

**Clay County and the
Cities of Fort Gaines and Bluffton
Solid Waste Management Plan**

2007



**Developed with Assistance from the:
Lower Chattahoochee
Regional Development Center**

DRAFT

October 2007

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Introduction

Legal Mandate

In 1990, the Georgia General Assembly passed and the Governor signed into law the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act. This Act consolidated existing solid waste management laws, created a statewide goal for reducing waste on a per capita basis and laid the foundation for comprehensive solid waste management planning by requiring a Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan and local solid waste management planning.

The Cities of Fort Gaines and Bluffton are incorporated communities in Clay County, Georgia. Fort Gaines is the County seat. Clay County and the Cities of Fort Gaines and Bluffton worked with the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center to develop and adopt a Joint Solid Waste Management Plan for their respective jurisdictions that will meet the Georgia Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management.

The Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center must insure that the "draft" solid waste plan has been (1) "approved for submission" by the local government body(s) involved in the development of the plan; (2) meets the minimum public hearing requirements; and (3) is in compliance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan. After a process of state and regional reviews, the local governments may officially adopt the plan. No state permits or grants may be provided to a local government for plans that are not in compliance with the Minimum Planning Standards.

Methodology

Methodology for preparation of the Clay County / Fort Gaines and Bluffton Solid Waste Management Plan includes a review of the general background and characteristics of the county and cities that impact all solid waste functions. The items to be addressed in the plan will be a disposal stream analysis, waste reduction, waste collection, waste disposal, land limitations, education and public involvement, and an implementation strategy. The Clay County Board of Commissioners and the Fort Gaines and Bluffton City Councils were involved in plan development, as well as, local citizens and other officials.

The purpose of the following sections are to review the general characteristics of Fort Gaines, Bluffton and Clay County that will impact the development of a reasonable solid waste management plan for the planning jurisdictions.

Historic Development

Clay County was created from parts of Early and Randolph Counties by legislative act on February 16, 1854. Clay County was named after Kentucky State Senator, Henry Clay. Senator Clay was a strong states rights advocate. He is most known for his role in framing several states rights compromises which were the glue that held young America together prior to the beginning of the War Between the States.

Economic History

Clay County has traditionally relied heavily on the farming industry for the majority of employment opportunities; however, the available jobs in this sector have steadily declined since 1970 and are expected to continue to decline in the future. Educational, Health and Social Services are the largest employment sector, which is common for rural counties.

The largest private employment sector is manufacturing followed by retail, trade and construction. Projections for the next 25 years show no change in this, although the number of manufacturing jobs is expected to decrease and the number of retail jobs is expected to increase. This is a decrease in higher paying jobs and an increase in lower wage jobs, which usually do not include employee benefits.

The total number of job opportunities in Clay County decreased between 1990 and 2000 but were then projected to increase by a modest 2% between 2000 and 2010, a growth of 8% is projected between 2000 and 2030. Although not a significant growth, when taken into consideration that job opportunities have decreased over the past 20 years, this is a very favorable trend. Holding steady in terms of number of employment opportunities will be the construction sector. Other sectors' such as Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and wholesale trade sectors will continue to be steady (although decreasing a small percentage), and these sectors provide minimal employment opportunities in the county. The areas projected to increase the most are retail trade, educational, health and social services, and transportation, warehousing and utilities. Except for retail trade, these are all sectors that have opportunities for good pay and benefits.

Today, Clay County is a popular tourist destination for those interested in fishing, boating and camping. The county is rich in wildlife and hosts several well-known hunting lodges complete with their renowned southern hospitality.

Population

According to the Georgia County Guide, 2005-2006, Clay County had a -52.2% change in total population during the time frame of 1930-2004. In the more recent decades past, 1980 to 1990, Clay County lost over 5.6 % of its population; the City of Fort Gaines experienced a decrease in population by less than one percent. Similarly, the Unincorporated Clay County saw a decrease of 9.25% of it population. However in the same decade, the City of Bluffton's population increased by greater than four percent.

During the decade of 1990 to 2000, both of Clay County's municipalities experienced a loss in population as opposed to the unincorporated areas. The City of Bluffton's population decreased nearly 17% and the City of Fort Gaines' over 11%. The unincorporated areas of Clay County increased in population by over 7%.

In both the 1980 and the 1990 decades the State of Georgia experienced significant increases in population; over 18% in 1980 to 1990 and over 26% in 1990 to 2000.

According to the Georgia County Guide, 2005-2006, Clay County ranks 155 out of 159 counties in the state for population size.

The following tables illustrate historic and projected future population data for Clay County, the cities of Fort Gaines and Bluffton and the State of Georgia.

Table 1: Total Population 1980-2005

	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Clay County	3,553	3,459	3,364	3,361	3,357	3,308
City of Bluffton	132	135	138	128	118	115
City of Fort Gaines	1,260	1,254	1,248	1,179	1,110	1,073

Unincorporated Clay County	2,161	2,070	1,978	2,054	2,129	2,120
State of Georgia	5,457,566	5,967,891	6,478,216	7,332,335	8,186,453	8,868,675

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005

Future population trends for Clay County largely depend on four factors:

1. Spill-Over effect from Metropolitan regions
2. Shift in the nation's population
3. Continued development of local services, infrastructures and school system
4. Job Availability

Based on the factors listed above Clay County expects a decline in population over the next several decades but diligently works to improve the County in order to off-set the decline in population by retaining residences and increasing its appeal to those relocating from the metropolitan areas and areas of several weather threats.

Table 2: Projected Population 2010-2030

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Clay County	3,259	3,210	3,161	3,112	3,063
City of Bluffton	111	108	104	101	97
City of Fort Gaines	1,035	998	960	923	885
Unincorporated Clay County	2,113	2,104	2,097	2,088	2,081
State of Georgia	9,550,897	10,233,118	10,915,340	11,597,562	12,279,784

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030

Economy

Clay County has traditionally relied heavily on its farming industry for the majority of employment opportunities; however, the available jobs in this sector have steadily declined since 1970 and are expected to continue declining in the future. Educational, Health and Social Services is the largest employment sector, which is common for rural counties. The largest private employment sector is manufacturing followed by retail trade and construction. Projections for the next 25 years show no change in this although the number of manufacturing jobs will decrease and the number of retail jobs will increase. This is a decrease in higher paying jobs and an increase in lower wage jobs, which normally do not include employee benefits.

In the past, transfer payments were the primary means of income in the county. Over the last decade, this has changed with wages and salary being the primary means of income. This can be attributed in part to changes in the government benefit system. In 2002, the county had 25.9% of its population living below poverty level. This was the fifth highest percentage rate in the State of Georgia according to the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension Service. In 2002, 38.5% of children ages 0-17 were living below poverty level, which was the highest percentage rate in the State of Georgia according to the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension Service.

Solid Waste Reduction

Solid Waste reduction can be defined as the process of reducing the amount of solid waste generated by a planning jurisdiction. It may include practices such as product reuse, increased product life, decreased product consumption, and mulching and composting of yard waste. Solid Waste reduction activities are the most efficient and cost effective way to manage the solid waste stream, but these activities are the most difficult to accomplish since they require voluntary changes to be made by the consumer.

The following section will inventory and assess the waste reduction activities performed by Clay County, the City of Fort Gaines and The City of Bluffton while identifying and establishing waste reduction needs and goals for these jurisdictions.

Inventory

Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines encourages and supports the recycling of scrap metal, white goods, and other recyclables such as paper, plastic, aluminum, tires and inert material. The county operates a drop off location for citizens of unincorporated Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines to dispose of their scrap metals, recyclables and inert material at the Clay County inert landfill located on Hobbs Drive in Ft. Gaines. Clay County picks up white goods and recyclables in the unincorporated area of Clay county and Bluffton once or twice a year during the Keep Georgia Beautiful week. During this period, the Clay County Road Department provides this service for free to all county and city citizens. No collection or tipping fee is charged. Ft. Gaines road department staff picks up white goods, inert material and other recyclables twice a week and deposits collected material at the Clay County inert landfill.

All recyclable material is sold to and picked up by a private contractor. A company out of Florida, Whitfield Recycling, comes by twice per year and picks up all white goods or everything that is crushable. The landfill takes no tires or batteries. However, said items are collected after cleanup events and are occasionally left by citizens at the landfill. All tires collected are purchased by Tillman Tires of Blakely, Georgia. Tillman Tires collects tires twice per year. Batteries are taken to the local auto parts store for recycling.

All of Bluffton's solid waste reduction efforts are provided by Clay County. The above-mentioned inventory is the only source reduction, composting and yard trimming programs in Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines used to reduce waste. Given that Clay County and Fort Gaines operate a limited waste reduction effort (one drop-off facility, collection one to two times a year and twice a week pick-up) for Bluffton and Fort Gaines, it is difficult to access the segments of population served by reduction programs. However, based on observations of Clay County and Fort Gaines staff, program participants seem to include a broad spectrum of users both from a racial and socio-economic standpoint. This diversity is characteristic for both unincorporated residents of Clay County and residents of the City of Bluffton and Fort Gaines and includes both residential and commercial users.

Assessment

Due to the small population base and limited financial capabilities of Clay County and the cities of Bluffton and Fort Gaines, the aforementioned waste reduction activities performed are adequate for the current population of all three entities. However, as funding availability warrants county/city officials should investigate the possibility of expanding public awareness of the importance of recycling and waste reduction programs. Civic organizations within the community could play a larger role in these programs and encourage all citizens to become more conscience of solid waste reduction and its benefits to the county as a whole.

Needs and Goals

I. NEED: ENCOURAGE SOLID WASTE REDUCTION

GOALS:

- A. Increase public awareness through newsletters, county website, etc. about solid waste programs and how both volume and cost of solid waste activities can be reduced.
- B. Create a committee to include Clay County/ Ft. Gaines Department of Public Works personnel, county/city officials and citizens to analyze the amount of solid waste generated and disposed of and to research ways to reduce volume of waste.
- C. Incorporate beautification classes and workshops on home composting and mulching activities offered through the University of Georgia Extension Services.

II. NEED: PROMOTE RECYCLING PROGRAMS

GOALS:

- A. Increase public awareness about available recycling programs and location of local recycling centers.
- B. Conduct seasonal recycling events and drives (Christmas trees, phone books, etc) if public interest cost, and time allow. Continue to participate in the Keep Georgia Beautiful week.
- C. Maintain an awareness of state and federal recycling programs and assistance to local government recycling programs and efforts.
- D. Encourage recycling programs in the elementary and middle/high school (drink cans, paper, plastic bottles and milk cartons).
- E. If financially feasible, the county and cities should utilize "green" materials such as sidewalk pavers made from recycled tires to replace concrete pavers.
- F. Seek state funding to purchase recycle bins to place at the county inert landfill.
- G. Promote and work with private business on Highway 39 North that maintains a paper-recycling bin.

III. NEED: PROMOTE COMPOSTING

GOALS:

- A. Partner with the Georgia Extension Services, local schools, churches and civic groups to better educate the public on the benefits of home composting.
- B. Support the establishment of "neighborhood composting sites" in high intensity residential developments.
- C. Encourage homeowners to engage in home composting.

Solid Waste Collection

The following section will inventory and assess the solid waste collection activities performed by Clay County, the City of Fort Gaines and the City of Bluffton while identifying and establishing waste collection needs and goals for the jurisdictions.

Inventory

The Clay County Public Works Department is responsible for the pick up of local household solid waste for the unincorporated area of Clay County and both the City of Bluffton and Fort Gaines. The department also provides solid waste collection for local businesses including any in Fort Gaines. There are no businesses in Bluffton. Residential and business solid waste collection is executed weekly. Solid waste collected by the department includes household garbage. Once the solid waste is collected, the County's Public Works Department transports the waste to a transfer station in Blakely/ Early County, Georgia.

