

7.1 Description of the County

7.1.1 Background

Jackson County is located on the northwestern edge of the planning area. The county has nine municipalities. Jefferson, the county seat, Commerce, Braselton, Arcade, Hoschton, Maysville, Nicholson, Pendergrass and Talmo.

7.1.2 Population

The most recent population figures from the 2000 U.S. Census show the County population to be 41,589. Table 7-1 shows the 2000 population, by census zone. The 2000 census projected significant growth for Jackson County in the coming decade, with a 2004 population estimated at 50,120.

Table 7-1
Jackson County and Census Zone Population

City	Population
Commerce CCD, Jackson County, Georgia	8,207
Jefferson CCD, Jackson County, Georgia	14,268
Maysville CCD, Jackson County, Georgia	4,228
Nicholson CCD, Jackson County, Georgia	4,966
West Jackson CCD, Jackson County, Georgia	9,920
TOTAL	41,589

Source: 2000, U.S. Census

7.1.2.1 Seasonal Population Changes

The County does not experience any significant seasonal changes in population.

7.1.2.2 Number of Households

The total number of households in the County planning area in 2000 was 16,226. Table 7-2 shows the number of single and multi-family households in the planning area from the 2000 U.S. Census.

Table 7-2
Housing Units in Jackson County

Type	Amount
Single Family Housing	10,325
Multi-Family Housing	5,901
Total	16,226

Source: 2000, U.S. Census

7.1.3 Economic Activity

As identified by the Georgia Department of Labor (2002) Table 7-3 indicates for the County the number of businesses and number of employees for each sector identified by NAISC code.

Table 7-3
Jackson County Employment by NAICS Category

JACKSON COUNTY		
Industry	Number of Firms	Number of Employees
Goods Producing	248	5,747
Agriculture, forestry, & fishing	12	168
Mining	*	*
Construction	165	1,241
Manufacturing	70	4,322
Food Manufacturing	7	2,175
Beverage & tobacco mfg	*	*
Textile mills	6	424
Textile product mills	*	*
Apparel Manufacturing	*	*
Leather & allied product mfg	0	0
Wood product Manufacturing	5	368
Paper Manufacturing	0	0
Printing and related activities	3	32
Petroleum and coal products mfg	*	*
Chemical Manufacturing	4	148
Plastics & rubber products mfg	5	220
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	5	157
Primary metal Manufacturing	0	0
Fabricated metal product mfg	10	46
Machinery Manufacturing	5	319
Computer & electronic product mfg	*	*
Electrical equipment/appliance	*	*
Transportation equipment	3	143
Furniture and related product mfg	9	56
Miscellaneous mfg industries	*	*
Service Producing	630	6,408
Wholesale trade	54	848
Retail trade	200	2,527
Transportation and warehousing	41	255
Utilities	*	*
Information	9	100
Finance and insurance	39	216

JACKSON COUNTY		
Industry	Number of Firms	Number of Employees
Real estate and rental and leasing	28	155
Professional, scientific/tech svcs	56	208
Management: companies/enterprises	*	*
Administrative and waste svcs	39	215
Educational services	4	11
Health care and social services	48	396
Arts, entertainment and recreation	4	13
Accommodation and food services	48	1,022
Other services (except government)	55	146
Unclassified - industry not assigned	16	25
Total - Private Sector	894	12,180
Total - Government	52	2,687
Federal government	8	118
State government	14	168
Local government	30	2,401

Source: 2002, Georgia Department of Labor

7.2 Waste Disposal Stream Analysis

7.2.1 Inventory of Waste Disposed

The Georgia Division of Environmental Protection reports that 45,219 tons of waste was disposed of in MSW landfills and 2,059 tons of waste was disposed in construction and demolition landfills from Jackson County from the fourth quarter 2002 through the third quarter of 2003. This results in an average of 5.5 pounds per person per day which approaches the State goal.

Table 7-4 shows the results of an analysis that breaks down the waste disposed from Jackson County in MSW and C and D landfills by sector. A telephone survey of landfills in the State of Georgia, conducted by R.W. Beck, Inc., suggests that of the waste delivered to MSW landfills, 66.6 percent is MSW (generated by the commercial or residential sector), 12.3 percent is construction and demolition debris, 14 percent is industrial, and 7.1 percent is sludge or biosolids. These percentages were allocated to the amount of waste disposed of in MSW landfills from Jackson County and its municipalities.

Table 7-4
Waste Disposed by Sector (4Q 2002 through 3Q 2003)
Jackson County

Sector	Tons to MSW Landfill	Tons to C&D Landfill	Total Tons
Residential	17,760.5		17,760.5
Commercial	12,355.1		12,355.1
Industrial	6,330.6		6,330.6
C&D	5,561.9	2,059	7,620.9
Sludge/Biosolids	3,210.5		3,210.5
TOTAL	45,218.6	2,059	47,277.6

To break down the MSW portion of this by residential and commercial generators, preliminary results from the first season of sampling for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) waste composition study were used. Results from 120 samples taken from three landfills in the State indicated that approximately 32 percent of the waste stream comes from commercial generators and 46 percent comes from residential generators. The remaining 22 percent was in transfer trailers and thus the source was not identifiable. For purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that the waste in the transfer trailers has the same residential/commercial split as the rest of the MSW delivered to the MSW landfills.

