

JOINT WHITE COUNTY & CITIES OF CLEVELAND AND HELEN
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
2005-2015

PREPARED FOR:

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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INTRODUCTION

In 1994, White County adopted a Ten Year Solid Waste Plan. This document is an update to that plan, focusing on revised population and employment projections to the Year 2020. This plan will cover the ten year period from 2004-2014, and revisions to the developed short term work program will be made as needed.

In 1989, the Georgia General Assembly passed SR 103 creating the Joint Solid Waste Management Study Committee. The purpose of the committee was to analyze the status of solid waste management in Georgia and recommendations in the report were drafted as legislation and introduced as an administration bill in the 1990 session of the General Assembly as SB 533, the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act. The bill unanimously passed both houses of the General Assembly.

This Act, SB 533, provides a sound framework for comprehensive solid waste management. The first step in implementing the Act has been the development of the Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan. The purpose of the state plan is essentially threefold:

- To present a status report of solid waste management in Georgia,
- To set forth the state's strategy for reducing and managing solid waste, and
- To establish the procedures and criteria for local/regional solid waste plans and other components of the local/regional solid waste management strategy.

This document, *The Joint White County and Cities of Helen and Cleveland Solid Waste Management Plan*, represents the next step in the planning process.

White County is located in the northeastern part of Georgia in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It covers 241.6 square miles and is considered a rural county. This plan will cover all the unincorporated areas of White County as well as accounting for Cleveland and Helen.

Habersham County borders on the east side of the county, while Lumpkin and Union Counties are on the west. Hall County is located on the southern border and Towns County borders on the north. Incorporated areas of White County include the aforementioned Cities of Cleveland and Helen. Cleveland is the county seat as well as the largest city. The county is served by State Routes 75, 115, 129, 255, 356 and 384 and Highway 17.

Mr. Harry Barton, Solid Waste Director, serves as the contact for any questions regarding this plan update. Mailing: 59 S. Main Street, Suite 7, Cleveland, GA ,30528. (706) 865-6768.

White County has experienced a tremendous amount of growth in the last decade. The 2000 census population for White County was 19,944 , up from 13006 in 1990, with approximately 22,800 as of 2003. White County has been listed as one of the fifty (50) fastest growing counties in the United States.

Even though our population has grown, we are still committed to reducing solid waste and its impact on our environment through waste reduction, recycling efforts and public education.

An understanding of the changing demographics, waste disposal trends, and developmental projections, as well as infrastructure assessments serve as the groundwork for the establishment of this plan. Analysis of current waste and recycling facilities usage and capacities, as well as other factors, has been used to predict future needs.

In the evaluation and formulation of this plan, White County, along with the cities of Cleveland and Helen, jointly held two public hearings, one in February 2004, and the second in ,2006. This effort to receive valuable public

participation has resulted in a better understanding of the role of this plan in providing for the needs of the citizens of this county.

DEFINITIONS

- a) "**Annual Survey**" means the survey instrument that is distributed by the Department to local governments on an annual basis in order to compile Georgia solid waste management data. The survey includes the status of local and regional solid waste management activities, the full-cost report, and solid waste reduction practices.
- (b) "**Board**" means the Board of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
- (c) "**Board of Directors**" means the Board of Directors of a Regional Development Center.
- (d) "**Board of Natural Resources**" means the Board of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.
- (e) "**Capital Costs**" means any cost for or associated with the purchase of tangible assets such as land, roads, buildings, and equipment, including improvements, modifications, or additions which increase the value, usefulness, or life of these assets.
- (f) "**Comprehensive Plan**" means any plan by a county or municipality covering such county or municipality or any plan by a Regional Development Center covering the center's region proposed or prepared pursuant to the minimum standards and procedures for preparation of comprehensive plans and for implementation of comprehensive plans, established by the Department in accordance with the O.C.G.A. § 50-8-7.1(b) and §50-8- 7.2.
- (g) "**Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan**" means any solid waste management plan by a county or municipality, any group of local jurisdictions agreeing to plan together, or any local or regional solid waste authority, or any plan by a Regional Development Center on behalf of a member county or municipality, covering such county or municipality individually or in conjunction with other local governments prepared pursuant to the minimum standards and procedures for comprehensive solid waste management plans and for implementation of comprehensive solid waste management plans, established by the Department in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 12 -8- 31.1.
- (h) "**Composting**" means the controlled biological decomposition of organic matter into a stable, odor-free humus.
- (i) "**County**" means any county of the State of Georgia.
- (j) "**Days**" means calendar days, unless otherwise specified.
- (k) "**Department**" means the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
- (l) "**Developments of Regional Impact**" means any project that requires local government action to proceed and that exceeds the minimum thresholds established by the Department. Such procedures and guidelines to govern developments of regional impact shall be promulgated by the Department pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-8-7.1(b)(3).
- (m) "**DNR**" means the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.
- (n) "**Eligible Local Government**" means a government has adopted and notified the Department of its adoption of a solid waste management plan and short-term work program update that the Department has determined meets the Minimum Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management Planning.

- (o) "**Enterprise Fund**" means a fund established to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises:
1. Where it is the intent of the governing body to finance or recover the costs of providing goods or services primarily through user charges; or
 2. Where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and net income are appropriated for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other related purposes.
- (p) "**EPD**" means the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.
- (q) "**Fee Schedule**" means a detailed schedule listing the goods or services provided by a government and any fees, rates, or special taxes assessed or charged for these goods or services.
- (r) "**Full-Cost Report**" means the use of an accounting system that isolates, and then consolidates for reporting purposes, the direct and indirect costs that relate to the operation of the solid waste management system.
- (s) "**Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act**" means the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990, O.C.G.A. § 12-8-20 et seq., which establishes the statutory authority for local governments to develop solid waste management plans. The Act also requires local governments to report annually to the Department and to the public the amount of solid waste generated and the cost of disposing of that waste.
- (t) "**Georgia Planning Act**" means the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, O.C.G.A. § 50 -8-1 et seq., which establishes the statutory authority for local governments to undertake comprehensive plans which comply with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures as established by the Department.
- (u) "**Governing Body**" means the board of commissioners of a county, sole commissioner of a county, council, commissioners, or other governing authority of a county, municipality, or solid waste authority.
- (v) "**Household Hazardous Waste**" (HHW) means unwanted household products that are labeled as flammable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive.
- (w) "**Implementation Strategy**" means the narrative and year-specific description that each county and municipality must submit as an element of a comprehensive solid waste management plan. An implementation strategy describes how each local government intends to implement its comprehensive solid waste management plan through a ten-year period, including a listing of public actions to be undertaken by the community toward implementation of the comprehensive solid waste management plan and the related costs of such actions. For regional plans, the implementation strategy must also detail solid waste management activities to be undertaken by any regional entity, or by any local government on behalf of other local governments through contracts or other formal arrangements.
- (x) "**Local Government**" means any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state.
- (y) "**Local Plan**" means the solid waste management plan for any county or municipality.
- (z) "**Mediation**" means the process to be employed by the Department and/or Regional Development Centers for resolving conflicts which may arise from time to time in the coordinated and comprehensive planning process. Such procedures and guidelines to govern mediation shall be promulgated by the department pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50 - 8- 7.1(d).
- (aa) "**Minimum Standards and Procedures**" means the minimum standards and procedures, including the minimum elements which shall be addressed and included for preparation of local, multi-jurisdictional, and regional solid waste management plans, for implementation of local comprehensive plans, and for participation in the coordinated and comprehensive planning process. Minimum standards and procedures may include any elements,

standards, and procedures for such purposes prescribed by a Regional Development Center for counties and municipalities within its region and approved in advance by the department, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-8-1 et seq. and the rules and guidelines developed by the Department.

(bb) "**Mulch**" a byproduct typically comprised of materials from land clearing and yard trimmings that have been size-reduced by grinding, chipping, or shredding and used on top of the soil to retain moisture around vegetation or for aesthetic purposes.

(cc) "**Multi-Jurisdictional Plan**" means a solid waste management plan adopted pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 12-8-31.1 covering one or more counties, municipality or municipalities, or solid waste authority or solid waste authorities.

(dd) "**Municipal Solid Waste**" means any solid waste derived from households, including garbage, trash, and sanitary waste in septic tanks and means solid waste from single family and multifamily residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, campgrounds, picnic grounds, and day use recreation areas. The term includes yard trimmings and commercial solid waste but does not include recovered materials, or solid waste from mining, agricultural, or silvicultural operations or industrial processes or operations.

(ee) "**Municipality**" means any municipal corporation of the state and any consolidated city-county government of the state.

(ff) "**Operating Costs**" means any costs incurred during the normal course of the operation of a business, government, or organization, including expenditures for items such as salaries, wages, and benefits; supplies and utilities; and gas, oil, and maintenance.

(gg) "**Plan Amendment**" means a significant action by a local government to change its currently approved solid waste management plan. Amendments shall be deemed necessary when the local government feels conditions have changed dramatically so as to alter the basic tenets of its approved solid waste plan.

(hh) "**Plan Approval**" means the certification conferred by the Department acknowledging that a local government has prepared, submitted to the regional development center for review, and has received written approval from the Department that their plan, plan amendment, or short-term work program update meets the minimum standards and procedures and may be adopted.

(ii) "**Recovered materials**" means those materials which have known use, reuse, or recycling potential; can be feasibly used, reused, or recycled; and have been diverted or removed from the solid waste stream for sale, use, reuse, or recycling, whether or not requiring subsequent separation and processing.

(jj) "**Recycling**" means 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.

(kk) "**Regional Authority**" means a group of jurisdictions that have joined together for a single purpose as a legally constituted entity. Regional authorities:

1. Are governed by a Board of Directors which represents the interests of the member jurisdictions;
2. Can incur bonded indebtedness without a public referendum; and
3. Can enter into contracts for the development and operation of facilities.

(ll) "**Regional Development Center**" means a Regional Development Center established under O.C.G.A. § 50-8-32.

(mm) "**Regional Plan**" means a solid waste management plan that addresses one or more of the planning elements on a regional basis. A regional plan shall cover two or more counties and may include one or more municipality within those counties.