The County operates and maintains an Inert Landfill where it disposes of the county's and Bluffton's yard trimmings and land clearing debris such as stumps and leaves. Also, the inert landfill is used as a transfer station for recyclables and C&D waste brought to the landfill by citizens, contractors and businesses. The County does not pick up recyclables or yard waste or C&D material on a weekly basis. It does pick up these materials once or twice a year during the Keep Georgia Beautiful week. The City of Ft. Gaines does pick up white goods, recyclables and inert material twice a week. All of the material collected goes to the Clay County Inert Landfill for depositing (inert material) or for recycling.

The County's Inert Landfill accepts and recycles the following items but is not limited to the following; cardboard, used tires, white goods, scrap metal, aluminum, paper, plastic, building materials and concrete. The tires are sold to Tillman Tire Company. Other private contractors purchase the remaining recyclables and C&D material.

The total service area for solid waste collection is approximately 217 square miles and serves approximately 1,700 households and businesses.

The Clay County Public Works Department and the FT. Gaines Street Department has the capability and resources to maintain its own solid waste collection. The City of Bluffton depends on Clay County for all solid waste services.

Contingency Plan

If Clay County were unable to collect solid waste for the unincorporated area of Clay County and the cities of Bluffton and Fort Gaines the county would then contract with a private contractor like Taylor Sanitation in Eufaula, Alabama for the collection of solid waste. The contingency plan for disposal could be enacted immediately in the event of a crisis. It would take seven to ten days to begin collection services again. The county could also consider renting several roll-off dumpsters for residents to take their household garbage to in the case of a work stoppage. The County could also enlist the help of the City of Fort Gaines Street Department in an emergency. Fort Gaines could utilize a private hauler or enlist Clay County Public works if there was a work stoppage in Ft. Gaines. Clay County's contingency plan applies to the City of Bluffton as well, given that Bluffton contracts with Clay County for all solid waste service.

Assessment

Due to the small population base, the current collection methods are adequate to meet the needs of the current and expected future population growth in Clay County.

Should Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines experience substantial population growth, the collection of solid waste may be extended to five days-a-week instead of three days-a-week. In addition, new and/or larger equipment and an increased number of personnel may be required to efficiently and effectively address any increase in demand.

Inventory of Illegal Dumping/ Littering

Illegal dumping of solid waste is a problem in many rural counties, and Clay County is no exception. Illegal dumping and/or littering is the disposal of waste in any un-permitted area. Illegally dumped wastes are generally non-hazardous materials that are dumped to avoid disposal fees or the time and effort that would be involved in proper disposal.

Items illegally dumped often consist of scrap tires, yard waste, furniture and other bulky items. Sites used for illegal dumping vary, but include abandoned buildings, vacant lots, wooded areas and roadways that are not frequently traveled. Illegal dumping can occur at any time of the day but occurs most often late in the night or in the early morning. If not properly addressed and dealt with illegal dumps will attract more waste, which could include hazardous wastes such as asbestos, household chemicals, automotive fluids, and industrial waste. Clay County has two primary illegal dumpsites both sites are in the unincorporated area of Clay County. The County Public Works Department cleans up these sites on a yearly basis. The Cities of Bluffton and Fort Gaines does not have a major problem with illegal dumping or littering. However, if a problem were to occur it would be the responsibility of Clay County to clean up any litter or an illegal dump in Bluffton. Fort Gaines would handle any litter or illegal dump inside of its city limits with their street department.

The Public Works Department collects all illegally dumped waste such as tires, furniture, washing machines and other large items. In addition, the department picks up trash, such as paper and drink cans that are thrown out of car windows. The trash and illegally dumped items are sorted and taken to the inert landfill and then to the Blakely transfer station or sold as recyclable material.

Clay County and Ft. Gaines have Illegal Dumping/ Littering Ordinances to allow the county/city to legally reprimand or fine offenders. Bluffton does not have a littering ordinance.

Needs and Goals

I. NEED: PROVIDE EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

GOALS:

- A. Create a committee to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of current collection functions.**
- B. Maintain an awareness of state and federal programs to assist in solid waste collection.**
- C. Coordinate with the Clay County Sheriff's Department to monitor and investigate illegal dumping and/or littering**

Solid Waste Disposal

Inventory

Once the solid waste is collected, the County's Public Works Department transports the waste to the Blakely/Early County transfer station. From the transfer station, the waste goes to the Spring Hill solid waste landfill in Campbellton, Florida for proper sorting and disposal. The Springhill landfill is owned by Waste Management, Inc. Yard trimmings are disposed of at the Clay County Inert Landfill while recyclable material and C&D material is stored at the inert landfill until purchased and hauled off by a private contractor.

Waste Management of Dothan assures landfill capacity for Clay County's non-hazardous solid waste for ten (10) years, from 2007-2017. (See Capacity Assurance Letter 2007).

Disposal Contingency Plan

Clay County handles disposal contingency plan for both Bluffton and Fort Gaines. If the Spring Hill Landfill were to become unavailable to Clay County, the county would then contract with Randolph County, Georgia to utilize the Randolph County transfer station for disposal of solid waste. The disposal facility for Randolph County is the Taylor County landfill and the Middle Georgia Regional landfill in Macon County. The contingency plan for disposal could be enacted immediately in the event of a crisis. It would take seven to ten days to bring contingency plans on-line.

Disaster Materials Plan

In the event of a disaster, debris and materials will be collected by the Clay County Public Works Department sorted and transported to the County Inert Landfill where it will be sorted and disposed of either in the inert landfill or sold to a private contractor and taken to the Blakely/Early County transfer station to be sorted and disposed of properly. The County has established two Construction & Demolition locations in close proximity to the disaster sites. The material was then hauled to a transfer station. An inert collection site was also established in the general area where trees, limbs, and other inert material were piled. That was then deposited at the County's inert landfill, burned, or chipped/ground for use by local citizens.

Assessment

The current disposal methods are adequate to meet the needs of the current and future population of Clay County.

If sources and adequate land were available, the county should expand upon their inert landfill; however, at this time, due to financial constraints and the lack of viable land, the addition of this function is not feasible. In addition, with the current population this service is not a critical need at the present time.

Needs and Goals

I. NEED: PROVIDE RELIABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

GOALS:

- A. Encourage citizens to decrease disposal amounts through recycling and home composting programs.

- B. Investigate reliability of the disposal options prior to entering into a disposal agreement.**
- C. Maintain an awareness of state and federal programs relating to solid waste disposal.**
- D. Explore the possibility of purchasing a tub grinder to be shared with surrounding counties to be used in the case of emergencies/disasters.**

Environmental Limitations

The purpose of this section is to review the environmental limitations of Clay County, the City of Fort Gaines and the City of Bluffton as relating to solid waste management. The goal of the Environmental Limitation Element is to insure that potential solid waste handling facilities including, but not limited to, transfer stations, landfills, bio-hazard, or sludge handling facilities are located on sites in areas suitable for such development and not in areas identified as having significant land limitations.

Public Water Supply Sources

There are twelve (12) permitted public water systems in Clay County with seventeen (17) permitted drinking water sources.

Bluffton—2 groundwater wells

Ft Gaines—2 wells

Bagby State Park—1 well

Walter F. George Powerhouse—2 wells

Bagby Golf Course—1 well

Seven Transient Non-Community Water Systems—all on groundwater wells

Limited County Water System in the northeast section of the county.

Assessment

No solid waste disposal facility or landfill shall impair any public or private water supply source in Clay County, Bluffton or Fort Gaines.

Water Supply Watersheds

Overall, Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines fall within the Lower Middle Chattahoochee Watershed. Within the county itself, there are seven (7) watersheds of moderate size. The Town of Bluffton is within the Spring Creek-Perry Creek Watershed and the Chattahoochee River-Kolomoki Creek Watershed. The City of Fort Gaines lies within the Chattahoochee River-Cemochechobee Creek Watershed. Unincorporated Clay County falls within these watersheds, but also includes the Chattahoochee River-Walter F. George Reservoir Watershed, Chattahoochee River-Barbour Creek Watershed, Pachitla Creek-Little Pachitla Creek Watershed and the Pataula Creek Watershed. See attached maps.

Due to procedural changes in the Environmental Planning Criteria, the Environmental Protection Division has not required that Clay County, Bluffton or Fort Gaines adopt a Groundwater Recharge Area Protection Ordinance and they have not done so.

Assessment

Solid waste handling facility lying within Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines' water supply watersheds must meet all Federal, State and local regulation sitting requirements for said facilities.

Groundwater Recharge Area

Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines' are located in the Southern Coastal Plain Province. This is a very important groundwater recharge area. There are seven major aquifer systems in the Coastal Plain Province. Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines' are located over the Cretaceous-Tertiary aquifer system. The Cretaceous-Tertiary aquifer system, which includes the Providence and Clayton aquifer systems, is an interconnected group of sub-systems that developed in the Late Cretaceous sands of the Coastal Plain Province. (Donahue, Groundwater Quality in Georgia for 2002). See attached maps.

Clay County has several groundwater recharge areas, one of which is a significant groundwater recharge area (cretaceous tertiary). This groundwater recharge area is located in the northwest corner of Clay County at the Quitman County line. A significant groundwater recharge area is highly susceptible to pollution. Bluffton is located in the Clairbone Groundwater Recharge Area. Fort Gaines is not located in a groundwater recharge area. Clay County has abundant groundwater and surface water supplies. The Chattahoochee River, Lake Walter F. George, Kolomoki Creek, Cemochechobee Creek and Pataula Creeks and several other smaller creeks provide a rich supply of surface water.

Due to procedural changes on the State level Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines' has not been required to adopt the Groundwater Recharge Area Protection Ordinance by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources. However, all development must still meet Federal and State requirements in regards to ground water recharge areas.

Assessment

In order to preserve the existing level of water quality in Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines' and therefore, continue to provide the citizens with an adequate quantity and quality of potable water supply all solid waste handling facility or landfill must meet, DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05 (1)(j) which requires new solid waste landfills or expansions of existing facilities within two miles of a significant groundwater recharge areas to have liners and leachate collection systems. Also, facilities accepting waste generated from outside the county in which the facility is located must be totally outside of any area designated as a significant groundwater recharge area.

Wetlands

Wetlands are areas inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration to support, under normal conditions, vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil. Many of these areas are adjacent to river corridors. Additionally, man-made lakes and reservoirs created as part of hydroelectric activity along river corridors also provide open water wetland habitat.

Wetlands can be broken into four distinct categories: Open Water Wetlands, Scrub/Shrub Wetlands, Forested Wetlands, and Non-Forested Emergent Wetlands. They serve vital ecological purposes in providing habitat and natural control measures for stormwater runoff. In general, wetlands enhance water resources by detaining overflows during flood periods and acting as water storage basins during dry seasons. Wetlands replenish both surface water and groundwater systems and naturally filter sediments and non-point source pollutants from water supplies (Georgia Department of Natural Resources).

The National Wetlands Inventory conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service indicates the presence of wetlands scattered throughout Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines as shown on the NWI Wetland Classification Map. Due to procedural changes at the State level, Clay County has not been required to adopt a wetland protection ordinance by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

Acceptable uses of Wetlands include:

1. Timber production and harvesting
2. Wildlife and fisheries management
3. Wastewater treatment
4. Recreation
5. Natural water quality treatment or purification
6. Other uses permitted under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

Unacceptable uses of Wetlands include:

1. Receiving areas for toxic or hazardous waste or other contaminants
2. Hazardous or sanitary waste landfills

Assessment

To insure that no threat to the integrity of wetland areas occurs, no solid waste handling facility in Clay County, Bluffton or Fort Gaines may lie within a freshwater wetland area.