7.2.1.1 Waste Characterization

Preliminary analysis of waste characterization from the DCA sampling study shows the percentage of each type of material in the commercial and residential waste disposed of in an MSW landfill, shown in Table 7-5. These results suggest that 63 percent of the residential and commercial waste disposed of landfills in Georgia is paper or organic material. Once the waste characterization study is complete, these percentages can be revised to be more specific to the northeast Georgia region.

Table 7-5
Projected Characterization of MSW Disposed from Jackson County¹

Material	Average
Newspaper	4.9%
Corrugated Cardboard	9.6%
Office	2.5%
Magazine/Glossy	3.0%
Paperboard	3.9%
Mixed (Other Recyclable)	3.3%
Other (Non-recyclable)	10.0%

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Material	Average
Total Paper	37.2%
#1 PET Bottles	1.7%
#2 HDPE Bottles	1.2%
#3-#7 Bottles	0.3%
Expanded Polystyrene	1.6%
Film Plastic	8.1%
Other Rigid Plastic	3.9%
Total Plastic	16.9%
Clear	2.0%
Green	0.5%
Amber	1.6%
Other	0.5%
Total Glass	4.6%
Steel Cans	1.9%
Aluminum Cans	1.0%
Other Ferrous	2.9%
Other Non-Ferrous	0.8%
Total Metal	6.6%
Yard Waste	1.5%
Wood (non-C&D)	2.1%
Food Waste	11.9%
Textiles	3.8%
Diapers	2.7%
Fines	3.3%
Other Organics	0.8%
Total Organics	26.0%
Drywall	0.2%
Wood	3.1%
Inerts	0.2%
Carpet	1.4%
Other C&D	1.0%
Total C&D	5.9%
Televisions	0.1%
Computers	0.1%

Material	Average
Other Electronics	1.3%
Tires	0.3%
HHW	0.2%
Other Inorganics	0.9%
Total Inorganics	2.8%
Total	100.0%

¹ Based on sampling data from Georgia Waste Characterization, Fall 2003

7.2.1.2 Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations

Jackson County knows of no unique conditions or seasonal variations that will dramatically change the amount of waste projected.

7.2.1.3 Waste Generating Disasters

Without knowing the type and degree of an unanticipated disaster, Jackson County can not project the amount or type of waste that would need to be managed from such an event. However, any additional yard trimmings that would need to be managed would be ground by the County and used for mulch. Any additional MSW would be stored temporarily until it could be properly disposed of in the Banks County landfill.

7.2.2 Projections of Waste to be Disposed

Table 7-6 shows waste projections based on the estimated per capita waste disposed in the most recent year for which data are available. In Jackson County, approximately 1.0 ton per capita was disposed in 2002/2003. If this per capita disposal rate were to remain the same, it is estimated that 74,360 tons per year would be disposed by the end of the planning period based on population projections.

Table 7-6
Waste Disposal Projections at Current Per Capita Disposal Rate
Jackson County

Estimated Per Capita Disposed	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Population	50,120	52,676	55,362	58,186	61,153	64,272	66,200	69,576	73,124	76,854
Tons	47,525	49,948	52,496	55,173	57,987	60,944	64,052	67,318	70,752	74,360

7.2.2.1 Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal

In 1991, the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan estimated that .60 tons per capita per year were being disposed from Jackson County. Based on these

numbers, it appears that the average tons disposed per person per year has increased. However, it is important to recognize that tonnage data in 1991 was estimated since most landfills in the State did not have scales. An average disposal rate of 1.0 ton per person per year translates to 5.5 pounds per person per day, which approaches the State waste reduction goal.

7.3 Waste Reduction Element

7.3.1 Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs

This section provides detailed information on Jackson County's existing waste reduction programs that target the residential, commercial/institutional, industrial, construction and demolition, and yard trimming sectors and waste streams.

7.3.1.1 Source Reduction Programs

Jackson County promotes source reduction through its Keep Georgia Beautiful Program which has a number of educational initiatives and public involvement activities to promote awareness. These are described in Section 6.6.

7.3.1.2 Reuse Programs

In Jackson County, Potters House accepts clothes, furniture, appliances, and other household goods for reuse. This social service organization refurbishes donated goods and sells them in a retail store as a fundraising service.

7.3.1.3 Recycling

Jackson County currently operates a drop-off program to collect recyclables at the County transfer station and two staffed compactor sites. The transfer station and drop-off sites collect the following products for recycling:

- Aluminum cans;
- Newspaper;
- Cardboard; and
- White goods.

