreamsans, Inc. (Dreamsans) to provide weekly, residential curbside collection of recyclable materials. Dreamsans provides curbside recycling service to approximately 87,000 single-family residents. The contract is for 1 year, with up to 4 renewals. This annual renewal process enables the City to ensure that the recycling services provided to residents are continuously updated to meet the residents' needs. In 2003, approximately 6,985 tons of residential solid waste were recycled. The items currently accepted for recycling are newspaper, office paper, mixed paper, junk mail, aluminum and metal cans, glass, plastic, phone books, and boxboard. Corrugated cardboard is not collected curbside but can be delivered to drop-off centers located at the Liddell and Lakewood substations. The City can also provide additional recycling bins to residents upon request.

More detailed information on the collection aspect of the curbside recycling program is provided in Section 4.3.1, Residential Curbside Recycling Collection.

### 3.3.2 Materials Recovery Facility

Dreamsan's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is located at 4785 Fulton Industrial Blvd., just west of Atlanta. The WRF currently occupies 66,000 square feet and uses commingled materials processing equipment capable of handling 100 tons per day (TPD) of newsprint, plastic and metal containers, mixed paper, and glass. The facility has a 5,000-square-foot paper-processing floor dedicated to receiving and processing newsprint for direct shipment to the Southeast Paper mill in Dublin, Georgia. The processing line includes a high-capacity infeed hopper, 36-inch-wide infeed and sorting belts, disc screen, plastic perforator, overhead belt magnet, and air sorter. The system is rated at 5 tons per hour operating capacity. Materials are sorted into 10 categories as they travel down the line:

- Old corrugated cardboard at the infeed
- Trash at the disc screen
- HDPE plastic #2 natural
- HDPE plastic #2 pigmented
- Mixed paper
- PET plastic #1
- Steel and tin
- Aluminum
- Clear glass
- Amber/green glass

Dreamsan has established markets for all materials and has extended term agreements with buyers for each of these markets.

Table 3-4 lists the post-consumer use of these materials after they have been processed.

**TABLE 3-4**  
Post-Consumer Use of Materials Recycled By Dreamsan

Recycled Material	Post-Consumer Use
Newspaper and Corrugated Cardboard	Sent to fiber installation manufacturers for use as cellulose, or sent to paper mills in the Southeast to be re-pulped
HDPE Plastic (Pellets)	Sent to materials manufacturing facilities in North Carolina or Alabama
PET Plastic #1 (Pellets)	Sent to mills to be reused as fiber for carpet or carpet-related materials
Steel Cans	Re-bundled with other metal materials and sent to steel mills in Alabama
Aluminum Cans	Recycled into rolled aluminum and sent to aluminum can manufacturing plants in the Southeast
Glass	Recycled into fiberglass for use as insulation
Mixed Paper	Recycled into newsprint, tissue, cellulose insulation, and boxboard

Source: Dreamsan, Inc., 2004.

### 3.3.3 Drop-Off Centers (Existing Program)

The City of Atlanta currently operates three drop-off centers for recyclable items. Table 3-5 provides details and accepted recyclables at the locations.

**TABLE 3-5**  
City of Atlanta Operated Recycling Drop-Off Centers

Location	Address	Materials Accepted
Liddell Substation	1540 Northside Drive, NW Atlanta, GA	Corrugated cardboard
Lakewood Substation	128 Claire Drive, SE Atlanta, GA	Corrugated cardboard
William B. Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant	2175 James Jackson Parkway Atlanta, GA	Fluorescent light tubes; "E-Waste," such as cell phones, computers, monitors, electronics, televisions, and stereos; chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) refrigerants

Other privately operated drop-off centers are located in Atlanta, as shown in Table 3-6.

**TABLE 3-6**  
Privately Operated Recycling Drop-Off Centers in the City of Atlanta

Location	Address	Operating Hours	Materials Accepted
Atlanta Fire Station #19	1063 N. Highland Avenue Atlanta, GA 30306 (404) 853-3413	24-hour drop off center	Aluminum cans, newspaper
NAPA Auto Parts	1858 Cheshire Bridge Road Atlanta, GA 30324 (404) 873-6201	Monday - Saturday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm	Used motor oil
Davis Recycling Co.	677 Whitehall Street Atlanta, GA 30310 (404) 524-1746	Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  Saturday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Tire innertubes, NiCd batteries, electronics, aluminum cans, ferrous metals (steel, iron), non-ferrous metal  Will provide pickup service for large quantities

Source: <http://georgia.earth911.org>

### 3.3.4 Recycling in City Buildings (Existing Program)

The City of Atlanta's Office of General Services collects paper and paper by-products from City Hall and other City-owned buildings. No other items are collected at this time. Paper is collected at each desk in a small recycling box. Office workers are asked to periodically empty their recycling boxes into a larger roll-off container for collection. These containers are typically located in the hallways or a central location. Recycling coordinators move the larger roll-off containers to the loading dock for emptying by a private recycling contractor.

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### **3.3.5 Recycled-Content Procurement Policy (Existing Program)**

The City of Atlanta has an Executive Order mandating that the City must purchase post-consumer recycled content products. The City encourages its departments to purchase environmentally friendly products and to purchase in bulk. The intent of the City's procurement policy is to stimulate recycling by providing a market for new products manufactured with recycled materials and to help reduce solid waste disposal.

### **3.3.6 City Auctions (Existing Program)**

Surplus equipment from the DPW is auctioned instead of disposed. Rolling stock vehicles and heavy equipment, which are determined to be surplus or not serviceable, are sold at regularly scheduled City auctions. Auctioning used equipment and vehicles diverts these items from the landfills and promotes reuse or recycling.

### **3.3.7 Materials for the Arts Program (Existing Program)**

In recent years, the City of Atlanta's Bureau of Cultural Affairs administered the Materials for the Arts (MFA) Program, a surplus recycling program that provided art materials to individual artists, art educators, non-profit cultural organizations, and social service agencies that offered arts programming. Through this program, the arts community received useful materials that were not often affordable, and donors received a tax deduction. Due to budget cuts, however, the program is no longer funded.

### **3.3.8 Commercial Multi-Family Recycling Programs (Existing Program)**

The City of Atlanta requires owners of any multi-family dwelling to provide containers for the collection of recyclables and to provide for their collection (Section 130-38(e) of the City of Atlanta Solid Waste Ordinance, (Code of Ordinances, City of Atlanta, Georgia, Chapter 130, Solid Waste Management; <http://www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=10376&sid=10>). Additionally, plans and specifications for new construction of multi-family housing units must include set-aside space for recycling containers on the premises (Section 130-38(f) of the City of Atlanta Solid Waste Ordinance).

Some private waste haulers provide recycling services for the multi-family complexes they serve. Items recycled by these commercial collection services include paper products, glass, plastic, metal containers, and wood pallets. The amounts of recycling tonnages collected by these companies, however, were not available.

For more detailed information on residential multi-family recycling collection, see Section 4.3.2, Multi-Family Recycling Collection.

### **3.3.9 Commercial Business Recycling Programs (Existing Program)**

The City of Atlanta does not mandate recycling collection at commercially owned buildings. However, anyone applying for a non-residential building permit must submit plans providing the locations of space designated for solid waste and recycling containers (Section 130-38(f) of the City of Atlanta Solid Waste Ordinance). A few commercial recycling companies operate in or near the City of Atlanta. One major recycling company is SP Recycling Corporation (SPRC), headquartered in Atlanta. SPRC is a subsidiary of SP Newsprint Company and operates newsprint mills in Dublin, Georgia, and Newberg,

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Oregon. SP Newsprint uses old newspapers as its primary fiber source for newsprint manufacturing. SPRC procures fiber for SP Newsprint's mills, and annually collects and purchases more than one million tons of old newspapers, 225,000 tons of sawmill residual chips, and 130,000 tons of other paper grades. SPRC also operates a commercial recycling drop-off center in Forest Park, Georgia. This drop-off center accepts newspaper, cardboard, mixed paper, office paper, telephone books, magazines, aluminum and steel cans, and #1 and #2 plastics.

### **3.3.10 C&D Debris Recycling (Existing Program)**

C&D debris accounts for a significant amount of waste that enters Georgia's landfills. C&D waste is primarily wood and lumber, carpeting, aggregates, and scrap metals. The City of Atlanta and the majority of private waste haulers do not currently recycle the C&D debris they collect, but instead deliver it to C&D landfills. The City of Atlanta generated approximately 95,341 tons of C&D debris in 2003.

There are currently no dedicated C&D recycling facilities operating within Atlanta; however, Consolidated Resource Recovery, Inc. (CRR) performs some C&D recycling. CRR is a land-clearing and wood-waste-recycling company that operates in College Park, Georgia. CRR accepts yard trimmings, brush, and unwanted plant growth generated by urban landscaping. The yard trimmings are processed into products for use by homeowners, businesses, and government. CRR also recycles industrial wood waste, such as pallets, crates, scrap lumber, and railroad ties, for use as energy or landscape products.

### **3.3.11 Tire Recycling (Existing Program)**

Currently, the City takes the tires it collects from illegal dumping sites to a tire recycling vendor. In 2003, the City collected approximately 88 tons of tires for recycling. Several vendors in Georgia currently accept used tires for recycling, as shown in Table 3-7.

### **3.3.12 Yard Trimmings Recycling**

The following subsections summarize the current yard trimmings recycling programs for the City of Atlanta.

#### **3.3.12.1 Residential Curbside Collection Program (Existing Program)**

In 1996, the City of Atlanta began collecting yard trimmings separately from residential solid waste. The yard trimmings are collected bi-weekly and taken to a chipping, grinding, and staging area at the William B. Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant. The processed yard waste is then sent through a private contractor to various mills in the Southeast to be used as boiler fuel. In 2003, approximately 20,837 tons of yard trimmings were collected and processed.

For more detailed information on yard trimmings collection, see Section 4.4.1, Residential Curbside Yard Trimmings Collection.

**TABLE 3-7**  
Tire Recycling Companies in Georgia

Company	Mailing Address	Telephone	FAX
Recovered Materials, Inc./Diversified Industry	U.S. Hwy. 1 South Alma, GA 31510	912-632-4751	N/A
GreenMan Technologies of Georgia, Inc.	138-B Sherrel Avenue Jackson, GA 30233	770-775-6107 1-800-732-6678	770-775-4304
Quality Tire Recycling, Inc.	P.O. Box 941 Jackson, GA 30233	770-775-3304	770-775-3354
SPW Industries, Inc.	1880 Joy Lake Road Lake City, GA 30260	404-366-6002	404-363-8072
Statewide Road Construction, Inc.	220 South Gaskin Avenue Douglas, GA 31533	912-384-7723	912-383-6895
Recovery Technologies Group of Georgia, Inc.	1593 Huber Street, NW Atlanta, GA 30318	404-355-0547 1-800-249-5086	404-355-0285
CEMEX	2720 Highway 341 S. Clinchfield, GA 31013	478-987-2121	478-987-1930

### 3.3.12.2 Christmas Tree Recycling (Existing Program)

Each year the City of Atlanta holds a Christmas tree recycling event in January, called "Bring One for the Chipper." The City partners with local agencies and retailers to encourage residents to recycle their Christmas trees after the holidays, by bringing their trees to a drop-off location where the tree is chipped into mulch. The mulch is given away free of charge to residents and is also used for public beautification projects and various wildlife habitats. Participants also received a free dogwood seedling, to complement the City of Atlanta's greenspace initiatives. The program is in its 15<sup>th</sup> year.

### 3.3.13 White Goods Recycling (Existing Program)

Both of the transfer stations that the City is currently using for disposal of its solid waste, Welcome All Transfer Station and Lee Industrial Transfer Station, recycle collected white goods. White goods include items such as refrigerators, ranges, washers, dryers, water heaters, and dishwashers. White goods that the City collects are placed in separate bins at the transfer stations, and the transfer stations remove any refrigerants present in the white goods and then recycle the metal.

### 3.3.14 Assessment of Recycling Programs

The following subsections present the City's assessment of the existing recycling programs in the City of Atlanta.

#### 3.3.14.1 Residential Curbside Collection Program

The City believes that the current curbside recycling program is adequate to serve the needs of the residents; however, based on input from the public at several public meetings held for the solid waste management planning process, the City will consider and evaluate the following issues:

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- Current residential curbside recycling contract, to determine if more commodities can be added
  - Feasibility of increasing the recycling bin size or providing additional bins for customers
  - Contractor to ensure timely pickup of recyclables
  - Increase in education and public awareness of recycling

#### **3.3.14.2 Drop-Off Centers**

The City believes that its current drop-off recycling centers need to be improved. Based on public comments, and to reduce illegal dumping, the City will consider and evaluate the following needs:

- Since the City does not currently offer recycling collection programs for household hazardous waste, white goods (appliances), and bulky items, the City will determine if additional items can be accepted at the existing drop-off centers. Items would include paint, scrap metal, tires, and bulky waste items.
- The City may promote commercially operated drop-off centers by advertising and educating the public on the availability of these centers.
- The City may consider providing financial incentives to encourage companies to operate more recycling drop-off centers within the City.
- The City may consider providing additional drop-off centers.

#### **3.3.14.3 Other City Recycling Programs**

The City will continue to provide its recycling programs in City buildings; however, recently there has been somewhat of a disconnection with the Office of General Services and SWS on ensuring a comprehensive program. Several City employees are not familiar with the recycling program, the recycling bins are not always emptied on a regular basis, and recycling data on the program are not available. The City will ensure that General Services and SWS work together on improving the program and executing it appropriately. SWS currently has a Recycling Coordinator position, which will ensure that the program is managed well, that reporting of recycling data is regularly provided to SWS, and that compliance with the program is enforced.

The City will also continue its recycled-content procurement policy and its auction program. Although the Materials for the Arts Program is no longer funded, the SWS will partner with the City's Bureau of Cultural Affairs to determine if the MFA Program can be renewed and funded.

#### **3.3.14.4 Commercial Multi-Family Recycling Programs**

The City will re-evaluate the current solid waste ordinance on multi-family recycling. The current ordinance allows for enforcement of recycling collection at multi-family dwellings, but it is not being enforced. The City will also determine if it can offer recycling to the multi-family residences it serves through recycling contractors. Several citizens have expressed a desire to have landlords offer recycling at apartment, condominium, and townhouse

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complexes. The City will evaluate the logistics of recycling collection at each multi-family unit on a case-by-case basis. To ensure that waste reduction efforts are conducted at multi-family units, the City will balance enforcement of the recycling collection ordinance with education.

The City will also evaluate potential legislative actions to ensure that recycling services are provided to the multi-family residences that are serviced by private waste haulers. The City will also research ways to ensure that accurate recycling data are reported to the City, so that it can track its progress towards meeting the State's waste reduction goal.

#### **3.3.14.5 Commercial Business Recycling Programs**

Since commercial solid waste comprises a large portion of the City's total solid waste stream, the City will research ways to encourage recycling in commercial buildings and facilities. One of the first steps in assessing commercial solid waste recycling will be to gather comprehensive data and information on current recycling programs. The City will then evaluate recycling logistics at commercial buildings, and research potential initiatives to encourage recycling, such as partnering with businesses, providing technical assistance, enacting legislation, providing education and public outreach, helping to conduct waste audits, and ensuring proper reporting.

The City will also inform the public on the private recycling centers that operate within the City, and to encourage residents and businesses to partner with these recycling centers on waste reduction initiatives. The City also may utilize financial incentives for existing private recycling centers to operate more within the City.

#### **3.3.14.6 C&D Debris Recycling**

Due to the increased development within the City of Atlanta over the past decade, C&D debris has accounted for a significant amount of waste that enters Georgia's landfills. The City of Atlanta and the majority of private haulers do not currently recycle the C&D debris they collect, but instead deliver it to C&D landfills. Currently, no dedicated C&D recycling facilities operate within the City of Atlanta. Therefore, the City will evaluate the need for a C&D debris recycling initiative, including evaluating current ordinances and considering providing financial incentives for private C&D debris recycling facilities to serve the City.

#### **3.3.14.7 Tire Recycling**

The illegal dumping of tires has become a growing problem in the City of Atlanta. To address this problem, the City has recently enhanced its current illegal dumping program (discussed in Section 4.6, Illegal Dumping/Littering). The City is also evaluating the addition of drop-off centers for tires.

#### **3.3.14.8 Yard Trimmings Programs**

The City of Atlanta will continue its yard trimmings collection program and Christmas tree recycling event. The City will evaluate upgrading the current yard trimmings processing equipment at the William B. Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant and the feasibility of purchasing a new chipper and grinder.

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### **3.3.14.9 White Goods Recycling**

The City has written into its contracts with the current transfer stations to recycle white goods and remove refrigerants from them. The City will continue to offer this program. The City does not currently have recycling programs for other special items, but will evaluate the implementation of a hazardous waste collection program and future programs that provide drop-off centers, amnesty days, and other programs to recycle special wastes. Public input has also indicated a desire for the City to collect other goods for recycling.

## **3.4 Waste Reduction Alternatives for Waste-Generating Disasters**

In the event of a waste generating disaster, the City of Atlanta has an Emergency Response Plan. The plan outlines the Department's responsibilities during an emergency, along with the level of interaction with other agencies. The plan establishes emergency communication and protocol. Emergencies that the plan covers include:

- Inclement weather
- Snow and ice removal
- Flooding
- Downed trees resulting from strong winds
- Water- and sewer-main breaks in the public ROW
- Barricade placement for vehicular and pedestrian traffic control
- Detour signage and barricades to cordon off hazardous areas
- Debris removal
- Repairs to traffic signals, signs, sidewalks, and streets
- Homeland security

To handle the reduction (recycling) of significant increases in volumes of waste that occur as a result of natural disasters such as hurricanes or ice storms, the City has specified in its contract with its curbside recycling company, Dreamsan, Inc., that the company will collect all recyclables at the curbside, regardless of size. For specific recyclables, the City uses another contractor for special pickups and also will use drop-off centers. Additionally, the City will consider paying its workers overtime and using its own equipment to support the collection of additional recyclables. The City may use other private recycling companies to handle the increased volume in recycling needs, and may use its own solid waste collection vehicles to transport recyclables to private material recovery facilities in metro Atlanta. The City anticipates that C&D materials (such as lumber, roofing materials, carpeting, and concrete) and yard trimmings would be the types of recyclable materials to result from a waste-generating disaster.

In the unlikely event of an increase in the generation of yard trimmings, the City has the following waste reduction alternatives in place:

- Use the City's adequate space to stockpile yard trimmings.
- Ship processed yard trimmings directly to reuse facilities, instead of using the current vendor.

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- Contract out chipping and grinding if the City's equipment fails.
  - Pay workers overtime to provide additional collection.
  - Use spare equipment and fleet vehicles to continue collection, and if equipment or vehicles break down, use emergency funds to purchase replacements.

Section 4.7, Contingency Strategies, provides more detail on emergency collection procedures in the event of a waste-generating disaster or interruption of primary collection efforts.

## **3.5 Needs and Goals**

To meet the State of Georgia's 25 percent per-capita reduction rate of the amount of solid waste being received at disposal facilities, the City has proposed the following new programs to help achieve the City's 10-year planning goals as well as the State's solid waste reduction goal. These programs have been categorized as either source reduction, reuse/recovery, recycling, or special items programs.

### **3.5.1 Waste Reduction Programs**

The following new waste reduction programs will apply the City's plans for expanding its current educational program and focus on waste reduction in all facets of the program. Source reduction kits, like reusable shopping bags, backyard composting kits, junk mail termination kits, and others, will be expanded or created, and made available free of charge on request. Outreach programs to communities and schools will include source reduction concepts. The City will also evaluate the use of financial incentives, which may assist both residents and businesses in the City in reducing waste.

#### **3.5.1.1 Pay-As-You-Throw (New Program)**

The City will evaluate the feasibility of implementing a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program for the City's residents. A PAYT system may help reduce the amount of waste being disposed at landfills, and this program has significant public support. A PAYT system may help lower operational costs, increase recycling efforts, and promote greater awareness of solid waste disposal costs.

PAYT programs (also known as unit pricing or variable-rate pricing) charges residents for the garbage collection based on the volume. PAYT programs create a direct economic incentive to recycle.

Traditionally in the City of Atlanta, residents pay for waste collection and disposal through annual fixed fees, regardless of the volume generated. PAYT breaks from tradition and treats waste collection and disposal services like electricity, gas, and other utilities. Residents pay a variable rate depending upon the amount of service they use. This provides a financial incentive for residents to reduce waste, and can lead to lower transportation and disposal costs for the City.

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Several variations of a PAYT collection system exist, including a prepaid bag or sticker system, a single or variable container subscription service, weigh at the truck or curb system, or a hybrid system.

***Potential Obstacles and Problems with PAYT Systems***

If the City implements a PAYT system, potential obstacles and problems may have to be overcome. These include:

- Illegal burning of waste
- Illegal dumping of waste, in non-approved ways or locations
- Overfill of curbside containers, causing refuse to spill onto streets, yards, and other locations
- Occasional overfills from holidays or parties, which can be remedied by a set of free passes offered each year by the City
- Illegal disposing of excess trash in other neighbors' trash cans
- Initial perceptions that the switch to PAYT pricing is simply an attempt to raise garbage rates
- Changes to statutes, ordinances, or contracts with private entities that provide solid waste collection, which may be necessary before volume-based rates can be implemented
- Degree of urbanization of a community, its surrounding area, and the strength of the local recycling markets
- Financial hardships on poor and fixed-income citizens, especially in light of fees and cost-based rates charged for other utility services, such as water and wastewater. Some communities have implemented special "lifeline" rates to reduce the financial impact on these groups.
- Potential resistance to increased enforcement efforts to ensure a fully functioning PAYT system.

The key to overcoming these and other obstacles is for the City to carefully design a PAYT system and public education campaign. Such a campaign will inform and educate residents well in advance about the costs of existing waste management practices, address specific community needs and concerns, and ensure compliance with the system.

**3.5.1.2 Junk Mail Reduction (New Program)**

To reduce waste, meet the State's reduction goal, and address public comments on reducing junk mail, the City will develop a junk mail termination kit, which gives details on how residents can remove their names and addresses from unwanted mailing and telephone lists. The kit will be provided on the City's website and made available free of charge by request. The kit will include opt-out toll-free phone numbers, websites, and pre-addressed postcards to send to various mailing distribution houses. The kit will also provide tips to prevent being placed on future mailing lists.

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The junk mail termination kit will be available at City offices/City Hall, libraries, neighborhood associations, and other outlets. The program will be advertised through flyers, brochures, and other awareness materials. This source reduction program will help the City achieve goals by reducing the production of junk mail.

### **3.5.1.3 Financial Incentives (New Program)**

The City needs to increase recycling and waste reduction efforts to meet the State's waste reduction goal and to address the public's desire for more recycling opportunities and initiatives. The City may use financial incentives, such as investment tax credits, to promote waste reduction and recycling activities. Tax credits may be given to businesses for the purchase of capital machinery or facilities that decrease the overall amount of waste generated, increase recycling levels, or encourage secondary materials processing. Under this type of program, the government allows businesses to reduce the amount of its tax liability in some proportion to the cost of capital expenditures for the approved activities.

Several states already use some form of tax credits for the reduction, reuse, or recycling of solid waste. In Arkansas, taxpayers receive an income tax credit for the purchase and installation of equipment used exclusively for reduction, reuse, or recycling. Oregon offers a Business Energy Tax Credit which allows companies a tax write-off on 35 percent of the cost of equipment used solely for recycling. The City of Camarillo, through the California Franchise Tax Board, offers a 6 percent tax credit for qualified property used in recycling. The credit can also be claimed for the purchase of manufacturing equipment and leased equipment. Oklahoma offers companies a one-time income tax credit for investing in new facilities that recycle particular industrial wastes. In Florida, tax incentives are provided for the transport of recyclable materials and products. This incentive encourages affordable transportation of recyclable goods from collection points to processing sites. Financial incentives (e.g., property tax credits) may also be offered to residents in a community that agrees to house a solid waste handling or recycling facility.

In addition to state initiatives, many communities have used financial incentives to encourage waste reduction and recycling of solid waste material. These options range from credits on the purchase of equipment to property tax credits on building recycling facilities. The City will evaluate financial incentives to determine which options would best serve the City.

## **3.5.2 Reuse/Recovery Programs**

This subsection presents new reuse/recovery programs that will help the City meet its waste reduction goals and the State's 25 percent per capita reduction rate.

### **3.5.2.1 Don't Dispose – Donate (New Program)**

Although various organizations accept tax-deductible reusable items, Atlanta underutilizes them. The City will develop a "Don't Dispose – Donate" program, which will unite these organizations with the public to promote reuse. As part of the program, the City will compile a current, centralized, database of for-profit and non-profit organizations within Atlanta that accept reusable items, and compile information on the following:

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- Items they accept
  - Whether the organization offers a tax-deductible receipt
  - Drop-off locations and hours
  - Whether the organization picks up items from the resident's dwelling

The City will post the database information on its website and will provide a printed copy of the listing free of charge on request. Advertising will be done through flyers, brochures, and other awareness handouts.

### **3.5.2.2 Metro Atlanta Waste Exchange (New Program)**

The City of Atlanta currently underutilizes waste exchanges. Waste exchange services reduce waste being disposed to a landfill by allowing companies and individuals to exchange, recycle, or reuse items. The City will consider sponsoring a waste exchange program with institutional departments in metro Atlanta. This program would allow local governments and institutions (such as schools) to exchange reusable items such as furniture, office items, equipment, vehicles, and other items that would otherwise be disposed of in landfills. As appropriate logistically, private-sector groups could be added. The City would develop a catalog, available in printed copy by request and on the City's website, listing wanted or available reusable items. Vendors would be listed confidentially, and the City would only act as a liaison in coordinating the exchange of items. The City will initially propose a pilot program and research and evaluate the logistics of the program. A waste exchange helps meet waste reduction goals by reusing or recycling items that would otherwise be disposed of. It also helps institutions that need equipment, but lack funds for new items, to obtain working, reusable equipment.

## **3.5.3 Recycling Programs**

This subsection presents new recycling programs or enhancements to existing programs that will help the City meet its waste reduction goals and the State's 25 percent per capita reduction rate.

### **3.5.3.1 Curbside Collection Program (Enhanced Program)**

To move toward a higher diversion of residential waste and ensure that recycling services meet residents' needs (based on public input as listed in Section 3.3.14.1, Residential Curbside Collection Program), the City will review the current residential curbside recycling contract to determine if opportunities for additional commodities can be added to the curbside recycling collection program. The City will also examine the feasibility of increasing the current recycling bin size.

To continue to provide quality recycling to residential customers, the City will review the contract regularly to ensure that the contractor provides timely pickup of recyclables and notifies residents of improper recycling set-outs, and will increase education and public awareness of recycling to residents, schools, and community groups. More information on education and public awareness programs on recycling is provided in Section 7, Education and Public Involvement Element.

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### **3.5.3.2 Drop-Off Centers (Enhanced Program)**

The City's current drop-off centers do not adequately address the public needs nor help the City meet the State's waste reduction goal. Therefore, the City will expand its existing recycling drop-off centers or locate additional convenience centers. The City currently accepts fluorescent tubes, "E-waste," refrigerants, and cardboard. The City will determine if these drop-off centers can be expanded to accept additional items such as household hazardous waste (including paint and solvents), white goods, household batteries, scrap metal, tires, bulky waste items (such as furniture), and many other items. Expanded drop-off centers will help the City reduce waste going to landfills, prevent illegal dumping, aid in community cleanup and recycling efforts, and increase overall public awareness of solid waste management. Once the expanded drop-off centers are fully operational, the City will advertise and inform the public on their availability.

The City also will promote commercially operated drop-off centers through advertisement and public awareness. The City will evaluate potential financial incentives for companies to operate more recycling drop-off centers. Some incentives may include property tax credits on the location of operation or for the purchase of collection equipment (such as roll-off bins).

The expanded drop-off centers may also work in conjunction with a PAYT system. For white goods and bulky items, residents would have three options under the PAYT system:

- Request for the City to pick up the items, and pay an additional charge.
- Deliver reusable items to a charity organization and receive a tax deduction.
- Deliver the items to the City's expanded drop-off centers, without charge.

These options would allow the City to meet its waste reduction goals and also reduce illegal dumping.

### **3.5.3.3 City and Commercial Multi-Family Recycling (Enhanced Program)**

The City will re-evaluate the current solid waste ordinance on multi-family recycling, to ensure that recycling collection at multi-family dwellings is enforced. Several citizens have complained about a lack of recycling at their apartment, condominium, and townhouse complexes. The City will work with the owners, to balance enforcement of recycling collection with education on waste reduction efforts at multi-family units. The City also will evaluate the logistics, convenience, and ease of recycling at multi-family complexes, since recyclable materials at multi-family dwellings cannot be collected easily at the curbside.

The City will determine if it can offer recycling to the multi-family residences it serves, through the use of recycling contractors, much like the recycling services provided to single-family residences. The City will evaluate potential legislative actions to ensure that private waste haulers offer recycling options to the multi-family residences they serve. The City will also research franchising, business licensing, and other legislative techniques for recycling contractors to serve multi-family residences. The City will also research potential reporting mechanisms, so that the City can track its progress towards meeting the State's waste reduction goal.

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### **3.5.3.4 Commercial Business Recycling (Enhanced Program)**

In 2003, Atlanta businesses generated approximately 359,958 tons of commercial waste that went to landfills. It is not known fully how many commercial businesses in Atlanta recycle their solid wastes. The City's Commercial Solid Waste Assessment Report found that 16 of 23 businesses surveyed managed recyclable materials. Because commercial waste comprises a large portion of the City's waste, commercial recycling initiatives will be evaluated as a means to achieve the State's waste reduction goal. Due to the lack of data and no reporting mechanism for the amount of materials recycled by a commercial business, it is unknown as to what extent the City can implement commercial recycling initiatives. Therefore, the City will evaluate ways to obtain accurate commercial recycling data, and once data are gathered, will determine initiatives to encourage recycling at commercial buildings. Initiatives may include evaluating recycling logistics at commercial buildings, researching educational and public outreach methods, establishing partnerships, providing technical assistance, offering financial incentives, and enacting legislative actions. The City will also research potential reporting mechanisms, so that the City can ensure it meets the State's waste reduction goal.

The City will also inform the public on the private recycling centers that operate within the City, and to encourage residents and businesses to partner with these recycling centers on waste reduction initiatives. The City also may utilize financial incentives for existing private recycling centers to operate more within the City.

### **3.5.3.5 Sales Tax Incentives (New Program)**

One of the widespread uses of product value taxes is the deposit-refund system for beverage container recovery. Typically referred to as "bottle bills," these programs offer an incentive for users to recycle, by charging a small fee on the purchase price, which is not returned to the user until the material is returned for recycling.

Today, 10 states (Oregon, Vermont, Maine, Michigan, Iowa, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New York, and California) have a bottle bill requiring refundable deposits on certain beverage containers. The principal purpose behind this program is reducing litter, but it is tied directly to the facilitation of recycling. Unclaimed monies can be used to support the following activities:

- Capital assistance grants
- Litter control
- Recycling promotion and education
- Technical assistance
- Research and development
- Administration

Recycling fees may be collected on recyclable items besides beverage containers. The State of California collects tire fees and electronic waste recycling fees from consumers at the time of the retail sale or lease. Funds established through these programs are then used to help fund the disposal, recovery, processing, or recycling of these materials.

The City of Atlanta does not currently provide product value tax incentives on recyclable items. Value tax incentives are typically provided on a statewide basis. Therefore, the City

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will evaluate any statewide efforts on value tax incentives that reduce solid waste, and consider offering support and promotion on approved incentives.

### **3.5.3.6 C&D Recycling (New Program)**

C&D debris accounts for a significant amount of waste that enters Georgia's landfills. A recent survey of landfills in the state determined that almost 12 percent of the waste entering the landfills was C&D debris. C&D waste is primarily wood and lumber, aggregates, carpet, and scrap metals. C&D debris disposal also contributed over 95,000 tons to the City's waste stream in 2003, and most likely impacted the City's 11 percent per capita reduction.

Due to the increased development within Atlanta over the past decade, the City will consider implementing a C&D debris recycling program. This program will involve two components: (1) zoning and building code regulations to mandate C&D recycling, and (2) financial incentives for businesses to build and operate a C&D recycling facility that serves Atlanta.

#### ***Zoning and Building Code Legislation for C&D Recycling***

Zoning and building code modifications have become increasingly popular for municipalities as they realize their lack of control over who recycles and how materials are disposed. Without appropriate building codes, construction contractors are often free to dispose of C&D materials without considering recycling options.

By modifying zoning and building codes, a local government can establish control of C&D waste, particularly to prevent disposal, and require recycling of wastes generated on a construction site. C&D waste management parameters that can be established by modified zoning and building codes may include the following requirements:

- Applicants must submit a recycling plan to the Department of Planning and Community Development prior to permit approvals and start of construction.
- Applicants must calculate a project recycling rate that commits them to recycle a certain percentage of the wastes generated during construction.
- Certain construction materials must be separated for recycling, and separate recycling containers must be placed throughout the construction area so that proper separation of recyclables is possible.

The City will evaluate the current zoning and building codes to determine whether modifications to include waste reduction of C&D waste can be implemented.

#### ***Financial Incentives for C&D Recycling Facilities***

The City may implement numerous financial incentive options to encourage C&D debris recycling facilities to build, operate, and serve the City of Atlanta. Options may involve investment tax credits to businesses for the purchase of machinery and equipment that reduces, reuses, or recycles C&D debris. Property tax credits may be offered to allow C&D facilities to build and operate within the City. The City may also subsidize the development of a recycling facility or incorporate it into an established recycling enterprise zone.

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C&D recycling facilities are typically located on several acres and require heavy equipment for handling and processing waste, as well as space for storage of processed material. Processing equipment typically includes forklift trucks, crushers, and shaker screens.

Although no C&D recycling facilities are located in Atlanta, a few facilities are active in Georgia. Atlas Waste and Recycling Systems operates a C&D processing facility in Savannah that accepts concrete, wood, metal, and other building waste. Georgia Mountain Grinding in Blairsville accepts yard trimmings, pallets, logs, sheetrock, block, brick, concrete, shingles, rock, and asphalt.

### **C&D Recycling Facilities**

C&D recycling facilities are typically located on several acres and require heavy equipment for handling and processing waste, as well as space for storage of processed material. Processing equipment typically includes forklift trucks, crushers, and shaker screens. No C&D recycling facilities are currently operating within the City of Atlanta.

Advantages of C&D recycling facilities include:

- Reduction in the amount C&D waste requiring disposal (potentially over 95,000 tons per year)
- Recovery of material for recycling/reuse and potential revenues.

Disadvantages include:

- Siting a processing facility
- Potential difficulty in marketing recovered materials.

A C&D waste processing facility would consist of an open site with a small, permanent building for the storage of miscellaneous materials, such as tools and maintenance equipment. A C&D recycling site would require about 5 to 10 acres on land zoned for industrial use, or commercial land zoned for heavy equipment use. The majority of the site would be used for incoming material and short-term product storage. Nearly 70 to 90 percent of the waste received at a C&D recycling facility can be recycled, and includes ferrous metals, wood, aggregate materials, and soil. Typical environmental impacts from a C&D recycling facility would be low and would be related to stormwater runoff, dust, and noise.

### **3.5.3.7 Tire Recycling (Enhanced Program)**

The illegal dumping of tires is a growing problem in the City of Atlanta. Therefore, the City will evaluate adding or enhancing existing drop-off centers to accept used tires, which will be sent to a tire recycling vendor.

### **3.5.3.8 Conversion of Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant to Environmental Education Center and Park (New Program)**

The City will conduct a feasibility study on converting the existing William B. Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant into an Environmental Education Center and Greenspace Park. The Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant is currently a yard trimmings processing area that grinds, chips, and stores yard trimmings, collected from residents, for delivery to

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various mills in the Southeast. The mills use the processed yard trimmings as boiler fuel and energy recovery.

The City may bring together the Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant, the local community, the City of Atlanta's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, and others to purchase an adjacent property to develop as greenspace and a park. The park would house an environmental education facility that provides meeting space, classrooms, museums, and demonstration areas for environmental education. Topics would include solid waste reduction and recycling, environmental sustainability, clean water, and clean air issues. Other City departments, such as the Department of Watershed Management, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, and the Department of Planning and Community Development, also could use the educational center. Atlanta Public Schools and community groups could use the facility for educational field trips. The park and greenspace area, for use by the surrounding neighborhoods, would include park and playground equipment manufactured from recycled materials, such as tires and building materials. The yard trimmings processing area would be upgraded and enhanced with state-of-the-art equipment, and educational tours would be provided in conjunction with the education center.

#### **3.5.3.9 Backyard Composting (Enhanced Program)**

In the past, the City has provided backyard composting kits to residents and has assisted community gardening centers with composting. The City will expand this program with increased educational and public awareness efforts. Informational and other materials to assist in starting a composting program will be made available free of charge. Backyard or home composting allows individual residents to reduce their yard and food wastes by decomposing the waste into material for use as a soil conditioner for garden and landscaping needs.

The City will promote backyard composting in its educational outreach programs, and will provide frequently asked questions (FAQs), flyers and brochures, technical assistance, and detailed information on its website on home composting.

#### **3.5.3.10 Yard Trimmings Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Program (New Program)**

A PAYT system may also be extended to yard trimmings collection. The City will evaluate the feasibility of providing variable rate fees for the collection and processing of yard trimmings. An example of a PAYT option for yard trimmings would involve requiring residents to purchase paper bags that are only sanctioned by the City. The cost of the paper bags would help pay for the collection and processing of the yard trimmings. The City can also arrange for local distributors (e.g., grocery and hardware stores) to sell the City-sanctioned bags.

#### **3.5.3.11 Amnesty Days and Household Hazardous Waste Events (New Program)**

Since the City of Atlanta currently does not collect household hazardous waste, it plans to hold two household hazardous waste collection events a year. The events would be held at a location with several bins for the collection of wastes such as paint, tires, scrap metal, and solvents. The City would ensure that material recyclers were contracted to accept and collect these items. The City will also evaluate hosting Amnesty Days, where residents can take any type of waste from their households to drop-off centers free of charge. These events will help the City to meet its waste reduction goals and also reduce illegal dumping.



