



Carroll County, Georgia

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V. Community Facilities and Services

A. Introduction

Governments of all levels provide a variety of public goods and services that often are taken for granted. Public water systems, sewer systems, roads, parks, schools, policing, emergency services and cultural facilities are common services that help define the local quality of life, as well as the health of a community and its growth potential. For economic development to occur, a solid base of infrastructure must be present. This section identifies Carroll County's existing facilities and key service issues.

B. General County Government

Carroll County government is conducted in the County Courthouse and the Administrative Complex. The Courthouse currently houses 50 employees. In addition to the courthouse, the County's Administrative Complex includes three buildings. The main building is 12,000 square feet and the other two buildings are 7,200 square feet and 4,000 square feet. Seventy-five county employees are housed in the Administrative Complex, along with state employees in the Department of Environmental Health and NRCS. The amount of space is currently adequate for the present number of employees and can accommodate modest growth.

The other unit of government that operates county-wide is the Carroll County Water Authority. The CCWA has experienced steady growth in both customers and employees over the last several years.

C. Water Supply and Treatment

There are six cities that operate municipal water systems: Carrollton, Bowdon, Roopville, Temple, Villa Rica and Whitesburg. **Exhibit 5-1** shows the current water supply capacity and future capacity based on planned improvements. The total current capacity including potential sources from Douglas and Heard Counties is 18.2 million gallons per day (MGD). All but Bowdon have water demands that are near the supply capacity. The Cities of Roopville and Whitesburg get their water from wells. Mt. Zion and Villa Rica purchase water from the Carroll County Water Authority (CCWA), which is a separate entity from the County government. The CCWA operates a countywide water distribution system of more than 750 miles of pipe and services over 16,000 retail water customers. The primary water supply is a 650-acre, 4 billion gallon reservoir and 3 primary groundwater wells. The Water Authority is investigating the prospect of developing additional water sources to meet projected growth demands.



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Exhibit 5-1: Water Supply Capacity

Municipal System	Capacity In 2002 (MGD)	Future Capacity (MGD)
City of Carrollton	12.20	12.40
Carroll County Water Authority	0.70	14.50
City of Bowdon	1.00	2.90
City of Roopville	0.09	0.09
City of Temple	0.28	0.28
City of Villa Rica	1.70	1.70
City of Whitesburg	0.03	0.03
External Supplies		
Douglas County Water Authority	2.50	2.50
Heard County Water Authority	0.40	0.40
Total Capacity	18.90	34.80

Source: Carroll County, Georgia

Different levels of water service are necessary to support different land use patterns. Reliance on private well water is generally adequate to serve very low density rural residential land uses. However, suburban residential and urban land use patterns typically require centralized water service to provide an adequate quantity of water at sufficient fire flows for fire suppression. The CCWA continues to extend water lines to rural areas and areas not served by a centralized water system to give residents the option of connecting to the CCWA water system. The CCWA continues to investigate the feasibility of extending water service to as many Carroll County residents as possible.

D. Wastewater Treatment

The cities of Villa Rica, Carrollton, Bowdon, Temple, and Bremen operate centralized wastewater systems. Bremen’s system does not serve areas in Carroll County. **Exhibit 5-2** shows the existing wastewater treatment capacity and future capacity based on planned improvements. The total current municipal treatment capacity is 8.90 MGD. The treatment and disposal of wastewater in other areas is almost exclusively accomplished with on-site wastewater facilities (septic tanks, waste stabilization ponds, or infiltration systems). The one exception is the centralized system at Fairfield Plantation, which was originally operated by the developer for fewer than 100 homes. This system is operated and maintained by the CCWA and now serves over 1,750 homes. The CCWA continues to work to reduce inflow and infiltration and is investigating increasing its wastewater capacities through expansion, new facilities, or intergovernmental agreements with neighboring wastewater providers.



Exhibit 5-2: Wastewater Treatment Capacity

Municipal Wastewater Treatment System	Capacity In 2002 (MGD)	Planned Capacity (MGD)
City of Bowdon	0.40	
City of Carrollton	7.00	7.00
City of Temple	0.20	1.00
City of Villa Rica	1.30	1.30
Total	8.90	9.30

Source: Carroll County, Georgia

Lack of centralized wastewater systems in most unincorporated areas has been a key constraint to development. The Georgia Department of Public Health requires a minimum lot size of one (1) acre for the installation of an on-site sewerage system, although an individual site may require more land due to soil type.⁴³ The proliferation of septic systems in the County has raised concerns about extensive use in development areas.⁴⁴ In 1990, there were 10,223 homes on public sewer systems while 17,067 either had septic tanks or cesspools. Providing sewer service to rural areas can be costly.