Flood Prone Areas

Flooding is defined as the temporary covering of soil with water from overflowing streams and by run-off from adjacent slopes. Water left standing after a rainfall, however is not considered flooding, nor is water in swamps. Flooding is characterized in terms that describe the frequency and duration of the flood and the time of the year that the flood occurs.

Development within floodplain areas is discouraged with the exception of very low impact such as recreational facilities (i.e. trails, open fields, etc.). With this type of land use, the floodplains are utilized without disturbing the natural cycles of the floodplains. These areas are not suitable for solid waste handling facilities.

Floodplains serve three (3) major purposes: Natural water storage and conveyance, water quality maintenance and groundwater recharge. These three purposes are greatly inhibited when floodplains are misused or abused through improper and unsuitable land development. For

example, if floodplains are filled in order to construct a building, then valuable water storage areas and recharge areas are lost thus causing unnecessary flooding in previously dry areas.

Flood prone areas in Clay County are primarily located along the major creek basins and the Chattahoochee River Basin. Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines are not mapped under the Federal Emergency Management Agency and do not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Ft. Gaines and the county have adopted a Flood Prevention Ordinance to fulfill the federal insurance requirements. Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines should be mapped within the next five years.

Areas of floodplains should be free of developments which would increase flooding downstream during periods of periodic inundation of floodwaters and which would create health and safety hazards.

Acceptable uses of Flood Prone Areas include:

1. Timber production and harvesting
2. Wildlife and fisheries management
3. Wastewater treatment
4. Recreation
5. Natural water quality treatment or purification
6. Other uses permitted under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

Unacceptable uses of Flood Prone Areas include:

1. Receiving areas for toxic or hazardous waste or other contaminants
2. Hazardous or sanitary waste landfills

Assessment

Development shall not restrict the flow of the 100-year flood, reduce the temporary water storage capacity of the floodplain or result in a washout of solid waste so as to pose a threat to human health or the environment. Therefore, no solid waste handling facility in Clay County, Bluffton or Fort Gaines may lie within an area designated as the 100-year floodplain or within areas susceptible to flooding.

Geology/Physical Characteristics

Soil Types

Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines are located in the Southern Coastal Plain Province. The province consists of soils occupying broad interstream areas having gentle to moderate slopes with underlying marine sands, loam, and/or clays. The soil configuration of Clay County puts many constraints and limitations on development. Soil classifications include Henderson, Iuka, Kolomoki, Norfolk, Orangeburg, Tifton, Troup, Vacluse, Wagram, and Wahee. See the soils chart for discussions on recommended usage. See attached maps.

Table 13: Clay County Soil Suitability

Soil Classification	Dominant Slope %	Drainage	Permeability	Use and Vegetation
Henderson	2-20	Well-drained	Slow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most areas of Henderson soil are in forest of mixed hardwoods and pines. • Cleared areas are used for pasture.
Iuka	0-2	Moderately Well-drained	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much of the soil has been cleared and cultivated. It is cropped to corn, soybeans, small grains, truck crops, and hay or is in pasture. • Native vegetation is forest of water oak, willow, beech, sweetgum, hickory, maple, ironwood, eastern cottonwood, alder, white oak, and in some places, pine.

Kolomoki	0-3	Well-drained Medium Runoff	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the soil is used for crops such as corn, soybeans, peanuts, small grain, and truck crops. The remainder is in pine or mixed pine and hardwood. • Common species include loblolly pine, slash pine, longleaf pine, sweetgum, red oak, American holly, and dogwood.
Norfolk	0-10	Well-drained Negligible to Medium Runoff	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly cleared and used for general farm crops. • Where cultivated--corn, cotton, peanuts, tobacco, and soybeans. Where wooded--pines and mixed hardwoods.
Orangeburg	0-25	Well-drained Slow to Medium Runoff	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly used for growing cotton, corn, tobacco, and peanuts. Some areas are in pasture and forest. • Forest species are longleaf pine, shortleaf pine, loblolly pine, and some oaks, hickory, and dogwood.
Tifton	0-8	Well-drained Medium Runoff	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the soil is under cultivation with cotton, corn, peanuts, tobacco, vegetable crops, and small grain the principal crops. Some is in pasture. • Some areas are in forest, consisting largely of longleaf, loblolly, and slash pines and some hardwoods on cutover areas.
Troup	0-40	Well-drained Slow Runoff	Moderate to Rapid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most areas of Troup soils are in forests of pine and mixed hardwoods. Cleared areas are used for growing peanuts, watermelons, vegetables, and for pasture.
Vacluse	2-25	Well-drained High Runoff	Moderately Slow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest, cropland • Where cultivated--corn, cotton, small grain, soybeans, or pasture. Where wooded--loblolly and longleaf pine.
Wagram	0-15	Well-drained Negligible to Medium Runoff	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cropland • Where cultivated--tobacco, cotton, corn, and small grains. Where wooded--loblolly and longleaf pine, white oak, red oak, turkey oak, and post oak; hickory, holly, and dogwood.
Wahee	0-4	Poor Slow Runoff	Slow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most areas are wooded • Where forested--blackgum, loblolly pine, water oak, willow oak, swamp chestnut, southern red oak, and sweetgum. Understory species include large gallberry, wax myrtle (southern bayberry), inkberry (bitter gallberry), greenbrier, cane, and sweetbay. • Where cultivated--corn, soybeans, and pasture.
National Cooperative Soil Survey, U.S.A.				

Assessment

Solid waste handling facilities are not allowed in areas of soils that are poorly suited for said activities. In identifying potential landfill sites, the County as well as Bluffton and Fort Gaines should check with NRCS for updated soil data.

Steep Slopes

Elevations in Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines vary from 125 to 420 feet above sea level. As illustrated on the Slope Map, the steeper slopes (greater than 25%) are located along the southern portion of the Chattahoochee River banks and along creek drainage basins. The upper half of the county is characterized by slopes from 3% to 25% while the lower eastern portion is virtually flat with few slopes greater than 8%. The City of Fort Gaines has slopes ranging from 0-60% within its boundaries while the City of Bluffton has a flat terrain. Erosion and sedimentation control measures should be taken on any slopes that are deemed suitable for development in order to minimize adverse impacts.

Assessment

Solid waste handling facilities are not allowed in areas of steep slopes located in Clay County, Bluffton or Fort Gaines.

Protected Mountains

There are no State designated Protected Mountains in Clay County, Bluffton or Fort Gaines.

River Corridors

The Chattahoochee River, below Lake Walter F. George Dam, is the only river corridor in Clay County. Both Clay County and Fort Gaines abut this section of the Chattahoochee River. The Town of Bluffton does not abut the Chattahoochee River and thus is not impacted.

Assessment

DNR Rule 391-3-16-0594)(1) prohibits the development of new solid waste landfills within river corridors.

Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines have not yet adopted the River Corridor Protection Ordinance as recommended by EPD, but will do so in the near future.

Coastal Resources

There are no Coastal Resources in Clay County, Bluffton or Fort Gaines.

Seismic Impact Zones

A new landfill or the lateral expansion of an existing landfill is not allowed in a seismic impact zone unless the landfill owner or operator meets the most current DNR requirements. Clay County, Bluffton or Fort Gaines has no known seismic impact fault lines.

Fault Areas

A new landfill or the lateral expansion of an existing landfill shall not be located within 200 feet of a fault that has had displacement in the Holocene Epoch unless otherwise approved by EPD. Clay County, Bluffton or Fort Gaines has no known fault areas.

Unstable Areas

In Clay County, Bluffton or Fort Gaines a new landfill, existing landfill or the lateral expansion of an existing landfill shall not be constructed in an unstable area as defined by DNR unless engineering measures have been incorporated in the landfill unit's design to ensure that the integrity of the structural components of the landfill unit will not be disrupted.

Land Use Consideration

Existing use of land is normally the primary determining factor on how the land will be used in the future. The existing land use pattern is presented in an attached map.

Clay County is a rural county, possessing large tracts of open land. The county is 217 square miles. The land area is 195 square miles and less than 10% (21.8 square miles) of the total land in Clay County is covered by water. The County contains many natural and scenic assets, which include large forested areas, and notable historic properties. Approximately ninety-two percent (92%) of Clay County is used for agricultural or timber purposes. Residential use constitutes 3.75 percent of land use in Clay County.

Both Bluffton and Fort Gaines have higher overall land use densities than Clay County. Bluffton is a residential community while Fort Gaines serves as the focal point for commercial, governmental and residential activities.

Clay County and Fort Gaines have zoning or land use intensity ordinances that control development. Bluffton does not have a zoning ordinance but is in the process of developing an ordinance. Any potential solid waste facility must meet all local zoning codes. The placement of solid waste handling facilities or solid waste landfills is not allowed in neither the unincorporated areas of Clay County, nor the incorporated areas, where more heavily developed and higher density developments exist.

Airport Safety: There are currently no public airports in Clay County. Private airports/air strips do exist in Clay County. Neither public nor private airstrips exist in Bluffton or Fort Gaines. Owners or operators proposing to site a new solid waste landfill or the lateral expansion of an existing landfill shall not be within 10,000 feet of any public use or private use airport runway end used by turbojet aircraft or within 5,000 feet of any public use or private use airport runway end used by only piston type aircraft.

Areas Poorly Suited for Landfills

A large percentage of Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines are within an area that the Georgia Department of Natural Resources considers poorly suited for operation of a sanitary landfill. Clay County lies above a Significant Groundwater Recharge Area (the Cretaceous-Tertiary Aquifer System) or within floodplains. Furthermore, areas of the County have been determined by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to be geo-technically poorly suited for the construction and/or operation of a sanitary landfill (Contact DNR for most recent map or information).

No solid waste handling facility or sanitary landfill should be allowed that shall jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a critical habitat protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1972.

Air Quality

The current air quality of Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines is good. The construction and operation of any solid waste handling facility or solid waste landfill shall not violate any applicable toxic effluent standard or prohibition

under Section-307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or any hazardous air pollutant emission standard under the Federal Clean Air Act.

Endangered Species

There are several endangered and threatened plant and animal species present in Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines. Majority of these endangered species are native to floodplain and forested areas in Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines.

Table 14: Clay County Endangered Species - Animals

<i>Etheostoma edwini</i>	Brown Darter
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle
<i>Ichthyomyzon gagei</i>	Southern Brook Lamprey
<i>Moxostoma sp.1</i>	Greyfin Redhorse
<i>Pteronotropis euryzonus</i>	Broadstripe Shiner
<i>Quincuncina infucata</i>	Sculptured Pigtoe
<i>Scartomyzon lachneri</i>	Greater Jumprock

Table 15: Clay County Endangered Species – Plants

<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottlebrush Buckeye
<i>Anemone berlandieri</i>	Glade Windflower
<i>Arabis Georgiana</i>	Georgia Rockcress
<i>Baptisia megacarpa</i>	Bigpod Wild Indigo
<i>Brickellia cordifolia</i>	Flyr’s Nemesis
<i>Croomia pauciflora</i>	Croomia
<i>Matelea alabamensis</i>	Alabama Milkvine
<i>Melanthium woodii</i>	Ozark Bunchflower
<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	American Ginseng
<i>Quercus arkansana</i>	Arkansas Oak
<i>Rhododendron prunifolium</i>	Plumleaf Azalea

Silene ovata	Mountain Catchfly
Trepocarpus aethusae	Trepocarpus
Trillium reliquum	Relict Trillium

“US” indicates species with federal status (Protected, Candidate or Partial Status). Species that are federally protected in Georgia are also state protected. “GA” indicates Georgia protected species.