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## SECTION 4

# Collection Element

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### **Goal of This Planning Element:**

*To ensure the effective collection for the subsequent ten year plan period of solid waste, and recyclable and compostable materials within each community.*

This section provides information on the current collection programs in the City of Atlanta for garbage, recyclables, yard trimmings, bulky waste, and beautification/common good services. Information on operations, collection schedules, and collection vehicles is also provided. In addition, each program is inventoried and assessed to determine its effectiveness. This section also includes needs and goals for operating an efficient collection system for the 10-year planning period.

## **4.1 Service Area and Existing Multi-Jurisdictional Agreements**

The service area for the City of Atlanta is approximately 131.6 square miles located within the city limits. The City provides service to approximately 87,000 single-family and 33,600 multi-family residences. Land use within the City ranges from the highly urbanized Central Business District and other high-rise commercial areas to suburban residential areas. The 2000 Census population for the City was 416,474 and estimates prepared by the ARC indicate that the 2004 population for the City of Atlanta is approximately 434,900. Population trends indicate that the City is experiencing an approximate annual growth of 1.1 percent. From population estimates based on the ARC's 2003 forecasts and the City of Atlanta's Bureau of Planning 2004 forecast interpolations, the City will have an approximate population of 484,562 in 2015. The City will ensure that its collection systems are capable of handling increased population growth in the City.

The City of Atlanta does not currently have a multi-jurisdictional agreement with another governmental body for solid waste management; however, the City will consider multi-jurisdictional agreements in the future.

## **4.2 Garbage Collection**

Both the City of Atlanta and private haulers provide garbage collection in the City. SWS currently collects residential garbage, yard trimmings, garbage from City-owned buildings and facilities, some C&D debris, and performs various city beautification services (street sweeping, signage removal, etc.). The City contracts with a private company to provide curbside recycling collection. Private haulers collect commercial and industrial solid waste, C&D debris, and some multi-family residential garbage in the City.

## 4.2.1 City of Atlanta Garbage Collection

The City of Atlanta collects residential garbage from all of the single-family units and some of the multi-family units in the City. The City provides weekly semi-automated cart and dumpster refuse collection to roughly 120,600 residential units. This includes approximately 95,400 single-family and multi-family dwelling units that receive cart collection and 25,200 multi-family dwelling units that receive dumpster service in the City. Most collections take place curbside, but the City also provides special backdoor services (at no additional charge) to residents who are certified to be handicapped or who pay a premium rate for the service.

The City also collects residential bulky waste items, such as mattresses, refrigerators, large appliances, furniture, and carpet. Bulky, oversize waste items are collected separately from residential garbage and only by appointment via a call-in system to schedule pickups.

In 2003, the City collected 146,101 tons of solid and bulky waste from residential units.

### 4.2.1.1 City of Atlanta Collection Operations (Existing Program)

The City operates from four substations located throughout the City. These substations, their number of routes, their current schedules, and the typical collection services they provide are presented in Table 4-1.

**TABLE 4-1**  
City of Atlanta Solid Waste Collection Substations

Substation	Address	Times of Operation	Service
Lakewood	128 Claire Drive, SE Atlanta, GA	M-F, during the day 7:30 am – 4:00 pm	Curbside cart and dumpster refuse routes
Liddell	1540 Northside Drive, NW Atlanta, GA	M-Th, during the day 7:30 am – 4:00 pm	Curbside and backdoor cart refuse routes
Chester Avenue	315 Chester Avenue Atlanta, GA	Su-Sat, day and night 7:30 am – 4:00 pm; 7:30 pm – 4:00 am	City buildings and facilities routes & beautification
Maddox Park	1120 North Avenue Atlanta, GA	M-F, during the day 7:30 am – 4:00 pm	Curbside yard trimmings routes, bulky waste routes

Curbside refuse collection is conducted by two-person crews who operate rear-end loading packer trucks equipped with semi-automated cart tippers. Residents are to place all refuse in plastic bags and then place the bags into the City-provided 96-gallon containers (Herbie Curbies). Dumpsters at multi-family units are collected by two-person crews who operate front-end loading packer trucks. Backdoor refuse is collected by two-person crews with “mini-packer” 8-cubic-yard (CY) trucks.

Curbside and backdoor refuse collection operates weekly, Monday through Thursday. Dumpster refuse collection operates weekly, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Typically for residential collection routes, crews begin their day at 7:30 a.m. and end their day at 4:00 p.m. On Fridays, residential refuse crews are also used to support bulky waste collection, yard trimmings collection, and other unscheduled refuse collections.

Bulky waste is collected separately from residential garbage by four- or five-person crews using rubber-tire loaders and either tandem or single-axle open dump trucks, or grapple (knuckleboom) trucks and dump trucks. Bulky waste is collected only by appointment via a call-in system to schedule pickups.

If collection vehicles cannot make it to the transfer stations at the end of the regular routes, the collection vehicles are parked at the substations and a "shuttle crew" will drive the vehicle to the transfer stations between 4:00 pm and 11:00 pm. The use of shuttle crews helps to reduce overtime, increases the amount of waste collected during the regular route, and helps alleviate problems caused by afternoon traffic. Shuttle crew employees are still full-time employees and help on other SWS tasks.

Collection operations for yard trimmings, City buildings and facilities refuse collection, and City beautification services are discussed in Sections 4.4.1, 4.5.1, and 4.5.2, respectively.

#### 4.2.1.2 City of Atlanta Collection Vehicles (Existing Program)

The City's solid waste collection fleet consists of compacting rear-end loaders, mini-packers, front-end loaders, knucklebooms, rubber-tire loaders, and dump trucks. The City also has spare vehicles to assist the fleet in the event of emergencies, maintenance protocols, or breakdowns. Table 4-2 provides a list of vehicles in the City's fleet and the services they provide.

**TABLE 4-2**  
City of Atlanta Solid Waste Collection Vehicles

Service	Vehicle	Minimum Required Number to Service Daily Routes
Residential Refuse Collection (Carts)	Rear-end Loader	40
Yard Trimmings Collection	Rear-end Loader	18
Residential Refuse Collection (Dumpsters)	Front-end Loader	6
City Buildings and Facilities Collection		
Residential Backdoor Refuse Collection (Carts)	Mini-Packer	6
Bulky Waste Collection	Knuckleboom	6
	Rubber-Tire Loader	1
	Dump Truck	15
City Beautification Services <sup>a</sup>	Street Sweeper	14
	Refrigerator Truck <sup>b</sup>	2
	Vacuum Truck	2
	Street Flusher	1
	Rubber-Tire Loader	2
	Dump Truck	4

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Notes:

<sup>a</sup> The City also owns several lawnmowers and tractors for ROW cleanup.

<sup>b</sup> For dead animals.

The City currently has a preventative maintenance program that provides maintenance service for the fleet every 60 days. The City also has a pre- and post-trip vehicle inspection program in place. In general, though, the City's fleet is aging and many vehicles are in need of replacement. The age of the fleet has an impact on the City's collection productivity and operating costs. Previous assessments of the City's solid waste collection fleet recommended the implementation of a maintenance and replacement schedule. However, implementation of this type of program requires a high capital investment that is currently not available. The City is currently in the process of initiating a vehicle maintenance and replacement program that will help reduce overall costs. Although a higher up-front capital outlay would be required for a vehicle fleet maintenance and replacement program, this initial investment would translate into more efficient operations and savings in maintenance and reparative costs in the long-term.

#### **4.2.2 Private Garbage Collection**

Private hauling companies collect some residential multi-family garbage, all commercial, non-residential solid waste, industrial sector solid waste, and C&D debris in the City of Atlanta. There are approximately 20,000 commercial establishments within the city limits, and approximately 182,936 employees worked within the City in 2000. It is estimated that in 2003, approximately 358,814 tons of commercial solid waste were collected by private waste companies in Atlanta for disposal.

The commercial waste stream consists of waste from facilities such as sports facilities, exhibit halls, convention centers, museums, theaters, shopping areas, airports, restaurants, nightclubs, hotels, colleges, universities, hospitals, offices, some multi-family residential housing, and many other retail, wholesale, and service establishments. Consequently, because of the large number of persons commuting into the City for work and recreation, it is expected that the commercial waste volume in Atlanta is higher on a per capita basis than in most communities.

To assess commercial solid waste in the City of Atlanta, the City conducted interviews with five major private haulers that collect waste from the city - United Waste Services, BFI, Waste Management, Rock-Tenn Recycling, and American Recycling Company. Collection information was obtained on a broad spectrum of commercial generators including large, medium and small-scale apartments, entertainment and convention facilities, restaurants, bars, grocery stores, retail stores, hotels, and high-rise office buildings. Small restaurants, bars, and large apartments had the highest frequency of waste collection—five to six times each week compared to once a month for small apartments. Convention facility waste collection varied with events and seasonal convention and sports schedules. On the average, waste collections at convention and sports facilities was collected every 2 weeks.

#### **4.2.3 Assessment of Garbage Collection Programs**

Information on the City's current solid waste collection operations was obtained through a benchmarking study conducted in 2004, titled "City of Atlanta Solid Waste Collection

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Efficiency and Benchmarking Analysis.” The Executive Summary of this report is provided in Appendix B. This benchmarking study assessed the City’s current operations and provided recommendations for improving the City’s collection efficiency. Information from this study is summarized below.

#### **4.2.3.1 City of Atlanta Collection Operations**

Several single-family and multi-family units were observed setting out large amounts of garbage at the curb and not following the set-out limits established in the City’s Solid Waste Ordinance, Section 130-37. Although residents were observed placing garbage at higher amounts than what is allowed in the ordinance, the set-out limits established in the ordinance itself are very high compared to requirements of most cities and private haulers in the U.S. The ordinance allows for a 90-gallon Herbie Curbie and an additional five bags of refuse to be placed at the curbside. Bulky waste items (such as mattresses, furniture, carpet, and other bulky items) were also observed to be mixed with yard waste. Therefore, the City will review the need to establish new, lower set-out limits, to educate residents on adhering to proper set-out limits, and to take necessary enforcement actions. The City’s goal is to encourage compliance while ensuring customer satisfaction, controlling litter, and preventing illegal dumping.

The City’s collection productivity and operational efficiency were also assessed in the benchmarking study. Recommendations that the City will consider or has already implemented include:

- Establishing a task pay system for City collection employees to provide incentive-based pay for performance
- Using dedicated collection crews working either four 10-hour days or five 8-hour days each week to achieve higher productivity
- Continuing the current financial management transition that SWS is undergoing, in order to help align costing data more accurately with the services provided

The City will also consider the feasibility of offering waste collection service to non-residential customers. Although non-residential and non-public waste collection is currently handled by private hauling companies, the City will determine if more cost-competitive, enhanced customer service, and more efficient collection can be provided by the City to non-residential customers.

The City is currently performing a cost of service and rate analysis study to determine fair and reasonable rates among the various services it provides. The study will be utilized in conjunction with this SWMP to help determine the true costs necessary to cover the new programs in this SWMP. The study will determine how the City can adequately fund these new programs while providing fair rates.

#### **4.2.3.2 City of Atlanta Collection Vehicles**

Based on the benchmarking study, the City of Atlanta’s solid waste collection fleet is aging and many vehicles are in need of replacement. Also, in February 2004, United Parcel Service (UPS) performed an assessment of the fleet and recommended a vehicle maintenance and replacement schedule. Based on these recommendations, the City is currently in the process

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of initiating a vehicle maintenance and replacement program that will help reduce overall costs. A better preventative maintenance, pre- and post-trip inspection, and reparative schedule will also be implemented. Although a higher up-front capital outlay will be required for a vehicle fleet maintenance and replacement program, this initial investment will translate into more efficient operations and savings in maintenance and reparative costs in the long-term.

The City has made several strides in improving its vehicle collection fleet. The City recently underwent a reorganization of procedures and responsibilities for its Motor Transport Division to improve efficiency. Also, the use of transfer stations, starting in 2005, has helped reduce the maintenance of the City's collection vehicles, due to reduced transportation time. By delivering collected waste to multiple transfer stations, instead of hauling waste long distances to a single landfill, the City has been able to reduce maintenance and wear on its vehicles. The more widely distributed transfer stations that the City can use, the more the City can reduce transportation and fuel costs and vehicle maintenance and wear, and can increase productivity and efficiency.

## **4.3 Recycling Collection**

### **4.3.1 Residential Curbside Recycling Collection (Existing Program)**

The City currently contracts with Dreamsan Recycling Group, Inc. (Dreamsan), a subsidiary of Dream Sanitation, to provide weekly residential curbside collection of recyclable materials. Dreamsan provides curbside recycling service to approximately 87,000 single-family residences. Recyclable materials are collected on the same day as residents' refuse collection, either Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. The City currently bills residents for recycling collection as part of the garbage service fees.

Billing for recycling collection in the City is necessary to provide added convenience for recycling to residents and also to supplement Dreamsan's operating costs and revenue. The collection costs allow residents the ease and convenience of placing commingled recyclables at the curbside and having them picked up on a regular basis. By comparison, a drop-off center is less expensive to operate, though they do not typically have high recycling participation and add the inconvenience of having to transport recyclables to the site.

Dreamsan uses compartmentalized, trough-loading collection vehicles, with one to two operators per vehicle. Residents place commingled recyclable materials in a wheeled, 18-gallon recycling bin, which can be provided free of charge by request to the City or to Dreamsan, if residents do not currently have a bin. The recycling bins have detachable lids. The types of recyclable materials that are collected include newspaper, aluminum cans, glass bottles and jars, steel cans, plastics (PET #1 and HDPE #2), mixed paper, office paper, junk mail, phone books, and boxboard. Corrugated cardboard is not collected curbside, but residents can bring cardboard to the recycling drop-off centers located at the Liddell and Lakewood substations. The City can also provide additional recycling bins to residents upon request.

The Dreamsan operator manually separates the paper from the other recyclable materials in the bin. Even though the collection vehicles are designed with several compartments, the driver only separates the items into two categories: (1) paper and (2) all other recyclables.

Dreamsan then sorts the other commingled recyclable materials at their MRF. Detailed information on Dreamsan's MRF is provided in Section 3.3.2, Materials Recovery Facility.

#### 4.3.2 Multi-Family Recycling Collection (Existing Program)

The City does not currently offer recycling services to the multi-family residences it serves. Due to the logistics and difficulty of collecting recyclables from multi-family residences, recycling service has traditionally been provided to single-family residences, since curbside recyclables are much easier and more efficient to collect. Single-family residents also pay a separate fee for the recycling service. The City, however, has heard several public comments desiring more recycling opportunities at multi-family units.

For residential multi-family housing, the City of Atlanta requires owners of any multi-family dwelling (including public housing, condominiums, and townhouses consisting of six or more living units) to provide containers for the collection of recyclables and to provide for their collection (Section 130-38(e) of the City of Atlanta Solid Waste Ordinance). Additionally, plans and specifications for new construction of multi-family housing units are required to set aside space for recycling containers on the premises (Section 130-38(f) of the City of Atlanta Solid Waste Ordinance).

Some private waste haulers provide recycling services for the multi-family complexes they service for garbage collection. These private waste haulers include United Waste Services, BFI, Waste Management, Rock-Tenn Recycling, and American Recycling Company. Table 4-3 indicates the types of recyclable materials that these haulers collect. Recycling data were not available from these private waste haulers.

**TABLE 4-3**  
Private Waste Haulers That Provide Residential Recycling Service in City of Atlanta

Name of Hauler	Category of Service	Recycling Collection Frequency	Types of Recyclables Collected	Recycling Container Provided	Are Waste Audits Offered?
United Waste Services	Residential and Commercial	Determined by customer	Paper products, glass, plastic, and metal containers	Bins	Yes
BFI	Residential and Commercial	Determined by customer	Paper products, glass, plastic, metal containers, and wood pallets	Bins	Yes
Waste Management Inc.	Residential and Commercial	Determined by customer	Paper products, glass, plastic, and metal containers	Bins	Yes
Rock-Tenn Recycling	Residential and Commercial	Determined by customer	Paper products and metal cans	Bags, Bins, or Compactors	Yes
American Recycling Co.	Residential and Commercial	Determined by customer	Paper products and plastics	Bags, Bins, or Compactors	Yes

Source: City of Atlanta Commercial Solid Waste Management Assessment Report, 2004.

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### **4.3.3 Commercial Business Recycling Collection (Existing Program)**

The City of Atlanta does not mandate recycling collection at commercially owned buildings. However, any applicant for a non-residential building permit is required to submit plans to the Commissioner of the City's DPW (or designee), identifying the locations of space designated for garbage and recycling containers. The approval of the Commissioner must be obtained prior to the issuance of a building permit by the Director of the City's Bureau of Buildings (Section 130-38(f) of the City of Atlanta Solid Waste Ordinance).

Twenty-three businesses in the City of Atlanta were surveyed as part of an assessment of commercial solid waste collection in the City. Of those 23 businesses, only 16 businesses collect recyclable materials. The Georgia Dome, a major event venue, collects aluminum cans, paper products, and wood pallets for recycling. The Georgia World Congress Center collects paper products generated from the executive business office for recycling, but does not provide recycling services for large conventions. The Georgia Institute of Technology has an Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling, which operates a comprehensive recycling program. The program includes 24 outdoor collection sites and indoor recycling services for 80 academic and support buildings.

### **4.3.4 Other Recycling Programs (Existing Programs)**

Several other recycling programs are in operation in the City, including drop-off centers and recycling in City-owned buildings. For more information on these programs, see Section 3.0, Waste Reduction Element.

### **4.3.5 Assessment of Recycling Collection Programs**

#### **4.3.3.1 Residential Curbside Recycling Collection**

The City's current residential curbside recycling contractor collects a wide variety of recyclables; however, the City will review the current residential curbside recycling contract to determine if more commodities can be added. The City will also evaluate the curbside recycling program to ensure timely pickup of recyclables; provide adequate notification and education of set-out requirements; promote recycling education, public awareness, and marketing campaigns to the community and residents; evaluate the possibility of increasing the size of the recycling bins; add more drop-off recycling centers in the City; and improve customer service. The City will also identify legislative avenues to encourage participation in the recycling program in order to ensure that waste reduction goals are met. Many of the public comments on recycling in the City have addressed education, marketing, and convenience.

#### **4.3.3.2 Multi-Family Recycling Collection**

Although owners of a multi-family dwelling (including public housing, condominiums, and townhouses consisting of six or more living units) are required, by City Ordinance, to provide collection of recyclables, there has typically been low recycling participation at multi-family dwellings in the City of Atlanta. Several public comments have also expressed concern over lack of participation and recycling services at apartment and condominium complexes. The City will consider the following initiatives to increase recycling at multi-family residences:

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- Evaluate reporting mechanisms to collect recycling data. This will help the City track its progress towards meeting the State's waste reduction goal and will also help provide an enforcement component to ensuring that recycling opportunities are provided to multi-family residences.
  - Re-evaluate the Solid Waste Ordinance.
  - Consider offering recycling services through contractors to the multi-family residences the City serves.
  - Evaluate legislative avenues to ensure that private waste haulers offer recycling options to the multi-family residences they serve.
  - Address residents' concerns about the lack of recycling services at their complexes.
  - Work with the City's Department of Planning and Community Development to consider specifying new recycling requirements for permit applications on new multi-family housing construction.
  - Balance enforcement with education on recycling.

#### **4.3.3.3 Commercial Business Recycling**

Since it would be difficult for the City to regulate recycling in commercially owned buildings, the City will instead implement a program to collect more data on potential recyclables from commercially owned buildings and research feasible initiatives to encourage recycling programs at these buildings. The City will also evaluate providing more education, ideas, and opportunities to businesses to start a recycling program. The recycling information provided by the City will take into consideration small- and large-scale companies and the feasibility of implementing and operating a recycling program. For new construction of buildings, the City will work with the Department of Planning and Community Development to consider specifying new recycling requirements for permit applications. The City also plans to establish partnerships with the business community and will provide incentives to businesses in the forms of environmental stewardship awards and recognition, as well as potential financial incentives.

The Georgia Institute of Technology's Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling operates a comprehensive recycling program. The City plans to establish a partnership with Georgia Tech and consider encouraging the use of Georgia Tech's program model for large office complexes and other schools and universities that do not currently have a recycling program.

The City will also encourage the Georgia World Congress Center and other conference centers to establish recycling and source reduction protocols for solid waste generated at their conventions. The City will establish partnerships with the City's conference centers and provide information on recycling and source reduction initiatives.

Because of the large number of commercial establishments within the City and the large number of persons commuting into the City for work and recreation, it is expected that the commercial waste volume in Atlanta is higher on a per capita basis than in most communities. Therefore, the City will research feasible initiatives to implement recycling

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programs at these commercial establishments and lead businesses to increase recycling efforts.

#### **4.3.3.4 C&D Debris Recycling**

There are currently no City of Atlanta regulations that require the recycling of C&D debris. A survey of solid waste entering all landfills in Georgia revealed that almost 12 percent of the total waste stream was C&D debris ("Non-MSW Survey Results," Georgia Department of Community Affairs, June 2002). The City of Atlanta and the majority of private waste haulers do not currently recycle the C&D debris they collect, but instead deliver it to C&D landfills. C&D debris disposal contributed over 95,000 tons to the City's waste stream in 2003, and most likely impacted the City's 11 percent per capita reduction. The City also recognizes that development in the City has increased over the past 10 years.

Therefore, the City will evaluate legislative actions to encourage C&D recycling through building permit requirements, will research educational initiatives to encourage contractors to recycle C&D debris, and will consider the use of financial incentives for companies to build and operate C&D Debris Recycling facilities that will serve the City.

## **4.4 Yard Trimmings Collection**

### **4.4.1 Residential Curbside Yard Trimmings Collection (Existing Program)**

Beginning in 1996, SWS began collecting yard trimmings separately from residential garbage. Yard trimmings are collected bi-weekly in bagged, contained, bundled, or loose curbside set-outs, by three-person crews using rear-end loader packer trucks. Yard trimmings are collected from single- and multi-family residential users, commercial, and industrial properties. All yard trimmings collection routes (18 per day) are dispatched from the Maddox Park substation.

Yard trimmings collections are scheduled to coincide with the refuse collection day. Monday and Tuesday's residential refuse routes have yard trimmings collected the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month. Wednesday and Thursday's residential refuse routes have yard trimmings collected the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of every month. Yard trimmings are collected during the day, Monday through Friday, during these scheduled weeks.

After being collected, yard trimmings are taken to a chipping, grinding, and staging area at the William B. Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant on James Jackson Parkway in Atlanta. The processed yard waste is then sent through a private contractor to various mills in the Southeast to be used as boiler fuel.

Large brush piles are collected separately from residential garbage by four- or five-person crews using rubber-tire loaders and either tandem or single-axle open dump trucks, or knuckleboom trucks and dump trucks. Large brush pile collection is conducted only by appointment via a call-in system to schedule pickups. Large brush piles are delivered to the William B. Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant where they are processed and delivered to various mills to be used as boiler fuel.

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## **4.4.2 Assessment of Residential Yard Trimmings Collection Programs**

From the benchmarking study, several single-family units were observed not following the yard trimmings set-out limits established in the City's Solid Waste Ordinance, Section 130-36(d) and (e). The ordinance requires yard trimmings to be placed in containers with a maximum volume of 32 gallons per container or in kraft paper bags with a maximum weight of 50 pounds per bag. If yard trimmings cannot be containerized (such as tree branches, tree trunks, and heavy brush), these yard trimmings must be less than 6 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length. Several set-outs of yard trimmings were observed to be uncontainerized (that could have been containerized) and larger than the uncontainerized set-out limits specified in the ordinance. Bulky waste items (such as mattresses, furniture, carpet, and other bulky items) were also observed to be mixed with yard waste. If yard waste is improperly prepared or not separated, a minimum fine of \$50.00 or 20 hours of community service can be levied by the City (Sections 130-12(b)(1) and 130-36(i) of the Solid Waste Ordinance).

The City will re-evaluate the Solid Waste Ordinance to determine the need to establish new, lower set-out limits, to educate residents on adhering to proper set-out limits, and to take necessary enforcement actions. The current ordinance does not set a limit on the amount of uncontainerized yard trimmings that can be placed at the curb, even if the yard trimmings meet the "6 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length" set-out limit. The City's goal in re-evaluating the set-out limits is to encourage compliance while ensuring customer satisfaction, controlling litter, and preventing illegal dumping.

Several public comments have also indicated a desire to have the frequency of yard trimmings pickup increased. The City will consider evaluating an increase in yard trimmings pickup frequency to once a week, instead of the current bi-weekly schedule. However, at this time, the City does not have the equipment and labor to increase pickup frequency. The City would require additional funding to accomplish this, and will evaluate purchasing additional equipment and possibly hiring temporary/seasonal labor (due to seasonal increases in yard trimmings generation). Better adherence to yard trimmings set-out limits established in the Solid Waste Ordinance will also help the City in accommodating a weekly pickup frequency, since the City will be able to collect yard trimmings more efficiently. When yard trimmings are uncontainerized or are larger than the required collection dimensions, the City must take time to ensure these yard trimmings can fit into the packer trucks.

## **4.5 Non-Traditional Solid Waste Collection Services**

### **4.5.1 City-Owned Buildings and Facilities Collection (Existing Program)**

The City of Atlanta provides dumpster collection from roughly 70 City-owned buildings. Refuse containers at city buildings range from single 2-CY dumpsters to several 8-cubic-yard dumpsters at a single location.

There is one nightly city building front-end load refuse route, which is dispatched from the Chester Avenue substation. Crews begin their day at 7:30 p.m. and end their day at 4:00 a.m. City buildings are serviced 7 days per week by 2-person crews using a front-end loader

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truck. Collection days vary for different buildings; some have daily collection, while others have weekly collection.

#### **4.5.2 City Beautification and Common Good Services (Existing Program)**

The City of Atlanta has historically provided and continues to provide a range of other special solid waste collection services to maintain a clean and aesthetically pleasing City. These beautification and common good services include:

- Street basket collection on selected City streets
- Street sweeping
- Vacant lot cleanup by the City's Trash Troopers
- Dead animal collection
- Removal of illegal signage
- ROW mowing by the City's Trash Troopers

The City uses a separate crew from the residential refuse, yard trimmings, bulky waste, and City buildings collection routes to perform City beautification services. Street basket collection operates 7 days a week, day and night; street sweeping occurs during the day 5 days a week, and at night for 7 days a week; vacant lot cleanup and ROW mowing occur during the day, 5 days a week; dead animal collection occurs during the day, 6 days a week; and signage removal operates during the day, 5 days a week. The types of vehicles used to perform beautification services include street sweepers, refrigerator trucks for dead animal collection, open top dump trucks, rubber-tire loaders, vacuum trucks, and street flushers for washing down streets.

#### **4.5.3 Assessment of City Beautification and Common Good Services Programs**

Based on the benchmarking study results, the City will evaluate the current routes for City building collection and determine if route efficiency can be improved. Currently, these routes are conducted separately from the other solid waste collection services; therefore, the City will determine if it may be more efficient to couple the City building routes with current multi-family dumpster collection routes.

The City will continue to provide beautification and common good services in order to ensure that Atlanta maintains its status as a clean and healthy city. The City will also perform a cost of service and rate analysis study to develop fair and reasonable rates for customers. For City building collection and City beautification services, this cost of service study is especially important in determining if these services are being adequately funded by the appropriate funding mechanisms. The City is also currently undergoing a financial management transition, which will help align costing data more accurately with the services provided.

### **4.6 Illegal Dumping/Littering**

#### **4.6.1 Inventory of Chronic Problem Areas**

The City of Atlanta keeps a current database on chronic illegal dumping problem areas that the City has identified as "Hot Spots." Most illegal dumping occurs in the southwest portion

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of City. These Hot Spots have been identified through the City's solid waste management Hansen System, which is a computer software tracking database of customer service requests and work orders. The Hot Spots are identified by street and location in each of the City's council districts (12 total), and the database is maintained by SWS. Each council district also has the opportunity to notify SWS of additional locations that can be deemed illegal dumping spots. Citizens can also notify SWS by calling the Illegal Dumping Hotline number - (404) 521-DUMP (3867) - to report illegal dumping activities.

#### **4.6.2 Prevention/Enforcement Strategy (Existing Program)**

Sections 130-2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 of the City of Atlanta's Solid Waste Ordinance prohibit illegal dumping of debris, uncontainerized garbage, litter, trash, solid waste, or uncontainerized yard trimmings upon streets, sidewalks, public places, public property, and public ROWs within the city. Section 130-12 of the Solid Waste Ordinance sets forth enforcement penalties for illegal dumping and violation of the Solid Waste Ordinance.

In August of 2004, the City of Atlanta expanded its Illegal Dumping Program to form partnerships and establish a new approach to combat illegal dumping. SWS will work in conjunction with the City of Atlanta Police Department (Quality of Life Program), the Department of Planning and Community Development Housing Code Compliance office, and the Atlanta City Council to eradicate illegal dumping.

The City's Illegal Dumping Program has four primary components:

1. **Education.** The program involves educating citizens on the definition of illegal dumping, how to report illegal dumping, how to distinguish illegal dumping from unscheduled bulk rubbish or yard trimmings piles, and procedures for proper disposal and scheduling for all solid waste services. Many of these efforts are conducted through the Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Team (S.W.E.E.T.). S.W.E.E.T. collaborates with the various community and neighborhood associations to form a High Intensity Visibility Enforcement (HIVE) operation. A HIVE operation is discussed in more detail in Section 4.6.2.2.
2. **Inter-agency Partnerships.** The goal of this program is to aggressively attack illegal dumping by forming partnerships within the City of Atlanta's departments and programs such as the Department of Housing Code Enforcement, Atlanta Police Department Quality of Life Officers, and the Weed and Seed Program. All of the departments' resources are combined to work efficiently and provide a more visible enforcement infrastructure.
3. **Community Partnerships.** In this program, working relationships and partnerships are established with community and neighborhood associations to develop effective communication and participation with regard to the improvement, cleanliness, and beautification of places where they work, live, and play. These efforts will be accomplished through collaborative efforts such as the HIVE operation and neighborhood community cleanups.
4. **Enforcement, Fines, and Court.** This program focuses on enforcing and expanding the Solid Waste Ordinance to include increased fines for illegal dumping, the establishment

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of citizen rewards, and the creation of an environmental crimes unit, as well as environmental court.

#### **4.6.2.1 Illegal Dumping Hotline**

An Illegal Dumping Hotline number – (404) 521-DUMP (3867) – has been established to assist citizens in reporting illegal dumping actions. The hotline provides a quick response to illegal dumping and also provides education on alternative disposal options. The hotline also assists the City’s Customer Service Division in distinguishing between unscheduled bulk rubbish pickups and illegal dumping sites.

When a citizen calls the City’s Illegal Dumping Hotline, three options are provided:

1. If the citizen is calling to report illegal dumping in progress, the citizen is asked to provide detailed information on the exact location, cross streets or intersections, description of any vehicles involved, and a description of the persons involved in the illegal dumping incident. The call is received at the Chester Avenue substation, which provides 24-hour staffing. The employee on duty will then contact the Atlanta Police Department, Quality of Life Officer, and the Code Enforcement Officer assigned to that area.
2. If the citizen is calling to report illegal dumping which has already occurred, the citizen is connected to the Customer Service Division of the DPW at (404) 330-6333, and is asked to provide detailed information on the address, cross streets or intersections, and the type of debris (i.e., bulk rubbish, yard trimmings, or household garbage) that was dumped.
3. If the citizen is calling with questions pertaining to illegal dumping, bulk rubbish, yard trimmings, or disposal locations, the citizen is forwarded to an automated message which provides locations and telephone numbers for disposal options (i.e., area landfills and drop-off points).

As a safety precaution, the City informs residents to never attempt to confront an individual or persons they suspect or know are engaging in illegal dumping.

#### **4.6.2.2 Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Team (S.W.E.E.T.)**

S.W.E.E.T. collaborates with the various community and neighborhood associations to form a HIVE operation for an area in that neighborhood that requires education and enforcement on illegal dumping. This partnership proactively identifies and addresses specific needs with regard to illegal dumping and general solid waste management concerns in that area. The HIVE operation operates for 30 days in each formed area, with the first 2 weeks devoted to introductory meetings in the neighborhood. The meeting provides educational materials to the neighborhood and explains such items as courtesy tickets and proper disposal methods. The third week of the operation consists of illegal dumping cleanup and pickup of scheduled bulk rubbish and yard trimmings. The fourth week involves handing out citations in the area, if necessary, and culminates in a final major community cleanup over the weekend.

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### **4.6.2.3 Program Monitoring**

The illegal dumping program monitors the following to determine the effectiveness of the program:

- The number of bulk rubbish piles scheduled and picked up, along with illegal dumping “Hot Spots” eradicated in each area during the HIVE process.
- The total amount of revenue generated through fines, as well as the number of people prosecuted for illegal dumping.
- The overall appearance of the City through the eyes of the DPW, as well as the citizens of Atlanta.

## **4.7 Contingency Strategies**

In the event of a waste-generating disaster or if the primary collection option becomes interrupted, the City of Atlanta has Emergency Response Standard Operating Procedures in place for the DPW. The Emergency Response Plan outlines the Department’s responsibilities during an emergency, the level of interaction with other agencies, and the emergency communication and protocol guidelines and procedures in place. The DPW, which houses the SWS, is the lead agency to provide services to restore the City to normal operations following an emergency. The basic mission of the Department is to “maintain the infrastructure and physical environment” in the City of Atlanta. The following sections provide more detail on the contingency strategies for the various collection services the City provides.

### **4.7.1 Solid Waste Collection**

In the event that the City’s primary solid waste collection service becomes interrupted or if a disaster generates a significant increase in the volume of waste:

- The City can utilize weekends to collect increased volumes of waste.
- The City can increase the amount of overtime for its workers, add multiple shifts, and hire temporary/seasonal labor to handle increased collection service.
- The City currently maintains backup equipment to handle emergency collection. In the event that the equipment/vehicles break down, or additional equipment/vehicles are needed, the City has emergency funds to rent replacements.
- Private collection entities can be contracted to help handle the increase in waste or interruption in waste collection service.

### **4.7.2 Recycling Collection**

In the event that the City’s primary curbside recycling collection service becomes interrupted or if a disaster generates a significant increase in the volume of recyclables:

- The City can use other private recycling companies to handle the increase or interruption in recycling service.

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- The City can use overtime pay for its workers and its own equipment to help support the collection of recyclables.
  - The City can use its own vehicles to collect and deliver recyclables to MRFs in metro Atlanta.

### **4.7.3 Yard Trimmings Collection**

In the event that the City's primary yard trimmings collection service becomes interrupted or if a disaster generates a significant increase in the volume of yard trimmings:

- The City has adequate space to stockpile yard trimmings.
- The City can acquire manpower and equipment to ship processed yard trimmings directly to end-users.
- The City has agreements in place to contract out chipping and grinding if the City's equipment fails. The City can also initiate emergency contracts for chipping and grinding, if necessary.
- The City can use overtime pay for its workers and hire temporary/seasonal labor to provide additional collection.
- The City has enough spare equipment and fleet vehicles to continue collection. In the event that the equipment/vehicles break down, or additional equipment/vehicles are needed, the City has emergency funds to rent replacements.

### **4.7.4 Non-Traditional Collection Services**

In the event that the City's primary City building collection and beautification services become interrupted or if a disaster generates a significant increase in the volume of waste that these services handle:

- The City can use overtime pay for its workers to provide additional collection.
- The City has access to backup equipment to handle increased collection or interruptions in service.
- The City has emergency funds to purchase replacements.

## **4.8 Needs and Goals**

The City believes that its current waste collection services are adequate for the present and future needs of the community; however, the City also believes that several operational efficiency improvements are needed. These improvements will help provide cost-effective and responsive services to the citizens of Atlanta. These improvements were a result of analyzing Best-In-Class benchmarks. The City compared similar services provided by other jurisdictions (both private and public) to determine the best, economically feasible programs for solid waste management. These operational improvements will help the City meet its waste reduction goals and will provide an effective and affordable collection system for the 10-year planning period.

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## **4.8.1 Garbage Collection Programs**

The following are proposed garbage collection programs under consideration by the City.

### **4.8.1.1 Education and Compliance – Curbside Garbage Set-Out Limits (New Program)**

During the benchmarking study, the City observed residents of several single- and multi-family units setting out large amounts of garbage at the curb in violation of the set-out limits established in the City's Solid Waste Ordinance, Section 130-37. The City notes, however, that the set-out limits established in the ordinance itself are very high compared to requirements by most cities and private haulers in the U.S. Bulky waste items were also observed to be mixed with yard waste. Therefore, the City will:

- Review the need to establish new, lower set-out limits.
- Educate residents on adhering to proper set-out limits.
- Take necessary enforcement actions to ensure compliance with the set-out limits.

Proper adherence to established set-out limits allows the City to work more efficiently in collecting waste. Unnecessary labor is expended by workers who are forced to collect extra garbage that is not containerized. The City's goal is to encourage compliance while ensuring customer satisfaction, controlling litter, and preventing illegal dumping.

### **4.8.1.2 Collection Productivity and Operational Efficiency (New Program)**

The benchmarking study also assessed the City's collection productivity and operational efficiency. Recommended improvements that the City will consider or has already implemented include:

- Establishing a task pay system for City collection employees to provide incentive-based pay for performance. An example of a task pay system for refuse collection would pay a worker to complete collection of a specific number of houses for a specifically assigned route.
- Using dedicated collection crews working either four 10-hour days or five 8-hour days each week to achieve higher productivity
- Continuing the current financial management transition that SWS is undergoing, in order to help align costing data more accurately with the services provided.

The City is currently performing a cost of service and rate analysis study to determine fair and reasonable rates for the various services it provides. The study will be utilized in conjunction with this SWMP to help determine the true costs necessary to cover the new programs in this SWMP. The study will determine how the City can adequately fund these new programs while providing fair rates.

### **4.8.1.3 Fleet Maintenance (Enhanced Program)**

The benchmarking and UPS studies observed that the City of Atlanta's solid waste collection fleet is aging and that many vehicles are in need of replacement. The studies also recommended that a better preventative maintenance program, pre- and post-trip inspection program, and reparative schedule be implemented. The City is currently in the process of initiating a vehicle maintenance and replacement program that will help reduce

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overall costs. A higher up-front capital outlay will be required for a vehicle fleet maintenance and replacement program; however, this initial investment will translate into more efficient operations and savings in maintenance and reparative costs in the long-term.

