

Athens-Clarke County and
The City of Winterville

Community Assessment
Chapter Five:
Community Facilities and
Services

July 12, 2006

CHAPTER 5: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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5.3 Introduction

The "community facilities" element is a key component of the Comprehensive Plan for Athens-Clarke County and the City of Winterville. Determining whether to maintain or enhance our community facilities, while tailoring them to county growth patterns, are important parts of the comprehensive planning process.

The Community Facilities planning element provides an inventory of public facilities and services available to Athens-Clarke County and Winterville residents. The facilities and services described are important components of a healthy community and are essential for maintaining an acceptable standard of living.

A new element that will be an important "community facilities" component in ACC Comprehensive Plan is a policy that in June 2004, the Mayor and Commission adopted stating that all future county projects would be designed to achieve the minimum level of certification under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED™ Rating System. This system provides standards for building design, siting, construction, and operations that will increase energy efficiency, reduce environmental impacts, and provide better buildings for workers and visitors. ACC has become a member of the USGBC and its Environmental Coordinator is a LEED Accredited professional. Six new buildings have been registered as LEED projects. Three are completed and occupied – the East Athens Educational Dance Center and the East and West Police Substations – one is under construction and the last two are still in the design stage. Applications for certification will soon be submitted for the completed buildings. Meanwhile a committee is working to refine the LEED policy to apply it most appropriately to buildings of various sizes and uses. It will also seek to encourage the adoption of green building principles by other local agencies such as the University of Georgia, the Clarke County School District, and the private sector. A private project – a non-profit school – has already been registered with the USGBC.

The following sections provide a description of existing community facilities in Athens-Clarke County and Winterville.

It should be noted that the City of Winterville, through cooperative agreements with the government of Athens-Clarke County, has access to Athens-Clarke County facilities and receives a number of services from Athens-Clarke County. This overview will specify where these services and facilities are shared.

5.4 Mapping of Significant Community Facilities and Services

Map 5.1 Fire Stations and Coverage Areas

Map 5.2 Public Safety Facilities

Map 5.3 Recreational Areas and Cultural Facilities

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Map 5.5 Health Care and Other Community Facilities

Map 5.6 Schools, Libraries and General Government Facilities

5.5 Water Supply and Treatment

Public water service, inclusive of water for domestic consumption and fire protection in the County, is the responsibility of the Athens Clarke County Public Utilities Department. Currently, water service is provided to 98% of the residences in Athens Clarke County and the City of Winterville combined.

5.5.1 Distribution System

The distribution network consists of approximately 721 miles of water mains ranging in size from 4 inches (4") to 36 inches (36") in diameter. In 2005, the system handled an average of 17 million gallons per day (MGD) with an average per capita water usage rate for residential/commercial customers of 155 gallons per capita per day (GPCD). Unaccounted for water averaged approximately 7% of all water pumped during 2005 which is within the goal established by the American Water Works Association of 15%. The Unified Government of Athens Clarke County Public Utilities Department manages the county's public water distribution system.

A small portion of the population that currently does not receive water service from Athens Clarke County is served by private wells or by 22 small private/community water systems, located within individual subdivisions or mobile home parks. The private community water systems pump about 300,000 gallons per day (GPD) from ground water sources to serve approximately 3,000 customers. An additional 2,000 residents use individual private wells for potable water.

Winterville has an adequate water supply and is served by a combination of water from Athens-Clarke County and private wells.

A Service Delivery Plan was completed by the Public Utilities Department and approved by the Mayor and Chair and Commission on January 3, 1995, in compliance

with the Unification Charter. The Service Delivery Plan identifies the necessary system and plant improvements required to provide water service for Athens Clarke County and the City of Winterville from the current date through the year 2020. The Service Delivery Plan identifies water service as the provision of treated public water supply through Transmission and Distribution Lines that are located outside developments and along identified major roadways. The Service Delivery Plan was updated and approved by the Mayor and Commission in 2004 following the completion and approval of a new ACC Land Use Plan.

The goal of the Mayor and Commission is to make available to all Athens Clarke County and Winterville residences the provision of public water service. As a means of obtaining this goal, the Public Utilities Department was approved to receive SPLOST 2005 funding for approximately 40 miles of water mains, which will be extended down every public roadway that currently does not have public water service available.

As a result of the drought experienced in 1986, Athens Clarke County joined with Jackson, Barrow, and Oconee Counties (the Upper Oconee Basin Group) for the purpose of establishing a reliable water supply source. To prevent any possible disruption of water service, the Upper Oconee Basin Group successfully secured the passage of legislation that created an Authority to develop the Bear Creek Reservoir Project. The reservoir was completed and holds approximately 5.0 billion gallons of water, consists of 505 acres of normal pool and involves a dam 900 linear feet in length and 90 feet (90') in height. The reliable yield is 53 MGD average daily flow of raw water. The subject reservoir will meet the water needs of the Athens Clarke County community through the year 2040. ACC's proportionate share of the reservoir is 44% of the total yield. The State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) establishes regulations, which prevent water withdrawals below 7Q10 values in order to protect aquatic life and provide assimilation of treated wastewater. Under the old withdrawal permit, ACC was not required to comply with 7Q10 stream flow values. With the issuance of the new/revised withdrawal permit in association with the J. G. Beacham treatment plant upgrade/expansion, ACC will meet the 7Q10 stream flow values.

5.5.2 Treatment System

Raw water is treated at the J. G. Beacham Water Filtration Plant located at 800 Water Works Drive. This facility, constructed in 1935 with an initial capacity of 3 MGD, has a current permitted capacity of 28 MGD. It is the only municipal facility for the treatment of potable water in Athens Clarke County. Once the raw water is pumped to the Filtration Plant and the water filtration process is completed, potable water is distributed to the system's 38,000 customers located in Athens Clarke County.

Due to the projected increase in population, the Public Utilities Department is currently expanding/upgrading the J.G. Beacham Water Filtration Plant to 32 MGD by the year 2007.

5.6 Sanitary Sewage System and Wastewater Treatment

Like public water service, the provision of sanitary sewage and wastewater treatment is the responsibility of the Athens Clarke County Public Utilities Department.

Currently wastewater service is provided to 55% of the County's residents, including portions of the City of Winterville. The remainder of the county's residents are served by private septic systems or one of four small private wastewater systems.

The City of Winterville does not have a sanitary sewer system of its own, and portions of the city on public sewer are served by the Athens Clarke County system. The Winterville Planning Commission has approved a sewer line that would be designated for commercial use only. The ACC Service Delivery Plan established a goal to provide wastewater collection and treatment service to approximately 90% of the combined Athens Clarke County and Winterville population, while private on-site disposal systems (i.e. septic tanks) will provide wastewater service to the remaining 10%. As a means of obtaining this goal, the Public Utilities Department identified in the Service Delivery Plan, the extensions of wastewater Trunk and Interceptor Lines into sub-basins currently unsewered. In addition to providing wastewater service to previously unsewered areas, new sewer lines paralleling existing gravity sewers are planned where the projected flows will exceed the existing wastewater collection system's hydraulic capacities by the year 2015.

As the long-range plan for Athens Clarke County and the City of Winterville is developed, modifications to the Service Delivery Plan, with regard to the extensions of wastewater service, may be required. Improvements identified in the Service Delivery Plan in regards to the wastewater collection system include approximately 71 miles of Trunk and Interceptor Lines ranging in size from 8 inch (8") to 54 inches (54") in diameter. Several Service Delivery Plan Interceptor and Trunk Line Projects are currently under designed with installation to follow upon completion of the easement acquisitions.

The Athens Clarke County Public Utilities Department is currently producing a quarterly newsletter a means of informing our customers of improvements and upgrades to the ACC water distribution and wastewater collection systems and for other informational purposes. There is also a Public Utilities Website; www.accpublicutilities.com. The Public Utilities Department Water Conservation

Coordinator is conducting educational classes and conservation programs as a means of educating the general public regarding water and wastewater issues.

5.6.1 Collection

A Service Delivery Plan was completed by the Public Utilities Department and approved by the Mayor and Chair and Commission on January 3, 1995, in compliance with the Unification Charter. The Service Delivery Plan was updated and approved by the Mayor & Commission in 2004 following the completion and approval of a new ACC Land Use Plan. The Service Delivery Plan identifies the necessary system and plant improvements required to provide wastewater service from the current date through the year 2015 for both Athens Clarke County and the City of Winterville. The Service Delivery Plan identifies wastewater service as the provision of publicly owned sewage treatment facilities, Trunk Lines, and Interceptor Lines within identified major drainage basins and specified sub-basins. Presently, all residents in Athens Clarke County and the City of Winterville are adequately served by either public or private wastewater collection systems. The Unified Government of Athens Clarke County Public Utilities Department manages the county's public wastewater system.

The three major drainage basins in Athens Clarke County are served by three (3) Water Reclamation Facilities (WRF): (1) North Oconee, (2) Middle Oconee and (3) Cedar Creek Water Reclamation Facilities, with a combined permitted capacity of 18 million gallons per day (MGD).

The wastewater collection system consist of approximately 445 miles of gravity flow sewers ranging in size from 6 inch (6") to 42 inches (42") in diameter. A short section of force main serves a small portion of Athens Clarke County. The oldest public wastewater lines are located in downtown Athens, date to the late 1800's and are still operational. The remainder of the County, not served by the public wastewater collection system, is served by either individual private septic tanks or by four small private wastewater systems. The public wastewater collection system has no known combined sewers that carry both wastewater and storm water. However, both the North Oconee and Middle Oconee WRFs are experiencing some level of infiltration/inflow (I/I). I/I is the introduction of extraneous stormwater flows into the public wastewater collection system through defective pipes and/or manholes or through direct discharge of flows from residential, commercial, or industrial operations. Staff has made and will continue to make significant efforts toward reducing the level of I/I. All of the wastewater collected in the collection system inclusive of I/I, must be treated at one of the three WRFs prior to discharge.

5.6.2 Treatment Systems

The Mayor & Commission authorized contracts for design services to expand/upgrade all three (3) WRFs to a new permitted capacity of 28 MGD. The actual project designs shall commence during the early part of 2006 and take approximately one year to complete.

Since its construction in 1962, the North Oconee WRF has been upgraded from its original capacity of 5 MGD to a permitted capacity of 10 MGD. In 1997, the facility's peak month flow was 6.7 MGD. The expansion of this WRF will result in a facility capacity of 14 MGD. The project will entail utilizing the latest technology for wastewater treatment and noise and odor control and is expected to be online by 2012.

