

---

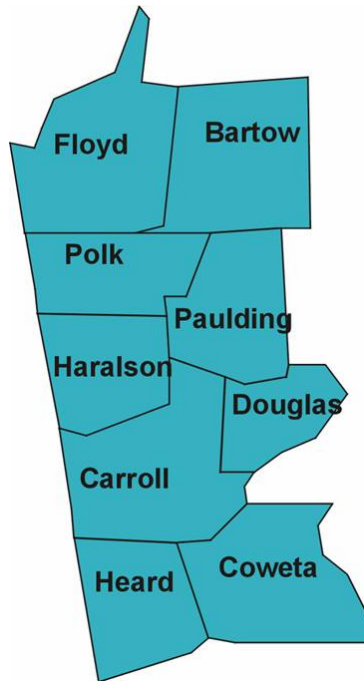
# Rolling Hills

## Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

---



### 2008-2013 Strategic Area Plan



**Cedartown, Georgia**  
[www.rollinghillsrcd.org](http://www.rollinghillsrcd.org)

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>page 3</b>
<b>Section 1: Organization and Management.....</b>	<b>page 4</b>
Mission and Vision	
What is RC&D?	
History of Rolling Hills RC&D	
Organizational Structure	
<b>Section 2: Area Overview.....</b>	<b>page 7</b>
Natural Resources, Geography, and Climate	
Population and Demographics	
Agriculture	
Economics	
<b>Section 3: Resource Needs and Opportunities.....</b>	<b>page 15</b>
Public Participation	
Summary of Findings	
<b>Section 4: Goals, Objectives and Strategies.....</b>	<b>page 19</b>
Water Management	
Land Management	
Land Conservation	
Community Development	
Organizational	
<b>Section 5: Partnering Organizations.....</b>	<b>page 31</b>
<b>Section 6: Linkages to NRCS Strategic Plan.....</b>	<b>page 32</b>
<b>Section 7: Signature Page with Compliance Statements...</b>	<b>page 33</b>
<b>Section 8: Appendix.....</b>	<b>page 35</b>
a. EPD 305(b)/303(d) List of Streams	
b. Public Input Plan	
c. Input Survey	

# INTRODUCTION

This document is the long range plan for Rolling Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. The counties served by this Area Plan include Bartow, Carroll, Coweta, Douglas, Floyd, Haralson, Heard, Paulding, and Polk. It was developed by soliciting public input throughout the nine county area served by Rolling Hills RC&D. The Area Plan was developed through Council leadership and guidance by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Input for this plan was solicited through public meetings, speaking engagements, and surveys. Results from the public input serve to create the goals and objectives that will guide Council activities for the next five years.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a strategic direction for the organization. The organization is stronger than ever before, yet more efforts are needed to ensure a strong sustainable organization that serves the communities in our area.

Congress passed the Food and Agricultural Act of 1962, which authorized Resource Conservation and Development Areas. The purpose of the act was to expand opportunities for conservation districts, local units of governments, and individuals to improve their communities in multi-county areas. This included assistance in enhancing the economic, environmental and social well being of the RC&D Areas. Currently, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the Federal RC&D Program. This document serves as an agreement between NRCS and the Rolling Hills RC&D Council, Inc.

*"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."*

# Section 1: Organization and Management

## MISSION and VISION

The Rolling Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council has a mission to provide leadership in protecting and improving the economic, social, and natural resources of residents in the RC&D Area. (1998)

We have a vision of a region that is greener and cleaner than ever before, where individuals value the natural resources and strive to protect them, and where urban and rural communities can co-exist in harmony. (1998)

## WHAT IS RC&D?

The Resource Conservation and Development Program is a public/private partnership, initiated in 1962 to assist people in caring for and protecting their natural resources while improving an areas economy, environment and standard of living. The nonprofit effort, led by local government and community leaders, volunteers, and state and federal agencies, identifies and implements solutions to human, economic, and environmental concerns.

The purpose of the RC&D program is to encourage and improve the capability of volunteer, locally elected, and civic leaders in designated RC&D areas to plan and carry out projects for resource conservation and community development. Projects relate to the following four areas:

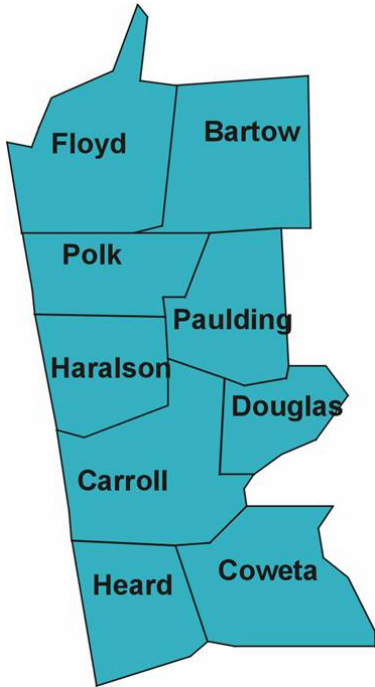
- (1) Land Conservation (3) Land Management
- (2) Community Development (4) Water Management

The RC&D program is administered through the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and was first authorized by the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962. The National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (NARC&DC) was established in 1988 to represent America's 375 local Resource Conservation and Development Councils. The local councils deliver coordinated resource conservation and rural development assistance throughout rural America. By working together on local RC&D Councils; communities, all levels of Government, and grassroots organizations work together to develop and implement solutions to widespread problems and to develop opportunities that will help sustain rural communities, local economies, and natural resources.



*The Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the RC&D Program and provides technical and financial assistance to the Councils to support the program.*

# HISTORY OF ROLLING HILLS RC&D



Rolling Hills RC&D was organized in 1994 by a proactive group of citizens that desired to have coordinated resources and assistance available for this region to address natural resources. The Council incorporated and received 501-c-3 designation from the Internal Revenue Service in 1994, establishing them as a non-profit organization. The Council received full authorization from NRCS in 1998. The Council serves citizens from a nine county region of northwest Georgia covering an area of over 2,000,000 acres. This region includes the counties of Bartow, Carroll, Coweta, Douglas, Floyd, Haralson, Heard, Paulding, and Polk. The program offers a unique vehicle for communities to plan for desired future conditions, develop strategies, secure necessary funding, and implement projects for local citizens.

The Council administered their first projects prior to NRCS authorization. These projects included a region-wide recycling directory, dry hydrant program, securing funding and constructing both a vehicular wooden bridge and wooden pedestrian bridge in Floyd County, and implementing a regional compost bin program.



*Vehicular Timber Bridge, Floyd County*



*Dry Hydrant Program, Bartow County*

Since that time, the Council has administered over 2 million dollars worth of projects. Today the Council manages multiple projects and has three staff persons in addition to an NRCS Coordinator.

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Rolling Hills RC&D Council is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization that serves the nine counties of Bartow, Carroll, Coweta, Douglas, Floyd, Haralson, Heard, Paulding, and Polk. The RC&D Council counties serve as “member” counties, each paying annual dues to support Council operations. Each member county has two voting members that serve on the Council. One member represents the respective county board of commissioners and the second member represents the citizenry. Two Soil & Water Conservation Districts (West Georgia SWCD and Coosa River SWCD) are represented on the Council by one voting member each. In addition, two local planning organizations (the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center and Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Development Center) each serve on the Council with non-voting members. The Council also supports and open membership for cities, organizations, and individuals. The full Council meets quarterly to carry out the affairs and keep abreast of Council projects. New projects are proposed and adopted at these meetings. Project and resource committees meet as needed to support Council projects and prioritize needs.

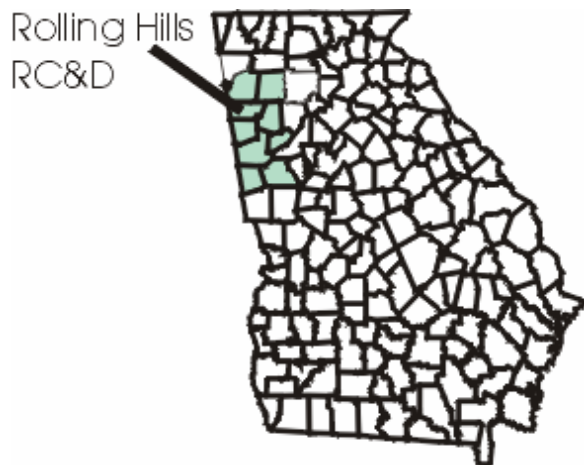
Every two years, the members elect a five member Executive Board to carry on the day to day operations of the Council. The Executive Board of the Rolling Hills RC&D Council is comprised of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President.