The City's recent reorganization of the Motor Transport Division's procedures and responsibilities and the use of transfer stations, has improved the efficiency and reduced the maintenance and wear of its collection vehicles. The use of more widely distributed transfer stations has reduced the City's transportation and fuel costs, reduced its vehicle maintenance and wear, and has increased the City's productivity and efficiency.

#### **4.8.1.4 Commercial Collection (New Program)**

The City's Commercial Solid Waste Assessment Report was an initial preliminary assessment of commercial solid waste in the City. Another more detailed report will be developed by the City to gather more data and information. This report will help the City identify feasible initiatives for implementing collection and recycling programs at commercial establishments.

The City will consider the feasibility of offering waste collection service to non-residential customers. Although non-residential and non-public waste collection is currently handled by private hauling companies, the City will determine if more cost-competitive, enhanced customer service and more efficient collection can be provided by the City to non-residential customers.

#### **4.8.1.5 Improved Overall Route Balance (New Program)**

The City will also evaluate the current collection routes as part of a long-term system assessment. The City will utilize geographic information systems (GIS) and routing software to better plan the collection routes. Routing software will allow the City to improve the overall route balance and allow the flexibility of making specific routing improvements. Route balancing will allow the City to provide and operate collection services more efficiently for its customers.

### **4.8.2 Recycling Collection Programs**

The new programs that the City plans to implement for recycling collection are discussed in Section 3.5.3, Recycling Programs.

### **4.8.3 Yard Trimmings Collection Programs**

Additional programs for yard trimmings are discussed in Sections 3.5.3.8, 3.5.3.9, and 3.5.3.10.

#### **4.8.3.1 Increased Frequency of Yard Trimmings Pickup (New Program)**

The City will consider evaluating an increase in yard trimmings pickup frequency from the current bi-weekly schedule to once a week. However, the City does not have the equipment and labor to increase pickup frequency. The City would require additional funding to accomplish this, and will evaluate purchasing additional equipment and possibly hiring temporary/seasonal labor (due to seasonal increases in yard trimmings generation).

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Better adherence to yard trimmings set-out limits established in the Solid Waste Ordinance will also help the City in accommodating a once a week pickup frequency, since the City will be able to collect yard trimmings more efficiently. When yard trimmings are uncontainerized or are larger than the required collection dimensions, workers must take time to ensure these yard trimmings can fit into the packer trucks. Through education, enforcement, and re-evaluation of the set-out limits established in the Solid Waste Ordinance, the City will ensure that compliance with set-out limits is achieved. These efforts are discussed below in Section 4.8.3.2, Education and Compliance – Yard Trimmings Set-Out Limits.

#### **4.8.3.2 Education and Compliance – Yard Trimmings Set-Out Limits (New Program)**

In conjunction with the program outlined in Section 4.8.1.1, Education and Compliance – Curbside Garbage Set-Out Limits, the City will re-evaluate the current set-out limits established for yard trimmings in the Solid Waste Ordinance, and focus on educating residents and taking enforcement actions, if necessary. The City will also ensure that residents separate bulky waste from bulky yard trimmings. The City's goal is to encourage compliance while ensuring customer satisfaction, controlling litter, and preventing illegal dumping.

#### **4.8.4 Non-Traditional Collection Services Program**

The City's cost of service and rate analysis study that will be performed under the Collection Productivity and Operational Efficiency Program, as described above in Section 4.8.1.2, Collection Productivity and Operational Efficiency, will also develop fair and reasonable rates among the various City beautification and City building services. For City building collection and City beautification services, this study is especially important in determining if these services are being adequately funded by the appropriate funding mechanisms.

#### **4.8.5 Illegal Dumping/Littering Programs**

The following are proposed garbage collection programs under consideration by the City.

##### **4.8.5.1 Expand Illegal Dumping/Littering Program (Enhanced Program)**

For the 10-year planning period, the City of Atlanta plans to expand the illegal dumping program to include these three components:

- S.W.E.E.T. and the Trash Troopers program will be expanded to cover more areas in the City on a daily basis.
- An Environmental Crimes Unit will be established under SWS with the sole purpose of investigating and arresting illegal dumpers.
- An Environmental Court will be established to prosecute persons guilty of environmental and illegal dumping offenses. The environmental court will support the issuance of fines and penalties, and will uphold the strictness with which they are levied against violators.



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## SECTION 5

# Disposal Element

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### Goal of This Planning Element:

*To ensure that solid waste treatment and disposal facilities serving the City of Atlanta meet regulatory requirements and are in place when needed to support and facilitate effective solid waste handling programs today and for the subsequent 10-year period, thereby maintaining and enhancing the quality of life of the residents within the area, and anticipates regional needs.*

This section provides information on the current and future disposal practices in the City of Atlanta for solid waste. The current disposal program being used by the City is adequate for the 10-year planning period and meets the State's required assurance for 10-year disposal capacity. However, the City understands that its current disposal program is a short-term solution, and that future disposal options must be evaluated and considered for the long-term management of the City's solid waste. This section also includes a contingency strategy for the interim disposal of the City's solid waste in the event that the primary disposal option becomes interrupted.

This section focuses on disposal options and technologies. For a discussion on the siting of solid waste handling facilities, please refer to Section 6, Land Limitation Element, which discusses the siting process that both the City and private entities will follow.

## 5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Practices

In 1991, the City of Atlanta ceased disposing of its waste to its four City-owned landfills: East Confederate Avenue Municipal Landfill, Gun Club Road Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, Key Road Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, and Cascade Road Municipal Landfill. Although several of these landfills still had remaining capacity, they were closed and the City continues post-closure care activities on them. Post-closure care involves groundwater, stormwater, and air monitoring; operation and maintenance activities; reporting to the State; and any necessary corrective actions. Post-closure care activities must be conducted for at least 30 years after the closure date.

After the City ceased to use its own landfills, it began disposing of its waste to Waste Management Incorporated's Live Oak Landfill in DeKalb County. The Live Oak Landfill was closed at the end of 2004. The City now has short-term, renewable contracts with privately owned landfills for waste disposal. The contracts consist of 1-year term contracts, with up to five 1-year renewals. Due to the location of these landfills, the City is using local transfer stations to minimize hauling distance and cost. A transfer station is a facility with a designated receiving area where waste collection vehicles deliver the collected waste. The waste is often compacted, then loaded into larger vehicles for shipment to a final disposal site, which is typically a landfill.

In the City of Atlanta, C&D debris is collected by both private haulers and the City of Atlanta and is disposed of in private C&D landfills. The City of Atlanta previously sent

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C&D debris to Live Oak Landfill, an MSW landfill. Since the City is now currently using transfer stations, which do not accept C&D debris, the City will now begin using private dedicated C&D landfills for C&D disposal. The C&D landfills in Atlanta operate as a free market and do not require contracts to accept C&D debris. In 2003, approximately 95,341 tons of C&D debris were disposed by the City of Atlanta and private haulers.

There are a variety of C&D landfills in the Atlanta area that can be utilized for C&D disposal. A few of these landfills are Rogers Lake Road C&D and APAC/GA Donzi Lane Landfills in DeKalb County, Eagle Point Landfill in Forsyth County, and Reliable Tire Service Landfill in Hall County. Small amounts of C&D debris are also sent to MSW landfills; however, MSW landfills charge a higher tipping fee to accept C&D debris when compared to dedicated C&D landfills. This may be attributed to the increased use of dedicated C&D landfills for C&D disposal over the past 3 years (see Section 2.1.5, Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Generation).

### **5.1.1 Solid Waste Transfer Stations (Existing Program)**

Beginning in 2005, the City is using Advanced Disposal Services' Welcome All Transfer Station in College Park, and Republic Services of Georgia's United Waste Service, Inc., Lee Industrial Transfer Station in Austell, for transport and disposal of solid waste to privately owned landfills in Forsyth and Butts Counties in Georgia.

Of the collected solid waste from the City of Atlanta, 20 percent of the waste will be delivered to **Advanced Disposal's Welcome All Transfer Station**. Welcome All Transfer Station is located at 5225 Welcome All Road, in College Park, Georgia. The Welcome All Transfer Station uses Eagle Point Landfill, located at 8880 Old Federal Road, in Ball Ground (Forsyth County), GA, for the disposal of its waste.

The remaining 80 percent of the City's collected solid waste will go to the **Republic Services' United Waste Service, Inc. Lee Industrial Transfer Station**, located at 7140 Delta Circle, in Austell, Georgia. Lee Industrial Transfer Station sends its solid waste to Pine Ridge Landfill located at 105 Bailey Jester Road, in Griffin (Butts County), Georgia.

### **5.1.2 Landfills (Existing Program)**

Eagle Point Landfill is privately owned and operated by Federal Road, LLC of Jacksonville, Florida. The facility is a Class I municipal solid waste disposal facility permitted to dispose of municipal solid waste, C&D waste, industrial process waste, pollution control waste, and sludge waste. The facility cannot accept hazardous and unacceptable waste as defined by Federal and State regulations. Eagle Point Landfill has a total of 29,403,000 CY of total airspace (minus landfill cap). The permitted site is 577 acres with a disposal footprint of 163 acres. The vast majority of the property is surrounded by conservation easements (over 113 acres), which provide a forested buffer from existing buildings and roadways. Based on this permitted capacity and a disposal rate of 1,500 tons per day, the landfill has a life expectancy of 46 years.

Pine Ridge Landfill is a privately owned and operated by United Waste Service, Inc., a locally managed, wholly owned subsidiary of Republic Services, Inc. Pine Ridge Landfill is a Subtitle D approved and permitted landfill, which can accept household, commercial, and industrial waste; construction and demolition debris; land clearing materials, as well as

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contaminated soils; asbestos; sludge; and other pre-approved non-hazardous wastes. Covering 101 acres, Pine Ridge Landfill has over 40 million CY of total airspace and an expected life of over 30 years.

Table 5-1 provides a list of the disposal facilities to be used during the planning period. The City may also use other transfer stations, landfills, and/or other disposal technologies in addition to the ones listed in Table 5-1 during the planning period.

### **5.1.3 Assurance of 10-Year Disposal Capacity**

The City has written commitments from the owners of the disposal facilities certifying sufficient capacity for the City of Atlanta's solid waste over the 10-year planning period. These commitments are provided in Appendix C. Table 5-2 provides information on the disposal capacity assurance from the two disposal facilities that the transfer stations will be using.

### **5.1.4 Assessment**

The City's current use of landfills for disposal of its solid waste will be adequate for the 10-year planning period and will meet the State's required assurance for 10-year disposal capacity. However, the City understands that the use of landfills is a short-term solution, and that other disposal options must be evaluated and considered for the long-term management of the City's solid waste. The other disposal options that will be evaluated by the City are listed in Section 5.3, Needs and Goals.

Due to the increased development within the City of Atlanta over the past decade and the fact that C&D debris account for a substantial portion of the City's overall waste stream, the City of Atlanta will research the need for a C&D debris recycling initiative. The City will utilize C&D debris recycling initiatives to maximize C&D debris diversion, and then will utilize C&D landfills for the remainder of the C&D debris that cannot be recycled. More detailed information on C&D recycling initiatives were provided in Section 3.5.3.6, C&D Recycling.

### **5.1.5 Contingency Strategy**

In the event that the current disposal option becomes interrupted, the City will use other existing regional transfer stations for the transfer and disposal of its solid waste. There are approximately 64 active transfer stations in the greater Atlanta region that the City could use. This would be handled through either an emergency contract or a re-bidding process. The City can deliver solid waste directly to other landfills in the State, if necessary.

## **5.2 Inventory of Thermal Treatment Disposal Practices (Existing Programs)**

The City does not utilize thermal treatment technology to dispose of its solid waste. Collected yard trimmings from the residential yard waste collection program are processed in a chipping, grinding, and staging area at the Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant, and then sent to various mills that use the processed yard waste as boiler fuel.

**TABLE 5-1**  
Inventory of Disposal Facilities to be Used by the City of Atlanta during the Planning Period (2005 – 2014) Include, But Are Not Limited To:

Facility Name <sup>1,2</sup>	Facility Address	Owner/Operator	Facility Type	Types of Waste Accepted	Transfer Station Used To Support Landfill Owner/Address	Remaining Capacity <sup>3</sup> (CY)	Remaining Life (Years) <sup>3</sup>
Eagle Point Landfill	8880 Old Federal Rd. Ball Ground, GA 30107	Federal Road, LLC	Landfill	Municipal Solid Waste, C&D Waste, Industrial Process Waste, Pollution Control Waste, Aboveground and Underground Storage Tanks (UST/AST) Contaminated Soils, Sludge Waste, Asbestos Containing Waste, Solidified Liquid Waste Cannot accept hazardous and unacceptable waste as defined by federal and State regulations	Welcome All Transfer Station Advanced Disposal, Inc. 5225 Welcome All Rd. College Park, GA 30349	23,609,066 <sup>4</sup>	35 <sup>4</sup>
Pine Ridge Landfill	105 Bailey Jester Rd. Griffin, GA 30223	United Waste Service, Inc.	Landfill	Household, Commercial and Industrial Waste, C&D Debris, Land Clearing Materials, Contaminated Soils, Asbestos, Sludge, and Other Pre-Approved Non-Hazardous Wastes	Lee Industrial Transfer Station Republic Services of Georgia, LLP and United Waste Service, Inc. 7140 Delta Cir. Austell, GA 30168	37,491,860 <sup>5</sup>	38 <sup>5</sup>

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> The City may also use other transfer stations, landfills, and/or other disposal technologies in addition to the ones listed here during the planning period.
- <sup>2</sup> Any future disposal options chosen by the City during the planning period will be added to this table and this Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan will be updated accordingly.
- <sup>3</sup> Remaining capacity and life of landfills does not include solid waste from the City of Atlanta for the planning period. This information is provided in Table 5-2.
- <sup>4</sup> Beginning in 2004. Source: List of 2003 Landfill Remaining Capacity, Georgia Environmental Protection Division.
- <sup>5</sup> As of November 30, 2004. Assumes landfill accepts 2,000 tons per day and the facility's compaction ratio. Source: Republic Services of Georgia Disposal Capacity Certification Letter, March 29, 2004.

**TABLE 5-2**  
**Disposal Assurance Capacity for the City of Atlanta for the 10-Year Planning Period**

	Year 1 (2005)	Year 2 (2006)	Year 3 (2007)	Year 4 (2008)	Year 5 (2009)	Year 6 (2010)	Year 7 (2011)	Year 8 (2012)	Year 9 (2013)	Year 10 (2014)
<b>Eagle Point Landfill</b> Federal Road, LLC 8880 Old Federal Rd. Ball Ground, GA 30107	23,609,066	22,934,960	22,260,854	21,586,748	20,912,642	20,238,536	19,564,430	18,890,324	18,216,218	17,542,112
<b>Capacity Assured (CY)<sup>1</sup></b>										
<b>Pine Ridge Landfill</b> United Waste Service, Inc. 105 Bailey Jester Rd. Griffin, GA 30223	37,491,860	35,112,340	32,732,820	30,353,300	27,973,780	25,594,260	23,214,740	20,835,220	18,455,700	16,076,180
<b>Capacity Assured (CY)<sup>2</sup></b>										

**Sources:**

- <sup>1</sup> Advanced Disposal Services, Inc. Disposal Capacity Certification Letter, September 13, 2001 and Georgia Environmental Protection Division List of 2003 Landfill Remaining Capacity.
- <sup>2</sup> Republic Services of Georgia Disposal Capacity Certification Letter, March 29, 2004.

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Sludge generated from Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants in the City of Atlanta consists of two portions - (1) a biosolids portion, and (2) a non-biosolids portion, which typically includes grit and other non-sludge waste, such as catch-basin trash, rocks, wood, branches, and gravel. The biosolids portion is handled by the City of Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management and is incinerated at the treatment plants. The ash from the incineration is sent to a brick facility for recycling as an amendment in the manufacturing of bricks. The remaining non-biosolids portion is handled by SWS and is disposed of through the landfills. In 2003, approximately 71,741 tons of sludge were incinerated, and approximately 46,984 tons were sent to Live Oak Landfill. Sludge is typically not considered a solid waste, but is discussed in this Plan to assist in disposal planning purposes.

### **5.2.1 Assessment**

Although the City does not currently use thermal treatment technologies for the disposal of its solid waste, the City will consider and evaluate waste-to-energy solutions for the long-term management of its solid waste. These solutions are discussed in Section 5.3, Needs and Goals.

The City will continue to process yard trimmings for use as a boiler fuel for mills, for which it receives revenue. Although yard trimmings (or biomass) only have about 60 percent of coal's heating value, yard trimmings produce lower air emissions, are a renewable resource, and can be less expensive. The City will consider marketing to other mills and plants that desire to use processed yard trimmings for fuel.

Although the City has heard several public comments on establishing a composting program for collected yard waste, the City will not pursue this alternative at this time. The current yard-waste-processing program is less expensive to operate than a composting facility, and the City receives revenue for its processed yard trimmings. Even though finished compost could be sold, the capital and operational costs of a composting facility would outweigh the revenues received. Compost facilities require large amounts of land to operate, generate odors, and require labor intensive operation and maintenance. Due to the large amount of heat that is generated when organic mass starts degrading, there is also a potential for fires to start in large compost piles.

For sludge, the City will continue to incinerate the biosolids portion and recycle the ash. For the non-biosolids portion, the City will continue to utilize landfills for disposal. Since sludge comprises a large portion of the City's waste stream, the City will continue to manage the amount of sludge generation. Since this waste competes for landfill space, the City will continue to evaluate alternative disposal or recycling options for sludge and also ensure available landfill capacity.

## **5.3 Needs and Goals**

The City believes that its current waste disposal practice of using privately owned landfills is adequate for the 10-year planning period. However, the City understands that the use of landfills are a short-term solution to the disposal of solid waste. Therefore, the City will consider and evaluate other disposal options and technologies to manage the long-term disposal of its solid waste. The following discussion focuses on feasible disposal options and technologies for the City, and does not discuss the siting of a solid waste handling facility.

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For a discussion on the siting of solid waste handling facilities, please refer to Section 6, Land Limitation Element, which discusses the siting process that both the City and private entities will follow. It should also be noted that feasibility studies and evaluations will be conducted for these disposal options first, and do not provide any commitments to a chosen disposal technology.

The disposal options are listed below:

- Combustion Waste-To-Energy Solutions
- Regional Landfills
- Use of Transfer Stations to Support Regional Disposal Facilities
- Eco-Industrial Park

### **5.3.1 Combustion Waste-to-Energy Solutions**

Two-combustion waste-to-energy solutions that the City will research and evaluate are mass-burn combustion and refuse-derived-fuel combustion. Both of these solutions provide energy from the combustion of municipal solid waste. The technologies can significantly reduce the amount of waste that is disposed to landfills (almost 90 percent by volume), but poses cost, siting, and public opposition issues.

Waste-to-Energy solutions can handle most types of solid waste from the City of Atlanta, except for C&D debris, which typically hinders the optimum combustion levels desired.

#### **5.3.1.1 Mass Burn Combustion (New Program)**

##### **5.3.1.1.1 Description**

Mass-burn combustion is the most common waste-to-energy technology used in the U.S. The process involves the burning of waste as it is received with no processing prior to incineration. The heat from the combustion is typically used to generate steam or electricity onsite or for sale offsite to an industrial customer. Approximately 100 mass burn facilities operate in the U.S., including one large waste-to-energy facility in Chatham County, Georgia. The Chatham County facility receives about 310 tons per day of municipal solid waste from the City of Savannah.

Mass-burn facilities typically carry these components:

- A waste feed system
- A combustion chamber with a moving hearth to transport burning refuse and ash through the chamber
- A heat recovery boiler (and often a turbine-generator)
- An air pollution control system to treat gases resulting from combustion (flue gases)

A typical mass-burn facility would require a 5- to 10-acre site and high initial capital costs for construction. Estimated costs for a typical mass burn facility are detailed below:

- Capital cost, median estimate = \$480 million
- Operations and maintenance cost = \$37 million
- Revenue = \$26 million

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After amortizing the capital costs and factoring in operating and maintenance costs and revenue, a typical mass burn facility would require an approximate tipping fee ranging from \$60 to \$80 per ton. The City of Atlanta currently pays around \$30 per ton using transfer stations and landfills. The economics of operating a mass-burn facility can also be affected by risk, market, overhead, litigation, and host fees. Due mainly to air emission regulations and siting difficulties, no new mass burn facilities have been built in the U.S. over the last 10 years.

#### **5.3.1.1.2 Advantages and Disadvantages**

Advantages of using a mass-burn facility include:

- Reduction in landfill disposal requirements (almost 90 percent volume reduction)
- Proven technology
- Opportunity to apply new systems and technologies
- Energy recovery and sales

Disadvantages of using a mass-burn facility include:

- Public opposition and difficulty in siting
- High initial cost with high associated tipping fees to continue operation
- Lengthy construction and startup period, several years in duration, which is often prolonged by litigation
- Discharge of pollutants through air emissions (Atlanta is in a non-attainment zone)
- Need for ash disposal capacity

#### **5.3.1.2 Refuse-Derived Fuel (New Program)**

##### **5.3.1.2.1 Description**

Refuse-derived fuel (RDF) is a solid fuel produced by the mechanical pre-processing of municipal solid waste. The technology is based on the premise that waste combustibility can be improved by processing the waste prior to burning. The processing removes some noncombustible materials, makes the waste more homogeneous, and thus makes it easier to work with and more consistent in its heat generation.

RDF has a higher heating value than unprocessed, mixed municipal solid waste. When compared to soft coal, RDF has about half the heating value and can be used as a combustion fuel for boilers, furnaces, and fluidized bed units and kilns. Often, RDF is co-fired with another type of conventional fuel, such as wood, coal, oil, or natural gas. An RDF facility may sell its fuel offsite for incineration at another facility such as an electric power plant, or may burn the fuel onsite in a dedicated boiler.

The purpose of RDF processing is to remove noncombustible components from the municipal solid waste. This increases the heat value of the RDF, produces a smaller quantity of ash than is generated at a mass burn facility, and potentially produces less heavy metal contamination in the facility emissions. The noncombustible components of municipal solid waste are primarily metals and glass. Items such as paper, cardboard, and plastic contribute to a high heating value for the RDF product.

RDF facilities include a municipal solid waste receiving and storage area, front-end processing area, and product handling and storage areas. The production of RDF typically

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includes shredding, breaking up bulk material, screening to remove grit and glass, air classification to separate the light-weight fuel portion (such as paper and cardboard) from the heavy materials (primarily noncombustibles), and final processing into the desired shape, hardness, density, and percent of extraneous material.

The average RDF plant size capacity is approximately 1,500 tons per day of processed municipal solid waste. Twelve RDF facilities are in operation in the U.S. RDF plants incur high initial capital costs involved with construction. Estimated costs for a typical RDF facility are detailed below:

- Capital cost, median estimate = \$460 million
- Operations and maintenance cost = \$44 million
- Revenue = \$13 million

After amortizing the capital costs and factoring in operating and maintenance costs and revenue, a typical RDF facility would require an approximate tipping fee of \$110 per ton. The City of Atlanta currently pays around \$30 per ton using transfer stations and landfills. The economics of operating a RDF facility can also be affected by risk, market, overhead, litigation, and host fees.

#### **5.3.1.2.2 Advantages and Disadvantages**

Advantages of using an RDF facility include:

- Proven technology
- Reduction in the need for landfill disposal capacity
- Opportunity to recover recyclable material and energy
- Revenue and sales from fuel
- Ability to blend fuels
- Lower air emissions than mass-burn combustion
- Lower ash-to-fuel ratio than mass-burn combustion
- Potential for use in existing boiler facilities

Disadvantages of using a RDF facility include:

- Difficulty in siting and public opposition
- High initial cost with high associated tipping fees to continue operation (RDF is more expensive than mass-burn facilities.)
- Discharge of pollutants through air emissions (Atlanta is in a non-attainment zone)
- Lengthy construction and startup period, several years in duration - which can be prolonged by litigation
- Ash disposal issues
- Difficulty in marketing RDF as a fuel
- Processing costs sometimes exceed the benefit of the end product

It should be noted that RDF combustion facilities do not have to be built and operated within the City. The RDF produced at a local facility can be transported to plants that desire the fuel. Shipping and transportation costs will be affected, however.

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### **5.3.2 Regional Landfills (New Program)**

To handle the future disposal of its solid waste, the City will evaluate the feasibility of utilizing regional landfills. The City will evaluate using privately owned landfills, contracting with another local government, or developing their own landfill outside of the City. To account for long-distance hauling costs to regional landfills, the City can use transfer stations to support cost-effective shipments to these distant facilities.

The types of waste from the City of Atlanta that landfills can accept, include MSW, residential waste, commercial/institutional waste, land clearing materials, sludge, industrial solid waste, and industrial process waste. MSW landfills cannot accept hazardous and unacceptable waste as defined by federal and State regulations.

MSW landfills can accept C&D debris; however, it is typically accepted at a higher tipping fee when compared to dedicated C&D landfills.

#### **5.3.2.1 Description**

The nationwide trend in solid waste disposal is toward the construction of larger, more remote, regional landfills. Regulatory, social, political, geographical, and economic forces have been compelling factors leading to this result. Federal regulations passed in 1991 established new design requirements for municipal solid waste landfills. Many communities found the cost of upgrading existing facilities or constructing new landfills to be prohibitively high, and opted to close existing facilities. For these communities, transferring waste to a large regional landfill was an appealing alternative.

In addition to regulatory requirements, public opposition frequently makes siting new landfills near population centers difficult. Also, adequate land is often not available near densely populated or urban areas.

Economic considerations, especially economies of scale, further promote development of large regional facilities. To offset the high cost of constructing and maintaining a modern landfill, facility owners construct large facilities that attract high volumes of waste from a greater geographic area. By maintaining a high volume of incoming waste, landfill owners can keep the per-ton tipping fees low, which subsequently attracts more business. Rural and urban communities alike are finding that an economically viable solution to their waste disposal needs is shipping their waste to these facilities. In these circumstances, a transfer station serves as the critical consolidation link in making cost-effective shipments to these distant facilities.

Estimated costs for a new Class I landfill with a capacity of 2,500 tons per day of solid waste are detailed below:

- Capital cost = \$192 million
- Operations and maintenance cost = \$4.7 million
- Post-closure cost = \$1 million

#### **5.3.2.2 Advantages and Disadvantages – Regional Landfills**

Advantages of using a regional landfill include:

- Avoidance of siting and public opposition issues within the City

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- Potential economy-of-scale cost savings
  - Provides potential long-term disposal capacity
  - Flexibility in controlling waste that is delivered to a City-owned landfill

Disadvantages of using a regional landfill include:

- Loss of control of disposal if using a privately owned landfill
- Potential for increased liability for using a privately owned landfill
- Loss of control of future tipping fees at a privately owned landfill
- Difficulty in siting and public opposition of a new regional landfill
- Potential for air and water quality impacts

### **5.3.3 Use of Transfer Stations to Support Regional Disposal Facilities (New Program)**

To support hauling to a regional disposal facility, the City can utilize either a privately run transfer station, or develop its own. A transfer station is a facility with a designated receiving area where waste collection vehicles deliver the collected waste. The waste is often compacted, then loaded into larger vehicles (usually transfer trailers, intermodal containers, railcars, and barges) for long-haul shipment to a final disposal site—typically a landfill, waste-to-energy plant, or composting facility. No long-term storage of waste occurs at a transfer station; waste is quickly consolidated and loaded into larger vehicles and moved offsite, usually in a matter of hours.

The City currently uses two transfer stations under short-term renewable contracts for the transfer of its collected solid waste. Because these transfer stations are privately owned, the stations determine the cost of the tipping fees and where the solid waste is disposed. Although several stipulations can be written into the City's contracts with these transfer stations, the City could maintain better control of its solid waste and associated costs if the transfer stations were owned by the City.

The use of transfer stations can also help reduce the maintenance of the City's collection vehicles, due to reduced transportation time. Instead of hauling waste long distances to a single landfill, the City can utilize multiple transfer stations that are close in proximity to the routes or substations. This can reduce transportation and fuel costs, can reduce vehicle maintenance and wear, and can increase productivity and efficiency.

#### **5.3.3.1 Advantages and Disadvantages – Transfer Stations**

During the 10-year planning period, the City will evaluate the feasibility of developing City-owned transfer stations. The primary reason for using a transfer station is to reduce the cost of transporting waste to distant disposal facilities. Consolidating smaller loads from collection vehicles into larger transfer vehicles reduces hauling costs by enabling collection crews to spend less time traveling to and from distant disposal sites, and more time collecting waste. This also reduces fuel consumption and collection vehicle maintenance costs, and produces less overall traffic, air emissions, and road wear.

In addition, a transfer station also provides:

- An opportunity to screen waste prior to disposal

- 
- Flexibility in selecting waste disposal options
  - An opportunity to serve as a convenience center for public use

At a City-owned transfer station, workers would screen incoming wastes on the tipping floors or in receiving pits. Waste screening has two components: separating recyclables from the waste stream, and identifying any wastes that might be inappropriate for disposal (such as hazardous wastes or materials, white goods, whole tires, auto batteries, or infectious waste). Identifying and removing recyclables reduces the weight and volume of waste sent for final disposal and, depending on local recycling markets, may generate revenue. Screening for inappropriate wastes is more efficient at the transfer station than the landfill or other disposal facility.

City-owned waste transfer stations would offer more flexibility in terms of disposal options. The City could select the most cost-effective and/or environmentally protective disposal sites, even if they are more distant. The City could consider multiple disposal facilities, secure competitive disposal fees, and choose a desired method of disposal (such as landfilling or incineration). The City would also have more control of disposal costs, since it would contract directly for the disposal of its waste.

Finally, a City-owned transfer station could include multi-purpose convenience centers open to public use. These centers would enable individual citizens to deliver waste directly to the transfer station facility for ultimate disposal or recycling. A City-operated convenience center could also offer programs to manage yard waste, bulky items, household hazardous waste, and tires; and would recycle these types of wastes if possible. Convenience centers would assist the community in achieving recycling goals, increasing the public's knowledge of proper materials management, and diverting materials that would otherwise burden existing disposal capacity.

The main disadvantages and obstacles to a City-owned transfer station are facility siting and public opposition. Transfer stations also may pose unsightly visual, noise, odor, and litter issues. Depending on the existing road infrastructure, transfer stations may also increase traffic in the area. Due to the increased development of existing industrial areas into residential zones, there may be limited areas where transfer stations could be sited.

To help mitigate potential public opposition to City-owned transfer stations, the City would involve the public in all steps of the decision-making process—from the decision to build or site a transfer station, to the design and functionality of the transfer station. City-owned transfer stations would include convenience and recycling centers for residents, and would follow the procedures in Section 6, Land Limitation Element, to minimize any impacts from building and siting a transfer station. The City would also focus on any community-specific criteria, including environmental justice considerations, air quality, impacts on the local infrastructure, adjacent land uses, other environmental stressors that may already exist, and proximity to schools, churches, recreation sites, and residences.

Also to help alleviate public opposition, host community agreements could be established between the City and the community hosting the transfer station. These agreements typically specify design requirements, operating restrictions, oversight provisions, and other services and benefits that the immediate community would receive. Some examples of these provisions include:

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- Steps to reduce negative environmental impacts in the immediate area
  - Limitations on waste-generation sources
  - Roadside cleanup of litter on access routes
  - Restrictions on facility operating hours
  - Restrictions on vehicle traffic routes
  - Assistance with recycling and waste diversion
  - A fee paid to the local community for every ton of waste received at the facility
  - Free or reduced-cost use of the facility for the community's residents and businesses
  - Tax incentives for the community
  - Guaranteed preference to the community's residents for employment at the facilities
  - Funding for road or utility improvements
  - Financial support for other community-based activities

### **5.3.4 Eco-Industrial Park (New Program)**

#### **5.3.4.1 Description**

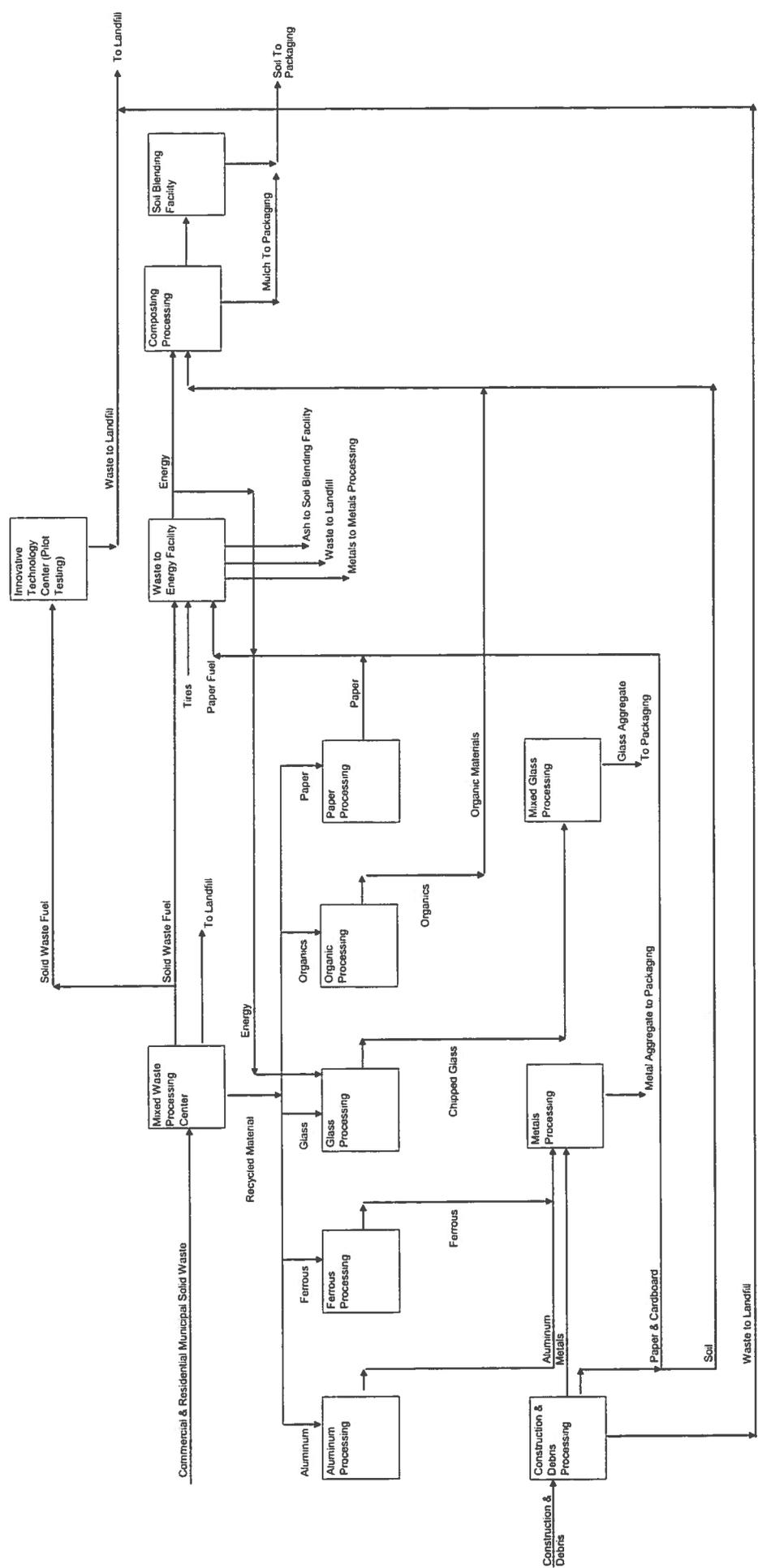
An Eco-Industrial Park (or Eco-Park) is a group of businesses that work together and with the community to efficiently share resources (materials, water, energy, infrastructure, natural habitat, and information), enhance economic prosperity, and improve the environment. Eco-Parks rely on concepts such as by-product synergy (reuse of waste material as a feedstock to another industrial process), waste exchange, green energy, green buildings, and mass transit. Green building designs use energy and resource efficiency, waste reduction, and pollution prevention practices, indoor air quality standards, and other environmental initiatives in the construction of new buildings and/or refurbishment of existing ones. Eco-Parks are not a stand-alone technology, rather they are a combination of processing and treatment technologies that separate or convert waste for reuse and reprocessing.

Eco-Parks can handle all types of solid waste from the City of Atlanta, and will be dependent upon the combination and configuration of the different processing and treatment technologies utilized.

Eco-Parks often offer some public incentive such as reduced taxes, public land leases, and public endorsement of the businesses. The parks are arranged to foster sustainable business arrangements and sustainable practices for the entire community. They generally consume less energy and fewer raw materials, produce less waste and pollution, and provide an inviting workplace and integration with the surrounding community. They often rely on groups of technologies that work together with the community to efficiently share resources and improve the environment in comparison to more conventional arrangements.

Figure 5-1 presents an example process flow diagram of an Eco-Park configuration.

Several business models and arrangements may be considered in designing an Eco-Park. One example would be an Eco-Park that invites reuse, recycling, and composting businesses to collocate in one area. In these instances, areas with reuse, recycling, and composting businesses as the main focus become known as a "Resource Recovery Park." A Resource Recovery Park is a co-location of reuse, recycling, and composting processing, manufacturing, and retail businesses in a central facility to which the public can bring all wastes and recoverable materials. A Resource Recovery Park enables the public to decrease



**Figure 5-1**  
 Simplified Process Block Flow Diagram of Eco-Industrial Park  
 City of Atlanta  
 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan



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their waste disposal costs, recover some value from their discards, and buy other items at bargain prices. A Resource Recovery Park would enable participating businesses to share space and facilities; operating equipment (such as forklifts, balers, shredders, loaders, and trucks); technical, administrative, and professional services; promotions and advertising; communications equipment and services (e.g., copiers, computers, Web sites, fax, radios, phones); staff recruitment and training; and educational facilities and services.

Another example would be an Eco-Park for manufacturers and distributors that make sustainable products. The purpose of the park would be to attract buyers to the park through the co-location of like businesses. A brokered distribution center in the renewable energy sector, for example, could sell bio-diesel, bio-based compressed natural gas, ethanol, bio-oil (from pyrolysis), and hydrogen. Another complex could sell green building materials.