E. Police Protection

The mission of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office is to maintain social order within prescribed ethical and constitutional limits and boundaries, while providing professional law enforcement services, and maintaining levels of humane treatment of those persons whose custody it has been charged with. The Carroll County Sheriff Department (CCSD) provides policing, incarceration, and court delivery services. The CCSD is comprised of the jail, administration, criminal investigation, and patrol divisions. Policing functions are primarily provided within the unincorporated portions of the County. The department employs 191 officers and administrative staff and is housed in 84,727 sq. ft. of the Carroll County Public Safety facility. In 1991, the County constructed a Correctional Institute,

43 Georgia Department of Human Resources, Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems (May 2001), Pg M-1.

44 Trust for Public Land, University of Massachusetts and USDA Forest Service, Upper Little Tallapoosa River Watershed – Source Water Stewardship Exchange Team Report (April 30, 2003), Pg 6.



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which houses over 300 county and state inmates, who contribute to the maintenance of county roads. In 2012, the Department received 41,490 calls for service, which equates to approximately 374 calls per 1,000 rural residents.

F. Fire Protection and EMS Services

Carroll County Fire Rescue operates a headquarters and a maintenance facility in Carrollton and 14 stations throughout the County including facilities within the city limits of Bowdon, Mt. Zion, Roopville, Temple, Villa Rica, and Whitesburg. Each station is equipped with a 1,500 gallon per minute (GPM) Class “A” NFPA compliant pumper. Additional special apparatus include a 2,000-gallon tanker, two (2) aerial apparatus, two (2) air and light units, five (5) brush trucks, a mobile decontamination truck and trailer, a Mobile Operations Center and four rescue boats. Staffing consists of 108 career positions, including administration and 40 volunteer firefighters. During each shift, all engine companies have at least two (2) career firefighters on duty and all ladder companies have at least two (2) firefighters on duty.

Carroll County Fire Rescue responded to 9,251 calls for assistance during 2017. The 2017 level of activity represents an 11% increase in requests for assistance compared to 2016 (8,332). As the population of the County increases, so will the assistance calls. In 2017, emergency medical calls comprised over half of all calls for service. Fire related responses made up almost 43% of calls. Engine 9/Station 9 on Industrial Boulevard in Villa Rica responded most often with 1,171 calls in 2017.

Carroll County Fire Rescue serves the incorporated area of Carroll County and all of the municipalities except for the City of Carrollton. The City of Carrollton Fire Department serves areas within the city limits and the vicinity from four (4) stations within the city. The County pays the City of Carrollton \$716,580 annually for service outside the city limits. Mutual and automatic aid agreements exist between Carroll County, Carrollton, and some adjacent Counties. In addition, Carroll County Fire Rescue accesses the Carroll County Water Authority resources through hydrants located throughout the County and routinely performs flow tests to ensure adequate water supply for fire suppression.

The Carroll County Emergency Management Agency is responsible for assisting in the protection of lives and property of Carroll County citizens in the event of natural or manmade disasters. Emergency Management anticipates emergencies, takes steps to prevent loss of life and property, and provides quick response when disasters strike. Attached to the Carroll County Sheriff Department, the Emergency Management Agency was established to develop and implement a countywide program. Emergency Management and other emergency agencies identify hazards that face each community and develop contingency plans for each potential emergency. Emergency Management



provides the expertise, training, and coordination that local governments need to protect lives and property.

The West Georgia Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is composed of concerned citizens from Carroll, Haralson, and Heard Counties who represent business, industry, public safety, local government, law enforcement, fire, emergency management, emergency medical services, health departments, schools, environmental groups, and the news media. An LEPC is required to develop an emergency plan to educate, communicate, and protect the local community during an accidental release of toxic chemicals. The LEPC also collects inventories of regulated chemicals each year and responds to inquiries from the public regarding community right-to-know issues. The LEPC acts as a source of information for anyone interested in chemical safety, including maintaining a library of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for chemicals in use in the three counties.

G. Educational Facilities

The importance of strong schools to a community's health cannot be overstated. An educated citizenry of all ages has numerous social and economic benefits including, but not limited to: lower crime rates, higher quality workforce, higher wages, increased property values, enhanced cultural activities, stronger community leadership, and greater economic potential. Three school districts provide service in Carroll County. The Bremen School District serves students living in the small portion of that community located in the County. The City of Carrollton School District serves students in that city. The remainder of the County is served by the Carroll County School District.

The "Carroll Tomorrow" economic development strategy recognizes education's importance as it states the following primary goal:

"GOAL 3, Quality Workforce and Education – Local schools, higher education and the business community will partner to produce a "world class" workforce through a coordinated workforce development system."

The "Carroll Tomorrow" plan goes on to include tangible objectives such as:

- Raise the performance of the public schools in Carroll County into the top 5% statewide,
- Increase the high school completion rate above 85% in the public school system,
- Increase the number of high school graduates completing courses in higher mathematics and physical sciences.

The Carroll County Board of Education operates the school system consisting of 11 elementary attendance districts and 6 post-elementary attendance districts. There are 12 elementary, 5 middle,



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and 5 high schools. In addition to traditional schools, the district operates administrative offices, maintenance facilities, transportation facilities, a vocational center, and a psychoeducational center. **Exhibit 5-3** shows the enrollment for 2017 by school, including proposed schools.

One of the key issues facing the County and the District is site selection for new school facilities. A poorly located school can generate increased costs for transportation and utility improvements. These costs are exacerbated by increased development pressures that result from new elementary schools and, to a lesser extent, middle schools. Coordination of school siting decisions with the County’s capital improvements programming and land use decisions is essential for efficient service provision.

Exhibit 5-3: School Enrollment (2017)

School	Growth	School Capacity	FY05	FY10	FY17
Bowdon Elementary	101%	825	738	776	588
Bowdon Middle	101%	500	359	368	417
Bowdon High	101%	625	429	451	302
TOTAL		1950	1526	1595	1278
Mt. Zion Elementary	103%	750	735	852	662
Mt. Zion Middle	103%	400	352	408	312
Mt. Zion High	103%	500	389	451	408
TOTAL		1650	1476	1711	1382
Central Elementary	101%	1175	960	1009	976
Roopville Elementary	101%	550	362	380	353
Whitesburg Elementary	101%	525	406	427	310
Central Middle	101%	900	932	980	827
Central High	101%	1325	1067	1121	1152
TOTAL		4475	3727	3917	3618
Sharp Creek Elementary	106%	450	706	945	531
Temple Elementary	108%	725	810	1190	551
Temple Middle	108%	550	545	801	441
Temple High School	108%	925	571	839	647
TOTAL		3500	2632	3775	2585



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School	Growth	School Capacity	FY05	FY10	FY17
Ithica Elementary	106%	700	415	555	705
Sand Hill Elementary	105%	775	749	956	677
Glanton-Hindsman Elem.	107%	700	582	816	595
Villa Rica Elementary	107%	525	566	794	435
Bay Springs Middle	105%	925	660	842	774
Villa Rica Middle	107%	650	483	677	489
Villa Rica High	107%	1575	1241	1741	1473
TOTAL		5850	4696	6382	5249
GOAL Program					67
Burwell					40
KidsPeace					67
TOTAL		270	184	184	174
SYSTEM TOTAL	104%	15270	14241	17563	14312

Source: Carroll County Schools

There are two post-secondary institutions within the community. The University of West Georgia is the state's sixth largest public university and houses six colleges and one school: Arts and Humanities, Honors College, Social Sciences, Education, Science and Mathematics, Tanner Health System School of Nursing, and Richards College of Business. The total enrollment for the fall of 2017 was 13, 520.

The University offers 88 fields of study, including bachelor's, master's, specialist, and doctoral programs, as well as post-baccalaureate and post-master's certificates. The incoming average freshman GPA was 3.21 in fall 2017. There was a record 2,610 degrees conferred in fiscal year 2016; record four-year and five-year institutional graduation rates.