The RC&D Council is governed by Council policies. These policies are revised regularly and include a financial policy, ethics and conflict of interest policy, travel policy, and meeting attendance policy.

## *EEO, Civil Rights, and Ethics*

The Rolling Hills RC&D Council is committed to providing services and employment on a non-discriminatory basis. All programs are provided without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. The Council is also committed to ensuring a high standard of ethical conduct for all council programs. In order to achieve this, each Council member and staff member must read and sign the Council's Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy.

## NATURAL RESOURCES, GEOGRAPHY, AND CLIMATE



The Rolling Hills RC&D Area lies predominantly within the *Southern Piedmont Major Land Resource Area*. This area is characterized by gently sloping to moderately steep, rolling hills that are dissected by numerous streams and rivers. The red clay, known worldwide and most often associated with the state of Georgia, was once used extensively to grow cotton. Now these clayey soils—eroded and depleted from cotton production—are producing sediment, clogging the streams and rivers of the area. Due to the density of the granite, gneiss, slate, and schist

bedrock, this piedmont area is not a good recharge area which leads to a limited availability of groundwater. Communities in the Rolling Hills area often are forced to depend upon surface water for their water supply. Some dominant soil series include Appling, Cecil, Davidson, Madison, and Pacolet.

The northern section of the RC&D Area is located in the *Southern Appalachian Ridges and Valleys Major Land Resources Area*. The area is characterized by prominent northeast to southwest running sandstone ridges and large rolling valleys. Soils found in the area are weathered from sedimentary rocks, such as chert, limestone, sandstone, and shale. Limestone, a high producer of water recharge, is also highly susceptible to ground water pollution.

Slopes throughout the Council Area range from gentle slopes of valley flood plains to the steep mountainsides of the Appalachian Mountains.

Total annual precipitation averages 51 inches. Most rainfall usually falls during the period of April through September, which includes the growing season for most crops. Snowfall is rare. Average temperature in winter is 41.9 degrees and summer averages 89 degrees.



# LAND USE AND WATER RESOURCES

There are 2,144,200 acres contained in the Rolling Hills RC&D Area. Of this, approximately 53% is woodland, 25% urban or residential uses, 15% pastureland, 5% cropland, and 2% water. Proximity to a growing metropolitan area has put increasing demand on the land and water resources. Historically, land use within the council area has been from row crop to pastureland, to woodlands, to encroaching urban development.

---

## Threatened or Endangered Species in the Rolling Hills Council Area

### Plants

Pink Ladyslipper  
Yellow Ladyslipper  
Large-Flowered Skullcap  
Tennessee Yellow-eyed Grass  
Mohr's Barbara's-buttons  
Twinleaf  
Cumberland Rose Gentian  
Bay Star Vine  
Georgia Rockcress  
Little Amphianthus  
Piedmont Barren Strawberry  
Purple Sedge  
Royal Catchfly  
Trailing Meadowrue

Limerock Arrow-wood  
Ozark Bunchflower  
Indian Olive  
Harper Dodder  
Black-spored Quillwort  
Haper Wild Ginger  
Monkeyface Orchid

### Fishes

Goldline Darter

### Reptiles

Eastern Indigo Snake

### Birds

Bald Eagle  
American Peregrine Falcon  
Kirtland's Warbler  
Artic Pegrine Falcon  
Red-cockaded Woodpecker

### Mollusks

Southern Acornshell  
Southern Clubshell  
Triangular Kidneyshell

---

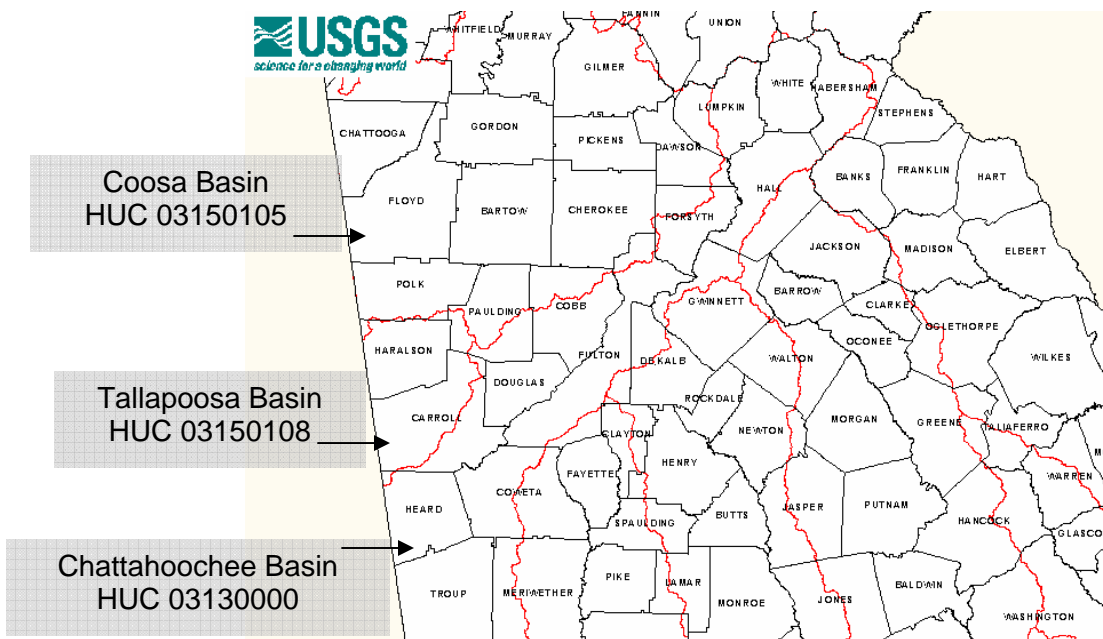
Approximately 98% of the RC&D Area's water supply comes from surface waters. The Chattahoochee, Oostanaula, Etowa, Coosa, and Tallapoosa Rivers, along with Lake Allatoona, serve as the primary sources. A few major creeks, springs, and local wells are also used. The area contains two unconfined aquifers, the Piedmont and the Ridge and Valley Province, which area potential groundwater recharge areas for the Floridian Aquifer System. Water for rural domestic use is obtained mainly from shallow bored wells.

During 2007 and years previous, Georgia experienced a significant drought which stressed water supplies. In 2007, this drought reached record levels, classifying all nine Rolling Hills county in "exceptional drought" (defined as 1 in 100 years)-- straining water supplies in the Council region. For instance, in October 2007, Douglas County reported that the Dog River Reservoir has only a six month supply of water remaining. Counties reacted by taking measures to prolong outdoor water bans and restricting growth in some areas.

Water quality is impaired in the council region from multiple sources. There are more than 200 miles of rivers and streams that do not meet their designed use according to EPD. Contaminants get into water as a result of storm water runoff, industrial and municipal discharges, agricultural sources, and other non-point source pollution.

The 2006 Environmental Protection Division’s 305(b)/303(d) list indicates multiple stream segments in the Chattahoochee Basin, Coosa Basin, and Tallapoosa Basin that are not fully supporting their designated uses. The three basins covering the Council region include the Chattahoochee, Coosa, and Tallapoosa basins. The list indicates a variety of impairments and criteria violated; ranging from fecal coliform, dissolved oxygen, copper, biota impacted, commercial fishing bans, fish consumption guidance, and mercury. See below for miles of stream impairment within the Council region by basin. See appendix A for a detailed list. In addition, there are multiple surface water bodies not meeting their designated uses as also listed by EPD.

Chattahoochee Basin	160 stream miles impaired
Coosa Basin	406 stream miles impaired
Tallapoosa Basin	99 stream miles impaired



*Recreation Land Use*

There are 514 square miles of National Forest in Floyd County. Five Georgia State Parks are located in the region, in addition to multiple local county and city parks. The Silver Comet Trail, a rail to trails project, dissects the Council region east to west—traveling through Dallas, Rockmart, and Cedartown. These parks as well as trails, are drawing tourists and provide opportunities for ecotourism businesses.



# POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

The population in the Council region shows a steady increase as the region continues to develop. Infrastructure improvements provide venues for increased development and more individuals are moving away from Atlanta and are still within “commutable” distance. Interstate 75 transects the Council region north to south and Interstate 20 runs east to west providing ease in commuting to Atlanta.