Resource Recovery Parks can be developed in numerous ways:

- Zoning a district within a community specifically for such businesses
- Siting these businesses on or around a landfill or transfer station
- Renovating one or more abandoned buildings or industrial sites (such as a brownfield or military base) for such businesses
- Co-promoting nearby reuse, recycling, and composting businesses
- Develop a master plan to attract desired types of businesses to available sites

Some Resource Recovery Parks are developing as a natural clustering of reuse, recycling, and composting businesses on the site of, or around, a landfill or transfer station. Alternatively, other sites, such as brownfield sites or abandoned buildings, could serve as a site for a Resource Recovery Park.

Resource Recovery Parks do not have to be large in scale, and could succeed on a smaller scale in a rural area or an urban brownfield. Small-scale Resource Recovery Parks focus on attracting appropriately sized reuse, recycling, and composting businesses that meet local needs.

To develop an Eco-Park, special land-use designations, zoning, permitting, development conditions, and operating permits may be required. Innovation at Eco-Parks is important, however, so a process should be in place to allow proponents to propose alternative requirements for consideration. In general, it would take approximately 4 to 6 years to site, design, permit, and construct an Eco-Park.

Tenants of the Eco-Park should be qualified as appropriate for the park through a transparent review process. Incentives could be created through land lease, tax credits or deferments, public promotion, and leading-edge park design. Disincentives could be created to prevent poor environmental performance, high resource consumption, or high wastewater and waste production in these parks.

Currently the City operates the Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant, which is used to process yard waste through chipping and grinding for use as boiler fuel. This facility and

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the surrounding area could be expanded into a Recycling Recovery Park. This park could include other recycling recovery and materials recovery uses.

The City will research and evaluate the feasibility of hosting and developing Eco-Parks in Atlanta as a future, long-term management solution for its solid waste.

#### **5.3.4.2 Advantages and Disadvantages**

Advantages of Eco-Parks include:

- Dramatic environmental benefits in air, water, material, and energy resource use
- Educational opportunities for the entire community
- By-product synergy
- Sales synergy
- Markets established for recycled products, services, and sustainable products that might not flourish without a catalyst like the Eco-Park concept

Disadvantages of Eco-Parks would be facility siting and public opposition. Waste processing operations may also pose unsightly visual, noise, odor, and litter issues. Depending on the existing road infrastructure, facilities may also increase traffic in the area. Due to the increased development of existing industrial areas into residential zones, there may be limited areas in the City where facilities could be sited. Other disadvantages include:

- Standards of performance must be created before tenants are selected.
- Public reporting is critical to community acceptance.
- Vacating or terminating a non-compliant business may be difficult.
- Economic success depends upon the tenants' success and current markets.

## SECTION 6

# Land Limitation Element

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### Goal of This Planning Element:

*To ensure that the proposed solid waste handling facilities are sited in areas suitable for such developments, are compatible with surrounding uses and are not considered for location in areas which have been identified by the local government or multi-jurisdictional area as having environmental or other land limitations.*

Solid waste disposal facilities and other solid waste handling facilities should be located where they have minimum adverse effects on the community and the environment. These facilities can include, but are not limited to, recycling, recovery, composting, transfer station, and/or solid waste disposal/handling facilities. This section does not attempt to identify any site as acceptable, nor does it identify any site as unsuitable based on the criteria discussed herein. Rather, this section outlines the limitations that the City and private entities will consider during the siting of a new solid waste management facility or the expansion of an existing solid waste management facility. The limitations identified below do not exclude the development of a facility in an area where the limitations occur; rather, the limitation or concern must be considered, and if possible, mitigated when siting a facility. Locations for facilities must be chosen on a site-specific basis. Maps of all significant environmental and cultural resources are presented in the *City of Atlanta Comprehensive Development Plan 2004-2019* and are available for review at the SWS offices.

The following subsections discuss items that the City and private entities will consider during the siting of solid waste management facilities in accordance with City, State, and Federal guidelines. The subsections include:

- Natural Environmental Limitations
- Land Use Limitations
- Disproportionate Environmental Impacts
- Other Regulatory Requirements for Solid Waste Facility Siting
- Procedures to Establish Consistency with Comprehensive SWMP
- Needs and Goals

## 6.1 Natural Environmental Limitations

The following subsections describe regulations that govern the location of solid waste facilities in environmentally sensitive natural areas. These areas include floodplains, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, water supply watersheds, river corridors, protected mountains, fault zones, seismic zones, and unstable areas (karst areas). When siting a solid waste handling facility, it is the City's goal to adhere to the Federal, State, and local regulations outlined below. In areas where these natural areas cannot be avoided, the City or private entity will follow the mitigation plans and procedures outlined and approved by the appropriate regulatory and permitting agencies.

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### **6.1.1 Floodplains**

Floodplains are defined as lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters, including flood-prone areas of offshore islands that are inundated by the 100-year flood. A 100-year flood is one that has a 1 percent or greater chance of recurring in any given year, or a flood of a magnitude equaled to or exceeded once in 100 years on the average over a significantly long period. Floodplains in Atlanta are primarily associated with the many creeks and tributaries of the Chattahoochee River and the South River (Figure 6-1). Some of the major streams are Nancy Creek, Peachtree Creek, Proctor Creek, Utoy Creek, and Camp Creek.

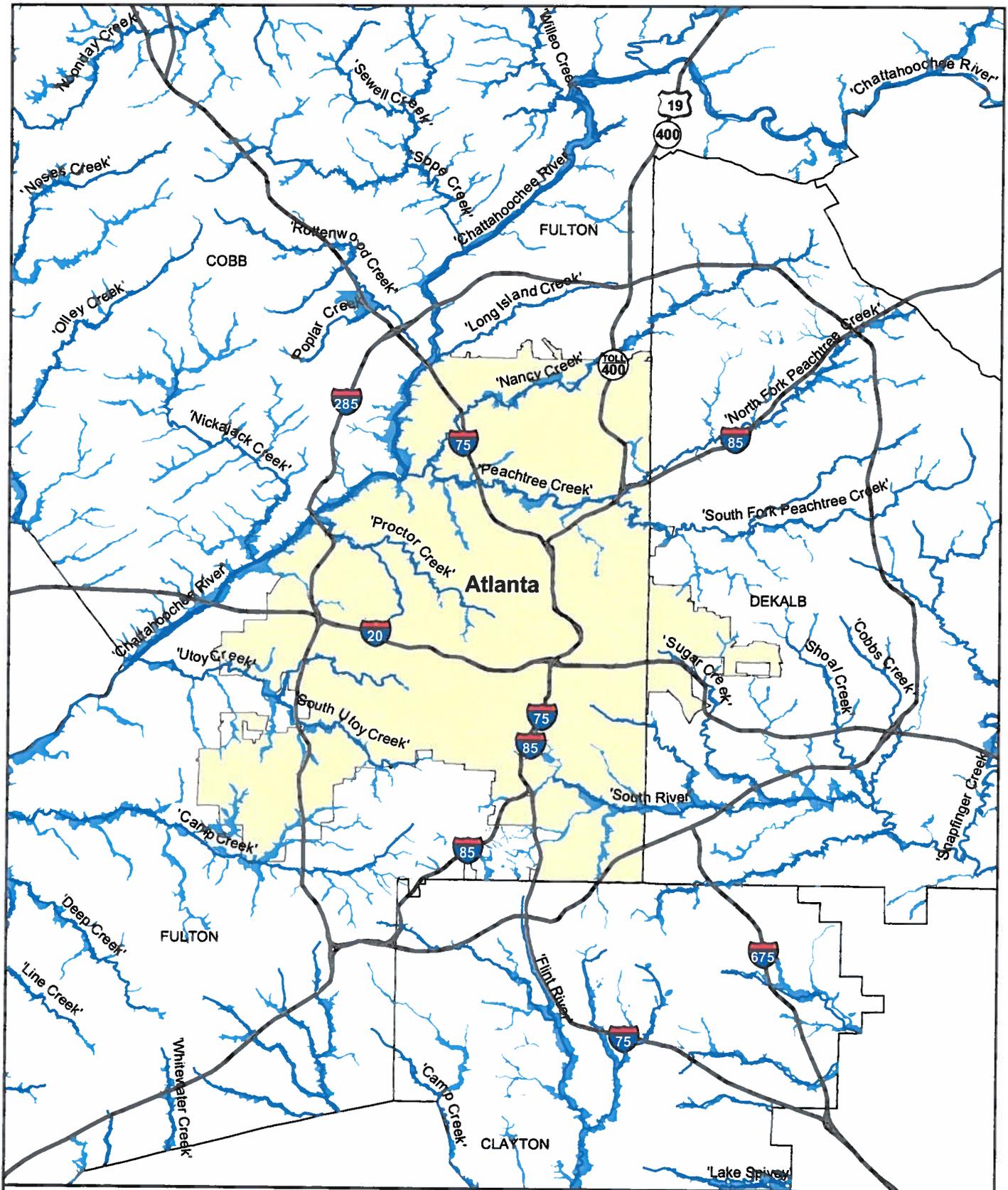
Floodplains provide three key functions: (1) natural water storage and conveyance, (2) water quality maintenance, and (3) groundwater recharge. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed official floodplain maps which show areas that are prone to flooding. These flood hazard district maps have been incorporated into and made a part of the City's official zoning map, as described in Section 16.02.004 of the City's Zoning Ordinance. Floodplain development is carefully reviewed in order to protect the functional integrity of floodplains as well as the health, safety, and property of the City's residents.

The State solid waste regulations (Georgia Department of Natural Resources [DNR] Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(d)) and the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle D restrict solid waste handling facilities from being located in areas that may restrict the flow of the 100-year flood, reduce temporary water storage capacity of the floodplain, or result in the washout of solid waste facilities so as to pose a hazard to human health and the environment.

### **6.1.2 Wetlands**

Freshwater wetlands are defined by Federal law as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface- or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances, do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. According to the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), wetlands within Atlanta occur generally in the areas along the Chattahoochee River and the City's major streams and creeks. Non-stream corridor wetlands, however, do exist in the City. Currently, the NWI Maps are the best source of information available on the location of wetlands in the City.

The DNR's Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria (DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(e)) limit solid waste handling facilities from being sited in and near wetlands. These State regulations and Federal RCRA Subtitle D prohibit the location of landfills in wetlands unless very stringent conditions are met and demonstrations of site suitability are made. A development plan must be approved by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) prior to a wetland area being used for solid waste handling facilities.



0 1 2 3 4 Miles

- Interstates
- Streams and Rivers
- Atlanta City Limits
- 100 Year Floodplain

**Figure 6-1**  
 100 Year FEMA Floodplain  
 City of Atlanta  
 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

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### 6.1.3 Groundwater Recharge Areas

Groundwater recharge areas are defined as areas through which surface water travels to become a groundwater resource. These areas are shown on Hydrogeologic Atlas 18 of the Georgia Geological Survey (Figure 6-2). Groundwater recharge occurs when precipitation infiltrates soil and rock, adding to the volume of water stored in pores and other openings within the rocks. Most of north Georgia is underlain by crystalline rocks with complex geologic character and with little or no porosity within the rocks themselves. Significant recharge in the crystalline rock terrain of north Georgia occurs in areas that have thick soils or saprolite and relatively low (less than 8 percent) slopes.

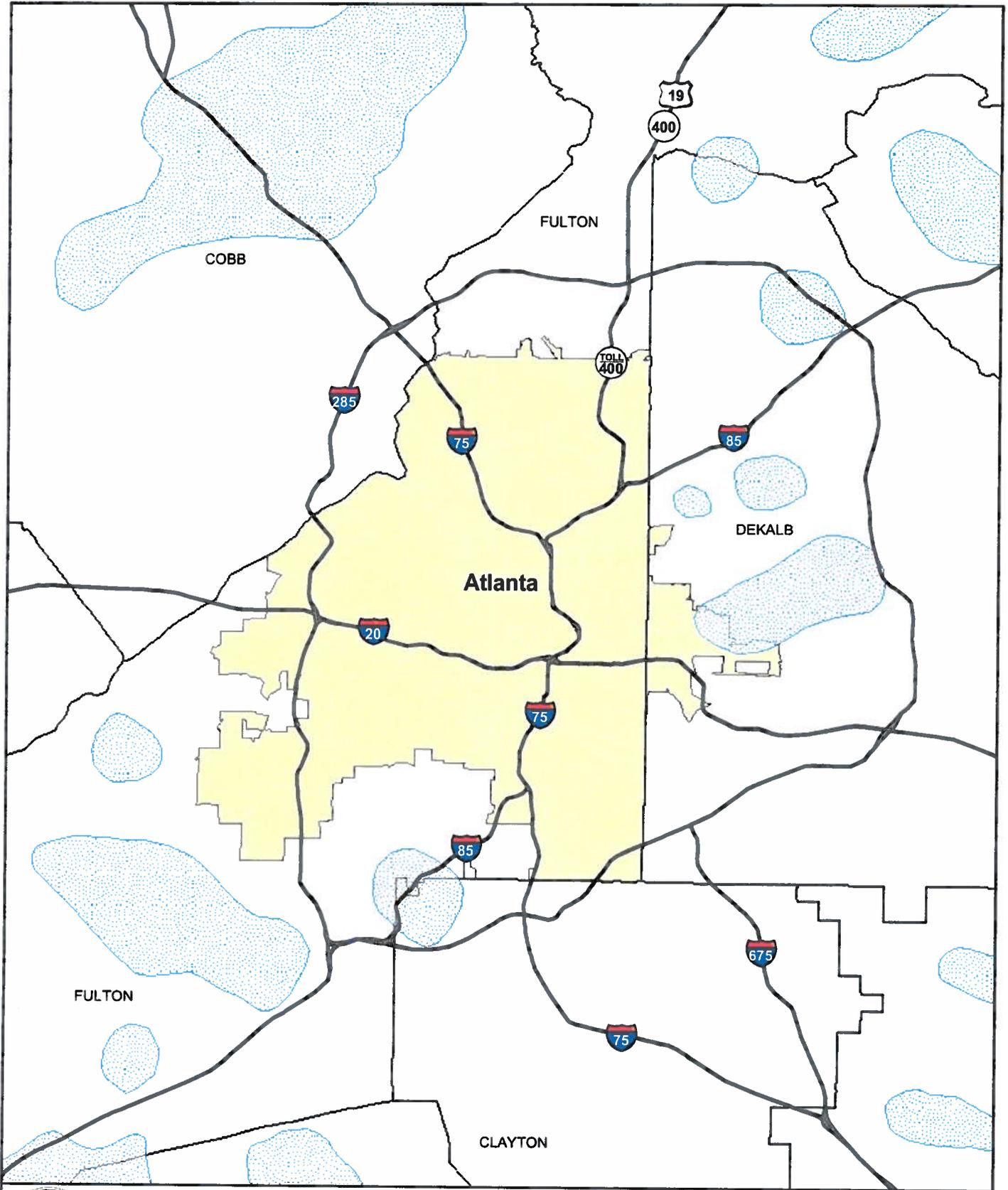
The DNR Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria (DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(j)) limit solid waste landfills from being sited in groundwater recharge areas. Groundwater recharge areas must be protected from potential contamination from solid waste landfills. State law requires that new solid waste landfills or expansions of existing facilities within 2 miles of a significant groundwater recharge area have liners and leachate collection systems, with the exception of facilities accepting waste generated from outside the county in which the facility is located. In that case, the facility must be completely outside of any area designated as a significant groundwater recharge area. If possible, groundwater recharge areas and the 2-mile buffer around them should be avoided, unless geological conditions indicate a groundwater flow that flows away from the groundwater recharge area.

For siting a solid waste landfill, a hydrological site investigation must be conducted with the following issues evaluated per DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(k):

- Distance to the nearest point of a public or private drinking water supply: all public water supply wells or surface water intakes within 2 miles and private (domestic) water supply wells within one-half mile of a landfill must be identified.
- Depth to the uppermost aquifer: for landfills, the thickness and nature of the unsaturated zone and its ability for natural contamination control must be evaluated.
- Uppermost aquifer gradient: for landfills, the direction and rate of flow of groundwater shall be determined in order to properly evaluate the potential for contamination at a specific site. Measurements of water levels in site exploratory borings and the preparation of water table maps are required. Borings to water are required to estimate the configuration and gradient of the uppermost aquifer.

### 6.1.4 Water Supply Watersheds

Water supply watersheds for the metro Atlanta area are shown in Figure 6-3. Water supply watersheds are subject to the DNR Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria (DNR Rule 391-3-16-.01). Under these criteria, water supply watersheds are defined as areas of the land that drain to a public drinking water supply intake. The City's public water supply intake is located on the Chattahoochee River just north of Peachtree Creek. Several other municipalities also have water supply intakes along the Chattahoochee River. Therefore, it is important to consider the following water supply watershed requirements when potentially siting a solid waste handling facility near the Chattahoochee River or its tributaries.



0 1 2 3 4 Miles

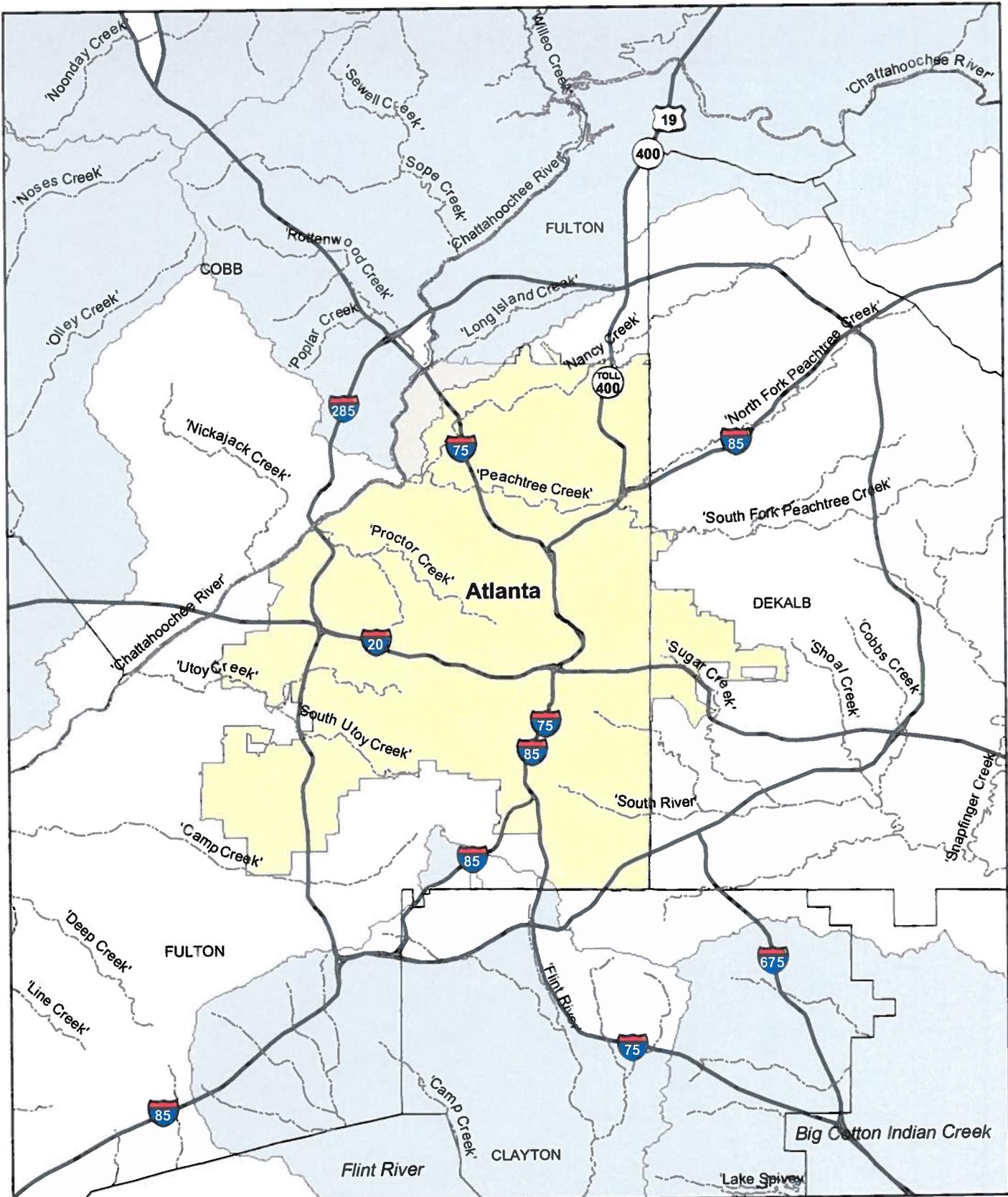
- Interstates
- Atlanta City Limits
- Groundwater Recharge Area\*



\*Source: Hydrologic Atlas 18, Georgia Geological Survey

**Figure 6-2**  
Groundwater Recharge Areas  
City of Atlanta

*Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan*



- Interstates
- - - Streams and Rivers
- Atlanta City Limits
- Water Supply Watersheds\*



**Figure 6-3**  
Water Supply Watersheds  
City of Atlanta

\*Watershed data provided by Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, District-wide Watershed Management Plan, 2003.

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According to the DNR Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria (DNR Rule 391-3-16-.01):

- No solid waste handling facility should be located in the 100-foot buffer on each side of the perennial streams 7 miles upstream from a water supply intake or reservoir (and a 50-foot buffer in small watersheds beyond the 7 miles).
- No solid waste handling facility's impervious surface should be located in the 150-foot setback on each side of the perennial streams 7 miles upstream from a water supply intake or reservoir (and a 75-foot setback in small watersheds beyond 7 miles).
- For small watersheds (less than 100 square miles), new municipal solid waste landfills must have synthetic liners and leachate collection systems.
- No solid waste handling facility should be located in the 150-foot buffer surrounding water supply reservoirs.

Also, State regulations (DNR Rule 391-3-16-.01) prohibit municipal solid waste landfills from being located within 2 miles upgradient of any surface water intake for a public drinking water source unless engineering modifications such as liners and leachate collection systems and groundwater monitoring systems are provided.

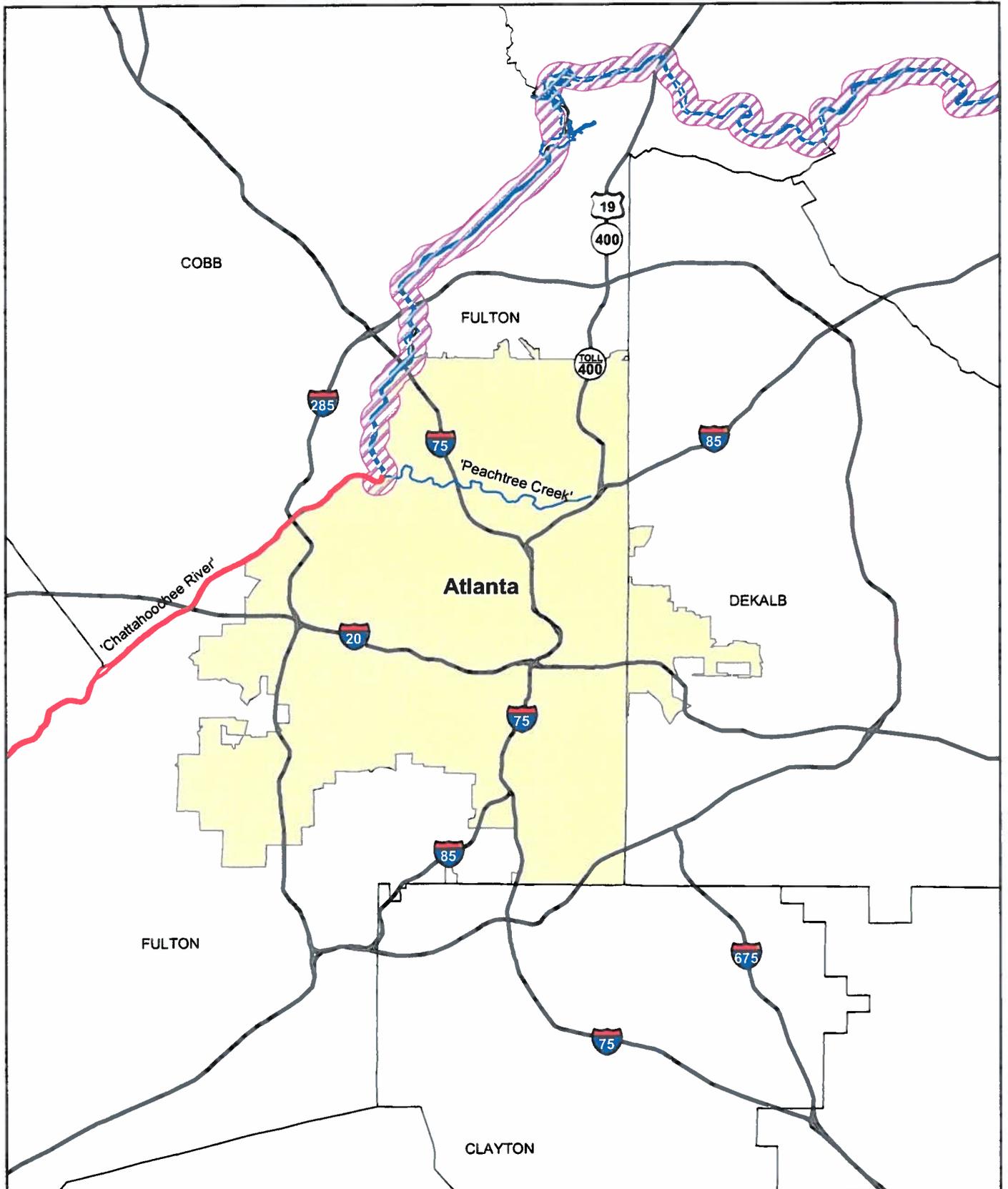
### **6.1.5 River Corridors**

Portions of the Chattahoochee River and its tributaries, such as Peachtree Creek, have been impacted as a result of urban growth and development. The natural ecology of the Chattahoochee River south of Peachtree Creek has been altered by invasive pest plants and incompatible land uses. The City of Atlanta, the ARC, the State of Georgia, and the National Park Service have several plans and initiatives focused on further protecting and preserving the Chattahoochee River Corridor.

The DNR Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria also protect certain designated river corridors (DNR Rule 391-3-16-.04(4)(h)). The Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA) was enacted in 1973 and established a 2,000-foot river corridor on both banks of the Chattahoochee River and its impoundments. The protected area includes the streambed and any islands, for the 48 miles of river between Buford Dam and Peachtree Creek (Figure 6-4). In 1998, the protected corridor was extended another 36 miles downstream to include Fulton and Douglas Counties. The MRPA required the ARC to adopt the Chattahoochee River Corridor Plan, which is implemented by local governments. The plan requires review of development and any other land-disturbing activity within the Chattahoochee River Corridor (see Section 6.2.9, Chattahoochee River Corridor).

### **6.1.6 Protected Mountains**

DNR Rule 391-3-16-.05(4)(l) prohibits the development of new solid waste disposal facilities in areas designated as protected mountains. There are no protected mountains in the City of Atlanta.



0 1 2 3 4 Miles

Interstates

Atlanta City Limits

100 Foot Protection Buffer, from Peachtree Creek South

2000 Foot Protection Buffer, from Peachtree Creek North to Buford Dam



**Figure 6-4**  
 Chattahoochee River Protection Buffers  
 City of Atlanta  
 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

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### **6.1.7 Fault Zones, Seismic Impact Zones, and Unstable Areas (Karst Areas)**

DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(k) requires that a hydrological assessment be conducted at the location of any proposed solid waste handling facility. Such an assessment must be performed under the direction of a registered geologist or professional engineer. Technical issues which involve seismic activity, fault lines, and unstable areas, such as karst areas, must be evaluated in the preliminary site selection phase. Any condition that would likely result in a release of pollution from a site will not receive EPD approval during the solid waste handling permitting process, unless mitigating or supplemental protection is provided.

A hydrological assessment is required to assess the potential risk of contamination of groundwater supplies by the proposed facility. Georgia EPD and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) require soil borings and a literature search to identify the potential geological issues in the area prior to permitting a solid waste handling site.

DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(f) focuses on fault areas and requires that new landfill units and lateral expansions of existing landfills not be located within 200 feet of a fault that has had a displacement in Holocene time, unless an alternative setback distance of less than 200 feet will prevent damage to the structural integrity of the landfill and will protect human health and the environment.

DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(g) prohibits the development of new landfills and lateral expansions of existing landfills in seismic impact zones, unless all landfill containment structures, including existing landfill liners, leachate collection systems, and surface water control systems, are designed to resist the maximum horizontal acceleration in lithified earth material for the site.

According to DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(h), existing landfills and lateral expansions of existing landfills located in an unstable area must demonstrate that engineering measures have been incorporated into the landfill's design to ensure that the integrity of the structural components of the landfill will not be compromised.

## **6.2 Land Use Limitations**

The following subsections describe land use limitations and regulations that the City or private entity will consider when siting a solid waste management handling facility. These issues include land use and zoning restrictions, historic sites, archaeological sites, location of surface water intakes, airport safety restrictions, parks and nature preserves, scenic views, rare, threatened, and endangered species, and Chattahoochee River protection criteria.

### **6.2.1 Land Use and Zoning Restrictions**

The City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances provides land use and zoning regulations that govern the siting of solid waste management facilities. The Code is updated periodically and the most recent edition is available in the Municipal Clerk's office. The Bureau of Buildings, Zoning Enforcement Division, provides zoning classifications for individual properties.

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According to the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances (Part 16, Zoning; <http://www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=10376&sid=10>), solid waste facilities can only be sited in the Light (I-1) or Heavy Industrial (I-2) zoning districts as defined in Section 16-16.005 (Light Industrial District Special Permits) and Section 16-17.005 (Heavy Industrial Districts Special Permits). Under each zoning category, the following uses are allowed under a Special Use Permit: sanitary landfill, compost facility, materials recovery facility, municipal solid waste disposal facility, processing operation facility, and solid waste handling facility. Special Use Permits are granted for uses that have substantial significance or unusual operational characteristics; therefore, siting restrictions are placed on the development of these facilities. Special Use Permits require approval by the City's Zoning Review Board and City Council through a formal public notice and public hearing process.

DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(a) requires that a site for a proposed solid waste handling facility conform to all local zoning/land use ordinances, and that written verification be submitted to Georgia EPD. A permit is required to operate a solid waste disposal facility in the City of Atlanta. Any person wishing to operate a solid waste disposal facility must obtain an annual solid waste disposal facility operating permit from the Commissioner of Public Works, with the approval of the City Council.

Prior to the City issuing a solid waste facility operating permit, the Department of Planning and Community Development must review and approve the project. Sections 130-63 and 64 of the Solid Waste Ordinance outline specific development standards that are required for solid waste facilities, which are defined as solid waste disposal facilities, solid waste transfer stations, and processing and handling facilities. For solid waste disposal facilities, a proposed land use and mitigation plan must be submitted to the Planning Commissioner which specifies the anticipated future use of the property upon termination of solid waste disposal activities. This anticipated use must be consistent with the Comprehensive Development Plan and this Comprehensive SWMP, both of which are adopted by the City Council. The proposed land use and mitigation plan must also include provisions for the property owner to create a reserve fund, estimates of capital expenses, and site compatibility report.

The site compatibility report includes a site survey showing ownership, zoning, and a detailed engineering plan. This engineering plan includes an operation plan, availability of water supply, equipment type, fire, nuisance, water pollution, odor and vermin control plans, earthwork and fill operations plan, and a hydrologic survey. Other solid waste disposal requirements include a processing fee and proof of financial ability to perform under the terms of the permit. Solid waste disposal facility permit applicants must also demonstrate compliance with buffer requirements for building setbacks, road requirements, monitoring well requirements, vegetative buffers, and vehicular access.

Requirements for solid waste transfer stations and solid waste processing and handling facilities are very similar to the solid waste disposal facility permit requirements. Permitting for these facilities requires an annual permit fee, quarterly inspections, zoning requirements of Industrial-1 and Industrial-2 categories, special land use permit approval from the Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Community Development and preparation of a site compatibility report. Similarly, the solid waste transfer station operating permits require that buildings be enclosed and that an operator be onsite when

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the facility is in operation. Additionally, solid waste transfer stations are subject to buffer zone, building setback, and access road requirements.

### **6.2.2 Historic Sites**

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 United States Code [USC] 470 et seq., as amended) provides policy for the protection of historic resources from adverse impacts associated with federal actions. The Protection of Historic Properties (36 Code of Federal Regulation [CFR] 800) provides specific procedures that federal agencies or local governments implementing federally funded projects must follow, such as consultation with the Georgia Division of Historic Preservation, to ensure compliance with the NHPA.

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the country's official list of historic places worthy of preservation. In Georgia, this list is maintained by the Georgia Division of Historic Preservation. Historic sites listed on the NRHP must meet specific criteria set forth by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. These criteria generally include the following: properties must be at least 50 years old, have physical integrity, and be significant for at least one of four broad criteria.

No solid waste handling facility should be located in, adjoin, or negatively impact a district or site on or potentially eligible for the NRHP. O.C.G.A. § 12-8-25.1 states that in order to preserve historic sites and their natural and built environments, no permit shall be issued for a solid waste disposal facility within 5,708 yards of the geographic center of any of the three sites currently designated in Georgia as a National Historic Site. Specific information on these historic sites can be obtained from the Georgia Division of Historic Preservation.

Projects which could impact a historic site within the City of Atlanta must also be reviewed by the Atlanta Urban Design Commission. Prior to approving the siting of a solid waste management facility, the City will consult with the Atlanta Urban Design Commission and review the City's list of historic properties, Atlanta's Lasting Landmarks, and the NRHP. Consultation with the Georgia Division of Historic Preservation may also be required if the project is federally funded or if the project has the potential to impact a site on or potentially eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

Since the City's current Historic Preservation Ordinance was enacted in 1989, 53 individual buildings and 12 districts have been brought under its protection. These sites include 44 landmark buildings or sites, 1 honorary landmark (the Georgia Capitol), 8 historic buildings, 7 landmark districts, 4 historic districts, and 1 conservation district. A complete list and maps showing the geographic locations of historic sites in Atlanta can be obtained from the Atlanta Urban Design Commission.

### **6.2.3 Archaeological Sites**

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 requires federal agencies or local governments utilizing federal funds to conduct archaeological investigations on lands under their jurisdiction to determine the nature and extent of the protected cultural resources present. Therefore, no solid waste handling facility should be located so as to negatively impact an area of concentrated or known archaeological sites on file with the Georgia Archaeological Site File (GASF). Located at the University of Georgia, the GASF is the official repository for information about known archaeological sites in the state of Georgia.

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Because specific information concerning the location and contents of archaeological sites is protected by Georgia Code (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a)(10)), direct access to the complete information held by the GASF is restricted to qualified archaeologists and archaeology students. If a facility siting has the potential to impact an area of concentrated or known archaeological sites, then consultation with the State Archaeologist and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) would be required.

#### **6.2.4 Surface Water Intakes**

The Chattahoochee River serves as the primary water source for numerous municipalities in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Several surface water intakes are located along the Chattahoochee River, including the City of Atlanta's water intake. According to the Georgia DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(k)8., solid waste landfills must have engineered modifications such as liners, leachate collection systems, and groundwater monitoring systems if they are to be located within 2 miles of a surface water intake for a public water source. Unless such a location is the only feasible location, other locations should be considered.

#### **6.2.5 Airport Safety**

Georgia (DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(c)) and Federal RCRA Subtitle D require that municipal solid waste landfills not be located within:

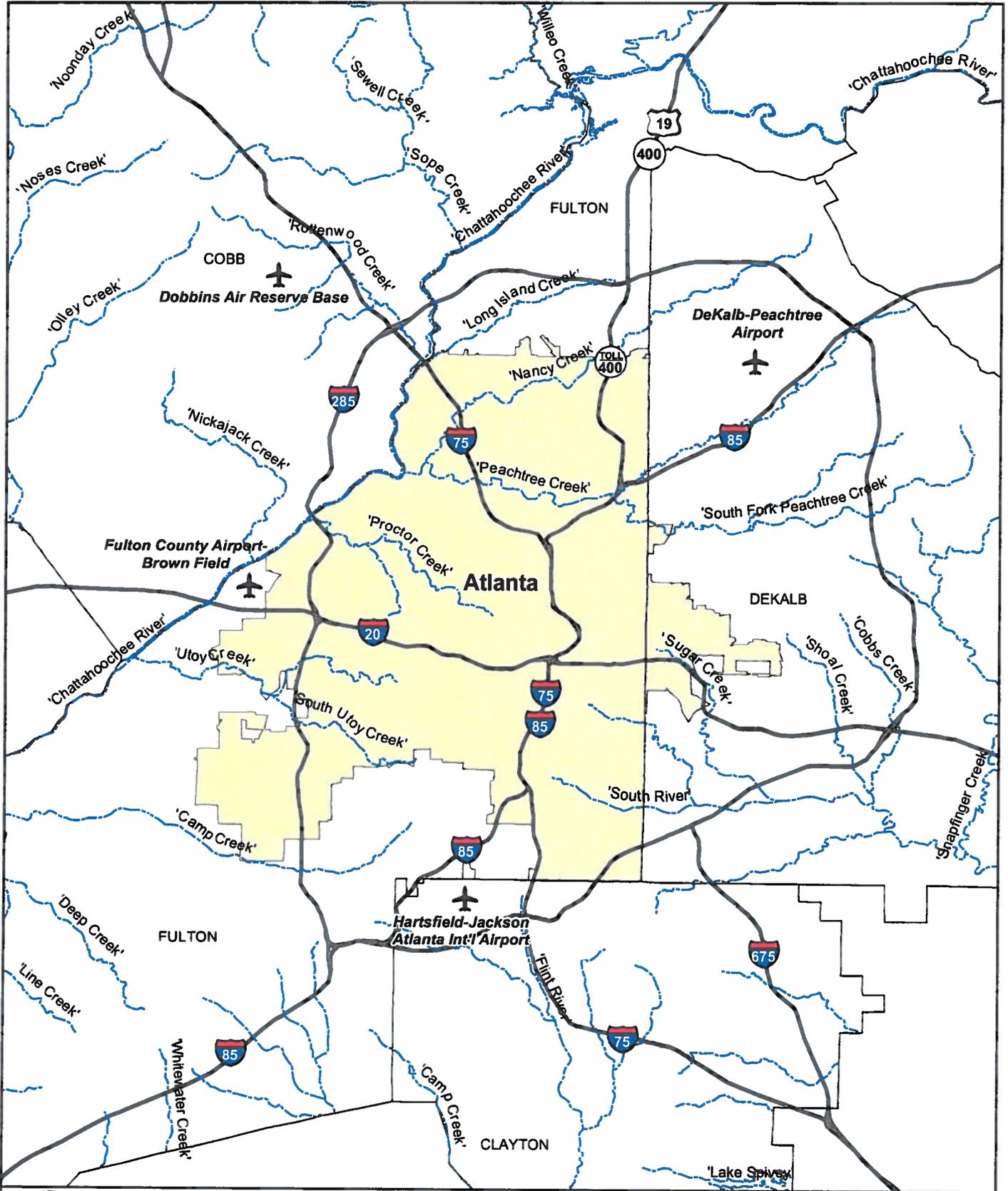
- 10,000 feet of any runway used or planned to be used by turbojet and piston-type aircraft, and
- 5,000 feet of any runway used or planned to be used by piston-type aircraft only.