Projects undertaken in areas known to be habitats to endangered species must be prudent to minimize project impacts on the lives and surroundings of the endangered species.

Procedures for Location of a Solid Waste Handling Facility

Any proposed solid waste landfill or solid waste handling facility must comply with Clay County and FT. Gaines zoning regulations. The zoning ordinance for Clay County allows Inert Landfills; however, it does not allow for sewage, sludge (bio-solids), land applications and/or disposal facilities.

Although Clay County's and Ft. Gaines Zoning Ordinances regulate the placement of solid waste handling facilities and landfills, Clay County, Bluffton and Ft. Gaines shall follow the procedures for locating solid waste handling facilities and landfills as stated below.

Procedures for Locating Solid Waste Handling Facilities/ Consistency Requirements

Any entity requesting a renewal or issuance of a solid waste handling permit from EPD must demonstrate that the facility or facility expansion is consistent with the local government's solid waste management plan. Chapter 391-3-4 of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division relates to Solid Waste Management in Georgia. Chapters 391-3-4.05 deals specifically with the criteria associated with solid waste handling facilities. In addition to the criteria set forth under DNR's regulations, all future sites must adhere to all city and county ordinances. No proposed facility or facility expansion will be sited in the planning area without a letter from Clay County, the City of Fort Gaines and the City of Bluffton stating that the facility is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan, to determine if a proposed facility or facility expansion is consistent with the Plan, an owner/operator of the facility shall:

- A. At least sixty (60) days prior to filing for a solid waste handling permit, or notifying EPD in the case of a solid waste handling facility that is permitted by rule, submit to the local governing authority a written statement documenting the following:
 - 1. How the proposed facility or facility expansion will meet the specific goals and/or needs identified in the Solid Waste Management Plan, specifically what will be
 - a. The impact upon the collection capability within the planning area;
 - b. The impact upon disposal capacity identified in the planning area; and
 - c. The impact to the waste reduction and recycling efforts within the planning area; and
 - 2. How the proposed facility or facility expansion and its operation will impact the community; specifically what will be
 - a. The impact to vehicle traffic and public safety around the proposed facility and throughout the planning area;
 - b. The impact to the financial viability of the existing solid waste management system within the planning area;
 - c. The impact to individual and business solid waste management rates;
 - d. The impact of the proposed facility or facility expansion to other natural or culture resources within the planning area; and

- e. The impact of the proposed facility or facility expansion to the current solid waste management infrastructure within the planning area; both public and private.
 - 3. How the owner/operator of the proposed facility (and any subsequent owner/operators if sold) will satisfy the financial assurance provisions of the plan and local ordinance; and
 - 4. That the proper public notification process was followed; and
 - 5. That the proposed facility or facility expansion is sited in an area deemed suitable according to the criteria listed in the plan; and
 - 6. That the proposed facility or facility expansion is sited in a location that is consistent with local zoning ordinances.
- B. The governing Authority shall review the “Written Statement of Consistency” and shall determine if the proposed facility or facility expansion is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan. Within thirty (30) days of making their determination, the Board shall notify the developer whether or not the proposed facility or facility expansion is consistent with the Plan. If the proposed facility is not consistent with the Plan, the developer may address the inconsistencies and resubmit their request for another review.

Sixty (60) days prior to any permit request, the developer must notify Clay County, the City of Fort Gaines and the City of Bluffton, they must hold at least one public hearing at the expense of the Developer, on the proposed solid waste handling facility site.

- A. The Developer shall give adequate notice of the hearing to citizens by:
 - 1. Publishing the notice in the legal organ of the county/city which includes information on the purpose, time and location of the hearing;
 - 2. Informing the Chairman of the County Commission and Mayors of Bluffton and Fort Gaines.
 - 3. Posting notices of the certified mail, all of the adjacent landowners to the prospective site; and
 - 4. By posting a sign on the proposed site, to include information on the purpose, time, and location of the hearing.
- B. The Developer shall hold the hearing at a time and location convenient to citizens and with accommodation for persons with disabilities to attempt to maximize the participation of interested citizens.
- C. In the case where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate, the Developer will provide a qualified interpreter at the public hearing to accommodate the needs of these residents.
- D. The Developer will accept comments on the proposed facility from citizens and local government officials for a period of not less than thirty (30) days.
- E. The Developer will consider any comments or views of citizens and local government officials received in writing or orally at the public hearing. A summary of the comments or views shall be provided to the County Commission, City Council of Bluffton or City Council of Fort Gaines.

Needs and Goals

I. NEED: INSURE THAT ANY PROPOSED SOLID WASTE FACILITY IS LOCATED IN AREAS SUITABLE FOR SUCH DEVELOPMENT.

GOALS:

- A. Prohibit location of any facility in areas identified as having related land use limitations.**
- B. Only allow potential facilities in areas with compatible land uses.**
- C. Identify environmentally sensitive areas not appropriate for solid waste handling facilities.**
- D. Adopt, implement and enforce policies for the protection of sensitive areas.**

Education and Public Involvement

The purpose of this section is to review education and public involvement activities of Clay County and the Cities of Fort Gaines and Bluffton relating to solid waste management. The goal of this element is to inventory and assess these activities and the impact they have on waste disposal and reduction.

Inventory

Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines support the Keep Georgia Beautiful campaign. In addition, the Ft. Gaines Garden Club, a local non-governmental organization, offers gardening programs in an effort to stimulate a love of gardening and pride in the community. Clay County handles solid waste management education and public involvement programs for both Bluffton and Fort Gaines.

Assessment

Due to staffing and financial constraints, education and public involvement programs are limited in Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines. Options available for continued solid waste reductions for Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines are (1) minimizing the amount of waste generated: (2) reusing materials that would otherwise enter the waste stream: (3) recycling materials: and (4) composting organic material/chipping. The best opportunities for waste reduction in Clay County include encouraging and implementing recycling programs and composting yard and wood waste. Clay County, Bluffton or Fort Gaines does not have a solid waste source reduction education program.

Activities such as composting should be more vigorously promoted throughout Clay County, Bluffton and Fort Gaines. The local school system should implement programs by providing incentives to students and parents who participate. Partnerships with the UGA Extension Services and Andrew College should be aggressively pursued, and local civic and church organizations should become more involved in waste reduction and recycling functions. With a county of limited resources, public-private partnerships are the key to establishing an effective waste reduction and public involvement initiative.

Needs and Goals

I. NEED: ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE EXPANSION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INVOLVEMENT THROUGHOUT CLAY COUNTY.

GOALS:

- A. Establish a committee to evaluate current public education and involvement programs.
- B. Establish a strong source reduction education program.
- C. Provide information to citizens regarding the location and operation of recycling facilities.
- D. Encourage citizen to participate in recycling efforts.
- E. Incorporate beautification classes and workshops on home composting and mulching activities offered through the University of Georgia Extension Services.
- F. Provide informational packets at governmental offices on activities such as home composting, statewide recycling programs, anti-littering campaigns and Keep Georgia Beautiful.

- G. Encourage local civic groups, churches and schools to promote and support waste reduction and beautification programs such as Adopt-A-Mile.**
- H. Use the county website, newsletters, etc. to promote awareness.**

Short Term Work Plan Report of Accomplishments 2004-2007
Clay County, Ft. Gaines, Bluffton

Project or Activity from Previous Short Term Work Plan (SWTP)	Status of Project or Activity			
	Completed	Currently Underway/ On-Going	Postponed	Not Accomplished
1. Solid Waste Disposal				
1. Clay County will continue to contract with Early County (Waste Management) which assures ten year capacity.		x		
2. The old county solid waste landfill will continue to be maintained and monitored.		x		
3. Tree limbs and construction waste will continue to be disposed of in the County Inert Landfill.		x		
4. Yard trimmings will continue to be recycled at the County Inert Landfill through composting.		x		
2. Solid Waste Collection				
Clay County will continue to provide weekly curbside solid waste collection for the entire county including Bluffton and Ft. Gaines		x		
Clay County and private vendors will provide commercial solid waste collection services (DMI) within the County.		x		
3. Solid Waste Reduction				
1. Clay County will continue to operate the Transfer Station / Inert Landfill / Recycling Center		X		
2. Clay County will continue to work with the Mental Retardation Center in their unstaffed drop off facilities and recycling programs		x		

Project or Activity from Previous Short Term Work Plan (SWTP)	Status of Project or Activity			
	Completed	Currently Underway/ On-Going	Postponed	Not Accomplished
3. Solid Waste Reduction – continued				
3. Clay County will continue to Recycle goods at the Transfer Station / Inert Landfill / Recycling Center including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. automobile batteries b. aluminum c. newspapers d. magazines e. corrugated board f. other paper g. white goods h. steel cans i. scrap metal j. motor oil k. agricultural / chemical containers 		X X X X X X X X x	x X	
1. Clay County will work with the Georgia Extension Services and Keep America Beautiful for recycling, home composting, and related education programs.		X		

**Short Term Work Plan Implementation Strategy
Clay County and the Cities of Fort Gaines and Bluffton**

Activity	Years to be Implemented											Responsible Party	Estimated (Ann. Cost)	Possible Funding Sources
	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
WASTE REDUCTION														
Increase public awareness about solid waste programs and how both volume and cost of solid waste activities can be reduced	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$1,000	County, Cities, State and/or Fed., Private
Create a joint committee, Waste Reduction/ Waste Collection, (county and city officials and citizens) that assesses amount of solid waste generated and disposed of and investigate ways to reduce volume of waste			X									Clay County and Cities	\$1,000	County, Cities
Increase public awareness about available recycling programs and location of nearby recycling centers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$1,000	County, Cities, State and/or Fed.
Conduct seasonal recycling events and drives (Christmas trees, telephone books, ect.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$2,500	County, Cities, State and/or Fed.
Encourage homeowners to engage in home composting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	County, Cities
Support the establishment of "neighborhood composting sites" in high density residential developments	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	N/A	County, Cities, Private
Partner with the Georgia Extension Services, local schools, churches, and civic organizations to better educate the public of home composting.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	County, Cities, State and/or Fed.

