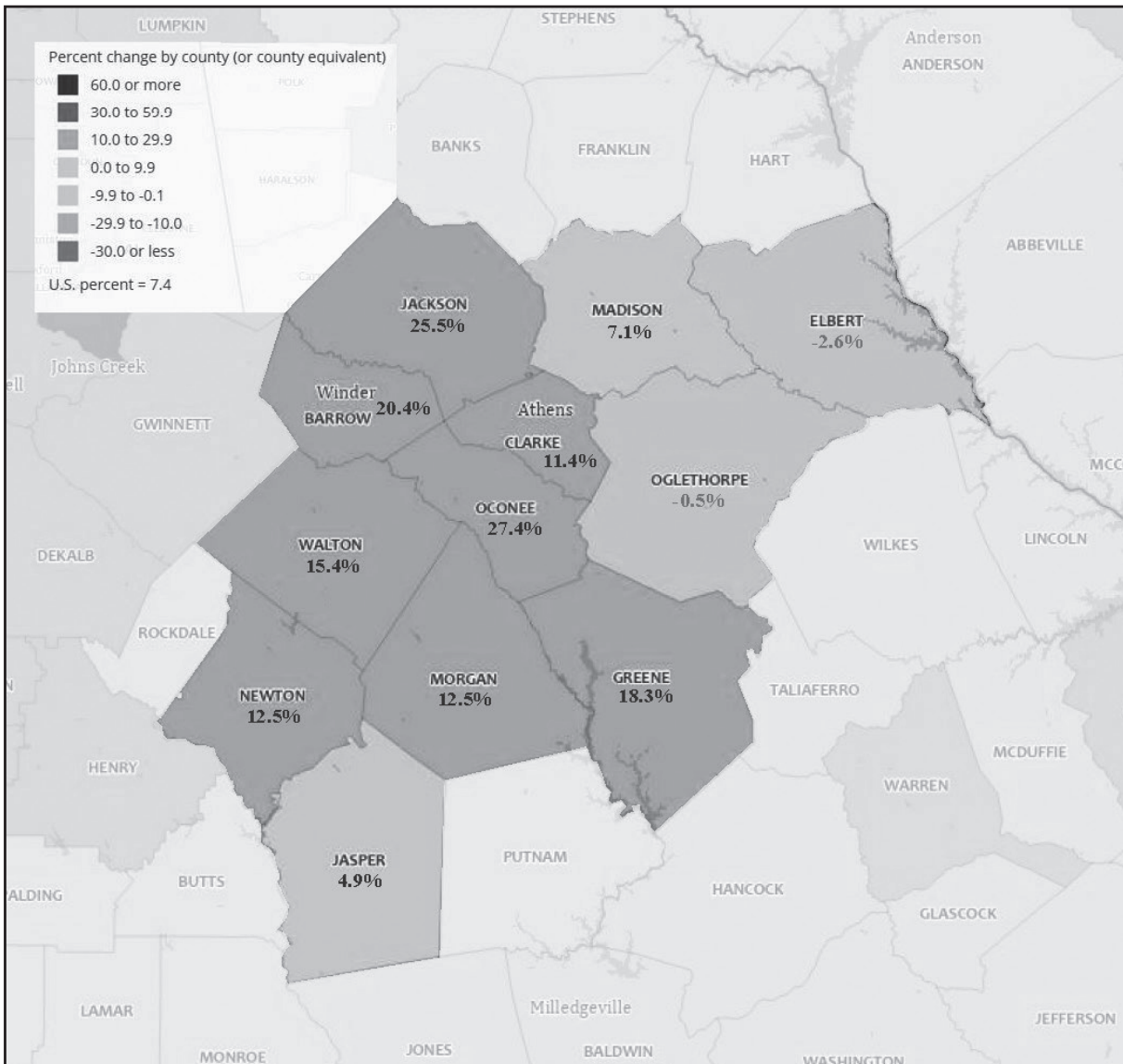


2021 CENSUS DATA RELEASE

The Census Bureau has released the 2020 Census Redistricting Data. Over the last 10 years, Northeast Georgia's population grew 14.7% (total 2020 population of 657,220). Eight of the region's 12 counties saw population increases greater than 10% between 2010 and 2020, and only two counties experienced population decreases.

The released data is in a legacy format, and a user-friendly dataset is expected to be released by September 30th. NEGRC staff are working to synthesize the data release and prepare materials specific to our region; if you have specific requests related to the 2020 Census data, contact **Jon McBrayer**, NEGRC GIS Planner, at jmcbrayer@negrc.org.



2021 LOCAL REDISTRICTING PROCESS

On August 12th, the 2020 Census Redistricting Data were released. The data will be used for the upcoming local redistricting process, which is set to begin as soon as the data is synthesized for the Northeast Georgia region.

Cities that are less than 40,000 in population can have City Councils' perform local redistricting without the requirement of State approval under the principle of Home Rule, but all other local maps must be approved by the State.

County governments have several options for redrawing their maps: by using an in-house GIS team, working directly with the State Reapportionment Office (at no cost to the local government), or using other consultants and groups like Regional Commissions. **County governments must first request one of their state senators or representatives to sponsor their map unless they are working with the State Reapportionment Office.** If the local government chooses not to use the Reapportionment Office, the map, nevertheless, must be submitted to the Office for technical review. After certification of the map, the local body adopts the new map and notifies their sponsor that it is ready for legislative approval. The map is not considered official until the legislature and governor have passed and signed legislation approving the map.

NEGRC staff are working to synthesize the data release and prepare materials specific to our region; if you have any questions about the redistricting, contact **Jon McBrayer**, NEGRC GIS Planner, at jmcbrayer@negrc.org.