(nn) "**Short Term Work Program**" means that portion of the Implementation Strategy that lists the specific actions to be undertaken annually by the local government over the upcoming five years to implement the approved comprehensive solid waste management plan.

(oo) "**Solid Waste**" means any garbage or refuse; sludge from a wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility; and other discarded material including solid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations and community activities, but does not include recovered materials; solid or dissolved materials in domestic sewage; solid or dissolved materials in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges that are point sources subject to permit under 33 U.S.C. § 1342; or source, special nuclear, or by-product material as defined by the Federal Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (68 Stat. 923).

(pp) "**Solid waste disposal and landfill capacity reports**" means reports required by DNR Rule 391-3-4-.17 to be filed with the Director of DNR by holders of municipal solid waste disposal and landfill permits showing quarterly amount disposed and remaining landfill capacity.

(qq) "**Solid Waste Handling**" means the storage, collection, transportation, treatment, utilization, processing, or disposal of solid waste, or any combination of such activities.

(rr) "**Solid Waste Handling Facility**" means any facility, the primary purpose of which is the storage, collection, transportation, treatment, utilization, processing, or disposal, or any combination thereof, of solid waste.

(ss) "**Solid Waste Handling Permit**" means written authorization granted to a person by the Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to engage in solid waste handling.

(tt) "**Source Reduction**" means actions taken to prevent the generation of waste in the first place.

(uu) "**Subtitle D**" means the 1991 amendments to Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 40 CFR Part 257 and 258. These amendments, adopted by the State of Georgia in DNR Rule 391-3-4, require, among other things, specific design standards for solid waste landfills, such as synthetic liners, leachate collection and treatment, groundwater monitoring, and methane collection systems, intended to extend an extra measure of protection to air and water quality.

(vv) "**State Agency**" means any department, agency, commission, or other institution of the executive branch of the government of the State of Georgia.

(ww) "**State Plan**" means the State Solid Waste Management Plan prepared by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, including any revisions or amendments thereto.

(xx) "**Waste Stream Analysis**" means an inventory and analysis of the solid waste stream, including amounts of waste being generated and/or disposed, the source of the waste (i.e., residential, commercial), and a characterization of the waste by composition (i.e., paper, food, yard trimmings). A waste stream analysis also includes a percentage accounting of the waste stream by source and by composition.

(yy) "**Waste to energy facility**" or WTE means a solid waste handling facility that provides for the extraction and utilization of energy from municipal solid waste through a process of combustion.

CHAPTER I

WASTE STREAM ANALYSIS

Waste Generators and Components

Residential- Residential waste production is constituted by a combination of organic materials such as food waste and yard trimmings; various small bulk inorganic wastes due primarily to product packaging and general residential activities; plastic derived primarily from product packaging and beverage bottles; metal primarily derived from cans and product packaging; paper in the form of corrugated containers, magazines, newspapers, product packaging and various other sources; and derived from food and beverage packaging. This represents approximately 58% of the total tonnage, or 12,350.52 tons. (FY 2004-2005 data of 21,294.5 total tons disposed of.)

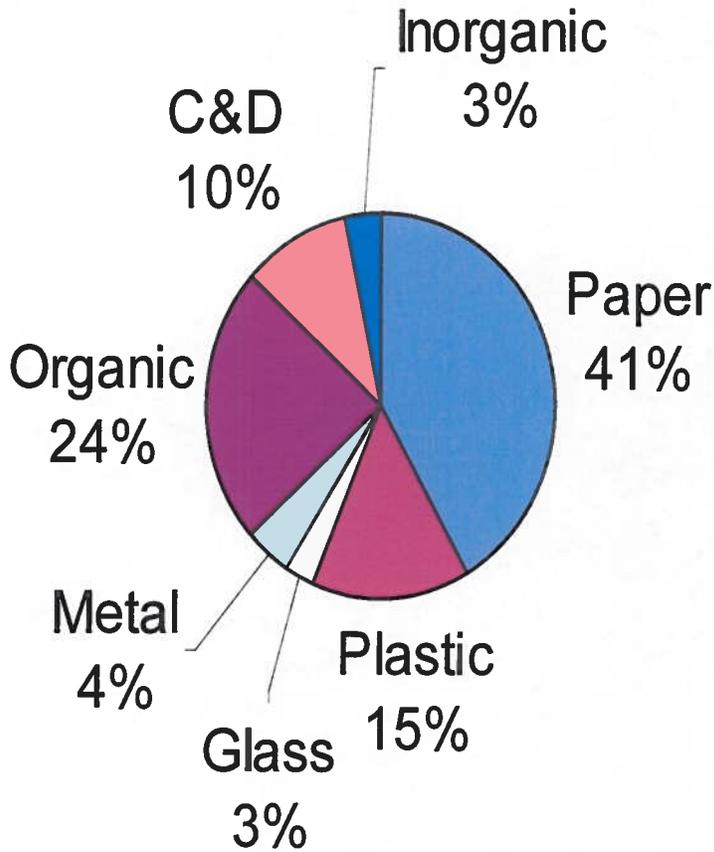
Commercial- Commercial waste production is constituted by a combination of organic materials primarily including food waste and yard trimmings; various large bulk inorganic materials due primarily to packaging and general commercial activity; plastic derived from product packaging and various commercial activities; metal derived from product packaging; paper in the form of corrugated containers, product packaging, and various mixed papers; and glass derived primarily from product packaging and various lesser sources. This represents approximately 23% of the total tonnage, or 4897.62 tons. (FY 2004-2005 data)

Industrial- Industrial waste production is constituted by a combination of various large bulk inorganic materials related to production processes and raw materials; plastic derived from product packaging, production processes, and various containers; metal derived from product packaging and production processes; paper derived from production process, product packaging and various mixed uses; and glass derived from production processes, product packaging, and raw material usage. This represents approximately 7% of the total tonnage, or 1490.61 tons. (FY 2004-2005 data)

Development/Building Industry- Development and building industry waste production is constituted by a combination of organic materials including yard trimmings and various inert materials (brush, tree stumps); various inorganic materials incidental to development activities; plastic derived primarily from product packaging and development by-products; metal derived primarily from product packaging and incidental to developmental activities; paper derived from product packaging, and incidental to development activities; glass derived primarily from packaging and incidental usage; and construction and demolition waste derived from and incidental to development activities. Construction debris represents approximately 12% of the total tonnage, or 2555.0 tons. Inert materials are not accepted at our local transfer station. (FY 2004-2005 data)

Tourism/Special Events- Tourism and special events, industry waste production is constituted by a combination of organic materials primarily including food waste; plastic, derived from product packaging and beverage containers; metal, derived primarily from product packaging and containers; paper, derived from corrugated containers, product packaging, and various mixed paper uses; and glass, derived primarily from product packaging. This waste is not tracked separately in our data.

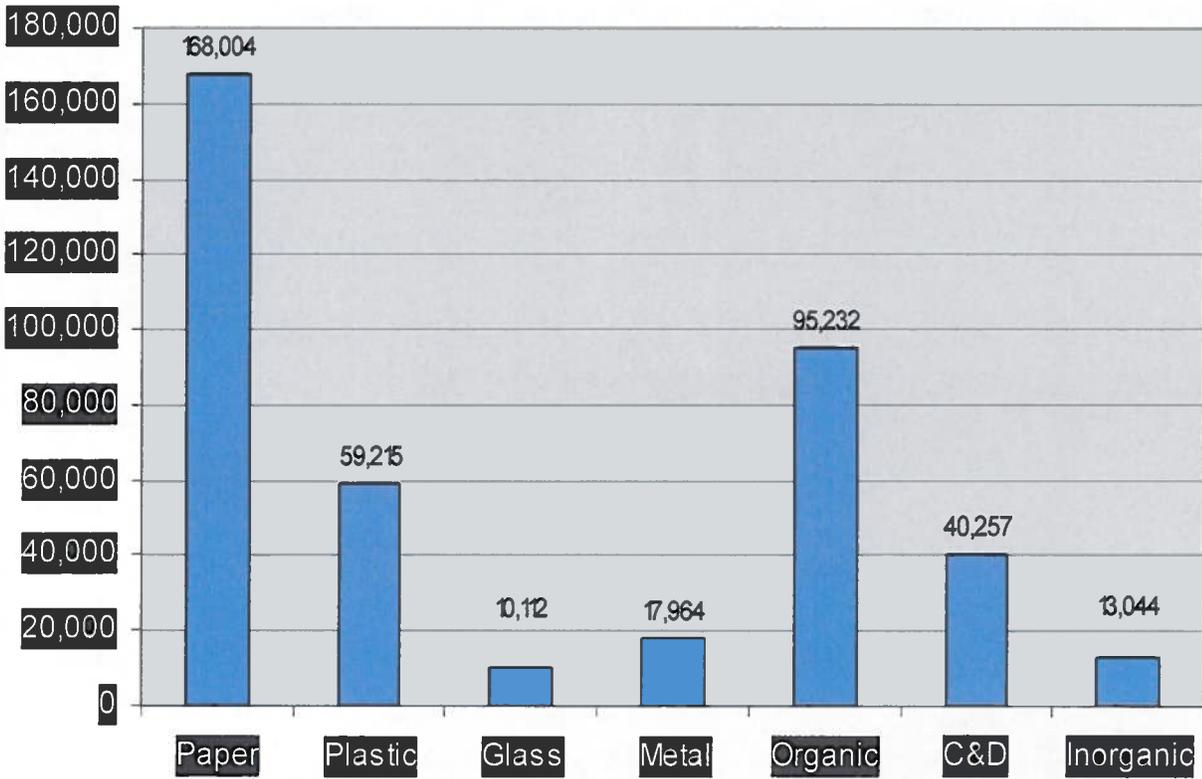
GEORGIA MOUNTAINS RDC WASTE STREAM ANALYSIS



these ratios are consistent w/ the 4 season results

The facilities included in the Georgia DCA Waste Composition Study during the first two seasonal sorts (fall and winter) were Oak Grove Landfill, Winder Georgia; Wayne County, Screven GA.; City of Lagrange Landfill Lagrange GA.

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS RDC DISPOSED WASTE COMPOSITION



CHAPTER II WASTE REDUCTION ELEMENT

According to the 2002 Georgia Solid Waste Management Update, the State of Georgia's waste disposal reduction goal is a per capita reduction goal based upon all municipal solid waste disposed within the state. It does not exclude waste generated from out of state sources and disposed in landfills located within the state. The impact of out of state waste imports plays a role in the state achieving waste disposal reduction. The average amount of waste disposed in Georgia was recorded as 8.25 pounds per person per day including construction and demolition material and 6.4 pounds including only municipal waste and excluding out of state waste imports. This average is several pounds above the national average waste generation of approximately 4.0 pounds per person per day.

White County

*At present, White County owns one Transfer Station and one Recycling Convenience Center. The transfer station is operated under contract with Waste Management while White County retains full control over the recycling center. The transfer station located in White County includes a recycle center which accepts newspaper, magazines, cardboard, aluminum and seasonal Christmas trees. It replaced the landfill that was closed 1998. The White County convenience center accepts No. 1 & 2 Plastics, tin and aluminum cans and magazines, newsprint and seasonal Christmas trees. At this time, no recycling programs are operated out of White County school system. Recycling programs are open to the approximately 20,000 residents of White County. There are two thrift shop in White County in the City of Cleveland there is Mildred Thrift Shop for used Cloths located on Quillian Street and Community Thrift store located on State Clarkesville Hwy., they recycle cloths , furniture, etc.

City of Cleveland

*Currently, the City of Cleveland averages approximately 6.0 pounds/person/day of solid waste excluding construction and demolition material. This matches the 6.05 figure reported in the 2002 Georgia Solid Waste Management update. A reduction to 5.5 pounds/person/day is required if we are to achieve the reduction goal.

*At present, the citizens of Cleveland utilize the Transfer Station (managed by Waste Management), and one recycling center owned and managed by White County for recycling. In addition to the above recycling locations, collection dumpsters are located at three strategic locations within the city to accept newspapers.

City of Helen

*The City of Helen utilizes the Transfer Station and one Recycling Convenience Center owned and operated by White County. In addition, the City of Helen has purchased a truck and chipper and is providing curb side chipping for our residents and businesses.

NEEDS AND GOALS

- 1) **Source and Waste Reduction** – This option of reduction will inevitably prove the most effective and environmentally sound component to reduce waste.

A) Increase Public Awareness –

***White County , The City of Helen, and the City of Cleveland,**
needs to expand information programs on and about solid waste, what it costs, who has to pay, and how we can reduce the volume as well as the cost.

The following guidelines are encouraged:

- The reuse of appliances, furniture, and clothing is becoming more acceptable and necessary. Reuse, rather than discard, products by donating, reselling or swapping products, appliances, clothing, etc., whenever possible. Churches, thrift shops, and consignment houses are good alternatives to placing reusable goods in the landfill.
- Educate the public about product design/packaging to reduce the purchase of materials that cannot be recycled or that are “wasteful” in our market. Encourage consumers and business to reduce the amount of waste through more conscientious purchasing and use of products with increased product life and reusability.
- Expand public education programs for source reduction through posters, media campaigns, weekly newspaper columns and radio announcements.

2) **Recycling**

A) Recycling Centers – Expansion of and implementation of new recycling facilities. Research and planning are currently being doing for two future sites. Additional recycling centers will be located in or near the City of Helen and in the eastern quadrant of the county.

3) **Composting** – Composting operations are environmentally and ecologically beneficial. By returning yard waste and organic materials back into rich humus, we both reduce the amount of material in our gardens and lawns.

A) Home Composting – Encourage all homeowners and residents who have access to an appropriate area in which to produce their own compost. Instruction on home composting is readily available from the White County Office of Community Development and the White County Extension Office.

B) Community Composting- White County and the Cities of Helen and Cleveland jointly support the “Bring One for The Chipper” mulch recycling program and have done so for the last 5 years. There is currently no public composting facility.

CHAPTER III **WASTE COLLECTION ELEMENT**

Waste Collection

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

Solid Waste Collection

White County

*At present, there are six (5) private collection companies working in White County. H& H Sanitation 825 W Kyle Street, Short Stop PO Box 2598, Town Of Clermont PO Box 257 Clermont, Waste Away PO Box 262 and Waste Management 478 Bennett Road Homer These companies collect household, commercial and industrial waste throughout the County. All contracts for collection, for the unincorporated areas, are available in an ‘open market system.’”

City of Cleveland

*The City of Cleveland provides residential and commercial/industrial waste collection within the city limit boundary. The solid waste is transported to the Telford-Hulsey Industrial Park Transfer Station which is managed by Waste Management through a contract with White County.

*The city provides curbside garbage collection for 856 residential customers and on site collection for 115 commercial customers via a 90 gallon container or a 4 cubic yard dumpster. Yard trimmings or composting materials are not allowed in collection containers and residents are encouraged to compost these waste materials. Residential collection is weekly and commercial dumpster collection frequency is variable based on customer needs. Approximately 2500-3000 tons/year of solid waste is deposited at the transfer station with the city paying a tipping rate of \$39.50/ton.

*The city operates two (2) garbage trucks and one (1) small truck equipped with a dumpster which is used to collect at the homes of those with physical limitations who are unable to roll out their containers to curbside.

*The city continues to provide solid waste collection to its citizens at very nominal rates as residential customer fees range from \$6.30 - \$15.00/month depending on the number living in the residence. Dumpster fees are \$8.00 per dumpster occurrence.

City of Helen

*The City of Helen presently contracts with a private company for collection and disposal of household waste. The contract is awarded under an open public bid, advertised as provided by the City of Helen Charter and Georgia Law. Commercial collection is performed by private companies in an "open market system."

COLLECTION CONTINGENCY

Contingency Collection Strategy- Should the current collection practices become interrupted or unavailable, the Cities of Cleveland and Helen would seek other haulers who would be able to provide for collection of solid waste for their citizens. The Cities are aware of available haulers and will be prepared to ensure that any interruption of service would be minimized. Also, in the unlikely event of any interruption of services, residents would be able to take their solid waste to the White County Transfer Station.

White County does not provide collection for residences or businesses. Solid waste is transported to the White County Transfer Station or the White County Convenience Center by private citizens or contracted haulers.

Recycling Collection

White County

*The county has two (2) manned recycling centers in the unincorporated areas where residents can bring their recyclable material free of charge. The Transfer Station charges \$39.50 per ton with a \$2.00 minimum charged. The White County Convenience Center is located off of Hulsey Rd. It accepts residential household waste for \$2.00 for six (6) or less bags. Additional bags are 50 cents apiece. It also has a \$2.00 minimum charged. It is operated by White County. The Transfer Station is located at the Telford Hulsey Industrial Park and is contracted out to Waste Management. The Convenience Center is open Mondays & Wednesdays from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and Saturdays from 8:00 A.M. to 4 P.M. The Transfer County is open Mondays through Wednesdays & Fridays from 7:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., Thursdays from 7:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. and Saturdays from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Solid waste is hauled to the Waste Management R & B Landfill in

Banks County. Recyclable items are transported to private material recovery and processing facilities in Hall County. Some newsprint is transported by S & P Recycling.

*In 2002, White County Recycling Centers received 0.97 tons of aluminum cans, 8.75 tons of no. 1 and no 2 plastics & magazines and 43.94 tons of newspaper. After the Christmas season, approximately 50 Christmas trees were received.

City of Cleveland

*The City of Cleveland does not presently offer curbside recycling for the city customers. The city's residents utilize the county manned recycling center located on Hulsey Road which is less than two miles from the square. In addition, collection containers are located at two (2) strategic locations within the city for collection of newspaper and magazines for recycling by a private vendor. Some commercial retailers, for example Ingle's Grocery, provide in-store recyclable collection containers.

*The City of Cleveland joins with White County government in the Christmas tree recycling effort "Bring one for the Chipper". A central tree shredder is located in the heart of Cleveland for both city and county residents use.

City of Helen

*The City of Helen utilizes two (2) manned recycling centers owned and operated by White County. Helen residences can take their recyclable materials to the centers free of charge.

Environmental Code Enforcement

White County

*White County has an Environmental Code Enforcement Officer who's main responsibilities include identifying illegal dumpsites, fielding public complaints on litter and proper solid waste disposal and inspecting scrap tire generating facilities carriers and sorters.

*The White County Code Enforcement Officer follows the rules and regulations of solid waste management set forth in Solid Waste Ordinance 2003-32, as amended.

City of Cleveland

*The City Police Department, via 24/7 patrolling the city, watches for illegal use of dumpsters and for any inappropriate solid waste disposal.

City of Helen

*The City of Helen has a Building and Zoning Director who's duties include identifying illegal dumpsites, fielding public complaints on litter and proper solid waste disposal. The City of Helen has no scrap tire generating facilities.

*The Building and Zoning Director follows the rules and regulations of solid waste management set forth in the City Code Chapter 54 (SOLID WASTE).

PROGRAM NEEDS AND GOALS

White County

*There is a need to site at least one more Convenience center in White County over the next five years and maybe more in a ten year period. In order to insure proper segregation of household waste and recyclable materials, all additional centers would have to be manned. Each new center creates a need for one new county recycling center operator position. At this time, plans are being prepared to build one (1) additional recycling center in the east area of the county.

*With a fast growing population of all ages there is a serious concern for illegal dumping of tires and other solid waste. As a result of the county's growth, the Code Enforcement Officer's caseload is expected to increase over the next few years. While a new position may not be necessary at this time, additional officers might become a necessity in the coming years.

City of Cleveland

*At this time there is a Convenience Center just out side of the city limits for residents to take there household waste and recycling materials.

City of Helen

*Since Helen's waste pickup is currently contracted with private companies recycling pickup at each residence would be very expensive. The best solution would be to provide a Recycling Center in a location more convenient to our residents

CHAPTER IV WASTE DISPOSAL ELEMENT

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

The White County Dukes Creek Landfill on Asbestos Road was closed in February of 1998. It was closed according to regulations set forth by the Department of Natural Resources.

The White County Transfer Station opened February of 1998. It began receiving commercial and residential solid waste at its opening. The Transfer Station was built to accommodate approximately 100 tons per day. White County is under contract (enclosed) with Waste Management for operation of the Transfer Station and disposal of solid waste. The Transfer Station is averaging approximately 72 tons per day. Solid waste is taken from the Transfer Station to the R & B Landfill in Banks County.

White County

*White County has a goal to insure that solid waste disposal facilities serving the local government meet regulatory requirements and are in place when needed to support and facilitate effective solid waste handling programs today and for the subsequent ten (10) year plan period, thereby maintaining and enhancing the quality of life of the citizens of White County. In the event of a natural disaster White County will first

investigate the site affected and then determine where a debris site for the public to bring their storm debris. White County will then contract the disposal of the storm debris.

City of Cleveland-

*The City of Cleveland converted its waste disposal in 1998 from White County's Dukes Creek Landfill, which was closed in accordance with state regulations, to the White County Transfer Station. The transfer station is now contracted and managed by Waste Management and waste is transported to their R&B Landfill in Banks County. In the event of a natural event, the City of Cleveland will first investigate the site affected and then determine an area for the public to bring their storm debris. City of Cleveland will contract the disposal of the storm debris.

*Cleveland has a goal to insure that solid waste disposal facilities servicing our municipality meet all regulatory requirements today and for the subsequent ten (10) year plan period.

City of Helen-

*The City of Helen waste disposal is conducted by private contractors. The residential waste disposal is contracted with the City and commercial disposal achieved by individual contracts between the commercial establishments and local companies. Waste is taken to the White County Transfer Station and then disposed at R & B Landfill in Banks County. Other collection companies use the same landfill or the White County Transfer Station. In the event of a natural disaster City of Helen will first investigate the site affected and then determine where a debris for the public to bring their storm debris. City of Helen will then contract the disposal of the storm debris.

*The White County Transfer Station opened in February of 1998 and began receiving commercial and residential solid waste. The Transfer Station was constructed to accommodate approximately 100 tons per day.

*The City of Helen strives to insure that solid waste disposal facilities serving our local government meet regulatory requirements. Our contract for residential collection contracts requires that all waste must be disposed of in a facility that meets all required regulations

DISPOSAL CONTINGENCY

Contingency Disposal Strategy- All solid waste is brought to the White County Transfer Station either directly or from the White County Convenience Center. In the unlikely event that either should close or become inoperable, solid waste may be taken to the alternate site. A contractual agreement with a private hauler does require that all solid waste from White County be transported to an approved landfill. This would remain in effect regardless of the location the waste was brought to. In the event that the customary landfill closed, the hauler would then be required to transport to other approved facilities under that contract.

CHAPTER V LAND LIMITATIONS

This element of the Solid Waste management Plan will offer an assessment of land areas which, due to criteria set by environmental limitations or land use factors, are considered unsuitable for the development of a solid waste handling facility within the city limits of Cleveland. This information will help to determine possible locations for any new solid waste handling facilities. Some of the items to be considered include the following:

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

Natural Environmental Limitation

White County

*White County has adopted, at this time, four parts of The Part V Environmental Criteria. These criteria endeavor to protect environmentally sensitive areas throughout the County. These areas include water supply watersheds (large and small), groundwater recharge areas, wetlands and river corridors. These criteria act as an overlay district that increases buffering and impervious surface setbacks along wetlands and river corridors. It also increases the buffer and impervious surface setback along creeks and streams residing in water supply watersheds. Ground water recharge areas are identified as part of this overlay district and those areas are protected from the placement of sanitary Solid Waste Handling facilities..

City of Cleveland

*The City of Cleveland has adopted a Standard Development Specifications for all development within the city. Proposed developments are reviewed by the city personnel and the city engineer for approval. Developments are enforced by the city building inspector. Cleveland's specification approval process endeavor to protect environmental all sensitive areas throughout the city.

City of Helen

*The City of Helen has adopted in it's Official Code a land development code. This code is enforced by the Building and Zoning Director of the City and is governed by the Planning, Design and Review Board as well as the Helen City Commission. Helen's regulations endeavor to protect environmentally sensitive areas throughout the City.

(I) Water Supply Watersheds

City of Cleveland has no water supply watersheds within its boundaries that are regulated for operating intake.

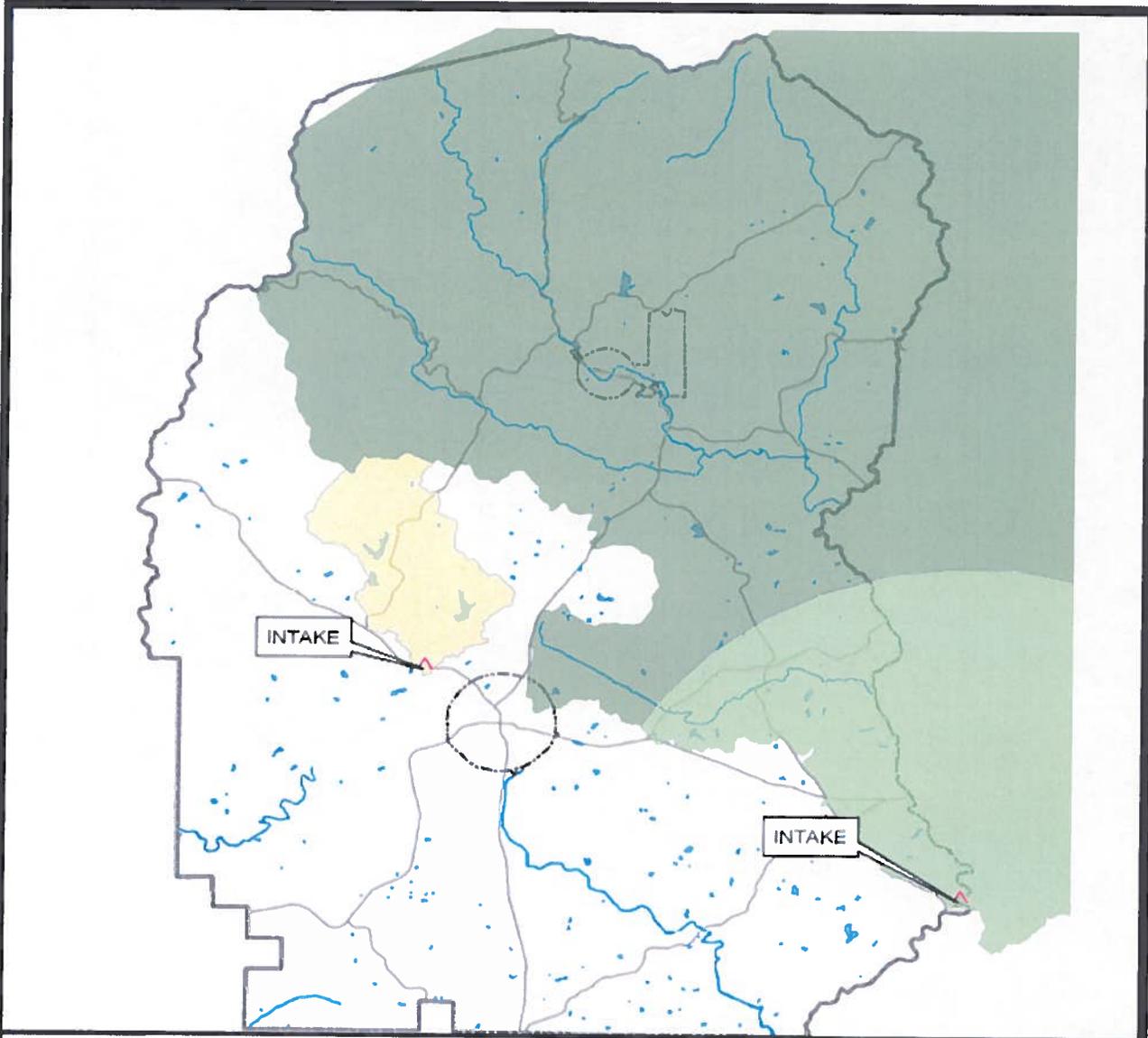
No existing surface water intakes are located within the **City Limits of Helen**. No portion of an existing water supply watershed is located within Helen. The City of Helen is presently reliant upon groundwater wells and water purchased from the White County Water Authority as sources of municipal water supply, and no formal plans are presently established for surface water withdrawals by the City of Helen.

White County has adopted Resolution 2004-25. The ordinance is referred to as the “Water Supply Watershed Protection Resolution for White County.” The term water supply watershed refers to land up gradient of a government owned, public drinking water intake. Within a watershed, water that either runs off the land as overflow or seeps through the soil and is later released will ultimately determine the quality and quantity of public drinking water.

Water supply watersheds are protected from development that would increase erosion, flooding, and sedimentation of water sources. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has recommended buffer requirements governing development to be applied to certain watersheds.

White County has adopted watershed districts. It reads, “The White County Water Supply Watershed Districts are hereby designated and shall comprise the land that drains into the Turner Creek water supply watershed and the Chattahoochee River which is the public water supply intake for Demorest/Baldwin Water System.”

Currently, the Water Supply Watershed Protection Resolution for the White County prohibits landfills, hazardous waste treatment or disposal facilities within watershed drainage areas.



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
 MAP PRODUCED BY GMRDC

WHITE COUNTY, GEORGIA
 WATER SUPPLY WATERSHED

LEGEND

- MAJOR ROADS CITIES TURNER CREEK RESERVIOR INTAKE
- MAJOR RIVERS WHITE COUNTY BALDWIN INTAKE - INNER MANAGEMENT ZONE
- WATERBODIES BALDWIN INTAKE - OUTER MANAGEMENT ZONE

4

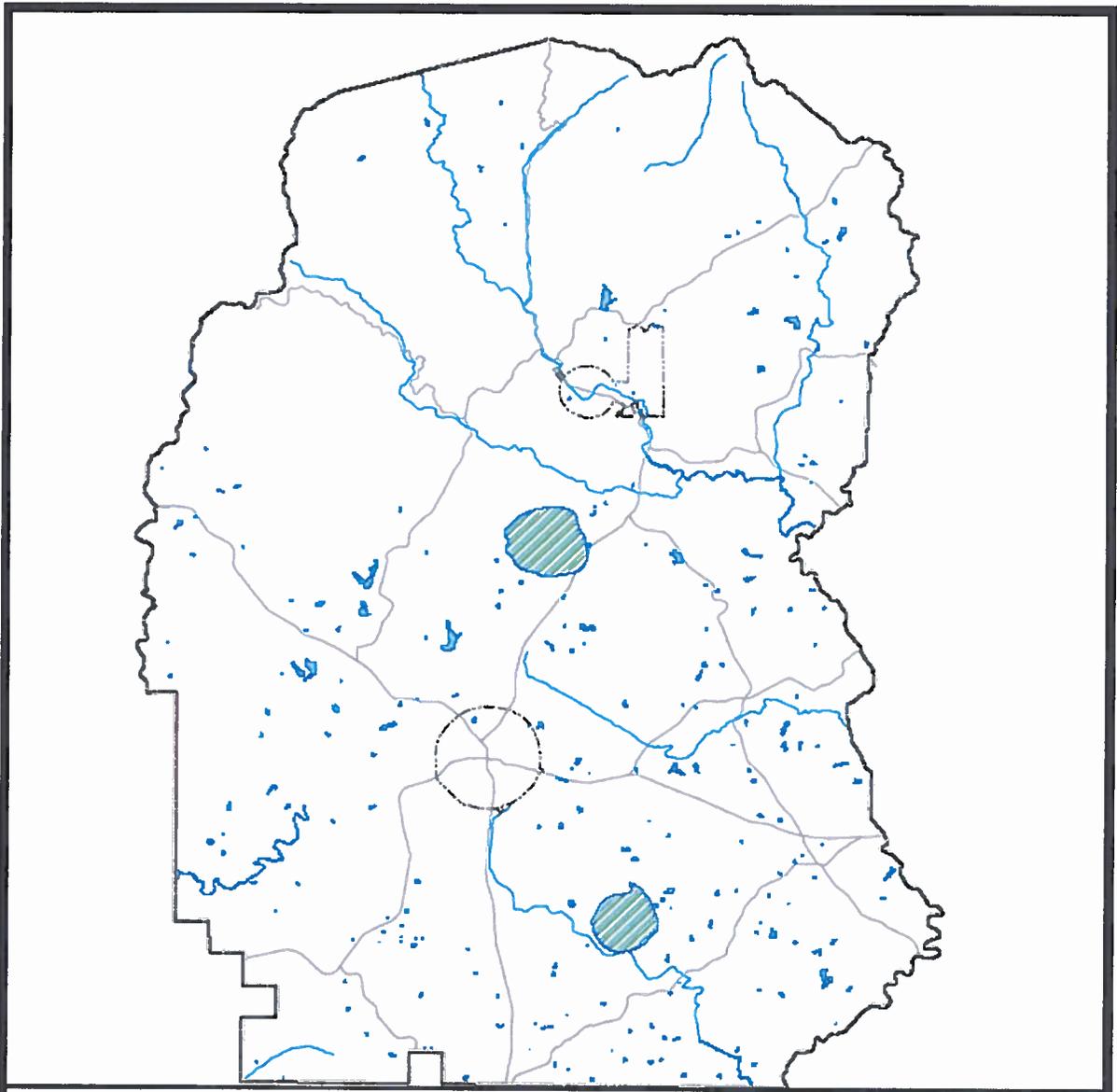
(II) **Groundwater Recharge District**

Ground water recharge areas are defined as any area of the Earth's surface where water infiltrates the ground, thereby replenishing the groundwater supplies within an aquifer. The aquifer in these areas have been found to have a relative vulnerability to being polluted from spills, discharges, leaks, impoundments, applications of chemicals, injections, and other human activities in the recharge area

***White County** has two defined areas of Groundwater Recharge. In 2004 White County adopted a Resolution to protect these areas. The ordinance is referred to as the "Groundwater Recharge Area Protection Resolution of White County." In these areas, any new waste disposal facilities must have synthetic liners and leachate collection systems. No land disposal of hazardous waste shall be permitted within any Significant Groundwater Recharge Area. (Resolution 2004-25, Section V.5.3)

***The City of Cleveland** has no groundwater recharge areas within its boundaries

***The City of Helen** has no groundwater recharge districts. Due to the topography of the area within the City of Helen, the limited land space, and tourism as our only industry the City currently has no solid waste landfills and no plans for one.



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5
 Miles
 MAP PRODUCED BY GMRDC

**WHITE COUNTY, GEORGIA
 GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AREAS**

LEGEND

	MAJOR ROADS		CITIES
	MAJOR RIVERS		WHITE COUNTY
	WATERBODIES		GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AREAS

4

(III) **Wetlands**

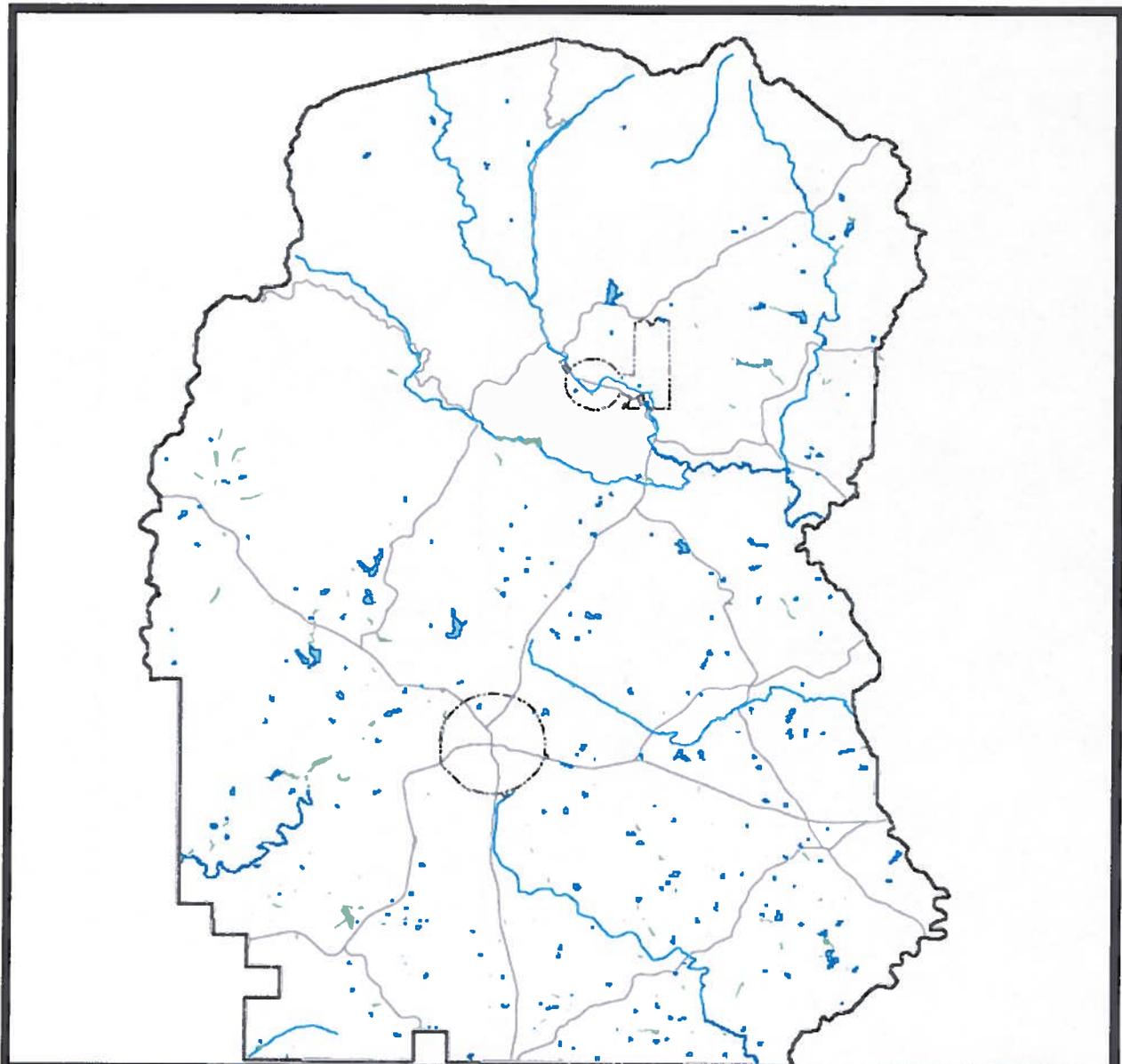
Freshwater wetlands are defined as areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at such a frequency and duration so as to support the type of vegetation typically adapted for saturated soil conditions. Some examples of wetlands include marshes, swamps and bogs. Wetlands serve to filter out sediments and pollutants, to store water, and to provide a habitat for particular plants and animals. Land use in wetland areas should be limited to low impact uses (i.e., nature trails, wildlife and fisheries management) and are not suitable for solid waste facilities.

No facilities for the handling, storage and disposal of hazardous materials, toxic waste or other contaminants have been permitted within a Wetland Protection District. Also, no hazardous or sanitary landfills will be permitted within a Wetlands Protection District.

*In July of 2004, **White County** adopted Resolution 2004-27. The ordinance is referred to as the "Wetlands Protection Resolution of White County."

*The **City of Cleveland** does have a small section of wetlands. A Wetland Protection Ordinance was adopted December 3, 2001. No hazardous or sanitary landfills have or will be permitted within a wetland protected district.

*The **City of Helen** has very limited areas of wetlands. Current information on locations of wetlands within the corporate limits of the City has been provided to us by Georgia Mountain RDC with information from wetlands data downloaded from GIS clearing house for National Wetland Inventory, 1999. The City of Helen adopted a "Wetlands Protection Ordinance" in April 2002.