## Census Estimates (Source: Georgia Statistics)

County	2003	2004	2005	Projection: 2010
Bartow	85,033.00	86,914.00	89,229.00	105,241.00
Carroll	98,734.00	102,143.00	105,453.00	125,109.00
Coweta	101,517.00	105,395.00	109,903.00	129,899.00
Douglas	101,938.00	107,084.00	112,760.00	125,065.00
Floyd	93,432.00	94,053.00	94,198.00	100,288.00
Haralson	27,469.00	27,965.00	28,338.00	31,596.00
Heard	11,198.00	11,266.00	11,346.00	11,484.00
Paulding	100,022.00	106,035.00	112,411.00	142,388.00
Polk	39,803.00	40,128.00	40,479.00	43,643.00

According to demographic information from University of Georgia and the Regional Develop Centers, there has been a significant increase in the Hispanic population within the Council area. This is due to increased industries that typically use unskilled, part time, and season employees.

County	Total pop. (2006)	Caucasian-%	Black-%	*Hispanic-%	Native American-%
Bartow	91,266	88.6	9.3	5.6	0.3
Carroll	107,325	81.3	16.7	4.0	0.3
Coweta	115,291	80.7	17.2	5.1	0.2
Douglas	119,557	65.2	31.6	4.9	0.4
Floyd	95,322	83.7	13.7	7.0	0.3
Haralson	28,616	93.5	5.5	1.0	0.1
Heard	11,472	89.0	10.3	1.4	0.2
Paulding	121,530	84.8	12.9	3.7	0.3
Polk	41,091	85.5	13.1	10.0	0.3

\*Hispanics may also be included in applicable race categories

## LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE

Approximately 31% of the population in the Rolling Hills Council Area lives in urban areas and 69% in rural. Area population centers include the cities of Carrollton, Cartersville, Dallas, Douglasville, Newnan, and Rome. As the population continues to increase, growth is spreading into more rural areas. Land use issues are more important than ever. Many farmers are changing their farming operations, or selling for residential uses. The table below outlines the number of residential building permits from 2002-2005 (Source: Georgia Statistics System).

County	Building Permits, Residential, Total Structures, 2002	Building Permits, Residential, Total Structures, 2003	Building Permits, Residential, Total Structures, 2004	Building Permits, Residential, Total Structures, 2005
Bartow	1012	921	1046	1062
Carroll	1681	1645	1861	1468
Coweta	1659	1746	1793	2051
Douglas	1721	2138	1817	1915
Floyd	698	463	444	480
Haralson	135	121	130	192
Heard	61	60	41	43
Paulding	2694	2724	2937	3454
Polk	324	351	214	251

County	# farms (2002)	Land in Farms, Acres	Land in Farms, % change 1997-2002	Farm Size, Average, Acres
Bartow	586	81,573	-6.99	139
Carroll	975	94,124	13.75	97
Coweta	480	60,820	26.3	127
Douglas	153	7,989	-39.63	52
Floyd	663	91,317	0.23	138
Haralson	332	39,995	11.71	120
Heard	209	42,082	34.54	201
Paulding	265	16,592	-22.23	63
Polk	428	52,041	-10.11	122

(Source: Georgia Statistics System, 2002)



# AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is still a prevalent industry in the region. The Rolling Hills RC&D region is located in one of the most concentrated poultry production regions in the nation. In addition, Carroll County ranks first in the number of beef cattle out of 159 counties in Georgia. Carroll County also ranks first in the number of farms, with Floyd County ranking 10<sup>th</sup> in Georgia. Pastureland for beef cattle is also used to spread chicken litter. While poultry production is projected to increase, agricultural lands are decreasing resulting in greater amounts of animal wastes being applied to decreasing numbers of acres.

County	Beef Cattle	Dairy	Horses	Broiler Houses
Bartow	8500	130	725	225
Carroll	21,000	200	750	330
Coweta	5000	350	500	0
Douglas	1200	0	500	2
Floyd	8250	0	280	104
Haralson	6500	0	400	98
Heard	3700	0	500	114
Paulding	3000	45	400	55
Polk	4200	175	750	50

Source: Georgia County Guide, 2007

Many of the area farms are small and are still family owned or family operations. In addition, a number of “new” and beginning farmers are moving into the region- reconnecting with the rural lifestyle. This is providing opportunities for more non-traditional farmers and farming operations. Direct marketing is increasingly popular, providing opportunities for farmers markets and cooperatives to increase. In addition, agritourism opportunities are increasing. For example, a local dairy operation recently converted their entire operation to selling milk directly from the farm and



also added a corn maze, farm tours, and free range chickens to their operation. This farm continues to support three families solely through direct marketing and agritourism.

County	# farms (2002)	Land in Farms, Acres (2002)	Land in Farms, % change 1997-2002	Farm Size, Average, Acres (2002)
Bartow	586	81,573	-6.99	139
Carroll	975	94,124	13.75	97
Coweta	480	60,820	26.3	127
Douglas	153	7,989	-39.63	52
Floyd	663	91,317	0.23	138
Haralson	332	39,995	11.71	120
Heard	209	42,082	34.54	201
Paulding	265	16,592	-22.23	63
Polk	428	52,041	-10.11	122

(Source: Georgia Statistics System)

Due to the competition for land and increasing land prices, agricultural users are under pressure to convert their land to other uses. There is an increasing interest in farmland preservation initiatives. A local initiative in Carroll County began in 2001 with the assistance of Rolling Hills RC&D. The result has been several farms under conservation easement. Many of the interested parties are multi generation farms.



# ECONOMICS

As residential development continue to grow, the demand for jobs increases. Many individuals drive to Atlanta or to larger cities for employment (Rome, Dallas, Cartersville, Douglasville, and Newnan). The Rolling Hills Area's economy is largely supported by the apparel, food, poultry and textile industries. Most of these jobs require unskilled labor and offer low wages. See the table below for persons below poverty level. The average unemployment rate for the region is 5.2% with a total of 338,875 unemployed persons reported in 2005. An estimated 9.8% of families in the council region earn an average income of less than \$10,000/year with an average of 18.9% earning \$10,000-\$25,000/year. (Source: Georgia Statistics System).

County	Below Poverty, Persons (2003)	Below Poverty, % of Persons (2003)
Bartow	9399	10.9
Carroll	12370	12.5
Coweta	9812	9.4
Douglas	10678	10
Floyd	13539	15
Haralson	4076	14.7
Heard	1659	14.8
Paulding	7143	6.8
Polk	5784	14

In the 2004-2005 school year, there were approximately 1820 high school dropouts in the grades of 9-12. This equates to an average of 5.5 %.

See below for agriculture contributions to the area economy.

County	Total Farmgate (2005)	Fruit/Nuts	Vegetables	Forestry	Horticulture	Livestock/Aquaculture	Poultry/Eggs	Ag/Nature Based Tourism
Bartow	\$ 129,292,064	\$0	\$0	\$1,349,513	\$6,900,210	\$28,759,909	\$77,063,082	\$37,500
Carroll	\$ 151,909,049	\$133,920	\$103,865	\$4,115,000	\$3,507,815	\$21,135,979	\$10,372,654	\$410,000
Coweta	\$ 14,839,716	\$174,957	\$102,774	\$1,925,907	\$4,919,375	\$8,578,078	\$0	
Douglas	\$ 9,682,219	\$3,120	\$43,000	\$242,271	\$1,999,400	\$2,788,588	\$455,770	\$12,000
Floyd	\$ 78,278,672	\$146,208	\$88,283	\$2,689,656	\$17,096,070	\$9,293,824	\$38,214,240	\$713,400
Haralson	\$ 36,261,260	\$37,640	\$47,925	\$3,350,000	\$292,950	\$4,941,447	\$34,358,016	\$18,300
Heard	\$ 49,941,299	\$0	\$25,000	\$3,000,000	\$922,015	\$3,828,568	\$42,904,735	\$9,000
Paulding	\$ 43,263,691	\$125,004	\$610,262	\$624,313	\$17,505,760	\$5,674,140	\$16,763,776	\$130,800
Polk	\$ 25,558,525	\$1,230	\$43,125	\$2,623,074	\$131,030	\$6,105,474	\$14,242,800	\$36,665

Source: Georgia County Guide, 2007

## Section 3: Resource Needs and Opportunities

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rolling Hills RC&D developed a public input plan in 2007 (See Appendix B). The goal was to gather information from a cross section of groups in the Council area that would be helpful in developing the five-year plan. Information was solicited on area needs and issues. A combination of public meetings, written and electronic surveys, and individual calls were used to solicit input. Responses were obtained from individuals from all nine counties, representing a wide demographic cross section. Participants included county officials, professionals, farmers, housewives, retirees, military, educators, students, and unemployed. Individuals ranging in age from 17-79 responded. Over 200 surveys were collected in addition to the information gathered through public meetings and speaking engagements. (See Appendix C for survey).