Also, as required by RCRA Subtitle D, owners or operators proposing to site new solid waste landfills and lateral expansions for landfills within a 5-mile radius of any airport runway used by turbojet or piston-type aircraft must notify the affected airport and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) (Figure 6-5).

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is the primary airport in Atlanta. It is located approximately 10 miles south of downtown Atlanta and is one of the world's busiest airports. Other airports in the Atlanta vicinity include Fulton County Airport-Brown Field, which is located immediately west of the Atlanta city limits near the intersection of I-20 and I-285, and Peachtree DeKalb Airport, which is located on Clairmont Road in DeKalb County, northeast of the City of Atlanta. Additionally, Dobbins Air Reserve Base is located north of the city limits near the intersection of I-75 and I-285.

#### **6.2.6 Scenic View or Vista**

No solid waste handling facility should be located in such a way as to negatively affect a scenic view or vista. Potential impacts to scenic views or vistas will be evaluated by the City on a site-specific basis for any site proposed as a solid waste handling facility. The City Comprehensive Development Plan has not identified any scenic views or sites requiring special management.



-  Airports
-  Interstates
-  Streams and Rivers
-  Atlanta City Limits



**CH2MHILL** / **W** Atlanta-based and Johnson, Inc.

**Figure 6-5**  
Airports in the Atlanta Region  
City of Atlanta

*Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan*

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## **6.2.7 Parkland and Nature Preserves**

The City has approximately 3,200 acres of parkland that represents 3.78 percent of the City's total geographic area (CDP, 2004). Park land in the City serves not only as recreational greenspace, but also as important natural resource areas that serve critical environmental functions. Eighty-five percent of the City's parks are located along streams in floodplain and wetland areas, in areas with steep and rocky topography, or in other environmentally sensitive areas (Figure 6-6). The City of Atlanta's park inventory also includes four nature preserves: North Camp Creek, Cascade Springs, Daniel Johnson Park, and the Outdoor Activity Center. Additionally, the National Park Service operates the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area, which extends from Buford Dam in Gwinnett County south to Peachtree Creek in the City. The City has also established a Greenway Corridor Plan to acquire greenspace within the City (Figure 6-7). In addition, the City is undertaking a \$25 million Greenway Acquisition project in the 14-county metro region as a result of the 1998 Combined Sewer Overflow Consent Decree. No solid waste handling facility should be located in, adjoin, or negatively impact a nature preserve or City park land.

## **6.2.8 Habitat of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants, Animals, and Biological Communities**

No solid waste handling facility should be located in such a way as to result in the destruction of the habitat of rare, threatened, and endangered plants, animals, and biological communities as identified by the Georgia DNR's Natural Heritage Program. If a facility siting has the potential to impact the habitat of rare, threatened, and endangered plants, animals, and biological communities, then the City will consult with Federal wildlife agencies to determine a course of action.

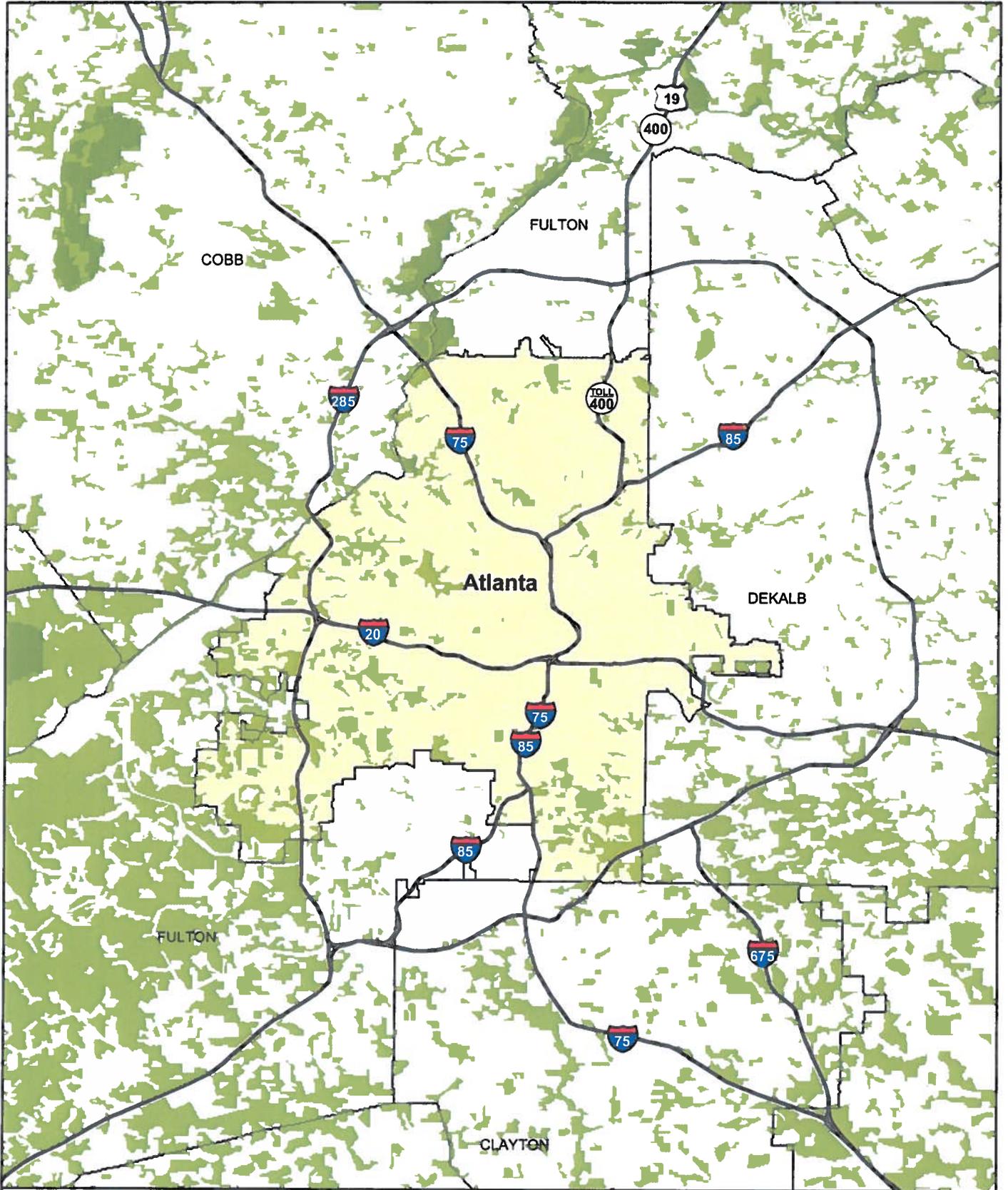
## **6.2.9 Chattahoochee River Corridor**

In order to protect the water quality of the Chattahoochee River and its scenic vistas, portions of the Chattahoochee River corridor are protected under the Chattahoochee River Corridor Plan. Required by the MRPA (O.C.G.A. § 12-5-440), the plan restricts the development of new or expansion of existing solid waste handling facilities within 2,000 feet of the river and its impoundments. No new or existing solid waste disposal facilities are allowed within the 640 feet beyond the 2,000-foot corridor, where the river is a boundary between two counties, without the approval of the adjoining county.

Portions of the Chattahoochee River Corridor south of Peachtree Creek that are located within 100 feet of the river are restricted from new or expanded solid waste handling facilities. In areas where the river functions as a county boundary, no new or existing solid waste disposal facilities are allowed to expand into the 2,540-foot area located beyond the 100-foot corridor without the approval of the adjoining county. The City will ensure compliance with the MRPA in siting a new solid waste handling facility.

## **6.3 Disproportionate Environmental Impacts**

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low Income Populations." Through this



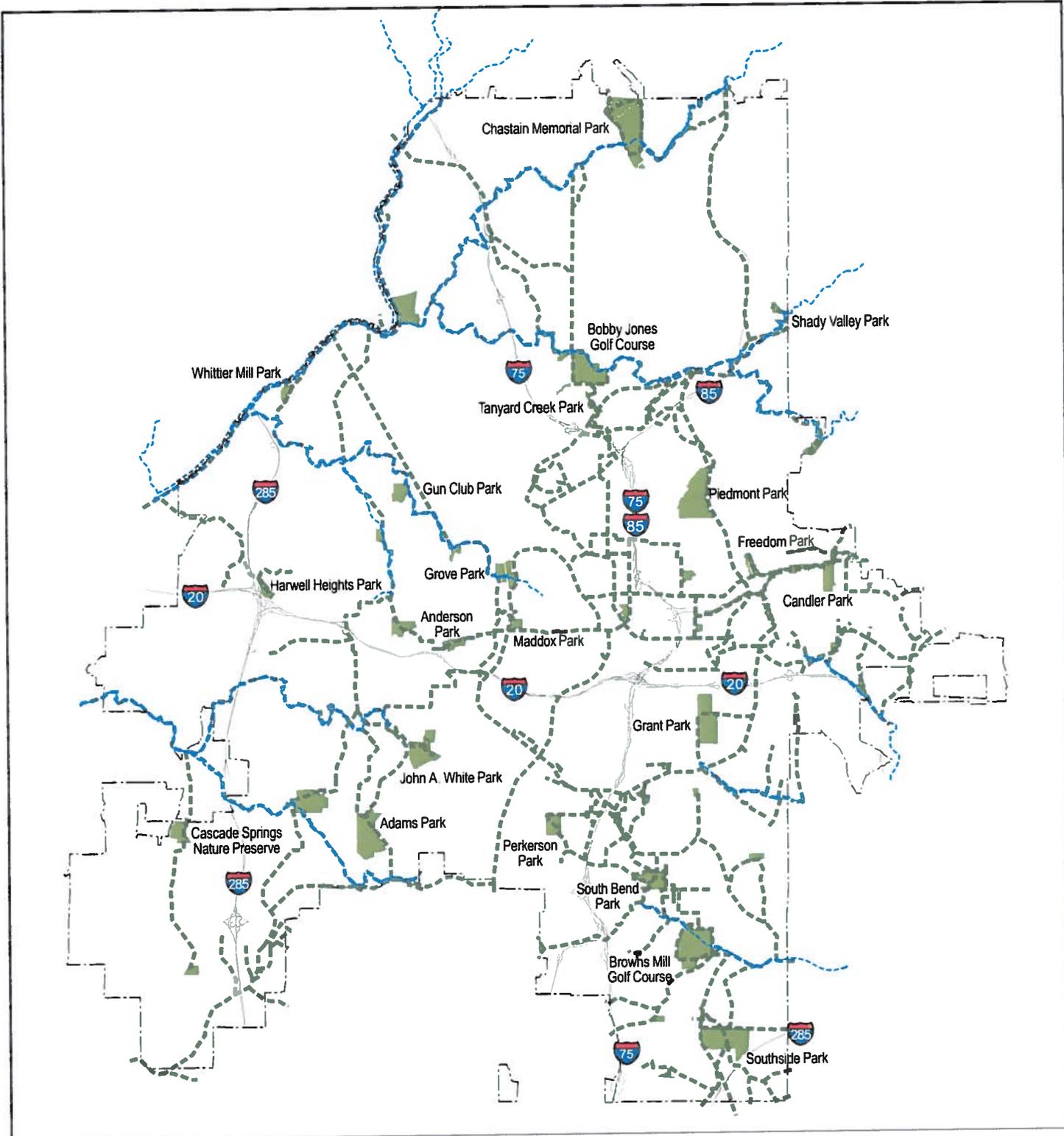
-  Interstates
-  Atlanta City Limits
-  Conservation Areas and Greenspace



CH2MHILL /  William H. Rouse and Johnson, Inc.  
engineers • architects • planners

**Figure 6-6**  
**Conservation Areas and Greenspace**  
**City of Atlanta**

*Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan*



**Legend**

-  Interstate
-  Major Park
-  Proposed Greenway Corridor
-  Major Stream
-  City Boundary



Source: City of Atlanta Comprehensive Development Plan 2005-2019



**Figure 6-7**  
 City of Atlanta Greenway Corridor Plan  
 City of Atlanta  
 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

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Executive Order, the President directed the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that agencies analyze the environmental effects on minority and low-income communities, including human, health, social, and economic effects. As a recipient of Federal funds, the City of Atlanta must ensure that Environmental Justice (EJ) concerns are addressed.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines Environmental Justice as: *The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic, or a socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies. Meaningful involvement means that: (1) potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health; (2) the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; (3) the concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision making process; and (4) the decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.*

In preparing this Plan, the City took into account Environmental Justice issues through the implementation of the Public Involvement Plan. The Public Involvement Plan was established to ensure broad participation from community groups and interested citizens. Public involvement meetings were held city-wide in an effort to obtain input from all interested parties and to ensure that all issues and concerns were registered, considered, and factored into the planning process. The City will work to incorporate Environmental Justice concerns in future solid waste management solutions and implementation of this plan. EPA has established the following four domains which focus on environmental justice policy and strategies. These parameters should be considered in future solid waste management solutions.

#### **Knowing The Community**

- Be aware of demographics of the community.
- Build relationships with community members in order to know their "story."
- Be aware of the environmental stressors within the community in order to determine the appropriateness of further sitings.

#### **Decreasing Disproportionate Impacts**

- Research and consider all environmental stressors.
- Assess cumulative impacts in the community (assessment of how all the stressors overlap and interact with community identity and demographics) and community vulnerability. For example, minority populations have the least resistance to negative health effects caused by air, water, and land toxics. In addition, minority populations have the least resources for dealing with health issues, and finally, minority populations are least likely to overcome health issues.

#### **Meaningful Community Involvement**

- Allow the community to participate in decision making early and often.
- Ensure that the community participates in all matters concerning them (large and small scale).
- Ensure that community input is evident in final decision making.

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### **Increasing Benefits And Decreasing Burdens**

- Always ask the question: Who benefits and who is burdened?
- Try to increase the benefits and decrease the burdens within EJ communities.

## **6.4 Other Regulatory Requirements for Solid Waste Facility Siting**

When siting and permitting a solid waste handling facility, the City will consider the extensive array of regulatory, land use, environmental, and construction requirements cited in previous sections. The City will also consider the following additional regulations:

- **Site Selection, Public Notice, and Public Hearing Requirements:** Whenever any applicant begins a process to select a site for a solid waste disposal facility, DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(b) requires that the applicant comply with the public notice and public hearing requirements outlined in O.C.G.A. § 12-8-26. This section of the Georgia Code states that any municipality beginning the process to select a site for a municipal solid waste disposal facility must first call at least one public meeting to discuss waste management needs of the local government and to describe the process of siting facilities to the public. Public notice for the meeting should be published within the local newspaper at least once a week for 2 weeks prior to the date of the meeting. A similar public notice and public hearing are required to announce a siting decision for a municipal solid waste disposal facility. The public notice shall state the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. A siting decision shall include, but is not limited to, such activities as the final selection of property for landfilling and the execution of contracts or agreements pertaining to the location of municipal solid waste disposal facilities within the jurisdiction, but shall not include zoning decisions.
- **Excessive Concentrations of Landfills:** O.C.G.A. § 12-8-25.4 provides a limited degree of protection against any given community becoming an involuntary host to an excessive concentration of landfills. No permit shall be issued for any solid waste handling facility other than a material recovery facility or compost facility or for any solid waste disposal facility other than a private industry solid waste disposal facility if any part of the premises would lie within a 2-mile radius of an area that already includes three or more landfills within the State of Georgia. This section of the Code further describes landfill types that are excluded from this process, such as inert waste facilities and private industry solid waste disposal facilities. This section also defines the specific permit types, such as major modifications to existing landfills and horizontal expansions that trigger this review.
- **Facilities Issues Negotiation Process:** Under O.C.G.A. § 12-8-32, if conflicts arise in the solid waste facility permitting process, the applicant or affected parties can undertake the Facilities Issues Negotiation Process. This process allows for a negotiation process to be initiated if at least 25 affected persons sign a petition. A facilitator will be named by the host local government and paid for by the applicant. A citizens facility issues committee will be formed to discuss mediation of issues such as hours of operation, recycling measures, protection of property values, traffic routing, and maintenance. Additional detail on the negotiation process is provided in O.C.G.A. § 12-8-32.
- **Adjacent Jurisdictions:** Under the Georgia Code (O.C.G.A. § 12-8-25), local municipalities are encouraged to coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions when siting

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facilities within one-half mile of a shared municipal boundary. The City's boundaries are shown on Figure 6-8. O.C.G.A. § 12-8-25 provides additional detail on exceptions and exempt permit types.

- **Private Recreational Camp:** Under O.C.G.A. § 12-8-25.5, no permit shall be issued for any new municipal solid waste disposal facility if any part of the premises proposed for permitting is within one mile of any private recreational camp that has been operated primarily for use by persons under 18 years of age and has been operated at its location for 25 years or more.

## **6.5 Procedures to Establish Consistency with Comprehensive SWMP (New Program)**

In order for EPD to issue or renew a permit for a solid waste handling facility or facility expansion in the City of Atlanta, the facility must be consistent with this Comprehensive SWMP. In addition to the procedures outlined in the City of Atlanta solid waste permitting and zoning regulations, the City and private entity will also follow the siting process described below and shown in Figure 6-9.

### **1) City and Public Decide on Type of Disposal or Solid Waste Management Technology**

Based on input from the public and analysis on a variety of existing and alternative technologies, a decision on the type of solid waste technology will be made.

### **2) Site Analysis Using Land Limitation Criteria and Overlay Maps**

Once the City or a private entity has identified a solid waste technology, a siting analysis will be required to determine what sites would be sufficient to meet the needs of the technology as well as the land use limitation criteria described above in Sections 6.1, 6.2., and 6.4. Typical land limitation criteria include land use criteria such as zoning and environmental constraints that are regulated by state and federal laws such as wetlands, floodplains, groundwater recharge areas, water supply watersheds, and historic areas. Each of these land limitations will be mapped and then compiled into a composite overlay map of all the land limitation criteria present in the City.

### **3) Identify Candidate Sites**

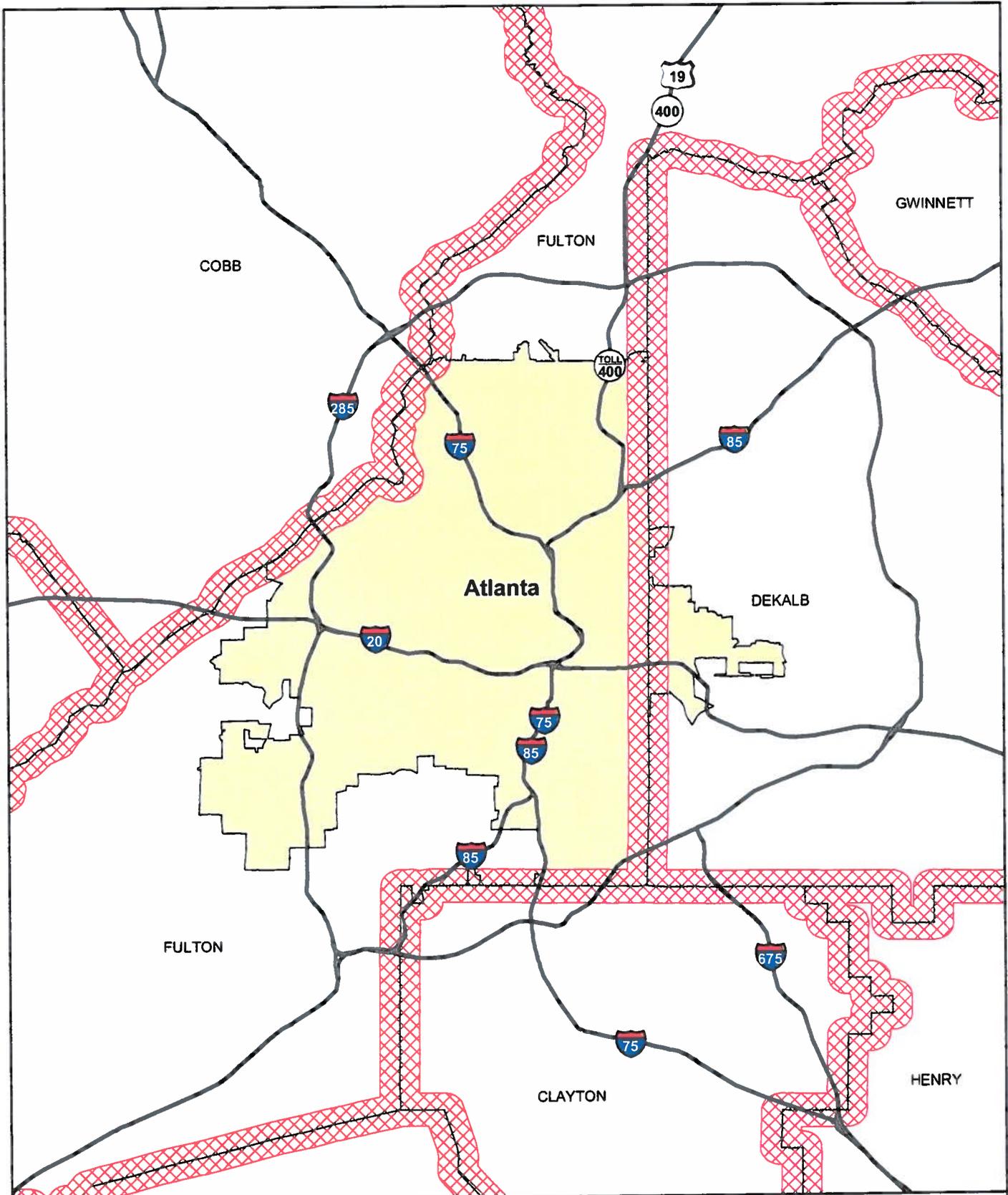
Areas that are not constrained by land limitations shown on the composite overlay map will be considered as possible siting alternatives. Once a series of candidate sites have been identified, a public involvement process will be conducted that allows for input on each proposed site. Additional issues will be evaluated at this time such as traffic impacts, vehicle access, topography, and social and economic issues such as environmental justice (see Section 6.3, Disproportionate Environmental Impacts) and economic viability.

### **4) Meet with Regulatory Agencies**

After a series of candidate sites have been identified, the City will meet with the state regulatory agencies to ensure that the proposed sites comply with state requirements.

### **5) Public Information and Participation**

Provide any final information to the public and provide additional opportunities for public meetings and involvement.



0 1 2 3 4 Miles

- Interstates
- Atlanta City Limits
- ▤ Adjacent County Line Half Mile Buffer



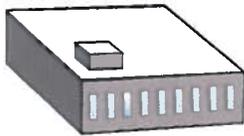
**CH2MHILL** / **williams-braxell and johnson, inc.**  
engineers • architects • planners

**Figure 6-8**  
 Adjacent Counties Half Mile Buffer  
 City of Atlanta  
 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

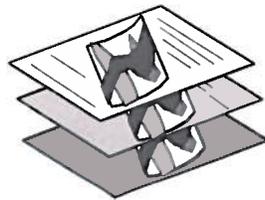
# Siting Process



City and Public decides on type of disposal or solid waste management technology



Site analysis using land limitation criteria and overlay maps



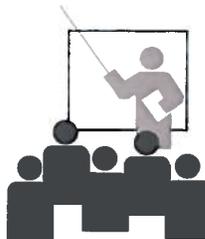
Identify candidate sites ← Public Involvement



Meet with regulatory agencies



Public information and participation



City and Public work together on decision making



Figure 6-9  
Facility Siting Process  
City of Atlanta

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## 6) City and Public Work Together on Decision Making

The land use limitation criteria along with input from the public will be used to compare proposed sites and make a decision regarding a proposed site.

The six-step procedure described above will address the following state minimum planning criteria:

- 1) How the public will be involved and notified - In addition to the state minimum public hearing requirements and the City of Atlanta permitting and zoning requirements, the City will require an expanded community involvement process in which:
  - Citizens will have input in the facility selection process and the process of identifying community concerns
  - Community concerns will be identified and responded to in a timely manner
  - Community information and education activities will maximize public awareness
- 2) The anticipated impact the proposed facility will have upon current solid waste management facilities;
- 3) The anticipated impact the proposed facility will have upon adequate collection and disposal capability within the planning area; and
- 4) The effect the facility will have upon waste generated within the state achieving the States 25% per capita waste disposal reduction goal.

## 6.6 Needs and Goals

The City and State regulations regarding environmental limitations, land limitations, and environmental justice concerns will help to ensure that any proposed solid waste handling facility or expansions of existing facilities are sited in an area which is suitable for such development and compatible with the surrounding area. Through the adoption and implementation of the Solid Waste Ordinance (Ch. 130) and the Special Use Permit requirements for solid waste handling facilities in industrial zoning classifications, the City has addressed existing and future solid waste facility siting issues. No additional ordinances are required at this time. The Solid Waste Ordinance carries enforcement authority, and fines can be levied for violations.

Over time, the availability of sites suitable for solid waste handling facilities in the City of Atlanta will decline. Therefore, the City will need to manage the existing facilities wisely and protect large-scale industrial areas from encroachment by residential or community facilities, which are typically not compatible with solid waste handling facilities. As Atlanta continues to grow in population, and therefore, experience an increase in the amount of solid waste generated, the City will need to efficiently utilize the existing solid waste handling facilities, implement new technologies that will enhance environmental controls and capacities, and continue to implement recycling programs which help to achieve waste reduction goals. Solid waste disposal capacity and the potential need for newly sited solid waste handling facilities will be addressed in Section 5, Disposal Element.

## SECTION 7

# Education and Public Involvement Element

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### **Goal of This Planning Element:**

*To identify available resources and to propose sustainable initiatives to provide residents of the City of Atlanta with information, education, and opportunities for involvement to promote their understanding of the social, economic, environmental, and operational issues and opportunities associated with solid waste management.*

This section provides information on the current education and public involvement initiatives being conducted by the City of Atlanta and other organizations. This section also includes needs and goals for continuing education and public involvement initiatives over the 10-year planning period.

## **7.1 Existing Educational Programs and Public Involvement Opportunities**

The City of Atlanta believes that education and public involvement play an important role in the management of the City's solid waste. By strategically informing and educating the public about key solid waste issues, the City can dramatically reduce the waste stream, achieve the Administration's goal of creating a cleaner and safer city, and in turn, improve waste management services and reduce costs. Education and public involvement are integral to an informed citizenry and sustained participation in making Atlanta a cleaner, healthier, and a safer city in which to live.

A variety of solid waste management educational and enforcement programs are in place in the City of Atlanta. For example, the City created the S.W.E.E.T. and HIVE initiatives to target illegal dumping and littering and to educate the public about solid waste regulations defined in the City's Solid Waste Ordinance. Additionally, the City supports many recycling education programs.

### **7.1.1 Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Team (S.W.E.E.T.) (Existing Program)**

S.W.E.E.T. was created by the SWS in 2004 to work with the City of Atlanta Police Department Quality of Life Unit, the Weed and Seed Program, and the Department of Planning and Community Development to enforce the Solid Waste Ordinance (Section 130 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances). The mission of the S.W.E.E.T. program is to "educate the general public, customers, and citizens on all City ordinances governing solid waste disposal, and to build and sustain healthy neighborhoods by ensuring safe and clean communities and public spaces." S.W.E.E.T. educational outreach methods include canvassing neighborhoods to provide door-knob hangers, stickers, flyers, and brochures. S.W.E.E.T. members also attend neighborhood meetings and community events to speak about litter and illegal dumping prevention and to distribute literature. S.W.E.E.T. members

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work with citizens through the NPU and the City's community associations to proactively identify and address specific needs with regard to illegal dumping and the Solid Waste Ordinance.

S.W.E.E.T. enforcement activities include patrolling the City and issuing courtesy notices to homeowners, citizens, contractors, and illegal dumpers who have violated sections of the Solid Waste Ordinance relating to public ROWs and city-owned property. Illegal dumpsites and vacant overgrown lots that are private property are reported to the Code Enforcement Division. Six staff members of S.W.E.E.T. patrol the quadrants of the City and enforce the Solid Waste Ordinance. Personnel go door-to-door to educate citizens about the Solid Waste Ordinance and to look for violations such as overgrown vacant lots, illegal dumping, and debris in the ROWs.

"Illegal dumping" is defined as depositing any kind of trash, solid waste, or refuse onto vacant lots, someone else's property, or in public spaces. These items include, but are not limited to, large furniture items, auto parts, junk, trash, and building materials. Enforcement of the Solid Waste Ordinance involves a seven-step process, which is initiated by the issuance of a courtesy ticket/citation. Each courtesy notice specifically outlines which part of the Solid Waste Ordinance is being violated. A follow-up to this initial ticket is conducted and if the violation continues, a second courtesy ticket/citation is given. A second follow-up is conducted and a third courtesy ticket/court citation is provided if the violation is not corrected. Once a court citation is given, a court date and time are set, and a penalty of up to \$500.00 and/or 60 days in jail can be levied. The judge presiding over the case determines the actual amount of each fine. The 2005 City Budget includes funding for additional personnel who will be responsible for coordinating with the City of Atlanta Police Department Quality of Life Unit, and the Department of Planning Housing Code and Compliance section.

#### **7.1.1.1 HIVE Operation**

A High Intensity Visibility Enforcement (HIVE) operation is a S.W.E.E.T. initiative that provides a targeted and sustained month-long operation, including cleanup and educational initiatives for identified neighborhoods. S.W.E.E.T. collaborates with the various community and neighborhood associations to form a HIVE operation for an area in that neighborhood that includes both education and enforcement on illegal dumping. This partnership proactively identifies and addresses specific needs with regard to illegal dumping and general solid waste management concerns in that area. The HIVE program operates for 30 days in each area, with the first 2 weeks devoted to introductory meetings in the neighborhood. At these meeting, educational materials are provided and key program elements, including courtesy tickets and proper disposal methods, are explained. The third week of the program consists of illegal dumping cleanup and pickup of scheduled bulk rubbish and yard trimmings. During the fourth week, citations are distributed, as necessary, and the effort culminates in a major community cleanup over a weekend.

#### **7.1.2 Trash Troopers (Existing Program)**

The City's Trash Troopers program includes a field crew of approximately 30 people who respond daily to areas where assistance is needed to remove illegal signs, to mow and clear the ROWs, and to clean illegal dumping sites. The City has compiled a master list of illegal

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dumpsites which the Trash Troopers are working to clear. Additionally, requests are received through the City's Customer Service (404-521-DUMP [3867]) hotline and via emails from concerned citizens. In 2004, Atlanta's Trash Troopers cleaned 164 illegal dumpsites, 125 vacant lots and disposed of more than 7,300 tons of solid waste.

### **7.1.3 Customer Service Center (Existing Program)**

Customer service is a major priority for the Mayor and the DPW. The Department's Customer Service Unit operates a call center for residents of the City of Atlanta to obtain information about public works services. This call center takes approximately 200 calls a day regarding illegal dumping at (404) 521-DUMP, garbage collection/schedules at (404) 330-6333, and traffic light and street issues at (404) 330-6501. DPW has reorganized the Customer Service Unit, increased staffing, and implemented a new management structure. New managerial changes include oversight and monitoring of calls to ensure courtesy and efficiency. Analyses of call patterns and staffing levels at peak times have yielded significant improvements. The average caller-wait time has been reduced to 2 minutes, and customer surveys indicate that the customer service satisfaction rate has significantly increased.

### **7.1.4 SWS Service Schedule Information Campaign (Existing Program)**

SWS has launched a citywide information campaign in which solid waste operators go door to door on non-service days to hand out information cards explaining the types and schedules of solid waste collections. Information cards are distributed for each neighborhood describing the service days and routes for that particular area. These cards help to inform citizens about the appropriate timing for setting out garbage while also providing reminders to separate waste for more efficient collection.

### **7.1.5 Recycling and Education Program (Existing Program)**

The City of Atlanta has contracted with Dreamsan, Inc., the City's curbside recycling collector, to provide the City's recycling education services. Dreamsan is responsible for providing information materials to residential curbside customers, including items such as a new recycling instructional brochure, recycling information stickers to be applied to each container distributed, adhesive stickers with the new program logo, notices of improper set-out, and a twice-yearly newsletter. Dreamsan collection vehicles are identified with signage and a telephone hotline number in case residents have questions on recycling in the City of Atlanta. Dreamsan's educational program includes providing informative literature such as the User's Guide, which provides a detailed description of the "Do's and Don'ts" of the recycling program. Other point-of-service type of literature is provided to residents to help them comply with the program guidelines. Service notices and/or stickers are provided to residents to inform them of the correct recycling items to place in their recycling bins.

Dreamsan's community outreach includes producing a newsletter that is mailed to each household twice a year. These newsletters provide information about the Atlanta recycling program as well as other recycling options and programs. Dreamsan also provides recycling presentations during "Public Works Week" at City Hall and participates in the City of Atlanta's March of Dimes campaign. Dreamsan representatives also provide recycling presentations to City schools and parent-teacher organizations upon request.

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SWS is also exploring partnerships with local elementary schools designed to encourage participation in recycling projects. Potential opportunities include: student field trips to DPW worksites, presentations from DPW subject experts, school exhibits, and science fairs.

### **7.1.6 Keep Atlanta Beautiful (Existing Program)**

Keep Atlanta Beautiful (KAB) was created in 1976 under Mayor Maynard Jackson's administration and was originally called the Atlanta Clean City Commission. The original mission of the organization was to tackle the issues of litter prevention and environmental awareness on a citywide basis. This mission has been expanded to include recycling and general solid waste management issues and education. KAB is an affiliate of the nationwide nonprofit Keep America Beautiful, Inc. and the state affiliate, Keep Georgia Beautiful (KGB). KAB serves the citizens of Atlanta by developing and implementing effective public education and community involvement programs. These programs enhance the quality of life and economic development of the community by instilling pride, a positive attitude, and behavioral changes regarding natural resource conservation, littering, recycling, and beautification. The KAB programs include cleanup projects, recycling drives, teacher training workshops, community presentations, and other efforts which seek the active involvement of interested persons.

KAB has provided annual events, on-going programs, resource information, awareness campaigns, and community support and recognition programs to promote its mission. Annual events have included the Great American Clean Up, Scrap Tire Amnesty Day, Rivers Alive Cleanup, and Bring One for the Chipper. On-going programs include school and community presentations, KAB Mascot Appearances, Health Fairs/Exhibits, Scrap Tire Education, and workshops on Waste in the Workplace. Resource information has included key telephone numbers, recycling options, disposal options, supplies and materials, referrals to support agencies, funding opportunities, and community service workers. Awareness campaigns, including public service campaigns, public service announcements, print and radio advertisement and newsletters, have also been developed. Other programs have included community cleanups, yard and trash bag giveaways, neighborhood assessment, and volunteer recruitment and business recruitment.

### **7.1.7 Speaker's Bureau/Attendance at Neighborhood Planning Unit and APAB Meetings (Existing Program)**

Representatives from the SWS periodically attend NPU, Atlanta Public Advisory Board (APAB), and the City Council's Town Hall meetings to make presentations about solid waste management services in the City of Atlanta. The meetings provide a forum to educate the community about solid waste programs and recycling initiatives. The DPW Commissioner has embarked on a public speaking initiative that includes addressing a number of civic groups each month. All key management staff will be members of the speakers bureau and each will deliver periodic presentations each quarter.

### **7.1.8 Newsletters (Existing Program)**

The DPW currently publishes a quarterly newsletter which is distributed to the public and available via the City website. This newsletter provides information to the residents of

Atlanta regarding solid waste services. It also provides informative articles about recent initiatives as well as contact information for the Customer call center.

### **7.1.9 Solid Waste Management Planning Advisory Group (Existing Program)**

As part of the planning process for this Comprehensive SWMP, Mayor Shirley Franklin's Administration initiated the SWMPAG. The Advisory Group is a diverse group of community and business leaders who have volunteered to provide technical advice to the City on current and future programs for solid waste management in the City of Atlanta. This group will meet regularly to discuss issues and opportunities; review findings and recommended options; examine technical information; and receive and share feedback regarding solid waste management for the City. Planning group members are encouraged to support the planning process and engage as "ambassadors" to the community and business sector on solid waste management. These leaders will help to facilitate communication of information, deliver key messages to the community, and encourage participation in the planning process.

### **7.1.10 Public Involvement Related to the Development of Comprehensive SWMP (Existing Program)**

As part of the planning process for the SWMP, the City prepared a Public Involvement Plan to ensure that public input was incorporated into the Comprehensive SWMP. This Public Involvement Plan identified key stakeholders and target audiences, participation strategies, and participation vehicles.

An initial public hearing was held in May 2004 to announce the update of the SWMP. This meeting was followed by a June 22, 2004, Public Hearing on Planning the Plan, and a third public hearing on September 9, 2004, which outlined the public involvement process. Following the public hearings, five quadrant-based community meetings were held and a wrap-up meeting was conducted at City Hall to obtain input from participants. Additionally, 12 public meetings were held in early 2005. These meetings were held in the City Council districts and were followed by a city-wide input review meeting at City Hall. Table 7-1 lists the meetings that were held as part of the development of this Comprehensive SWMP.