Some cities within the County contract individually with private haulers for curbside collection. The Cities of Arcade and Jefferson offer curbside recycling to all residents through a contract with Waste Pro. Both cities collect newspaper and cardboard but Jefferson also collects aluminum and plastic. Residents also have access to the County drop-off centers. The City of Commerce relies on the County drop-off centers and has several volunteer organizations that collect and recycle newspaper and corrugated cardboard. The City of Hoshton contracts with BFI for curbside recyclable collection and also uses the County drop-off centers. The Cities of Nicholson, Pendergrass, Braselton, and Talmo rely on County programs. Tables 7-7,

7-8, and 7-9 describe the recycling programs, markets, and facilities available to Jackson County.

**Table 7-7
Recycling Programs in Jackson County (2003)**

Type of Program	Jurisdictions	Population Served	Operated by:	Materials Accepted	Tons Diverted (2003)
Drop-Off Centers	Jackson County	41,589	Jackson County	Aluminum Cans	<1
				Newspaper	96
				Corrugated Cardboard	85
				White Goods	40
Curbside Recycling	City of Arcade	N/A	Waste Pro	Newspaper	N/A
				Corrugate Cardboard	N/A
Curbside Recycling	City of Jefferson	14,268	Waste Pro	Newspaper	N/A
				Corrugated Cardboard	N/A
				Aluminum Cans	N/A
				Plastic	N/A
Curbside Recycling	City of Hoschton	N/A	BFI		N/A

Source: Jackson County Solid Waste Department

**Table 7-8
Businesses that Accept Recyclables from the Planning Area**

Name	Location	Accepts Material from:		Materials Accepted
		Geographic Area	Sector	
Athens Recycling, Inc.	Athens, GA	Jackson County	Residential/Commercial	Metals, non-ferrous metals, aluminum cans
Foam Fabricators, Inc.	Jefferson, GA	Jackson County	Commercial	Polystyrene
Southeastern Recycle	Lawrenceville, GA	Jackson County	Residential;/Commercial	Newspaper/Corrugated

Source: Georgia Recycling Markets Directory

**Table 7-9
Recycling Facilities**

Facility Name	Facility Type	Owner/ Operator	Jurisdictions Served	Sectors Served	Materials Accepted
Jackson County	Transfer Station	Jackson County	Jackson County	Residential/ Commercial	Aluminum Cans, Newspaper, Cardboard, White Goods

7.3.2 Yard Trimmings Programs and Facilities

The Jackson County transfer station accepts yard trimmings and contracts with a private vendor for grinding/mulching. The material is made available to residents upon request. Most of the cities within Jackson County also use the transfer station drop-off for yard trimmings. Hoschton and Nicholson collect yard trimmings and transport them to the County transfer station. The Cities of Commerce and Jefferson pick up yard trimmings. They also mulch/grind and make the material available to residents as needed. Table 7-10 describes the yard trimmings programs and facilities in the County.

**Table 7-10
Yard Trimmings Programs (2003)**

Program	Owner/Operator	Jurisdictions Served	Sector Served*	Materials Accepted	Final Disposition
Municipal Drop-off yard trimmings	Jackson County	Jackson County	R	Yard Trimmings	Mulched and used for municipal projects
Municipal curbside yard trimmings	Hoschton and Nicholson	Hoschton and Nicholson	R	Yard trimmings	Transported to County transfer station for mulching
Municipal curbside yard trimmings	Commerce and Jefferson	Commerce and Jefferson	R	Yard trimmings	Mulched and used for municipal projects

7.3.2.1 Items Requiring Special Handling

The County transfer station and two staffed drop-off sites accept white goods. Tires are also accepted and recycled through a contract with Green Mantech. The Cities do not have programs of their own and rely on the County drop-off centers. Table 7-11 describes the programs to handle these materials.

**Table 7-11
Programs for Materials Requiring Special Handling (2003)**

Material	Targeted Sector(s) ¹	Management Strategy	Final Disposition of Material(s)
White Goods	R	Drop-off at County transfer station	Athens Recycling
Tires	R	Drop off at County transfer station	Recycled by Green Mantech.

¹ R= Residential, I=Industrial, C=Commercial, CD= C&D
Source: Jackson County Solid Waste Department

7.3.3 Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs

County residents have access to waste reduction programs at curbside or at the County drop-off center. Based on the information reported in the Waste Disposal Stream Analysis, approximately 63 percent of the waste disposed in landfills in Georgia is paper or organic waste. Thus, the County might want to consider stepping up efforts to promote awareness of paper recycling and organics mulching opportunities to increase diversion rates for these materials.

7.3.4 Needs and Goals

Based on the inventory and assessment, adequacy of current programs and other programmatic options, including costs, Jackson County has developed the following waste reduction needs and goals:

- Ensure that the County continues to pursue the State’s 25% reduction in the amount of solid waste received at disposal facilities;
- Increase education and awareness of recycling programs and opportunities for paper and organic waste materials; and
- Sustain waste reduction programs for the next 10 years.

7.4 Collection Element

7.4.1 Inventory of Existing Collection Programs

Jackson County operates a transfer station and two staffed compactor sites. Some cities within the County contract with private haulers while in others, residents and

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businesses make their own arrangements if they want collection at the source. Arcade and Jefferson contract with Waste Pro; Braselton and Hoschton contract with BFI; Commerce contracts with Waste Management. The City of Nicholson provides curbside pickup. A list of the haulers operating in the County and a description of the collection programs are described in Tables 7-12 and 7-13.