The survey included concerns developed by the Council as well as space for additional input by citizens. Participants were asked to respond to questions regarding priorities for land management, land conservation, water management, and community development. Concerns were prioritized by number of votes and then compiled into categories. Individuals were also asked to comment on specific needs and opportunities they perceived in their communities in addition to their individual community's strengths. Many very specific ideas were incorporated into this Area Plan as a result of the detailed responses collected. Throughout this Area Plan we have included quotes from the surveys.

In addition to input from the citizenry of the area, the Rolling Hills RC&D Council and partners brainstormed about additional items that should be reflected in the long range plan. These items are shown in goal #5, which outlines strategies for sustainability for the Council.

# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Survey and public input results were categorized into the four RC&D Program Elements. The list below reflects the priorities in order within each category in addition to recurring comments provided by individuals.

## *Land Management*

- Community Wide Land Management
- Open space preservation
- Farmland preservation
- Air quality
- Ag and Environmental Education
- Other comments
  - Horse trails
  - Increase greenspace

## *Land Conservation*

- Erosion and Sedimentation practices and enforcement
- Utilize BMPs to protect water quality on agricultural lands
- Protection of Fish and Wildlife Habitats

## *Water Management*

- Water conservation
- Watershed protection
- Improved Water quality
- Riparian/corridor protection
  
- Other comments included...
  - Recycling water
  - Xeriscape education (low water use plants)

## *Community Development*

- Recycling
- Trails for recreation
- More walkable communities
- Local food production/availability
- Historic Preservation
- More trees/greenspace in downtowns
- Youth retention/education
- Jobs
- Other comments...
  - Horse community support (trails, etc.)
  - Community gardens
  - Energy conservation

Input was solicited for specific recommendations for improving quality of life in the region and what was going well. Below are the most common responses.

### **Possible solutions to improve quality of life**

Water quality/quantity protection	More trees in city areas and parks
Preservation of greenspace	Value-added agriculture opportunities
Preservation of farmland	Apprenticeship programs
Recycling collections/market creation	Energy conservation
Expand job opportunities at home	Coordination of resources to communities (grants)
Access to healthy/locally grown food	Household hazardous waste assistance
Safe and available recreation for young children	Availability of community gardens
Community beautification	Alternative energy sources
More outdoor recreation opportunities	Protection of large existing trees
Youth retention/involvement	
Farm products marketing assistance	

### **What makes our communities great places to live and what are things we need to preserve?**

<u>Community spirit</u>	
<u>People</u>	Rural heritage
<u>Volunteerism</u>	Feeling of community
Recreational opportunities/facilities	Diversity of community
Small town atmosphere	Traditional values
Charming communities and downtowns	Wide open spaces
Farmers markets	Rivers offer recreational, tourism, etc.

---

#### **Input from Area Plan Survey**

*“There is still a feeling of community here, one which will erode with dense development.”*

*“Environmental concerns need to be tied to job creation in order to form a coalition that will sustain both.”*

*“Thanks so much for all that you do, and for asking these important questions. Truth be told, if you didn't limit the amount of boxes to check, I would check them all!”*

---

## **Development of Goals and Objectives**

Development of goals and objectives in Section IV for the next five years was created by prioritizing the responses from public input with the resource needs in the region. By comparison, the Council was able to prioritize based upon RC&D authorizing elements.

### **Authorizing Element: Land Conservation**

Water quality was identified as a priority throughout the public input process. It was a recurring priority-- including conservation on private lands and local government decisions. Georgia EPD identifies 665 miles of stream channels within our region that are not fully meeting their designated uses. A primary source for the impairments is sediment. By incorporating land conservation initiatives such as conservation tillage and education for landowners and public agencies, Rolling Hills can contribute towards the water quality in the region. See Section IV for goals and objectives related to land conservation.

### **Authorizing Element: Water Management**

EPD identified 665 miles of stream channels in the Council region as being impaired—most by fecal coliform. (See Appendix A.) Rolling Hills identified three watersheds to work within for the next five years. One watershed was selected from each basin based upon public input, landowner interest, and watershed need. In addition, the Council understands the need to incorporate water conservation and quantity as a priority due to current drought conditions. See Section IV for goals and objectives related to water management.

### **Authorizing Element: Community Development**

Community development issues received the most responses from public input. Comments emphasized the need for local jobs and industry and programs to bolster the local economy. Responses overwhelmingly pointed to very specific opportunities. Specifically the responses highlighted more local jobs, youth education and retention, the importance of local food production, more pedestrian friendly communities, and the priority of supporting the horse industry for tourism and the local economy. After reviewing demographic information, the Council included goals and objectives to support these opportunities. The demographic information shows a steady growth, while job opportunities are few. There is a growing interest in local, entrepreneurial economic growth. These areas support that trend. See Section IV for goals and objectives related to community development.

### **Authorizing Element: Land Management**

Land preservation was the highest ranked issue through the public input process. Consistently, respondents emphasized that land preservation and quality of life related to greenspace, forest land, and resource management were important. Population projections and trends in growth validate that land use decisions are important and related to all four authorizing elements. Land conservation, water management, and community development issues all rely upon sound land management decisions. Rolling Hills has worked within the land management arena for a number of years. The Area Plan process confirmed that the Council should continue in this field. In addition, the emphasis upon resource conservation, including urban tree management, energy conservation and solid waste management also was reflected in the public input process. See Section IV for goals and objectives related to land management.

## **Section 4: Goals, Objectives, and Strategies**

### **GOAL 1: ASSIST NINE COUNTIES IN REDUCING THE EFFECTS OF SOIL EROSION FROM URBAN AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS BY 2013.**

Authorizing Element: Land Conservation

#### **Objective 1: Provide conservation education and conservation tillage assistance for nine member counties for the next five (5) years.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Provide ten (10) no-till drills to encourage conservation tillage in the RC&D area through 2013.
2. Provide one (1) pasture aerator to promote proper pasture management through 2013.
3. Provide one (1) custom planting drill unit to service small and limited resource landowners through 2013.
4. Enhance and/or expand five (5) local agribusinesses annually through cooperative agreements to support the no-till program by 2013.
5. Coordinate through the West Georgia Soil & Water Conservation District and Coosa River Soil & Water Conservation District to host four (4) educational events by 2013 to highlight conservation tillage.
6. Promote conservation tillage through speaking engagements to fifteen (15) farm related groups by 2013.

#### **Objective 2: Educate 200 citizens, professionals, and local government officials on best management practices (BMPs) to reduce erosion and sedimentation (E&S) by 2012.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Conduct eight (8) Erosion and Sediment Control Certification and/or Awareness workshops by 2010.
2. Promote proper urban erosion and sediment control measures through public speaking engagements to three (3) organizations by 2012.

**Objective 3: Provide technical assistance to two (2) counties in reducing sediments from dirt roads by 2012.**

**Strategies:**

1. Implement and/or monitor two (2) dirt road demonstration projects by 2012.
2. Conduct one (1) workshop on dirt road management by 2012.
3. Distribute Georgia Better Backroads Management Manual (when available) to nine (9) county governments by 2013.

**Objective 4: Provide education and technical assistance to landowners in nine counties to promote proper land conservation and best management practices for landowners by 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Conduct three (3) farm bill training workshops for landowners by 2009.
2. Conduct two (2) equine landowner training workshops/field days by 2009.
3. Provide nutrient management planning (CNMPs) for eight (8) poultry landowners by 2009.