**TABLE 7-1**  
Public Meetings

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
Announcing the Initiation of the Comprehensive SWMP	May 18, 2004	City Hall, Council Chambers, 55 Trinity Ave., SW
Planning the Comprehensive SWMP	June 22, 2004	City Hall, Council Chambers, 55 Trinity Ave., SW
The Public Involvement Process	September 9, 2004	City Hall, Committee Room
City Utilities Committee Meeting	October 26, 2004	City Hall, Committee Room
City Utilities Committee Meeting	November 9, 2004	City Hall, Committee Room
The Short-Term Work Program	September 23, 2004	City Hall, Council Chambers, 55 Trinity Ave., SW

**TABLE 7-1**  
Public Meetings

Meeting	Date	Place
<b>Quadrant Meetings</b>		
Quadrant Meeting (SW)(3)	November 30, 2004	Adamsville Recreation Center, 3201 MLK Jr. Dr., SW
Quadrant Meeting (SE) (4)	December 8, 2003	Grant Park Recreation Center, 537 Park Avenue, SE
Quadrant Meeting (E)(4)	December 13, 2004	Brownwood Recreation Center, 607 Brownwood Avenue, SE
Quadrant Meeting (S)(3)	December 15, 2004	Pittman Recreation Center, 950 Garibaldi Street, SW,
Quadrant Meeting (N)(1)	December 16, 2004	East Rivers Elementary School, 8 Peachtree Battle, NW
Citizen Input/Wrap-Up	December 21, 2004	City Hall, Council Chambers, 55 Trinity Ave., SW
<b>Council District Meetings</b>		
Council District 1- Hon. Carla Smith	January 12, 2005	Georgia Hill Center, 250 Georgia Ave., SE
Council District 3- Hon. Ivory Young	January 13, 2005	City Hall, Council Chambers, 55 Trinity Ave., SW
Council District 10 Hon. C.T. Martin	January 18, 2005	Adamsville Recreation Center, 3201 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr., SW
Council District 12-Hon. Joyce Sheperd	January 18, 2005	John Burdine Center, 215 Lakewood Way, SW
Council District 4-Hon. Cleeta Winslow	January 19, 2005	West End Library, 525 Peoples St., SW
Council District 5-Hon. Natalyn Archibong	January 19, 2005	Atlanta/DeKalb Senior Center, 25 Warren Street
Council District 2 Hon. Debi Starnes	January 20, 2005	Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, 90 Boulevard Ave.
Council District 7 Hon. Howard Shook	January 24, 2005	Buckhead Public Library, 269 Buckhead Ave., NW
Council District 6 Hon. Anne Fauver	January 25, 2005	Inman Middle School, 774 Virginia Avenue, N.E.
Council District 8 Hon. Clair Muller	January 26, 2005	Northside Public Library, 3295 Northside Parkway
Council District 9 Hon. Felicia Moore	January 27, 2005	Zone One Precinct, 2315 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway
Council District 11 Hon. Jim Maddox	January 31, 2005	Southwest YMCA, 2220 Campbellton Rd., SW
Community Input Review Meeting	February 3, 2005	City Hall, Council Chambers, 55 Trinity Ave., SW

Note: City Council President Lisa Borders and At-large Council Members Mary Norwood, Ceasar Mitchell, and Lamar Willis were invited to participate in these Council District Meetings.

The format for the public meetings included a brief overview of the City of Atlanta's solid waste services and a description of the planning elements of the SWMP. At each public meeting, a court reported recorded citizen input solicited during the presentation, and

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afterward, through comment opportunities at individual booths set up at the meeting location. In total, over 500 residents participated in a total of 22 community meetings across Atlanta. Citizens provided over 100 comments for consideration as part of the planning process. A summary list of these issues is provided below:

- Provide public education on current ordinances and their enforcement.
- Increase participation in recycling through education.
- Improve frequency and notification of collection schedules.
- Improve customer service.
- Enforce City accountability for standards.
- City-wide culture does not embrace recycling or city beautification.
- General cleanliness of City (public receptacles not emptied, ROWs).
- Police illegal tire disposal.
- Stop illegal dumping.
- Provide for household hazardous waste disposal.
- Restructure sanitation fees.
- Consider weight-based rates.
- Consider volume-based rates.
- Develop incentives for recycling.
- Impose penalties and fines for failure to recycle.
- Use a visitors' tax to defray costs of services.
- Coordinate efforts of City departments, community-based organizations, and agencies.
- Consider parity and equity when siting solid waste handling facilities.

### **7.1.11 Assessment of Programs**

As described in Section 7.1, Existing Educational Programs and Public Involvement Opportunities, the City provides a number of educational and public involvement programs, through which it distributes a variety of educational materials to citizens. These educational materials include brochures, handouts, newsletters, and door hangars which address issues such as illegal dumping, littering, source reduction, recycling, reuse, disposal of hazardous waste, composting, and solid waste disposal. Recent efforts by SWS operations staff going door-to-door through neighborhoods to provide solid waste service and schedule cards have been successful in providing information directly to Atlanta residents.

SWS representatives also distribute educational materials at NPU and APAB meetings. These meetings are also a forum to educate the community about solid waste programs and recycling initiatives. The SWS also posts educational information on the City website and staffs and operates the Customer Service call center for illegal dumping and waste collections/schedules. Recent efforts to improve customer service have been successful, and the customer satisfaction rate has significantly improved. The caller wait-time has also been reduced to 2 minutes, and the satisfaction rate based on surveys conducted has increased from 11 percent to 65 percent.

The City currently operates several hands-on programs (such as Trash Troopers, S.W.E.E.T. and HIVE) that target vacant lot cleanup and illegal dumping. These programs focus on both residential and commercial facilities and provide owners with educational materials

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about disposal of bulky waste, yard waste disposal, and composting alternatives. In 2004, Atlanta's Trash Troopers cleaned 164 illegal dumpsites, 125 vacant lots and disposed of more than 7,300 tons of solid waste.

Other programs conducted by KAB and Dreamsan help to raise awareness in the community of the need to recycle and ways to properly dispose of solid waste items. These recycling education programs have been successful because the City has increased its recycling participation rate and the yard trimming disposal rate. In 2003, approximately 6,985 tons of residential solid waste from single- and multi-family residences serviced by the City were collected for recycling. Since 2001, the amount of residential solid waste disposed has decreased steadily, which indicates an increase in source reduction and/or recycling. In 2003, the residential recycling rate in the City of Atlanta was approximately 0.09 pound per capita per day.

In 1996, the City began collecting yard trimmings separately from residential refuse. The City does not dispose of yard trimmings, but instead processes the material and sells it for reuse as boiler fuel to various mills. In 2003, the City of Atlanta collected approximately 20,837 tons of yard trimmings. From 1997 to 2003, the amount of yard trimmings collected by the City of Atlanta increased by approximately 252 tons per year.

During the series of public information meetings held during the preparation of this plan, many citizens requested additional solid waste educational initiatives. Areas where people specifically requested additional education included schedule and frequency of solid waste pickup, information regarding set-out limits, composting techniques, and recycling and reuse options for bulky waste in order to prevent illegal dumping of discarded items such as tires. Other long-term educational needs were also recommended, including focusing on waste-to-energy options and landfill usage. Other suggestions regarding education included the need to train SWS employees to serve as ambassadors who represent the City, to partner with existing organizations and media outlets to educate people about the advantages of recycling, and to efficiently provide better information to new Atlanta residents about solid waste services, costs, and ways to participate in the recycling program.

## **7.2 Needs and Goals**

The City is involved in a variety of public education efforts aimed at providing the public with information, education, and opportunities for involvement to promote their understanding of the social, environmental, and economic concerns, needs, and opportunities associated with solid waste management. The City plans to continue providing an open line of communication to the residents of Atlanta in order to provide information, education, and opportunities for public involvement. Additionally, the City is committed to receiving information from residents about the needs, interests, and recommendations for improving waste and source reduction.

These existing programs are effective at informing and educating the public about solid waste issues and helping the City reach the State goal of 25 percent reduction in solid waste since 1992. In the future, the City will continue to build on these programs while also consolidating its efforts into key information, education, and public involvement programs and initiatives discussed below.

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## **7.2.1 Partnerships with Other Organizations**

To augment the limited resources available to most municipal governments, the City will form partnerships with other solid waste education organizations. By establishing partnerships, the City can leverage expertise and labor of other community organizations that have similar missions to reduce solid waste. By partnering with and participating in these other organizations, the City can concentrate its efforts on efficient and successful solid waste programs. Some suggested organizations include:

### **7.2.1.1 Other City of Atlanta Office and Governmental Organizations (Enhanced Program)**

The SWS will continue to partner with City of Atlanta departments, such as the City of Atlanta Police Department Quality of Life Unit, the Weed and Seed Program, the Department of Planning, and the Department of Watershed Management, to enforce the Solid Waste Ordinance (Section 130 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances). The City of Atlanta also will work with other governmental organizations such as Atlanta Public Schools and the Atlanta Housing Authority to educate people about recycling, solid waste services and reducing illegal dumping in vacant areas. In addition, the City will work with State governmental agencies and leverage resources provided by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Pollution Prevention Assistance Division, and existing environmental programs through the Army Environmental Policy Institute, Fort McPherson, and Fort Gillem. The City will also partner and work with the multi-county and multi-local governments in the Atlanta region on solid waste management.

### **7.2.1.2 Keep Atlanta Beautiful (Enhanced Program)**

In the past, KAB has provided educational support on a variety of topics such as litter reduction, neighborhood beautification, recycling, and general solid waste management issues and education. Past programs have also included cleanup projects, recycling drives, teacher training workshops, and community presentations. Efforts will be made to expand KAB's outreach efforts and community beautification programs and projects in the future.

### **7.2.1.3 Other Community/Environmental Groups/Faith-Based Organizations (Enhanced Program)**

The City has sought and will continue to seek counsel on specific solid waste projects from external environmental and educational groups such as the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and other local environmental groups. The City will continue to work with the environmental groups to establish strong partnerships through which educational materials can be shared and public outreach can be enhanced. The City will also provide educational materials to faith-based organizations and other community groups that are willing to promote grass roots waste reduction and solid waste management education.

### **7.2.1.4 Public-Private Initiatives (New Program)**

The following Atlanta entities manage notable recycling programs that are integral to their daily business operations: Atlanta Financial Center, AT&T, Coca-Cola, Georgia Power, and Emory University. Efforts will be made to partner with these and other Atlanta area entities in the future. Commercial enterprises with existing recycling programs will be showcased in the SWS Speaker's Bureau as examples to encourage other entities to participate in solid

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waste reduction initiatives. The City will also consider implementing a recognition program for neighborhoods and commercial businesses that participate in recycling programs and neighborhood clean up initiatives.

#### **7.2.1.5 Membership in Industry and Trade Organizations (Enhanced Program)**

City staff maintain membership and participate in professional solid waste management organizations such as the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), the National Recycling Coalition (NRC), the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Institute of Solid Waste of the American Public Works Association (APWA), and the Georgia Recycling Coalition (GRC). These organizations can provide input on cutting-edge technologies as well as best management practices and trends in the industry.

#### **7.2.1.6 Volunteer Programs (Enhanced Program)**

The KAB has supported many neighborhood cleanup projects. Past programs have included the Downtown's Picking Up project, Spring and Fall Into Recycling, and the Glad Bag-A-Thon. Other projects that have been successful include telephone book recycling and Christmas tree recycling. The City has been named one of five recipients of a Gateway Grant, sponsored by Scotts, Inc. This grant will provide landscaping materials for a one-day neighborhood beautification/community garden project. In the future, the City will continue to partner with volunteer organizations such as Hands on Atlanta, corporate sponsors, and community groups willing to provide similar incentives and support volunteer cleanup events. The City will team with neighborhood groups to create more community involvement opportunities, such as quarterly City-sponsored community cleanup events. Private sponsorship will be established to support the Tire Amnesty Day and proposed Treasure Swap days. The City will consider supporting a City-wide treasure swap day, in that residents can place bulky waste on the street corner for swapping and sharing with other residents. Any bulky waste that is not claimed on the treasure swap day will be removed by the SWS. Together with the distribution of educational materials on litter control, neighborhood cleanups can help change habits and attitudes regarding individual responsibility for litter control.

#### **7.2.1.7 Southface and Earthshare (New Program)**

Nonprofit organizations such as Southface provide information on sustainability and recycling initiatives. Earthshare 911 provides telephone numbers and websites with detailed recycling location drop-off sites. These organizations are a free resource to the community and will be advertised and promoted through City handouts and the City website.

#### **7.2.1.8 Environmental Justice Resource Center (EJRC) at Clark Atlanta University (New Program)**

The Clark Atlanta University (CAU) Environmental Justice Resource Center (EJRC) provides information regarding environmental justice considerations and serves as a research, policy, and information clearinghouse on issues related to environmental justice. The City will seek assistance and support from this organization when considering siting of solid waste handling facilities in the future.

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### **7.2.1.9 Georgia Institute of Technology (New Program)**

The Georgia Institute of Technology's Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling operates a comprehensive recycling program. The City will consider establishing a partnership with Georgia Tech and encouraging the use of Georgia Tech's program model for large office complexes and other schools and universities that do not currently have a recycling program.

## **7.2.2 Public Outreach**

The City will continue to work to increase delivery the solid waste and recycling education message to residents. This goal can be achieved by increasing the public outreach and educational programs. Existing educational materials will be distributed by the SWS at public meetings as well as periodically to residents and business owners during scheduled pickups.

### **7.2.2.1 Enhanced Enforcement and Follow-Up of Solid Waste Ordinance (Enhanced Program)**

Members of the S.W.E.E.T. Team, Trash Troopers, and HIVE program can serve as ambassadors to the City residents providing educational material to help prevent illegal dumping and to explain yard waste and bulky waste disposal requirements. Public education will also be improved by systematically providing citations and follow-up information regarding infractions of the Solid Waste Ordinance. Additionally, fines for violations of the Solid Waste Ordinance may be increased and strict fines for environmental crimes levied.

### **7.2.2.2 Speaker's Bureau/Attendance at NPU and APAB Meetings (Enhanced Program)**

The City will continue to support a solid waste Speaker's Bureau and to provide technical assistance to local government, schools, businesses, civic groups, and individuals in the community. Efforts to speak at NPU and APAB meetings will be continued and expanded in the future. Additional efforts will be made to speak with business owners and multi-family residents to encourage recycling participation.

### **7.2.2.3 Customer Service Call Center (Enhanced Program)**

Customer service is a major priority for the Mayor and the DPW. Continued support of the Customer Service call center and advertising of the illegal dumping hotline—(404) 521-DUMP—and garbage collections/schedules—(404) 330-6333—will continue to provide information to the public about solid waste services. Additional customer service training will be extended to solid waste operations employees, who serve as ambassadors to the City on a daily basis. Additional customer service training can help these operations employees readily provide residents with information and answers to solid waste service-related questions.

### **7.2.2.4 Recycling Coordinator and Staffing Requirements (Enhanced Program)**

In addition to filling the position of the Recycling Coordinator, the City will also consider expanding this role to include a community involvement component. Equally, as the recommended projects and initiatives are implemented, current staffing levels will be evaluated to determine if additional positions will be required to support the proposed initiatives.

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### **7.2.2.5 Information and Public Awareness Campaign (Enhanced Program)**

Information campaigns can range from public service announcements to co-sponsorship of recycling projects, as has occurred with local television news channels. Additionally, the DPW has developed a series of information pieces on recycling and solid waste reduction for broadcast on the City's television channel, Channel 26. Other media campaign efforts have included media sponsorship of recycling initiatives such as the Christmas Tree Recycling Project. These initiatives help to promote recycling initiatives and attract free media coverage. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution also frequently covers environmental and solid waste issues. In the future, the information and public awareness campaign will be expanded to include more communication in diverse mediums and languages. Specific emphasis will be placed on announcing service schedules and changes in these schedules. Additional efforts will be made to broaden solid waste management media campaigns to include more radio and television support for recycling programs through public service announcement and other press releases. As part of these efforts, the DPW will sponsor a recycling awareness day for all city employees. In the future, the City will enhance the existing SWS website to provide more in-depth and accessible information about solid waste management programs. Specific items to be added to the City website include:

- Service schedules and changes to service schedules
- Notices about solid waste management public meetings
- Information on junk mail reduction
- Information on composting
- Information on reusable shopping bags
- City and privately owned drop-off center locations for fluorescent tubes, E waste (computer-related electronics), refrigerants, and cardboard
- "Don't Dispose--Donate" locations
- Waste-exchange organizations
- Newcomer information for new residents
- Herbie Curbies and recycling bin information
- Annual recycling newsletter
- Speakers Bureau contact information

### **7.2.2.6 School Programs (Enhanced Program)**

Currently Dreamsan provides recycling education programs to schools located throughout the metro Atlanta area. In the future, Dreamsan will partner with the Atlanta Public School system to formalize teacher training seminars and presentations to students and parent-teacher organizations. Additionally, the City will help to ensure that recycling education is included in Earth Day activities.

### **7.2.2.7 Community or Neighborhood Educational Programs (Enhanced Program)**

It is important to continue to fund the education budget of the current recycling vendor for recycling education (Dreamsan, Inc.); this funding will be specifically earmarked for media,

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printing, and production costs. Dreamsans will continue its outreach efforts to include the Atlanta Public School system children and parent-teacher organizations.

#### **7.2.2.8 Environmental Education Center and Greenspace Park (New Program)**

The Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant is currently used to recycle yard trimmings into mulch that is used for boiler fuel for various mills in the Southeast. In the future, this facility can be expanded into an Environmental Education Center and Greenspace Park. For more information on this program, refer to Section 3.5.3.8, Conversion of Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant to Environmental Education Center and Park.

#### **7.2.2.9 Advisory Groups**

When necessary, the City will form advisory groups to assist in the solid waste management initiatives identified in this Plan. Advisory groups will consist of key stakeholders (both community and business leaders) who will meet to discuss the various initiatives' issues and opportunities, review findings and recommended options, examine technical information, and receive and share feedback. The advisory groups will serve the City as ambassadors to the residential and business communities by informing and educating the community on the specific initiatives. The groups will also help to facilitate communication, deliver key messages, encourage participation in the planning process, and build consensus on recommended options for solid waste management.

### **7.2.3 Educational Materials**

The City will continue to expand the solid waste and recycling education message to as many citizens as possible. This goal can be achieved by increasing the distribution of educational materials to a wide array of city residents. Existing educational materials will be distributed by the SWS at public meetings as well as periodically to residents and business owners during scheduled pickups.

#### **7.2.3.1 Factsheets and Handouts (Enhanced Program)**

The City has created a variety of factsheets and handouts that describe the Solid Waste Ordinance, the HIVE program focusing on illegal dumping, the recycling program, set-out limits, composting tips, pickup schedules and frequency, and other options for recycling. The City will continue to canvass neighborhoods through the S.W.E.E.T. program and periodically distribute these materials to residents and users through NPU meetings and other community events. Additional educational material will be distributed which describes alternative technologies and encourages multi-family residents and business owners to participate in the recycling program.

#### **7.2.3.2 Programs to Notify and Involve the Public (Enhanced Program)**

The City staff provides technical assistance through periodic recycling neighborhood canvasses and via the Customer Service call center. The SWS also responds to calls and written requests for information and materials. Recycling brochures, educational materials, and public meeting notices will be posted on the City of Atlanta website to improve access by and distribution to the public. The database will also be periodically updated to ensure important messages reach more residents.

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## SECTION 8

# Implementation

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### Goal of This Planning Element:

*To develop a balanced, affordable solid waste management implementation strategy that supports the goals and meets the requirements of the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act.*

This section provides an implementation strategy for relevant current solid waste management programs and future planned programs that were identified in each element of this Plan. The solid waste management programs in this Plan cover both the 10-year planning period and future programs that can be considered long-term solid waste management strategies. The first 5 years of the implementation strategy serve as the Short-Term Work Program. The second half of the implementation strategy consists of long-term strategies. Because these strategies are long-term, they will be monitored, assessed, and updated periodically to reflect changing issues and conditions in the City over the extended planning period. The City will review and update the Short- and Long-Term Work Programs each year as part of the annual review of the Comprehensive SWMP. The annual review process will also include submittal of the Annual Solid Waste Survey to DCA, and submittal of the Short-Term Work Program progress report to the DCA every 5 years.

The programs defined in this section include specific actions that have been identified to help the City reach the statewide waste disposal reduction goal. This section also addresses the specific administrative responsibilities, contractual arrangements, and budget necessary to implement the Plan.

## 8.1 Implementation Strategy

Specific programs were defined in each Plan element that address the needs and goals identified in the waste reduction, collection, disposal, land limitation, and education and public involvement sections of this report. Table 8-1, at the end of this section, shows the implementation schedule and associated costs for each existing program that is already in place, and each new program suggested in this Comprehensive SWMP. It should be noted that the costs in Table 8-1 are estimated, and that it is difficult to accurately project future costs.

This implementation strategy includes some programs that will be implemented immediately, along with some programs that will be conducted over time to plan for the long-term waste disposal needs of the City. No major infrastructure projects are proposed at this time; however, several feasibility studies are recommended to ensure that proper planning can occur over the long term. Many of the new programs (such as the disposal technologies) are only evaluation and feasibility studies, and are not a commitment by the City to the actual implementation of the program (e.g., construction of a solid waste handling facility).

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Table 8-1 summarizes each of the activities and programs, listed by corresponding section of the Plan (i.e., Waste Reduction Element, Collection Element, Disposal Element, Land Limitation Element, and Education and Public Involvement Element). Each activity is followed by a series of columns - 2005 through 2014 - indicating the target year for implementation of that activity. The third column identifies the party or City department responsible for implementing the program or activity. The fourth column provides the estimated annual cost of maintenance and operations per year for each activity, and the final column lists recommended funding sources for each program. Several of the existing programs will be continued for the planning period (e.g., Christmas Tree Recycling), and several of the existing programs will be improved upon and enhanced (e.g., Drop-Off Centers).

## 8.2 Financing Mechanisms

The City has a variety of funding mechanisms that can be used to support solid waste management programs. Most of the programs described in this plan will be funded primarily by service charges or General Obligation bonds. Currently, the landfill post-closure work is being funded through the use of General Obligation bonds. The financing mechanisms for each of the proposed programs will be updated during the City's annual update of the Comprehensive SWMP. Any new programs and funding sources established over the 10-year period will be added to the Plan and reported to the State in the Short-Term Work Plan.

The City's current solid waste management system is funded through a variety of sources, including:

- **General Fund** - Financing for the collection of solid waste is from the local government's general fund. The general fund revenues are collected in the general property tax.
- **Enterprise Fund** - The main operating fund for SWS is the collection of solid waste services bills.
- **User Fees** - User fees are charged to the solid waste customer or resident to reflect the total amount of revenue spent for providing solid waste services. User fees distribute the cost of providing solid waste management among customers and residents on a proportional basis.
- **Local Option Sales Tax** - This sales and use tax is a joint county and municipality venture, levied at the rate of one percent. All counties may participate, but municipalities must qualify in order to impose the tax.
- **Special Purpose Tax** - In 1985, Georgia law authorized a special purpose tax, which enables counties to raise funds to finance a single-purpose facility. Maximum duration for the tax is 5 years.
- **General Obligation Bonds** - The issuing municipality guarantees General Obligation Bonds with its credit, based on its ability to levy taxable real property to pay the

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principal and interest on the bonds. The authorization to issue these bonds requires a referendum. The bonds can be paid for with user fees.

- **Revenue Bonds** – Revenue Bonds guarantee the payment by pledging the net revenue from the project. Revenue Bonds require the technical and economic analysis of the project to be financed.
- **Current Revenue Capital Financing** – This method is generated by surplus capital and is typically used to finance collection vehicles and landfill disposal systems.

Alternative funding sources might include:

- **Tax Incentives** – The City of Atlanta could use tax-based financial incentives to encourage increased recycling and source reduction in the commercial and industrial sectors. Tax incentives for waste reduction and recycling activities generally include investment tax credits, sales tax exemptions, and property tax exemptions.
- **Host Fees** – Host fees are charges levied for use of a solid waste handling facility, such as a landfill or transfer station. Solid waste handling facilities charge host fees to surrounding municipalities that use their facility.

### 8.3 Updating the Plan

The City's process for updating this Comprehensive SWMP will include annual reviews of this Plan, submittal of the Annual Solid Waste Survey to the State, and submittal of the Short-Term Work Program progress report to the State every 5 years. After 5 years, the entire Plan will be revisited and updated if necessary. Any substantive modifications to the Plan will be coordinated and incorporated into the CDP during the next CDP update.

Some of the proposed solid waste management programs in this Plan extend past the 10-year planning period of this Plan and, therefore, will be reevaluated periodically to ensure that they are accurate and reflect the current conditions within the City. The City also understands that solid waste management is an evolving process; therefore, the City reserves the right to make any necessary changes or amendments to the Plan.

Since the adoption of the City's Solid Waste Ordinance in 2004, a series of additional issues have been raised regarding solid waste management. As a result, the Solid Waste Ordinance will be re-evaluated to address the following issues:

- **Tires** – The City will consider updating the Solid Waste Ordinance to more directly address the issue of tire removal. The Ordinance would be updated to provide clear instruction on how and where to dispose or recycle tires.
- **Set-Out Limits** – The City will consider modifying the set-out limits currently required in the Solid Waste Ordinance. Along with education and enforcement, revised limits will be placed on the amount of solid waste, yard waste, and bulky waste that can be placed on the curb for collection.
- **Multi-Family Recycling** – The City will consider re-evaluating the Solid Waste Ordinance on multi-family recycling requirements. The City will evaluate the logistics of recycling collection at each multi-family unit on a case-by-case basis. The City will work

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with owners to balance recycling collection education and enforcement to ensure that waste reduction efforts are met at multi-family units.

- **C&D Debris** - The City will evaluate the current ordinances, zoning, and building codes to determine whether modifications to include waste reduction of C&D waste can be implemented.
- **Reporting Requirements** - The City will consider requiring all collectors of waste operating within the City limits to report commercial, multi-family, and C&D tonnage collected within the City and provide a yearly assurance of disposal capacity. This reporting requirement will help meet the State's requirement under O.C.G.A. § 12-8-31.1, and will also assist the City in tracking its progress towards meeting the State's waste reduction goal.

**TABLE 8-1**  
 City of Atlanta Comprehensive SWMP Implementation Plan  
 Note: In Operations Costs, K= thousands; MM = millions

Activity	Year To Be Implemented										Responsible Party	Estimated Operations Costs per Year	Funding Source		
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014					
<b>Section 2: Waste Disposal Stream Analysis</b>															
<b>2.0</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$50 K	SWS/Private	Solid Waste Reserve Fund (SWRF)
<b>Section 3: Waste Reduction Element</b>															
<b>3.3</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$135 K	SWS/General Services	General Fund
<b>3.3.1 &amp; 3.5.3.1 &amp; 4.3.1</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$100 K	SWS/Recycling Contractor	SWRF
<b>3.3.3 &amp; 3.6.3.2</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$209 K	SWS/Private	SWRF
<b>3.3.8 &amp; 3.5.3.3 &amp; 4.3.2</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$750 K	SWS/Private	SWRF
<b>3.3.9 &amp; 3.5.3.4 &amp; 4.3.3</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$100 K	SWS/Private	SWRF
<b>3.3.11 &amp; 3.5.3.7</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$10 K	SWS/Recycling Vendors	SWRF

**TABLE 8-1**  
 City of Atlanta Comprehensive SWMP Implementation Plan  
 Note: In Operations Costs, K= thousands; MM = millions

Activity	Year To Be Implemented										Responsible Party	Estimated Operations Costs per Year	Funding Source	
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014				
3.3.12.1 & 4.4.1 Residential Yard Trimmings Curbside Collection Program (includes curbside residential, Christmas Tree and backyard composting)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$4.8 MM	SWS	SWRF
3.3.13 White Goods Recycling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$240 K	SWS	SWRF
3.5.1.1 & 3.5.3.10 Pay-As-You-Throw - Garbage and Yard Trimmings Evaluate Program		X	X	X	X							\$100 K	SWS	SWRF
3.5.1.1 & 3.5.3.10 Pay-As-You-Throw - Garbage and Yard Trimmings Potentially Implement Pilot Program						X				X	X	\$174 K	SWS	SWRF
3.5.1.3 Financial Incentives		X										\$70 K	SWS	SWRF
3.5.2.2 Metro-Atlanta Waste Exchange Evaluate Program	X	X										\$100 K	SWS	SWRF
3.5.2.2 Metro-Atlanta Waste Exchange Potentially Sponsor and Implement			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$74 K	SWS	SWRF
3.5.3.6 C&D Recycling		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$100 K	SWS/Private	SWRF

**TABLE 8-1**  
 City of Atlanta Comprehensive SWMP Implementation Plan  
 Note: In Operations Costs, K= thousands; MM = millions

Activity	Year To Be Implemented										Responsible Party	Estimated Operations Costs per Year	Funding Source	
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014				
3.5.3.8 & 7.2.2.8 Conversion of Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant to Environmental Education Center and Park <i>Conduct Feasibility Study</i>	X	X											\$50 K	General Fund/ Grants
3.5.3.8 & 7.2.2.8 Conversion of Hartsfield Solid Waste Reduction Plant to Environmental Education Center and Park <i>Design and Implementation</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X			\$250 K	General Fund/ Grants
3.5.3.11 Amnesty Days and Household Hazardous Waste Events	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			\$150 K	SWRF
<b>Section 4: Collection Element</b>														
4.2.1.1 City of Atlanta Collection Operations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$13.4 MM	SWRF
4.5.1 City-Owned Buildings and Facilities Collection	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$1.9 MM	SWRF
4.5.2 City Beautification and Common Good Services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$6.2 MM	SWRF
4.8.1.1 & 4.8.3.2 & 7.2.2.1 Education and Compliance on Set-Out Limits for Solid Waste & Yard Trimmings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$101 K	SWRF

**TABLE 8-1**  
 City of Atlanta Comprehensive SWMP Implementation Plan  
 Note: In Operations Costs, K= thousands; MM = millions

Activity	Year To Be Implemented										Responsible Party	Estimated Operations Costs per Year	Funding Source	
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014				
4.8.1.2	X	X	X										\$500 K	SWRF
4.2.1.2 & 4.8.1.3	X	X	X	X	X							X	\$8.7 MM	SWRF
4.8.1.4	X	X											\$275 K	SWRF
4.8.1.5	X	X											\$50 K	SWRF
4.8.3.1	X	X											\$398 K	SWRF
4.6 & 4.8.5.1	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	\$1.3 MM	SWRF
<b>Section 5: Disposal Element</b>														
5.1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$1 MM	SWRF
5.1.1 & 5.1.2	X	X	X	X	X								\$7 MM	SWRF
5.2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$5 MM	SWRF
5.3		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$50 K	SWRF
5.3.1.1		X											\$100 K	SWRF

**TABLE 8-1**  
 City of Atlanta Comprehensive SWMP Implementation Plan  
 Note: In Operations Costs, K= thousands; MM = millions

Activity	Year To Be Implemented										Responsible Party	Estimated Operations Costs per Year	Funding Source			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014						
5.3.1.2 Refuse-Derived Fuel Conduct Feasibility Study		X											\$100 K	SWS	SWRF	
5.3.2 Regional Landfills Conduct Feasibility Study		X											\$100 K	SWS	SWRF	
5.3.3 Use of Transfer Stations to Support Regional Disposal Facilities Conduct Feasibility Study		X											\$100 K	SWS	SWRF	
5.3.4 Eco-Industrial Park Conduct Feasibility Study		X											\$100 K	SWS	SWRF	
<b>Section 6: Land Limitation Element</b>																
6.1 & 6.2 & 6.4 Enforcement of Natural Environmental and Land Use Limitations and Other Regulatory Requirements for Solid Waste Facility Siting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	SWS/Dept. of Planning and Community Development	Ongoing Admin. Costs	General Fund
6.3 Account for Disproportionate Environmental Impacts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	SWS/Dept. of Planning and Community Development	Ongoing Admin. Costs	General Fund
6.5 Establish Consistency With Comprehensive SWMP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	SWS/Dept. of Planning and Community Development	Ongoing Admin. Costs	General Fund
<b>Section 7: Education and Public Involvement Element</b>																
7.1.1 SWEET	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	SWS	\$800 K	SWRF
7.1.2 Trash Troopers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	SWS	\$800 K	SWRF

**TABLE 8-1**  
 City of Atlanta Comprehensive SWMP Implementation Plan  
 Note: In Operations Costs, K= thousands; MM = millions

Activity	Year To Be Implemented										Responsible Party	Estimated Operations Costs per Year	Funding Source	
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014				
7.2.1 Partnerships with Other Organizations (may include Other City of Atlanta and Government Departments; Keep Atlanta Beautiful; Community, Environmental, and Faith-Based Organizations; Public-Private Initiatives; Volunteer Programs; Industry and Trade Organizations; Southface and Earthshare; EJRC at Clark Atlanta University; and Georgia Institute of Technology)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$85 K	SWS	SWRF
7.2.2 Public Outreach Programs (may include Educational Source Reduction; Recycling and Education Campaign; Advisory Groups; Speaker's Bureau and Attendance at NPU and APAB Meetings; Customer Service Call Center; Recycling Coordinator and Staffing; Information and Public Awareness Campaign; School Programs; and Community or Neighborhood Educational Programs)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$1.1 MM	SWS	SWRF

**TABLE 8-1**  
 City of Atlanta Comprehensive SWMP Implementation Plan  
 Note: In Operations Costs, K= thousands; MM = millions

Activity	Year To Be Implemented										Responsible Party	Estimated Operations Costs per Year	Funding Source			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014						
7.2.3 Educational Materials (may include Promote Reuse/Recovery, Waste Audits, and Waste Exchanges; Junk Mail Reduction; Don't Dispose -- Donate; SWS Service Schedule Information Campaign; Newsletters; Factsheets and Handouts; and Programs to Notify and Involve the Public)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$104 K	SWS	SWRF		
<b>Administrative Costs</b>																
Overall SWS Administrative Costs	\$2M	\$2M	\$2M	\$2M	\$2M	\$2M	\$2M	\$2M	\$2M	\$2M	\$2M	\$2M	\$2M	SWS	N/A	SWRF

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# **Appendix A**

## **Educational Materials**

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David E. Scott, P.E.  
Commissioner  
of Public Works

As the year comes to a close, we are pleased to have experienced great successes and overcome difficult challenges, thanks to the leadership of our Mayor, collaboration with Council, and the dedication of our DPW family. In December we achieved a major milestone in solid waste disposal with the contracting of two transfer stations. Our bulk rubbish collection wait time has been shortened and the department has initiated a program to combat illegal dumping. We've also improved our customer service unit, and implemented a new proactive public relations program. We launched a program to encourage property owners to maintain and repair their sidewalks, and we continue to seek out opportunities for public involvement and community partnering. We held our second annual health fair, and we are committed to promoting a healthy workforce. Also this year, we continued to refine DPW-Stat the management tracking system that's so successful it has become a city-wide model. We have many reasons to be filled with optimism. On behalf of DPW, I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a safe and productive New Year.

Department of Public Works  
55 Trinity Ave, Suite 4700  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Phone: 404-330-6240  
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publicworks@atlantaga.gov

## Transfer Stations Contracted for Solid Waste Disposal

*Public meetings underway for long term plan*



Department of Public Works began taking all solid waste to two transfer stations, one in Cobb County (pictured) and the other in Fulton on November 30 upon the closing of the Live Oak Landfill. These transfer stations are not landfills. They are pre-established businesses that have been serving other customers for years. "We are pleased that the City acted with foresight to secure the services of these facilities," said Public Works Commissioner David Scott. "This move will allow us to continue seamless solid waste services while we develop our long-term solid waste **Solid Waste Disposal** - Continued on Page 4

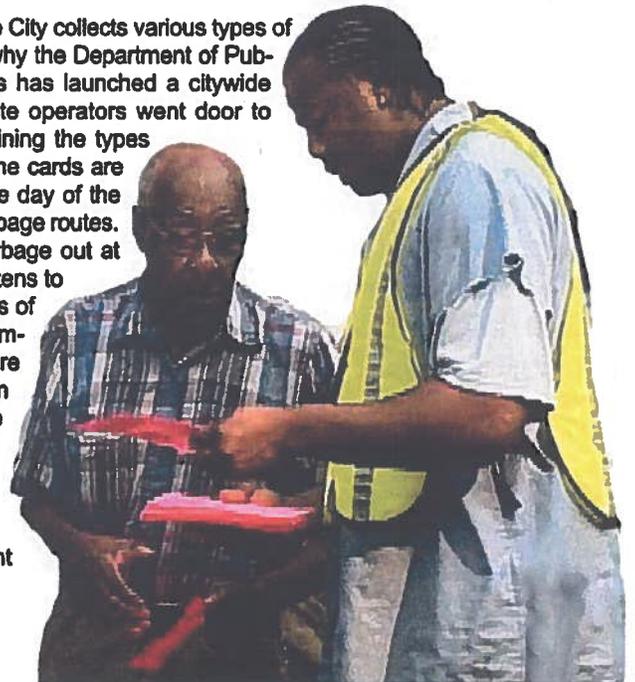
## DPW Enhancing Customer Service Unit & Procedures

Customer Service continues to be a major priority both for the Mayor and the Department of Public Works. DPW reorganized the Customer Service Unit this year, with staffing increases and a new management structure. "Customer service is our window to the public we serve," said Commissioner David Scott. "This unit is vital to meeting our department's mission and helps fulfill the Mayor's goal of being a more responsive and effective government, and a cleaner city with a strong infrastructure." The department has a new customer service manager, **Cedrick Shipman**, (formerly of Traffic and Transportation) and four additional customer service operators. Shipman has implemented new changes such as more oversight and monitoring of calls to ensure courtesy and efficiency. He also examined call patterns and staffing levels at peak call times. These changes have already yielded significant improvements. The caller wait-time has been reduced to two minutes, and the satisfaction rate based on our surveys has increased from 11 percent to 65 **Customer Service** - Continued on Page 3

## Solid Waste Schedule Cards Provide Education and Service

Many residents may not know what days the City collects various types of solid waste in their neighborhoods. That's why the Department of Public Works' Bureau of Solid Waste Services has launched a citywide information campaign. This Fall solid waste operators went door to door handing out information cards explaining the types and schedules of solid waste collections. The cards are being distributed on Fridays, since that's the day of the week that the workers don't have regular garbage routes. With this information citizens can place garbage out at the proper times. "It's very important for citizens to know what days to put out the different kinds of solid waste items," said Public Works Commissioner, David E. Scott. "These cards are personalized for each route and people can keep them as a handy reminder." Some items are not immediately picked up because they are placed out at the wrong times. Residents are reminded not to place them out unless it is the scheduled time for collection and not to mix different kinds of solid waste.