**Table 7-12
Haulers Operating in Planning Area**

Hauler Name	Sector Served ¹	Jurisdiction(s) Served	Arrangement
United Waste	R	Jackson County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
BFI	R	Jackson County, Braselton, Hoschton	Contracts with the cities of Braselton and Hoschton and directly with residential customers elsewhere in the County.
Waste Pro	R	Jackson County, Arcade, Jefferson	Contracts with the cities of Arcade and Jefferson and directly with residential customers elsewhere in the County.
Waste Management	R	Jackson County, Commerce	Contracts with the City of Commerce and directly with residential customers elsewhere in the County.
Ronnie Seymour	R	Jackson County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
R&W Sanitation	R	Jackson County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
Jones Sanitation	R	Jackson County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
Brooks Waste Disposal	R	Jackson County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
Bolton Enterprises	R	Jackson County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
Garbage Hound	R	Jackson County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
City of Nicholson	R	Nicholson	Provides collection in Nicholson

**Table 7-13
Inventory of Collection Programs**

Type	Collector	Program Description	Jurisdictions Served	Sectors Served ¹	Contractual Arrangements
Staffed Drop-off	Jackson County	Open 7 days a week for residential garbage and recyclables.	Jackson County	R	Available to all county residents

Type	Collector	Program Description	Jurisdictions Served	Sectors Served ¹	Contractual Arrangements
Curbside Collection	Waste Pro	Curbside collection of garbage and recyclables.	Arcade, Jefferson	R, C	Hauler has contract with municipalities. Jefferson bills for residential and small commercial
Curbside Collection	BFI	Curbside collection of garbage and recyclables in Hoschton.	Braselton, Hoschton	R, C	Hauler has contract with municipalities. Hoschton bills for residential and small commercial
Curbside Collection	Waste Management	Curbside collection of garbage.	Commerce	R, C	Hauler has contract with municipality. City bills for residential and small commercial
Curbside Collection	City of Nicholson	Weekly collection of garbage.	Nicholson	R	City provides collection

7.4.1.1 Contingency Strategy

The county has long-term agreement with Waste Management’s Bank’s County facility. If service was disrupted due to an emergency or natural disaster, the County has an oral agreement in place to use United Waste in Barrow County. The County estimates that it would take approximately 24 hours to get the contingency plan up and running. The Cities of Commerce and Jefferson would handle pick-up for city residents until a new contract could be put in place within 24 hours. The rest of the Cities would rely on private companies to make individual arrangements with private haulers.

7.4.2 Assessment of Collection Programs

Collection programs for solid waste are sufficient to meet existing community needs. The more populated areas have at the source collection and the convenience centers are available for all citizens. As the population grows, the County will continue to review what is needed to serve community needs.

7.4.3 Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering

Illegal dumping is not deemed to be a significant problem in Jackson County. The County Marshall is responsible for enforcement of illegal dumping violations.

7.4.4 Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal

Given the minimal impact of illegal dumping in Jackson County, the current enforcement program through the County Marshall seems to be adequate for addressing the issue.

7.4.5 Needs and Goals

Jackson County’s goal for collection is to ensure efficient and effective collection of solid waste in the region over the next ten years.

7.5 Disposal Element

7.5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities

Jackson County owns and operates a transfer station that ships all waste to R&B landfill owned and operated by Waste Management in Banks County. Long-term contracts are in place and Waste Management has provided the County with a Letter of Capacity Assurance until 2013. Private and municipal haulers in the County make their own arrangements for disposal. In 2003, significant amounts of waste from Jackson County were disposed of in the Richland Creek and Oak Grove landfills, in addition to the R&B landfill. Most of the construction and demolition debris was delivered to East Dekalb, US-78, and the Oglethorpe County landfill. Table 7-14 shows the disposal facilities that are available to Jackson County during the planning period, based on where waste from the County has gone in the recent past and the expected life of landfills in the region.

**Table 7-14
Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment Technologies to be Used During
the Planning Period (2004 – 2013)**

Facility Name	Jurisdiction(s) Using Facility	Physical Address	Owner/ Operator	Facility Type	Types of Waste Accepted	Year Expected to Reach Capacity
R&B Landfill	Jackson County	705 Frank Bennett Road Homer, GA	Waste Management	MSWL	MSW	5/21/2040
Oak Grove Landfill	Jackson County	Off SR 324 3 mi SW of Winder	Republic Waste	MSWL	MSW	11/1/2008