The University has an economic impact of \$564 million, up 22 percent in five years - as reported by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents in 2016, and employs more than 1,800 full and part-time employees. Through its spending, the university supports 5,350 jobs in the west Georgia region.

The student body includes students from 38 states and 73 countries, involved in more than 150 student organizations.



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The University has been recognized among the nation's top colleges and universities in 2018 by U.S. News & World Report, and honored as a Best Regional College for 2018 by the Princeton Review. It has been recognized as one of America's best-fit universities for students by Colleges of Distinction. UWG was named one of the Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs for 2017, and is one of only two universities nationwide to receive this national recognition from the Center for Higher Education Enterprise (CHEE) for four consecutive years.

The Ingram Library has over 330,000 volumes housed in an 85,000 sq. ft. facility.

The West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) opened in 1968 as the Carroll County Area Vocational Technical School. Initially WGTC was managed by the Carroll County Board of Education. In 1987, the school became part of the statewide technical school network under the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education. WGTC maintains four campuses, including one in Carrollton. In 2017, 19,333 individuals were served by the college. In fiscal year 2017, 20.6% of the college's students were from Carroll County. The fall 2017 enrollment was 9,525. There were 382 associate degrees, 361 diplomas, and 2,788 technical certificates of credit awarded in 2017. The school awarded 377 GEDs in 2017, the most of any technical college in the State of Georgia.

Programs at West Georgia Technical College include business, nursing, allied healthcare, trucking, public service, manufacturing, installation and repair, and professional services. The school offers technical associate's degrees, diplomas and certificate programs, adult literacy, continuing education, and corporate training. WGTC uses an institutional effectiveness model to assess its personnel, finance, facilities, and learning resources.

H. Hospitals and Public Health

The Tanner Health System operates a 181-bed hospital in Carrollton, a 40-bed facility in Villa Rica, a 25-bed Higgins General Hospital in Bremen, a 15-bed critical access facility in Wedowee, Alabama, and a 92-bed behavioral health facility Willowbrooke at Tanner in Villa Rica. Other Tanner services include the Roy Richards Sr. Cancer Center, Tanner Heart and Vascular Center, Tanner Breast Health Center, Tanner Occupational Health, Tanner Urgent Care, Tanner Center for Sleep Disorders, and the Tanner Pain Management Center.



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Tanner Health System's main campus in Carrollton

The Georgia Department of Public Health operates the Carroll County Health Department which offers a wide variety of health services to the public to promote and enhance disease and injury prevention.

A 2012 report from the Association of American Medical Colleges ranked Georgia 41st in the number of active physicians and forecasts that Georgia will rank last in the nation by 2020, with a shortfall of some 2,500 physicians. Distressingly, data from the 2013 County Health Rankings indicate that Carroll County significantly surpasses state and national rates for the population per primary care



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physician. Overall, one physician serves on average 1,908 patients. There is also a lack of dentists in the community with only 0.03 dentists per 1,000 people.

I. Libraries

Public libraries within Carroll County are part of the West Georgia Regional Library System, which serves Carroll, Douglas, Haralson, Heard and Paulding Counties. There are five (5) branch libraries in the County and one deposit collection. Neva Lomason Memorial Library serves as the Headquarters library for the five-county West Georgia Regional Library System, and it houses 180,000 volumes in a 27,866 square foot building. Neva Lomason Memorial Library houses two meeting rooms, a Cultural Arts Exhibit Hall, and a Special Collections Room which includes genealogical and local history materials. This building houses the administrative staff of the West Georgia Regional Library System, including nine (9) State-paid professional librarians whose duties are to serve the needs of all libraries within the system. West Georgia Regional Library operates a bookmobile and a courier service from this location which serves all branches in the system as well as school media centers throughout the area.

Warren P. Sewell Memorial Library of Bowdon is a 6,500 square foot facility which houses 27,933 books and library items. The library features a community meeting room, a children's story time area, and a Special Collections Room which emphasizes materials about the decorative arts.

The Villa Rica Public Library consists of a new 16,000 square foot building which houses 60,000 books and other items. The building includes meeting rooms for use by the public.

The City of Mt. Zion Public Library is located in the Mt. Zion Community Center, an 8,280 square foot building. This library houses 4,000 books.

The Whitesburg Public Library opened March 31, 2008.