The Middle Oconee WRF, constructed in 1964, has been expanded from its original 2 MGD capacity to a permitted capacity to date of 6 MGD. In 1997, the facility's peak month flow was 4.8 MGD. The upgrade of this WRF will produce a capacity of 10 MGD and will include utilization of the latest technology in terms of wastewater treatment and noise and odor control. This facility is anticipated to be on line by 2011.

The Cedar Creek WRF is a 2 MGD facility placed into service in 1980 which eliminated several small treatment facilities (i.e. oxidation ponds serving individual residences). In 1997, the peak flow was reported to be 1.5 MGD. The expansion of this facility will produce a capacity of 4 MGD and will also utilize the latest in technology in regards to wastewater treatment and noise and odor control. This facility should be on line by 2011.

Wastewater solids from the three WRFs are disposed of at the Athens Clarke County Landfill. This disposal site is available when dry weather permits. However, during wet weather conditions solids are retained at the plants until the landfill can once again accept wastewater solids. A long-range solid waste management plan is currently in the development process to address methods of wastewater solids disposal.

The Recycling Division within the Department of Solid Waste has primary responsibility for spearheading Athens-Clarke County's recycling initiatives and public education efforts. This two-person Division works closely with residents, businesses and industries to facilitate their contribution to the recycling effort.

In 1988, Athens -Clarke County became the home of Georgia's first municipally operated curbside recycling program. This began with the curbside collection of newspapers in selected neighborhoods. By 1992, the County was offering twice-a-

month curbside pickup of newspaper, glass, aluminum and plastic to all residents located in the Urban Service District. Currently, as noted above, the County offers once-a-week curbside recycling on the same day as garbage pickup. In addition to individual collection, there are six recycling drop-off centers within the County that are open 24 hours, seven days a week. In 1995, the Athens-Clarke Material Recycling facility opened for business. This was the first public-private "recovered materials processing facility" (RMPF) of its kind opened in Georgia. This facility is owned and operated by Resource Recovery Systems of Centerbrook, CT; however, in return for establishing the RMPF, Athens-Clarke County has agreed to deliver or pay for the delivery of 775 tons per month of recyclables to the facility. Presently, the County's agreed upon recyclable tonnage is being exceeded.

The Athens-Clarke County government is also committed to the purchase of recycled paper and departments are charged with reviewing purchases to verify that items are recyclable. In addition, an office paper recycling program has been implemented at all County offices. As previously noted, the volume-based fee system for collection of waste is another incentive for the public to recycle.

The University of Georgia contributes to local recycling efforts through its operation of drop-off sites for newspaper, aluminum, glass, and plastic. The University also instituted programs for office paper recycling and composting of yard and animal wastes. In addition, the University has made arrangements for a local asphalt company to utilize incinerator fly-ash that has previously been disposed of at the landfill.

5.6.3 Septic Systems

The Clarke County Health Department's Environmental Health Section has regulatory responsibility in several areas of public health. Among these responsibilities are the permitting and inspection of food service establishments, public swimming pools, tourist courts, and on site sewage management systems.

Proper treatment and disposal of human wastes and other sewage is a critical factor for the health of individuals living in areas where a community sewage disposal system is not available. Although Athens-Clarke County has an extensive community sewage treatment system, there are many areas of the county where the city sewer system is not accessible. In these areas, on site sewage management systems, also known as septic systems are used for sewage disposal. Septic systems, when properly designed and maintained, and properly installed where site and soil conditions are favorable, can be expected to function satisfactorily.

To this end, Environmental Health Specialists at the Clarke County Health Department's Environmental Health Section conduct subdivision reviews (predevelopment, preliminary, and final), commercial and residential plan reviews, site evaluations, complaint investigations (repair requests) and existing system evaluations (if requested by homeowner, lender, or other agency). Environmental Health Specialists issue permits for construction of on-site sewage management systems and conduct installation inspections. The system must be installed by a State certified installer and must be inspected and approved by Clarke County Health Department prior to being backfilled.

The most common type of application for septic permit processed by this office is for a residential septic system. A residential septic permit application must include the following:

- 1) Completed site approval request form
- 2) A copy of the surveyed/recorded plat of the property
- 3) Original Level III soil report and map from a State certified Soil Scientist
- 4) A sketch of the proposed project on plat or application form
- 5) Applicable fees must be submitted at time of application

In some cases, more information such as additional soil data or a site plan may be required. If the field review and information submitted are in accordance with the State Rules and Regulations for On-Site Sewage Management Systems, Chapter 290-5-26, and Local or District policies, then the evaluating Environmental Health Specialist can issue a permit for the construction of a septic system. Permits are valid for one (1) year from the date of issue. Their office has recently been relocated to 202 Ben Burton Circle, Bogart, GA 30622 and their mailing address is P.O. Box 190, Bogart, GA 30622.

Also visit The State Environmental web site for more information. The web address is: <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/envservices/index.asp>

The web site provides information on all Environmental Health programs, including the Rules and Regulations for On-Site Sewage Management Systems (Chapter 290-5-26) and also maintains current lists of State certified soil scientists and installers.

5.7 Other Facilities and Services

5.7.1 Fire Protection

Adequate fire protection is a vital link in the chain of regional development, affecting insurance costs and, thus, the willingness of people and industries to locate in a given area. The adequacy of fire protection is measured by not only fire station location and quality, but is directly affected by the quality of the water system and the ability to provide emergency communications.

The Insurance Services Organizations (ISO) has a fire protection rating system that evaluates the fire department capabilities, as well as the adequacy of the water system. Specific factors include: the size and type of buildings in a community; the presence or absence of sprinkler systems; the way calls are received and handled; the number of fire fighters available to respond to calls; whether there is a community water system; the size of water mains and capacity; and how long it takes a department to respond to a call. This independent organization weighs all these factors to assign a department a rating between 1 and 10, with a rating of 9 or 10 meaning that an area is essentially unprotected. Some ratings, for example, are split between a 7 and a 9. The lower number is the area within five road miles of a fire station and 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant. The higher number is the area within five road miles of a fire station, but with no established water system.

ISO ratings are not legal standards but recommendations that insurance companies may use to set fire insurance rates. Because they are set by an independent organization, they become an easy way of comparing community fire departments. However, because these ratings involve weighing a number of variables, they do not directly compare. For instance, a rating of 7 in different communities does not necessarily mean that each is working with the same equipment under the same circumstances. Rather, one could have an adequate water system but inadequate personnel and equipment, the other the reverse.

Athens-Clarke County is served by the Athens-Clarke County Fire & Emergency Services Department by means of a network of eight fire stations located throughout the County. The Department is comprised of 175 personnel: 2 administrative, 7 fire prevention and 166 fire suppression. All fire stations are staffed with members working a 24-hour on/48 hours off shift. The ISO rating for the urbanized area of the County is a 2, while a small portion of the more rural area not having an established water system has an ISO rating of 9. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) completed a Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey during the last quarter of 2003 for Athens-Clarke County that resulted in the overall fire safety rating for ACC being upgraded to a Class 2/9 from the previous Class 3/9. Throughout the United States, only 0.7% of communities rated by ISO have achieved a Class 2 rating. In the state of Georgia,

Athens-Clarke County is the second countywide Fire Department to achieve a Class 2 rating. ISO is the leading supplier of statistical, underwriting, and actuarial information for the insurance industry. ISO ratings are used by insurers to calculate premiums on residential, commercial, and industrial property within a community. The new ISO rating for Athens-Clarke County will take effect on September 1, 2004. "The Class 2 rating for Athens-Clarke County represents a multi-department effort that began six years ago," said Chief Wendell Faulkner of Fire and Emergency Services. "This positive step forward for public safety is the result of cooperation between elected officials, the Manager's Office, Fire and Emergency Services, Public Utilities, Communications, and SPLOST. In 1998, we developed a game plan to achieve this goal and have made many recommendations to the Mayor and Commission. Past and present elected officials have consistently supported allocating funds to reach this goal and their support has been critical."

ISO rates a community based upon a set of criteria defined in the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). Three major features are evaluated: fire alarm and communication systems – 10%, Fire Department infrastructure – 50%, and water supply systems – 40%.

Athens-Clarke County has improved its 800-megahertz communication system through the use of SPLOST funds, including the first installation in the United States of an integrated Motorola MOSCAD™ Fire Station Alerting and MOSCAD Siren Control system. The MOSCAD system enables 911 dispatchers to transmit automated commands to all fire stations simultaneously and communicate to firefighters within seconds after sending the alerts. The system provides an escalating tone pre-alert to the stations involved in the emergency response, automatically opens fire station doors, and turns on station lights at the appropriate station. The system also provides dispatchers the capability to remotely monitor and close the fire station doors.

"ISO is an outside organization that is in the business of reviewing Fire Departments across the country. For this company to say Athens-Clarke County has one of the best Fire Departments in the nation only validates what those of us who live here have known for some time," said Mayor Heidi Davison. "This ISO rating increase illustrates our ability as a government to set definable, multi-departmental goals that benefit all our citizens and businesses."

The Fire Department is strictly a fire prevention and suppression department. It is not an emergency medical response system, even though they respond and are equipped to handle rescue and crash emergencies.

In addition to fire response, the Fire Department reviews compliance with the fire code for all new construction and conducts annual inspections of public use buildings and

establishments that serve alcohol in the County. The Department responds to calls at the University of Georgia but does not handle inspections or review of new construction on campus. The University has its own Fire Protection Division and on occasion requests the Fire Department to review construction plans. The Fire Department also serves as back up to the crash rescue unit at the Athens-Clarke County Airport. Map 5.1 Fire Station and Coverage Areas.

Station 1: Fire Station No. 1 (Headquarters) - 700 College Avenue

Fire Station No. 1, located in downtown Athens on College Avenue, is the Department's headquarters. The building has 19,530 square feet that includes 2000 square feet of maintenance area. The station, constructed in 1978, is in good condition. The station employs 33 persons divided into 3 shifts of 11, 11 and 11 respectively. The four-bay station is equipped with one engine, one ladder truck, one rescue vehicle, and one Battalion Chief. Fire Station No.1 is well planned with rear vehicular access for fire trucks and front egress, and has the capability of housing additional equipment without building expansion. Station No. 1 is the busiest fire station of the eight, serving as first response to emergencies coming from the University of Georgia campus, the central business district and nearby residential areas.