---

**Input from Area Plan Survey**

*“I would like help with conservation on my land. The water quality needs to be monitored.”*

---

**GOAL 2: CONSERVE AND PROTECT WATER RESOURCES IN THREE (3) WATERSHEDS BY 2013.**

Authorizing Element: Water Management

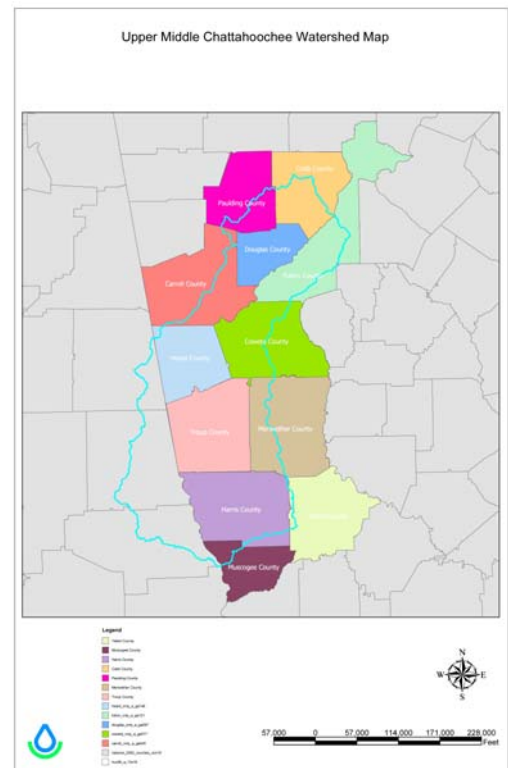
**Objective 1: Implement the provisions of the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Plans for the Upper Middle Chattahoochee Watershed to reduce fecal coliform related to poultry waste by 2012.**

**Strategies:**

1. Secure funding through the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's 319(h) funds to address water quality concerns related to poultry farms by 2008.
2. Conduct water quality modeling to estimate water quality improvements and post-project runoff conditions from 2008-2012.
3. Develop agreements with a minimum of twelve (12) poultry farms to install conservation practices from 2008-2012.
4. Support a watershed Project Manager position from 2008-2012 to provide technical assistance to poultry producers on land management and litter management.
5. Develop CNMPs on twelve (12) poultry farms by 2012.
6. Prepare and submit one final report to Georgia EPD in 2012.



*Rotary Drum Composter (shown left)  
for poultry mortality*

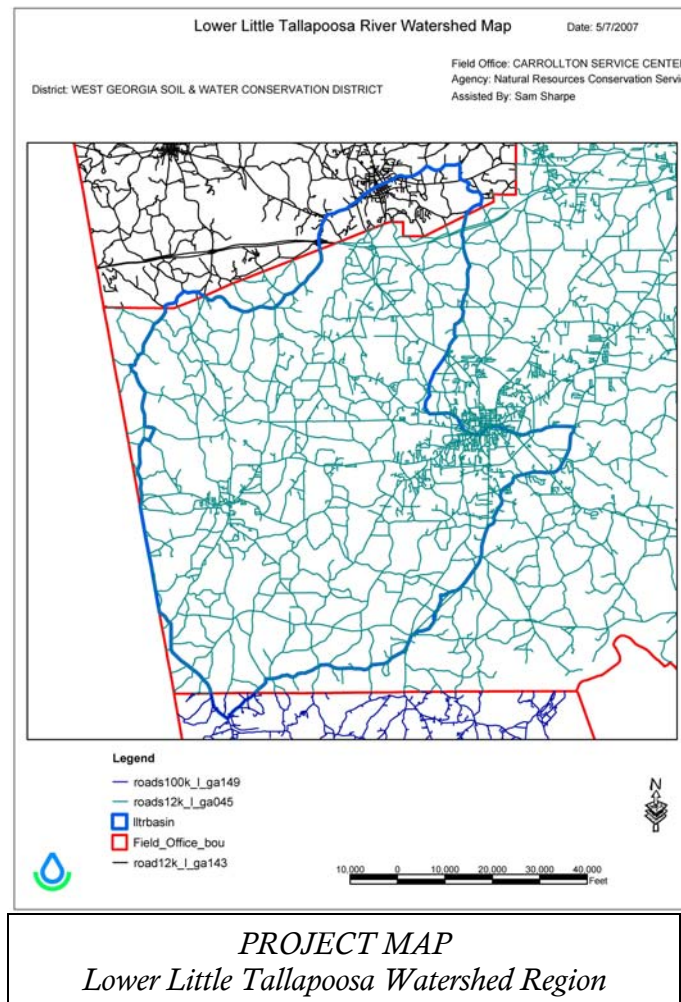


**PROJECT MAP**

**Objective 2: Implement the provisions of the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Plans for the Lower Little Tallapoosa Watershed to reduce fecal coliform by 2013.**

**Strategies:**

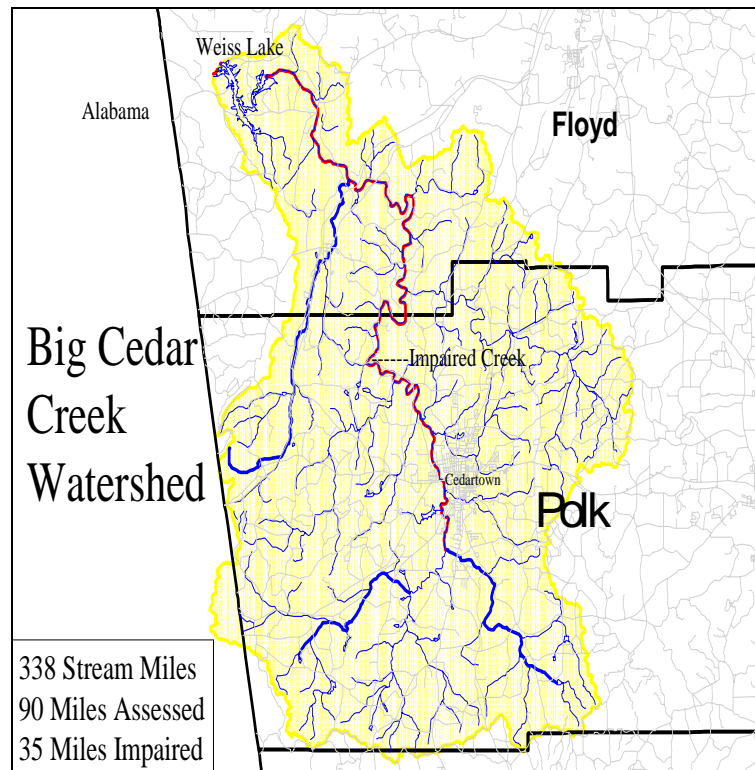
1. Secure funding through the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's 319(h) funds to address water quality concerns by 2009.
2. Secure partnership with the West Georgia University to monitor water quality improvements in the watershed by 2010.
3. Support a watershed Project Manager position from 2009-2013 to provide technical assistance and education on best management practices to address fecal coliform.
4. Establish an assistance program to implement fifty (50) agricultural BMPs (best management practices) within the watershed to address fecal coliform by 2010.
5. Collaborate with the local Environmental Health Departments to establish a septic system management program by 2010.
6. Provide maintenance on one hundred (100) septic systems by 2013.
7. Install seventy five (75) non-agricultural BMPs to address fecal coliform.
8. Establish an outreach plan for minority and underserved populations by 2010.
9. Provide outreach to minority and underserved populations on water quality by providing all materials in Spanish by 2011.
10. Prepare and submit one final report to Georgia EPD by 2013.



**Objective 3: Implement the provisions of the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Plans for the Big Cedar Creek watershed to reduce fecal coliform by 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Secure funding from Georgia Environmental Protection Division 319(h) funds to address water quality concerns by 2009.
2. Establish a volunteer watershed program by 2010.
3. Support a watershed Project Manager position from 2009-2013 to provide technical assistance and education on best management practices to address fecal coliform.
4. Establish an assistance program to implement thirty nine (39) agricultural BMPs within the watershed to address fecal coliform by 2010.
5. Collaborate with the local Environmental Health Departments to establish a septic system management program by 2010.
6. Provide maintenance on one hundred (100) septic systems by 2013.
7. Install forty (40) non-agricultural BMPs to address fecal coliform by 2013.
8. Establish an outreach plan for minority and underserved populations by 2010.
9. Provide outreach to minority and underserved populations on water quality by providing all materials in Spanish by 2011.
10. Prepare and submit one final report to Georgia EPD by 2013.



**Objective 4: Facilitate water conservation and water quality initiatives in nine counties by 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Support a homeowner roof and runoff water reuse program in five (5) counties by 2013.
2. Install ten (10) rain garden demonstration sites by 2013.
3. Provide educational information on rain gardens, use of rain barrels, xeriscaping, and other home site water conservation techniques to 500 individuals by 2013.
4. Support local storm drain stenciling projects in three (3) communities to promote water quality education by 2013.
5. Assist the West Georgia Soil & Water Conservation District and Coosa River Soil & Water Conservation District with determining the feasibility of converting NRCS watershed structures to water supply reservoirs by 2013.

---

**Input from Area Plan Survey**

*“Water quality/quantity is a major issue in surrounding counties. I believe tough decisions will have to be made in the future - smart growth is needed, not the haphazard growth that has been a hallmark of the past.”*

---

**GOAL: 3 ASSIST NINE (9) COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNCIL REGION TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE AND BENEFIT CITIZENS BY 2013.**

Auth Element: Community Development

**Objective 1: Assist with the development of four (4) pedestrian friendly communities by 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Provide conceptual landscape design assistance to two (2) communities by 2010.
2. Assist with trail projects in two (2) communities to promote connectivity and recreation by 2012.
3. Develop a regional trail guide for hiking, biking, and/or horseback riding for the nine county region by 2013. Print and distribute 1000 copies.