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

MAP PRODUCED BY GMRDC

WHITE COUNTY, GEORGIA
WETLANDS

LEGEND

-  WETLANDS
-  MAJOR ROADS
-  MAJOR RIVERS
-  WATERBODIES
-  CITIES
-  WHITE COUNTY

4

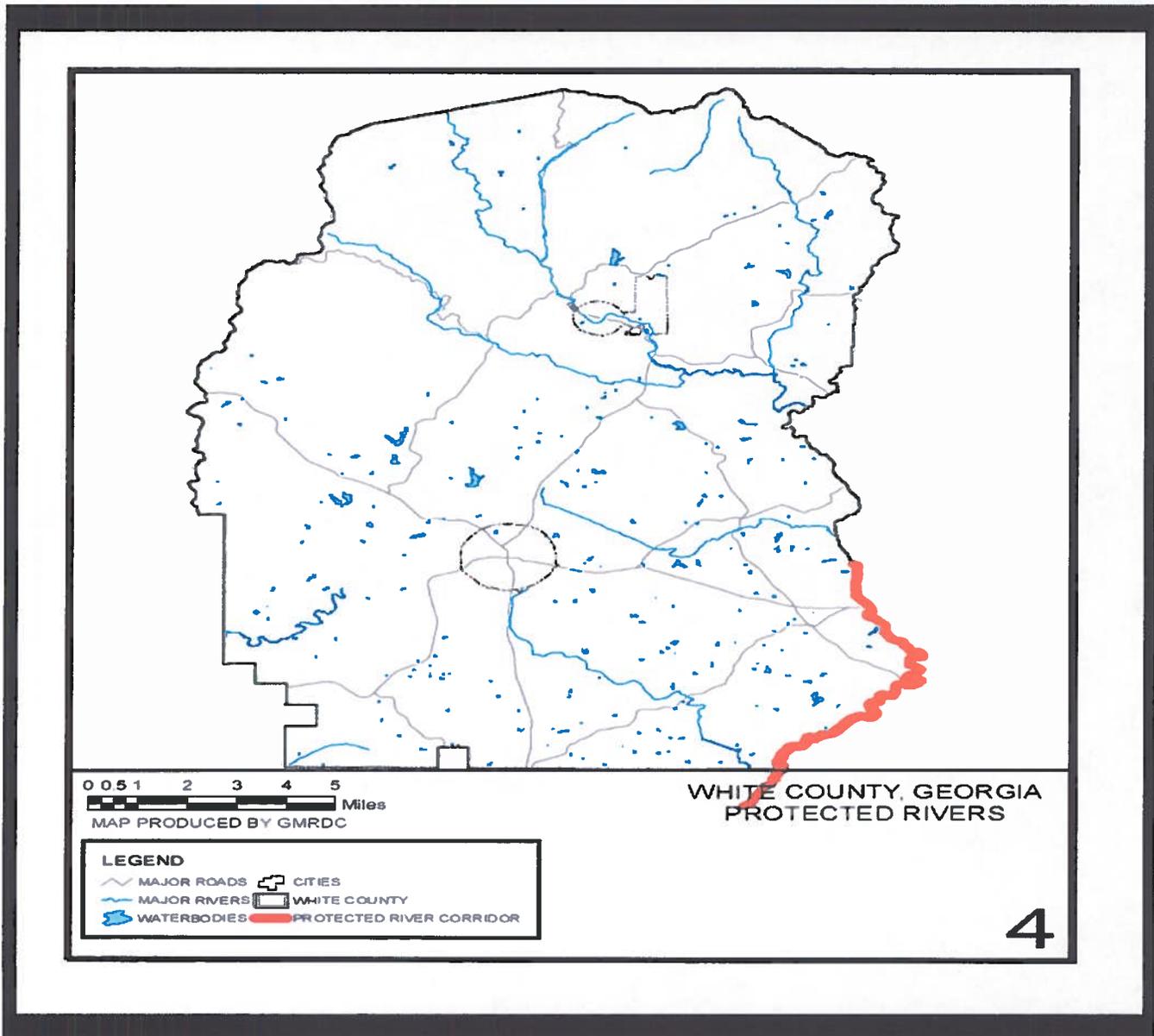
(IV) **River Corridors**

A river corridor is defined as "All land, including islands, not regulated under the Metropolitan River Protection Act, O.C.G.A. §12-5-440 through 12-5-457 or the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act, O.C.G.A. § 12-5-280 through 12-5-203, in areas of a protected river and being within one Hundred (100) feet horizontally on both sides of the river as measured from the river banks."

* **White County** has adopted Resolution 2004-24 in July of 2004, outlining the area along the Chatahoochee River from Smith Island to the Hall/White county line. The ordinance is referred to as the "River Corridor Protection Resolution of White County Section V of the ordinance outlines prohibited activities within the one hundred (100) ft. buffer lining the river corridor. Section V.5.1 cites the prohibited use of "Hazardous waste or solid waste landfills, or construction and demolition (C & D) landfills" within the protected corridor.

***The City of Cleveland** has no protected river corridors within its jurisdiction.

* **The City of Helen** has no protected river corridors within its jurisdiction.



(V) Protected Mountains

The Georgia General Assembly in 1991 adopted the Mountain and River Protection Act. The mountains and ridges of White County, Georgia, are characterized by steep slopes, and thin, sensitive soils, and because of the natural stresses placed on such environment, they require special protection. Land disturbing activities on the high elevation, steep sloped mountains and ridges potentially threaten the public health, safety, welfare. Such land disturbing activity may endanger the quality of surface water by increasing erosion and stream sedimentation, also such activities have the potential to induce landslides, adversely affect groundwater due to difficulty in providing proper sewage disposal, damage the habitat of some species of wildlife (plants, animals, and insects, and may detract from the mountains' scenic and natural beauty, which is vital to the local economy.

*The **City of Cleveland** has no mountains requiring a protection ordinance within its boundaries.

***City of Helen** has no areas that meet the criteria for designation as protected mountains.

***White County** has area that will meet the minimum criteria for protected mountains. At present, a protected mountains ordinance is being considered but has not been adopted.

Criteria for Solid Waste Facilities

(I) Zoning

Inventory

*While **White County** has no zoning, but does have regulations that prohibit or limit certain applications that include new landfills, waste storage facilities, and waste disposal operations. The Comprehensive Plan, 2005-2015 for White County discusses future land use plans. These goals will be considered when siting future solid waste handling facilities

*The **City of Cleveland** has and enforces a strict zoning ordinance that does not allow Solid Waste Handling Facilities.

* The **City of Helen** has a very stringent zoning ordinance that does not allow Solid Waste Handling Facilities.

(II) Airport Safety

Inventory

*There are currently no public airport facilities in **White County**. However, two private airports are located in the county, south of Cleveland. The Dukes Creek Landfill, closed in 1998, is located well away from these airports. Proximity to an airport is currently not a land limitation factor in White County and additional airport facilities will probably not be needed during the solid waste planning period. Any future solid waste facilities will be located an acceptable distance from existing and future airports.

*Proximity to an airport is currently not a factor in the **City of Cleveland**. There are currently no airport facilities located within the city limits.

* There are currently no public airport facilities in the **City of Helen**.

(III) **Flood Plains**

Flood plain is a term used to describe the lowlands and relatively flat areas that are inundated by the overflowing of adjoining waters. Flood plains are used for natural storage and conveyance of water, water quality maintenance, and ground water recharge. In order to preserve the quality of flood plains so that they may adequately serve these purposes, they are deemed unsuitable for solid waste facilities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has mapped most flood prone areas based on the 100-year flood plain.

Inventory

* **White County** does have a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, updated in 2002. After reviewing FEMS maps of White County, it was determined that there are several areas of 100-year flood plain within the county. No solid waste facilities are located nor shall be constructed in these areas.

* After reviewing FEMA maps of the **City of Cleveland**, it was determined that there are some areas of 100-year flood plain within the city. No Solid Waste Handling Facilities are located nor will be constructed in these areas.

* The **City of Helen** has adopted in our official code section 34 entitled "Land Development" Article VI, entitled Flood Damage Prevention. There are no Solid Waste Handling Facilities within the areas covered by this ordinance. Future locations of such facilities will not be placed within the flood plain.

(V) **Fault Areas**

Fault areas are fractures or zones of fractures in material along which strata on one side has been displaced with respect to that on the other side. Landfills can not be located within 200 feet of a fault which has experienced displacement in Holocene time unless it is demonstrated that a distance less than 200 feet will not result in damage to the structural integrity of the landfill, human health, or the environment.

Inventory

* No fault zones, which have experienced displacement in Holocene time, exist within **White County**.

*No fault areas, which have experienced displacement in Holocene time, exist within the **City of Cleveland**.

* No fault zones, which have experienced displacement in Holocene time, exist within the **City of Helen**

(VI) **Seismic Impact Zones**

A seismic impact zone is an area with a ten percent or greater probability that the maximum horizontal acceleration in lithified earth material will exceed 0.10 g in 250 years. Landfills cannot be located within these zones unless it is demonstrated that all containment structures are designed to resist the maximum horizontal acceleration in lithified earth material for the site. Seismic hazards maps depicting the maximum expected horizontal acceleration, with a 90 percent or greater probability that the acceleration will not be exceeded in 250 years, are available.

Inventory:

* After review of these maps it was found that there are no seismic impact zones, as defined above, within the **City of Cleveland**.

* After review of these maps it was found that there are no seismic impact zones, as defined above, within the **City of Helen**.

* After review of these maps it was found that there are no seismic impact zones, as defined above, within **White County**.

(VII) **Unstable Areas**

Unstable areas are defined as locations susceptible to natural or human-induced events or forces capable of impairing the integrity of landfill containment structures. Unstable areas can include poor foundation conditions, areas susceptible to mass movements, and karst terrains.

Inventory

* As defined above there are no unstable areas exist within **White County**

* As defined above there are no unstable areas exist within the **City of Cleveland**

* As defined above there are no unstable areas exist within the **City of Helen**.

NEEDS AND GOALS

White County

*White County has a goal to insure that proposed solid waste handling facilities are located in areas suitable for such developments, are compatible with surrounding uses, and are not considered for locations in areas which have been identified by the community or region as having environmental or other development or land use limitations

City of Cleveland

*The City of Cleveland has a goal to insure that proposed solid waste handling facilities are located in areas suitable for such developments, are compatible with surrounding uses, and are not considered for locations in areas which have been identified by the community or region as having environmental or other development or land use limitations.