Facility Name	Jurisdiction(s) Using Facility	Physical Address	Owner/ Operator	Facility Type	Types of Waste Accepted	Year Expected to Reach Capacity
Rogers Lake Road C&D Landfill	Jackson County	Ws Rogers Lake Rd N Maddox Rd Lithonia	Apollo Waste Industries	C&D	C&D	4/10/2008
BFI East Dekalb Landfill	Jackson County	Off Scales Rd., Lithonia, GA	BFI	C&D	C&D	2/28/2005
BFI Hickory Ridge Landfill Dekalb County	Jackson County	I-285 & Moreland Ave Atlanta, GA	BFI	MSWL	MSW	6/29/2005
Forsyth County Eagle Point Landfill	Jackson County	Hightower Road Cumming, GA		MSWL	MSW	11/1/2060
BFI Richland Creek Rd Landfill Gwinnett County	Jackson County	Off Richland Crk Rd NW of Buford	BFI	MSWL	MSW	1/29/2021
Oglethorpe County C&D Landfill	Jackson County	US 78 One MILEo Crawford	Oglethorpe County	C&D	C&D	1/25/2004
US 78 Construction and Demolition Landfill	Jackson County		Walton County	C&D	C&D	6/3/2049

7.5.1.1 Assurance of 10-Year Capacity

Jackson County has a long-term agreement with Waste Management to collect and dispose of municipal solid waste from the County transfer station. Waste Management has provided Jackson County with a Letter of Capacity Assurance until 2013, included at the end of this Section. Table 7-15 indicates Jackson County's intention to have its waste disposed of by Waste Management, Inc. in the R&B Landfill for the planning period.

**Table 7-15
Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary (2004-2013)**

Jackson County	Year 1 (2004)	Year 2 (2005)	Year 3 (2006)	Year 4 (2007)	Year 5 (2008)	Year 6 (2009)	Year 7 (2010)	Year 8 (2011)	Year 9 (2012)	Year 10 (2013)
Amount of Waste	20,549	21,597	22,699	23,856	25,073	26,351	27,142	28,526	29,981	31,510
Amount to R&B Landfill ¹	18,819	19,778	20,787	21,847	22,961	24,132	24,856	26,124	27,456	28,856
Amount to C&D landfills (East Dekalb, Oglethorpe Co., and US 78)	1,731	1,819	1,912	2,009	2,112	2,219	2,286	2,402	2,525	2,654

¹ This assumes all projected MSW will be delivered to R&B. In actuality, private haulers in the County are likely to deliver some waste to other landfills in the area.

7.5.1.2 Contingency Strategy

Jackson County has a verbal agreement with United Waste Service and the Oak Grove landfill in Barrow County. In the event of an emergency or natural disaster, municipal solid waste disposal would be transferred to the Oak Grove landfill. Service could begin within 24 hours.

7.5.2 Assessment of Disposal

Jackson County’s waste projections show a moderate increase during the planning period. In spite of the increase in annual MSW tonnage, the County’s existing disposal programs should be adequate to address increases. The County has a Letter of Capacity Assurance from Waste Management ensuring that the R&B landfill has adequate capacity until the year 2013 which should cover the County through the 10-year planning period.

7.5.3 Statement of Needs and Goals

Jackson County’s goal is to ensure that disposal facilities in the region meet regulatory requirements and can continue to support and facilitate effective solid waste handling programs for the next ten years.

7.6 Education and Public Involvement Element

7.6.1 Inventory of Education and Public Involvement

Jackson County recently implemented a Keep Georgia Beautiful program in November of 2003. Implementation and operation of this program will be funded through a \$1 per ton fee increase at the transfer station. Table 7-16 describes the public education and involvement activities of the County.

Table 7-16
Existing Environmental Education Initiatives

Program/Activity	Jurisdictions Covered	Operated by	Target Audience	Description of Impact
Clean & Beautiful Program	Jackson County	Jackson County	Residents, Schools, Businesses, Civic Groups	Implemented in November 2003

7.6.2 Assessment of Education and Public Involvement

Implementation of an education and public involvement program such as Keep Jackson County Beautiful is a step in the right direction for Jackson County to increase awareness of environmental issues and educate residents, students, businesses and civic organizations on the importance of recycling and waste reduction. Dedicating a funding source, such as the \$1 per ton at the transfer station, is likely to contribute to the success of the new organization.

Increasing public awareness will help the County increase waste reduction efforts, boost recycling rates and aid the County in achieving their solid waste goals.

7.6.3 Statement of Needs and Goals

Jackson County's goal with regard to public education and involvement is to ensure that residents and businesses in the region understand the issues, needs, and goals of the solid waste management system

7.7 Land Limitation Element

7.7.1 Inventory of Land Areas

In 1997, the Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Authority conducted a regional landfill site suitability study. As part of this study, the ten counties developed siting criteria and screened all land within the ten-county area to determine the suitability of all sites for landfill development.

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Figure 7-1 shows a map of the ten-county region with areas shaded that are considered unsuitable and of limited suitability for a solid waste disposal facility. These determinations were made based on water protection and land use criteria and host community concerns established by the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority. Table 7-17 identifies the criteria and whether the presence of these factors excluded a site altogether or lowered the ranking of the site for landfill suitability.