---

**Input from Area Plan Survey**

*“I think tourism could be improved as to this would bring more attention to the community which in turn could bring in revenue and more business which would mean more jobs.”*

*“We need more places to walk and protected lanes to be able to commute to work.”*

---

**Objective 2: Assist with employment and job retention for low-income, working individuals in five (5) counties through 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Maintain a program to provide transportation to work for twenty five (25) needy individuals through 2013.
2. Employ one (1) individual to manage transportation and job retention program.
3. Provide semi-annual car maintenance classes and budgeting classes for 50% of clients by 2013.
4. Assist with job placement/retention for five (5) individuals annually.
5. Provide quarterly classes each year addressing job readiness for 100% of new clients.
6. Secure an additional \$10,000 to support transportation to work program annually.
7. Increase outreach to solicit program support through ten (10) outreach activities annually (newspaper articles, speaking engagements, etc).

**Objective 3: Create and/or enhance five (5) local food projects to promote food security and support local agribusiness by 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Conduct five (5) education and outreach activities for sustainable agriculture practices and direct marketing by 2010.
2. Partner with the Bartow County Environmental Department on their agriculture conference in 2008.
3. Host three (3) Sustainable Growers Schools by 2013 - training a minimum of twenty five (25) growers.
4. Establish three (3) community gardens by 2013.
5. Determine the feasibility of a small business loan program to support small and emerging agricultural and natural resource based businesses by 2010.
6. Support the development and management of three (3) locally grown farmers markets by 2013.
7. Support the expansion of the Farmers Fresh Food Network by increasing the number of sustainable farmers participating by 10% by 2010.
8. Determine the feasibility of a local farm transition network to link potential farmers with landowners by 2010.
9. Support the establishment of local WIC Farmers markets in the Council region by working with local Department of Human Resources Offices in three (3) counties by 2013.

---

**Input from Area Plan Survey**

*“I love eating locally grown food. It also makes a lot of sense. Why buy apples from New Zealand when we can grow tastier ones here?? So the value-added agriculture opportunities, farmland preservation, and farm products marketing assistance are important.”*

*“I would like to see more done to involve young people in sustainable agriculture. Perhaps a program matching interested landowners with college age (or older) persons interested in making a living becoming a farmer. Land availability in my opinion is the number one reason we don't see more young farmers in this area. I know of many land owners who would support such a program from conservation, as well as a community involvement standpoint.”*

---

**Objective 4: Support youth education and youth leadership opportunities in five (5) counties.**

**Strategies:**

1. Sponsor and manage annually the West Region Envirothon Competition for the Georgia Envirothon annually.
2. Contact and recruit fifteen (15) new schools in the west region annually.
3. Coordinate the State Envirothon Competition in Floyd County for 2008.
4. Facilitate three (3) youth entrepreneurial opportunities by 2012.
5. Assist Haralson County with the development of a youth agricultural leadership event by 2009.

---

**Input from Area Plan Survey**

*“We need to find ways to keep our young people in the county with more available jobs, whether through education, agricultural opportunities, etc”*

---

**Objective 5: Assist with twenty (20) jobs and/or business development opportunities through implementation of RC&D projects by 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Continue to provide six (6) no-till custodian positions annually.
2. Ensure a full-time RC&D Project Administrator through 2013.
3. Secure funding for a Certified Arborist position through 2013.
4. Maintain one watershed Project Manager through 2013.
5. Train twenty five (25) new farmers by 2012.
6. Provide job readiness training to fifteen (15) Wheels to Work clients by 2012.

**Objective 6: Support the horse industry in three (3) counties by 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Conduct three (3) equine management training courses by 2012, emphasizing land and resource management.
2. Develop a trail guide for equine access by 2012.

**GOAL 4: PROMOTE AND IMPROVE ENERGY CONSERVATION, LAND PRESERVATION, AIR QUALITY, AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT IN NINE (9) COUNTIES BY 2013.**

Auth Element: Land Management

**Objective 1: Assist three (3) counties with land preservation by 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Provide one council member to serve on the Georgia Agricultural Land Trust board annually.
2. Meet with County Commissioners in five (5) counties to explain FRPP (Farm and Ranchland Protection Program) and impact on cost of community services through conservation easements by 2010.
3. Assist Carroll County, Bartow County, and the Georgia Agricultural Land Trust with existing conservation easements through FRPP annually.
4. Provide baseline documentation on three (3) farms going under conservation easement in Carroll County by 2010.
5. Host three (3) educational events on wise land use and sustainable communities by 2011.
6. Develop map of protected easement property through the Council region by 2013.

---

**Input from Area Plan Survey**

*“Farmland protection can improve the quality of life and water quality, ultimately provide a unique environment in the metro Atlanta area, giving citizens a choice of life styles in a rapidly growing urban area.”*

*“Farmland preservation links so many different aspects of the community: education, resources allocation, healthy systems, and quality of life. If this issue is pushed, the health of the community will chart its course over the long term, rather than growth charting its course across and over the community.”*

---

**Objective 2: Promote composting in the nine (9) county region by 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Purchase a minimum of 450 of backyard composters for discount sale and demonstration projects by 2008.
2. Identify public speaking opportunities for ten (10) groups to promote composting.
3. Establish five (5) demonstration composting sites.

**Objective 3: Facilitate a regional urban and community forestry program for the purpose of proper tree care, improved quality of life, energy conservation, and local economic development through 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Provide professional Certified Arborist assistance to ten (10) communities by 2013 through a Council Arborist.
2. Provide three (3) Certified Arborist classes by 2013 to train local government staff on proper arborist practices.
3. Train fifty (50) individuals in proper arborist practices by 2013.
4. Certify twenty five (25) individuals through the *International Society of Arboriculture* certification standards by 2013.
5. Provide assistance to three (3) municipalities on tree ordinance development by 2013.
6. Assist two (2) tree boards with board management by 2009.
7. Assist with applications for Tree City USA for three (3) municipalities by 2009.
8. Provide tree inventory service to five (5) communities by 2012 utilizing I-Tree and Stratum software.

---

**Input from Area Plan Survey**

*“More trees in city areas and parks. Trees need to be planted to replace the ones lost to disease and destruction.”*

*“We need to protect our large trees!”*

---

**Objective 4: Establish a regional energy conservation initiative by 2012.**

**Strategies:**

1. Establish an Energy Committee to meet semi-annually.
2. Host a farm energy conference by 2012.
3. Establish a farm energy audit service by 2012.
4. Invite speakers to speak at three (3) quarterly Council meetings to discuss energy topics such as carbon sequestration, farm energy, etc. by 2012.
5. Coordinate with Two Rivers RC&D and Limestone Valley RC&D to investigate potential biomass utilization at coal burning power plants to reduce air pollution and preserve farmlands by 2010.
6. Utilize I-Tree software in three (3) communities by 2010 to promote tree resources and energy conservation.

---

**Input from Area Plan Survey**

*“Alternative energy is a necessary and fast approaching reality. “*

---

**GOAL 5: ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF ROLLING HILLS RC&D BY 2013.**

**Objective 1: Promote Council programs throughout nine (9) county region annually.**

**Strategies:**

1. Annually, present Rolling Hills programs to nine (9) county Board of Commissioners at a regular Commission meeting.
2. Conduct four quarterly Council meetings annually (the fourth to be the Annual Meeting).
3. Host an Annual Meeting in the fall of each year to highlight annual successes and interact with partners.
4. Promote annual success through an Annual Report each year.
5. Print and mail a Council newsletter three times each year.
6. Maintain a professional Council website annually and promote through partner links.
7. Participate in five (5) community events each year (fall festivals, fairs, EMC meetings, etc.).
8. Promote RC&D programs to Chamber of Commerce in all nine counties by speaking at each Chamber at least once through 2013.
9. Maintain an up to date Council display to be used at community events.
10. Ensure that all programs are provided equitably by providing equal employment opportunities and civil rights in program delivery annually.

**Objective 2: Expand participation in Council programs by 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Develop a Council member orientation/training DVD by 2009.
2. Provide orientation within 6 months of new membership for all new members.
3. Conduct an interest survey among Council Members to solicit input on project interest and committee assignments annually.
4. Outreach to all cities within the Council to draw city membership and participation by 2009.
5. Develop an outreach plan by 2009 for underserved groups and minorities.
6. Enlist three (3) Earth Team volunteers to work with Council Projects by 2009.