WIOA SUMMER YOUTH INTERNS PREPARE GRANT APPLICATION

The Monticello Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is a little closer to achieving its goal of making the Monticello central business district more accessible to bicycle traffic and pedestrians thanks to its summer interns **Sam'yah Harris** (rising twelfth grader at Jasper County High School) and **Marlene Torres** (rising eleventh grader at Jasper County High School). The DDA received a check last month from Central Georgia EMC in the amount of \$754.00. The funds will be used to purchase two nine-slot bike racks to be installed in the Thomas W. Gordon Memorial Venue located at the corner of W. Washington and Forsyth Streets. The DDA believes that installing additional bike racks near the Square will encourage more people to ride their bikes to the Square to participate in local events such as Downtown Live music and the "Market on the Square." The DDA also believes that it will encourage a more active and healthy lifestyle amongst the city's residents. Harris and Torres wrote and submitted the grant proposal as part of their 5-week internship with the DDA that was funded by the NEGRC's WorkForce Development Program.



Marlene Torres



Sam'yah Harris

For information on this or other WIOA funded programs, contact the NEGRC's Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**.

THE NORTHEAST GEORGIA CARE-NET

The Northeast Georgia Care-Net is a volunteer coalition of caregiver support organizations across a broad array of illnesses and disabilities. The first Care-Net was established in 1990 in the West Central region of Georgia, home to the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI). The Northeast Georgia Care-Net was established in June 2004 resulting from a partnership between RCI, the Administration on Aging, the Georgia Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services, and the Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging. The Northeast Georgia Care-Net serves the twelve counties of the Northeast Georgia region: Athens-Clarke, Barrow, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe and Walton counties.

The mission of the Northeast Georgia Care-Net is to provide ongoing assessment of community resources, identify and remedy gaps in services, share information and resources among agencies, develop strategies for complementary professional and family caregiver activities, offer caregiver education and, most importantly, advocate for Caregivers.

Coalition members include leaders and advocates from community agencies, private corporations, churches, family caregivers, para-professional caregivers, and volunteer caregivers who provide ongoing information, assistance, counseling, training and support groups for caregivers throughout Northeast Georgia. There are no membership dues for individuals or organizations to join the Northeast Georgia Care-Net. If you are in need of resources or interested in becoming part of the Care-Net please contact the Caregiver Coordinator, **Toshia Lewis**, NEGRC AAA Quality Assurance Specialist/Options Counselor, at 1-800-474-7540 ext. 103 or tlewis@negrc.org.

Each year RCI has a Caregiver-of-the-Year Celebration to recognize caregivers statewide for going above and beyond to

care for those in need. There are three nomination categories: family, paraprofessional, and volunteer caregivers. The winners are honored and will receive a gold rose and a check for \$1,000 from RCI. The Northeast Georgia Care-Net also has a celebration to honor its local caregivers. The winners are then sent to RCI as part of the statewide caregiver nominations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebrations have moved to a virtual platform. Though the date has not been set for the RCI Caregiver of the Year Celebration, the celebration will occur in the month of November. The Northeast Georgia Care-Net Caregiver of the Year Celebration will be Friday, November 5, 2021 at 10am. Nominations will be accepted until August 27, 2021. If you would like to nominate someone or make a donation to the Northeast Georgia Care-Net, please contact, **Toshia Lewis**, NEGRCA AAA Quality Assurance Specialist/Options Counselor, at 1-800-474-7540 ext. 103 or tlewis@negrc.org.

GEORGIA BICYCLING CONTRIBUTES ALMOST HALF A BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO ECONOMY

Last month, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Georgia Tech released a study cataloging the economic impacts of bicycling on the State of Georgia's economy--the first of its kind. According to the study's author Shatakshee Dhongde, associate professor of economics, "Biking is usually promoted as an environmentally friendly and a healthy means of transport, but this report is putting the focus on the economics of it. Now we can see this activity is having such a big impact on Georgia's economy that we should be paying more attention to it, giving more dollars for investments into [bicycling infrastructure]."

The study's original data analysis is based on revenue and employment records of more than 700 bicycling-related businesses, investments in over 80 bike trails (construction and maintenance), and almost 100 events and organizations across the State. Key findings on the contributions of cycling to the economy include:

- \$496 million total annual impact
- 4,529 jobs
- \$34 million annual tax generation

GDOT's state traffic engineer, Andrew Heath, says, "Georgia DOT recognizes the impact the bicycling community has on our state and has worked diligently to support cyclist safety programs, the development of multi-use trails and partnered with organizations such as Georgia Bikes and the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition in an effort to promote safe cycling." Heath adds, "With the impressive economic impact the biking industry has on

Georgia, we anticipate more growth over the coming years and [are] looking forward to supporting it as best we can."

Dhongde, the lead researcher, points out that further research is likely to uncover even greater economic benefits that may not have been apparent in the somewhat limited analysis undertaken in this study: "I would say this is a very conservative estimate. If people build on this going forward, we will be able to measure a much larger impact."

In 2016, Dhongde and GDOT partnered on a similar study to measure the economic impacts of the planned (and now partially constructed) Firefly Trail in Northeast Georgia. The research showed that, when fully built, the trail will add \$14.7 million dollars per year to the economy and draw 1.13 million visitors to the region--each of whom would spend an average of \$13 per day. Firefly would also create 158 jobs through construction alone and have health benefits valuing triple the amount spent to complete the project.

For more information on bicycle and pedestrian activities in Northeast Georgia or for assistance with bike/pedestrian planning in your community, contact **Mark Beatty**, NEGRCA Project Manager, at mbeatty@negrc.org.





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Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS
SEPTEMBER

6 th	All Day	Closed for Labor Day	
16 th	Noon	NEGRC Council Meeting	Trumps
22 nd	9:00 a.m.	UOBWA Meeting	NEGRC Atrium