*Solid Waste Operator, Anthony Matthews (right) gives a schedule card to a resident on his route. The cards are being distributed to every household on DPW's service routes.*



## Did you know?

■ The function of Motor Transport Services (MTS) is managing, conserving, and maintaining more than 5,000 motorized vehicles and related parts, and supplies owned by the City of Atlanta.

■ MTS is a component of the Department of Public Works.

■ DPW's Traffic and Transportation maintains more than 900 traffic signals.

■ There are more than 80,000 households on DPW's residential garbage routes.

■ Public Works employees are among the only city employees who have direct contact with residential households every day

■ Public Works staff members are available to address your neighborhood or civic meeting. To request a speaker, call 404-330-6240.

## Corry Evans of Transportation awarded by City Council

Atlanta City Council recently honored Public Works Employee, Corry Evans, who is assigned to the Office of Transportation, Sign and Marking Section. Mr. Evans was recognized for outstanding and dedicated service to the City of Atlanta. The award took place in the council chambers. Reading the award, Councilman C.T. Martin, Council District 10, stated that Mr. Evans is "a true team player, motivator, leader, and is always true to his commitment." Councilman Martin first encountered Mr. Evans one Saturday when Mr. Evans and a coworker were repairing signs on Peyton Road. The councilman was also cleaning up in the area and noticed that Mr. Evans had taken the initiative to repair a school crossing sign that was not on his work order. The sign was bent over, and not only was it dangerous to pedestrians, but it was not visible to alert drivers of the school zone. "A lot of kids walk that route, so we got out there and started putting the sign back up. A lot of cars speed in this area and we want to make sure they are aware of the children," Mr. Evans said. "It's my job to keep the city safe." Commissioner Scott applauded the award. "We are very proud of Mr. Evans," Mr. Scott said. "He exemplifies the kind of commitment that we strive for department-wide. The day-to-day dedication of all our frontline employees is the backbone of all we do." ■



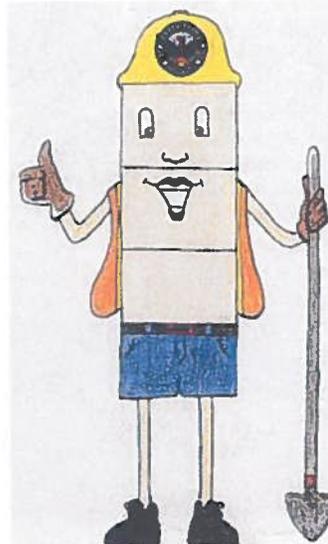
## DPW Weathers the Storm by Marilyn R. Britt

Department of Public Works performed vital functions during Hurricane Ivan in September. Working around the clock, DPW teams responded to numerous emergency situations including more than 400 downed trees, 300 signal outages, and many other serious incidents related to flooding. Teams worked in cooperation with various internal and external agencies, and executed vital functions at the emergency operations center. "I am very pleased with the efforts of all our employees who responded during this crisis," said DPW Commissioner David Scott. "Their continuous efforts provided welcomed relief and reassurance to commuters, residents, and visitors to the City of Atlanta." DPW crews braved dangerous conditions, providing individual assistance in many cases. "My crew did a tremendous job. We worked throughout the entire night with only flashlights and lights from our service trucks," said Eddie Johnson, Street Maintenance Supervisor. While working, his crew saw a tree fall on an elderly couple's home and onto a street blocking access to and from their property. They stopped to remove the tree so the elderly woman could get to her dialysis appointment. See hurricane Ivan - Continued on Page 4



Clarence Rogers, Louise Simmons, Alma Johnson and J.D. Ingram of Maddox Park display the commendation Commissioner Scott awarded to each installation for work during Hurricane Ivan.

## Keon Green designs friendly mascot for sidewalk campaign

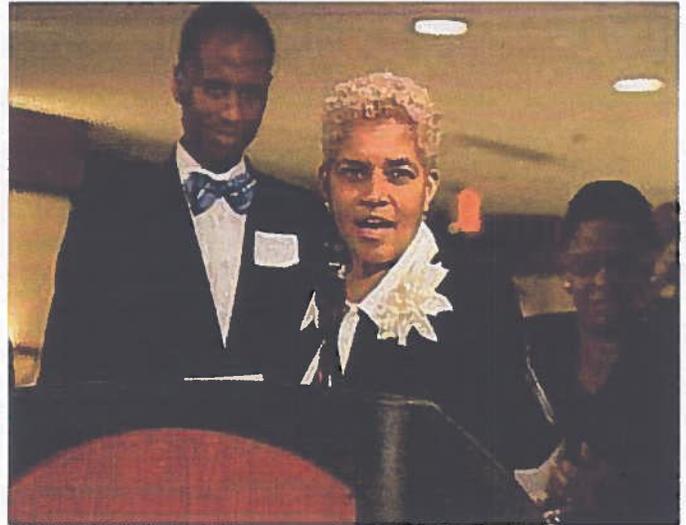


DPW tapped internal talent to put a face on its Sidewalk Improvement Plan. Keon Green of Commissioner Scott's office, an art student, conceived and drew the mascot dubbed "Sidewalk Sam" who will be featured in educational media products. Green has a vision for his design. "I was thinking about the DPW workers, the equipment they use and their uniforms," he said. "I wanted to show a friendly sidewalk since the Commissioner talks about this being a citizen-friendly campaign." Green used paint and watercolors for the original work. When not designing and fielding calls in the front office, Green does part-time modeling for magazines and videos. He has appeared in videos of Nelly and local group MABS, and has appeared on BET and MTV. Green, who has been with DPW for almost two years, previously worked in procurement for three years. His long-term goal is to work in commercial art or animation. ■

Photo: Keon Green and the character he designed

## Public Works Joins Mayor, COO and Watershed Management to welcome officials at APWA national convention

Mayor Shirley Franklin and the City's Commissioners of Public Works and Watershed Management hosted a reception in City Hall in September to welcome attendees of the American Public Works Association 2004 International Congress. Invited guests came from all over the United States and Canada. More than 200 leaders attended the reception in the City Hall Atrium. Participants networked, shared professional concepts, and toured the City's Traffic Control Center. They were entertained in a public works themed setting with functioning traffic lights, signs and other visual displays. "I want to thank you for your hard work and your advocacy," Mayor Franklin told the attendees. "We are very conscious of the role public works officials and public works advocacy play in our daily lives in the city of Atlanta." The American Public Works Association is an international professional association of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works goods and services. ■



Mayor Shirley Franklin (center) is joined by Public Works Commissioner David E. Scott (l) and Chief Operating Officer Lynnette Young (r) to welcome public works officials and employees from throughout the United States at a reception in the Atlanta City Hall Atrium.



Public Works Commissioner David E. Scott and Deputy Commissioner for Solid Waste, Donna Owens were recently the featured guests on WAOK Radio talk show *Power Talk* with Lorraine Jacques White. Scott and Owens felt the forum was an ideal way to respond to listener inquiries on solid waste services. Fielding questions from callers, they provided upbeat and timely information about various concerns. "We always welcome the opportunity to talk to citizens and hear their concerns," Commissioner Scott said. "This kind of feedback helps us serve all of our residents better." Photo: (l-r) Lorraine Jacques White, David Scott, Donna Owens fielding calls about Solid Waste Services during a radio call-in show in October

### Customer Service - Continued from Page 1



Cedrick Shipman,  
Customer Service Manager

percent. Shipman is working with the Mayor's office in a process to call randomly-selected residents, who have recently called the service operators. During those follow up calls, he asks them about how the call was handled. That information is used to identify opportunities for training and make further improvements. "Customer service impacts our public perception. In a few minutes our operators can create a good impression that lasts in the mind of the caller on the line. We want to make sure that we are always courteous and responsive," said Shipman. He has been with the city for nine years. His previous position was Customer Service Research Tech for Traffic and Transportation. He has also worked for First Data Resources, a private firm. The Michigan native attended Clark Atlanta University where he majored in Communications. In his free time he likes traveling, working out and spending time with friends. ■

## Promoting a Healthy Workplace

By Marilyn R. Britt

In continuing support of Mayor Shirley Franklin's "Health and Wellness Initiative", the Department of Public Works recently hosted its Second Annual Health Fair, spearheaded by Safety Administrator Nancy Barrington. Public Works Commissioner, David Scott and Chief Operating Officer, Lynnette Young, were on hand to welcome participants and offer encouragement to employees taking responsibility for their health. A number of Public Works employees took advantage of a variety of

See Health Fair - Continued on Page 4

## "Walk for Sidewalks" promotes sidewalk repair

In September DPW in cooperation with the citizens of Atlanta launched a campaign to create a city-wide network of safe well-maintained sidewalks. DPW's sidewalk campaign encourages citizens to repair and maintain the sidewalks that about their property. "Sidewalks give us the opportunity to interact with our surroundings and give us all a better sense of community. Sidewalks make our streets safer, provide a place for children to play and offer a means of alternative transportation," said Public Works Commissioner David Scott. "Property owners have a vital role in the sidewalk program. This level of community ownership empowers residents to make changes that benefit themselves and their neighborhoods." To reinforce the program DPW held an event called "A Walk for Sidewalks" September 10. Dozens of residents joined the one-mile walk through midtown which culminated with a news conference in Piedmont Park. DPW is working with community groups and property owners to foster a better understanding about when and if sidewalk repairs are needed. DPW is offering home owners helpful literature that provides details and guidance on getting the repairs done.



Midtown residents joined DPW staffers at "A Walk for Sidewalks" Sept. 10th



**Shirley Franklin  
Mayor**

**Atlanta City Council  
President**

Lisa M. Borders

**City Council Members**

Carla Smith

Debi Starnes

Ivory Lee Young, Jr

Cleta Winslow

Natalyn Mosby Archibong

Anne Fauver

Howard Shook

Clair Muller

Felicia Moore

Clarence T. Martin

Jim Maddox

Joyce Shepherd

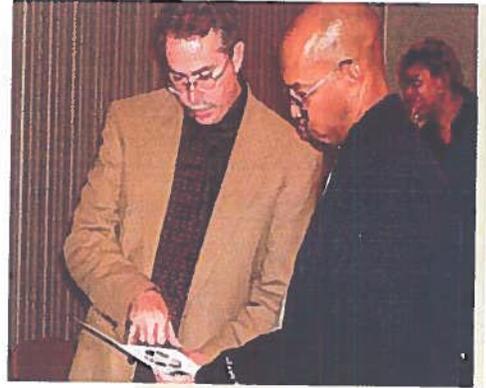
Cesar Mitchell, Post 1

Mary Norwood, Post 2

H. Lamar Willis, Post 3

**Solid Waste Disposal - Continued from Page 1**

disposal plan." At the stations garbage will be transferred from City trucks to other large vehicles for transport to existing landfills outside of metro Atlanta. DPW is currently holding a series of public meetings on its Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan Update. The purpose of these meetings is to solicit community participation and residents' input on the City's plans for solid waste management for the next 10 years. Discussion topics include: amount and source of waste, waste reduction, recycling, collection procedures, future disposal options such as "waste to energy", implementation and financing. The Georgia Solid Waste Management Act requires that Atlanta complete its Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update by October 2005. The first meeting, which was in November in southwest Atlanta, drew more than 50 people who reacted positively. For the complete schedule of meetings, please visit the City website at [www.atlantaga.gov](http://www.atlantaga.gov) or call 404-330-6236. Photo: James Swope, Public Works Manager explains the current solid waste process to a citizen at a public meeting.



**DPW Stat presentation gets high rating at APWA Convention By Earl Sims**

Department of Public Works participated in the APWA Conference with a September 14th educational session about DPWStat, the performance management program implemented by Commissioner David Scott. The presentation was delivered by Randy Bundy, DPW I.T. Manager and DPW-Stat program manager. It was extremely well received by the more than 50 attendees at the session, with 90 percent giving it a "recommended" in their evaluation. "ATLStat", now under development, is the City-wide extension of the DPWStat program. With the Mayor's Dashboard providing the strategic view, ATLStat provides for a more granular look at the City's operations on a more frequent basis. ■

**Health Fair - Continued from Page 3**

health screenings provided by more than 25 vendors. The screenings focused on issues such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, drug abuse, high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, heart attacks, stress, depression, and safe sex practices, which plague our workforce and the general population. A doctor was available to counsel the employee, offering insightful and encouraging information about medical treatment and lifestyle changes. "The Health Fair was very conve-

**Hurricane Ivan - Continued from Page 2**

"It was a new experience for me. My main thought was being concerned for the safety of my crew," said **Andreata Dukes**, Laborer Senior with Street Operations. Dukes was among the first, including North Avenue Installation Chief, **David Munoz**, who watched as transformers began to blow, winds intensified and trees began to fall across the city. Ms. Dukes and other dedicated DPW employees worked tirelessly placing barricades around live wires, clearing driveways and cutting up and removing downed trees. "I would do it again because I like to help the citizens of Atlanta," Dukes said. "As a part of dealing with the public, that's what we do." Many of the Public Works staff served in the Fulton County's Emergency Management Center and the Atlanta Fire Communications Center's 24/7 operations. Public Works Manager, **Gayla Dodson** said that many of the Solid Waste staff assisted Street Operations and Watershed employees in cleaning catch basins and removing yard debris to prevent flooding. The process of removing debris continued several weeks after the storm, she noted. As devastating as the effects of the storm were, this was nothing new to many Public Works staffers who have worked through ice and rainstorms, infrastructure sinkholes, and other emergency situations. **Rodney Thomas**, Heavy Equipment Operator, Senior assisted in clearing debris and insuring that chain saws were operated properly. He summarized the sentiment of many DPW workers, "I am always ready. I am prior military, so I have to stay ready", said Thomas, who applauded the teamwork. "We are each others eyes and ears." In recognition of employees' storm efforts, the Commissioner awarded each DPW installation with a plaque. "Each of you did an exemplary job", Commissioner **David E. Scott** told employees. "You went above and beyond the call of duty and put the needs of the City first. This shows that we as a department stand ready to face any challenge with the same dedication, tenacity and teamwork." ■



Photo: Nancy Barrington, Commissioner Scott, Lynnette Young, Jolannie Moore III, Gina Pagnotta and Pamela Wilson share a moment at the Health Fair

nent, informative, and it gave me an opportunity to check for physical deficiencies I would have probably never checked on my own," said **Gina Pagnotta**, Administrative Assistant at the North Avenue Installation. Other presenters included representatives from the University of Georgia Traffic Prevention Office, the National Aids Education Service for Minorities, and the City of Atlanta offered the opportunity to open free checking accounts requiring no credit checks. ■

**DPW Important Numbers**

- Report Illegal Dumping  
404-521-DUMP
- Garbage Collections/Schedules  
404-330-6333
- Traffic Light & Street Issues  
404-330-6501

The Public Works Update Newsletter is produced by DPW's Public Information Officer Pamela Wilson with editorial assistance from Marilyn Britt. If you have ideas for the newsletter or if you wish to submit an article, please e-mail the item to [pwilson@atlantaga.gov](mailto:pwilson@atlantaga.gov) or call (404) 330-6240. Digital photos welcome!

# ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping is defined as depositing any kind of trash, garbage or refuse onto vacant lots, someone else's property or in public spaces. These items include, but are not limited to, large furniture items, auto parts, junk, trash, building materials etc.

## ILLEGAL DUMPING IS A CRIME

TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING CALL

404-521-DUMP (3867)



*Illegal Dumpsite*

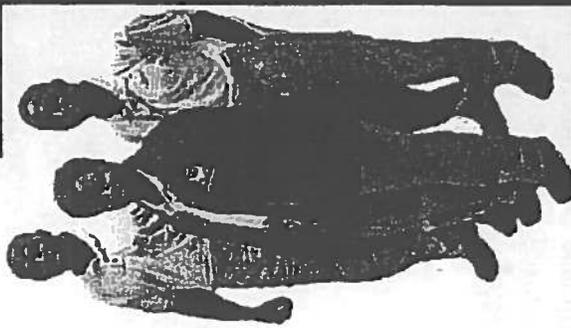


DRAFT

**S.W.E.E.T.**  
SOLID WASTE EDUCATION  
AND ENFORCEMENT TEAM

## S.W.E.E.T. MEMBERS

VERNA SINGLETON ..... PROJECT MANAGER  
ANTHONY BYRD ..... NORTHWEST ATLANTA  
RONNIE WEBB ..... NORTHWEST ATLANTA  
PATRICIA SANDERS ..... NORTHEAST ATLANTA  
TENSLEY COFER ..... SOUTHWEST ATLANTA  
PATRICK DAVIS ..... SOUTHWEST ATLANTA  
GERALDINE JOHNSON ..... SOUTHEAST ATLANTA



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
BUREAU OF SOLID WASTE  
SERVICES

DAVID E. SCOTT, P.E.  
COMMISSIONER

DONNA D. OWENS, CPM  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

SOLID WASTE SERVICES  
EDUCATION and ENFORCEMENT TEAM  
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E-mail: [publicworks@atlantaga.gov](mailto:publicworks@atlantaga.gov)

The Department of Public Works Bureau of Solid Waste has mobilized the Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Team or "S.W.E.E.T." to work with the Quality of Life Division and Department of Planning to enforce Solid Waste Ordinance 130. This ordinance governs the appropriate disposition of solid waste. S.W.E.E.T. members go into neighborhoods on a recurring basis to speak to citizens and community organizations about the Solid Waste Ordinance. The team provides educational talks and materials and also cite violators of City Ordinance for potential court cases. S.W.E.E.T. also provides referrals to other agencies for certain issues or concerns, i.e. right of way cutting, water main leakage, traffic lights outages, potholes, manhole covers or housing code violations.

**OUR MISSION**

"To educate the general public, customers and citizens on all City Ordinances governing Solid Waste Disposal. To build and sustain healthy neighborhoods by ensuring safe and clean communities and public spaces."

**OUR OBJECTIVE**

"To reduce overgrown vacant lots, illegal dumpsites, debris place in right of way and to encourage proper disposition of debris by contractors."

SWEET's goal is to educate the homeowners and citizens on City Ordinance 130 and outreach will specifically addresses the following:

- Definition of terms used in City Ordinance 130
- What and when to schedule for pickup
- Who should remove debris
- What items the City will and will not pickup
- Other Do's and Don'ts

**SWEET Outreach Methods**

- Canvass neighborhoods placing materials at individual homes. These items include door-knob hangers, stickers, flyers and brochures.
- Attend neighborhood meetings to speak and distribute literature
- Place exhibit booths at community events such as street festivals

SWEET is patrolling all of Atlanta issuing courtesy tickets to homeowners, citizens, contractors and illegal dumpers to enforce the City Ordinance 130 as it relates to public space. Each SWEET member is assigned to a zone of the City for patrolling.

As of August, 2004 more than three hundred and twenty-seven (327) courtesy tickets have been issued and one hundred (100) bulk piles from vacant property have been scheduled.

Steps in enforcement are:

- Issue courtesy ticket/citation
- Follow up to courtesy ticket/citation
- Second notice if warranted
- Second follow up to courtesy ticket/court citation if violation is not corrected
- Court date and time is set
- Penalties—up to \$500.00 and/or 60 days in jail
- Fines determine by Judge

# YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

## Recycling Is As Easy As 1, 2, 3!

- First Decide on a storage area. The kitchen is an ideal place for a home recycling center. Put the bin a place where you'll remember to use it, such as under the sink or in a closet or pantry. These places can be easily outfitted as a storage place. A location about 3'x3', in the garage or near a back door, can also be used for storage.
- Second Take every opportunity to fill your recycling bins with properly prepared recyclable materials.
- Third Secure all items in your recycling bin.

### RECYCLING COLLECTION TIMES AND INFORMATION

**CURBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCES. ONLY APPROVED RECYCLABLE MATERIALS INSIDE A CITY OF ATLANTA RECYCLING BIN WILL BE COLLECTED. UNAPPROVED RECYCLABLE MATERIALS WILL BE LEFT IN OR ON THE RECYCLING BIN.**

Place your City of Atlanta recycling bin(s) at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on your regularly scheduled collection day.

### QUESTIONS?

CALL THE ATLANTA RECYCLING HOTLINE AT  
404-792-1212

or

E-MAIL QUESTIONS TO [recycling@ci.atlanta.ga.us](mailto:recycling@ci.atlanta.ga.us)

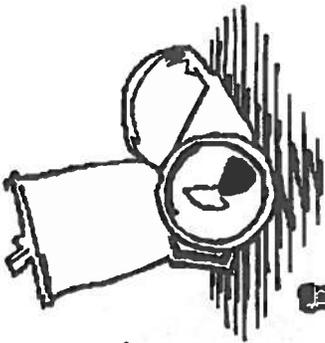


# Recycling User Guide

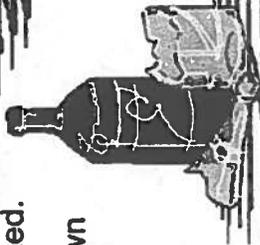
1st Edition

## CITY OF ATLANTA

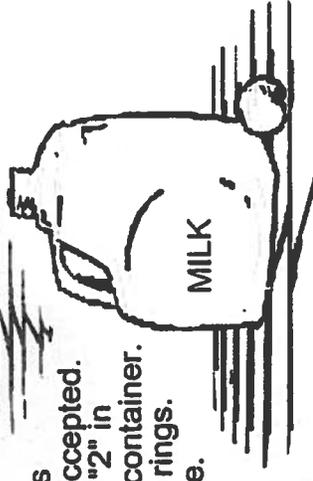
DO's. Aluminum and metal food and beverage cans are accepted. Rinse. Flatten cans to save space. Leave labels on.



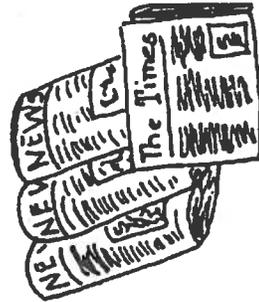
DO's. Glass bottles and jars are accepted. Remove and discard all lids. Rinse. Leave labels on. Clear, green, and brown glass are accepted.



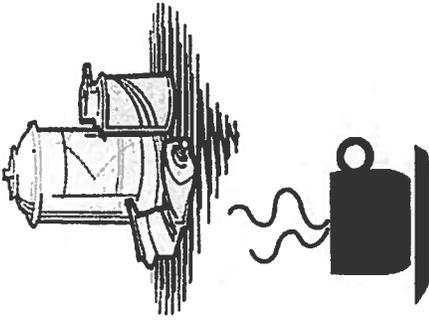
DO's. All #1 (PET) and #2 (HDPE) clear and green plastic beverage bottles and white or translucent milk jugs are accepted. Plastic bottles are marked with a "1" or "2" in a triangle, usually on the bottom of the container. Remove and discard all caps and neck rings. Rinse. Flatten containers to save space.



DO's. Newspapers are accepted. To keep newspapers from blowing away, place the recycling bin cover firmly on top of your bin.

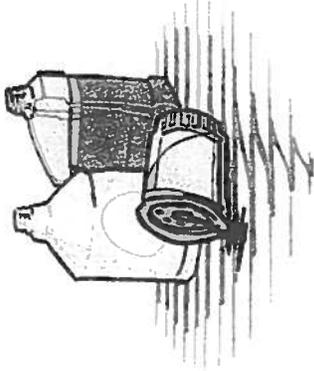


DON'Ts. No foil, pie tins, or other items such as aerosol or paint cans. These items contain contaminants.

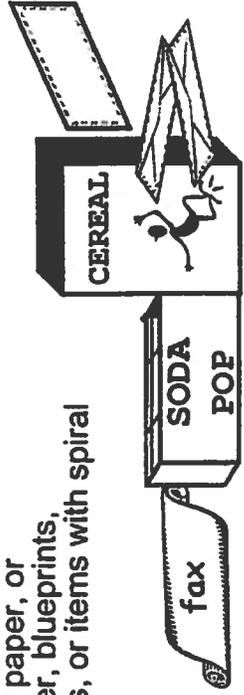


DON'Ts. No Pyrex, window glass, light bulbs, ceramics, china, or other heat resistant items such as ovenware or drinking glasses.

DON'Ts. No plastic bags, plastic wrap or fast food containers, or other types of plastic bottles such as those used for motor oil, antifreeze, cleaning products, or other hazardous materials.



DON'Ts. Pizza boxes. Pizza boxes are considered garbage because they are contaminated with cheese or grease. No pasteboard boxes such as cereal, shoe, or beverage cartons. No envelopes that contain glue, stamps, or plastic windows. No newspapers in plastic sleeves, plastic grocery bags, or bundled with string. No rolled fax paper, NCR paper, or carbon paper, blueprints, photographs, or items with spiral binders.



SOLID WASTE SERVICES FACTS



**YARD TRIMMING COLLECTION**

**Definition:**

Refers to leaves, brush, grass clippings, shrubs and tree prunings, including tree roots, Christmas trees, branches not exceeding 4 ft. in length and 6 inches in diameter, nursery and greenhouse vegetative residuals.



**Container:**

Leaves, grass clippings and pine straw should be placed in paper bags manufactured for yard trimming disposal. These bags should not exceed 50 lbs., when full. Plastic bags are not acceptable for yard trimmings

**Schedule: (based on garbage collection day)**

Please remember to set yard trimmings at curb.	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	
			MON. & TUES.					1ST WEEK
			WED. & THURS.					2ND WEEK
			MON. & TUES.					3RD WEEK
			WED. & THURS.					4TH WEEK

NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE BEGINS ON THE 1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

**RECYCLING**



**Definition:**

Refers to any process by which materials that would otherwise become solid waste are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use the form of raw materials or products.

**Items collected at curbside are:**

Old Newspaper, Aluminum Cans, Glass Bottles and Jars (Remove the Lids), Steel (Tin) Cans, Plastics #1 and #2 (Numbers on the Bottom), Mixed Paper, Office Paper, Junk Mail, Telephone Directories and Boxboard (Cereal Boxes).

**Drop-off Locations:**

- Old Magazines: Margaret Mitchell Elem. School  
2845 Margaret Mitchell Dr, NW
- Old Telephone Books: U.S. Postal Service  
1984 Howell Mill Rd., NW
- Old Corrugated Cardboard: City Of Atlanta  
1540 Northside Drive, NW  
128 Claire Drive, SE



**Schedule:**

Recycling is collected on the same day as your garbage.

**GARBAGE COLLECTION**



**Definition:**

Refers to putrescible wastes (capable of being decomposed by microorganisms) including kitchen and table food waste; table animal or vegetable wastes resulting from the storage, preparation, cooking, processing or handling foodstuff.

**Container:**

Herbie Curbies are used for household garbage collection only. Garbage placed inside a Herbie Curbie should be placed in a plastic bag first.



**Schedule:**

Household garbage is collected once per week. Herbie Curbies should be set out for collection after 7PM on the evening prior to collection or no later than 7AM on the day of collection. Herbies should be put away no later than 7PM on the day of collection.

**BULK RUBBISH**

**\*\*\*NEW SCHEDULE\*\*\***

**Definition:**

Refers to materials with a total weight, volume and/or size that is too much for the City's residential garbage collection trucks. Includes items such as appliances, large furniture, large piles of tree branches, large metal or wooden playground equipment or similar items and combination of these items.



**Schedule: (based on your quadrant)**

\*\*\*\*Effective June 1, 2004\*\*\*\*

Place all Scheduled items at the curb on the Sunday prior to your collection week.	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	
								1ST WEEK
								2ND WEEK
								3RD WEEK
								4TH WEEK

NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE BEGINS ON THE 1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

**FREQUENTLY USED TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**CITY OF ATLANTA**

DEAD ANIMALS 404-523-0632  
BULK RUBBISH COLLECTION APPOINTMENTS 404-330-6333  
MISSED GARBAGE COLLECTION 404-330-6333  
NEW HERBIE CURBIE (GARBAGE CONTAINER) 404-330-6333  
MISSED YARD TRIMMINGS COLLECTION 404-330-6333  
MISSED RECYCLING COLLECTION 404-792-1212  
BLOCKED STORM DRAINS 404-624-0751

**DEKALB COUNTY**

STRAY ANIMALS 404-294-2996

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DEAD ANIMALS ON EXPRESSWAY 404-624-2441  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION  
HAZARDOUS WASTE 404-656-7802

**HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT**

OVERGROWN VACANT LOTS 404-330-6190  
VACANT PROPERTY NUISANCE 404-330-6190  
ABANDONED VEHICLES  
PRIVATE PROPERTY 404-330-6190  
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY 911

**FULTON COUNTY**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 404-730-1301  
FOOD SERVICE LICENSE  
SWIMMING POOL LICENSE  
ANIMAL CONTROL (LIVE ANIMALS) 404-794-0358  
MOSQUITO HOTLINE 404-730-5296  
WEST NILE HOTLINE AND DEAD BIRD PICKUP 404-524-7368

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

**COLLECTION IS ONE DAY LATER STARTING THE DAY AFTER THE HOLIDAY**

January 1	New Year's Day
Third Monday in January	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Fourth Monday in May	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
First Monday in September	Labor Day
November 11	Veteran's Day
December 25	Christmas Day

**IMPORTANT NEW SCHEDULE CHANGE**

Thanksgiving Day— No Collection  
Day after Thanksgiving— No Collection  
**WEEK FOLLOWING THANKSGIVING ONLY**  
Thanksgiving Day Service on Monday

Monday Service on Tuesday

Tuesday Service on Wednesday

Wednesday Service on Thursday

Thursday Service on Friday

**COLLECTION WILL RETURN TO NORMAL MONDAY-THURSDAY SERVICE THE FOLLOWING WEEK**

**DO'S**

- Do call and schedule bulk rubbish before placing at the curb.
- Do place all bulk rubbish in an accessible area at the curb on Sunday prior to your collection week.
- Do use City issued Herbie Curbie for household garbage.
- Do separate yard trimmings from household garbage only.
- Do put leaves, grass clippings and pine straw in paper bags, not more than 50 lbs per bag. (biodegradable preferred)
- Do cut limbs, heavy brush, tree trunks, stumps and roots into four-foot lengths, six inches or less in diameter and stack neatly.
- Do flatten and bundle cardboard boxes; 50 boxes per bundle with no dimension more than 36 inches.
- Do place discarded clothing in bags.
- Do remove doors from refrigerators and freezers or place them face down and call Solid Waste Services 404 330-8333 for pickup.
- Do place Herbie at the curb after 7p.m on the day before your collection; remove Herbie by 7p.m. on your collection day.

**DON'T**

Don't place any bulk rubbish at the curb other than on your scheduled collection week.

Don't place yard trimmings in the Herbie Curbie.

Don't pile loose yard trimmings at the curb.

Don't place uncut tree stumps and roots at the curb.

Don't place tires, auto batteries nor auto parts out for collection.

Don't use plastic bags to contain yard trimmings.

Don't put dirt in containers or bags.

Don't place these items in Herbie: body waste, medical bags containing body waste; hypodermic needles; hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, paint cans); industrial waste (dirt, rocks, bricks, plaster, asbestos, roofing, sheet rock, lumber); oils (paint thinner, motor oil); automotive parts; nor dead animals or animal waste.

**\*For residents with backyard garbage collection:**

Don't place yard trimmings nor oversized bulk rubbish in Herbie.

Don't leave yard trimmings and oversized bulk rubbish in backyard for collection. These items must be at the curb for pickup.



## City of Atlanta

### Bureau of Solid Waste Services

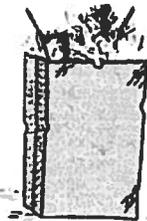
#### New Collection Schedule & Information

**Current Garbage Collection schedule will be maintained.**



#### Yard Trimmings Collection

**YARD TRIMMINGS** refer to leaves, brush, grass clippings, shrub and tree pruning, including tree roots, branches not exceeding 4 feet in length and 6 inches in diameter, discarded Christmas trees, nursery and greenhouse vegetative residuals.



Leaves, grass clippings and pine straw should be placed in paper bags manufactured for yard trimming disposal. These bags should not exceed 50 pounds, when full. Plastic bags are not acceptable for yard trimmings.

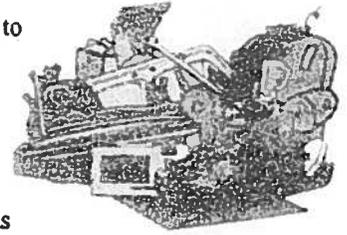
Beginning October 14, 2002, yard trimmings will be collected twice per month, based on your garbage collection day. If your garbage is collected on Monday or Tuesday, then your yard trimmings will be collected during the 1st and 3rd week of each month. If your garbage collection day is Wednesday or Thursday, then your yard trimmings will be collected during the 2nd and 4th week of each month. Please set debris at curbside, no later than the weekend prior to your collection week.

	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
Remember to set yard trimmings at curb	MON. & TUES.						1st Week
	WED. & THURS.						2nd Week
	MON. & TUES.						3rd Week
	WED. & THURS.						4th Week

*Please note that this schedule begins on the 1st Monday of each month.*

## Bulk Rubbish Collection

**BULK RUBBISH** refers to materials with a total weight, volume and/or size that is too much for the City's residential garbage collection trucks.



This includes items such as appliances, large furniture, large piles of tree branches, large metal or wooden playground equipment or similar items and combinations of these items.

Effective September 16, 2002, the City of Atlanta will begin scheduling bulk rubbish collections.

October 14, 2002, is the first date that bulk rubbish will be collected, under these procedures. Appointments will be scheduled between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Please call the Bureau of Solid Waste Services 404-330-6333 to schedule an appointment for collection of the following:**

#### BULK RUBBISH

- White Goods (appliances)  
Appliances must be turned face down thereby blocking the doors, or doors must be removed.
- Large Household Furniture  
Mattresses, sofas, dressers, dining room tables, etc.

#### DEAD ANIMALS

- Small animals must be bagged and placed at the curb.

The City will not collect the following items:

- Building materials & Construction debris  
Lumber, roofing, siding, gutters, bricks, concrete
- Hazardous Materials  
Automobile parts, wet paint, tires
- Trees that have been cut down by Contractors



# Wondering about trash and garbage? pick-up schedules? Here's the scoop...

The following schedule applies to your street:

## GARBAGE COLLECTION - MONDAY

- Place Herbie Curbie on curb by 7 p.m. the previous day and remove from curb by 7 p.m. of collection day.

## YARD TRIMMINGS

### 1st and 3rd WEEK OF MONTH

- Yard trimmings include: grass, leaves, pine straw, Christmas trees, nursery vegetative materials, and small branches not exceeding 4 feet in length and 6 inches in diameter.

Logs and large branches must be cut into four-foot lengths and stacked at the curb.

- 1st Week defined as first full week of month.

- Actual pick-up can occur any day during the work week.

## RECYCLING

Same day as GARBAGE COLLECTION

## BULK RUBBISH

MUST CALL CUSTOMER SERVICE TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT (call 404-330-6333)

- Bulk Rubbish refers to materials whose total weight, volume and/or size are too large for the City's residential garbage collection trucks. This includes items such as appliances, large furniture, and combinations of items.
- Actual pick-up can occur any day during the work week
- Please do not place items out until pick up week.



City of Atlanta, Department of Public Works

Bureau of Solid Waste Services

55 Trinity Avenue, Suite 4700, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-0326

Main Phone: 404-330-6236 • Customer Service: 404-330-6333

e-mail: [publicworks@atlanta.gov](mailto:publicworks@atlanta.gov)

(OVER)

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULES COLLECTION IS ONE DAY AFTER THE HOLIDAY

January 1 - New Year's Day

Third Monday in January - Martin Luther King Day

Fourth Monday in May - Memorial Day

July 4 - Independence Day

First Monday in September - Labor Day

November 11 - Veteran's Day

December 25 - Christmas Day

## IMPORTANT NEW SCHEDULE CHANGE

Thanksgiving Day - No Collection

Day after Thanksgiving - No Collection

## WEEK FOLLOWING THANKSGIVING ONLY

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## FREQUENTLY CALLED TELEPHONE NUMBERS

DEAD ANIMALS

404-523-0632

BULK RUBBISH COLLECTION APPOINTMENTS

404-330-6333

MISSED GARBAGE COLLECTION

404-330-6333

NEW HERBIE CURBIE (GARBAGE CONTAINER)

404-330-6333

MISSED YARD TRIMMINGS COLLECTION

404-330-6333

MISSED RECYCLING COLLECTION

404-792-1212

BLOCKED STORM DRAINS

404-624-0751

ILLEGAL DUMPING

404-521-DUMP(3867)

## CODE ISSUES:

- OVERGROWN VACANT LOTS
- VACANT PROPERTY NUISANCE
- ABANDONED VEHICLES
- PRIVATE PROPERTY

404-330-6190

(OVER)





SWS  
No. 01537

CITY OF ATLANTA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
SOLID WASTE SERVICES

COURTESY TICKET

Resident of: \_\_\_\_\_

Your refuse was not collected for the following reason (s) checked below:

- 1. Improper container for yard debris (NO PLASTIC BAGS) Sec. 130-36 (c)
- 2. Improper container for household refuse Sec. 130-37
- 3. Mixed Refuse (Requires separation) Sec. 130-36 (d)
- 4. Uncontainerized household refuse Sec. 130-37 (c)
- 5. Uncontainerized yard debris Sec. 130-36 (d)
- 6. Logs and/or tree stumps too large or heavy Sec. 130-36 (c)
- 7. Limbs not cut up properly (Must be 4 feet in length by 6 inches in diameter) Sec. 130-36 (c)
- 8. Limbs not stacked properly Sec. 130-36 (c)
- 9. Call and schedule appliances for collection at (404) 330-6333
- 10. Call and schedule bulk rubbish collection at (404) 330-6333
- 11. Material not collected by Solid Waste Services
- 12. Material was blocked by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please comply in order to be collected as scheduled.

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Supervisor/Inspector)

Should you have any concerns or questions regarding your city solid waste services, please call our office at (404) 330-6333.



an increasing amount of illegal dumping done by person on their own property. This is referred to as self-generated illegal dumping.

**Q** Why does illegal dumping occur?

**A** There are three primary reasons. Lack of knowledge pertaining to the laws and ordinances; attempts to avoid paying fees to dispose of materials at a proper location such as a landfill, disregard for public and private property laws.

**Q** How does illegal dumping negatively impact our communities?

**A** Illegal dumping is an extreme health hazard to the citizens of the community. Possible hazards include: physical injuries from sharp or pointed objects; disease from rodents insects, and standing water; unpleasant fumes; and fires caused by flammable and/or poisonous materials.

Illegal dumping also has a negative impact economically by decreasing property values while defacing our communities. The overall effects from illegal dumping threaten the quality of life in our city.

**Q** What is the city's strategy in coping with illegal dumping?

**A** The City has initiated a program to eradicate illegal dumping throughout the city.

**Q** What role will the citizens play in this program?

**A** The partnership between the citizens and the program will enable citizens to feel a sense of pride and responsibility in regards to the cleanliness and beautification of their neighborhood.

**To report illegal dumping call  
404-521-DUMP (3867)**

City of Atlanta, Department of Public Works  
Illegal Dumping Community Partnership

**HELP STOP  
ILLEGAL  
DUMPING!**



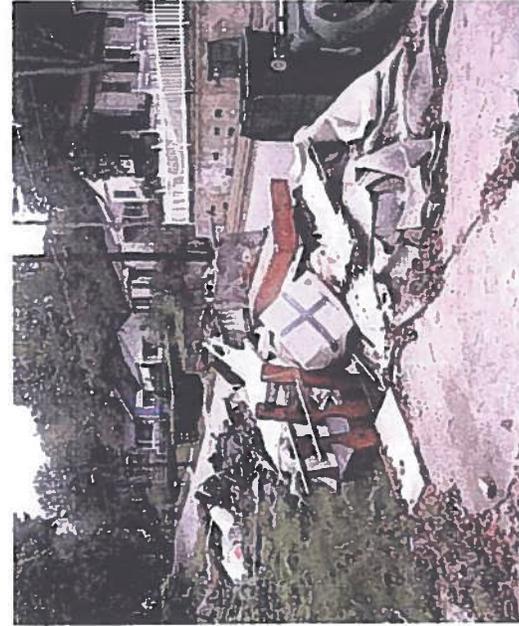
Department of Public Works  
David E. Scott, P.E. Commissioner

55 Trinity Ave., Suite 4700  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Phone: 404-330-6240  
Fax: 404-330-7552  
publicworks@atlantaga.gov

The City of Atlanta has declared war on illegal dumping. We have a task force dedicated to catching the dumpers and bringing them to justice. We also have increased our efforts to locate and clean known sites of illegal dumping. But we need your help. Please be on the look out for illegal dumping sites and persons engaged in dumping. If you spot something call us at the hotline number listed on back. If you are a neighborhood group, We can come out and talk to your members about how we call all partner in this effort.

### The Illegal Dumping Campaign has four primary goals:

- **Education** . To educate citizens on the definitions of illegal dumping, how to report this problem, and how to distinguish illegal dumping from bulk rubbish items.
- **Inter-Agency Partnerships**  
To aggressively attack illegal dumping by forming partnerships within the city with the Atlanta Police Department Quality of Life Program, Housing Code Compliance, and the Atlanta City Council.
- **Community Partnerships**  
To form partnerships with community and neighborhood associations to help them improve their own communities and restore cleanliness where they work, live and play.
- **Enforcement, Fines, and Court Action**  
To enforce and expand solid waste ordinances and implement higher fines and citizen rewards; and to establish environmental crimes units and environmental courts.



#### PHASE I

The phase will build the foundation of the program. This includes:

- The establishment of the Illegal Dumping Hotline 404-521-DUMP.
- Amending the ordinances that are currently in place to increase the fines and initial a reward system for citizens who witness and report illegal dumping activities.
- Form working relationships and partnerships with departments such as Atlanta Police Quality of Life Unit, Weed & Seed, Code Enforcement as well as all City Council staff and constituents.

#### PHASE II

- Expansion of the pilot to a citywide program
- The establishment of an Environmental Crimes Unit
- The establishment of Environmental Courts
- Expansion of the task force teams funded through citations fines collected



## Q&A

**Q** What is illegal dumping?

**A** Illegal dumping is waste, bulk rubbish and/or yard trimming items that not disposed of in a legal place and manner. Items commonly dumped are: Yard Waste, Tires, Furniture/Appliance, Building materials

**Q** Who is responsible for the illegal dumping?

**A** Dumping is done by individuals, business, and developers. Dumpers include homeowners, residents of multi-family dwellings, and persons from outside the local area.

**Q** Where does illegal dumping usually occur?

**A** Common sites of illegal dumping are places deemed to be inconspicuous, such as unsecured vacant lots, remote streets, alleys and other areas that are relatively hidden from public visibility. There is also

## **Appendix B**

### **Executive Summary from Benchmarking Analysis**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## Introduction

The City of Atlanta Solid Waste Services (SWS), a division of the Department of Public Works, is currently a \$47 million annual operation that provides a wide range of solid waste collection, disposal, and beautification services for the benefit of virtually every resident and business in the City. Broadly speaking, the City provides collection, recycling, and disposal services directly to over 120,600 single family and multi-family customers, as well as beautification services and landfill post-closure maintenance for the benefit of all City residents and businesses.

In 2001, the City established the SWS Revenue Fund (SWS Fund), an enterprise fund to manage a subset of services that have historically been provided by SWS and funded by the General Fund. The transition from general-funded to enterprise-funded solid waste services represents a significant positive step towards creating a best-in-class solid waste management system that is responsive to customer needs and financially self-sustaining. In the FY2004 budget year, the City has continued this transition by reorganizing the SWS Fund internal cost accounts used to manage the range of services provided by SWS. The cost center reorganization represents another positive step that, when completed, will improve the usefulness of reported expenditure data to SWS and City management that can be used to better manage the system.

The City retained the Project Team consisting of R. W. Beck and a Joint Venture between CH2M HILL and Williams-Russell and Johnson, Inc. (the JV) to conduct a detailed operational and cost benchmarking evaluation of the City's collection services. The objectives of the project were to evaluate the operational efficiency and direct costs of the City's core waste and recycling collection services and compare Atlanta's service model and performance against relevant benchmarks, including both public and private sector service delivery models.

Although SWS provides a wide range of services, this analysis was limited to core collection activities. Core collection services include:

- Residential single-family refuse collection;
- Residential multi-family refuse collection;
- Residential recycling collection;
- Residential yard waste collection;
- Residential bulky item collection; and
- City building (institutional) refuse collection.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This project excluded a wide range of other services provided by SWS, including: street basket collection, street sweeping, dead animal collection, vacant lot cleaning, right-of-way maintenance, signage removal, and other services that benefit all City residents and businesses rather than one class of customer directly.

## Methodology

In order to comprehensively and accurately evaluate the City's core collection services, our analysis included the following components:

- **Field Observations:** R. W. Beck conducted field observations of all core collection services to gather pertinent operational parameters of the City's collection operations. These observations encompassed multiple routes for each of the core collection services provided by the City, departing from all four of the City's substations.
- **Interviews and Focus Groups:** Interviews were conducted with SWS' management, substation operations managers and collection crews, as well as representatives from Motor Transport, Finance, and other City departments that were needed to provide additional background.
- **Benchmarking:** To place Atlanta's operations and costs in the context of other municipalities across the country, we benchmarked City of Atlanta operating and cost parameters against roughly 30 other cities (some of which use private haulers) that provide solid waste collection services to residential and commercial/institutional customers.
- **Desktop Operational and Cost Analysis:** The data obtained from field observations, interviews and focus groups, and from benchmark communities, were compiled in a detailed operational and cost analysis of daily service levels, vehicle inventories and staffing levels, the SWS budget, and other available cost and expenditure data.

## Key Findings and Conclusions

Based on the analyses, observations, and benchmarking performed, we identified the following three key findings that must be addressed for Atlanta to achieve best-in-class solid waste collection service capabilities and to reduce costs:

- Fleet replacement and maintenance policies and practices;
- Set-out limit policies and enforcement; and
- Collection productivity.

These findings are discussed below.

## Fleet Replacement and Maintenance

It was reported from multiple sources within the City (SWS and Motor Transport) and subsequently confirmed by our analysis of the solid waste fleet inventory, that the City's fleet replacement and maintenance program for solid waste vehicles has been inconsistent. The SWS fleet is aged and underfunded. The City's fleet age and maintenance costs exceed industry averages as compared to both public and private entities. In February 2004, United Parcel Service (UPS) performed an assessment of the fleet and recommended the implementation of a maintenance and replacement schedule. However, implementation of this type of program requires a high capital investment that is currently not available.

The age of the fleet has an impact on the City's productivity and operating costs. Data gathered indicated that:

- There has been no consistent equipment replacement since 1996, which is consistent with UPS' report.
- In total, the average age of solid waste fleet vehicles is roughly double the age one would expect if the City were to maintain industry-standard fleet replacement practices.
- The City's spare vehicle rate, at 42 percent, is high and indicative of the age of the fleet. A consistently maintained and replaced fleet typically requires no more than a 20 to 25 percent spare ratio.
- The City's repair and maintenance costs exceed expected levels by 50 to 100 percent, depending on the type of truck.

Based on the recommendations contained in the UPS report, the City is in the process of implementing a fleet replacement program that will help reduce overall costs. To upgrade and right-size the fleet in accordance with solid waste industry fleet maintenance standards, the City will need additional capital. By upgrading and right-sizing the fleet, the City can immediately realize a \$2.8 million reduction in annual vehicle operating and maintenance costs. Although this may require a higher up-front capital outlay, failure to address the solid waste fleet needs will constrain SWS from providing the most cost effective solid waste collection service.

## Set-out Limits

During the field observations, the JV team observed that single family and multi-family residents are accustomed to setting out almost anything and having it removed on a timely basis by the City. As part of our comparative analysis, we noted that:

- Set-out limits established in the City ordinances are higher than most cities and private haulers. *Article II. Municipal Collection and Disposal System, Division 1. Section 130-37. Residential Garbage from Single-Family Dwellings*, allows for a high amount of solid waste to be placed at the curbside. The ordinance allows for a 90 gallon Herbie Curbie and an additional five bags of refuse to be placed at the curbside and collected. Section 130-36, of the same ordinance, stipulates

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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requirements for the preparation and type of containers to be used for yard waste; however, there are no limits on the quantity of yard waste that residents can set out on a given week. In addition, field observations conducted by R. W. Beck found several residents not adhering to the set-out limits in the City ordinances and were observed placing out higher amounts of refuse.

- There are opportunities for the City to educate residents regarding the need to place all non-bulky waste items in the City-provided Herbie Curbies. Compared to other cities and private haulers that provide semi-automated, cart-based solid waste collection, Atlanta was observed to have a far higher out-of-cart set-out rate, which negatively impacts the City's collection productivity. Other cities and private haulers that provide cart-based service tend to charge a higher rate for households that require additional carts to handle waste that does not fit into the cart included in the base level of service, which more equitably recoups collection and disposal costs than a flat rate system.
- State law and City code requires the separation of bulky brush from other bulky waste items in the bulky waste collection system, because yard waste cannot be sent to a landfill. We observed that bulky brush was not separated from bulky waste, which results in large quantities of bulky brush being disposed at the higher landfill tip fee, rather than at a lower yard waste processing fee.

Compared to other cities and private haulers across the country and the Southeast, Atlanta is among the least restrictive for set-outs in their solid waste system. While this may be perceived as a customer-friendly service to City residents, it limits the City's ability to control costs by standardizing collection system operational parameters.

### Collection Productivity

Based on our analysis of collection practices, Atlanta has numerous opportunities to improve its operational productivity. Detailed examples and recommendations are contained in the body of this report; several of the more important productivity improvements are highlighted below to achieve "best-in-class" solid waste status:

- The current shift of the City's refuse collection resources from scheduled, routed collection on Monday through Thursday to a "resolution day" on Friday is not efficient. Friday collections target out-of-cart waste and bulky items that could be collected during the regularly scheduled collection day by regular crews. The City could achieve higher productivity with dedicated collection crews working four 10-hour or five 8-hour days each week, and either eliminating the "resolution day" or else dedicating a small number of crews to resolve problem set-outs during all five days of the week.
- Use of the rubber-tire loaders for bulky waste collection is inefficient. A loader is slower than a grapple truck, has no bed for storing materials, and has limited range. Grapple trucks can be supported by fewer dump trucks, assuming proper logistics management of the dump trucks going to and from the grapple trucks and the landfill.

## **Direct Cost Summary**

The benchmarking study performed as part of this project observes that Atlanta's base solid waste rate, at \$337.19 per year (including recycling) plus a frontage fee, and the direct cost for core collection services, are high compared to most other cities and private haulers. These higher costs are attributed to the large amount of services that the City provides (refuse, recycling, and yard waste collection, beautification services, and landfill post-closure maintenance); the high set-out limits and lack of adherence to the limits; the aging fleet and productivity issues. This benchmarking study, however, only evaluated the direct costs of the core collection services provided by the City, and did not conduct a cost-of-service and rate analysis for all of the services provided by SWS. Note that a cost-of-service and rate analysis has since been conducted in a separate study by the JV, and that the results of that study may supersede the findings in this report.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the key findings and conclusions, we believe that the City should consider implementing the following recommendations. It is understandable that some of these recommendations can be implemented more rapidly than others. For that reason, the recommendations have been divided into two categories – Short-Term and Long-Term.

### **Short-term Recommendations**

Short-term recommendations are defined as those that can be initiated in the next 12 – 18 months. Based on our analysis, it is recommended that the City can take several steps in the short term to begin to improve its solid waste collection system. These include:

1. Establishing and consistently funding a fleet replacement program to significantly reduce fleet costs. The City's fleet is aging and has an impact on the City's productivity and operating costs. The City is in the process of implementing this type of program, which will help drive overall operational costs down, however additional capital is needed. We recommend that the City allow SWS to continue to establish a long-term vehicle replacement plan that projects the capital funding needs for a ten-year time horizon, and that the City subsequently fund these vehicle replacement needs.
2. Potentially modifying set-out limits, educating residents on established limits, and subsequently enforcing the limits for residential garbage, yard and bulky waste. Specifically:
  - Eliminate the allowance of up to five bags to be placed outside of the Herbie Curbie, and instead require all refuse (with the exception of bulky items) be placed in the Herbies.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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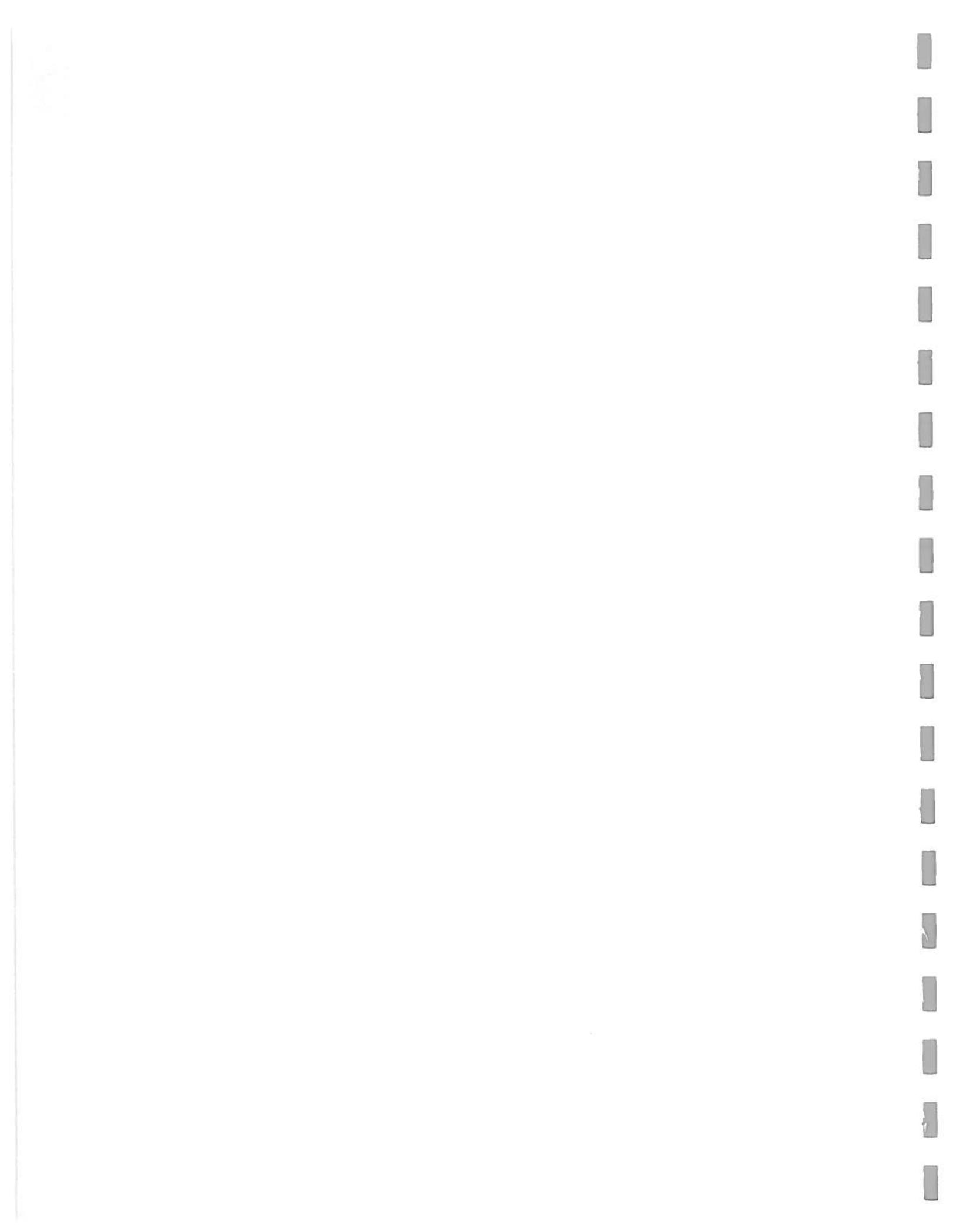
- Continue to educate residents through the Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Team (SWEET) program, that all refuse must be placed in Herbie Curbies.
  - Continue to educate residents (through the SWEET program) about the separation of bulky brush from bulky waste items when set out at the curb.
  - Establish set-out limits in the yard waste/bulky waste system.
  - Take enforcement action regarding set-out limits after the educational process has been completed. The goal is to encourage compliance while balancing customer satisfaction, litter control, and illegal dumping.
3. Addressing the productivity and operational efficiency opportunities identified in this report. These improvements can be made in a relatively short (six months or less) timeframe if the City dedicates resources to resolving these issues. Additional productivity recommendations are included in Section 2 of this report for each of the core collection services provided by the City. The City of Atlanta has an opportunity to increase productivity and collection efficiency while reducing costs. Key recommendations to consider are:
- Implementing a Task Pay System. Task pay systems have been shown to greatly improve collection productivity, provided the tools are available to define the customer base and to track route-specific collection quantities.
  - Returning to a weekly yard waste collection system. This change would reduce the size of the set-out, allowing for easier and more cost-effective collection by the more efficient rear loader.
  - Retiring the rubber-tire loaders from providing bulky waste collection and replace with grapple trucks, since rubber-tire loaders are slower, have no bed for storing materials, and have a limited range. As mentioned in the conclusions, use of a grapple truck is more efficient.
  - Considering the use of dedicated collection crews working either four 10-hour days or five 8-hour days each week to achieve higher productivity.
4. Perform a cost-of-service and rate analysis study. We recommend that the City conduct a cost of service analysis that would identify the cost of providing each of the solid waste services and develop options for recovery of these costs in a fair and equitable manner from those benefiting from the services provided. In addition, an economic assessment of the solid waste program (current costs plus changes contained in the Updated Long-Term Solid Waste Management Plan) should be performed to determine the future full cost of solid waste management in the City. This analysis will build on information obtained during the benchmarking study and will determine the cost of the solid waste program to customers. Recommendations will be made regarding rates and future revenues sufficient to support the full cost of the Solid Waste Services Department throughout the 10-year planning period. We note that a cost-of-service study is currently being conducted by the JV, and will be completed in June 2005.

5. Continuing the financial management transition that SWS is currently implementing that will more closely align the SWS Fund internal cost centers with the range of services provided, improving management's ability to manage the system and implement positive change. This transition appears to be moving SWS in the right direction by making accurate system costs more readily available by the end of FY06. When the full transition is complete, the City will have more accurate data on the direct costs of each component of its collection system.

## **Long-term Recommendations**

Long-term recommendations are those that may take longer than 12 months to 18 months to implement. Over the long term, we recommend that the City consider the following:

1. Use of a routing software package to improve the overall route balance. Atlanta is large enough that a routing software system could significantly improve the overall route balance and flexibility of making routing improvements, especially in light of the City's transition to new transfer stations for solid waste disposal. Based on discussions with SWS staff, we understand that the City purchased the RouteSmart software package. However, since the software was cumbersome and not user friendly, the software has not been maintained or utilized. It is our opinion that such a system would greatly benefit the City. We suggest one of the two options listed below:
  - Resurrect the use of the RouteSmart software package and use an independent firm to maintain and update the system on a regular basis. The RouteSmart system is current through 1998 and would need to be updated to include residential data through 2004.
  - If the City prefers not to use RouteSmart, then conduct an evaluation of software packages to determine the advantages, disadvantages, and comparative costs. Depending on the ease of use, the City can then decide if an independent firm is needed to maintain the system.
2. Compile and maintain detailed service level and unit count data for all multi-family (apartments, condominiums and public housing) properties serviced by SWS. Multi-family rates differ widely based on the type of service (Herbie or dumpster) provided to the property. We recommend that the City continue to monitor that the rates currently being charged are in alignment with the services provided.
3. Continue to monitor and re-evaluate the operational efficiency of the collection program on a regular basis. Specifically, assess the level of fleet replacement and productivity improvement within 12 to 18 months to determine if significant progress has been made in both areas. If little or no progress has been made to the fleet replacement program, set-out limits, or the productivity issues identified herein, the City should formally re-evaluate and re-assess their collection program.



## **Appendix C**

### **Assurance of Disposal Capacity**



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**Golder Associates Inc.**

3730 Chamblee Tucker Road  
Atlanta, GA USA 30341  
Telephone (770) 496-1893  
Fax (770) 934-9476



March 29, 2004

Republic Services of Georgia, LP  
967 Carl-Bethlehem Road  
Winder, GA 30680

Attn: Mr. Mark Allen  
General Manager

**RE: CERTIFICATION FOR DISPOSAL CAPACITY AND PROJECTED LIFE  
PINE RIDGE LANDFILL**

Dear Mr. Allen:

Pursuant to Section 3.1 and 3.2 of the City of Atlanta Request for Bids (RFB) (FC-7650-04, Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste), this letter provides certification of the disposal capacity for the Pine Ridge Landfill, Permit Number 018-008D(MSWL).

As of March 31, 2003, the facility's remaining airspace is calculated to be 38,941,460 cubic yards. Currently, the facility accepts approximately 2,000 tons per day of municipal solid waste. Utilizing this disposal rate from March 31, 2003 through November 30, 2004 (approximately 453 operational days) and the facility's compaction ratio, the consumed airspace over this time period is calculated to be 1,449,600 cubic yards. Therefore, the remaining capacity of the disposal facility as of November 30, 2004 is calculated to be 37,491,860 cubic yards.

Assuming the contract to accept and dispose of the City of Atlanta's waste lasts five years (60 months), and that the additional disposal rate from the City's waste is 3,200 tons per day, the total disposal rate over the next five years is estimated to be 5,200 tons per day. Using the facility's compaction ratio, the airspace consumed over the next five years at this disposal rate is 11,897,600 cubic yards, which is less than the 37,491,860 cubic yards of remaining capacity calculated above.

*Therefore, per Section 3.2 of the RFB, the disposal capacity of the Pine Ridge Landfill is sufficient to accept the current waste disposal under contract plus the City's waste disposal quantities over the next 36 to 60 months.*

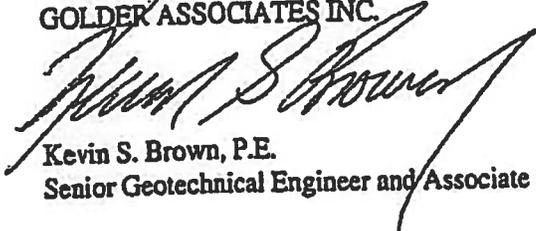
The remaining life of the facility without disposal of the City's waste is calculated to be approximately 41 years as of November 30, 2004 using a disposal rate of 2,000 tons per day.

Including the City's waste stream (maximum 3,200 tons per day) in addition to the waste stream currently under contract (2,000 tons per day), the estimated remaining life of the facility is approximately 16 years. *Therefore, per section 3.1 of the RFB, the Pine Ridge Landfill has sufficient disposal capacity to accept the City's waste plus waste already under contract for the next 10 years.*

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or if you need additional information, please call.

Very truly yours,

GOLDER ASSOCIATES INC.



Kevin S. Brown, P.E.  
Senior Geotechnical Engineer and Associate



3/29/2004

**Golder Associates Inc.**

3730 Chamblee Tucker Road  
Atlanta, GA USA 30341  
Telephone (770) 496-1893  
Fax (770) 934-9476



March 22, 2004

Republic Services of Georgia, LP  
967 Carl-Bethlehem Road  
Winder, GA 30680

Attn: Mr. Mark Allen  
General Manager

RE: CERTIFICATION FOR MAXIMUM DAILY INTAKE  
PINE RIDGE LANDFILL AND LEE TRANSFER STATION

Dear Mr. Allen:

Pursuant to Section 3.5 of the City of Atlanta Request for Bids (FC-7650-04, Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste), this letter provides certification of the disposal rate for the Lee Transfer Station located approximately 1.6 miles west of the City of Atlanta limits and the Pine Ridge Landfill which will serve as the disposal facility for the City's waste.

The Lee Transfer Station has the capacity for simultaneous loading of two 22-ton capacity transfer trailers. Using the required disposal rate of 1,500 tons per day, a total of 69 trailers would need to be loaded each day. Utilizing the operational time of 9 hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) and two loading bays, eight trailers would need to be loaded each hour. This translates into loading two trucks every 15 minutes.

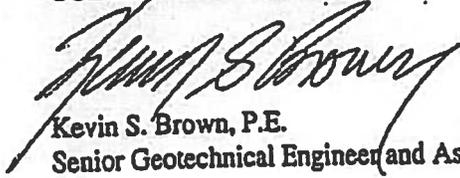
Based on our experience, this loading time is within acceptable ranges for typical operational conditions at the Lee Transfer Station. *Therefore, the Lee Transfer Station is capable of accepting 1,500 tons per day of municipal solid waste within the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.*

The Pine Ridge Landfill currently accepts approximately 2000 tons per day of solid waste. The landfill facility is designed such that there are sufficient staging areas to handle an additional 69 transfer trailers (1,500 tpd) during normal operational hours. *Therefore, the Pine Ridge Landfill is capable of accepting the additional waste from the City of Atlanta plus the waste already under contract at the facility.*

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or if you need additional information, please call.

Very truly yours,

GOLDER ASSOCIATES INC.



Kevin S. Brown, P.E.  
Senior Geotechnical Engineer and Associate

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3/29/2004

HODGES, HARBIN, NEWBERRY & TRIBBLE, INC.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS

484 MULBERRY STREET, SUITE 265 • POST OFFICE BOX 974  
MACON, GEORGIA 31201

H. LOWRY TRIBBLE, JR., PE  
WILLIAM R. HODGES, PE  
HAROLD L. NEWBERRY, PE  
J. STEVEN HARBIN, PE  
JEFFREY M. BROWNE, PE

TELEPHONE (478) 743-7175  
FAX (478) 743-1703

September 13, 2001

Mr. Wally Hall  
Advanced Disposal Services, Inc.  
9250 Baymeadows Road  
Suite 220  
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Re: Eagle Point Landfill  
(Formerly FSL Landfill)  
HHNT Project No. 1210-010-01

Dear Mr. Hall:

This letter serves as a demonstration of capacity of the subject landfill. This facility is permitted to dispose of a total of 29,403,000 cubic yards (total airspace minus landfill cap). Based on this permitted capacity, at a disposal rate of 1500 TPD, the facility has a life expectancy of 46 years.

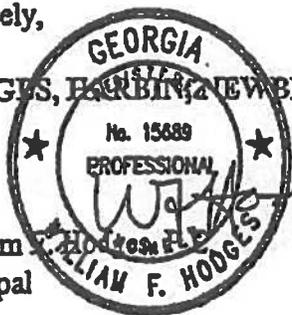
Therefore, this facility can serve the City of Atlanta for 20 years, 30 years, 40 years, or 46 years.

Should you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,

HODGES, HARBIN, NEWBERRY & TRIBBLE, INC.

William R. Hodges, PE  
Principal



REMAINING CAPACITY REPORT  
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION  
 LAND PROTECTION BRANCH  
 4244 INTERNATIONAL PARKWAY, SUITE 104  
 ATLANTA, GA 30354  
 For assistance call: (404) 362-2696

REMAINING MSW CAPACITY REPORT

Permit Holder: FSL Corporation  
 Address: 3210 Peachtree Road, Suite 16 Atlanta, GA 30305  
 Site Name: Hightower Road Municipal Solid Waste Landfill  
 EPD Permit Number: 058-012D(MSWL)

	CALCULATED
<b>I. SURVEY DATA</b>	
A. Date of Topographic Survey	Not Applicable
B. Remaining MSW Volume (Available Fill Volume Based on Survey)	29,403,000 cy
C. Estimated Percent by Volume of Total Used by Cover Soil	12.33 %
D. Net Remaining MSW Waste Volume (Line B Reduced by Line C)	25,775,000 cy
<b>II. AMOUNT OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSED</b>	
E. Tons Per Day Received for Disposal (est.)	1,000 ton/day
F. Total Operational Days Per Year (est.)	286 days
G. Total Estimated Annual Tons Disposed	286,000 tons
<b>III. WASTE PLACEMENT</b>	
H. Estimated Waste Compaction Density (est.)	1350 lbs/cy
I. Estimated Waste Compaction Density	0.675 tons/cy
J. Net Volume Used Per Day (Line E Divided by Line I)	1,481 cy/day
K. Net Volume Used Per Year (Line G Divided by Line I)	423,704 cy/yr
<b>IV. REMAINING CAPACITY (SITE LIFE)</b>	
L. Remaining Capacity (Line D Divided by Line J)	17,404 days
M. Remaining Capacity (Line D Divided by Line K)	60.9 years
N. Estimated Date of Completion for Facility	January 22, 2063
<b>V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	
1. This site is not operational as of September, 2001. This site plans to accept waste in 2002. Estimates were made in areas required on this form.	
2. Assumes a start date of March 1, 2002.	

I hereby certify the above determinations were performed under my direct supervision.

William F. Hodges, P.E.  
 Registered Professional Engineer  
 Georgia Registration No. 15689  
September 16, 2001  
 Date



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Permit Holder  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

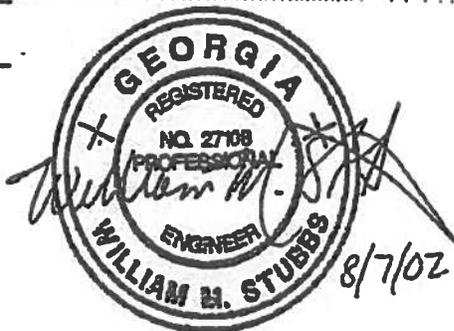
REMAINING MSW CAPACITY REPORT

Permit Holder: Federal Road, LLC  
 Address: 9250 Baymeadows Road, Suite 220, Jacksonville, Fl. 32256  
 Site Name: Eagle Point Municipal Solid Waste Landfill  
 EPD Permit Number: 058-012D(MSWL)

		CALCULATED	
<b>I. SURVEY DATA</b>		Not Applicable	
A. Date of Topographic Survey			
B. Remaining MSW Volume (Available Fill Volume Based on Survey)		30,451,597	cy
C. Estimated Percent by Volume of Total Used by Cover Soil		8	%
D. Net Remaining MSW Waste Volume (Line B Reduced by Line C)		28,015,469	cy
<b>II. AMOUNT OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSED</b>			
E. Tons Per Day Received for Disposal		800	ton/day
F. Total Operational Days Per Year		286	days
G. Total Estimated Annual Tons Disposed		228,800	tons
<b>III. WASTE PLACEMENT</b>			
H. Estimated Waste Compaction Density		1200	lbs/cy
I. Estimated Waste Compaction Density		0.6	tons/cy
J. Net Volume Used Per Day (Line E Divided by Line I)		1,333	cy/day
K. Net Volume Used Per Year (Line G Divided by Line I)		381,333	cy/yr
<b>IV. REMAINING CAPACITY (SITE LIFE)</b>			
L. Remaining Capacity (Line D Divided by Line J)		21,017	days
M. Remaining Capacity (Line D Divided by Line K)		73.47	years
N. Estimated Date of Completion for Facility		December 19, 2075	
<b>V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>			
1. This report covers data from 04/05/02 - 06/30/02			
2. Since the site recently opened, a topographic survey was not available. Prior to the 2003 remaining capacity report submittal a topographic survey of waste in place will be conducted.			

I hereby certify the above determinations were performed under my direct supervision.

*William H. Stubbs*  
 Registered Professional Engineer  
 Georgia Registration No. 27108  
8/7/02



Permit Holder \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_



## **Appendix D**

### **References**

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# **Appendix E**

## **Resolutions**

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GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

RECEIVED  
DET. CA PER WORKS/SWS  
2005 JUL 29 AM 8:36

*Don*

Mike Beatty  
COMMISSIONER

Sonny Perdue  
GOVERNOR

June 24, 2005

JUN 27 2005

Mr. Charles Krautler  
Director, Atlanta Regional Commission  
40 Courtland Street, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Chick:

Our staff has reviewed the 2005 Solid Waste Management Plan for the City of Atlanta and finds that the plan has fulfilled the requirements identified in the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management.

To regain eligibility for solid waste permits, grants, and loans, the City of Atlanta must adopt the 2005 Solid Waste Management Plan and forward a copy of the notice of adoption to our office as soon as possible.

As soon as we receive notification that the City has adopted the 2005 SWMP, we will send official notification of its renewed eligibility to receive solid waste permits, grants and loans.

Sincerely,

Rick Brooks, Director  
Planning and Environmental Management Division

RB/meh





RECEIVED  
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS/SWS

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION 40 COURTLAND STREET, N.W. ATLANTA, GA. 30303

2005 JUL 29 AM 8:36

July 14, 2005

Honorable Shirley Franklin, Mayor  
City of Atlanta  
55 Trinity Avenue, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30335

RE: City of Atlanta Solid Waste Management Plan

Dear Mayor Franklin:

We are pleased to inform you that the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has determined that the 2005 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) for the City of Atlanta meets the Minimum Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management.

The City of Atlanta may now officially adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan. Once the SWMP has been adopted, please forward a copy of the adoption resolution. Upon receiving notification that the approved STWP has been adopted, DCA will renew the City of Atlanta's eligibility to receive solid waste permits, grants and loans.

I commend you and the City of Atlanta for your commitment to the planning process. Please contact Brad Calvert at 404-463-3309 if you have any questions or if we can provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

Charles Krautler  
Director

CK:bpc

Enclosures

c: James Swope, Office of Solid Waste Services



A RESOLUTION

BY: CITY UTILITIES COMMITTEE

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CITY OF ATLANTA'S SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS THEREOF; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, 12-8-31.1 of the Solid Waste Act requires that each local government prepare a solid waste management plan (SWMP); and

**WHEREAS**, The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) establishes Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management; and

**WHEREAS**, the Standards and Procedures established by DCA further requires the SWMP be updated every ten years; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's SWMP has been updated as required; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 04-R-0890, adopted by Council of the City of Atlanta on April 18, 2005 and approved by the Mayor on April 26, 2005, did authorize the submittal of the updated SWMP to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for review, comments and recommendation; and

**WHEREAS**, ARC did approve and submit the updated SWMP to DCA for review, comments and recommendation; and

**WHEREAS**, ARC notified the City of Atlanta, by letter dated July 14, 2005, that DCA has determined that the updated SWMP meets the Minimum Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Atlanta must adopt the updated SWMP to be eligible for Solid Waste permits, grants and loans.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA**, the updated Solid Waste Management Plan, as approved by the Department of Community Affairs, is hereby adopted;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Mayor is hereby authorized to notify the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Department of Community Affairs of the adoption of the updated Solid Waste Management Plan as approved by the Department of Community Affairs;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

A true copy,

*Rhonda Dauphin Johnson*  
Municipal Clerk, CMC

ADOPTED by the Council  
APPROVED by the Mayor

December 5, 2005  
December 13, 2005

RCS# 7263  
12/05/05  
2:29 PM

Atlanta City Council

REGULAR SESSION

CONSENT I

CONSENT I PG(S) 3-26 EXCEPT 05-R-2453  
05-O-1961 05-O-2434 05-O-2438  
ADOPT

YEAS: 11  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
NOT VOTING: 2  
EXCUSED: 0  
ABSENT 3

Y Smith	B Archibong	Y Moore	B Mitchell
Y Starnes	Y Fauver	Y Martin	NV Norwood
Y Young	Y Shook	Y Maddox	Y Willis
Y Winslow	Y Muller	B Sheperd	NV Borders

CONSENT I

05-R-2454

(Do Not Write Above This Line)

A RESOLUTION BY CITY UTILITIES COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CITY OF ATLANTA'S SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS THEREOF; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

ADOPTED BY

DEC 0 5 2005

COUNCIL

- CONSENT REFER
- REGULAR REPORT REFER
- ADVERTISE & REFER
- 1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
- PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred

Referred To:

Date Referred

Referred To:

Date Referred

Referred To:

First Reading

Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Referred To \_\_\_\_\_

Committee

Date: Nov. 27, 2005

Chair: [Signature]

Action: [Signature]

Fav. Adv. Hold (see rev. side)

Other

Members: [Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav. Adv. Hold (see rev. side)

Other

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav. Adv. Hold (see rev. side)

Other

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav. Adv. Hold (see rev. side)

Other

Members

Refer To

FINAL COUNCIL ACTION

2nd  1st & 2nd  3rd

Readings

V Vote  RC Vote

Consent

CERTIFIED

DEC 0 5 2005

MAYOR'S ACTION

*[Signature]*