City of Helen

*The City of Helen has a goal to insure that proposed solid waste handling facilities are located in areas suitable for such developments, are compatible with surrounding uses, and are not considered for locations in areas which have been identified by the community or region as having environmental or other development or land use limitations.

CHAPTER VI

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

Public education of the importance and benefits of waste reduction of recycling is key to reducing waste disposed over the next ten (10) year planning cycle. Education programs emphasizing the importance and benefits of waste reduction are a key to the success of White County's recycling program. Education programs can be provided to businesses, schools, civic organizations and county citizens.

Education and public involvement programs are fundamental to the success of solid waste management plans. The purpose of this element of the solid waste management plan is to provide an inventory and assessment of existing and potential education programs and public involvement alternatives available in White County. Some of the items discussed are as follows:

- Local Government Programs
- School System Programs
- Litter Control Programs
- Regional Development Center Programs
- Civic, Environmental and Church Group Programs
- DCA

White County

Inventory

***White County** currently supports the "Adopt-A-Mile" program of roadside litter clean-up. This program offers local civic, non-profit organizations, businesses, subdivision home-owner groups, and individuals the opportunity to become involved with preservation of the rural, mountain beauty that defines our communities. This program and its volunteers help sustain the natural environment and keep it free from litter. Groups may choose to adopt a county road, city street, or other roadway near their home or business. Special signage is placed in the area of the roadway cleanup representing the name of the group or individual who has elected to maintain that area. Cleanups are done on a quarterly basis with White County taking responsibility for the pickup of all trash bags.

White County publishes a Recycling Handout, entitled "Let's Talk Trash", encouraging recycling of certain waste products. This flyer is distributed at the White County Convenience Center and at local schools. Solid waste staff members have conducted in-school educational programs on recycling.

Assessment

***White County** Plans to continue working to increase public awareness of solid waste issues. White County continues to encourage use of the Transfer Station, White County Convenience Center and we also utilize the assistance of the Post Office in Cleveland for the recycling of telephone books. The Board of Commissioners and the Solid Waste staff will continue to promote recycling and public awareness through presentations in the public schools, handouts, and through the local media.

City of Cleveland,

Inventory

*The **City of Cleveland** does not currently sponsor solid waste education or public involvement programs. However, the **City of Cleveland** has plans to implement a newsletter that will include public education for the disposal of solid waste and recycling tips. The **City of Cleveland** will continue working along with the **White County** Board of Commissioners to increase public awareness. Also, the citizens and businesses in the **City of Cleveland** receive annual information for telephone book recycling through the local newspaper.

Assessment

*In order to increase public awareness of solid waste issues, the **City of Cleveland** will implement a quarterly newsletter which will address solid waste issues. The **City of Cleveland** will continue to rely on programs sponsored by the **White County** Board of Commissioners for public education.

City of Helen

Inventory

In order to increase public awareness of solid waste, the **City of Helen** will continue to spend time in the public schools and through the media.

Assessment

The **City of Helen** will also continue to rely on programs sponsored by **White County** Board of Commissioners for public education.

Needs and Goals

White County and the Cities of Cleveland and Helen will continue to monitor areas of growth to insure appropriate placement of new facilities and will assist schools with recycling programs and promote educational programs using local media. Educational material will continue to be made available to the public through the White County Transfer Station and the White County Convenience Center.

**CHAPTER VII
IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE**

**WHITE COUNTY-UNINCORPORATED AREAS
SHORT-TERM WORK PROGRAM
2005-2014**

PLAN ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	ESTIMATED COST; DEPT. RESPONSIBLE	DEPARTMENT FUNDING & ASSISTANCE SOURCES
Waste Reduction	Manned Convenience Center for Recycling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$19,000 per year/Solid Waste Dept.	Solid Waste Department
Waste Reduction	Manned Transfer Station for Recycling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$24,000.00/Solid Waste Department	Solid Waste Department
Waste Reduction	Expand Recycling Facilities- 2 sites				X							\$60,000 per site/Solid Waste Department	Solid Waste Department/ SPLOST Funding
Waste Reduction	Public Education to Increase Awareness of Recycling and Composting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Minimum Cost/Solid Waste Department	Solid Waste Department
Waste Collection	Transfer Station/ Contract With Waste Management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	No Charge/Host Fees	Solid Waste Department
Waste Collection	Convenience Center for household waste	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$6500.00/Solid Waste Department	Solid Waste Department
Waste Collection	Expand Collections facilities for Household Waste (2 sites)				X							\$60,000 per site/Solid Waste Department	Solid Waste Department/ SPLOST Funding
Waste Reduction	Continue Adopt-A-Mile	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	As Funds Available/Road Dept	Road Department
Waste Reduction	Annual Christmas Tree Recycling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	As Funds Available/Solid Waste Dept	Solid Waste Department
Waste Collection	New Convenience Center			X								\$75,000.00/Solid Waste Dept	Solid Waste Department
Education	Assist Schools with Recycling Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Minimum Cost/Staff from Solid Waste	Solid Waste Department
Education	Education program using Local Media	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Minimum Cost/ Solid Waste Staff	Solid Waste Department
Land Limitations	Continue to monitor waste generation to insure appropriate placement of new facilities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	No Cost/ Planning and Solid Waste Staff	Planning and Solid Waste Departments

CITY OF CLEVELAND

**SHORT TERM WORK PROGRAM
2005-2014**

PLAN ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	ESTIMATED COST; DEPT RESPONSIBLE	DEPARTMENT FUNDING ASSISTANCE SOURCE
WASTE REDUCTION	Continue utilizing manned convenience center(s) for recycling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$19,500/year with nominal increases per year. White County Solid Waste Department	White County Solid Waste Department
WASTE REDUCTION	Continue utilizing manned transfer station for recycling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$2,400/Year with nominal increases per year. White County Solid Waste Department	White County Solid Waste Department
WASTE REDUCTION	Continue providing paper collection sites at strategic locations within the city	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	No cost to the City City Public Works	Collection of this recyclable paper is provided by a private company at no cost to the city.
WASTE REDUCTION	Annual Christmas tree chipping and recycling in conjunction with White County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Minimal cost Public Works	Public Works Department/ White County
WASTE REDUCTION	Provide containers and collect recyclables at residential curbside weekly				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$87,000/year City Public Works or as funds allows	Reduce landfill fees, added user fees, and General Fund
WASTE REDUCTION	Public Education to Increase Awareness of recycling and/composting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Minimal Costs as Funds Allow/ Administration- City Hall	Administration -General Fund
EDUCATION	Education programs using local media	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Minimal cost or as cost allows /Staff	Administration City Hall
COLLECTION/ DISPOSAL	Continue to provide residential and commercial solid waste collections at a nominal fee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$250,000/Year with nominal increases per year City Public Works	General Fund and User Fees City Public Works
LAND LIMITATIONS	Continue to monitor waste generation to insure appropriate placement of new facilities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	No Cost/ Staff	Administration City Hall

**CITY OF HELEN
SHORT – TERM WORK PROGRAM
2005-2014**

PLAN ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	ESTIMATED COST; DEPT RESPONSIBLE	DEPARTMENT FUNDING & ASSISTANCE SOURCE
WASTE REDUCTION	Continue utilizing manned convenience center(s) for recycling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	No Cost/ Public Works	Public Works
WASTE REDUCTION	Continue utilizing manned transfer station for recycling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	No Cost/ Public Works	Public Works
WASTE REDUCTION	Public Education to Increase Awareness of Recycling and Composting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	No cost/ Administrative staff	General Funds
WASTE COLLECTION	Contract with private company for collection and disposal of residential solid waste	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$31,000.00 per year /Private Contract	General Funds
WASTE COLLECTION	Commercial establishments to contract for collection	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	No Cost/ Private Contract	General Funds
WASTE REDUCTION	Annual Christmas tree recycling and chipping service	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Minimal cost / Public Works Dept	Public Works
EDUCATION	Education program using local media in conjunction with White County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Minimal Cost/ Staff	General Fund
WASTE REDUCTION	Adopt-A-Highway Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$3000.00 per year/ Public Works Dept.	Public Works Dept.
LAND LIMITATIONS	Continue to monitor waste generation to insure appropriate placement of new facilities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	No Cost/ Staff	General Fund

CHAPTER VIII
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Solid Waste Committee Members

Mr. Bill Black, City of Cleveland, City Manager
Connie Tracas, City of Cleveland, City Clerk
Mr. Jerry Elkins, City of Helen, City Manager
Mr. Harry Barton, Director of Solid Waste, White County

Public Hearing Announcements-

- Notice of Public Hearings are attached.

Public Hearing Dates

- The first hearing was held on February 3, 2004 to notify the public of the proposed Plan, purpose of the Plan and process to follow. This meeting was held at 6:30 PM
- The second hearing was held on _____ to notify the public of the proposed plan, purpose of the Plan, and for recommendation of transmittal to Department of Community Affairs.

3/15/06

4-21-06 REV BY MTG WITH M. HARRINGTON, DCA

5-11-06 REV BY MTG WITH M. HARRINGTON, DCA

Mary Harrington

From: Mary Harrington
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 1:18 PM
To: 'Harry Barton'
Subject: RE: Solid Waste Plan

Harry,

I have reviewed the draft plan you sent on March 17 and find that it's still missing some required information. Also, the Implementation Schedule contains some information that is not discussed in the plan and is missing other information that is discussed in the plan. I want to get this right so no one can sue the county or cities later.

What's missing: Contingency information for collection and disposal: what will each jurisdiction do if the current collection operations are interrupted (like, what if the collection staff goes on strike or if a private hauler goes bankrupt)? You need to indicate a back up plan for collection. Also, what will y'all do if the Banks County landfill closes for some reason? If you have an agreement with WM for them to send the waste to another of their facilities – you need to say that in the plan. If you don't have that agreement, you need to develop a contingency disposal plan.

In the Implementation Schedule for White County you did not list the Land Limitation items you discussed in the plan (page 27). Also, the Education Element does not have Needs and Goals, but you have two items listed in the Implementation Schedule. For the City of Cleveland a Waste Reduction item about providing containers to do curbside collection of recyclables is not discussed in the plan.