**Objective 3: Establish long range funding to support Council programs by 2013.**

**Strategies:**

1. Establish an endowment by 2009 to support Council activities.
2. Develop a plan of action to acquire permanent and sufficient office space by 2015.
3. Establish a capital campaign committee by 2008.
4. Develop a plan of action by 2013 to move the organization toward financial independence.
5. Establish Council membership in National RC&D's "Circle of Diamonds" program by 2008.

## Section 5:

## Partnering Organizations

Partnering organizations are imperative to the success of the Rolling Hills RC&D Council. Since 1994, Rolling Hills has established strong alliances with surrounding organizations, sharing successes and assisting each other. Many partners also provide financial and administrative assistance to Rolling Hills RC&D. Below is a list of partners. Please note that this list is not exclusive, and continues to grow.

### Federal

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
USDA, Forest Service  
USDA, Farm Service Agency  
USDA, Rural Development  
USDA, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
US Environmental Protection Agency

### State

GA Environmental Facilities Authority	GA Department of Community Affairs
GA Department of Human Resources	UGA- Cooperative Extension Service
GA Department of Natural Resources	GA Department of Family & Children's Svcs
GA Forestry Commission	University of West Georgia
GA Soil & Water Conservation Commission	GA Highlands University
	University of Georgia

### Local

Local County Commissions	Chatt-Flint Regional Development Ctr
Local City Governments	Coosa Valley Regional Development Ctr
Local School Systems	Carroll County EMC
Coosa River SWCD	Greystone Power
West Georgia SWCD	

### Private and Non-profit Organizations

National RC&D Association	Georgia Assoc of Conservation Districts
Georgia RC&D Council	Georgia Farm Bureau
Berry College	West GA Poultry Growers
Master Gardeners	West GA Timber Growers
Georgia Urban Forest Council	Georgia Cattlemen's Association
West Georgia Community Foundation	Farmers Fresh Food Network
Two Rivers RC&D	Local farmers markets
Limestone Valley RC&D	American Farmland Trust
Upper Ocmulgee River RC&D	Georgia Agricultural Land Trust

## Section 6: Strategic Plan Action Items

The goals, objectives, and strategies identified in this Area Plan help address all of the mission goals of the USDA, NRCS Strategic Plan “Productive Lands-Healthy Environments”.

### High Quality Productive Soils

- Erosion and Sediment Certification Program
- No-Till Drill Program
- Conservation Equipment Program
- Georgia Better Backroads Program

### Clean and Abundant Water

- Upper Middle Chattahoochee Watershed Project
- Lower Little Tallapoosa Watershed Project
- Big Cedar Creek Watershed Project
- Storm Drain Stenciling Project

### Healthy Plant and Animal Communities

- Farm Bill Program Conservation Field Days
- Equine Management Training

### Clean Air

- Urban and Community Forestry Programs
- Preservation of Farmlands and Forestlands

### An Adequate Energy Supply

- No-Till Drill Program
- Farm Energy Audit Program
- Local Foods Initiatives

### Working Farm and Ranch Lands

- Farmland Preservation
- Farmers Markets
- Farmers Fresh Food Network Cooperative

## **Section 7: Required Clauses and Signatures**

### **REQUIRED CLAUSES:**

The Rolling Hills RC&D Council, Inc. agrees that the RC&D Program will be conducted in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, in the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A and B) that provide that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap\disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits or, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial (or technical) assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

The Rolling Hills RC&D Council, Inc. agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for non-procurement, suspension, debarment, and State review.

The Rolling Hills RC&D Council, Inc. hereby adopts this Area Plan and agrees to use effectively the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to realize the goals and objectives outlined herein. This action authorized at an official meeting of the Rolling Hills RC&D Council, Inc. on\_\_\_\_\_.

Rolling Hills RC&D Council, Inc. Georgia

Johnny Groover, President

Date

Attest:

Jewell Tuck, Council Secretary

Date

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service Georgia

The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Area Plan of the Rolling Hills RC&D Council as meeting the requirements under Public Law 97-98 to receive assistance from USDA.

Acknowledged By:

James Tillman , State Conservationist

Date

# Section 8:

# Appendix

## Appendix A:

### EPD 303(b)/305(d) Rivers and Streams Not Fully Supporting Designated Uses

<u>Basin</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Stream Name</u>	<u>Criterion Violated</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Chattahoochee	Carroll	Acorn Creek	Fecal Coliform	5
Chattahoochee	Carroll	Cavendar Creek	Biota Impacted	2
Chattahoochee	Carroll	Whooping Creek	Fecal Coliform	13
Chattahoochee	Coweta	Browns Creek	Biota Impacted	5
Chattahoochee	Coweta	Cedar Creek	Dissolved Oxygen	6
Chattahoochee	Coweta	Long Branch	Biota Impacted	4
Chattahoochee	Coweta	Maple Branch	Biota Impacted	4
Chattahoochee	Coweta	Mineral Springs Branch	Biota Impacted	3
Chattahoochee	Coweta	Mountain Creek	Biota Impacted	4
Chattahoochee	Coweta	Panther Creek	Fecal Coliform	3
Chattahoochee	Coweta	Snake Creek	Biota Impacted	4
Chattahoochee	Coweta	Wahoo Creek	Biota Impacted	7
Chattahoochee	Coweta/Carroll/Heard	Chattahoochee River	Fecal Coliform	21
Chattahoochee	Douglas	Annewakee Creek	Biota Impacted	3
Chattahoochee	Douglas	Baldwin Creek	Fecal Coliform	4
Chattahoochee	Douglas	Chattahoochee River	Fecal Coliform	14
Chattahoochee	Douglas	Cracker Creek	Fecal Coliform	3
Chattahoochee	Douglas/Carroll	Wolf Creek	Fecal Coliform	10
Chattahoochee	Heard	Centralhatchee	Fecal Coliform	19
Chattahoochee	Heard	New River	Fecal Coliform	4
Chattahoochee	Heard	Town Creek	Biota Impacted	6
Chattahoochee	Heard/Coweta	Hilly Mill Creek	Fecal Coliform, Biota	6
Chattahoochee	Paulding	Sweetwater Creek	Fecal Coliform	10
Coosa	Bartow	Cedar Creek	Biota Impacted	5
Coosa	Bartow	Connesenna Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban, Biota Impacted	6
Coosa	Bartow	Connesenna Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban, Biota Impacted	6
Coosa	Bartow	Etowah River	Fish Consumption Guidance	4
Coosa	Bartow	Etowah River	Fecal Coliform, Fish Consumption Guidance, Dissolved Oxygen	12
Coosa	Bartow	Etowah River	Fecal Coliform, Fish Consumption Guidance	10
Coosa	Bartow	Euharlee Creek	Fecal Coliform	4
Coosa	Bartow	Jones Branch	Biota Impacted	6
Coosa	Bartow	Macedonia Slough	Biota Impacted	7
Coosa	Bartow	Mud Creek	Biota Impacted	5
Coosa	Bartow	Nancy Creek	Biota Impacted	7
Coosa	Bartow	Rowland Springs Branch	Fecal Coliform	2
Coosa	Bartow	Stamp Creek	Fecal Coliform	9
Coosa	Bartow	Toms Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban	1
Coosa	Bartow	Trib to Petit Creek	Fecal Coliform	1