Station 2: Fire Station No. 2 - 3500 Atlanta Highway

Fire Station No. 2 is located at the corner of Atlanta Highway and Mitchell Bridge Road. The 7,500 -square foot building, constructed in 1981, is a two-bay facility. Ingress is off Atlanta Highway with egress on Mitchell Bridge Road. 15 persons organized into three shifts of five staff Fire Station No. 2. The station has one pumper truck and serves the western and northwestern area of the County. Station No. 2 also responds to calls in Oconee County along the by-pass loop in accordance with the mutual aid agreement between Athens-Clarke County and Oconee County.

Station 3: Fire Station No. 3 - 1198 South Milledge Street

Fire Station No. 3, built in 2003 replaced the old station on South Lumpkin Street. This two-bay building is located in a densely populated area known as "Five Points", which is one of the busiest intersections in town. Due to its proximity to the University of Georgia, Station No. 3 is a first response company to any emergency on the south side of campus. The station also serves neighborhoods along Milledge Avenue and commercial areas around Five Points. 21 people, again organized into three shifts of 7, 7 and 7, man Fire Station No. 3. The station has one engine and a ladder truck. The station

is state of the art facility and was designed to fit into the architectural design of the Five Points area. A community room was designed into the building for meetings.

Station 4: Fire Station No. 4 – 900 Oglethorpe Avenue

Fire Station No. 4 replaced the old station, which was located at the intersection of Hawthorne and Oglethorpe Avenues. Constructed in 2003, this station has three bays as well as a community room. There are 21 fire fighters on duty at Fire Station No. 4, divided into three shifts of 7,7, and 7. The station has one engine and one fire rescue vehicle, as well as the Battalion Chief for the West Side of the County. Station 4 serves primarily the northwest section of the County.

Station 5: Fire Station No. 5 - 1090 Whit Davis Road

Fire Station No. 5, located on the corner of Cedar Shoals Drive and Whit Davis Road, is in excellent condition. The 7,600-square foot building, constructed in 1974, was originally planned as Clarke County's Fire Department Headquarters, and therefore has ample room for administration, training and day room facilities. The two-bay facility is designed to allow fire trucks to enter the station off Whit Davis Road and exit onto Cedar Shoals Drive. Fire Station No. 5 serves an area composed primarily of low-density, single-family neighborhoods and light commercial areas in the southeastern portion of Athens-Clarke County. 15 persons divided into 3 shifts of five staff Fire Station No. 5. The station is equipped with one pumper truck.

Station 6: Fire Station No. 6 - 580 Athena Drive

Fire Station No. 6, on Athena Drive, is located at the center of Athens-Clarke County's designated industrial park in the northeastern area of the County. The 7,500 square foot station, built in 1982, is designed identically to Station No. 2. Due to its proximity to the airport, Station No. 6 is primary back-up to any airport emergency. There are 15 fire fighters housed in Station No. 6. The station is equipped with one pumper truck and one tanker.

Station 7: Fire Station No. 7 – 2357 Barnett Shoals Road

This was the first station built under SPLOST in 2000. A new design was used and has served as the template for the design of Stations 3, 4, 8, and the planned Station 9. This fire station will provide fire protection to the commercially zoned properties along Lexington Highway and Gaines School Road, as well as the medium density residential area south of Lexington Road. The station also serves the eastern portion of the

University of Georgia campus. The station houses a pumper truck and a ladder truck. It also houses the Fire Safety House that is used by the Fire Prevention Bureau for public education. 21 firefighters staff the station in three shifts of seven.

Station 8: Fire Station No. 8 – 3955 Jefferson Road

This station was built in 2003 under the SPLOST program. This station is a three bay modern facility and also has a community room. It houses fifteen firefighters divided among three shifts. It has a pumper as well as a Hazardous Materials truck. The firefighters man either vehicle and respond with the appropriate one depending on the nature of the call for service. The area served comprises of a mix between residential, commercial, and also the gas pipeline stations in the area.

As mentioned previously, the City of Winterville maintains a volunteer fire department as well as receiving coverage from the Athens-Clarke County Fire Department.

Station 9 is slated for construction in 2006. This station will be located on Danielsville Road. It will house fifteen firefighters divided among three shifts. It will have a pumper, and will have room for future expansion as needed. A community room will also be included within the building. The addition of this station, along with recent water line improvements, will raise the level of service in this area tremendously.

Recent improvements at Athens-Ben Epps Airport have provided a new station for housing fire-fighting apparatus. This building is located within the property. It houses a new Crash Fire Rescue truck, as well as the older mini-pumper that was previously used. The truck is staffed part-time by Airport personnel. The Fire Department also responds to any incident within the airport property, this building as known as Station 10.

The Athens-Clarke County Fire Department provides primary fire fighting services to the City of Winterville. The Winterville Volunteer Fire Department fire fighters provide backup coverage to the County. The level of fire protection provided to the City of Winterville is presently at an acceptable level of service given the relatively low population and type of development within the city.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Athens Regional Medical Center and St. Mary's Hospital provide emergency medical services in Athens-Clarke County (including Winterville). For EMS dispatching purposes, Clarke County and Oconee County are divided into 10 EMS zones served by

either Athens Regional's or St. Mary's medical ambulances. These ambulances are situated at satellite locations throughout the two-county area. When a medically-related 911 call comes in, it is handled by Athens Regional's centralized medical emergency dispatching services. The dispatcher identifies the location of the call and dispatches the medical ambulance that is in the zone closest to the call. If transport to a hospital is required, the patient is transported to the respective zone's hospital. If patients are not in life-threatening conditions, they may request the hospital of their choice.

Between the two hospitals, there are 13 ambulances and 53 full-time EMTs. Emergency medical calls average approximately 1150 calls per month and the average response time is about 6 minutes. All ambulances are Advanced Life-Support equipped and licensed by the Department of Human Resources. The Northeast Georgia Emergency Medical Services Council which is composed of members appointed handles policy decisions about coverage and levels of service by the respective governing bodies.

Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) responsibilities are under the auspices of the Athens-Clarke County Fire Department. This all-risk agency serves as the coordinating agency for all emergency/rescue services in Athens-Clarke County. Any time more than two emergency agencies are involved, the EMA is called to coordinate services. One of the primary responsibilities of the EMA is to coordinate emergency services during times of disaster.

Emergency Dispatching

All public safety operations in Athens-Clarke County utilize the 24-hour central-dispatch system, supervised by the Athens-Clarke County Police Department. The dispatcher routes all calls for fire, law-enforcement, or medical service to the correct agency. Personnel include 2 full-time dispatchers, 3 part-time dispatchers, and 1 full-time administrator.

5.7.2 Public Safety

Athens-Clarke County is served by three law-enforcement offices: the Athens-Clarke County Police Department, the Clarke County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Winterville's Police Department. Map 5.2 Public Safety Facilities.

5.7.2.1 A-CC Police Department

In FY06 the Athens-Clarke County Police Department (ACCPD) was authorized 294 full time employees, including 231 sworn officers and 63 civilians to provide general police services for an estimated population of 109,000 over 121 square miles. The ACCPD is headquartered at 3035 Lexington Road, where command and control functions including the 911 Communications Center are located. The ACCPD employs a decentralized management style and provides services from seven buildings dispersed throughout the county. Aside from its headquarters, the ACCPD operates from the West Precinct at 3700 Atlanta Highway in the Georgia Square Mall, the Downtown Substation at 133 East Washington Street, the East Substation at 385 Fairview Street, the West Substation at 1060 Baxter Street, the Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force on Prince Avenue, and the Family Protection Center at 2795 Lexington Highway. Additionally, the ACCPD will open a "storefront" office in Fire Station #9 at 1650 Danielsville Road during 2007. These facilities are a major component of the Department's commitment to community-oriented, problem-solving policing through their presence within the diverse neighborhoods of Athens-Clarke County (ACC).

Also, the decentralization of the police staff is a tool utilized to increase citizen-police interaction during non-enforcement periods and activities. The ACCPD is involved in a number of other community-oriented, problem-solving policing initiatives. Its bicycle and walking patrols have greatly increased the Department's presence in the downtown district and the Baxter Street corridor. Likewise, police presence within public housing areas since the mid-1970's has resulted in a sustained reduction in per capital crime in and adjacent to those properties. Additionally, regular neighborhood level meetings are scheduled throughout ACC with the Athens Housing Authority, the Athens Downtown Development Authority's Responsible Hospitality Panel, the various neighborhood watches, etc. to problem solve and as a supplement to the bi-weekly internal departmental crime reduction meeting (Compstat, computer comparison statistics). In cases where violent crimes occur, the ACCPD assigns an intensive team of investigative personnel to the crime and, for the crime of homicide, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation supports the ACCPD during such investigations.

The ACCPD also has a school resource officer assigned to each middle and high school. The officer serves as a resource officer to students and teachers on issues of drugs, crime deterrence, gangs, etc. Likewise, the Department is proactive in the area of domestic abuse. The ACCPD works with the courts in an early intervention posture that advocates a system of "arrest and counseling," not simply "pro-conviction." Also, the ACCPD philosophically and materially supports the Drug Courts of the State Court and

the Superior Court in abuse reduction goals and strategies. These leadership and management approaches, which are focused on service delivery at the neighborhood level, problem solving with citizens, and increased community partnership, have been key to sustaining a decade of crime reduction (1997-2006), while solving crimes above the national average. All of these initiatives reflect the Department's view that the police are the people and the people are the police. The police being only full-time individuals charged with the duties that are incumbent on all of the citizens.

The Athens-Clarke County Police Department has identified a need for an increase in narcotics and beat officers, adding a substation on Baxter, and having the downtown location open 24 hours a day. In the area of domestic abuse, the Department sees a stronger link with the hospitals and the possibility of locating a facility near to the police headquarters that would provide temporary shelter for victims of family violence.

5.7.2.2 Sheriff's Office

The Clarke County Sheriff's Office's primary responsibilities involve law enforcement services to the court system (Superior Court, State Court, Municipal Court, Probate Court, Magistrate Court and Juvenile Court) and supervising the County Jail. The Office also acts as server of court processes for civil papers, subpoenas, evictions, protective orders, felony and misdemeanor arrest warrants, as well as being responsible for transporting prisoners in and out of the county, handling licenses for raffles and bonding, maintaining a sex offender registry, and conducting background checks for gun permits. The Office also has a deputy assigned to the Alternative School as a School Resource Officer, has implemented the DARE program in all of the elementary and middle schools in Athens-Clarke County, provides the P.R.I.D.E. program to residents of our jurisdiction, and participates in the V.O.I.C.E. program.

The Sheriff's Office has three sections that report through the Chief Deputy: the Field & Court Section, the Jail Section and the Administrative Section. In all, the Office has 137 sworn officers, and 24 civilian personnel. Most deputies work on 12-hour shifts with rotating days off. The Office's Field & Court and Administrative Sections operate out of the Courthouse located at 325 E. Washington Street, while the County Jail is located at 3015 Lexington Road.

The Sheriff's Office noted that it is running behind in its processing and has a need for additional warrant officers, as well as court deputies. Additionally, the Office identified a need for a holding area for prisoners awaiting their cases to come before the court.

5.7.2.3 City of Winterville Police Department

The Winterville Police Department is located at 125 N. Church Street, about two blocks from the city square, next to city hall. The Department serves only the City of Winterville, an area of about 2.6 square miles. It has a Chief and two full time officers, one part time reserve officer, two patrol cars, and a K-9 unit truck.

Although limited in its local enforcement capability, Winterville, with assistance from Athens-Clarke County and the Georgia State Patrol enjoy an adequate level of police protection for a town of its size. The Police Department is presently pursuing an additional patrol car.

5.7.2.4 Detention Centers

There are two detention facilities in the Athens-Clarke County area: the county jail and the county prison (work camp). The Youth Development Center, once operated by the County, is currently operated by the State.

5.7.2.5 County Jail

As noted above, the Sheriff's Office is responsible for operating the County Jail. The facility is primarily a pre-trial facility that houses inmates awaiting final disposition of their cases in the courts. The Jail also houses inmates who have been sentenced for short periods of times (up to 12 months). Besides the inmates awaiting trial, a small percentage of the total yearly jail population is composed of sentenced felons awaiting transfer to state prison.

In 1992, the County passed a Special Local Options Sales Tax that included money for expansion of the County Jail. This allowed for the facility to address severe overcrowding; however, today there is a critical need for additional expansion of the facility to accommodate twice as many inmates as the 1992 population. Currently, the Jail has 338 beds and an average daily population (in 2005) of 426 inmates.

5.7.2.6 Athens-Clarke County Correctional Institution/County Prison

The Athens-Clarke County Correctional Institution/County Prison is operated by the County Commission under the operational supervision of a warden appointed by the Mayor and Chair and Commission, with confirmation by Georgia Department of Corrections. The Prison is designed as a minimum-security facility (current Georgia Department of Correction's rating). Inmates are received from the County Jail and the

Georgia Department of Corrections. County-sentenced inmates typically are charged with misdemeanors serving one year or less, but probation revocations of felon sentences can be issued requiring service in the County of revocation. State-sentenced inmates are usually felon sentences ranging from one year to life. The Prison is located at 2825 County Farm Road. Winterville does not have a jail/detention area, but utilizes the Athens-Clarke County Jail.

5.7.3 Parks and Recreation

Athens-Clarke County's athletic, recreational, educational, and cultural arts programs are administered by the Department of Leisure Services. The department's mission is to enrich the lives of our citizens through the stewardship of the community's natural resources and the efficient and responsive provision of quality leisure opportunities, experiences, and partnerships. This department offers the most diverse and comprehensive system of services, programs, and facilities in the Northeast Georgia region. This full-service "Department of Leisure Services" provides active and self-directed programs as well as facilities, grounds, and natural resource management.

Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Department At-A-Glance

- 6 divisions (administration / internal services, arts, athletics, natural resources, parks, recreation)
- 4th largest department in Athens-Clarke County
- 38 parks and facilities with 84 buildings and structures
- 3,400+ acres with over 1.8 million annual visitors
- 3,450 annual programs involving 325,000 participants
- 1,250 annual facility rentals
- 838 volunteers contributing 32,500 hours of service
- 8 advisory boards
- 79 full time and 200 part-time/seasonal employees
- 186 contract labor employees

Active programs include camps, team sports, tournaments, classes, theater, exhibits, special events, festivals, and interpretive and educational programs. Self-directed activities include biking, hiking, swimming, tennis, skateboarding, fishing, boating, . Facilities and grounds management includes parks, greenways, trails, zoo, swimming pools, playgrounds, skatepark. Natural resource management includes the preservation and conservation of natural areas, wetlands, waterways and forest as well as habitat restoration, enhancement and maintenance of wildlife habitat and travel corridors, and fisheries management. Although there are private recreational facilities available within

the County, including fishing and boating, lakes, civic club ball fields, and country-club golf courses, for the purposes of assessment, only publicly managed leisure facilities are considered here.

In 2003 the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County adopted Leisure Service's Greenway Network Plan. The Greenway Network Plan provides the blueprint for greenway and natural area development for future generations through the creation of a "green infrastructure". The Greenway Network Plan begins the process of identifying, protecting, and creating a series of corridors providing opportunities for conservation, preservation, education, transportation, and recreation. Additionally, these corridors provide opportunities for individuals and families to experience nature in a variety of ways while linking parks, neighborhoods, points of interest, and activity centers. The services and programs of the Department are funded through fees and charges, the General Fund, grants, and donations. A key component of the Department is the support of eight not-for-profit boards along with the Oconee River Greenway Commission, and the Rail-Trail Committee. These citizen advisory boards affiliated with the Leisure Services are the Sandy Creek Nature Center, Inc., Lyndon House Arts Foundation, Friends of Athens Creative Theater, Morton Theater Corporation, Friends of SE Clarke Park, the Gymnastics Booster Club, and PRIDE, the parental group associated with the East Athens Educational Dance Center. The Oconee River Greenway Commission was created by ACC Commission action as an oversight and advisory group for greenway and related endeavors. The Rails-Trials Committee is a committee created by the ACC Commission and appointed by the Mayor to provide oversight and support to rail-trail activities in Athens.

In 1994 the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County adopted the Leisure Services Master Plan. This plan represents a comprehensive planning process to determine ways that leisure services can be efficiently and effectively delivered to the citizens of Athens-Clarke County. It is a plan of action that addresses organization, management, parks, facilities, and programming. The Leisure Services Master Plan reflects the unique conditions of Athens-Clarke County, nationwide trends, and successful leisure service delivery in comparable communities. Also, the plan lists priority recommendations to be undertaken by the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County bridging the gap between theory and practice with existing system analysis and public input.

In 2002 the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County Auditor's Office conducted an assessment of the organization and operations of the Leisure Services Department since merging the former Recreation & Parks and Arts & Environmental Education Departments in FY97. The purpose of this audit was to perform a comprehensive

analysis of the services, staffing, and resources employed by the Leisure Services department in the delivery of programs, activities, and services for the citizens of Athens-Clarke County.

The Department of Leisure Services is divided into six divisions: recreation, athletics, arts, natural resources, park services, and administration. With 2299.46 acres of park facilities to operate and maintain, the Department has a sizable amount of responsibility. These parks include: two regional parks (1007 acres); community parks (429 acres); 26 neighborhood parks including school parks (340.6 acres); the greenway system (523 acres); and special use facilities (6.86 acres) that serve the County and the region. Added to these acreage, are the 17 elementary and middle school recreation sites. These facilities have been converted into additional neighborhood parks through an agreement between the Leisure Services Department and the Clarke County School District. See Map 5.3 Recreational Areas and Cultural Facilities.

5.7.3.1 Regional Parks

Regional parks are natural resource-based, destination-oriented resource based outdoor recreation and educational facilities serving the County and a population within an hour's drive. Regional parks often serve day, evening and over-night uses. The typical acreage standard is from 500 - 1000 acres of diverse, scenic natural and cultural environments. Access is via a major regional highway. Athens-Clarke County has two regional parks, Sandy Creek Park and Sandy Creek Nature Center.

Table 1: Regional Parks

Name	Facilities	Acres
Sandy Creek Park	Natural, interpretive and outdoor recreation park developed with US Soil Conservation Service; 260-acre man-made lake; visitor center; community center; BBQ building; small beach; picnic pavilion; 3 picnic shelters; equestrian & 10 miles of hiking trails; amphitheater; disc golf course, 3 dog parks; campgrounds; 2 tennis & 2 basketball courts; multipurpose field; self-directed baseball field; volleyball court; 2 horseshoe pits; boat launch; 2 playgrounds;	782
Sandy Creek Nature Center	Environmental , Natural Science and Appropriate Technology Center (ENSAT); Natural resource interpretive center; Walker Discovery Hall; Allen House Adm. Office and Intern Housing; log house; picnic tables; 5 miles of nature trails and boardwalk along North Oconee River and Sandy Creek; connects to North Oconee River Greenway via pedestrian bridge and to the Cook’s Greenway Trail via boardwalk and pedestrian bridge	225
	Total Acres	1007

5.7.3.2 Community Parks

Community parks have diversified indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and areas serving a population within 10 - 15 minutes driving time and situated in the main quadrants of the county. Typical land requirements are 100 acres that include areas suitable for active (athletic fields) and passive recreation (picnic grounds, walking trails, water features). Due to high volumes of traffic, access is recommended to be from a major roadway.

Table 2: Community Parks

Name	Facilities	Acres
Bishop Park	Community building and gym; Olympic size pool; tennis center and 9 courts; 3 softball fields; 2 basketball courts; multipurpose athletic field; 2 playgrounds; concessions building; BBQ/picnic facility; administrative office building	33
James Holland Youth Sports Complex	Baseball and soccer complex: 4 little league ballfields; 2 300' baseball fields; 4 soccer fields; 3 concession buildings	62
Thomas Lay Community Center and Park	Community center and gym; 1 softball field and concession building; 2 basketball courts; 1 tennis court; picnic shelter; pool; playground	7
Memorial Park (excluding zoo)	Community building; pool; 2 basketball courts; multipurpose athletic field; 3 picnic shelters; 4 playgrounds; 3 acre lake	72
Satterfield Park	3 little league baseball fields; 2 senior league baseball fields; 3 tennis courts; concession building;	13
East Athens Community Park	Football and soccer complex; baseball/softball field; concession/pavilion building (under development)	118
SE Clarke Community Park	Concession building; baseball and softball complex; 2 tennis courts; exercise/jog trail; nature trail; picnic shelter; 2 playgrounds; 2 restrooms; dog park; skatepark	124
	Total Acres	429

5.7.3.3 *Neighborhood Parks*

Neighborhood parks are family-oriented spontaneous recreation facilities for daytime use only. They are small acreage sites, having from 5 - 10 acres as a standard requirement. Facilities include multipurpose, low maintenance facilities for passive or unstructured play such as walking trails, picnic areas and practice fields or courts. Access should be from the local street network accessible by sidewalks and/or bike. Often times neighborhood parks are located adjacent to elementary schools or community centers. Athens-Clarke County has 27 neighborhood parks, three of which are located in the City of Winterville (two of these may actually function as community parks but due to size are considered neighborhood parks), and 17 school sites that are being developed into new neighborhood parks.