Activity	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Responsible Party	Estimated (Ann. Cost)	Possible Funding Sources
Incorporate beautification classes and workshops on home composting and mulching activities offered through the University of Georgia Extension Services												Clay County, U of GA Extension	\$500	County, Cities, and State
Maintain an awareness of state and federal recycling programs that provide assistance to local government recycling programs and efforts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County and Cities
Encourage recycling programs in the elementary and middle/high school (drink cans, paper, plastic bottles, and milk cartons).	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County, Cities, and School Board	\$500	Clay County, Cities, and School Board
Clay County will continue recycling of												Clay County	\$1,500	County
a. Aluminum	X											Clay County	\$1,500	County
b. Newspapers	x											Clay County	\$1,500	County
c. Magazines												Clay County	\$1,500	County
d. Corrugated Boards	X											Clay County	\$1,500	County
e. Other Paper												Clay County	\$1,500	County
f. White Goods	X											Clay County	\$1,500	County
g. Steel Cans												Clay County	\$1,500	County
h. Scrap Metal	X											Clay County	\$1,500	County
i. Motor Oil												Clay County	\$1,500	County
j. Purchase Recycling Bins and place at inert landfill.			X									Clay County		Clay County and Cities

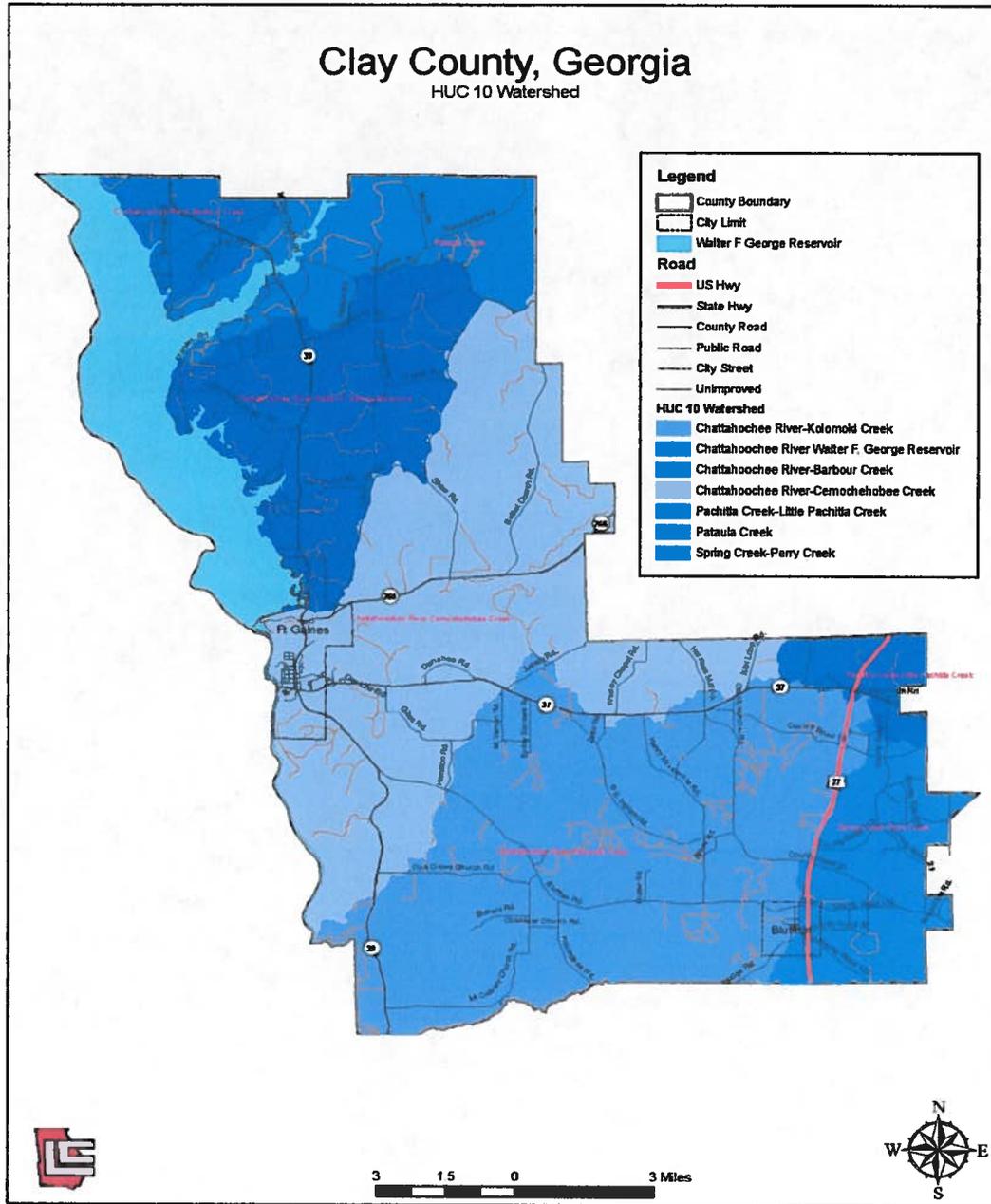
Activity	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Respon- sible Party	Esti- mated (Ann. Cost)	Possible Funding Sources
Waste Collection														
Create a committee to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of current collection functions.			X									Clay County and Cities	\$1,000	Clay County and Cities
Maintain an awareness of state and federal programs to assist in solid waste collection.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County
Coordinate with the Clay County Sheriff's Department to monitor and investigate illegal dumping and/or littering	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County and Cities
Clay County will continue to provide weekly curbside residential solid waste collection program for the entire county including Fort Gaines and Bluffton	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$80,000	Clay County and Cities
Investigate the feasibility of adding collection of yard waste and recyclable materials	X											Admin.	\$1,000	Clay County
Waste Disposal														
Investigate reliability of the disposal options prior to entering into a disposal agreement.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County and Cities
Maintain an awareness of state and federal programs relating to solid waste disposal.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County and Cities
Clay County will continue to contract with private vendors who assure capacity for ten years.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County	\$250	Clay County and Cities
Insure proper monitoring of the County's closed landfill per regulatory requirements	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County	\$38,750	Clay County

Activity	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Respon- sible Party	Esti- mated (Ann. Cost)	Possible Funding Sources
Research State and Federal funding opportunities to support local recycling efforts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County	\$500	Clay County and Cities
Encourage citizens to reduce disposal amounts through recycling and home composting programs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County and State
Tree limbs and construction waste will continue to be disposed of in the County Inert Landfill	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$80,000	Clay County and Cities
Environmental Limitations														
Prohibit location of any solid waste facility in areas identified as having related land use limitations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	N/A	Clay County and Cities
Only allow potential landfill facilities/solid waste handling facilities in areas with compatible land uses.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	N/A	Clay County and Cities
Adopt, implement and enforce policies for the protection of sensitive areas.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Planning and Zoning		Clay County and Cities
Education and Public Involvement														
Establish a committee to evaluate current public education and involvement programs.		X										Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County and Cities
Provide information to citizens regarding the location and operation of recycling facilities.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County and Cities

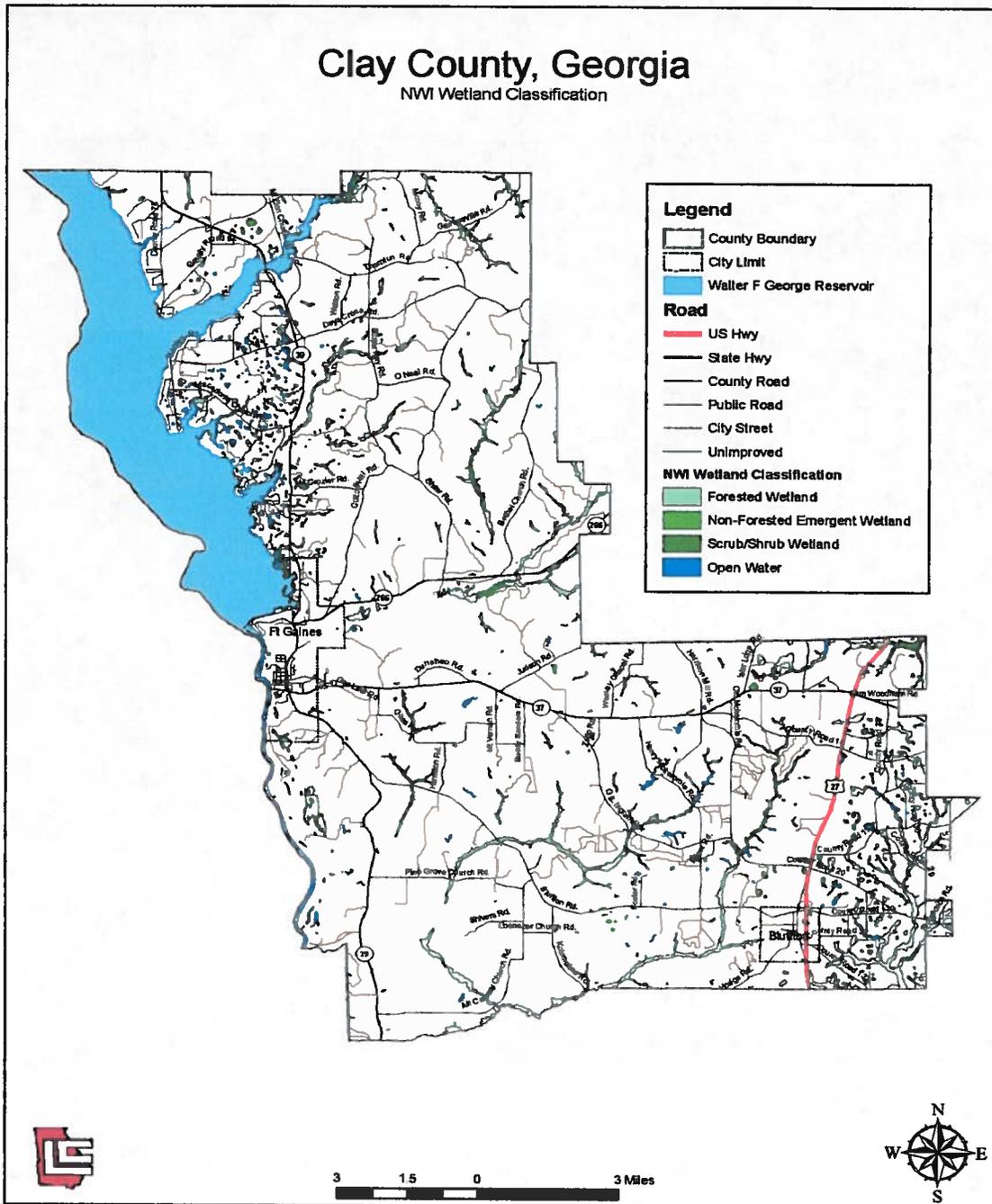
Activity	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Respon- sible Party	Esti- mated (Ann. Cost)	Possible Funding Sources
Encourage citizens to participate in recycling efforts.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County, Cities, GA Ext.
Incorporate beautification classes and workshops on home composting and mulching activities offered through the University of Georgia Extension Services.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County, Cities, GA Ext.
Clay County will support and participate with and encourage citizen participation in the annual Keep Georgia Beautiful Program.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County, Cities, State
Provide informational packets at governmental offices on activities such as home composting, statewide recycling programs, anti-littering campaigns, and Keep Georgia Beautiful.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County, Cities and State
Encourage local civic groups, churches, and schools to promote and support waste reduction and beautification programs such as Adopt-A-Mile.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clay County and Cities	\$500	Clay County and Cities