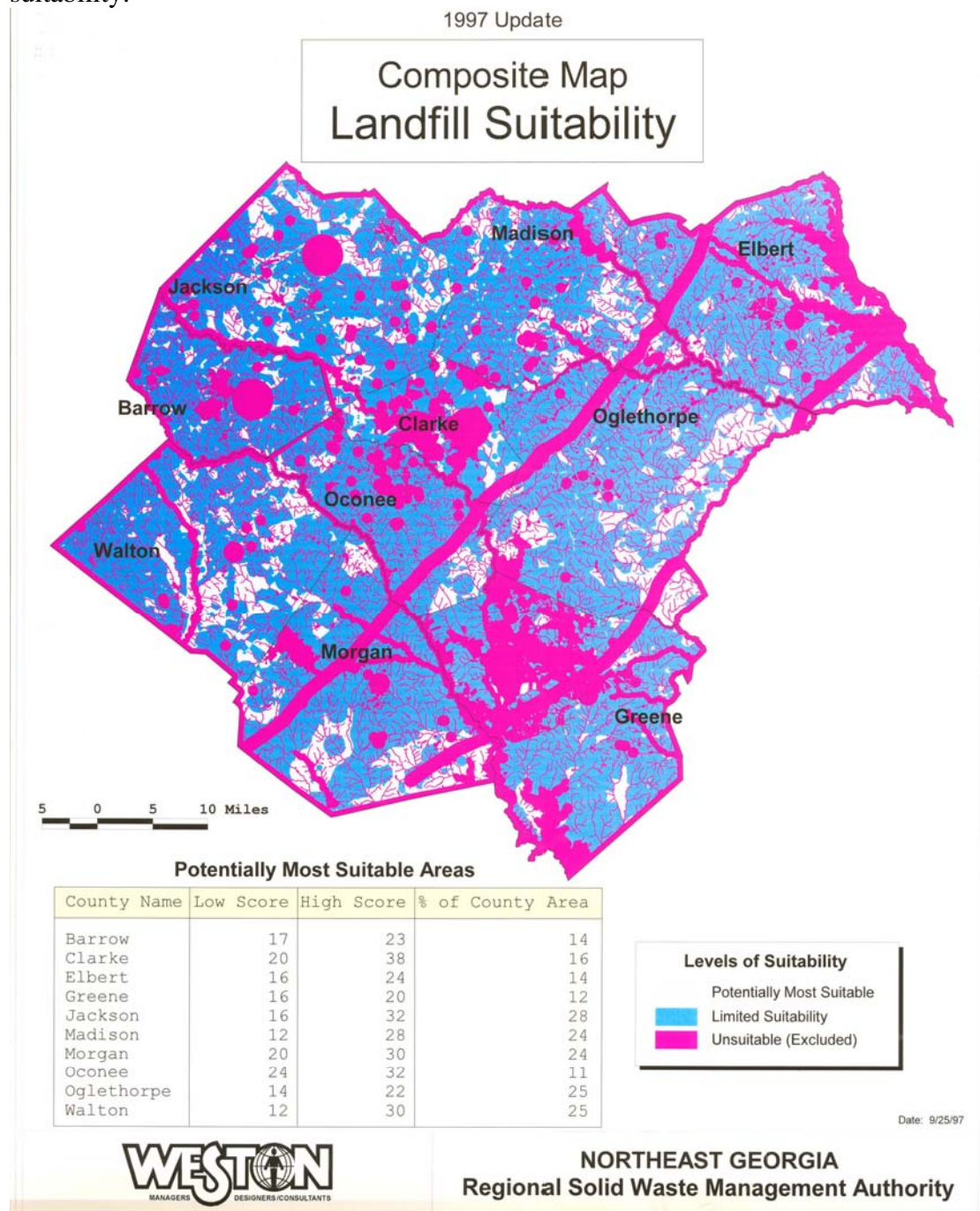


Figure 7-1

**Table 7-17
Regional Landfill Suitability Criteria**

	Criteria	Type
Water Protection (Geotechnical)	Major Fault Zone	Exclusionary
	Public Drinking Water Sources	Exclusionary
	Hydrologically Sensitive Area	Ranked
	Private Drinking Water Wells	Ranked
	Lakes, Rivers, and Creeks	Exclusionary
	Floodplains	Exclusionary
	Wetlands	Exclusionary and Ranked
	Steep Areas	Exclusionary
Land Use	Airports	Exclusionary
	Nonparticipating County Borders	Exclusionary
	Public Lands and Parks	Exclusionary
	Population Density	Exclusionary and Ranked
	Historic and Key Archaeological Sites	Ranked
	Biological/Rare Element Sites	Ranked
Host Community Concerns	Existing Pollution Sources	Ranked

Jackson County also has a zoning ordinance that would limit where solid waste handling facilities could be sited in the County.

7.7.2 Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities

Any entity requesting a renewal or issuance of a solid waste handling permit from EPD must demonstrate that the facility or facility expansion is consistent with the local government’s solid waste management plan. The County will use the following criteria to determine whether the issuance of the requested permit is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan.

- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion is sited in an area deemed unsuitable according to one of the criteria list above (in groundwater recharge area; located within two miles of a municipal water supply; on soils poorly suited for development; on slopes of greater than 25 percent; presence of major highways, roads, and airports; on urban or built up lands; water bodies or wetlands; or on federal, state, or public lands).
- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion is sited in a location that is consistent with local zoning ordinances.
- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion negatively impacts other natural or cultural resources of the County.

- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion negatively impacts the current solid waste management infrastructure of the County;
- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion negatively impacts collection capability and disposal capacity identified in the Plan.
- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion negatively impacts the County's ability to contribute to the State's 25 percent waste reduction goal.
- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion negatively impacts the financial viability of the County's solid waste management system.

No proposed facility or facility expansion will be sited in the County without a letter from the County Commission stating that the facility is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan. The County Commission will hold at least one public hearing to gather input to make this determination.

7.7.3 Assessment of Land Limitation

Approximately 72 percent of the land area in Jackson County is considered unsuitable or of limited suitability for siting a landfill.

The procedure described above, once put into place, will help ensure that facilities sited in the County are consistent with this Plan.

7.7.4 Needs and Goals

The County's goal with regard to land limitation is to ensure that proposed solid waste handling facilities are compatible with surrounding areas, are placed in areas suitable for such developments, and are consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan.

7.8 Implementation Strategies

7.8.1 Summary of County Need and Goals

Jackson County has established the following needs and goals as part of its Solid Waste Management Plan:

- To ensure efficient and effective collection of solid waste in the County over the next ten years.
- To contribute to the statewide goal of 25 percent per capita reduction in the amount of solid waste disposed.
- To ensure that disposal facilities in the region meet regulatory requirements and can continue to support and facilitate effective solid waste handling programs for the next ten years.
- To ensure that residents and businesses in the region understand the issues, needs, and goals of the solid waste

- To ensure that proposed solid waste handling facilities are compatible with surrounding areas, are placed in areas suitable for such developments, and are consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- To achieve a balanced and affordable solid waste management plan implementation strategy, while also meeting the goals and requirements of state law.

7.8.2 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Collection Capability

The current collection system in the County is effective and efficient and will be continued for the planning period. The more populated areas have at the source collection and the convenience centers are available for all citizens. As the population grows, the County will continue to review what is needed to serve community needs.

7.8.3 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Disposal Capacity

Jackson County has a Letter of Capacity Assurance from Waste Management ensuring that the R&B landfill has adequate capacity until the year 2013 which should cover the County through the 10-year planning period.

7.8.4 Short Term Work Program (5-Year List of Programs/Work Activities)

Table 7-18 indicates the five year implementation strategy to meet the County's needs and goals, by element.

Table 7-18
 Northeast Georgia
 Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program
 2004 - 2008
 Jackson County

Action	04	05	06	07	08	Responsible Party	\$\$	Possible Funding
AMOUNT OF WASTE ELEMENT								
<i>Goal: To determine the amount and composition of solid waste generated in the region in order to establish a sound information base upon which to make management decisions and determine if state and local goals are met.</i>								
1. The County will use EPD's disposal capacity reports and DCA's waste characterization data to quantify the amount and type of waste disposed in the County.	x	x				County		
COLLECTION ELEMENT								
<i>Goal: To ensure efficient and effective collection of solid waste in the region over the next ten years.</i>								
1. Jackson County will continue to operate transfer station and two staffed compactor sites.	x	x	x	x	x	Jackson County	\$295,000	Tipping Fees/General Fund
2. City of Commerce will continue to contract with a private hauler to provide curbside collection service of MSW.	x	x	x	x	x	City of Commerce	N/A	User Fees
3. City of Jefferson will continue to contract with a private hauler to provide curbside collection service of recyclables and MSW.	x	x	x	x	x	City of Jefferson	N/A	User Fees
4. City of Arcade will continue to contract with a private hauler to provide curbside collection service of recyclables and MSW.	x	x	x	x	x	City of Arcade	N/A	User Fees

**Table 7-18
Northeast Georgia
Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program
2004 - 2008
Jackson County**

Action	04	05	06	07	08	Responsible Party	\$\$	Possible Funding
5. City of Braselton will continue to contract with a private hauler to provide curbside collection service of MSW.	x	x	x	x	x	City of Braselton	N/A	User Fees
6. City of Hoschton will continue to contract with a private hauler to provide curbside collection service of MSW and recyclables.	x	x	x	x	x	City Hoschton	N/A	User Fees
7. City of Nicholson will continue to provide weekly curbside collection of MSW.	x	x	x	x	x	City of Nicholson	N/A	User Fees
WASTE REDUCTION ELEMENT								
<i>Goal: To ensure a 25 percent reduction in the amount of solid waste disposed of in the region Landfill and to sustain waste reduction programs for the next 10 years.</i>								
1. Jackson County will continue to operate a drop-off site for recyclables at the transfer station and two staffed compactor sites.	x	x	x	x	x	Jackson County	Costs included in Collection Section	Tipping Fees/General Fund
2. Residents in the City of Arcade will contract with private haulers for the curbside collection of recyclables.	x	x	x	x	x	Private Firm	N/A	User Fees
3. City of Jefferson will continue contracting with a private firm for curbside collection of recyclables.	x	x	x	x	x	City of Jefferson	N/A	User Fees