Table 3: Neighborhood Parks

Name	Facilities	Acres
Ben Burton Park	Park located along the Middle Oconee River. includes; picnic tables, grills, trails,	27
Dudley Park	Natural resource oriented park with trails along North Oconee River and Trail Creek is part of the Heritage Trail; includes Historic interpretation and exhibits, multipurpose field; picnic tables, benches, and grills; will serve as a inter-connect with the proposed Rails-to-Trails project	24
East Athens Community Center and Park	Community center and gym; 2 basketball courts; 2 tennis courts; playground; pool; picnic shelter; multipurpose athletic field	18
North Oconee River Park and Aguar Plaza	Park generally located along both banks of the North Oconee River with walking trails, picnic shelter benches, tables; and grills. The Aguar Plaza includes interpretive signs, benches and a trail.	24
Pope/Reese Street Park	Vest pocket park: 1 basketball court; general purpose plaza area;	1
Rocksprings Park	Community center and senior center; 2 basketball courts; 1 softball/baseball field; pool; playground;	6
Wesley Whitehead Park	2 softball fields with concession building; (in City of Winterville)	6.6
Winterville Auditorium and Tennis Courts	Auditorium; 2 tennis/basketball courts; Rutland Center Classroom Building; (Shared-use agreement; maintained by Town of Winterville)	3
Winterville City Park	BBQ building with kitchen; 1 basketball court; playground; picnic area; (in Town of Winterville)	5
17 Parks at Elementary and Middle Schools	Nature trail; multi-purpose fields; picnic grounds; walking and jogging trails; playgrounds; shelters;	219
	Total Acres	333.6

5.7.3.4 Greenways (Linear Parks)

Greenways (Linear Parks) are planned to be interconnected, linear open spaces along important environmental, historic and / or scenic corridors that offer opportunities for linear recreation, such as hiking, canoeing and bicycling and are considered safe, alternative transportation corridors. There are no specific acreage requirements, but areas should be of a size and scenic quality to encourage sufficient levels of interest and

use. Trail heads and parking areas should be located off of major arterial or collector roadways.

The adoption of the Greenway Network Plan established a process for the creation of a “green infrastructure” for Athens-Clarke County. This generational plan creates a system of linear parks, greenspace, and transportation corridors for purposes including preservation, conservation, recreation, education, wildlife habitat and travel, transportation and destination points.

Athens-Clarke County is in the process of developing a network of linear, public open space that will offer passive recreation, environmental conservation and a continuous trail along the Oconee River system, with connections to parks, schools, civic centers and neighborhoods. These greenways will serve to reduce pollution and protect the integrity of the Athens-Clarke County water supply; inspire a community-wide respect for the waterway environment; and provide protection for native wildlife. A successful greenway program will contribute to developing Athens-Clarke County into a balanced and beautiful community with a desirable quality of life that attracts new residents, businesses and tourists.

Table 4: Greenways (Linear Parks)

Name	Facilities	Acres
Sandy Creek Greenway and Cooks Trail	A 4.1 mile linear park located along Little Sandy Creek that connects Sandy Creek Nature Center to Sandy Creek Recreation Area; 4000' of boardwalk and 5 footbridges;	492
North Oconee River Greenway and Heritage Trail	A multiuse trail connecting the University of Georgia at Baldwin Street to Sandy Creek Nature Center. Includes almost 4 miles of trail,, the Aguar Plaza, picnic tables, benches, and the Heritage Trail – an interpretive walk highlighting the history of Athens and the North Oconee River.	31
College Station Greenway Extension	A proposed multiuse trail and associated amenities expanding the North Oconee River Greenway from Oconee Street to College Station Road	Under study
East Community Park Extension	A proposed multiuse trail that connects the Cook and Brother Plaza of the North Oconee River Greenway with the Historic Gun Emplacement (proposed) and the East Community Park	Under study
	Total Acres	523

5.7.3.5 Historic Sites

The management and interpretation of historic sites helps build a sense of place within the community. Included in this section are areas acquired and maintained specifically for their historic and educational value.

Table 5: Historic Sites

Name	Facilities	Acres
Cook and Brothers Armory Historic Gun Emplacement Site	A proposed park containing the last complete artillery gun emplacement constructed in Athens-Clarke County during the civil war. The site will include interpretive signs, a replica artillery piece, ADA access and parking	6.86
	Total Acres	6.86

This table does not include other Historic Sites owned by Athens-Clarke County and used for purposes other than parks. Such sites include the Taylor-Grady House, operated by the Junior League as a house museum by the Junior League, the Church Brumby House, operated by Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation as a Welcome Center, and many others.

5.7.3.6 Natural Areas

Leisure Services maintains several natural areas as part of the Greenspace program and the Greenway Network Plan project. These natural areas include areas set aside for habitat protection, water quality protection, stream and river buffer as well as areas being held for future park and greenway development.

Table 6: Natural Areas

Name	Facilities	Acres
Erwin Land Donation	A 24 acre stream buffer and potential neighborhood trail connection with Holland Youth Sports Complex.	24
Rock and Shoals Heritage and Natural Area	Adjacent to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Rock and Shoals State Heritage site, this natural area helps protect and encompass the second largest rock outcrop In Athens-Clarke County. This site includes fragile outcrop flora and fauna and several rare and endangered species.	25
Whitehall Shoals Natural Area	This natural area is managed by Athens-Clarke County under an agreement with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and currently provides river and habitat protection. Future use of this site could include trails, canoe/kayak launch, restrooms and trails.	30
Tillman Tract (University Heights)	This natural area is managed by Athens-Clarke County under an agreement with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and currently provides river and habitat protection. Future use of this site could include foot trails connecting University Heights subdivision with the Whitehall Shoals Natural Area.	6
	Total Acres	85

5.7.3.7 Rails to Trails

Athens-Clarke County is in the process of converting abandoned railroad lines into multiuse trails that will significantly enhance alternative transportation and connectivity between existing greenway facilities, bicycle facilities, and community destinations. In addition to alternative transportation, the rail-trail conversion will enhance recreational alternatives along with associated health benefits.

Table 7: Rails to Trails

Name	Facilities	Acres
Georgia Rail Road Rail-Trail Project	This proposed project connects the bicycle facilities on Barnett Shoals road to Dudley Park and the Multimodel Center on East Broad Street. The rebuilding of the 10 Loop at US78 is proposed to accommodate the rail-trail project. Although no funding is currently allocated, this project also includes a connection to the Georgia Rail Station at Winterville.	Under Study
Pulaski Heights Greenway and Park	This proposed project connects the Pulaski Heights Community and the Athens Area Council on Aging with the North Oconee River Greenway. Additional connections could include the Lyndon House Arts Center, Thomas Lay Community Center, and Fire Station Number 1 with the North Oconee River Greenway. This project includes a park with ADA accessible trails and exercise stations specifically designed for older community members.	Under Study

5.7.3.8 Special Purpose and Cultural Facilities

Special purpose and cultural facilities satisfy needs for specialized recreation pursuits, such as the performing arts, aquatics, visual arts, gymnastics, zoological, etc. There are no specific land requirements but access should be from the major road network.

Table 8: Special Purpose and Cultural Facilities

Name	Facilities	Acres
Bear Hollow Wildlife Trail (zoo adjacent to Memorial Park)	Small zoological park featuring native piedmont bird and animal species; zoo classroom; zoo operations building, amphitheatre; zoo barn	5
Lyndon House Arts Center	38,500 sq. ft. visual arts facility will include gallery space, craft rooms, children's gallery, historic house museum, kitchen, library resource room and community arts room;	5
Morton Theatre	A 25,000 square-foot performing arts theater with 500 seats; Harris Pharmacy/history space; 1,100 square-foot Burney Building office space;	N/A

Name	Facilities	Acres
Parks Maintenance Center	2,700 square-foot facilities building; 2,000 square-foot janitorial building;	N/A
Athens Creative Theatre (connected to Memorial Park Ops Bldg)	3,139 square foot facilities building; It is a "black box" facility, which offers maximum flexibility and configuration.	N/A
East Athens Educational Dance Center	5,500 square feet and has a large presentation hall, three dance studios for practice and is the first LEED certified public or private sector building in the County	N/A
	Total Acres	10

5.7.3.9 School Facilities

Athens-Clarke County and the Clarke County School District have agreed to joint use of facilities. Athens-Clarke County developed playgrounds, walking and jogging trails and all-weather play areas at 17 elementary and middle schools. These facilities are recognized as parkland during non-school hours.

The Department of Leisure Services currently uses School District facilities for programs such as youth basketball practices and games, special events, and other recreational and educational activities. In exchange, the school district uses Leisure Services facilities for baseball and tennis competitions, field trips, and pre-kindergarten programs.

5.7.3.10 University of Georgia

There are no cooperative agreements between Athens-Clarke-County and the University of Georgia for joint use of facilities at the University.

5.7.3.11 Recreation and Volunteer Programs

The Department of Leisure Services is continuously involved in a wide variety of programs and services. Such programs and services are possible through cooperative efforts with outside groups, the direct support of affiliated agencies, and the generosity of individual volunteers and groups.