Remember also, that the plan must include a capacity assurance letter from WM and the copies of the resolutions to transmit the draft plan to the RDC from both cities and the county.

I'll bring the copy you sent to the meeting at Brasstown Valley resort so we can go over it.

Mary Harrington

-----Original Message-----

From: Harry Barton [mailto:hbarton@WhiteCounty.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2006 12:56 PM
To: Mary Harrington
Cc: Tom O'Bryant; CONNIE TRACAS; jelkins@cityofhelen.org
Subject: Solid Waste Plan

Ms. Harrington:

I have attached the Joint Solid Waste Plan for Cleveland, Helen and White County for your second review.

Thank you for reviewing and let me know if you need any further information.

HBjr



COPY

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**Mike Beatty
COMMISSIONER**

**Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR**

October 24, 2006

W. Danny Lewis, Executive Director
Georgia Mountains RDC
Post Office Box 1720
Gainesville, Georgia 30503-1720

Dear Danny:

Our staff has reviewed the **2005 - 2014 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)** for White County and the cities of Cleveland and Helen, received by our office on October 2, 2006. We find the Plan to be in compliance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management. As soon as the RDC completes its review of this SWMP, the County and cities may proceed with adoption.

To regain eligibility for solid waste permits, grants, and loans White County and the cities of Cleveland and Helen must adopt the Plan as soon as possible and forward a copy of the adoption resolutions to our office.

As soon as we receive notification that the County and cities have adopted the 2005 - 2014 SWMP, we will send official notification of their renewed eligibility to receive solid waste permits, grants, and loans.

Sincerely,

Mike Gleaton, Director

Planning and Environmental Management Division

MG/meh

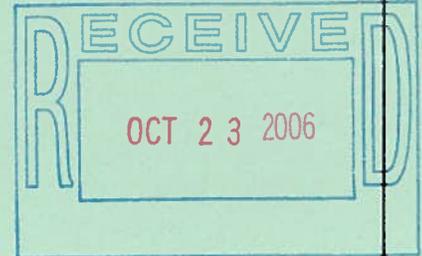
**NOTICE OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUBMITTAL
AND PUBLIC HEARING/ COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Submitting Local Government: <u>White County</u>	Date plan received: <u>10/2/06</u> Date ruled complete: <u>10/16/06</u>
Local Contact: <u>Harry E. Barton Jr.</u> Phone: <u>706.865.6768</u> Address: <u>59 South Main Street, Suite 7</u> <u>Cleveland, GA 30528</u>	Plan Type New _____ Update <u>X</u> Amendment _____ STWP _____
Is this a joint plan? <u>Yes</u> List jurisdictions: <u>White County, Cities of Cleveland and Helen</u>	Public Hearing Opportunity Date: <u>10:00 AM</u> Time: <u>11/06/06</u>
RDC Contact: <u>Adam Hazell, AICP; Planning Dir.</u> Phone: <u>770.538.2617</u> Fax: <u>770.538.2625</u> e-mail: <u>ahazell@gmrdc.org</u>	Location: Georgia Mountains RDC PO Box 1720 1310 West Ridge Road Gainesville, GA 30503 Visit www.gmrdc.org for directions

General Description of the Plan

This is a full update to the joint Solid Waste Management Plan. Copies of the Plan will be available for review at www.gmrdc.org by October 25.

Comments may be submitted by mail, fax or email.



Copies of this notice have been sent to the following local governments and organizations:

The Counties of Habersham, Hall, Lumpkin,
Towns and Union
The Cities of Cleveland and Helen

Ga. Department of Community Affairs
Ga. Department of Transportation
Ga. Environmental Protection Division
Ga. Historic Preservation Division
White County Chamber of Commerce
White County School System
White County Industrial Development Authority

- All comments must be received by date of the Public Hearing identified above
- Copies of the complete submitted materials may be reviewed at the GMRDC offices or may be acquired by contacting the GMRDC as indicated above.

White County Solid Waste Division

59 S. Main Street, Suite 7
Cleveland, Ga. 30528

Harry Barton
Solid Waste Director

2006 OCT -2 PM 3:16

Telephone (706) 865-6768
Fax (706) 865-1324

September 28, 2006

Ms. Mary Harrington
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231

RE: Joint Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan

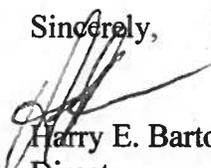
Dear Mary,

Enclosed, please find the Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan from the Cities of Cleveland, Helen, and White County governments. Also included are the three letters of transmittal from each entity.

We have also forwarded a set to Georgia Mountains RDC for their review. We hope that this is the absolute, final set we burden you with. We want to tell you how much we appreciate your assistance in facilitating the completion of this document. Your help has been invaluable.

We hope to see you in the near future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (706) 865-6768.

Sincerely,



Harry E. Barton, JR.
Directors

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

2006 OCT -2 PM 3:16
RESOLUTION NO. 2006-38

WHEREAS, The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 requires all local governments in Georgia to prepare or be included in a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management, as promulgated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, require local governments to update the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan every ten years in order to remain in compliance with State law and be eligible to receive Solid Waste grants, loans, and permits; and,

WHEREAS, a process has resulted in a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan update for White County and its municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, minimum requirements for public participation in the development of the Plan update as mandated by the Minimum Standards has been met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that White County certifies that public participation and other requirements of the Minimum Standards have been met and the Comprehensive Solid Management Waste Plan Update covering White County and its municipalities is hereby authorized to be submitted to the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center for its review, comment and recommendation.

ADOPTED this 5th day of September, 2006.

ATTEST:

Jean Welborn
Jean Welborn
County Clerk

Seal

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chris R. Nonnemaker
Chris R. Nonnemaker, Chairman

Dennis Bergin
Dennis Bergin, Post 1

Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, Post 2

CITY OF HELEN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 06-09-02

2006 OCT -2 PM 3:16

WHEREAS, The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 requires all local governments in Georgia to prepare or be included in a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management, as promulgated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, require local governments to update the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan every ten years in order to remain in compliance with State law and be eligible to receive Solid Waste grants, loans, and permits; and,

WHEREAS, a process has resulted in a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan update for White County and its municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, minimum requirements for public participation in the development of the Plan update as mandated by the Minimum Standards has been met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Helen certifies that public participation and other requirements of the Minimum Standards have been met and the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update covering White County and its municipalities is hereby authorized to be submitted to the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center for its review, comment and recommendation.

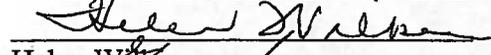
ADOPTED this 19th day of September, 2006.

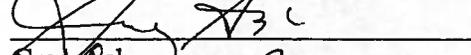
ATTEST:

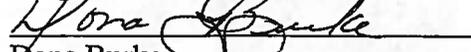
Kimberly A. Smith
City Clerk

Seal

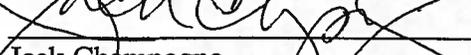
HELEN CITY COMMISSIONERS


Helen Wilkins


Greg Ash


Dona Burke


David Greer


Jack Champagne

**CITY OF CLEVELAND
COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 requires all local governments in Georgia to prepare or be included in a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management, as promulgated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, require local governments to update the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan every ten years in order to remain in compliance with State law and be eligible to receive Solid Waste grants, loans, and permits; and

WHEREAS, a process has resulted in a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan update for White County and its municipalities; and

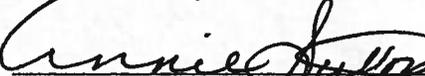
WHEREAS, minimum requirements for public participation in the development of the Plan update as mandated by the Minimum Standards has been met.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Cleveland certifies that public participation and other requirements of the Minimum Standards have been met and the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update covering White County and its municipalities is hereby authorized to be submitted to the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center for its review, comment, and recommendation.

ADOPTED this 11th day of September, 2006.



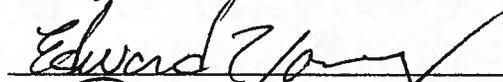
Donald Stanley, Mayor



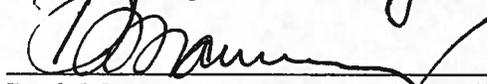
Annie Sutton, Council Member



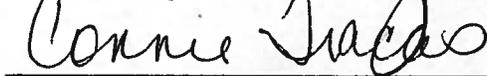
Bradley Greene, Council Member



Edward Young, Council Member



Rush Mauney, Council Member



Connie Tracas, City Clerk



ATTEST:



NORTHEAST WASTE HOMER

478 Bennett Road
Homer, GA 30547
(706) 677-4868
(706) 677-2912 Fax

June 7, 2005

Mr. Harry Barton
Solid Waste Director
White County Solid Waste Division
59 South Main Street, Suite 7
Cleveland, GA 30528

Dear Harry,

This letter serves as a disposal capacity assurance for waste generated by White County. Waste is hauled by Waste Management to the following facility: R&B Landfill and the EPD permit number for this facility is 006-009 D (MSW). This facility has a remaining capacity of 25 years. This assurance is based upon White County disposing of approximately 80 tons per day.

If for any reason R&B Landfill cannot accept trash from White County, we will transport it to our Pine Bluff Landfill in Ball Ground, Georgia.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Gibson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ed Gibson
Waste Management



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Mike Beatty
COMMISSIONER

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

September 6, 2007

Honorable Jack Champagne
Mayor, City of Helen
PO Box 280
Helen, GA 30545

Dear Mayor Champagne:

We have received notification that White County and the cities of Cleveland and Helen have adopted the 2005-2014 Solid Waste Management Plan that meets the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management. Therefore, White County and the cities of Cleveland and Helen have regained eligibility for solid waste permits, grants and loans.

As you have experienced, in addition to proper and thorough long-range planning, effective solid waste management requires the ability to adapt when circumstances indicate that such action is necessary. Through continued review, and revision when necessary, solid waste planning provides your local government with more control over its destiny and assists you in dealing more effectively with both short-term and long-term management decisions. We commend you for your hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,

Mike Beatty
Commissioner

MB/jd

cc: W. Danny Lewis, Executive Director, Georgia Mountains RDC