Section 7

**Table 7-18
Northeast Georgia
Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program
2004 - 2008
Jackson County**

Action	04	05	06	07	08	Responsible Party	\$\$	Possible Funding
4. City of Hoschton will continue contracting with a private firm for curbside collection of recyclables.	x	x	x	x	x	City of Hoschton	N/A	User Fees
5. The County will continue to grind and mulch yard trimmings at the transfer station and make available to residents.	x	x	x	x	x	County	N/A	User Fees
6. The Cities of Commerce and Jefferson will continue to collect and mulch yard trimmings.	x	x	x	x	x	Commerce/Jefferson	N/A	User Fees
7. County and municipalities will encourage commercial recycling programs.	x	x	x	x	x	County/ Municipalities	\$5K/year	Solid Waste Fund
DISPOSAL ELEMENT								
<i>Goal: To ensure that disposal facilities in the region meet regulatory requirements and can continue to support and facilitate effective solid waste handling programs for the next ten years.</i>								
1. Jackson County will continue to operate county-owned transfer station.	x	x	x	x	x	County	\$600,000	Tipping Fees/General Fund
2. Jackson County will continue to contract with a private firm for the disposal of waste.	x	x	x	x	x	County/Private Firm	---	---

**Table 7-18
Northeast Georgia
Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program
2004 - 2008
Jackson County**

Action	04	05	06	07	08	Responsible Party	\$\$	Possible Funding
3. County will continue education and enforcement programs concerning illegal dumping.	x	x	x	x	x	County	--	Solid Waste Fund
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INVOLVEMENT ELEMENT								
<i>Goal: To ensure that residents and businesses in the region understand the issues, needs, and goals of the solid waste management system.</i>								
1. Jackson County will continue to fund its recently implemented Keep Jackson Beautiful Program.	x	x	x	x	x	County	N/A	Tipping fee (\$1 per ton)
2. All municipalities will work with the county for coordination of public education activities.	x	x	x	x	x	Cities/County	---	---
LAND LIMITATION ELEMENT								
<i>Goal: To ensure that proposed solid waste handling facilities are compatible with surrounding areas and are placed in areas suitable for such developments.</i>								
1. County will ensure sufficient land use controls are in place.	x	x	x	x	x	County	---	---
2. County will review all permits requests for new solid waste handling facilities or expansions to determine consistency with SWMP.	x	x	x	x	x	County, NEGRSWMA	---	---



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

67 ATHENS STREET • JEFFERSON, GEORGIA 30549 • 706-367-1199

HAROLD FLETCHER
Chairman

Al Crace
County Manager

February 11, 2004

Mr. Joseph Tichy
Special Projects Coordinator
Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center
305 Research Drive
Athens, GA 30605-2795

Subject: Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Dear Joe:

This letter serves as confirmation of Jackson County's commitment to participate in the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Update.

The County understands that the update will be a multi-jurisdictional plan covering the ten counties that comprise the Northeast Regional Solid Waste Management Planning Authority and address the following five core planning elements:

- Waste Reduction;
- Collection;
- Disposal;
- Land Limitation; and
- Education and Public Involvement.

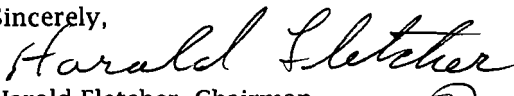

The plan will also include a waste stream analysis and implementation schedule.

The County understands that all jurisdictions that agree to plan together will maintain the planning relationships established in the approved and adopted plan throughout the planning period, including the five-year Short-Term Work Program update.

The County further understands that all participating local governments must adopt the Solid Waste Plan, the Short -Term Work Program, Plan Amendments, and/or Plan Updates before the DCA will make an eligibility determination for any of the local governments participating in the plan. If the County decides to break from the planning arrangement, we understand that we will be responsible for preparing our own individual solid waste management plan.

The County agrees to participate in two public hearings held on behalf of all participating jurisdictions at a central location in the area served by the plan, following all County specific public hearing notice procedures for due notification of the hearings.

Sincerely,


Harold Fletcher, Chairman 

Cc: Board of Commissioners
Al Crace, County Manager
Tom Page, Solid Waste Superintendent
B.R. White, Planning Director
John Hulsey, Finance Director

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R & B LANDFILL, INC.
A WASTE MANAGEMENT COMPANY

705 Bennett Road
Homer, GA 30547
(706) 677-2650
(706) 677-3006 Fax

September 13, 2004

Mr. Tom Page
Jackson County Solid Waste
PO Box 434
Jefferson, Ga 30549

Subject: Capacity Assurance

Dear Mr. Page:

This letter serves a disposal capacity assurance for waste generated by Jackson County from 2004 -2014. The Georgia EPC permit number for the facilities providing this assurance is 006-009D(MSWL), R&B Landfill. This assurance is based upon Jackson County disposing of approximately 46,000 tons of waste on an annual basis.

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

Sincerely,
R&B Landfill

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles H. Laws', is written over a light-colored background.

Charles H. Laws
District Manager of Northeast Georgia

Cc: JoAnn Birrell, Waste Management Inc.
David Stuart, Waste Management Inc.
Ed Gibson, Waste Management Inc.