Leisure Services partners with a wide variety of agencies and businesses, creating the most comprehensive and diverse program in the region. By co-sponsoring programs, the department is able to create diverse services and programs in areas such as arts,

athletics, recreation, environmental education, natural resources, special populations, and health. Leisure Services has program service agreements with youth athletic associations that includes Athens United Soccer Association, Clarke Youth Association, Athens Youth Association, Stonehenge Youth Association, East Athens Dolphins, Georgia Fall baseball, Holland Park Youth Association, and Athens American National Little League. The Department also has an established service contract for tennis programming at county facilities with Tennis for Life. Other affiliated groups include, Clarke County Health Department, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Athens Regional Medical Center and St. Mary's Hospital, American Red Cross, and Athens Tutorial Program. Leisure Services activities and facilities are supported directly by several affiliated groups. These support organizations provide financial and technical assistance as well as oversight and direct volunteer support of various Leisure Service activities.

The Leisure Services Department has a well- established volunteer system. Individuals and groups seek out and are recruited for activities and projects that directly benefit programs and services provided to the public. Volunteers give their time in projects and activities ranging from the arts, dance, athletics, recreation, environmental education, natural resource management, trail maintenance, and gymnastics.

5.7.4 Stormwater Management

A-CC has an extensive stormwater management program and provides many services for dealing with the problems created by stormwater runoff that benefit the entire community. Athens Clarke County has applied and received coverage for the NPDES Stormwater Phase II Permit issued by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. The permit requires municipalities to develop and implement a stormwater management program that includes activities that focus on the following six areas:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Participation
- Illicit Discharge Elimination
- Construction Site Erosion Control
- Post-Construction (long-term) Stormwater Controls
- Good House Keeping Practices for Municipal Practices/Programs

The County has developed a comprehensive program that provides the services needed to address all stormwater management needs, responsibilities and obligations. The vision of the county's program can be summarized by five goals that describe the overall direction, authority and responsibility of the program to manage stormwater.

- NPDES Compliance
- Source-Water Water Quality Protection
- Provide Infrastructure to Support Growth of Community
- Preserve Quality of Life
- Flood Hazard Reduction

In 2004 the Mayor and Commission of Athens Clarke County adopted an ordinance authorizing implementation of A Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund to provide a dedicated revenue source for stormwater management. For a detailed description of the stormwater management program and activities please refer to the attached report.

5.7.5 Solid Waste Management

In 2004, Athens-Clarke County participated in a Regional Solid Waste Plan prepared in cooperation with the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center. This Plan provided a general framework for guiding the County's solid waste collection, disposal and recycling efforts. To complement the original Plan, a more comprehensive solid waste reduction plan was developed for Athens-Clarke County under contract with Resource Recycling Systems of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

This plan identified specific policy decisions of the Athens-Clarke County government with regard to local solid waste management issues. Policy decisions included "volume-based" garbage fee systems for the residential and commercial service sectors, expanded and newly created residential and commercial recycling services, respectively; procurement of a Recovered Materials Processing Facility (RMPF); development of private hauler franchising requirements; and expansion of area recycling drop-off centers.

This solid waste comprehensive plan has been implemented in its entirety. The management of solid waste issues in Athens-Clarke County is the responsibility of the Department of Solid Waste. The Department has 58 full-time and 6 part-time employees: eleven are located at the landfill, 10 in recycling operations, 4 in administration and the remainder are in solid waste collections.

The solid waste program for Athens-Clarke County is one of the most progressive in Georgia.

Solid waste collection in Athens-Clarke County is based on two service districts: an urban service district which is Athens' city limits prior to unification; and a general

service district which is the balance of the County. In the urban service district, crews with the Department of Solid Waste provide once-a-week, backyard and optional curbside collection of household waste and curbside collection of recyclable. The once-a-week curbside recycling is on the same day as garbage pickup. Residents have two bins, a blue bin for "paper" items and a green bin for "container" items. In the general service district, 8 private franchise haulers offer comparable services for the collection of garbage and recyclable. To reward recycling, the County has instituted a volume-based garbage fee system requirement for both public and private solid waste collection services. Customers pay based on the size of the waste container and the number of containers; therefore, the more volume, the higher the fee. This volume-based fee system encourages recycling through reduction of the waste volume, and thereby reduction of the fees paid.

Waste collection for customers (businesses and residents) in the downtown area is provided by ACC and is also a volume-based garbage and recycling program. These downtown customers typically cannot be serviced from dumpsters, and therefore, dispose of their waste in bags that are placed outside their businesses or residences 30 minutes prior to their scheduled collection time. Customers choose their service level and pay based on the number of pickups chosen. They also pay \$1 each for authorized disposal bags for garbage. These customers can reduce their fees by placing recyclable materials curbside at no additional charge. Services in the downtown are offered three times a day, seven days a week. Apartment complexes can contract with a private hauler for waste disposal or use ACC's services. Dumpster customers may also request recycling services (typically handled with dumpsters as well). The University of Georgia collects its own waste for disposal at the ACC landfill. The University also collects recyclable and operates an office paper recycling program throughout the campus.

The Department of Solid Waste also provides leaf and limb pickup to residents of both the urban and general service districts six times a year. Leaf/limb materials collected are transported to the landfill mulching site, mulched and sold for \$7 a pickup truck load. Bulkier items are picked up by special request and transported to the appropriate disposal or recycling facility.

Private haulers take their collections directly to the landfill of their choice. Total, non-recyclable waste collected from Athens-Clarke County in 2005, was 85,782 tons. Approximately 62% was from residential customers and 18% was from commercial/industrial customers. Based on a 2005 population of 108,222 this is 1.26 tons per capita per year. In 2005, yard waste accepted totaled 7,709 tons (includes both Athens-Clarke and Oglethorpe Counties).

Private haulers operate in Winterville similarly to how they operate in the General Service District of Athens-Clarke County.

In 1992, given the proximity of Athens-Clarke County's existing landfill to Oglethorpe County and in the spirit of mutual benefit, Athens-Clarke and Oglethorpe Counties entered into an agreement whereby Athens-Clarke would take Oglethorpe's waste. This agreement was reached in exchange for (1) Oglethorpe's landfill being converted into a disposal facility for construction and demolition materials from both counties, and (2) using land owned by ACC but located in Oglethorpe County (adjacent to existing landfill site) for expansion of ACC's landfill. This substantially increased both counties' disposal capacities. Currently, the Athens-Clarke County Municipal Landfill is encompasses 380 acres, 24 acres of which are located in Oglethorpe County. Of the 380 acres, 100 acres have been closed out and 38 acres are currently in use. As of July 2005, the last date for when a "remaining-life" calculation is available, the landfill's remaining capacity was calculated at 9.8 years. The facility is located on Lexington Road eight miles east of downtown Athens.

The landfill receives approximately 107,000 tons of waste per year. This does not include the collection of recyclables, which is running about 13,000 tons per year and is contributing significantly to reducing the County's waste stream. The landfill began accepts tires at a recycling charge of \$3 a tire, however, oil disposal/recycling is still handled privately at service stations around the County. White goods and other scrap metals can be brought to the landfill for free and then recycled by Athens Auto Wrecking for the benefit of the 4-H. Biomedical waste goes to a private company for disposal. The County does accept yard waste, which is diverted to its tub grinder located at the landfill. The resulting mulch is then sold year-round or is used to cover the trash after being mixed with soil. Cooking oil generated by downtown restaurants is collected by ACC crews, stored temporarily at College Avenue facilities and then collected by a processor from Atlanta.

The Recycling Division within the Department of Solid Waste has primary responsibility for spearheading Athens-Clarke County's recycling initiatives and public education efforts. This two-person Division works closely with residents, businesses and industries to facilitate their contribution to the recycling effort.

In 1988, Athens -Clarke County became the home of Georgia's first municipally operated curbside recycling program. This began with the curbside collection of newspapers in selected neighborhoods. By 1992, the County was offering twice-a-month curbside pickup of newspaper, glass, aluminum and plastic to all residents

located in the Urban Service District. Currently, as noted above, the County offers once-a-week curbside recycling on the same day as garbage pickup. In addition to individual collection, there are six recycling drop-off centers within the County that are open 24 hours, seven days a week. In 1995, the Athens-Clarke Material Recycling facility opened for business. This was the first public-private "recovered materials processing facility" (RMPF) of its kind opened in Georgia. This facility is owned and operated by Resource Recovery Systems of Centerbrook, CT; however, in return for establishing the RMPF, Athens-Clarke County has agreed to deliver or pay for the delivery of 775 tons per month of recyclables to the facility. Presently, the County's agreed upon recyclable tonnage is being exceeded.

The Athens-Clarke County government is also committed to the purchase of recycled paper and departments are charged with reviewing purchases to verify that items are recyclable. In addition, an office paper-recycling program has been implemented at all County offices. As previously noted, the volume-based fee system for collection of waste is another incentive for the public to recycle.

The University of Georgia contributes to local recycling efforts through its operation of drop-off sites for newspaper, aluminum, glass, and plastic. The University also instituted programs for office paper recycling and composting of yard and animal wastes. In addition, the University has made arrangements for a local asphalt company to utilize incinerator fly-ash that has previously been disposed of at the landfill.

Athens-Clarke County monthly residential collection fees in the Urban Service District range from \$15.50 for collecting one 20-gallon can to \$45.50 for five 32-gallon cans. Large proportions of the residential customers are "basic service level" subscribers are charged at a rate of \$19.50 per month for pick-up of two 32-gallon cans. Private hauler fees for residential customers in the General Service District run between \$14 to \$22.00 per month. For commercial customers, the rates for curbside service vary based on the frequency of pickup from \$28 for three times a week service to \$155 for three times a day service (plus the additional charge of \$1 per bag). Residential customers in the downtown area are offered twice a week service for \$33 per month. Dumpster customer rates vary based on the size of the dumpster and the frequency of pickup, from \$83 for a 4-yard dumpster once per week to \$507 for an 8-yard dumpster 5 times per week.

The Department of Solid Waste is an enterprise fund operation based on revenues from the collection fee system. In addition, as noted above, the County has an agreement with the RMPF operator guaranteeing it a minimum volume of 775 Tons Per Month or 35 Tons Per Day (annualized) of recyclable; any shortfall, and the County makes up the difference. This agreement provides for ACC to pay a processing fee for each ton of

material brought to the RMPF: \$86/ton for bottles and cans; and \$45/ton for paper based on a sliding tipping fee schedule. In addition, ACC receives 80% of the revenues from the sale of these materials. Although tonnage and revenues fluctuate, annual net revenues average approximately \$120,000. The Landfill Enterprise Fund receives revenues from tipping fees. In 2005, the tipping fee was \$34 per ton for garbage and \$14 per ton for yard waste. A host fee of \$2.05 is paid to Oglethorpe County when disposing of waste in the cell in that county.