Appendix 1 - Maps

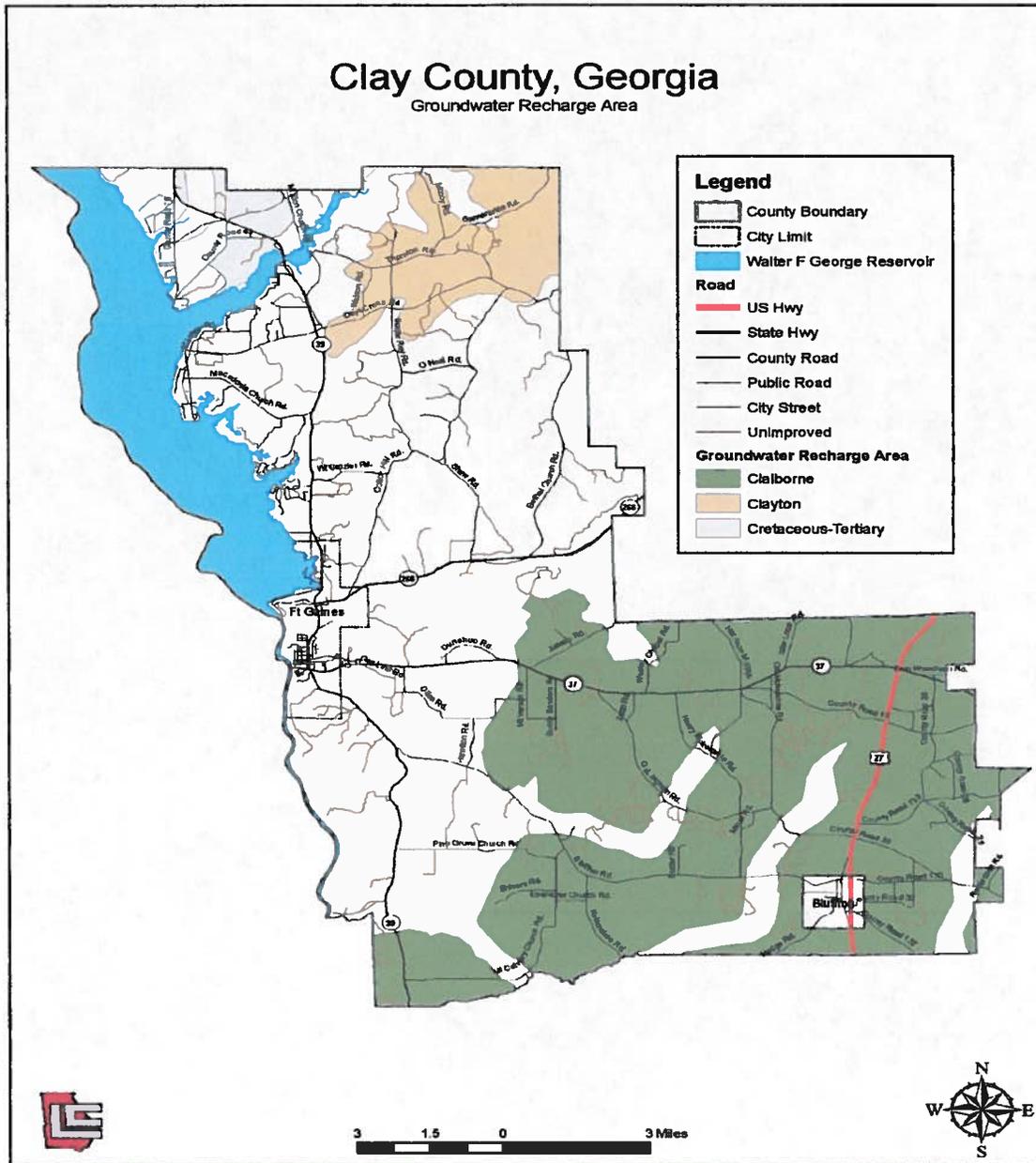
Watershed, Clay County



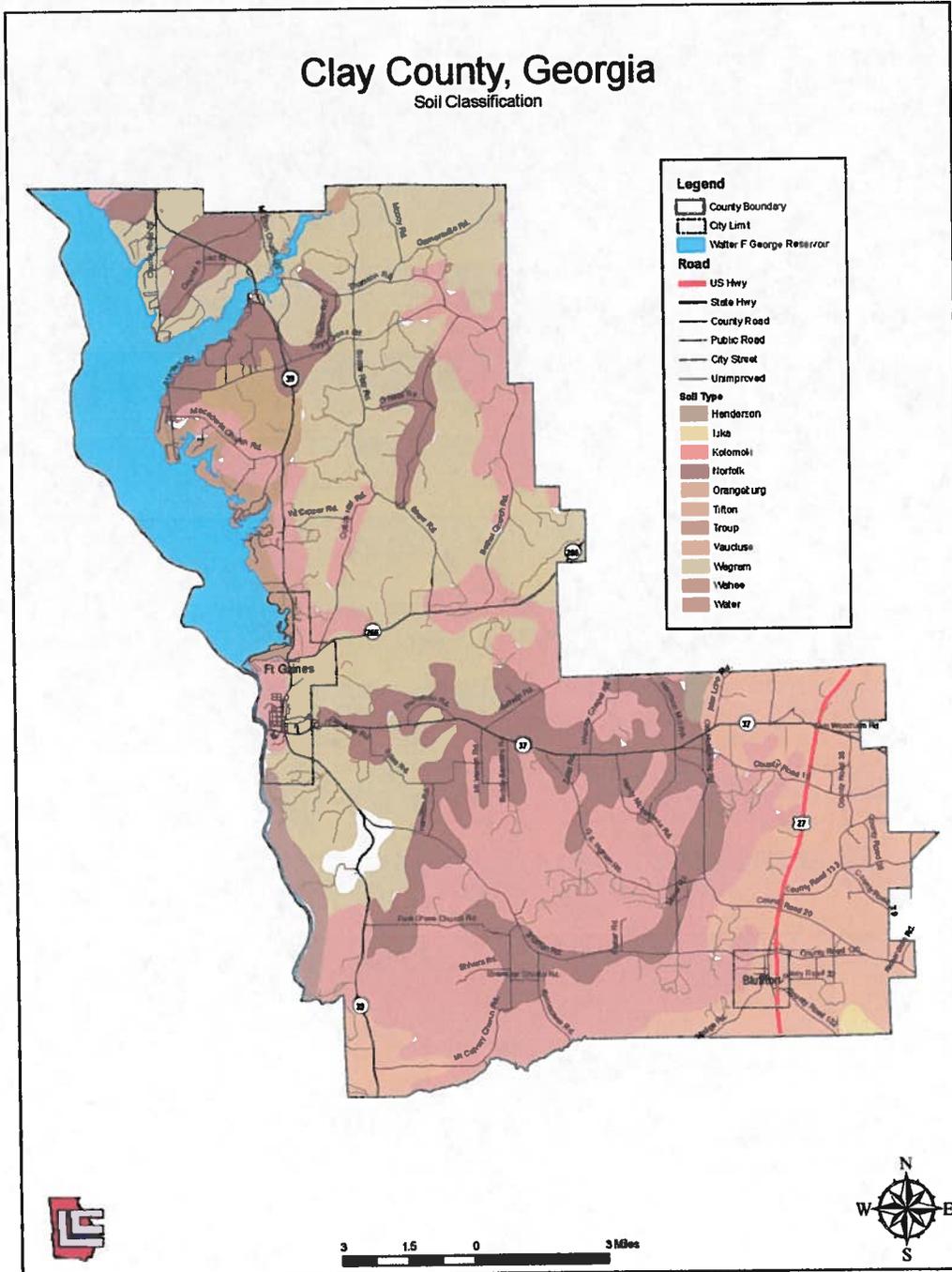
Wetland, Clay County



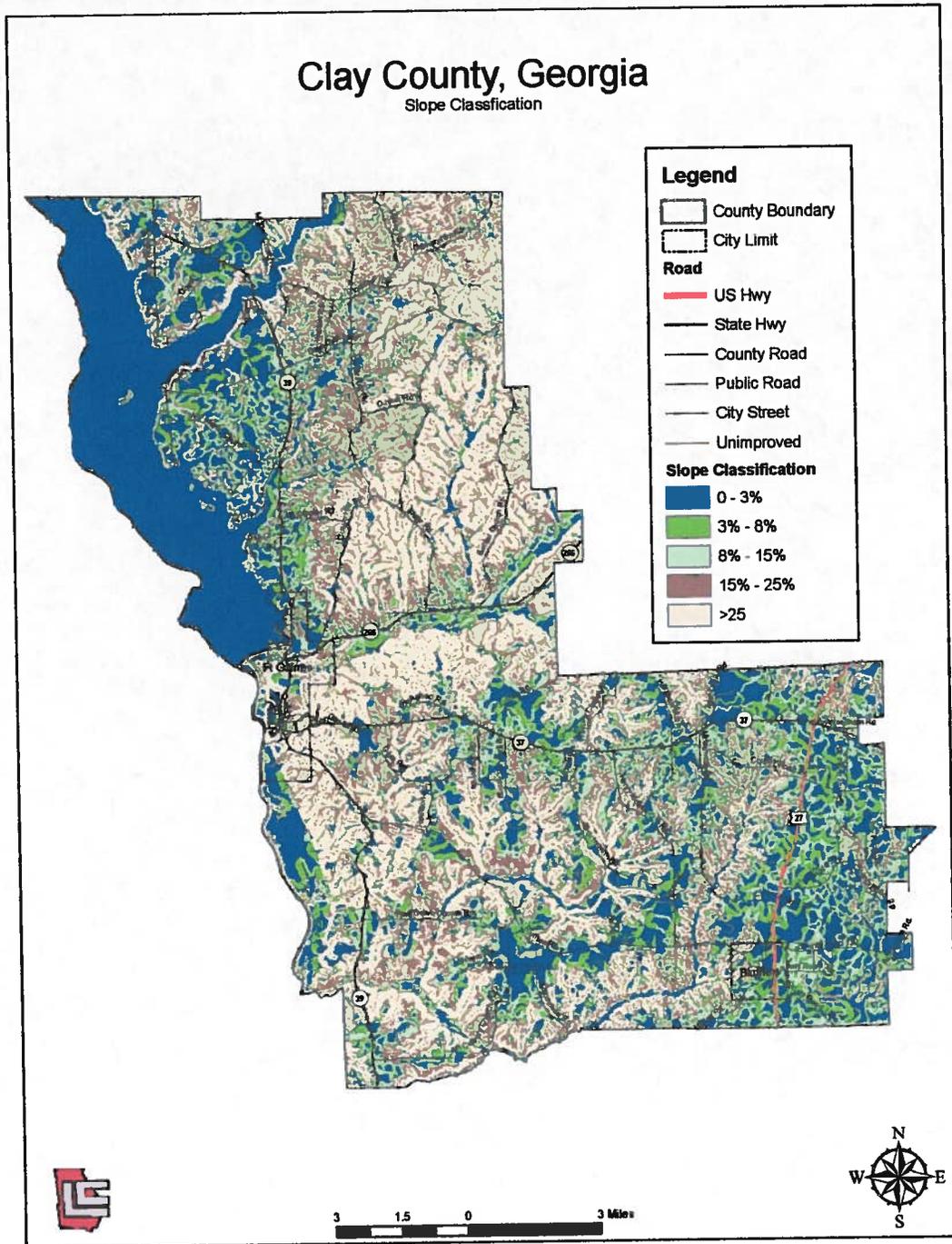
Groundwater Recharge, Clay County



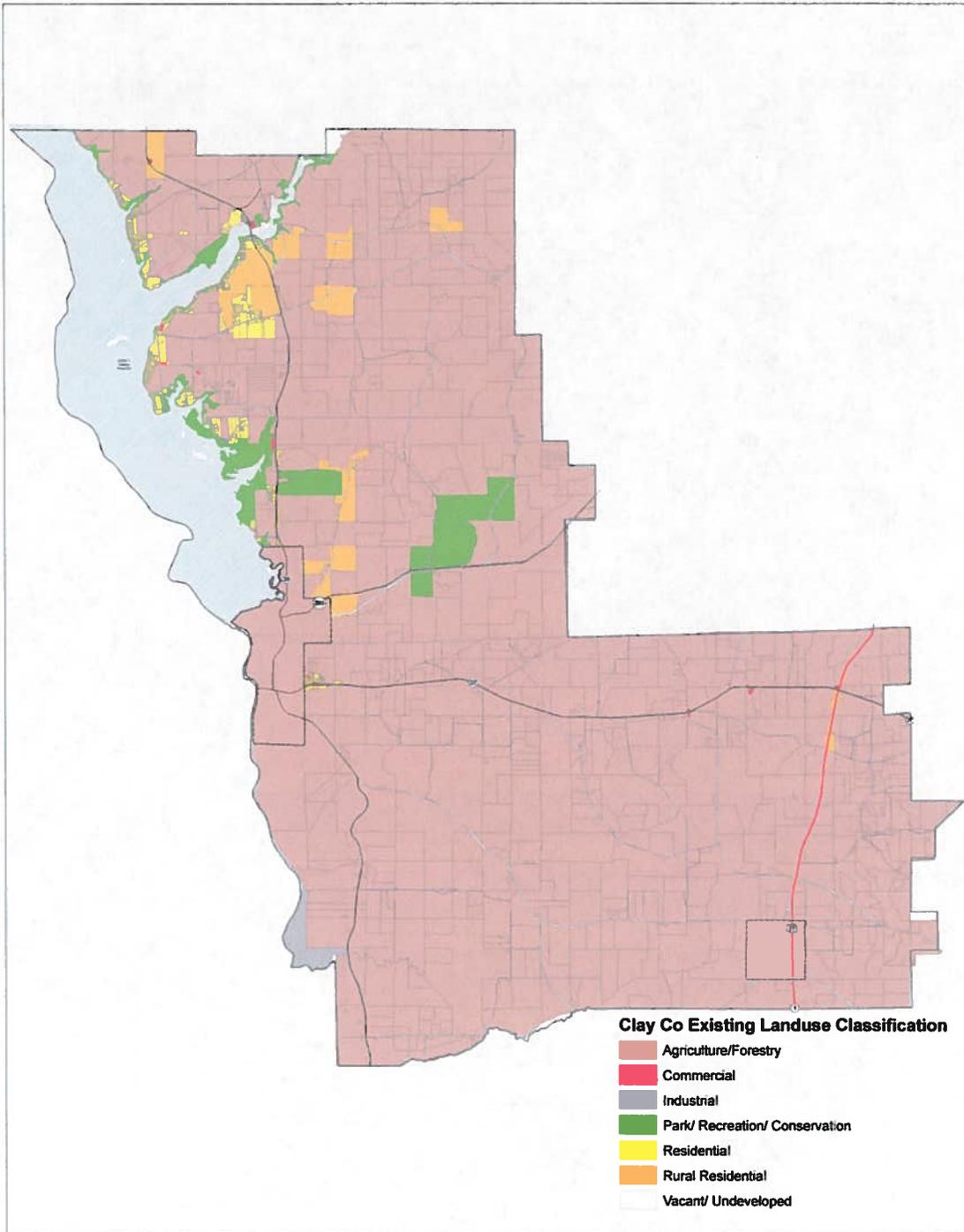
Soil Classification, Clay County



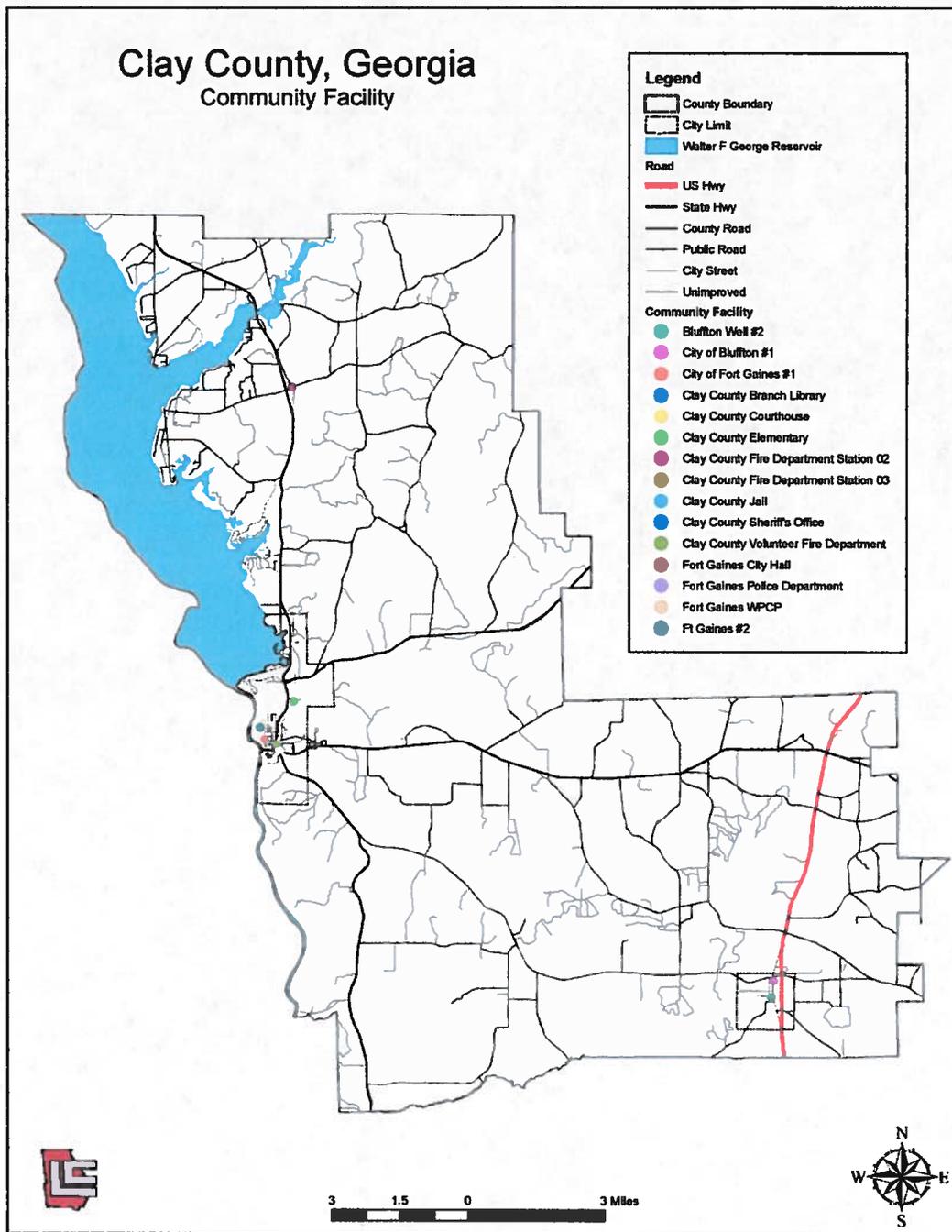
Slope Classification, Clay



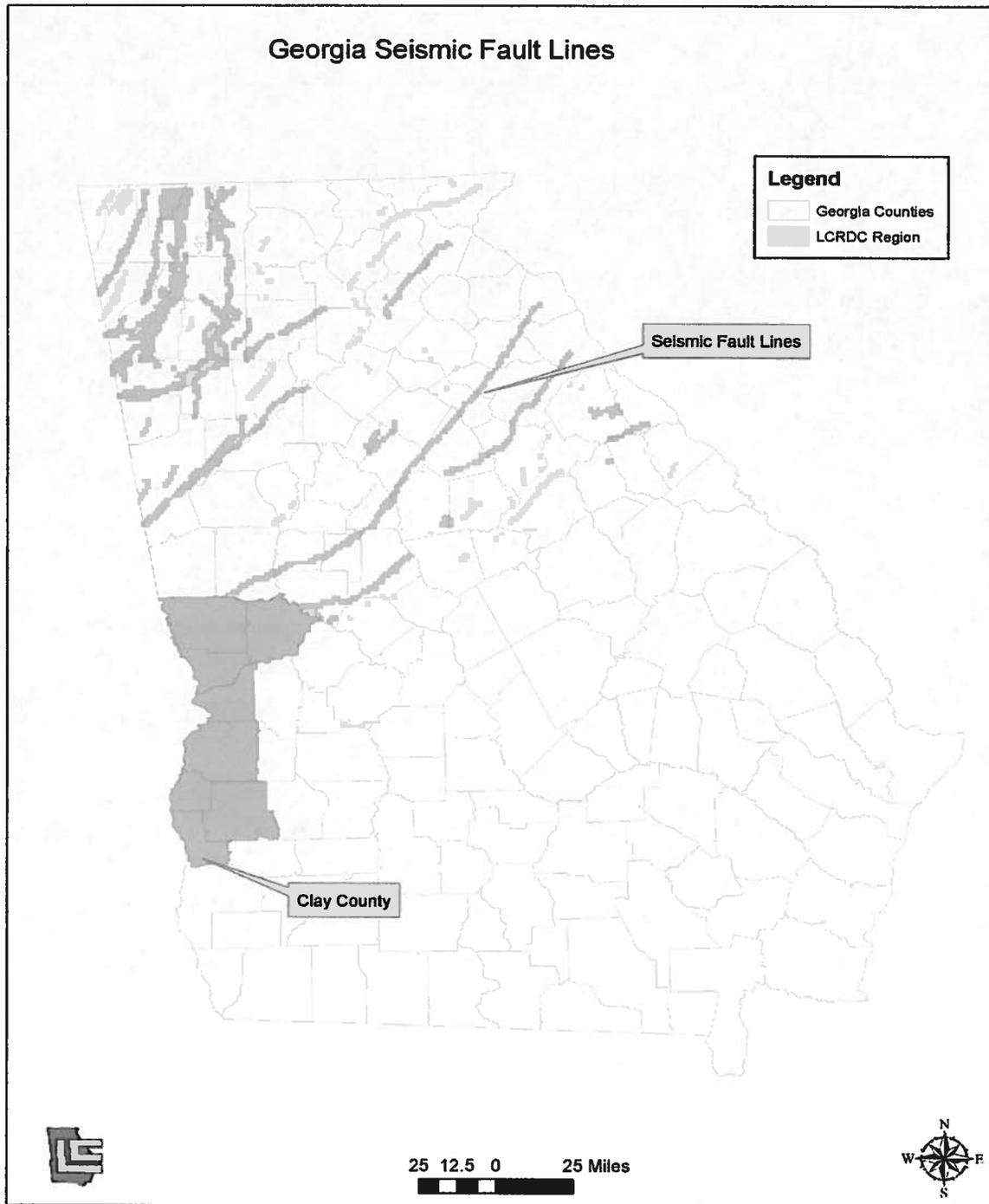
Existing Land Use Classification, Clay County



Community Facilities, Clay County



Seismic Fault Lines-Georgia



Appendix 2 - Public Hearing Notices

12-13-2006

Page 6 • The Cuthbert Southern Tribune - Thurs., Nov. 30, 2006

JOB OPENING RANDOLPH COUNTY

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners are accepting applications for the position of the Randolph County Technician with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The position involves technical assistance in the application of soil and water conservation practices. Responsibilities include office as well as some field work. Computer skills are required. Farming background is a plus. Must have Georgia Drivers License and be at least 18 years old. Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 732-6211 ext. 3 for more information. Applications may be obtained at the County Commissioners office at 309 North Webster Street in Cuthbert, Georgia. Deadline for accepting applications is 4pm on December 4, 2006. 11/23,30/06

PUBLIC NOTICE

Clay County, the City of Bluffton and the City of Fort Gaines will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at 3:30 P.M. at the Clay County Board of Commissioners' Office. This meeting will be the first of two public hearings for the Update Clay County Joint Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). The purpose of this meeting is to inform the public about the purpose of the plan and the process to be followed in the preparation of the solid waste management plan, as well as to elicit community input on needs and goals.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend this hearing and provide input into the SWMP Update. Your thoughts and opinions are welcomed and appreciated.