The library system estimates that the County will need at least 75,000 square feet of public library space by 2020 in order to meet minimum state library standards.

Ingram Library on the campus of the University of West Georgia in Carrollton serves as a governmental document depository.



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J. Recreational Facilities

The Carroll County Recreation Department operates the McIntosh Reserve Park, a sports complex in Carrollton, and 150 acres of green space adjacent to the sports complex at Oak Mountain. In total, the County maintains 753 acres, 523 of which is at the McIntosh Reserve. The Recreation Department provides sports league services to over 150 youth and adult teams by offering a wide range of sporting opportunities. The McIntosh Reserve Park, which serves a regional population, has camping, hiking, horseback riding, pavilions, and water park facilities.

Additional rural recreational facilities include the John Tanner Park, which is a landmark park in Carroll County, boasting 138 acres, camping sites, putt-putt golf, and other amenities.

Little Tallapoosa Park contains seven miles of natural trails, 2.5 miles of paved trails, a 7-acre open area meadow for events, a 2-acre pond for fishing, and a 5-acre pond for fishing. There are 32 tent/pop-up campsites with electrical hookups, 23 RV campsites with water, sewer and electrical service, and 10 equestrian campsites with water and electricity. All campsites have a picnic table and fire ring with grill. There is also a comfort station with restrooms, showers, and laundry facilities, and there are 17 geocaches in the park.



Sporting the highest point south of Interstate 20, Blackjack Mountain is a 320-acre site which is the most rugged of the parks. The planned trails will take advantage of the terrain and spectacular views. Future amenities under consideration are a lookout tower, observatory, and group camping area. The park is currently in development and is not open.

Moore's Bridge is a 437-acre parcel steeped in history. The wide open spaces are perfect for historic reenactments and picnicking. The 1.25 miles frontage on the Chattahoochee will feature a river walk



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trail as well as a canoe and kayak launch area. Natural trails are currently under construction. Opening date to be determined.

Carroll County has preserved approximately 150 acres in the beautiful, ecologically distinct Snake Creek Gorge area. An additional 600 acres are under permanent protection. The area has developed as a site for ecotourism with a canopy tour and kayaking available at Historic Banning Mills. The park is currently in development and is not open.

Each City within the County is responsible to provide recreation and park facilities to their citizens. A Master Passive Recreation Plan was previously completed and will be updated in the near future. Through the development of this Plan, the County is establishing an open space preservation goal of 20% of the land. A portion of this land will be intended for passive recreational uses appropriate for the protection of natural resources.

Funded as part of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), the recreation department built an approximately 32,000 square feet gymnasium on site of the County recreation park. This addition enabled the recreation department to meet its needs into the near future. Long-term plans are to construct a similar recreation complex with gymnasium in the northern portion of Carroll County to accommodate future recreation needs.

Currently under construction is a 20,500 square feet gymnastics facility on the campus of the County recreation park. This facility will accommodate state and regional gymnastics meets and will provide space for more than 300 gymnasts who participate in the program monthly.

K. Utilities

The cities and unincorporated areas of Carroll County are served by the Carroll Electric Membership Corporation (Carroll EMC), Georgia Power Company or Greystone Power. Electric power is provided by an integrated transmission system. In Carroll County, this system consists of transmission voltages of 12 KV, 25KV, 46 KV, 115 KV, 500 KV and 230 KV. Businesses with a connected load greater than 900 KW have the option to choose between Carroll EMC, Georgia Power, or Greystone Power for service. Natural gas is supplied locally by the Atlanta Gas Light Company for residential and industrial customers.

The number and location of new electric utility connections can provide valuable information regarding the pace and density of new development and economic activity. New electricity connections to the Carroll EMC system were concentrated between Carrollton, in the center of the County, and Villa Rica in the northeast part of the County. The most significant connection growth



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occurred in and near Villa Rica. Other significant growth areas were in the northwest and east portions of Carrollton. Few new connections were made in the rural south and west of the County. Overall there were 1,703 new connections in the grid system covering Carroll County.

L. Solid Waste Management

Carroll County and the municipalities of Bowdon, Carrollton, Mount Zion, Temple, Roopville, Villa Rica, and Whitesburg jointly manage their solid waste needs. The Carroll Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Management Plan explains their goals and objectives regarding solid waste management.