Of the jurisdictions in the Northeast Georgia Region, Athens-Clarke County has initiated one of the most extensive public education programs. The County's Recycling Division, working with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and other volunteer groups, sponsors GreenFest, Scrap Tire Amnesty/Recycling Week, America Recycles Day, monthly public service announcements on recycling, and other recycling educational efforts and activities. The Solid Waste Citizens Committee meets bi-monthly to review technology changes and make recommendations to the Commission for changes or additions to the solid waste operations. The Solid Waste Department also funds a "Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful" office. This office presents information on recycling and litter prevention to civic groups, teachers, school children, and publishes information on recycling initiatives and directories. It also has an active Business and Industry Recycling Committee that provides information on recycling opportunities in those sectors and instituted a Recycle of the Year Award. Map 5.4 Solid Waste Facilities

5.7.6 Health Care Services

It should be noted that Athens-Clarke County is the medical center for northeast Georgia, serving a large geographic market. Map 5.5 Health Care and Other Community Facilities

5.7.6.1 Hospitals and Health Centers

Athens Regional Medical Center (ARMC) is the cornerstone of Athens Regional Health Services. ARMC is located at 1199 Prince Avenue. It consists of 315-bed regional referral center, acute care facility, two urgent care centers, a quality network of physicians and a health maintenance organization. ARMC also offers services such as a nationally recognized open-heart program, diabetes education, oncology services, maternal/child services, emergency trauma care and all major areas of intensive care. ARMC's medical

staff numbers more than 250 professionals, and there are more than 2,800 employees. ARMC services a 17-county service area in northeast Georgia, including Athens/Clarke, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Madison, Jackson, Barrow, Walton, Morgan, Greene, Taliaferro, Wilkes, Elbert, Hart, Franklin, Banks, Stephens and Habersham.

St. Mary's Hospital, part of St. Mary's Health Care System, is located at 1230 Baxter Street. The non-profit, faith-based hospital provides a continuum of inpatient and outpatient health care services, including a 24-hour emergency room and EMS service. Focus areas include neuroscience, cardiac care, general medicine/general surgery, orthopedics, women's and children's services, gastroenterology and senior services. The system also features home health care/hospice services, provided in the home; a wellness center/outpatient rehabilitation center at 105 Trinity Place; industrial medicine practice at 1500 Oglethorpe Avenue, and Highland Hills retirement community in Oconee County.

Athens-Clarke County Health Center offers a variety of health and education services to help prevent the onset of diseases. The main Health Department is located at 345 North Harris Street in Athens. There are two satellite clinics: one is the East Athens Clinic located at 310 McKinley Drive and Teen Matters located at 1077 Baxter Street. Both the main Health Department and East Athens Clinic offer immunizations for infants, children and adults, infant and child health examinations, vision and hearing screens, case management services for pregnant women and high risk infants and children, family planning and cancer prevention services, high blood pressure and diabetes services, tuberculosis testing and treatment services, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and nutritional services, testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and environmental health services. Birth and death certificates are available at the main health department. Teen Matters is a specialty health and youth development center serving teenagers. Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Licensed Social Workers, Health Educators, Environmentalist, and clerks staff the facilities. The Clarke County Health Department is part of the ten-county Northeast Health District, whose District office is in Athens. The Health Department receives funding from the State and County and through collection of fees for services.

Athens Neighborhood Health Center is a County-operated general family practice facility serving Athens-Clarke County. The facility provides health care to all age groups on a sliding scale basis. It is located at 675 College Avenue and 402 McKinley Drive.

Athens-Clarke County Community Mental Health Center is located at 250 North Avenue in a 32,490 square foot facility. The Mental Health Center provides outpatient mental health services to residents of Athens-Clarke County. Services include diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of psychiatric patients, screening of clients for in-patient admissions to the Athens Regional Medical Center or Georgia Regional Hospital in Augusta, and referrals to other service agencies and emergency services. The center offers individual, family, and group counseling for adults, children and adolescents. The center also has a 24-hour intensive education program called a "risk reduction program" for those who have been charged with DUI or substance-abuse.

There are no public or non-profit health facilities located within the City of Winterville. Winterville residents are presently served by public and non-profit health facilities located in Athens-Clarke County.

Athens Community Council on Aging is located at 135 Hoyt Street in Athens Clarke County. The facility is an activities center for residents sixty years or older. The center provides varied services for the elderly including: day care for senior adults with physical disabilities or Alzheimer's; and a community care program that helps to provide in-home care for eligible individuals.

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is located at 305 Research Drive in Athens and serves as an advocate for all older persons in Northeast Georgia. The AAA plans, coordinates and supports the development of comprehensive, community based, long-term care services. Our primary purpose is to provide access to these services, allowing older individuals to remain independent in his/her community.

There are no public or non-profit senior centers located within the City of Winterville. Senior Winterville residents are presently served by public and non-profit senior center facilities located in Athens-Clarke County.

5.7.6.2 Other Community Services

Goodwill Industries of North Georgia (formerly Kelley Diversified) is located in downtown Athens at 395 Willow Street in a 14,924 square foot facility and at 10 Huntington Road, Suite A2 in Perimeter Square Shopping Center. The Huntington Road location houses the goodwill store and career center in 40,000 sq ft of leased retail space with the goodwill store and career center. The private, non-profit is primarily funded by fee-for-service contracts through department of labor vocational rehabilitation to address the needs of people with disabilities and other barriers to employment offering services that range from self-help skills to pre-work activity. One of its main functions is to prepare

people for competitive employment, often turning people from tax-recipients to taxpayers. Many local and state industries and employers contract with the organization to train the program participants, providing critical workforce development for our community, which is done both in-house and in the community.

ACTION, Inc. (Area Committee to Improve Opportunities Now) is a private non-profit agency that administers various state and federally funded programs, such as Child Care/PreK, Weatherization, Housing Counseling, Community Services Block Grants, Youth Services and the Full Plate Food Rescue Program. Athens-Clarke County has a satellite office in the former Elementary School on Oconee Street.

Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) is located at 284 North Avenue. The building is 34,840 square foot. The agency is divided into two sections: The Office of Family Independence and Social Services. The Office of Family Independence determines eligibility for Food Stamps, Medicaid for Adults (pregnant women and elderly, blind, or disabled adults) and Children, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (cash benefit assistance), and Child Care assistance (for working parents). The Social Services section investigates allegations of child maltreatment, provides temporary homes for children when their birth parents or families are unable to care for them, offers adoption assistance when reunification with children's birth family is not possible, and administers the General Assistance Program which provides assistance for transportation, utilities, etc., when certain criteria is met such as sudden loss of income. DFCS is primarily funded by the State, with some funding from the Federal government, and Athens-Clarke County.

5.7.7 General Government Facilities

Athens-Clarke County currently owns over 300 buildings and properties. This includes general administration buildings, court facilities, fleet services, the Classic Center, cooperative extension, animal control, etc. The list below is just some of those buildings but does not include any facilities operated by Clarke County School District or the Housing Authority, nor facilities that are managed by departments that are covered in other sections of the "Community Facilities and Services" element of the Plan.

A study is presently underway to validate space programming for certain offices and to undertake a systems analysis of the benefits of proximity of some operations to one another. The long-range goal is to reorganize the location of government offices between administrative, judicial, and executive functions. The Athens-Clarke County Central Services Department has also begun a "life cycle program" which programs funding needs for replacement of major system improvements.

The City of Winterville presently has four governmental facilities: Winterville City Hall, the Police Department and Public Works facility, the Volunteer Fire Department, and the Old Winterville Depot. The Winterville Depot has been remodeled and is used for meeting space and special community functions. At this time, Winterville city officials have indicated that their present facilities are sufficient for the civic functions of the city government. Map 5.6 Schools, Libraries and General Government Facilities.

Table 9: General Government Buildings Inventory*

Facility	Locations	Square Footage
Animal Control	45 Beaver Dam Rd.	3,776
City Hall	301 College Avenue	21,530
Classic Center	300 N. Thomas Street	8,800
Classic Center Theater	300 N. Thomas Street	80,950
Cooperative Extension	2152 W. Broad Street	6,068
COSTA Building	133 E. Washington Street	16,000
Courthouse	325 E. Washington Street	118,000
Dougherty St. Bldg.	120 W. Dougherty Street	21,772
Facilities Mgmt.	2825 County Farm Road	12,372
Fleet Mgmt.	225 Newton Bridge Road	25,760
Foundry Complex	Foundry Street	60,582
Print Shop	3045 Lexington Road	4,160
Simon Michael Bldg.	150 E. Hancock Avenue	1,621
Tag Office	3025 Lexington Road	4,105
* ACC operations not listed here are include in other community facility element. Source: A-CC Central Services		

5.7.8 Education Facilities

The Clarke County School District serves all of Athens-Clarke County's public school children. This District is a public school district consolidated in 1956, with an organizational structure instituted under a 1968 voluntary desegregation plan. Geographic attendance zones determine middle and high school attendance.

Elementary school students are assigned to schools based on a "school choice" program. This is a method of assigning students to schools based on parent selection, space availability, sibling preference, location of special programs, transportation zones, and computer lottery if needed. Parents with children in grades K-5 rank their school preference and students are then assigned based on the above factors.

The District's 21 schools include 13 elementary schools (Pre-K-5), 4 middle schools (6-8), and 3 high schools (9-12). As of October 2005, the District had an enrollment of 11,760 students (K-12) and 540 students in Pre-K. The student population's racial and ethnic mix is 57% African-American, 25% Caucasian, and 18% of Hispanic or Asian origin. The District's student/teacher ratio is prescribed by state classroom maximums. Portable classrooms do exist due to growing enrollment, particularly in southeastern Athens-Clarke County. In 2005, the expenditure per student was approximately \$7,900, exclusive of federal funds. Student drop-out rates continue to fall from 15.3% in 1995 to 12.7% in 1997. Table 5.10 provides a listing of the school facilities, the date constructed, number of acres, current enrollment, and capacity.

The District has over 960 professionals, of whom 60% hold advanced degrees. District-wide instructional staff includes executive directors of instructional services, district services, and technology services and continuous improvement; directors of teaching and learning, assessment, early childhood education and family engagement, professional learning, student services, career and technical education, gifted education and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and public relations and communications.

The school District is involved in collaborative efforts with appropriate governmental, social service agencies, and churches to help all students achieve success. The District and the University of Georgia mutually benefit from their proximity to one another through opportunities for student teaching, internships, research projects and mentoring students in the gifted program. Community relationships are strengthened within the business community through apprenticeships and work with service clubs such as the Rotary Club. There are parent/teacher associations or organizations in all schools.

The District's Partners in Education Program, one of the largest programs in the State, directly involves over 160 businesses, public institutions, governmental agencies and churches in programs and activities within each of the District's schools. The Clarke County Mentor Program pairs over 800 adult role models with students in need of support and encouragement.

In addition, the private, Foundation for Excellence in Public Education in Clarke County sponsors "Excellence in Teaching" awards, distinguished teaching awards, instructional grants, and scholarships for teaching assistants who are pursuing teaching certification. After-school programs are also available to elementary and middle school children.

The special education needs of students who have learning disabilities, or are audio, visually or orthopedically challenged are handled by Student Services. These students attend classes at any one of 19 schools in the District where a suitable program is available, and have nurses, social workers and psychologists who work within Student Services available to them.

There are seven private schools located within Clarke County.

The City of Winterville is part of the Clarke County School District. Winterville Elementary is located inside the town limits at 305 Cherokee Road. Map 5.6 Schools, Libraries and General Government Facilities.

Table 10: Clarke County School District Facilities Location, Date Built and Enrollment

School	Location	Date Built	Enrollment 5/14/98
Alps Rd. Elementary (K-5)	200 Alps Road	2002	458
Barnett Shoals Elementary (K-5)	3220 Barnett Shoals Rd.	1966	529
Barrow Elementary (K-5)	100 Pinecrest Dr.	1923	336
Chase Street Elementary (K-5)	757 N. Chase St.	1923	321
Cleveland Rd. Elementary (K-5)	1700 Cleveland Rd.	1990	324
Fourth St. Elementary (K-5)	715 Fourth St.	1990	451
Fowler Dr. Elementary (K-5)	400 Fowler Dr.	1966	440
Gaines Elementary (K-5)	280 Gaines Rd.	1928	543
Oglethorpe Ave. Elementary (K-5)	1150 Oglethorpe Ave.	1969	410
Timothy Rd. Elementary (K-5)	Timothy Rd.	1977	414
Whit Davis Elementary (K-5)	1450 Whit Davis Rd.	1990	606
Whitehead Rd. Elementary (K-5)	500 Whitehead Rd.	1963	454
Winterville Elementary (K-5)	305 Cherokee Rd.	1896	469
Burney-Harris-Lyons Middle (6-8)	1600 Tallasse	1983	574
Clarke Middle (6-8)	1235 Baxter St.	1959	625
Hilsman Middle (6-8)	870 Gaines School Rd.	1965	620
W.R. Coile Middle (6-8)	110 Old Elberton Rd.	1995	663
Cedar Shoals H.S. (9-12)	1300 Cedar Shoals Dr.	1972	1,269
Clarke Central H.S. (9-12)	350 So. Milledge Ave.	1957	1,410
Total Elementary Enrollment			5,755
Total Middle School Enrollment			2,482
Total High School Enrollment			2,679
Total School Enrollment (K-12)			10,916
<i>Source: Clarke County School District.</i>			

5.7.9 Library Facilities

The Athens-Clarke County Library, Winterville Branch Library, the Resource Centers at East Athens and Lay Park Community Centers and the Pinewoods Library and Learning Center are part of a five-county regional library system consisting of Clarke, Franklin, Madison, Oconee and Oglethorpe Counties. The Athens Regional Library System is headquartered at the ACC Library. Libraries within this system share borrowing privileges which allows them to leverage access to much greater resources for their patrons. The libraries in the system are a part of the PINES network which provides access to the collections of 250 libraries in Georgia; all residents are also eligible to use the myriad databases provided by the Galileo network.

While the regional library system does not include the University of Georgia or Athens Tech's libraries, students are eligible to receive a library card. Non-University of Georgia students and faculty may apply for library cards at University of Georgia's Library for a one-time fee of \$10 by applying through the County's library system. It should be remembered, however, that the missions of the institutions are very different, with one supporting the curriculum and research of a major university, and the other providing information and services for the general public. Map 5.6 Schools, Libraries and General Government Facilities.

5.7.9.1 Athens-Clarke County Library:

The Athens-Clarke County Library opened its doors in its present location at 2025 Baxter Street in 1992. The new 61,000 square foot facility solved severe space limitations and enabled the library to offer new and enhanced services to the public. Amenities include a 200-seat auditorium, a small conference room and a gift shop. In addition to traditional library space, the library devotes 3000 sq. ft. to the Special Needs Center of Northeast Georgia, 4500 sq. ft. for the bookmobile, outreach and technical services for the region, and another 2000 sq. ft. for Library administration. Since opening this facility, the number of library patrons, as measured by the number of library cards issued, has risen dramatically from approximately 29,000 in 1992 to 41,781 in 2005. The Library has over 70 full and part-time employees and a daily visitor tally of approximately 2000 patrons.

The Library offers a wealth of computer services to its patrons including wireless access. Its investment in computers has been substantial but the Library continues seeing demand grow with each computer added. Currently, the Library offers wireless access for laptops throughout the building and provides 27 computers in the

Educational Technology Center; 31 computers in Reference; 27 computers for young adults; and 15 computers for children. In addition, the Library has 22 public access computers located throughout the building for the PINES automated circulation and catalog system. Most of the computers are networked and have access to the Internet through a telecommunications network provided by the State of Georgia. A special feature of the service is Galileo, which offers access to a wide variety of databases provided in cooperation with the Board of Regents. Patrons using their home computers can access both Galileo and PINES directly from the library's home page; a password or pin number may be required. The Library has also made a strong commitment to focus on providing staff and the public with thorough training on the use of all Library computers.

In addition to computer services, the Library also offers deliveries to disabled and home-bound patrons; services to low income day care and pre-kindergarten facilities; an extensive array of programs for families, caregivers and youth, from infancy through high school, including 6 weekly children's story times in English and 1 in Spanish, an exciting vacation reading program that features incentives and recognition to keep children enthusiastic about reading, as well as school visits for library orientation and literature based programming. Young Adult (12 - 18 years) services include after school programs featuring writing, crafts, Great Book discussions and skill building opportunities such as chess and do-it-yourself topics. The Library is dedicated to assisting families with programs and materials to prepare their children for school success beginning in early childhood when a strong foundation must be laid. Internet training programs; special parenting classes; self-directed testing such as LSAT prep courses; and an extensive history and genealogy service from the Heritage Room are provided. Information Services staff is available to assist patrons [in-house, online, or by phone] locate information to answer questions or assist educational pursuits. A wide array of cultural programming for adults, from musical performance to discussion groups, is provided to enhance lifelong learning and build community.

5.7.9.2 Winterville Branch Library

In 2006, the Winterville library will celebrate its 32th anniversary of the opening of its branch library. The library is located in an adaptive re-use of a quaint, turn-of-the-century house operated by 2 part-time employees. A recent addition to the library has enlarged the facility and made the building accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The library is fully on-line as a member of the Athens Regional Library System, PINES and Galileo, with computer terminals offering access to all holdings at the Library. The branch facility also has an active after-school-reading program that has been very successful in enhancing the reading abilities of disadvantaged students.

5.7.9.3 East Athens and Lay Park Resource Centers

The Library operates two 800 sq. ft. Resource Centers inside the East Athens and Lay Park Community Centers. These centers opened in 2002 as a part of the SPLOST 2000 project which renovated the two buildings. The mission of these two centers is to provide the residents in the vicinity access to library materials, homework assistance and internet resources. They, too, are fully on-line members of the Athens Regional Library System. When the library moved to its location on Baxter Street, many of the users residing in the downtown area were lost because of transportation issues. These Centers focus on lifelong educational skills for children and adults who need to build reading and computer skills. The libraries reflect a strong African American collection of materials.

5.7.9.4 Pinewoods Library and Learning Center

Located in Pinewoods Mobile Home Park on Athens' north side, the Center occupies a modified double-wide classroom building which opened in March, 2005. The innovative outreach program is primarily funded through a National Leadership Award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to reach the area's rapidly growing Hispanic community. The Center offers library materials and language instruction in both Spanish and English, 14 public access computers, class-room instruction on computer use, tutorial programs, health education seminars, parenting workshops, arts classes and other special interest programs. One of the services is Plaza Comunitaria which enables Mexicans living in the area to obtain a GED; the program is also being used in several public schools and the Clarke County Jail. The Library formed partnerships with Lyndon House Arts Center, area hospitals, Office of International Public Service and Outreach at UGA, Athens Transit, the Clarke County School District and other community groups to accomplish its goals of helping to increase the educational level of the immigrant Mexican population living in Athens.

5.7.9.5 ENSAT and Lyndon House Arts Center

The Library also operates non-circulating resource centers at Sandy Creek Nature Center (ENSAT) and Lyndon House. Each facility is on-line with PINES and the Athens Regional Library System; a collection of books and materials continues to rotate to these Centers on a regular basis.

Table 11: Existing and Projected Library Needs 1995-2020

	Athens Regional Library		Winterville Library	
	<i>2000 Population</i>	<i>2028 Population</i>	<i>2000 Population</i>	<i>2028 Population</i>
	<i>101,750</i>	<i>137,753</i>	<i>1,068</i>	<i>1,605</i>
Existing Square Feet*	61,000	77,000***	4000	4000
Minimum Square Feet per Person [.6]	61,050	72,711	641	963
Medium Square Feet per Person [.7]	71,225	84,829	748	1,124
Less Regional Sq. Ft.**	-9,500	-9,500		
Min. Standard: Excess or Deficiency	-9,550	-5,211	3,359	3,037
Existing Volumes	190,000	190,000	8320	8320
2 Volumes/Person	203,500	275,506	2,136	3,210
Excess or (Deficit)	-13,500	-85,506	6,184	5,110
<p>*Sources Athens Regional Library; Standards for Georgia Public Libraries; Space Standards for Public Libraries;</p> <p>**The 9,500 square feet devoted to regional services includes services such as outreach, technical services, Special Needs Center of Northeast Georgia and administration;</p> <p>***Note that the Library plans to add 16,000 SF with SPLOST 2005 funding which will bring the total square footage to approx. 77,000</p>				