If anyone needs assistance due to handicap or foreign language barriers, please contact the Clay County Clerk at 229-768-3238 before Monday, December 11, 2006. For more information, please contact Shannan Buckner with the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center at 706-256-2910.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Clay County, the City of Bluffton, and the City of Fort Gaines will hold a public meeting on Friday, June 1, 2007 at 10am at the Clay County Board of Commissions' office. This meeting will be the second and final public hearing for the Update Clay County Joint Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). The purpose of this meeting is to brief the community on the contents of the draft plan, review the Implementation Strategy and the Report of Accomplishment and to provide an opportunity for residents to make suggestions, additions or revisions.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend this hearing and provide input into the SWMP update. Your thoughts and opinions are welcomed and appreciated.

If anyone needs assistance due to handicap or foreign language barriers, please contact the Clay County Clerk at 229-768-3238. For more information, please contact Rick Morris with the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center at 706-256-2910.

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arch

Appendix 3 - Resolutions

Clay County, Georgia

Resolution 07-012 To Transmit Solid Waste management Plan to LCRDC

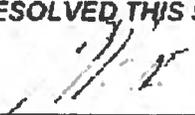
WHEREAS, The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 enacted by the Georgia General Assembly mandated that each of Georgia's counties and cities prepare a Solid Waste Management Plan every ten years; and update the Solid Waste Management Short Term Work Program every five; and

WHEREAS, Clay County and the Cities of Bluffton and Ft. Gaines have completed an update to the Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Clay County and the Cities of Bluffton and Ft. Gaines have complied with the Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management (Chapter 110-4-3) including public participation requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Clay County Board of Commissioners that the document entitled Clay County and the Cities of Bluffton and Ft. Gaines Joint Solid Waste Management Plan, which includes the updated Short Term Work Program, may be transmitted to the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center and the Department of Community Affairs for review and approval.

SO RESOLVED THIS 5th DAY OF June, 2007



Gerald Von Anderson III; Chairman
Clay County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Teresa Smith, County Clerk

A Resolution to Transmit

WHEREAS, The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 enacted by the Georgia General Assembly mandated that each of Georgia's counties and cities prepare a Solid Waste Management Plan every ten years; and update the Solid Waste Management Short Term Work Program every five; and

WHEREAS, Clay County and the Cities of Bluffton, and Ft. Gaines have completed an update to the Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Clay County and the Cities of Bluffton, and Ft. Gaines have complied with the Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management (Chapter 110-4-3) including public participation requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bluffton City Council that the document entitled Clay County and the Cities of Bluffton, and Ft. Gaines Joint Solid Waste Management Plan, which includes the updated Short Term Work Program, may be transmitted to the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center and the Department of Community Affairs for review and approval.

SO RESOLVED THIS _____ **DAY OF** _____, 2007



Deloris Redding; Mayor
City of Bluffton

ATTEST:



(Witness)

City of Fort Gaines, Georgia

A Resolution to Transmit

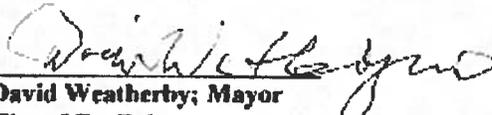
WHEREAS, The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 enacted by the Georgia General Assembly mandated that each of Georgia's counties and cities prepare a Solid Waste Management Plan every ten years; and update the Solid Waste Management Short Term Work Program every five, and

WHEREAS, Clay County and the Cities of Bluffton, and Ft. Gaines have completed an update to the Solid Waste Management Plan; and

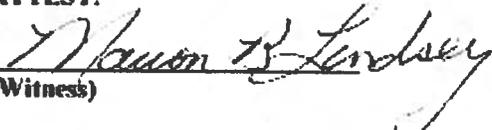
WHEREAS, Clay County and the Cities of Bluffton, and Ft. Gaines have complied with the Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management (Chapter 110-4-3) including public participation requirements,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Ft. Gaines City Council that the document entitled Clay County and the Cities of Bluffton, and Ft. Gaines Joint Solid Waste Management Plan, which includes the updated Short Term Work Program, may be transmitted to the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center and the Department of Community Affairs for review and approval.

SO RESOLVED THIS 12 **DAY OF** June, 2007


David Weatherby, Mayor
City of Ft. Gaines

ATTEST:


(Witness)

Appendix 4 - Capacity Assurance Letter



SPRINGHILL LANDFILL

4045 Hwy 171
Cooperstown, FL 32125
(850) 264-7100
850) 264-2721 Fax

June 6, 2007

Clay County
P O Box 519
Fl. Gaines, Georgia 30601

Dear Ms. Ward,

This letter serves as a disposal capacity assurance for waste generated by Clay County, Blk. 9701 and Fl. Gaines from 2007 to 2017. The Florida DED permit number for the facility is 0000475-013-80. This assurance is based upon Clay County disposing of approximately 3005 tons of waste at this facility on an annual basis.

We thank Clay County for this business partnership and look forward to providing environmentally sound waste disposal options for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Arhaya Kelapanda
District Manager

Resolution 07-029

WHEREAS, Clay County, the Town of Bluffton and City of Fort Gaines have prepared a Solid Waste Management Plan and completed the Short Term Work Program for the years 2007-2017 and;

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Management Plan was prepared in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management Plans as established by the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act; and

WHEREAS, two joint public hearings were held in conformance with the Minimum Procedural Standards for Solid Waste Management Planning, one prior to the planning process and one at the conclusion of the planning process, and,

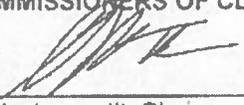
WHEREAS, Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center solicited for local, regional and state comments, and

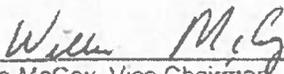
WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Management Plan was reviewed by the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and found it in compliance with the State required Minimum Planning Standards for Solid Waste Management; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Clay County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt the approved Solid Waste Management Plan for Clay County for the years 2007-2017.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of November 2007.

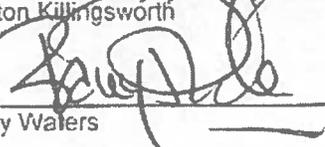
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CLAY COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY:  Yea Nay
Gerald Von Anderson III, Chairman

By:  Yea Nay
Willie McCoy, Vice Chairman

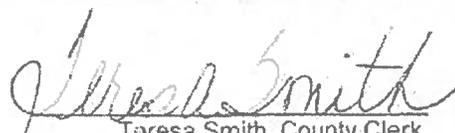
BY:  Yea Nay
David Shivers

BY:  Yea Nay
Walton Killingsworth

BY:  Yea Nay
Barry Waters

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Clay County, keeper of the records and seal thereof, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Clay County in public meeting assembled on November 20, 2007, the original of which resolution has been entered in the official records of said political subdivision under my supervision and is in my official possession, custody and control.


Teresa Smith, County Clerk

Adoption Resolution

WHEREAS, Clay County, the Town of Bluffton and City of Fort Gaines have prepared a Solid Waste Management Plan and completed the Short Term Work Program for the years 2007-2017 and;

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Management Plan was prepared in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management Plans as established by the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act; and

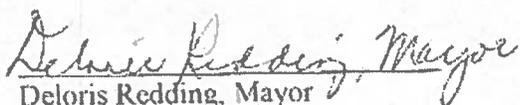
WHEREAS, two joint public hearings were held in conformance with the Minimum Procedural Standards for Solid Waste Management Planning, one prior to the planning process and one at the conclusion of the planning process; and,

WHEREAS, Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center solicited for local, regional and state comments; and

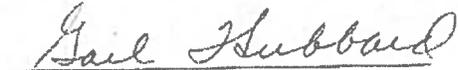
WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Management Plan was reviewed by the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and found it in compliance with the State required Minimum Planning Standards for Solid Waste Management; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Bluffton's Council Members does hereby adopt the approved Solid Waste Management Plan for Clay County for the years 2007-2017.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5 day of November 2007.


Deloris Redding, Mayor
Town of Bluffton

Attest:


Witness

Adoption Resolution

WHEREAS, Clay County, the Town of Bluffton and City of Fort Gaines have prepared a Solid Waste Management Plan and completed the Short Term Work Program for the years 2007-2017 and;

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Management Plan was prepared in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management Plans as established by the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act; and

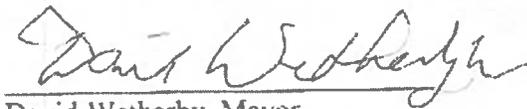
WHEREAS, two joint public hearings were held in conformance with the Minimum Procedural Standards for Solid Waste Management Planning, one prior to the planning process and one at the conclusion of the planning process; and,

WHEREAS, Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center solicited for local, regional and state comments; and

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Management Plan was reviewed by the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and found it in compliance with the State required Minimum Planning Standards for Solid Waste Management; and

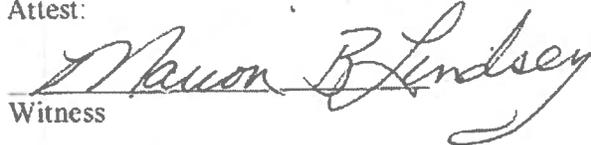
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Fort Gaines' City Council does hereby adopt the approved Solid Waste Management Plan for Clay County for the years 2007-2017.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of November 2007.



David Wetherby, Mayor
City of Fort Gaines

Attest:



Witness



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

COPY

Mike Beatty
COMMISSIONER

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

October 15, 2007

Ms. Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center
P. O. Box 1908
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1908

Dear Patti:

Our staff has reviewed the revised information for the 2007 – 2017 Solid Waste Management Plan for Clay County and the Cities of Bluffton and Ft. Gaines. The revisions have brought the plan into compliance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management. To regain eligibility for solid waste permits, grants, and loans, Clay County and the Cities of Bluffton and Ft. Gaines must adopt the 2007 – 2017 Solid Waste Management Plan as soon as possible.

In order to complete the planning cycle, please forward a copy of the adoption resolutions along with a copy of the revised adopted Solid Waste Management Plan to our office. Once we receive these documents, we will send notification to Clay County and the Cities of Bluffton and Ft. Gaines of their renewed eligibility for solid waste grants, loans, and permits.

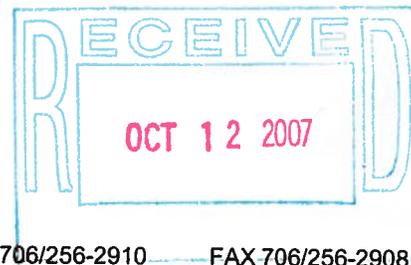
Sincerely,

Mike Gleaton, Assistant Commissioner
Planning and Environmental Division

MG/jk



Lower Chattahoochee
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER



1428 SECOND AVENUE

P.O. Box 1908

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA 31902-1908

706/256-2910 FAX 706/256-2908

October 10, 2007

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Kenny Dove, Program Coordinator
60 Executive Park South, NE
Rm. 372
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Mr. Dove:

Please find enclosed a revised draft hard copy and a CD containing the Clay County, City of Bluffton and City of Ft, Gaines Solid Waste Management Plan Update. All the changes suggested by Mr. John Karrh have been inserted into the attached document and revised for compliance by Mr. Karrh. Also included are the Clay County and Cities of Bluffton and Ft. Gaines Report of Accomplishments, STWP Implementation Strategy, Transmittal Resolutions and copies of public hearing notices as well as the Waste Management Disposal Capacity Assurance letter documents.

The SWMP Update has been reviewed for internal consistency, potential conflicts with the solid waste management plans of neighboring jurisdictions and for potential cooperative programs or facility operation opportunities within the region. The plan has been found to be internally consistent with no inter-jurisdictional conflicts. Although discussed by the local communities no regional solutions or opportunities were identified.

If you have any questions please call me at 706-256-2910. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Rick Morris
Planning and Community Development Director

Enclosures