Coosa	Bartow	Two Run Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban, Fecal Coliform	10
Coosa	Bartow/Floyd	Etowah River	Commercial Fishing Ban, Fecal coliform, Fish Consumption Guidance	21
Coosa	Bartow/Paulding	Pumpkinvine Creek	Fecal Coliform	15
Coosa	Bartow	Oothkalooga Creek	Fecal Coliform	14
Coosa	Floyd	Armuchee Ck Tributary	Biota Impacted	5
Coosa	Floyd	Armuchee Creek	Fecal, Commercial Fishing Ban	20
Coosa	Floyd	Beech Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban, Fecal Coliform, Biota	10
Coosa	Floyd	Big Dry Creek	Fecal Coliform, Commercial Fishing Ban	3
Coosa	Floyd	Burwell Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban	3
Coosa	Floyd	Coosa River	Commercial Fishing Ban, Dissolved Oxygen	15
Coosa	Floyd	Coosa River	Commercial Fishing Ban, Fish Consumption Guidance, Dissolved Oxygen	15
Coosa	Floyd	Coosa River	Commercial Fishing Ban, Fish Consumption Guidance, Fecal Coliform	16
Coosa	Floyd	Dozier Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban	3
Coosa	Floyd	Hamilton Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban	5
Coosa	Floyd	Heath Creek	Fecal Coliform	5
Coosa	Floyd	Horseleg Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban	4
Coosa	Floyd	Johns Creek	Fecal Coliform	6
Coosa	Floyd	Kings Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban, Biota Impacted, Fecal Coliform	4
Coosa	Floyd	Little Dry Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban	6
Coosa	Floyd	Lovejoy Creek	Biota Impacted	4
Coosa	Floyd	Mt. Hope Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban, Biota	5
Coosa	Floyd	Oostanaula River	Commercial Fishing Ban, Fecal coliform, Fish Consumption Guidance	14
Coosa	Floyd	Oostanaula River	Fecal Coliform, Fish Consumption Guidance	18
Coosa	Floyd	Silver Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban, Fecal Coliform, Biota	15
Coosa	Floyd	Smith Creek/Cabin Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban, Fecal Coliform	5
Coosa	Floyd	Spring Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban, Fecal Coliform, Mercury	2
Coosa	Floyd	Webb Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban, Fecal Coliform	4
Coosa	Floyd	Woodward Creek	Commercial Fishing Ban, Fecal Coliform	8
Coosa	Paulding/Bartow	Raccoon Creek	Fecal Coliform	13
Coosa	Polk	Cedar Creek Trib	Biota Impacted	5
Coosa	Polk	Fish Creek	Biota Impacted	13
Coosa	Polk/Floyd	Big Cedar Ck/Cedar Creek	Fecal Coliform, Commercial Fishing Ban	25
Coosa	Polk/Floyd	Little Cedar Creek	Biota Impacted	10

Tallapoosa	Carroll	Buck Creek	Fecal Coliform	3
Tallapoosa	Carroll	Buffalo Creek	Copper, Fecal Coliform, Biota	6
Tallapoosa	Carroll	Indian Creek	Fecal Coliform, Copper	12
Tallapoosa	Carroll	Little Tallapoosa River	Fecal Coliform	25
Tallapoosa	Carroll	Trib to Buffalo Creek	Copper	1
Tallapoosa	Carroll	Turkey Creek	Biota	6
Tallapoosa	Haralson	Little River	Fecal Coliform	10
Tallapoosa	Haralson	Tallapoosa River	Fecal Coliform	22
Tallapoosa	Haralson	Trib to Baxter Creek	Fecal Coliform	1
Tallapoosa	Haralson	Trib to Buck Creek	Fecal Coliform	1
Tallapoosa	Haralson	Walker Creek	Fecal Coliform	7
Tallapoosa	Haralson/Polk	Swinney Branch	Biota	5

## Appendix B: Public Input Plan

Below is the public input plan developed to attain information for the Area Plan from the constituents within the Council Region. The public input plan was a guideline to assist in reaching the broadest cross section of individuals possible.

*The goal of this public input plan is to gather information from a cross section of groups in the RC&D Council area that would be helpful in developing our next five-year plan. Information will be solicited on area needs and issues. It is a goal to utilize existing meeting structures to access various partnering organizations and representation. It is our desire to gather info from a cross section of demographics in our area.*

<u>Source of Input</u>	<u>Method</u>
RC&D Council Members	meeting and surveys
County Commissioners	personal calls/ commission meetings/direct mail
City Councils/Mayors	mailed letters/personal calls
Civic organizations	random speaking engagements
Farm Bureau	annual meetings or meeting with Board of
Directors	
Cattlemen's Association	speaking engagements at monthly meeting
Poultry Association	utilize 319 meeting to pass out surveys
Chambers of Commerce	Personal calls and surveys
EMC (Greystone and Carroll)	Personal meetings
Senior Centers	health fairs, speaking engagement
Newspapers	articles about RC&D, PSAs
4-H (students)	4-H meetings-use Extension
scout groups	scout leaders meetings-surveys
Georgia Forestry Commission	surveys to GFC offices and partners
Farm supply/agribusiness	surveys to agribusinesses
Regional Development Centers	personal calls/surveys
Soil & Water Conservation Districts	meet with SWCDS-brainstorming and surveys
Extension Service	personal meetings
Legislators	personal letters
Hispanic community	visit with Hispanic church leaders
NRCS-District Conservationists	personal meetings
Churches-minister's associations	personal meetings
Ask Council members to return at least ten completed surveys	
Send e-mail surveys to all contacts	

### **Timeframe:**

April 12, 2007	Hold brainstorming session at Council Meeting Hand out surveys to Council Members. (ten per member) Request contacts from each Council Member
April-June 2007	Collect information through public input plan
May 2007	Develop background data for region
June 2007	Analyze information at Executive Board meeting
July 2007	Area Plan to full Council for review and comments
July 2007	Finalize Area Plan and submit to NRCS for review
December 2007	Develop 2008 Area Plan of Work from Area Plan

## Appendix C: Survey

Below is the survey utilized for public input. It was used for written responses and also converted to an electronic version using [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) for quick and easy responses. This method of data collection was the most popular from the citizenry, and received the most responses.

### BEGIN SURVEY

*What are some of the needs and issues that you see around your community? That's the question the Rolling Hills Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council must answer to effectively develop an action plan that addresses local community needs.*

*The RC&D Council wants to offer support and coordination where there is a need. We work closely with other organizations to fulfill and meet issues and needs in our nine county region. To determine that real need, we are asking for your honest opinion about issues affecting the quality of life in your community and county. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions and either return this form to the RC&D Council member who presented the information or to the office.*

- 1) **As we set our priorities for the next five years, which of the following are most needed in your community? Please select up to three (3) in each category:**

#### **Land Management**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Sustainability                | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Conservation                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural-Tourism Opportunities        | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space Preservation             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of Farmland                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Protection-Fish & Wildlife Habitats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning and Community-wide land management |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Agriculture Opportunities     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                         |

#### **Land Conservation**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of land from erosion         | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural and Environmental education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation assistance on ag lands      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation assistance on public lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Streambank stabilization                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                             |   |

#### **Community Development**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Diversity Outreach  | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational facilities improvements                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Food Production/ availability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of trails for recreation (hiking, biking, horseback...) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of water based recreation (fishing, canoeing)           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More "walkable" communities  | <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of Community Gardens   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More trees and green areas downtown                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                         |

#### **Water Management**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved water quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-point source pollution                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed protection   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian/River corridor protection (buffers along waterways) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland protection and enhancement                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____            |

2) What are possible solutions needed to improve the quality of life in your community/county? Check only 10 that apply. Please record additional comments as "other".

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expand job opportunities at home                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship programs               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and available recreation for young children              | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased tourism opportunities       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More water access for recreation                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Community beautification              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community and downtown project assistance                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth retention/involvement           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer/technology training                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased conservation on Ag land     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation planning on private lands                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to locally grown, healthy food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Value-added agriculture opportunities                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm products marketing assistance    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality/quantity protection                             | <input type="checkbox"/> More outdoor recreation opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household hazardous waste assistance                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of greenspace            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling collections/market creation                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of farmland              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coordination of resources to communities (grants)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased cultural events/activities  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of Community Gardens                             | <input type="checkbox"/> More trees in city areas              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More opportunities to donate and volunteer for local projects |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |  |

3) Please select no more than 5 of your choices from previous list and further elaborate. Please add any further discussion on those choices.

4) If you have specific community development or improvement projects you would like to see happen, please list them here and include a contact person (if possible) for each. Please be as specific as possible.

5) Using the scale below, please rate the following for your community.

1- Excellent	2-Good	3-Fair	4-Needs Improvement	5-Unsure						
_____					Recreational programs and facilities	_____				Air quality
_____					Attractiveness/cleanliness of community	_____				Tourism Development
_____					Adult Literacy	_____				Job skills training
_____					Community leadership training	_____				Overall community image
_____					Volunteerism in community	_____				Community Spirit
_____					Cultural diversity, knowledge, and activities	_____				Solid Waste disposal
_____					Land conservation (reducing soil erosion)	_____				Water conservation initiatives
_____					Farmland Protection	_____				Greenspace Protection
_____					Water Quality (streams, lakes)	_____				Alternative Energy Opportunities
_____					Recycling	_____				Overall quality of life
_____					Rural Heritage					

Please identify one item from above that can be improved, or presents an opportunity for your community, and tell us how it can be accomplished:

Please tell us how one of the items above makes your community a great place to live and tell us why:

