

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2040 SUMMARY

CHATHAM COUNTY—SAVANNAH

2020 UPDATE



Adopted by Savannah City Council
October 14, 2021

Adopted by Chatham County Commission
October 22, 2021



**ADVANCING TOGETHER,
REDEFINING TOMORROW.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Plan 2040

Plan 2040 is unincorporated Chatham County and the city of Savannah's comprehensive plan meant to be a “vision” document designed to formulate a coordinated, long-term planning program to maintain and enhance the health and viability of the jurisdictions. The Comprehensive Plan lays out the desired future for unincorporated Chatham—Savannah, and relates how that future is to be achieved. The plan serves as a resource to both the public and private sectors by projecting how land will develop, how housing will be made available, how jobs will be attracted and retained, how open space and the environment will be protected, how public services and facilities will be provided, and how transportation facilities will be improved. In short, the Unincorporated Chatham County — Savannah Comprehensive Plan is intended to provide for consistent policy direction.

The Chatham County Commission, City of Savannah, City Council and local community leaders will use the Chatham County—Savannah Comprehensive Plan in the following ways:

The Future Land Use Map shall be referenced in making rezoning and capital investment decisions:

It provides a representation of the community’s vision, helping to guide development based on community preferences and also indicates character areas where various types of land uses should be permitted.

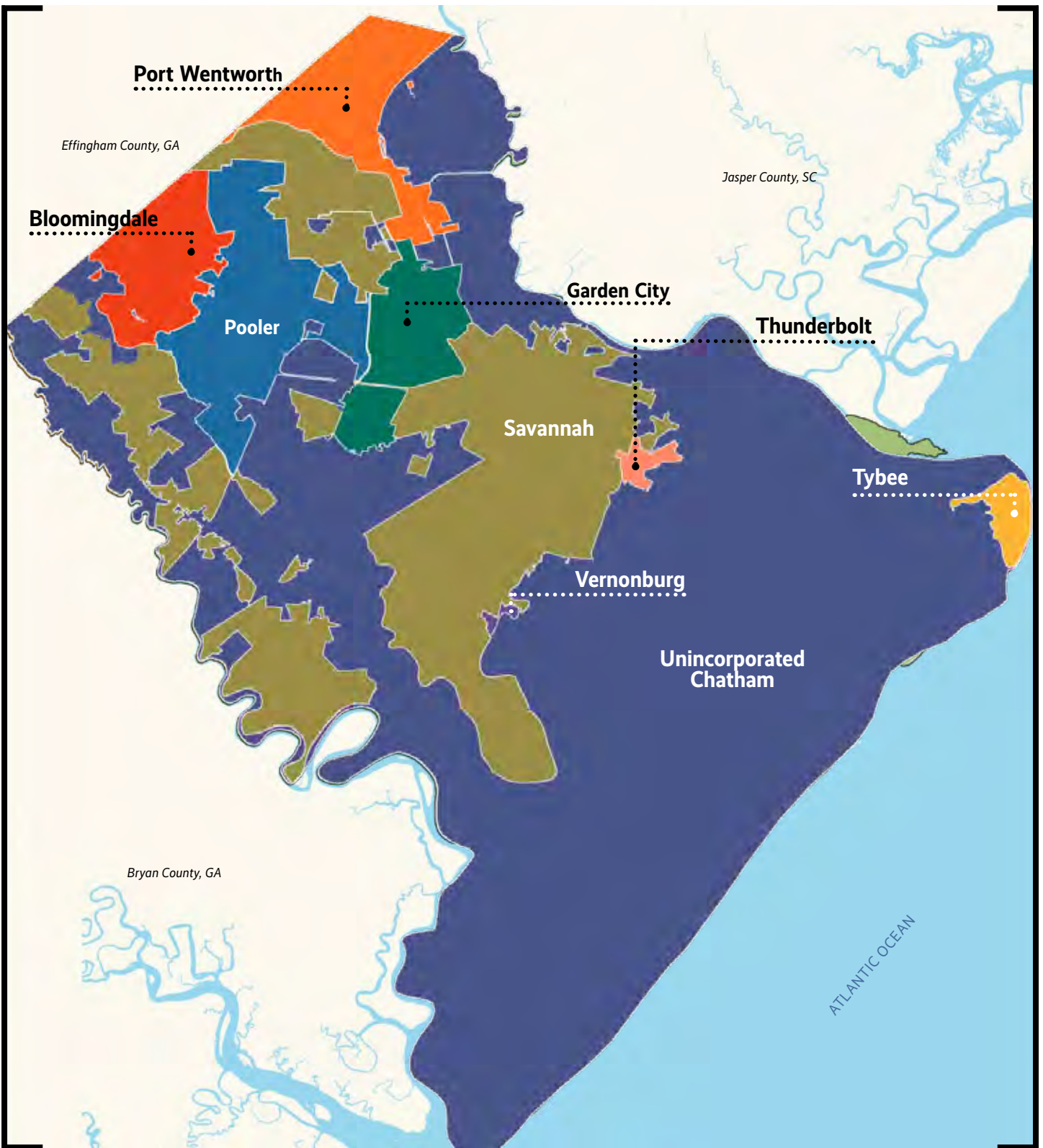
The Comprehensive Plan provides policies that help guide day-to-day decisions:

These policies are reflections of community values identified through public outreach efforts. These policies will be used as guidelines in the analysis of rezoning decisions and other development and capital investment decisions.

The Comprehensive Plan includes an Implementation Program that will direct public investment and private initiative:

Plan implementation is carried out through the adoption and revision of regulations, including zoning and development codes, and through the completion of projects and programs outlined in the Community Goals and Community Strategic Plan and Work Program. The Comprehensive Plan is a living document and should be updated regularly as conditions change and shifts occur in public policy.

The following pages describe the results of public participation that informed and guided the development of this planning document.



WHY DO WE PLAN?

The Georgia Planning Act requires that cities and counties maintain comprehensive plans that help shape future growth. These plans generally recognize the physical, economic, social, political, and aesthetic factors of a community and are developed in a process that includes thoughtful analysis and robust public engagement.

Plan 2040 serves as the comprehensive plan for Chatham County and Savannah. The plan follows the minimum standards and procedures for local government planning set out in O.C.G.A. 50-8-71(b), reflecting the principles of partnership and the unique needs, conditions, and aspirations of the community.

To ensure that public participation in the planning process will result in meaningful implementation through zoning and other administrative mechanisms, a policy of "consistency" was discussed at public meetings. This proposed policy was strongly endorsed by the public. The policy of consistency requires that policies adopted in Plan 2040 will be reviewed and amended prior to amending zoning or other implementing ordinances. In other words, official policy established in Plan 2040 will become the basis for zoning amendments.

The six planning elements shown below are the fundamental components of Plan 2040.

- Quality of Life
- Economic Development
- Land Use
- Housing
- Transportation
- Natural Resources



COMPONENTS OF PLAN 2040

Plan 2040 is to be a tool used in evaluating future proposals and policy changes to ensure consistent decisions are made. Each element is comprised of a vision statement, goals, objectives and strategies to accomplish the vision. These terms, often used to describe policy recommendations, are described below:

ELEMENT:

These are the primary elements that must be included, at a minimum, in each community's Comprehensive Plan

VISION:

Each element contains a vision statement that is supported by multiple goals. A vision statement can become a compass, pointing the way to a common direction.

GOAL:

General overarching, broad statements describing the direction that a community wants to go.

OBJECTIVES:

Express the kinds of action that are necessary to achieve the stated goals without assigning responsibility to any specific action.

STRATEGIES:

Statements of specific actions that should be taken, identifying the responsible party/parties, the time frame within which the action should occur, and other details needed for implementation to occur.



HOUSING

In 2040...

Chatham County and Savannah achieves affordable, diverse and safe housing for its residents through efficient and effective policies and programs.

GOAL:

1. Improve neighborhood stability where all residents, regardless of income, can occupy, maintain, and improve their homes without undue financial hardship

Objectives:

- i. Assist households annually avoid eviction, foreclosure, property loss or homelessness.

Strategy:

1. Survey and designate historically significant industrial buildings, complexes, and other at-risk infrastructure.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following words shall have the meaning as contained herein unless the context does not permit such meaning.

	Definitions
Character Areas	<p>A specific geographic area or district within the community that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has unique or special characteristics to be preserved or enhanced, • Has Potential to evolve into a unique area with more intentional guidance of future development, • Requires special attention due to unique development issues. <p>Each character area is a planning sub-area within the community where more detailed, small-area planning and implementation of certain policies, investments, incentives, or regulations may be applied in order to preserve, improve, or otherwise influence its future development patterns in a manner consistent with the Community Goals</p>
Community	Local jurisdiction (county or municipality) or group of local jurisdictions (in the case of a joint plan) that are preparing a local plan
Comprehensive Plan	<p>A plan meeting the Minimum Standards and Procedures.</p> <p>The comprehensive plan must be prepared pursuant to the Minimum Standards and Procedures for preparation of comprehensive plans and for implementation of comprehensive plans, established by the Department in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50–8–71(b) and 50–8–72</p>
Comprehensive Planning Process	Planning by counties or municipalities in accordance with the Minimum Standards and Procedures in O.C.G.A. 50–8–71(b) and 50–8–72
Conflict	<p>Any conflict, dispute, or inconsistency arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between or among plans, or components thereof, for any counties or municipalities, as proposed, prepared, proposed to be implemented, or implemented • Between or among plans for any regions, as proposed, prepared, proposed to be implemented, or implemented • Between or among plans, or components thereof, for any counties or municipalities and plans for the region which include such counties or municipalities, as such plan are proposed, prepared, proposed to be implemented, or implemented

Terms not defined in these rules but defined in O.C.G.A. 50–8–1, et seq, shall have the meanings contained therein.

	Definitions
Core Elements	<p>Community, Goals, Needs and Opportunities, and Community Work Program.</p> <p>These are the primary elements that must be included, at a minimum, in each community's comprehensive plan</p>
County	Any county of this state
Days	Meaning calendar days, unless otherwise specified
Density	An objective measurement of the number of people or residential units allowed per unit of land, such as dwelling units per acre
Department	Department of Community Affairs established under O.C.G.A.50–8–1
Governing Body	Board of Commissioners of a county, sole commissioner or a county, council, commissioners, or other governing authority of a county or municipality
Infrastructure	Man-made structures which serve the common needs of the population, such as: sewage disposal systems; potable water systems; potable water wells serving a system; solid waste disposal sites or retention areas; stormwater systems; utilities; piers; docks; navigation channels; bridges; roadways
Qualified Local Government	Any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization, a federally designated agency created in urban areas containing more than 50,000 people that are charged with conducting comprehensive, coordinated planning processes to determine the transportation needs of their respective constituencies, and prioritizing and programming projects (bicycle and pedestrian projects) for federal funding
Minimum Standards and Procedures	Minimum Standards and Procedures, including the minimum elements which shall be addressed and included, for preparation of comprehensive plans, for implementation of comprehensive plans, for updates of comprehensive plans including update schedules, and for participation in the coordinated and comprehensive planning process



Definitions

	Definitions
Mediation	The process to be employed by the Department and Regional Commissions for resolving conflicts which may arise from time to time in the comprehensive planning process. Procedures and guidelines to govern mediation are as established by the Department pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-8-7. I(d)
Municipality	Any municipal corporation of the state and any consolidated government of the state
Plan	The comprehensive plan for any county or municipality
Plan Amendment	A change to the adopted plan that occurs between plan updates. Amendments of the adopted plan are appropriate when the conditions, policies, etc., on which the plan is based, have significantly changed so as to materially detract from the usefulness of the plan as a guide to local decision making, or when required by the Department as a result of changes to the Minimum Standards and Procedures
Plan Update	A more or less complete re-write of the plan, which shall occur approximately every five years, in accordance with the recertification schedule maintained by the Department
Planning	The process of determining actions which state agencies, Regional Commissions, and local governments propose to take
Qualified Local Government	A county or municipality that adopts and maintains a comprehensive plan as defined in the Minimum Standards and Procedures.
Regional Commission	A Regional Commission established under O.C.G.A 50-8-32
Regional Plan	The comprehensive plan for a region prepared by the Regional Commission in accordance with the standards and procedures established by the Department

	Definitions
Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria	Those standards and procedures with respect to natural resources, the environment, and vital areas of the state established and administered by the Department of Natural Resources pursuant to O.C.G.A. 12-2-8, including, but not limited to, criteria for the protection of water supply watersheds, groundwater recharge areas, wetlands, protected mountains and protected river corridors.
Service Delivery Strategy	The intergovernmental arrangement among municipal governments, the county government, and other affected entities within the same county for delivery of community services, developed in accordance with the Service Delivery Strategy law. To ensure consistency between the plan and the agreed upon strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The services to be provided by the local government, as identified in the plan, cannot exceed those identified in the agreed upon strategy The service areas identified for individual services that will be provided by the local government must be consistent between the plan and Strategy As provided in Code Section 36-70-28 (b)(1), Service Delivery Strategies must be reviewed, and revised if necessary, in conjunction with county and municipal comprehensive plan updates
Supplemental Planning Recommendation	The supplemental recommendations provided by the Department to assist communities in preparing plans and addressing the Minimum Standards and Procedures. The plan preparers and the community are encouraged to review these recommended best practices where referenced in the Minimum Standards and Procedures and choose those that have applicability or helpfulness to the community and its planning process.
Update Schedule	The schedule or schedules for updating comprehensive plans on an annual or five-year basis as provided for in paragraph (2)(b) of Section 110-12-1-.04. The term "Update Schedule" also means an additional schedule for the review of Service Delivery Strategy agreements by counties and affected municipalities on a ten-year basis in conjunction with comprehensive plan updates



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Introduction

Chatham County was established in 1777 as one of the original counties of Georgia. It is the most urbanized county in the 200-mile coastal area between Charleston, South Carolina and Jacksonville, Florida, and the most populous county in Georgia outside the Atlanta region. The county serves as an economic, cultural, and governmental hub for a six county, bi-state region, as well as an international focal point for trade.

Chatham County has grown considerably since the start of the 20th Century. With one exception, the county's rate of population growth has remained above 5% in each decennial Census since 1900. This stability has insulated the area from the perils of "boom and bust" development that have adversely affected long-term planning efforts in many other communities. Chatham County has a long tradition of planning, and the community intends to maintain its historic character and natural resources while welcoming new residents, many of whom become the strongest advocates of local planning.

REGIONAL POPULATION

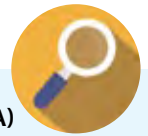
Savannah MSA

Chatham County is the largest county in the Savannah Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which also includes Bryan and Effingham counties. The Savannah MSA, together with Bulloch, Liberty, Long, and Wayne counties, comprises the larger Savannah–Hinesville–Statesboro Combined Statistical Area (CSA). The Savannah–Hinesville–Statesboro CSA is bordered by the Hilton Head Island–Bluffton MSA to the north and the Brunswick MSA to the south.

Throughout the past 100 years, the population of the region has grown as a result of several technological advances. The invention of air conditioning and widespread mosquito control practices were precursors to expansive development in the Savannah area and across much of the Southeast. These technologies made life in the region far more comfortable, convenient, and safe. Alongside these advances that improved the quality of life in Savannah, the area's economy has grown to serve regional, national, and international markets in a variety of sectors. Today, the Port of Savannah is the fourth busiest container port in the country, behind only Los Angeles, CA, Long Beach, CA, and New York, NY.

Historically, Chatham County and the city of Savannah have served as the region's largest population center, commercial core, and industrial hub. While this remains true today, suburbanization has led to significant population increases in Effingham and Bryan counties over the past 50 years. A growing network of highways and relatively inexpensive land have accelerated this move away from the denser urban core, a trend that is projected to continue in the coming decades.

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)



A metropolitan statistical area is a region consisting of a city and surrounding communities that are linked by social and economic factors, as established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB).



Figure 1.1–Savannah MSA

Population Growth

Figure 1.2 illustrates the historical population growth and future projections for each county in the Savannah MSA. While Chatham County is expected to retain its status as the largest population center in the metropolitan area, its neighboring counties are forecasted to experience a greater rate of growth in the coming years.

By 2040, the population of Chatham County is predicted to be approximately 335,000 residents and the population of the Savannah MSA is predicted to be approximately 500,000.

By 2040, the population of Chatham County is expected to grow 15.5% to 335,000 residents

This equates to a population increase of approximately 15.5% in Chatham County over the next 20 years and an increase of approximately 27% in the Savannah MSA.

The population data presented here is from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) multiyear estimates covering the 2014–2018 period and was the most current publicly available ACS multiyear data at the time of reporting. Updated 2020 Census population data can be found on page 88.

These population projections were prepared by the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) using a standard cohort component demographic methodology. This approach models population change as a function of initial population estimates broken down by age and sex, fertility, mortality, and migration.

Population Projection, 1900–2040

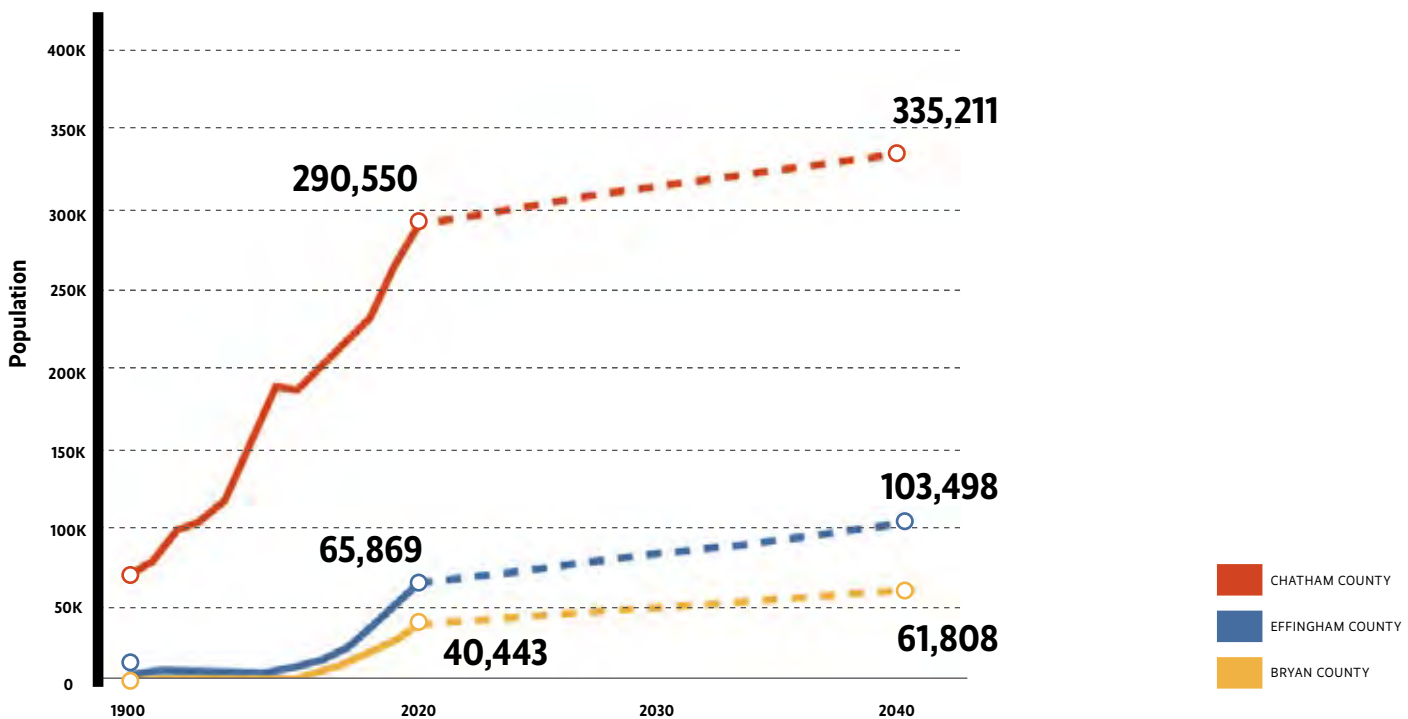


Figure 1.2–Savannah MSA Population Projection
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The net effect of regional development on the population of Chatham County and the city of Savannah can be considered in broad categories:

THE SERVICE ECONOMY

- » The manufacturing economy that drove early regional growth has been surpassed by the service economy. The service economy includes health and medical facilities, retail, hospitality, and business services such as insurance, banking, and advertising.

TRANSIENT POPULATION

- » A significant share of the population within Chatham County at any given time is not included in official population counts. This transient population includes workers who live outside of Chatham County but commute in for work; second-home owners who spend only part of the year in the county; students at local universities; military personnel who are stationed in the region temporarily; and tourists visiting the area.

GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY

- » Nearly one in ten residents of Chatham County have moved here within the past year from other counties, states, and countries. Many of these individuals are retirees who have settled in unincorporated areas of the county and tend to be older and more affluent than the average county resident. This is evident when comparing the median age, income, and poverty rates between unincorporated Chatham and the city of Savannah.



CHATHAM COUNTY & SAVANNAH

The Region

Chatham County encompasses eight incorporated municipalities—the cities of Bloomingdale, Garden City, Pooler, Port Wentworth, Savannah, and Tybee Island, and the towns of Thunderbolt and Vernonburg—and a large unincorporated area. The geographic focus of this section of Plan 2040 is unincorporated Chatham County and the city of Savannah.

Residential Population

As of 2020, unincorporated Chatham County had an estimated population of 92,034, with a population density of 281 people per square mile. U.S. Census records show population in the unincorporated area decreased from 1970–1980 but has grown significantly in the past 40 years. In fact, much of the county’s overall population increase in that time period occurred in the unincorporated areas to the east and southwest of Savannah as larger neighborhoods and subdivisions were developed. Estimates for unincorporated Chatham County were calculated by subtracting the sum of the incorporated municipalities’ values from the total value for Chatham County as a whole.

The city of Savannah had an estimated population of 147,780 in 2020, with a population density of 1,302 people per square mile. The city’s population increased rapidly from 1970–1980 but has remained fairly stable in the last 40 years.

As of 2020, the unincorporated areas and the city of Savannah made up 83.1% of the total population of Chatham County.

Tourism Impacts on Population

Because Chatham County is a well-known tourist destination, a substantial proportion of the population on any given day is only temporary. According to the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce’s Savannah Economic Trends Brochure (2020), the area saw 14.5 million visitors in 2018 alone. While tourism brings many benefits to the local economy and culture, such large day-to-day population increases can also present challenges from a planning perspective, particularly those related to infrastructure.

When planning for the future, it is important to consider the “worst case scenario” to ensure that the community’s roads, bridges, and utility systems will remain functional.

Demographic Characteristics

Unincorporated Chatham County and the city of Savannah are growing—between 2010 and 2020, their populations grew by 7.0% and 6.6%, respectively. Both experienced faster population growth than that of Georgia as a whole. While notable demographic differences exist between the residents of unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah today, the composition of the community’s population will continue to change as new residents move into the area.

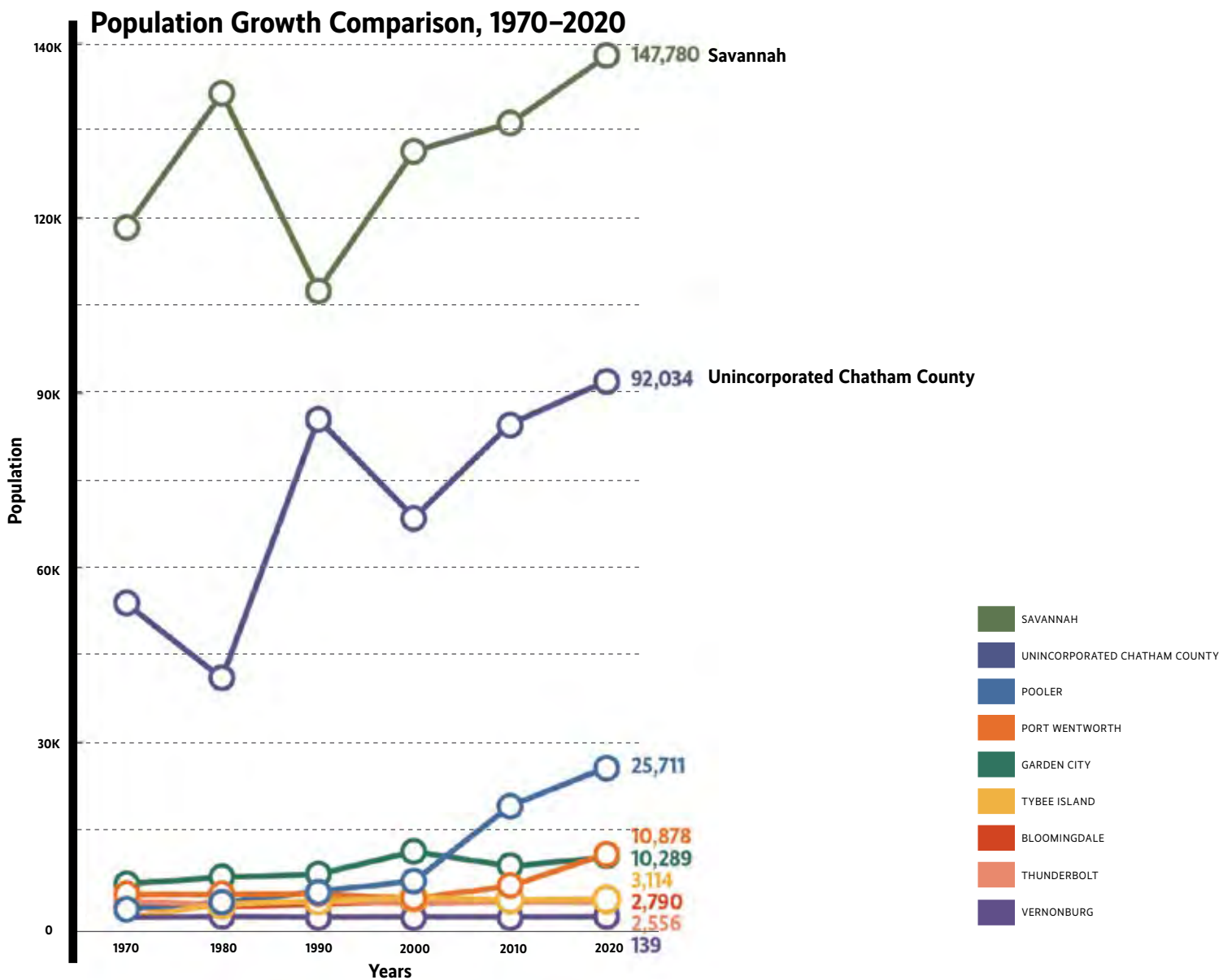


Figure 1.3–Population Comparison, 1970–2020, Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah
 U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Sex & Age

Of the 93,155 people living in unincorporated Chatham County in 2014–2018, 51.9% were female and 48.1% were male. In Savannah, 52.4% of the 145,342 residents were female and 47.6% were male.

Overall, county residents were significantly older than those in the city—the median age in the unincorporated area was 39.6 years compared with 32.4 years in Savannah. Children under the age of 18 made up 22.0% of the population in unincorporated Chatham County, and 17.8% were 65 years or older. In Savannah, roughly one fifth of residents were under the age of 18 (20.8%) and nearly one in eight were over age 65 (12.9%).

The population in both areas has been slowly growing older over the past five years. This trend is projected to continue for at least the next 20 years and should be planned for at the local level as the aging population lives longer and more retirees move to the coast.

Sex Characteristics, 2014–2018

Unincorporated Chatham:

44,807
Males
(48.1%)



48,347
Females
(51.9%)

City of Savannah:

69,182
Males
(47.6%)



76,159
Females
(52.4%)

Age Distribution, 2014–2018

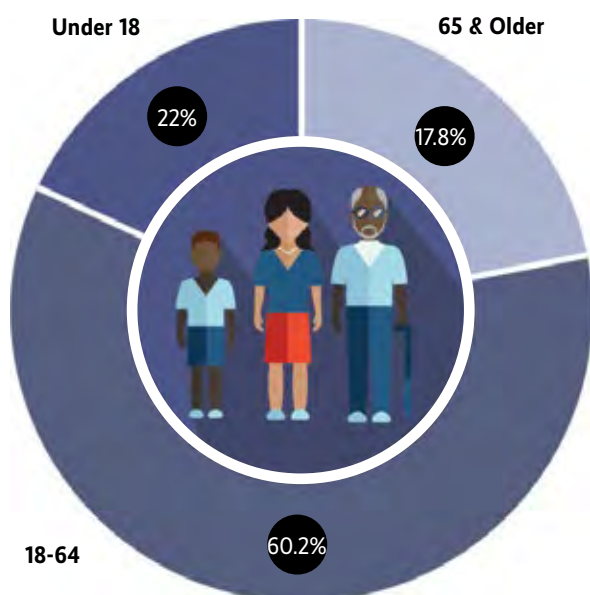


Figure 1.4—Age Distribution, Unincorporated Chatham
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

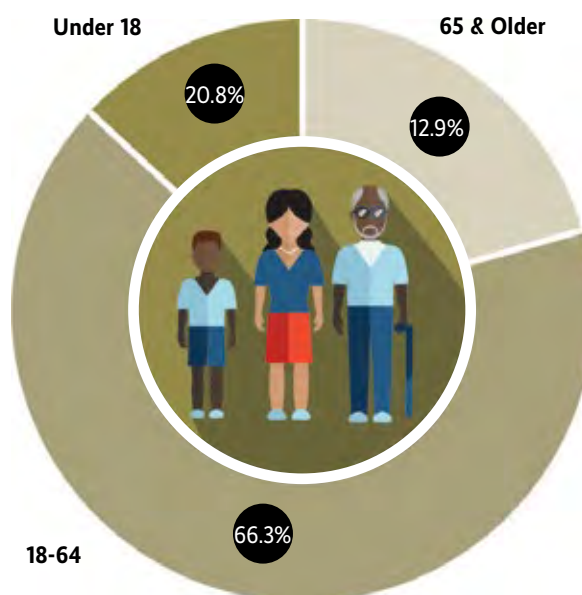


Figure 1.5—Age Distribution, Savannah

Age Characteristics, 2014–2018

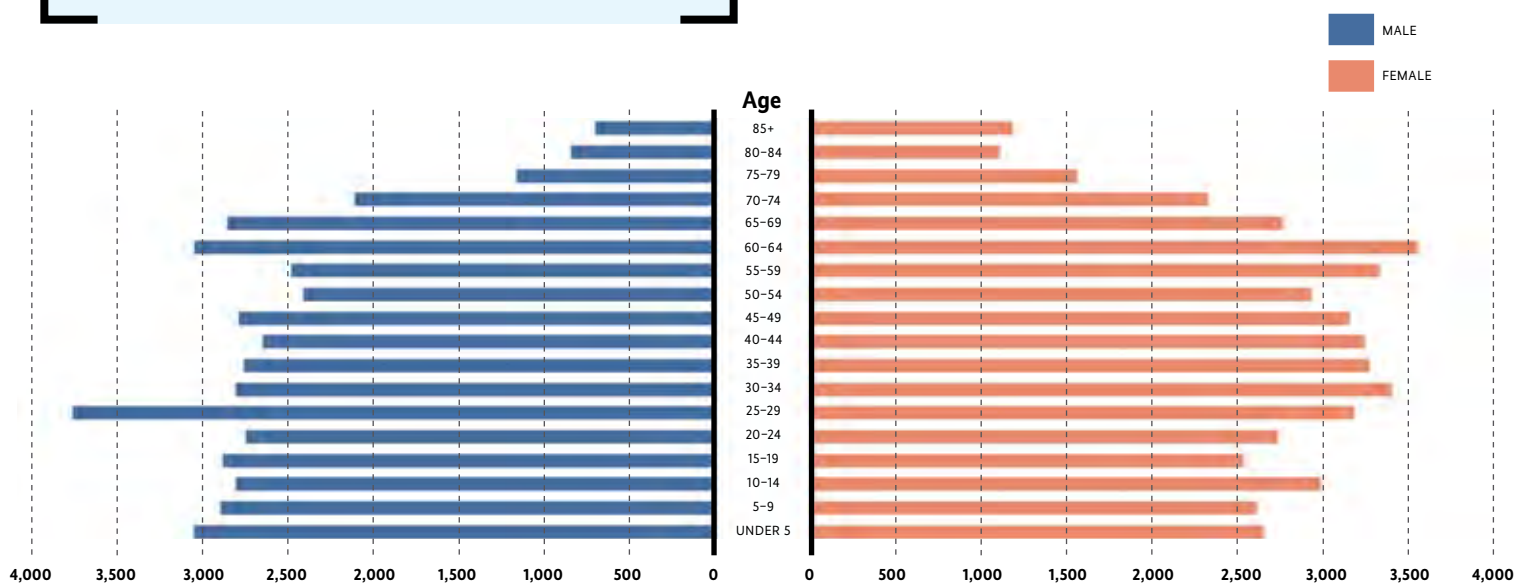
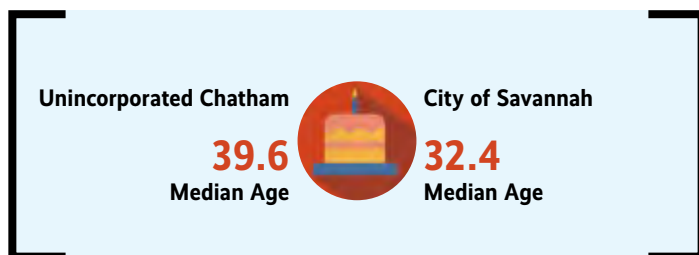


Figure 1.6–Population Pyramid, Unincorporated Chatham

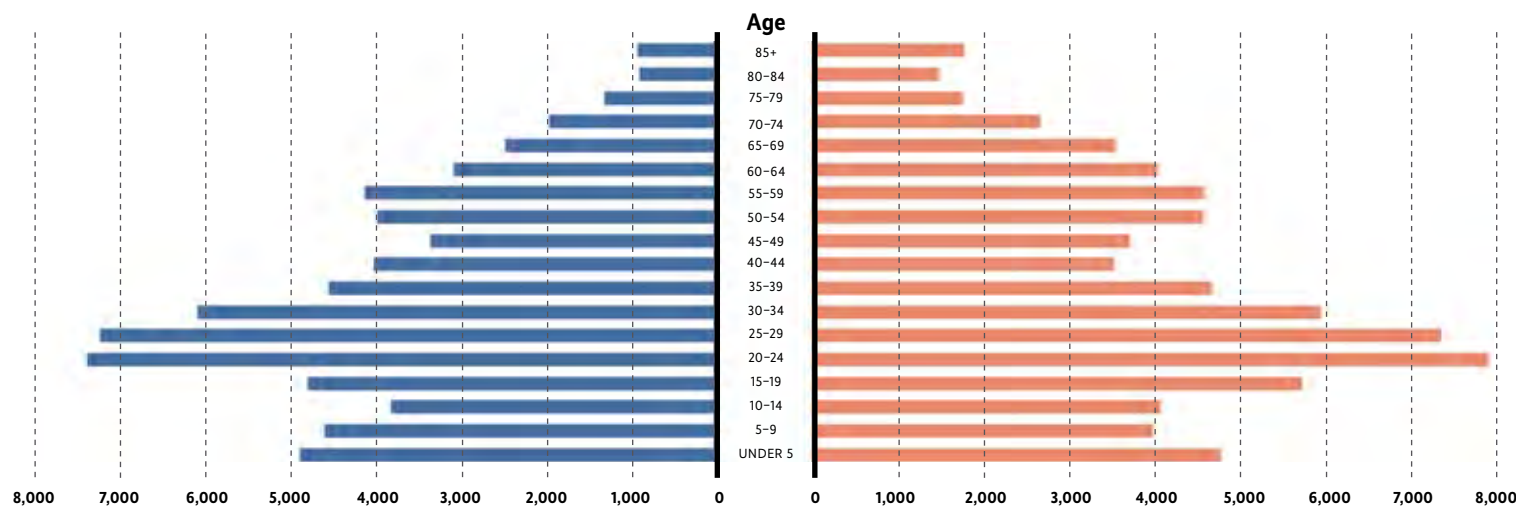


Figure 1.7–Population Pyramid, Savannah

U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Race & Ethnicity

Perhaps the most pronounced demographic difference between unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah in 2014–2018 was the racial makeup of their residents. The largest racial group in unincorporated Chatham County was white (69.3%), with 6.5% of residents identifying as Hispanic or Latino.

The racial breakdowns show people who reported only one race (aside from the “two or more races” category), while the People of Hispanic origin may be of any race(s). The white share of unincorporated Chatham’s population reached its peak in 1980 at 85.9%. Conversely, the majority of Savannahians were black or African American (54.4%), with 5.1% of the population identifying as Hispanic or Latino.

The populations of both unincorporated Chatham County and the city of Savannah have been growing more diverse since the 1980s. In the past 40 years, the non-white share of unincorporated Chatham’s population has more than doubled from 14.1% in 1980 to 30.7% in 2018. In the city of Savannah in 1980, half of all residents were white (49.4%), and half were non-white (50.6%). Since then, the share of Savannah’s population comprised of people of color has grown by 15.8 percentage points.

Racial Majority Characteristics, 2014–2018

Unincorporated Chatham:



69.3%
White Alone

City of Savannah:



54.4%
Black or African American Alone

Ethnicity, 2014–2018

Unincorporated Chatham

5.1%

Hispanic or Latino



City of Savannah

6.5%

Hispanic or Latino



Population by Race, 2014–2018

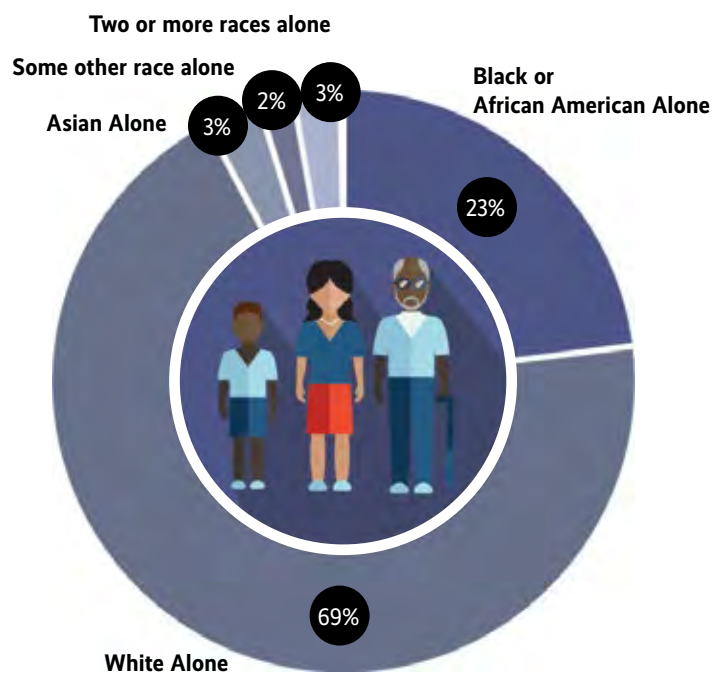


Figure 1.8—Population by Race, Unincorporated Chatham
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

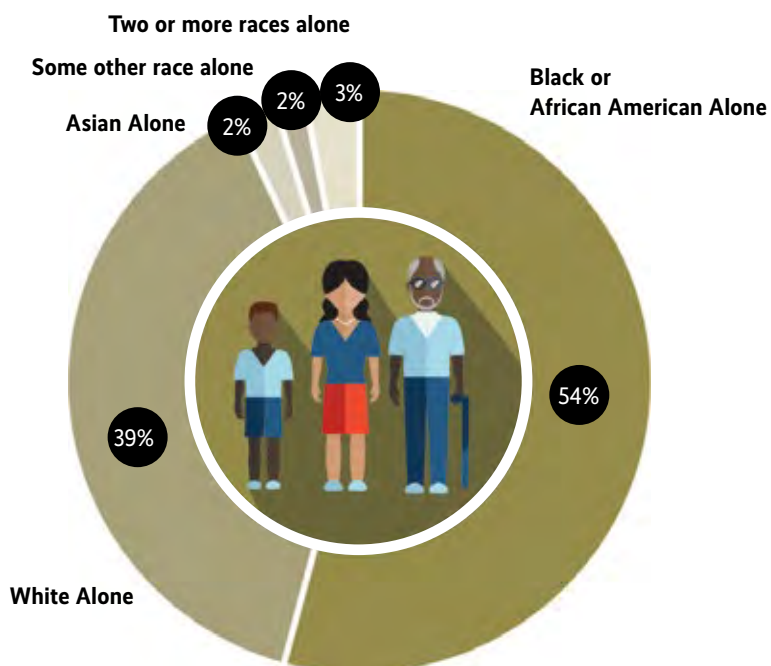


Figure 1.9—Population by Race, Savannah

Diversity Index

The diversity index determines the likelihood that two people chosen at random from a given area will be from different racial or ethnic groups. Higher values indicate more diversity in an area, and lower values indicate less diversity.

On Map 1.1, block groups with high racial and ethnic diversity index scores are shown in shades of blue. These calculations are based on the methodology described in “Mapping the USA’s diversity from 1960 to 2060” in USA TODAY.

Economic Mobility

While job growth and rising median income are important indicators of a community’s economic health, they do not necessarily translate into economic success for every individual and family who live there. For example, Chatham County as a whole has experienced a higher rate of job growth recently than nearly three-quarters of counties across the country, and median household income has increased roughly \$10,000 over the past decade. At the same time, the percentage of residents in poverty has decreased by only three percentage points, and approximately one in six residents still lives below the poverty line today. The recent growth has clearly not translated into economic success for all members of the community. Economic mobility—a child’s chance of moving up the income ladder relative to the household in which they grow up—can offer greater insight into the long-term economic opportunities available in a given community.

In Chatham County, kids raised in low-income households, regardless of race or gender, have only a 4.7% chance of becoming wealthy adults when they grow up. This upward mobility rate ranks among the lowest in the entire U.S. and is lower than any developed country in the world. Children raised in high-income households in the county, on the other hand, are nearly five times more likely to become high-income adults.

While upward mobility for kids raised in low-income households across Chatham County is generally poor, considerable variation exists between neighborhoods within the county as well. Indeed, research has shown that the neighborhood in which a child grows up significantly impacts their ability to climb the income ladder later in life. This means that a child who grows up on a particular block can have a vastly different economic outcome later in life than his/her friend raised in a similar household/socioeconomic circumstances just a few blocks away.

This local variation is illustrated in Map 1.2, which shows the average household income in adulthood of children who grew up in comparable low-income families in different areas across Chatham County. The neighborhoods of Cann-Jackson Park and Chatham Crescent lie on opposite sides of Bull Street in midtown Savannah, yet children raised in similar households within these neighborhoods experience vastly different economic outcomes. A kid born into a low-income family in Chatham Crescent has a 19% chance of becoming a wealthy adult, but if that child were born into a low-income family in Cann-Jackson Park that chance drops to 1.2%.

Economic Mobility by Race, 2018

	Black	White	Hispanic
Household Income as Adults	\$24,000	\$47,000	\$37,000
Household Income as Adults for Kids in Low-Income Families	\$22,000	\$33,000	\$31,000
Household Income as Adults for Kids in Middle-Income Families	\$27,000	\$41,000	\$36,000
Household Income as Adults for Kids in High-Income Families	\$32,000	\$52,000	\$42,000
Upward Mobility Rate (Top 20% of Household Income)	3.8%	24%	13%
Teenage Birth Rate for Women	15%	52%	40%
Incarceration Rate (Men)	44%	15%	22%
College Graduation Rate	15%	1.9%	4.2%
Hours Worked per Week	16%	44%	36%
Hourly Wage	\$14	\$17	\$18

Figure 1.10—Economic Mobility by Race, Chatham County
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

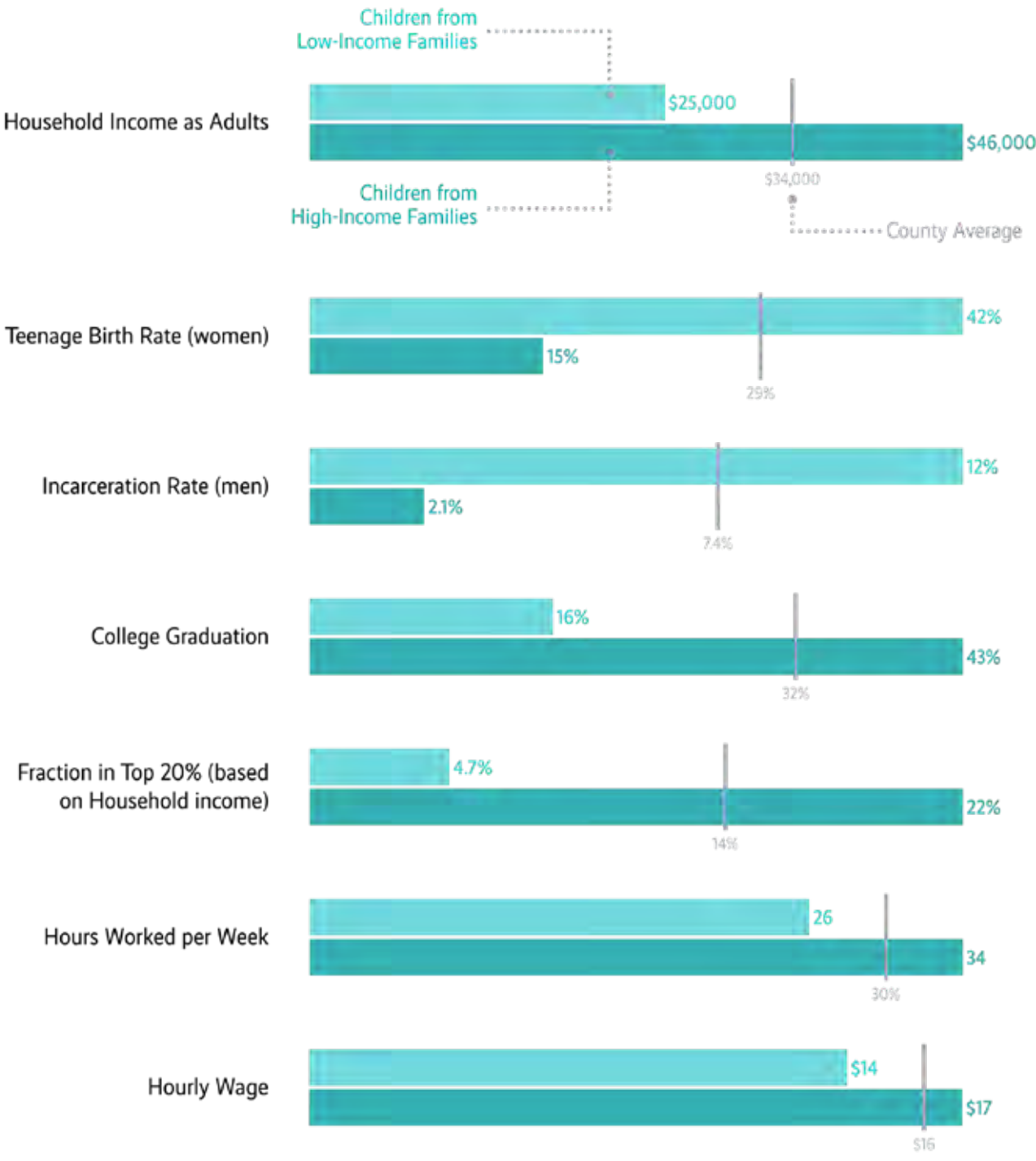


Figure 1.11–Economic Mobility, Chatham County
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Employment

In 2018, in unincorporated Chatham County, 59.1% of people 16 years and older were employed in the civilian labor force and 1.3% of people were in the armed forces; 35.7% of residents over 16 were not in the labor force. An estimated 81.0% of employed people in unincorporated Chatham County were private wage and salary workers; 14.6% work in federal, state, or local government; and 4.4% were self-employed in their own (not incorporated) business.

In 2018, in the city of Savannah, 56.1% of people 16 years and older were employed in the civilian labor force and 1.3% of people were in the armed forces; 36.3% of residents over 16 were not in the labor force (2014–2018). The largest class of employed people were private wage and salary workers (80.8%); 13.8% worked in federal, state, or local government; and 5.5% were self-employed in their own (not incorporated) business. These values for both the county and the city are generally consistent with the national numbers.

The unemployment rate in Chatham County had been declining steadily from mid-2011 until March 2020, when the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were felt across the country. In April 2020, the monthly unemployment rate skyrocketed to 16.5%, higher than the rates of both Georgia (12.2%) and the United States (14.8%).

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

See the Economic Development Element for more detailed discussion on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on area employment.



Unemployment Rate, 1992–2019

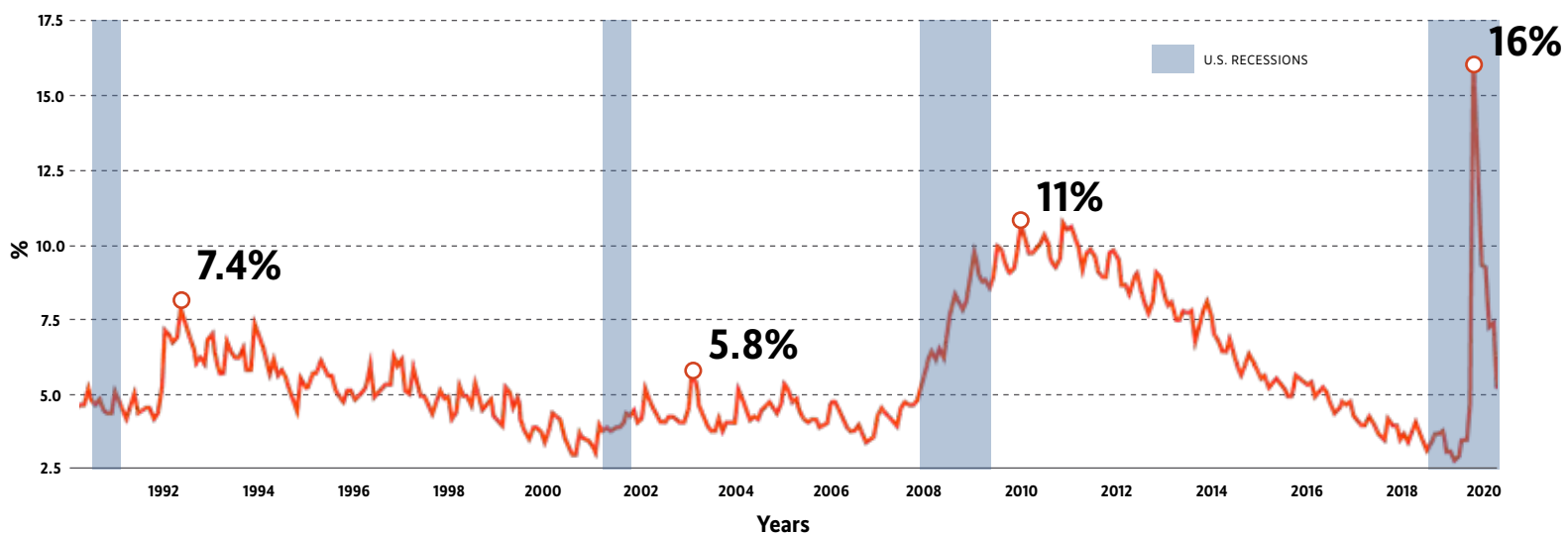


Figure 1.12–Unemployment Rate Over Time, Chatham County
Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED)

Industry

In unincorporated Chatham County, the three largest industries by employment in 2014–2018 were educational services, health care and social assistance (11,953 employees); retail trade (5,026); and arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services (4,399). For comparison purposes, these industries added nearly 3,000 jobs from 2009–2013, two-thirds of which were in the educational services, health care and social assistance industry. The transportation and warehousing, and utilities industry saw the greatest growth in employment during that time, increasing by 39.8%.

In Savannah, the three largest industries by employment in 2014–2018 were educational services, health care and social assistance (15,554 employees); arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (11,093); and retail trade (8,930). Each of these industries saw moderate growth in employment from 2009–2013, adding more than 4,500 jobs in total.



Largest Industries by Employment, 2014–2018

Unincorporated Chatham:



11,953

Educational Services, Healthcare, & Social Assistance



5,026

Retail Trade



4,399

Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, & Accommodation and Food Services

City of Savannah:



15,554

Educational Services, Healthcare, & Social Assistance



11,093

Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, & Accommodation and Food Services



8,930

Retail Trade

Location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of how concentrated a particular industry is in an area relative to the nation as a whole. It compares the industry's share of local employment to the U.S. average. An LQ of 1 indicates an industry is providing the same share of jobs locally as it is nationally, an LQ above 1 indicates a higher-than-average concentration locally, and an LQ below 1 indicates jobs in that industry are less concentrated locally than the national average. The LQs for industries in unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah are shown below.

In unincorporated Chatham County, the transportation and warehousing, and utilities industry was about 1.5 times more concentrated than the national average in 2014–2018. The 3,417 jobs in this sector made up 7.7% of the area's workforce. The same year, Savannah's most concentrated industry was arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services, which accounted for nearly twice the share of employment in the city as it did nationally. The 11,093 jobs in this sector made up 16.8% of the city's workforce.

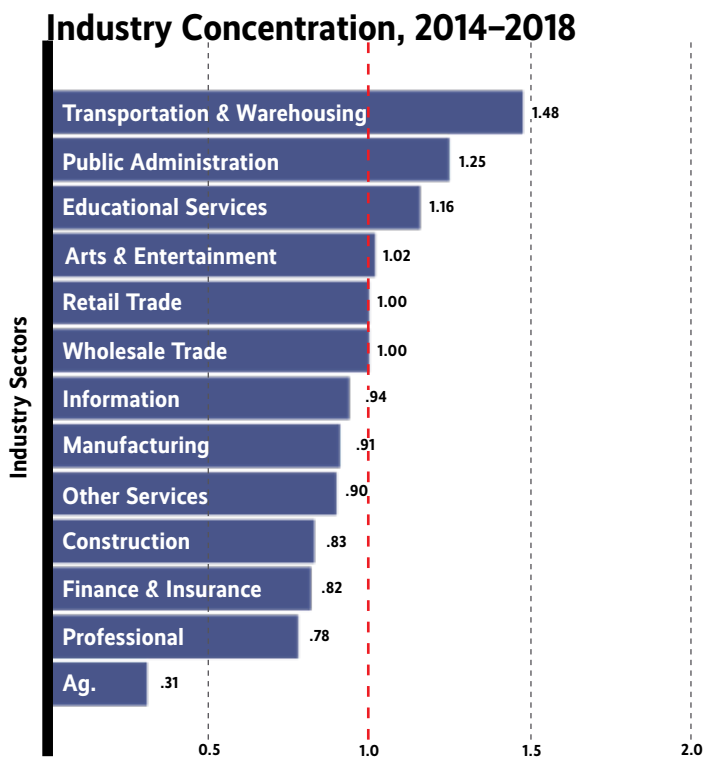


Figure 1.13–Industry Location Quotient, Unincorporated Chatham
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

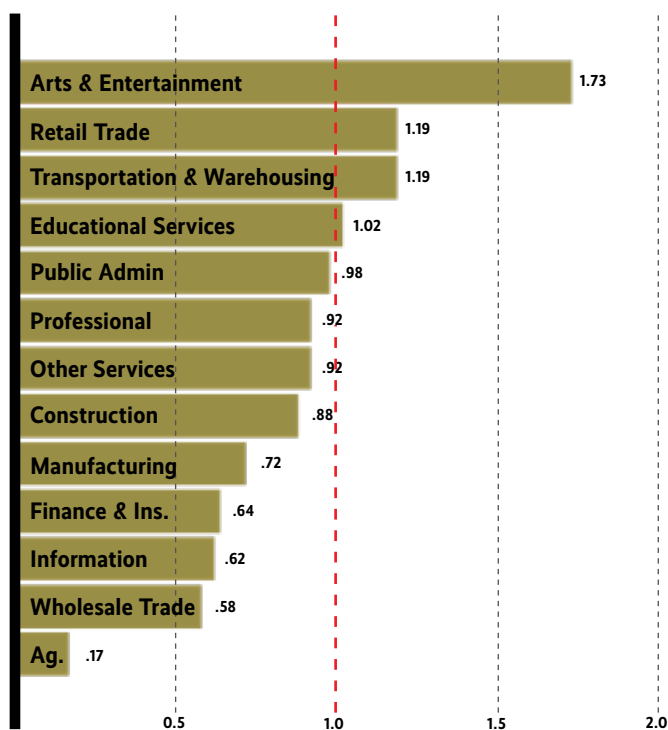


Figure 1.14–Industry Location Quotient, Savannah

Income & Poverty

In 2014–2018, the median household income in unincorporated Chatham County was \$67,404; in Savannah it was \$41,093. The distribution of household incomes in the county and city provides a more comprehensive understanding of the income differences between residents of the two areas. In unincorporated Chatham, nearly one in three households (31.3%) had an annual income of \$100,000 or more; in Savannah, the same percentage of households (31.2%) had an income of less than \$25,000 a year.

An estimated 8.6% of people in unincorporated Chatham County lived below the poverty level in 2014–2018 compared with 22.9% in Savannah. Children under 18 were the most likely age group to be in poverty in both places: in the county, roughly one in eight children lived in poverty (12.6%) versus nearly one in three in Savannah (32.8%). Likewise, females were overrepresented in the population living below poverty level in both the unincorporated areas of the county and the city. In unincorporated Chatham, 7.3% of households received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in the past 12 months compared with 19.7% in the city of Savannah.

Poverty & Income Characteristics, 2014–2018

Unincorporated Chatham:



8.6%

Poverty Level

\$67,404

Median Household Income

City of Savannah:



22.9%

Poverty Level

\$41,093

Median Household Income

Poverty Status by Age, 2014–2018

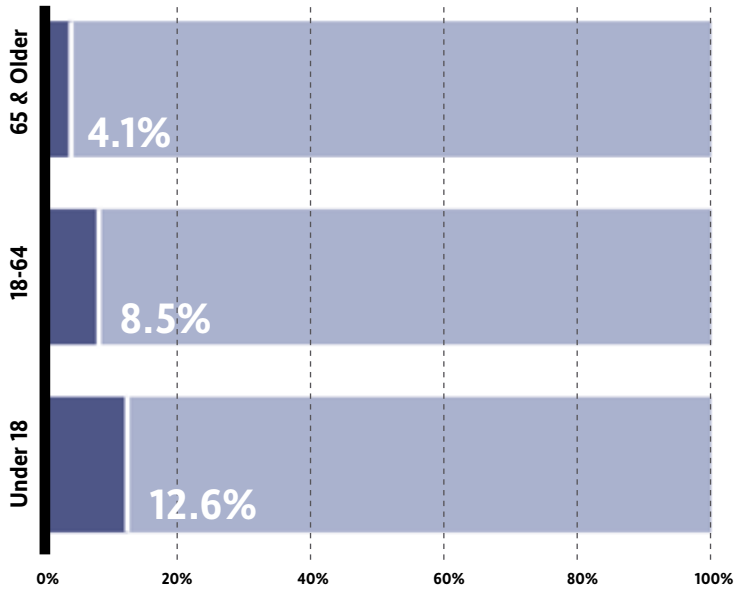


Figure 1.15–Poverty Status by Age, Unincorporated Chatham
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

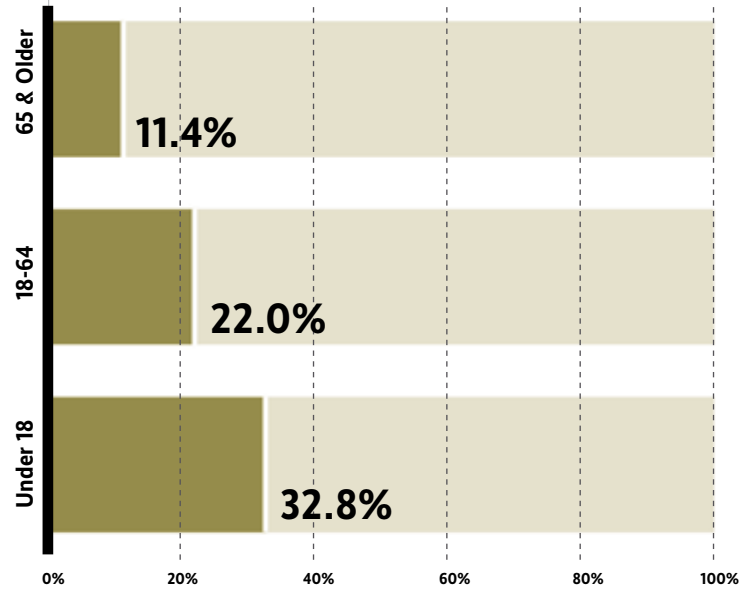


Figure 1.16–Poverty Status by Age, Savannah

Median Household Income, 2014–2018

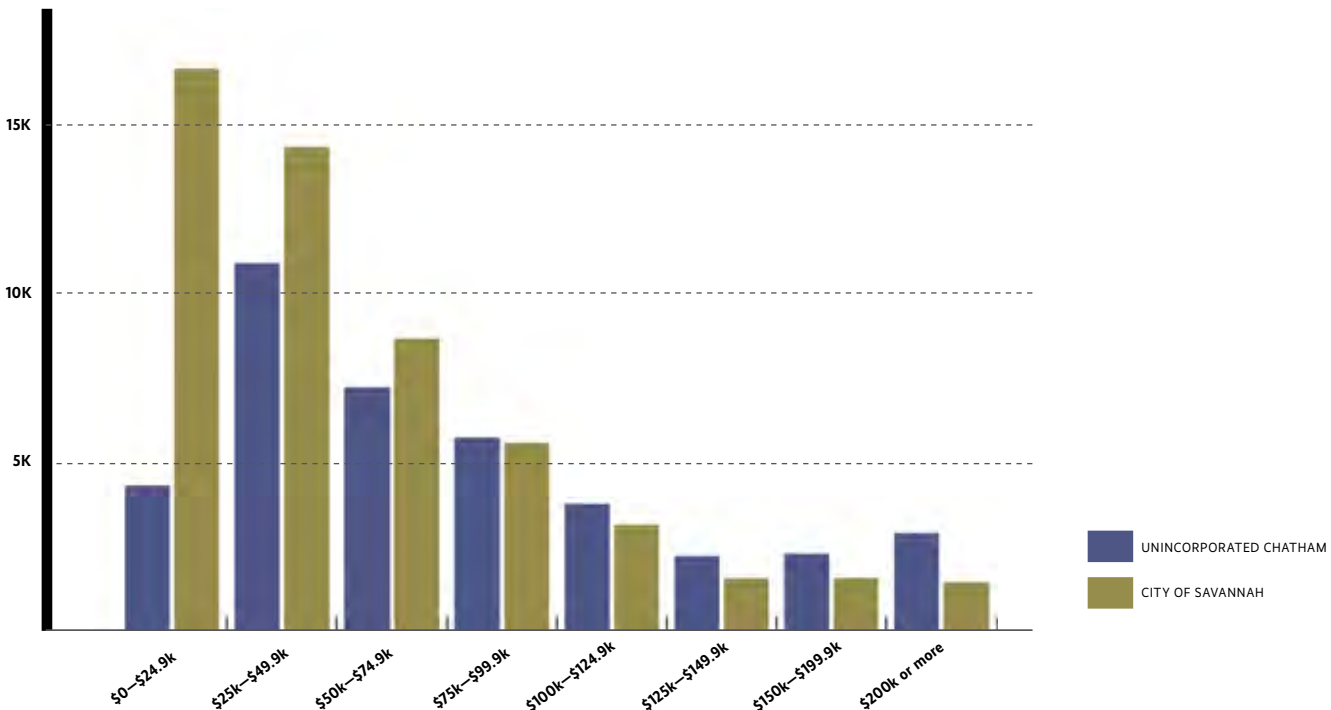


Figure 1.17–Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months (2018 Inflation-Adjusted)
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Households & Families

From 2000–2010, the average household size in Chatham County shrunk slightly from 2.49 to 2.45 people. This is in line with national trends throughout the 20th Century that saw a long-term decline in household size as families had fewer and fewer children over time. Since 2010, however, average household size in both the county and the country as a whole has increased. In 2014–2018, the average household size in Chatham County was 2.54 people. This rise is likely driven by changes in household composition in recent years; although families are postponing childbearing and having fewer children overall, the share of young adults living with their parents has increased at a greater pace, as has the share of multigenerational households.

In 2014–2018, there were an estimated 36,394 households in unincorporated Chatham County and 53,187 in the city of Savannah. In unincorporated Chatham, families made up 67.6% of households, while 32.4% were people living alone or with other non-family members. Savannah had a lower percentage of family households (56.6%), and one-third of households (33.6%) were made up of people living alone.

Household Characteristics, 2014–2018

Unincorporated Chatham:



36,394
Total Households

City of Savannah:



53,187
Total Households

Population by Household Type 2014–2018

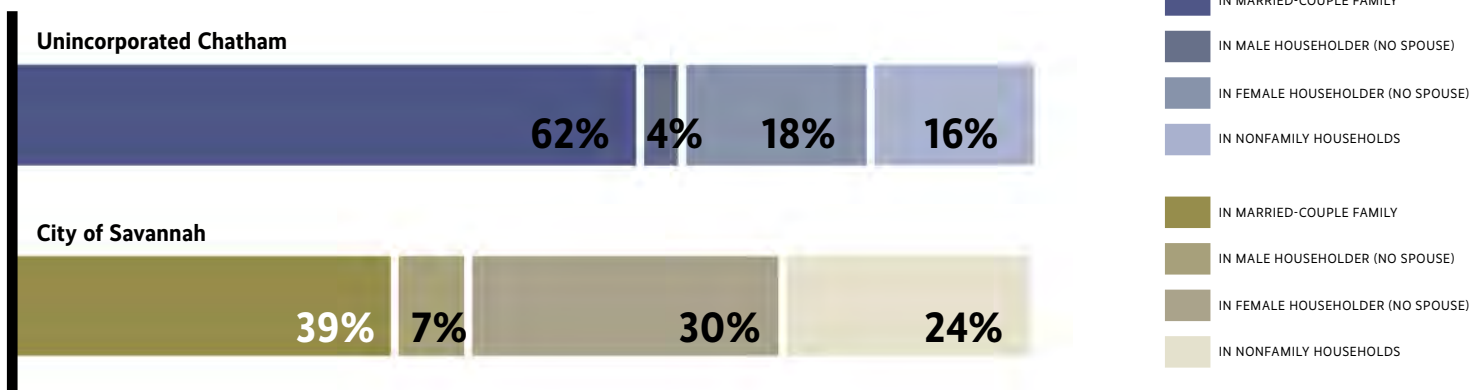
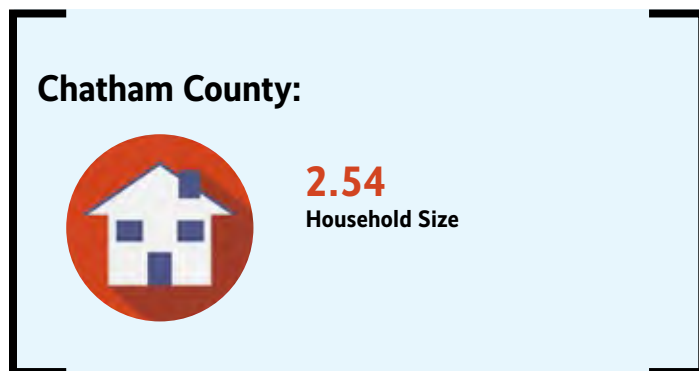


Figure 1.18–Population by Household Type, Unincorporated Chatham & Savannah
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Household Size, 2014–2018



Marital Status, 2014–2018

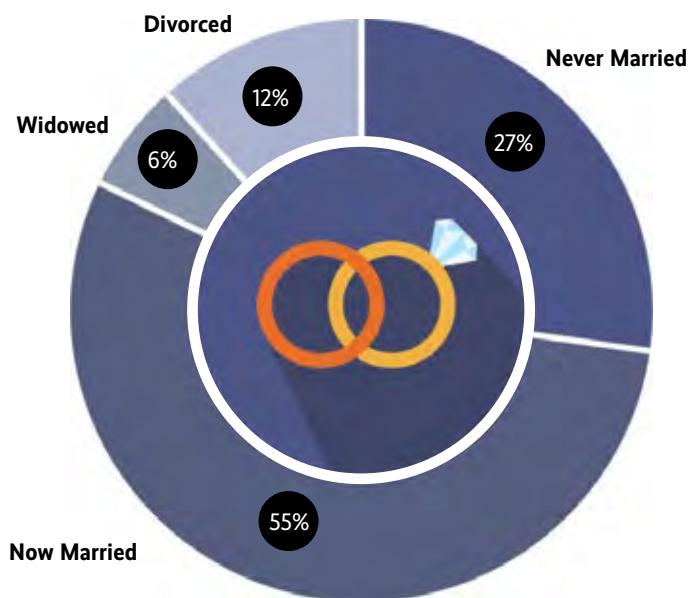


Figure 1.19—Marital Status, Unincorporated Chatham
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

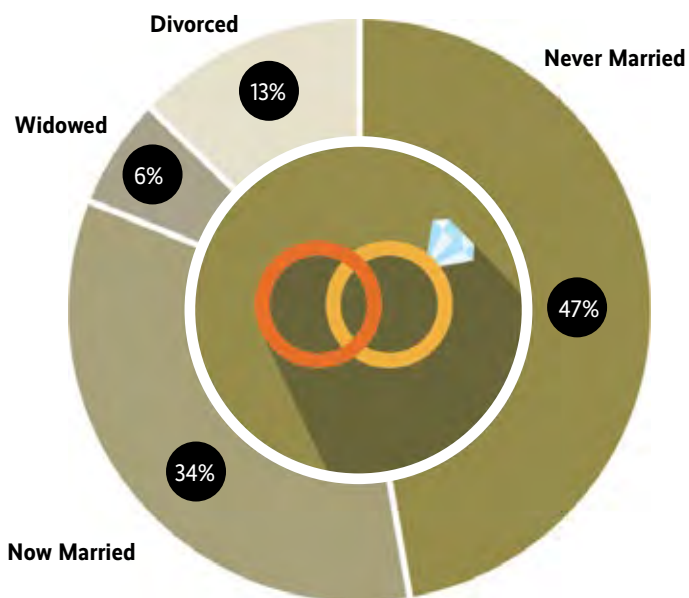


Figure 1.20—Marital Status, Savannah

Housing Units, Ownership, & Tenure

There were an estimated 40,159 housing units in unincorporated Chatham County in 2014–2018. Over 90% of units were occupied, primarily by homeowners (68.3%), with renters inhabiting one out of every three occupied housing units. The estimated rental vacancy rate, or amount of rental stock that is vacant for rent, was 7.5% while the homeowner vacancy rate was just 1.9%. For comparison, the national rental and homeowner vacancy rates for the same year were 6.0% and 1.7%, respectively.

In the city of Savannah, there were 62,236 total housing units in 2014–2018, most of which were single-family houses (62.4%) including both detached and attached residences (i.e., townhouses). Approximately 85.5% of housing units were occupied, with renters making up the majority of occupied housing units (56.1%) compared with homeowners (43.9%). While the rental vacancy rate in Savannah (7.2%) is slightly lower than that of unincorporated Chatham County, the homeowner vacancy rate is much higher at 3.2%.

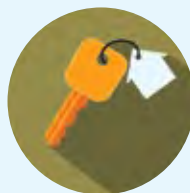
Housing Units, 2014–2018

Unincorporated Chatham:



40,159
Total Housing Units

City of Savannah:



62,236
Total Housing Units

Housing Tenure & Vacancy, 2014–2018

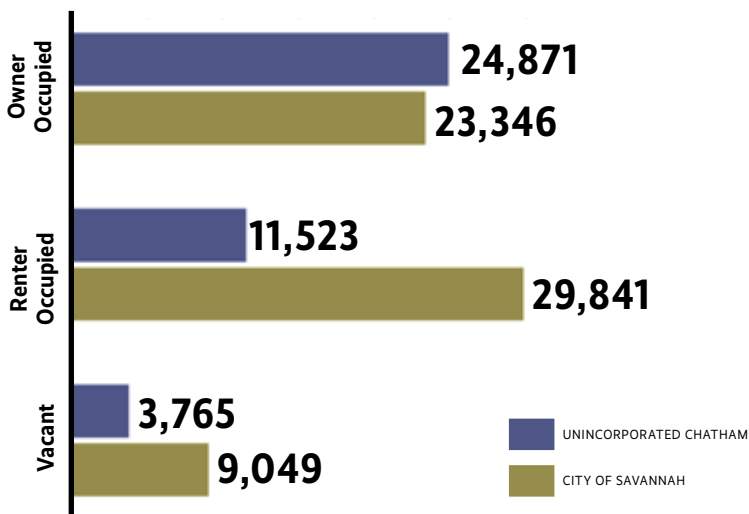


Figure 1.21–Housing Tenure & Vacancy
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Housing Occupancy

As more people have moved into the Chatham County area, the number of housing units has increased along with the population.

In unincorporated Chatham County, there were an estimated 40,000 housing units according to the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, with an occupancy rate of over 90% and a vacancy rate of 9%. In the city of Savannah, there were an estimated 62,000 housing units, 85.5% of which are occupied while 14.5% are vacant. The percentage of occupied and vacant housing units has remained consistent since the year 2000.

Housing Types, 2014–2018

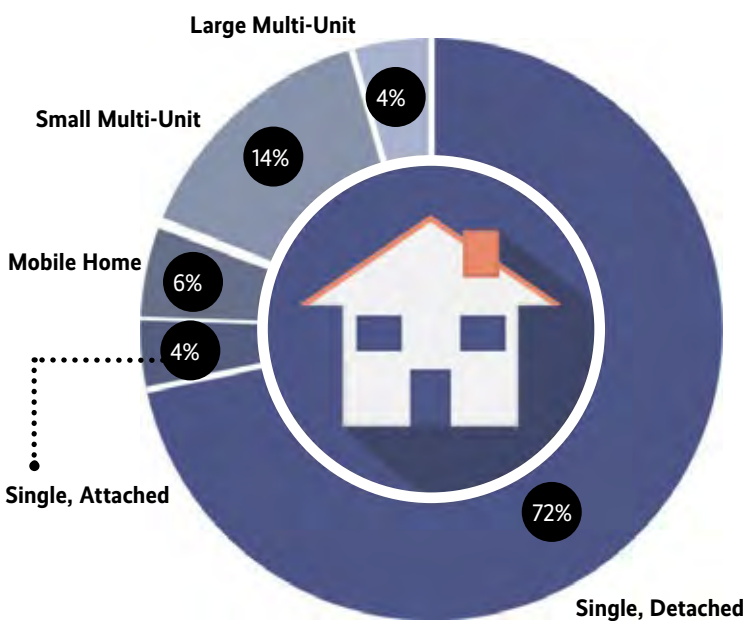


Figure 1.22–Housing Type, Unincorporated Chatham
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

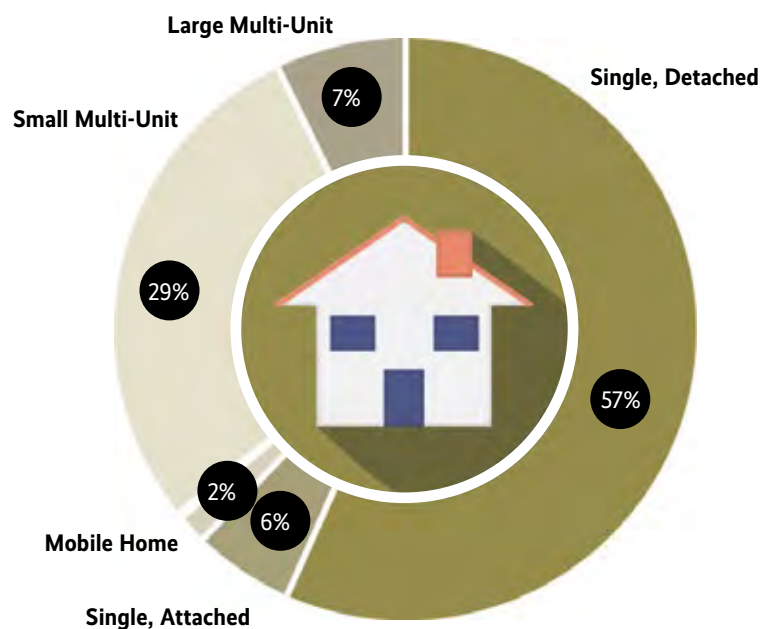


Figure 1.23–Housing Type, Savannah

Housing Value & Costs

In 2014–2018, the median property value of owner-occupied residences in unincorporated Chatham County was \$221,446; in the city of Savannah it was \$151,000. In unincorporated Chatham, the two-thirds of owner-occupied units that had a mortgage spent roughly \$1,596 per month on housing costs, while those without a mortgage spent \$658 per month. Of households with a mortgage, 27.3% were considered cost-burdened, paying at least 30% of their monthly income toward housing expenses. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, cost-burdened households “may have difficulty affording [other] necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.” This is a sizeable decrease from 2009–2013, when 36.6% of households with a mortgage were cost burdened.

For renters in unincorporated Chatham County, the median gross rent was \$1,170 in 2014–2018, and 42.8% of rental households were cost-burdened, down 7.6 percentage points from the share of cost-burdened renters in 2009–2013. In Savannah, the 64.5% of owner-occupied households that had a mortgage typically spent about \$1,312 per month on housing costs compared with \$448 for households without a mortgage. One in three owner-occupied households (33.5%) was considered cost-burdened, down from 42.8% in 2009–2013. The median rent in 2014–2018 was \$977, and more than half of all rental households in the city were cost-burdened (55.4%), down from 60.4% in 2009–2013.

The proportion of cost-burdened homeowners and renters in Savannah is an indication that local wages are not keeping pace with rising housing costs (and likely cost of living) in the area, and that housing affordability is an issue for renters in particular.

Housing Characteristics, 2014–2018

Unincorporated Chatham:



\$221,446
Median Housing Value
\$1,170
Median Gross Rent

City of Savannah:



\$151,000
Median Housing Value
\$977
Median Gross Rent



Residential Construction

The construction of residential buildings is generally a good indicator of a community's growth. There has been a steady pace of building in both Chatham County and the city of Savannah in recent years, with the majority of new construction being single family detached homes.

Figure 1.24 shows the recent residential construction trends in unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah. Estimating the population based on the number of building permits is useful in planning for roads, parks and other amenities, schools, infrastructure, utilities, and services.

Residential Construction Permit Trends, 2018–2020

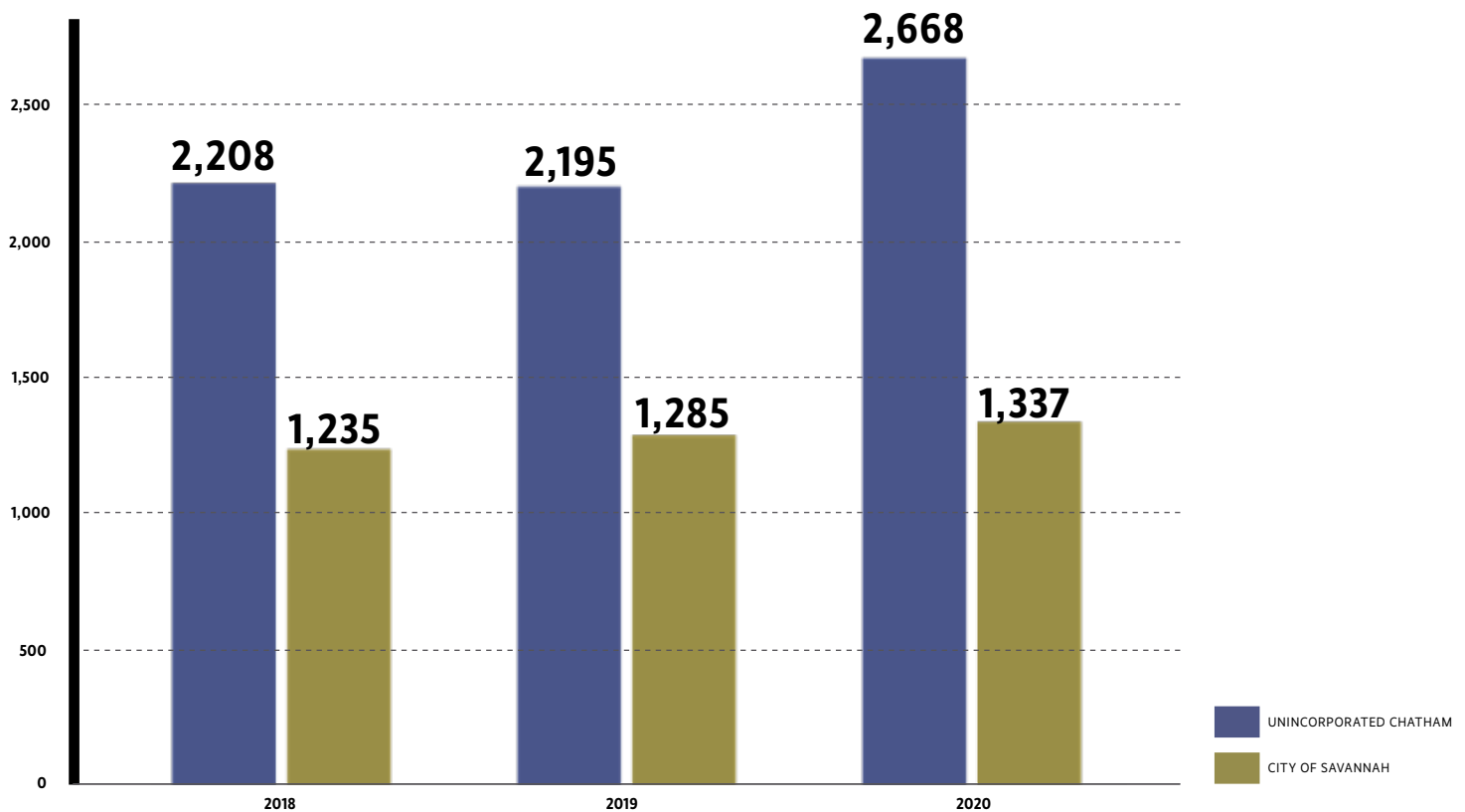


Figure 1.24–Residential Construction Permits, Unincorporated Chatham & Savannah
Chatham County Building Safety & Regulatory Services

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PATTERN

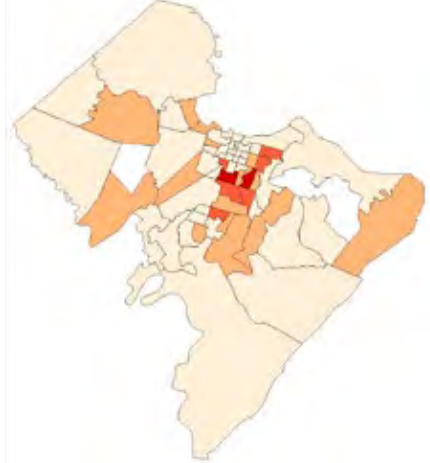
Residential Construction Pre-1940s



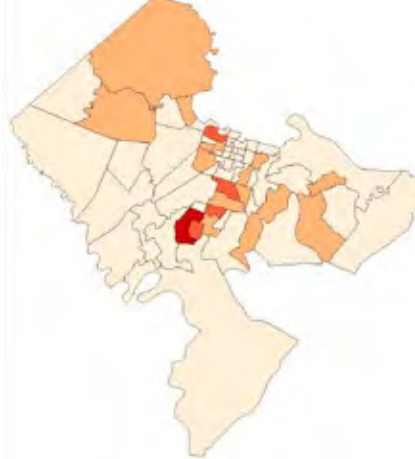
Residential Construction 1940s



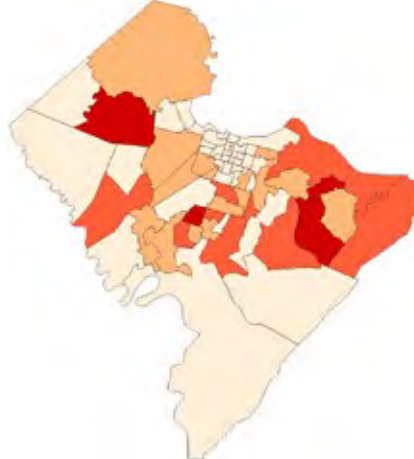
Residential Construction 1950s



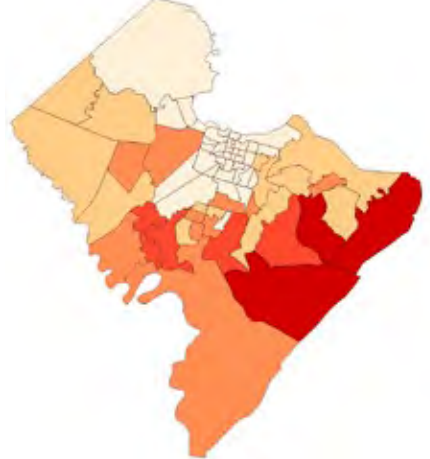
Residential Construction 1960s



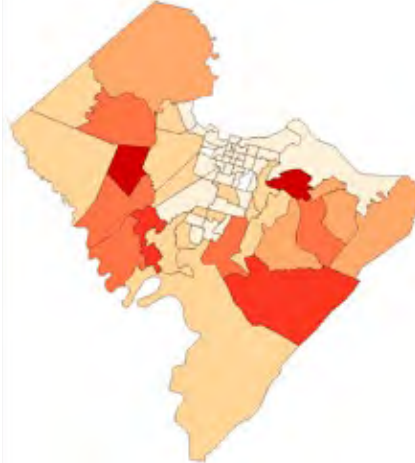
Residential Construction 1970s



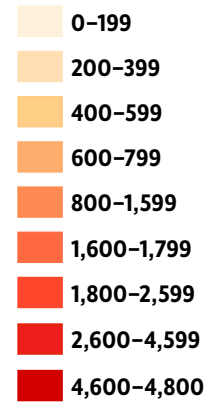
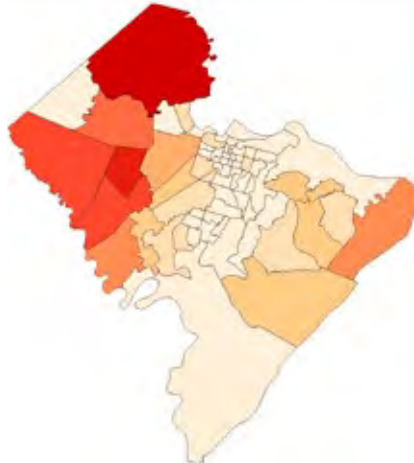
Residential Construction 1980s



Residential Construction 1990s



Residential Construction 2000s



Educational Attainment

People over age 25 in unincorporated Chatham County had a higher level of educational attainment than the average U.S. resident in 2014–2018. Ninety-three percent (93.0%) of residents had at least a high school diploma or high school equivalency, and 41.7% held a bachelor's degree or higher. This is about the same proportion as in 2009–2013, when 92.8% of residents had a high school diploma and 39.3% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

In the city of Savannah, most people over age 25 were high school graduates (87.0%), while 28.1% of residents held a bachelor's degree or higher. Figure 1.25 & 1.26 illustrates the breakdown of educational attainment in unincorporated Chatham and the city of Savannah. These percentages are roughly the same as in 2009–2013, when 85.6% of residents were high school graduates and 26.1% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Educational Characteristics, 2014–2018

Unincorporated Chatham:



93%

At Least a High School Diploma

41.7%

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

City of Savannah:



93%

At Least a High School Diploma

41.7%

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Educational Attainment, 2014–2018

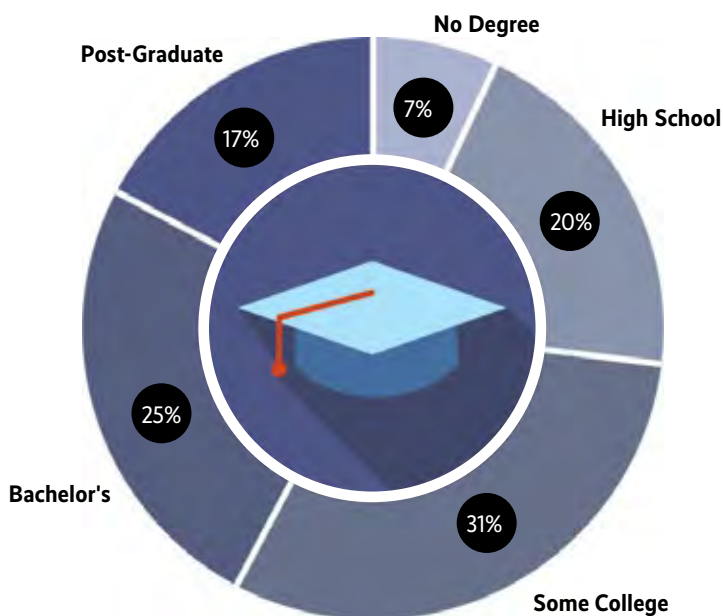


Figure 1.25–Educational Attainment, Unincorporated Chatham
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

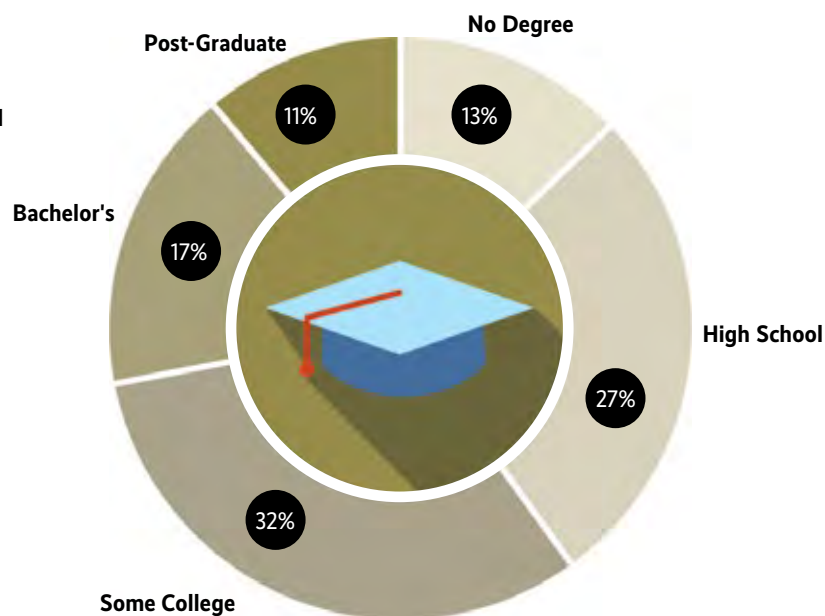


Figure 1.26–Educational Attainment, Savannah

Nativity

In 2014–2018, 94.0% of the population in both unincorporated Chatham County and the city of Savannah were U.S. natives and 6.0% were foreign-born. Of those residents born outside the United States, almost three quarters came from Asia and Latin America (including the Caribbean, Central America, and South America). This was also true in 2009–2013, though immigrants in 2014–2018 were much more likely to be from Asia and less likely to be from Latin America compared to 2009–2013. Figure 1.27 shows the region of birth for foreign-born residents in more detail.

Place of Birth for Foreign Born, 2014–2018

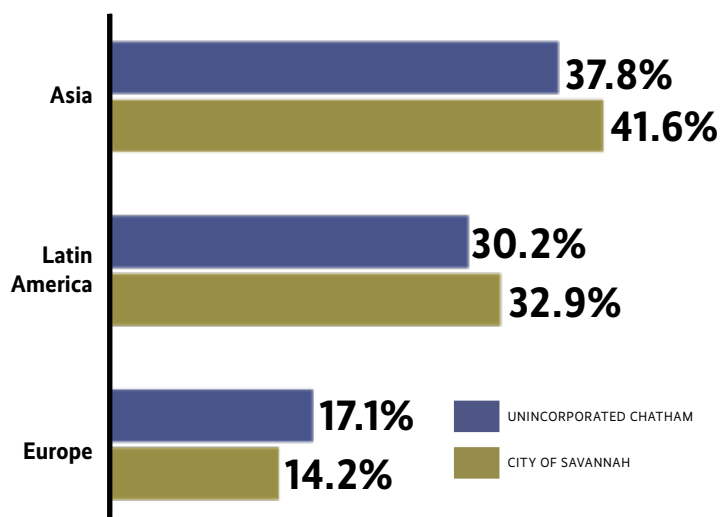


Figure 1.27–Foreign Born Place of Birth
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Languages Spoken at Home, 2014–2018

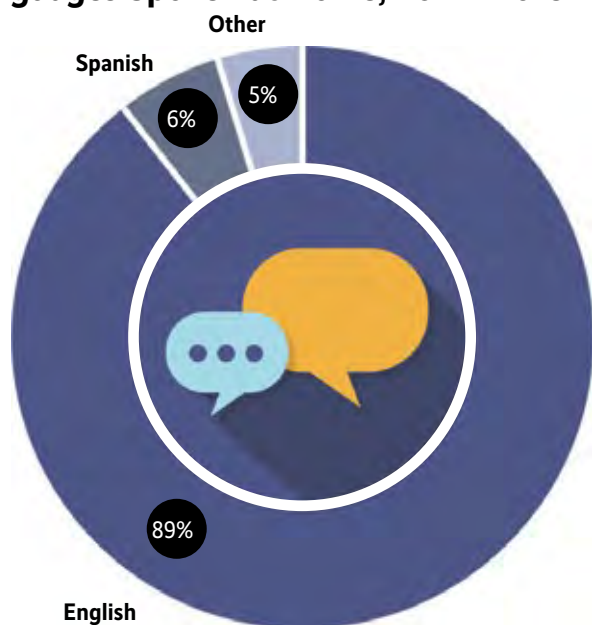


Figure 1.28–Language Spoken at Home, Unincorporated Chatham
U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

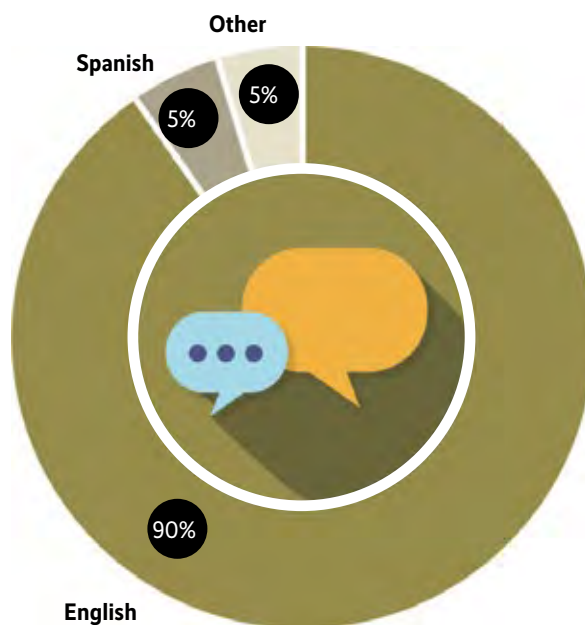


Figure 1.29–Language Spoken at Home, Savannah

Veteran Status

In 2014–2018, approximately 11.3% of adults living in unincorporated Chatham County and 8.8% of adults living in Savannah were veterans. Both areas had a larger proportion of veterans than the state of Georgia (8.2%) and the country as a whole (7.5%). Additionally, local veterans are younger than the national average—53 years old compared with 58 years old— and have served in the military more recently. The period of military service for veterans living in unincorporated Chatham and the city of Savannah is shown in Figure 1.30.

Note that veterans may have served in more than one of the periods listed, percentages in the graphs represented may not sum to 100%.

Veteran Characteristics, 2014–2018

Unincorporated Chatham:



22,982
Total Veteran Population

City of Savannah:



9,916
Total Veteran Population

Military Service for Adult Veterans

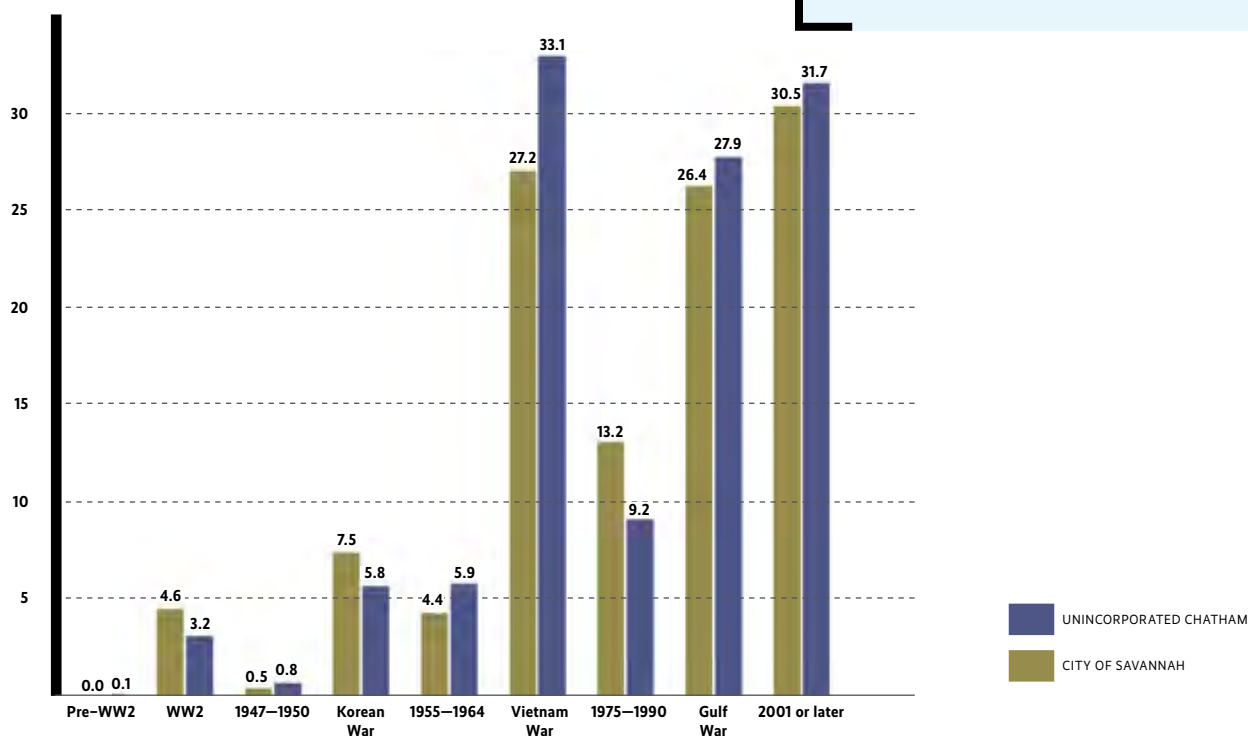


Figure 1.30—Period of Military Service for Adult Veterans, Unincorporated Chatham & Savannah

U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 has touched nearly every aspect of the community and residents' lives in the past year. Chatham County, like every county in the country, suffered the economic, social, educational, and health consequences of the pandemic that, at the time of this writing, has killed over 569,000 Americans. As of April 5, 2021, Chatham County had a total of 19,608 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 394 confirmed deaths, and 1,561 hospitalizations due to COVID-19. At the time these data were acquired, there were an additional 24 probable deaths due to COVID-19 in Chatham County.

As of February 2021, the employment rate in the county had decreased 5.8% compared with January 2020. These job losses have been concentrated primarily in low and middle wage jobs; in fact, the employment rate among workers in the top wage quartile has been above January 2020 levels since statewide “stay at home” orders were lifted on April 30, 2020. Workers in the bottom wage quartile, however, have remained hardest hit; between mid-March and mid-April 2020, the employment rate for low wage jobs dropped nearly 45%.

Unemployment claims in the county reached their peak the first full week of April 2020, when roughly 14,500 people filed an initial claim for unemployment benefits. This corresponds to a rate of 10.4 claims per 100 people in the labor force. The number of unemployment claims has generally been decreasing since then. As of the week ending October 31, 2020, there were 0.88 unemployment claims per 100 people in the county's labor force.

Small businesses have also been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of February 2021, 33% fewer small businesses were open in Chatham County compared with January 2020, and total small business revenue had decreased by 38.5%. By mid-March 2021, however, total consumer spending in Chatham County had nearly rebounded back to pre-pandemic levels.

Overall, Chatham County residents spent 5% less time away from home in April 2021 compared with the start of last year when the pandemic began. When people did leave their residence during this time, the average amount of time spent elsewhere varied significantly depending on their destination, with the most dramatic increase seen in outdoor activity.

- The total time spent at grocery stores increased 2.9%
- Total time spent in parks increased 64.7%
- Total time spent at retail and restaurant locations increased 1.6%
- Total time spent at transit locations decreased 24%
- Total time spent in the workplace decreased 29.6%



Percent Change in Employment

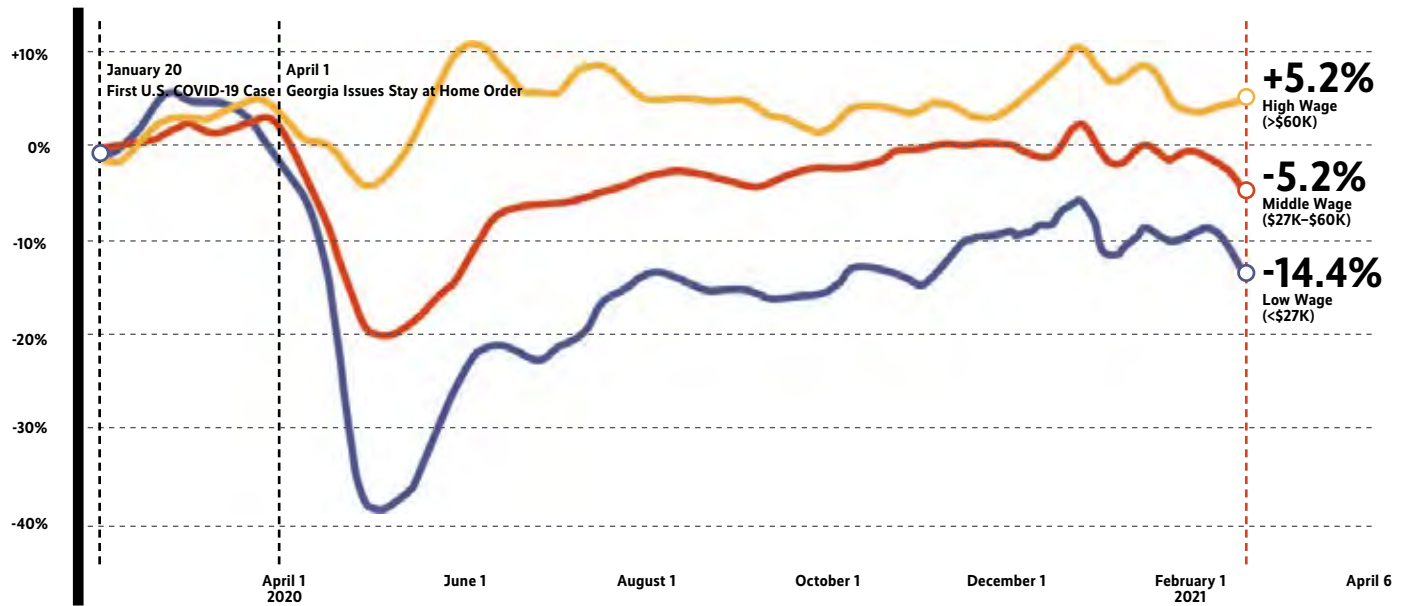


Figure 1.31—Percent Change in Employment, Chatham County

Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker; Earnin; Intuit; Kronos; Paychex

Time Spent Outside Home

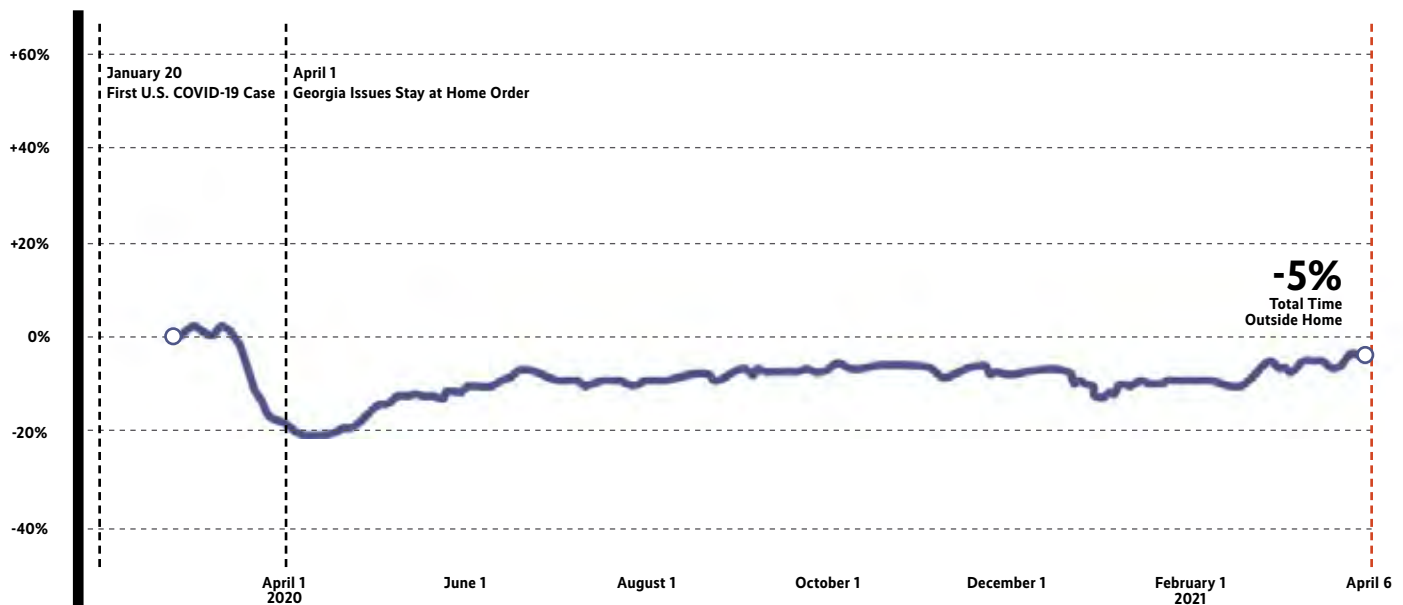


Figure 1.32—Percent Change in Time Spent Outside Home, Chatham County

Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker; Google: COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports

Data & Calculations

All data presented in the Community Profile are for unincorporated Chatham County and the city of Savannah unless otherwise noted. Most of these data are from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) multiyear estimates covering the 2014–2018 period (the most current publicly available ACS multiyear data at the time of access). ACS 5-year estimates represent data collected over a period of 60 months, and describe the general social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics of a geographic area over that entire period of time. These multiyear estimates offer the additional benefit of having smaller margins of error and being more statistically reliable than the single-year estimates also published by the ACS. The 2018 ACS 5-year estimates in the Plan 2040 Community Profile are based on municipal boundaries as of January 1, 2018. To better understand trends within the county, it is important to only use non-overlapping periods of the ACS multiyear estimates. Therefore, the 2013 5-year ACS data covering the years 2009–2013 is used throughout the chapter to compare data over time.

The Census Bureau publishes ACS 5-year data for multiple different geographies, including counties, cities/towns, census tracts, and block groups (among many others). While ACS data for the city of Savannah were obtained directly from the Census Bureau, estimates for Unincorporated Chatham County—a non-standard geographic area for which ACS data are not explicitly published—had to be derived separately. Typically, this is done by aggregating data for smaller geographic units such as tracts up to the desired geographic level. In Chatham County, however, this method was not suitable because municipal boundaries do not line up with the boundaries of any smaller geographic units.

In general, most of the statistics for unincorporated Chatham County were calculated using the following steps:

1. Data was downloaded for each of the eight municipalities in Chatham County as well as for Chatham County as a whole
2. The data was summed across all of the municipalities
3. The sum for the municipalities was subtracted from the value for Chatham County as a whole

Additional statistical calculations were completed to obtain margins of error for all derived estimates. For more information about this process, or any other calculations in the Community Profile, please contact the Advance Planning Department of the Chatham County—Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Other key data sources include: U.S. Census Bureau (Decennial Censuses, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, Population Estimates Program), U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Opportunity Insights, as well as several departments and offices of the state of Georgia.



COMMUNITY GOALS

Introduction

The vision statement and goals that emerged through the Plan 2040 comprehensive planning process represent the voices of the community as expressed in virtual meetings, pop-up events, and a survey conducted during 2020 and 2021.

The following results describe our community vision and goals for the next twenty years.

PLAN 2040

VISION & GOALS

Introduction

The Vision and Goals are the product of public involvement and identify Plan 2040's direction for the future and are intended to serve as a guide to unincorporated Chatham and Savannah officials in day-to-day decision making. They are the product of public involvement and the following components:

Each of these components was previously established in the county and city's prior Comprehensive Plan; however, through the Plan 2040 update process, community members were given an opportunity to revisit and update each component.

The Vision

The Vision paints a picture of what Chatham County and Savannah desire to become. The vision statements being offered were refined through discussions with the MPC subcommittee, stakeholders, and participants.

The vision statements are supported by the goals created to help shape Chatham County and Savannah's future development.

Goals

Goals are long-term outcomes the county and city hope to achieve by implementing the Comprehensive Plan. They are aspirational, expressing Chatham and Savannah's collective desires and values for the future.

The community identified a number of goals to achieve in order to make Chatham and Savannah's vision a continuing reality. The following goals represent the recurring themes, and like the vision statement, were derived from a review process involving county and city staff, the community advisory committee, and members of the public.





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah are anchors to a thriving, business-friendly, regional economy in which all workers are prepared for quality jobs, and residents feel empowered to attain a high quality of life

GOALS:

1. Using accurate and reliable data, link current and projected needs of employers through the development of apprenticeship and vocational programs for the placement of individuals with quality employment leading to self-sufficiency
2. Foster a positive environment that provides opportunities for all businesses
3. Increase economic mobility by reducing barriers and creating opportunities for quality employment for young adults, the economically disadvantaged, justice involved, and individuals with behavioral health needs
4. Implement outreach and programming that lead to economically inclusive entrepreneurial growth and innovation through the enhanced presence of small business support services and collaboration among local businesses
5. Become a community with economically vibrant, safe neighborhoods and commercial centers



LAND USE

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah are healthy and safe places to live, work, play and raise a family, and have social and economic values that integrate the area's history, natural resources, efficient government, and public mobility system

GOALS:

1. Establish growth policies for the city of Savannah that seek to guide development and redevelopment in a responsible manner, encouraging compact development, walkable neighborhoods, increased connectivity, and open space preservation
2. Identify and prioritize future annexations that are regionally coordinated and promote responsible growth
3. Utilize small area and corridor plans as a means to protect the character of existing areas and ensure new development is compatible
4. Continue to create innovative ways to connect people with places
5. Enhance the character and image of major corridors by implementing the design and construction of safe, attractive, vibrant, and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes that project a positive image while encouraging walking



TRANSPORTATION

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah prioritize safe mobility for all users; offer efficient mobility options to support economic vitality; provide infrastructure that is sensitive to unique local characteristics; connect neighborhoods to education, employment, and services; and sustain environmental quality with clean mobility modes

GOALS:

1. Support safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation designs and improvements that enhance neighborhood connectivity for all modes of travel including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists
2. Improve accessibility to employment centers, institutions, commercial corridors, and recreational facilities equitably through multi-modal connections, bikeways, trails and greenways
3. Maintain and preserve transportation infrastructure in a manner that protects unique regional characteristics, quality-of-life, and the environment
4. Maintain and enhance transportation infrastructure that supports and enables local, regional and global economic vitality and competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency
5. Promote and provide equitable neighborhood connectivity and built environments that encourage active and healthy lifestyles through the strategic placement of bicycle and pedestrian pathways, public parks, enforcement of road regulations, and education about health benefits



HOUSING

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah achieve affordable, diverse and safe housing for their residents through efficient and effective policies and programs

GOALS:

1. Improve neighborhood stability where all residents, regardless of income, can occupy, maintain, and improve their homes without undue financial hardship
2. Increase supportive housing for special needs populations, such as individuals who are homeless, mentally ill, disabled, and residents in drug recovery
3. Increase affordable housing stock
4. Decrease homelessness



NATURAL RESOURCES

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah are enhanced by the protection and maintenance of natural resources and ecosystems

GOALS:

1. Protect the public health, safety, and welfare of residents from flood hazards
2. Enhance water, flooding, and hazard related public education and outreach efforts
3. Monitor projections for changing future conditions and implement plans, policies, and property protection to reduce potential damages
4. Preserve and protect potable water sources to ensure adequate drinking water supplies for existing and future residents
5. Protect and preserve existing tree canopy and require planting of additional native trees during the development process to mitigate negative impacts of stormwater runoff and the heat island effect of large areas of impervious surfaces, in addition to improving air quality
6. Increase communities' adaptive capacity and resiliency
7. Manage the impacts of climate change as it relates to land use and development through mitigation and adaptation measures
8. Proactively manage stormwater runoff
9. Plan for the mitigation and redevelopment of brownfields for productive uses



QUALITY OF LIFE

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah citizens achieve a superior quality of life within a safe, active, and healthy environment inclusive of the area's history, natural resources, public mobility, and efficient government



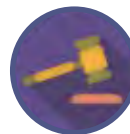
HISTORIC RESOURCES



EDUCATION



COMMUNITY HEALTH



PUBLIC SAFETY



BROADBAND & FIBER OPTICS



HISTORIC RESOURCES

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah as historical and emerging cultural resources provide unique advantages to balance preservation with development and economic growth

GOALS:

1. Survey culturally, historically, and architecturally significant sites, buildings, and structures in unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah
2. Incorporate affordable housing strategies into current and future preservation plans
3. Identify and address community health issues that impact historic preservation efforts and encourage healthy communities through historic preservation
4. Identify and address climate resiliency strategies and incorporate them into a climate resiliency plan for unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah's historic and cultural resources
5. Broaden historic preservation efforts to highlight and include historically underrepresented stories, sites, and communities
6. Create new and support existing heritage tourism programs in unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah in order to highlight their cultural and historic heritage
7. Promote the preservation and public awareness of culturally and archaeologically significant sites in unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah



EDUCATION

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah are innovative and inclusive educational systems, and are a model of academic excellence that enables students to have the knowledge, skills and ability to succeed at chosen pathways

GOALS:

1. Ensure equitable access of critical life skills including soft skills, financial, social, and conflict resolution skills are available to parents/legal guardians and taught to all students through the use of technology, community partnerships, and counseling
2. Implement career track, internship, and mentorship programs between employers and students while increasing leadership development programs between community organizations, businesses, and public schools to prepare students for employment and promote upward mobility
3. Plan for changing populations, capacities, and overcrowding and increase the quality of education and academic performance at SCCPSS
4. Incentivize and promote parental involvement in schools by teaching parents to advocate for their child(ren), facilitating better communication between parents and school leadership, and eliminating barriers to parent engagement
5. Ensure families and community members have the ability to promote and reinforce literacy and numeracy instruction that takes place in a student's learning experience



COMMUNITY HEALTH

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah have a culture of health including equal access to quality and affordable healthcare, chronic disease prevention, health inclusive policies, and healthy environmental design

GOALS:

1. Effectively address mental health by educating the public and reducing stigma, increasing early intervention programs, removing gaps and barriers, and increasing access to treatment including returning and detained residents, children, adolescents, and the homeless
2. Invest in community-based health resources to increase health equity by providing access to preventive health services, health education, and strategies to encourage individuals and families to adopt healthy behaviors
3. Instill healthy practices in schools by providing comprehensive health education, nutrient-rich foods, opportunities for physical activity, and prevention education including, but not limited to, violence prevention
4. Increase access to healthy food for populations that are most likely to be food-insecure such as older adults, children, those in poverty, and those who live in food apartheid



PUBLIC SAFETY

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah provide a community that is a safe place to live, work, and raise a family, and within which protection of residents is considered an integral part of its social and economic values

GOALS:

1. Ensure better quality of life through multifaceted strategies of public safety. The strategies include reducing crime by focusing on asset building; meeting community needs; expanding visibility and capacity of resources and programs provided by first responders; and building trust between law enforcement and residents
2. Develop local and regional collaboration among organizations to improve the delivery of social services and to expand resources including, but not limited to, behavioral health and public health services
3. Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency



BROADBAND & FIBER OPTICS

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah have closed the digital divide to ensure access to fast affordable, and reliable broadband while acquiring world class broadband network capabilities to accelerate high-tech business development

GOALS:

1. Ensure all of Chatham County has access to broadband service



SHORT TERM WORK PROGRAM

Introduction

The Short Term Work Program Element consists of projects that are ongoing or should be launched over the next five years to further the goals of the plan. The STWP is organized by element and lists the time line, lead partner, funding sources, and general cost estimates.

A Report of Accomplishments is also included in this element and tracks the progress on activities and goals established and will be reported on an annual basis.

GLOSSARY

The following symbols and terms are used in the Short Term Work Program; please refer back to this page with questions.

Cost Estimate	Range
ST	Staff Time
\$	Under \$100,000
\$\$	\$100,000—\$1,000,000
\$\$\$	\$1,000,000—\$10,000,000
\$\$\$\$	Over \$10,000,000

Abbreviation	Organization
BWS	Bike Walk Savannah
CAT	Chatham Area Transit Authority
CCCS	Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Savannah
CCDA	Chatham County District Attorney
CCSD	Chatham County Sheriff Department
CEMA	Chatham Emergency Management Agency
CGIC	Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition
CHD	Coastal Health District
CHSA	Community Housing Services Agency
COC	Chamber of Commerce
CSAH	Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless
CWDB	Coastal Workforce Development Board
DCA	Georgia Department of Community Affairs
DCH	Georgia Department of Community Health
DDS	Georgia Department of Driver Services
DECAL	Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
DOL	Georgia Department of Labor
DJJ	Department of Juvenile Justice
EOA	Equal Opportunity Authority

Abbreviation	Organization
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
FD	Fire Departments (Multi-Jurisdictional)
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOF	Friends of Forsyth
GA	State of Georgia
GADNR	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
GAEPD	Georgia Environmental Protection Division
GC	Georgia Conservancy
GCSB	Gateway Community Service Board
GDOS	Georgia Department of Community Supervision
GDOT	Georgia Department of Transportation
GEMA	Georgia Emergency Management Agency
GFC	Georgia Forestry Commission
GLT	Georgia Land Trust
GPA	Georgia Ports Authority
GSU	Georgia Southern University
HAS	Housing Authority of Savannah
HS	Healthy Savannah
HSF	Historic Savannah Foundation
HPD	DCA Historic Preservation Division
JA	Junior Achievement
LBA	Chatham & Savannah Land Bank Authority
LG	Local Government (Multi-Jurisdictional)
LH	Local Hospitals
LIB	Local Libraries
LIFE	Living Independence for Everyone

Abbreviation	Organization
MPC	Metropolitan Planning Commission
NPS	National Park Service
N/A	Non-Applicable
PD	Police Departments (Multi-Jurisdictional)
SACC	Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
SBA	Savannah Business Alliance
SBAC	Small Business Assistance Corporation
SBDC	Small Business Development Center
SBEN	Small Business Entrepreneurial Network
SBHU	Savannah Behavioral Health Unit
SCCPSS	Savannah Chatham County Public School System
SEC	Savannah Entrepreneurial Center
SEDA	Savannah Economic Development Authority
SFC	Savannah Film Commission
SHPO	Georgia State Historic Preservation Office
SN	Safety Net Planning Board
SSU	Savannah State University
STC	Savannah Technical College
STF	Savannah Tree Foundation
SU	Step Up Savannah
UGAE	University of Georgia Extension Agency
USDOT	United State Department of Transportation
UWCE	United Way of the Coastal Empire

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



VISION

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah are anchors to a thriving, business-friendly, regional economy in which all workers are prepared for quality jobs, and residents feel empowered to attain a high quality of life

GOALS:

1. Using accurate and reliable data, link current and projected needs of employers through the development of apprenticeship and vocational programs for the placement of individuals with quality employment leading to self-sufficiency
2. Foster a positive environment that provides opportunities for all businesses
3. Increase economic mobility by reducing barriers and creating opportunities for quality employment for young adults, the economically disadvantaged, justice involved, and individuals with behavioral health needs
4. Implement outreach and programming that leads to economically inclusive entrepreneurial growth and innovation through the enhanced presence of small business support services and collaboration among local businesses
5. Become a community with economically vibrant, safe neighborhoods and commercial centers

GOAL 1

Using accurate and reliable data, link current and projected needs of employers through the development of apprenticeship and vocational programs for the placement of individuals with quality employment leading to self-sufficiency

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
E.1.1	Facilitate a network to align employers, training providers, and job seekers through incentives to connect training programs with living wage career opportunities	2022-2023	CGIC, CWDB, SACC, STC, SU	LG, Grants	ST
E.1.2	Increase the number of opportunities for job shadowing, internships, and apprenticeship programs, to meet the demand of Coastal Georgia, particularly targeted to youth and young adults	2022-2023	ASU, CGIC, CWDG, LG, SACC, SEDA	LG, Grants	ST
E.1.3	Increase capacity and opportunities for individuals to receive training to develop skills that lead to employment or entrepreneurship	2022-2026	CGIC, STC, EOA, SU	LG, Grants	\$
E.1.4	Create a working group of employers in support of employees being paid a living wage and having access to benefits	2022-2023	CGIC, CWDB, SACC, STC, SU, LG	LG, Grants	ST
E.1.5	Advocate for policies and programs to increase employment opportunities for returning citizens and implement strategies that promote hiring of people impacted by the criminal justice system	2022-2026	CGIC, CWDB, SACC, STC, SU, LG, CCSD, PD	LG, Grants	ST
E.1.6	Increase and improve broader collaboration between workforce development entities to link jobs to employees by using clearinghouse of apprenticeship and internship opportunities	2022-2023	CGIC, CWDB, SACC, STC, SU, LG	LG, Grants	ST

GOAL 2

Foster a positive environment that provides opportunities for all businesses

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
E.2.1	Continue to facilitate the establishment of minority and women-owned businesses (M/WBE) as defined by the United States Small Business Administration Federal Contract Program	2022-2026	LG, SACC, SEDA, SBA, SBAC, SBDC, SBEN	N/A	ST
E.2.2	Identify and remove obstacles to existing and proposed businesses in targeted redevelopment areas	2022-2023	LG, SACC, SEDA, SBA	N/A	ST

GOAL 3

Increase economic mobility by reducing barriers and creating opportunities for quality employment for young adults, the economically disadvantaged, justice involved, and individuals with behavioral health needs

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
E.3.1	Provide connections to education and trades to help the economically disadvantaged, justice involved, and individuals with behavioral health needs by providing a community-based scholarship programs or similar incentives	2022-2023	CGIC, SACC, SEDA, SU, GDSCS, LG	LG, Grants	\$
E.3.2	Increase capacity of case management and mentorship to provide employment, wrap-around and support services for families	2025-2026	CGIC, HAS, SU, UW, LG	LG, Grants	\$\$
E.3.3	Increase awareness and use of tax incentives for employers serving and employing those who qualify under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit	2022-2023	CGIC, LG, SACC, SEDA	N/A	ST
E.3.4	Prioritize and implement meaningful action with the entire community that addresses patterns of racial and ethnic inequities in housing, nutrition, healthcare, economic mobility, and wealth building	2022-2023	CGIC, SEC, SACC, SEDA, LG	N/A	\$
E.3.5	Provide employers with best practices to increase retention and reduce turnover	2022-2023	CGIC, SEC, SEDA, SACC, LG	LG, Grants	\$
E.3.6	Increase awareness about, and access to, financial support services available to those living in the greatest impoverished zip codes	2022-2023	CGIC, HAS, SU, UW, LG	LG, Grants	\$
E.3.7	Increase programming for returning citizens including connections to mental health, housing, workforce development, and basic transitional needs, especially those at high risk to re-offend	2022-2026	CGIC, HAS, SU, UW, LG, PD, DJJ	LG, Grants	\$\$
E.3.8	Provide case management with education regarding best practices on the provision of services	2025-2026	CGIC, CWDB, HAS, SACC, STC, SU, LG	LG, Grants	\$\$
E.3.9	Explore funding mechanisms to provide additional financial support to a more diverse economy and establish action steps that will promote regional innovation	2022-2023	CGIC, SEDA, SACC, LG	LG, Grants	ST
E.3.10	Expand the local film industry	2022-2023	SEDA, SFC, LG	Private Partners, LG, Grants	\$\$

GOAL 4

Implement outreach and programming that leads to economically inclusive entrepreneurial growth and innovation through the enhanced presence of small business support services and collaboration among local businesses

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
E.4.1	Increase efficiency of permitting and licensing policies for businesses through streamlining procedures and creating matching county and municipality requirements	2026	LG	LG	\$
E.4.2	Increase employee up-skilling opportunities for career progression	2022-2023	LG, SEDA, SBAC, SBDC, SBEN	LG	ST
E.4.3	Develop policy including incentives for start-up of small and existing businesses	2022-2023	LG, SBAC, SBDC, SBEN	LG	ST

GOAL 5

Become a community with economically vibrant, safe neighborhoods and commercial centers

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
E.5.1	Promote mixed-use development where appropriate with densities higher than 25 units per acre to encourage safe, sustainable neighborhoods that also reduce dependency on vehicular transportation that generates greenhouse-gas emissions	2022-2023	MPC	N/A	ST
E.5.2	Propose a policy to prioritize active transportation infrastructure to facilitate walking, biking, and transit to commercial corridors	2022-2023	MPC, LG, CAT	LG	ST
E.5.3	Evaluate a policy to reduce regulatory barriers for new businesses by establishing "code-light zones."	2022-2023	MPC, LG	LG, Grants	ST
E.5.4	Evaluate flexible corridor-specific design standards to create attractive, functional, and harmonious buildings and public space	2025-2026	MPC, LG	N/A	ST

LAND USE



VISION

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah are healthy and safe places to live, work, play and raise a family, and have social and economic values that integrate the area's history, natural resources, efficient government, and public mobility system

GOALS:

1. Establish growth policies for the city of Savannah that seek to guide development and redevelopment in a responsible manner, encouraging compact development, walkable neighborhoods, increased connectivity, and open space preservation
2. Identify and prioritize future annexations that are regionally coordinated, and promote responsible growth
3. Utilize small area and corridor plans as a means to protect the character of existing areas and ensure new development is compatible
4. Continue to create innovative ways to connect people with places
5. Enhance the character and image of major corridors that implement the design and construction of safe, attractive, vibrant, and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes projecting a positive image while encouraging walking

GOAL 1

Establish growth policies for the city of Savannah that seek to guide development and redevelopment in a responsible manner, encouraging compact development, walkable neighborhoods, increased connectivity, and open space preservation

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
L.1.1	Ensure zoning ordinances provide for pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use development, and a mix of housing types	2022-2023	LG	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnerships	ST
L.1.2	Refine ordinances to reduce on-site parking requirements and enhance walking and bicycling infrastructure that will help reduce emission-generating reliance on vehicles	2022-2023	MPC, LG	N/A	ST
L.1.3	Refine policies and ordinances to extend Complete Streets design principles into land development plans	2022-2023	MPC, LG	N/A	ST
L.1.4	Assemble stakeholders within neighborhoods and develop action plans to inform land use, housing, transportation, and economic development priorities emphasizing (1) the improvement of energy efficiency, (2) boosting the use of clean energy, and (3) reducing greenhouse-gas emissions	2022-2023	MPC, LG	N/A	ST
L.1.5	Develop a standard to evaluate public park and recreational area conditions and align efforts with the Forsyth Park Master Plan and the Chatham County Master Recreation Plan	2022-2023	CGIC, LG, BWS	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnerships	\$

GOAL 2

Identify and prioritize future annexations that are regionally coordinated, promote responsible growth

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
L.2.1	Establish new public realm in areas adjacent to downtown Savannah	2022-2026	MPC, LG	SPLOST, Bonds, Grants	\$\$\$
L.2.2	Implement urban development plans for areas affected by the removal of the I-16 flyover and the construction of a new arena	2025-2026	CORE MPO, MPC, LG	SPLOST, Bonds, Grants	\$\$\$
L.2.3	Coordinate land use and transportation policies to ensure that transportation decisions, strategies, and investments are in support of land use objectives	2022-2023	CORE MPO, MPC, LG	SPLOST, Bonds, Grants	ST
L.2.4	Review land use policies and regulatory frameworks and update to ensure consistency with the community vision and compatibility with the referenced surrounding area	2025-2026	CORE MPO, MPC, LG	SPLOST, Bonds, Grants	\$
L.2.5	Develop an intergovernmental coordination plan/strategy with Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport (SHHIA) to ensure that the near term and long-term development plans of Chatham County/Savannah and the SHHIA are compatible	2022-2023	CORE MPO, MPC, LG	SHHIA Staff, LG	ST

GOAL 3*Utilize small area and corridor plans as a means to protect the character of existing areas and ensure new development is compatible*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
L.3.1	Develop a set of criteria to determine which neighborhoods can benefit from action plans that address issues such as housing, vacant property, transportation, and quality of life	2022-2023	MPC, LG	N/A	ST
L.3.2	Assemble stakeholders within neighborhoods and develop action plans to inform land use, housing, transportation, and economic development priorities	2022-2023	MPC, LG	N/A	ST

GOAL 4*Continue to create innovative ways to connect people with places*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
L.4.1	Create a Public Art Plan for the city and integrate permanent or rotating public art into the design of streetscapes and other public spaces	2022-2023	MPC, LG	LG	\$
L.4.2	Pursue opportunities for creative placemaking, including the use of vacant storefronts for temporary installations	2024-2026	MPC, LG	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$\$
L.4.3	Pursue opportunities to relocate overhead power lines underground, particularly on major commercial corridors	2022-2023	LG	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$\$\$

GOAL 5*Enhance the character and image of major corridors that implement the design and construction of safe, attractive, vibrant, and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes projecting a positive image while encouraging walking*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
L.5.1	Incorporate distinctive pavement textures and colors in streetscape designs, particularly in areas with high levels of pedestrian and commercial activity	2026	MPC, LG	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$
L.5.2	Conduct a neighborhood-by-neighborhood assessment of streetscape conditions and develop a plan with costs to improve the visual quality along street systems	2025-2026	LG	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$\$

TRANSPORTATION



VISION

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah prioritize safe mobility for all users; offer efficient mobility options to support economic vitality; provide infrastructure that is sensitive to unique local characteristics; connect neighborhoods to education, employment, and services; and sustain environmental quality with clean mobility modes

GOALS:

1. Support safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation designs and improvements that enhance neighborhood connectivity for all modes of travel including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists
2. Improve accessibility to employment centers, institutions, commercial corridors, and recreational facilities equitably through multi-modal connections, bikeways, trails and greenways
3. Maintain and preserve transportation infrastructure in a manner that protects unique regional characteristics, quality of life, and the environment
4. Maintain and enhance transportation infrastructure that supports and enables local, regional, and global economic vitality and competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency
5. Promote and provide equitable neighborhood connectivity and built environments that encourage active and healthy lifestyles through the strategic placement of bicycle and pedestrian pathways, public parks, enforcement of road regulations, and education about health benefits

GOAL 1

Support safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation designs and improvements that enhance neighborhood connectivity for all modes of travel including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
T.1.1	Identify opportunities to create multi-modal transportation that links employees to employers	2025-2026	LG, CAT, CORE MPO, MPC	SPLOST, LG	\$
T.1.2	Evaluate opportunities for road diets and traffic calming on existing streets and implement cost-feasible projects	2022-2026	LG, CAT, CORE, MPO, MPC, GDOT	LG	\$\$
T.1.3	Propose a policy to prioritize pedestrian infrastructure improvements (such as sidewalks and crosswalks) near homes, schools, bus stops, and commercial corridors	2022-2023	LG, CAT, CORE MPO, GDOT, MPC	SPLOST, LG	\$

GOAL 2

Improve accessibility to employment centers, institutions, commercial corridors, and recreational facilities equitably through multi-modal connections, bikeways, trails and greenways

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
T.2.1	Work with municipalities to explore funding options to expand public transportation for Chatham County	2022-2023	LG, CAT, CORE MPO	LG	ST
T.2.2	Identify funding to provide convenient pedestrian and bicycle access from public transportation termini to employment centers, institutions, commercial areas, schools, and recreational facilities	2022-2023	LG, CAT, CORE MPO, GDOT	N/A	ST
T.2.3	Refine policies to accommodate people with disabilities on all sidewalks and crosswalks	2022-2023	LG, CAT, CORE MPO	LG	\$
T.2.4	Evaluate enhancing the transit system to increase frequency and reliability on corridors with high densities of residents and jobs	2022-2023	LG, CAT, CORE MPO, GDOT	CAT, LG	\$\$\$
T.2.5	Prioritize the placement of bus route and schedule information digitally at every stop and provide real-time bus location and arrival information online	2022-2023	LG, CAT, CORE MPO	CAT, LG	\$
T.2.6	Identify funding to enhance the usefulness and appearance of bus stops by adding shelters, lighting, benches, wastebaskets, and other amenities	2022-2023	LG, CAT, CORE MPO	CAT, LG, Grants	\$\$
T.2.7	Evaluate new partnerships to expand transit service beyond current district and ridership	2022-2023	LG, CAT, CORE MPO, GDOT	LG	ST

GOAL 3

Maintain and preserve transportation infrastructure in a manner that protects unique regional characteristics, quality-of-life, and the environment to include the reduction greenhouse gas emissions

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
T.3.1	Establish criteria to evaluate road construction projects to ensure they are compatible with local characteristics with particular attention for historic areas and transportation amenity corridors	2022-2023	LG, CAT, CORE MPO	LG	ST
T.3.2	Evaluate the impact of Sea Level Rise on proposed transportation systems, particularly relating to improvements of existing roads, bridges, and related infrastructure	2022-2023	LG, CAT, CORE MPO, GDOT	LG	\$
T.3.3	Consider policy and infrastructure recommendations from the Freight Transportation Plan to enhance safety and efficiency	2022-2023	LG, CAT, CORE MPO, GDOT	LG	\$
T.3.4	Provide tax incentives for businesses that convert to using low-emission vehicles	2026	LG, CAT, CORE MPO, GDOT, COC, SEDA	LG, Public/Private Partnerships	\$

GOAL 4

Maintain and enhance transportation infrastructure that supports and enables local, regional, and global economic vitality and competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
T.4.1	Implement policies that maintain and enhance an intermodal transportation system that sustains economic activity by linking trucking facilities, rail terminals, airports, and seaports with limited access roads	2026	LG, MPC, CORE MPO, GDOT	LG, SPLOST	\$
T.4.2	Incorporate shared vehicle ownership and the related infrastructure as an alternative mode of transportation including community storage/coral, charging stations, preferred parking for shared vehicles, etc.	2024-2026	LG, MPC, CORE MPO, GDOT	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$

GOAL 5

Promote and provide equitable neighborhood connectivity and built environments that encourage active and healthy lifestyles through the strategic placement of bicycle and pedestrian pathways, public parks, enforcement of road regulations, and education about health benefits

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
T.5.1	Adopt or update ordinances countywide, to include “Complete Streets” and Savannah’s Zoning Ordinance to meet national standards, giving all people safe, comfortable, convenient, and equitable access to community destinations and public places—whether walking, driving, bicycling, moving actively with assisting devices, or taking public transportation	2022-2023	CGIC, MPC, CORE MPO, BWS, CAT, LG	LG	ST
T.5.2	Work with Chatham Area Transit, municipalities, community organizations, and neighborhood associations to develop new routing plans that equitably and efficiently expand transit opportunities across Chatham County	2022-2023	CGIC, MPC, CORE MPO, BWS, CAT, LG	LG, CAT	\$
T.5.3	Provide public/private incentives to encourage an array of transit opportunities to include carpool, park and ride sites, public transit, and cycling for Chatham County residents who do not have access to personal motor vehicle transportation	2025-2026	CGIC, MPC, CORE MPO, BWS, CAT, LG, COC, SEDA	LG, CAT	\$\$
T.5.4	Develop a standard to evaluate public park and recreational area opportunities to provide high need communities with equitable, efficient, safe, and well-maintained access	2022-2023	CGIC, MPC, LG, BWS, PD, GLT	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership	\$\$
T.5.5	Explore alternate routes for heavy equipment, trucks, and those carrying hazardous material countywide	2025-2026	CORE MPO, LG, CEMA, DOT	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership	\$\$
T.5.6	Complete the primary loop (30 miles) of the Tide to Town Urban Trail System, including Truman Linear Park Trail and Springfield Canal Path/Heritage Trail, and expand the Tide to Town system plan to include countywide connectivity via implementation of the Chatham County Greenway Plan	2025-2026	CGIC, CORE MPO, BWS, LG	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership	\$\$\$
T.5.7	Increase driver education regarding non-motorized transportation users, including people biking and walking; provide consistent bicycle and pedestrian safety education	2022-2023	DDS, BWS, CAT	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership	\$\$
T.5.8	Strengthen ordinance regarding planting and replacement of trees; work to increase green space countywide	2022-2023	LG, MPC, STF, GLT, GC	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership	\$\$
T.5.9	Allocate funding to support the creation of places to bike or walk for people of all ages and abilities	2022-2026	CORE MPO, LG, GDOT	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership	\$\$\$
T.5.10	Establish goals, metrics, and benchmarks for equitable access to places to bike, walk, use public transportation, and access greenspace	2022-2023	CGIC, MPC, CORE MPO, BWS, CAT, LG, GDOT	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership	ST

HOUSING



VISION

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah achieve affordable, diverse and safe housing for their residents through efficient and effective policies and programs

GOALS:

1. Improve neighborhood stability where all residents, regardless of income, can occupy, maintain, and improve their homes without undue financial hardship
2. Increase supportive housing for special needs populations, such as individuals who are homeless, mentally ill, disabled, and residents in drug recovery
3. Increase affordable housing stock
4. Decrease homelessness

GOAL 1*Improve neighborhood stability where all homeowners, regardless of income, can occupy, maintain and improve their homes without undue financial hardship*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
H.1.1	Refine policies and ordinances to encourage the preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing units prioritizing improvement of energy-efficiency and conversion to clean-energy sources	2022-2023	LG, CHSA, HSF, HAS	LG, User Fees	ST
H.1.2	Gather information on best practices to encourage and improve housing counseling programs and ordinances	2022-2023	LG, CHSA, HAS, HSF	N/A	ST
H.1.3	Evaluate and consider policies that increase the range of approved home occupations	2022-2023	MPC, LG	N/A	ST

GOAL 2*Increase supportive housing for special needs populations, such as individuals who are homeless, mentally ill, disabled, and residents in drug recovery*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
H.2.1	Develop a supportive housing plan for special needs populations	2022-2023	LG, CHSA, HAS, LIFE, CSAH	LG, Grants	\$

GOAL 3*Increase affordable housing stock*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
H.3.1	Develop a regional housing plan, prioritizing improvement of energy-efficiency and conversion to clean-energy sources	2022-2023	LG, CHSA, HAS	LG, Grants	\$
H.3.2	Evaluate an inclusionary zoning policy as a way to increase the supply of affordable housing	2022-2023	MPC, LG	LG	ST
H.3.3	Adopt policies and ordinances to allow for a wider variety of housing types to be built in existing neighborhoods	2022-2023	MPC, LG	LG	ST
H.3.4	Evaluate policies and ordinances that allow infill development using unconventional housing styles such as "tiny homes", storage containers, and prefabricated homes	2022-2023	MPC, LG, HAS	LG	ST
H.3.5	Reduce housing vacancy and dilapidation conditions of housing stock	2022-2023	MPC, LG, HAS	LG, Grants	\$
H.3.6	Evaluate the vulnerability of proposed residential and commercial developments to increased flooding due to sea-level rise and other impacts of climate disruption, such as increased storm-intensity, storm-surge, and higher temperatures	2022-2023	LBA, LG, CHSA	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnerships	\$\$
H.3.7	Expand the amount of affordable housing options for the growing number of seniors	2022-2023	MPC, LG, HAS	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnerships	\$\$\$

GOAL 4*Decrease homelessness*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
H.4.1	Adopt a formal strategic homeless housing action plan	2022-2023	LG, CSAH, CHSA, HSF, HAS, LBA	LG, Public/Private Partnership	\$\$
H.4.2	Encourage local leaders to publicly commit to and coordinate efforts on ending chronic homelessness	2022-2023	LG, CSAH, HSF, HAS	N/A	ST
H.4.3	Increase outreach, in-reach, and engagement efforts to link homeless individuals to the housing and service interventions available in the community	2022-2023	CSAH, LG, CHSA, HAS, LH, PD, EMS, FD	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
H.4.4	Implement a housing-first system orientation and response	2025-2026	CSAH, LG, CHSA, HAS	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$
H.4.5	Prioritize housing placement for homeless veterans	2022-2023	CSAH, LG	LG, Public/Private	\$\$\$

NATURAL RESOURCES



VISION

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah are enhanced by the protection and maintenance of natural resources and ecosystems

GOALS:

1. Protect the public health, safety, and welfare of residents from flood hazards
2. Improve public education and outreach efforts related to water, flooding, and hazards
3. Implement plans, policies, and property protection to reduce potential damages from climate change
4. Conserve and protect potable water sources to ensure adequate drinking water supplies for existing and future residents
5. Preserve and enhance scenic views
6. Conserve existing tree canopy and require planting of additional native trees during the development process to mitigate negative impacts of stormwater runoff, heat islands, reduced air quality, and loss of tree species from rising ambient temperatures
7. Improve the ability of the community to adapt to changing natural and built environments
8. Manage the impacts of climate change as it relates to land use and development through mitigation and adaptation measures
9. Develop brownfields for productive uses
10. Proactively manage stormwater runoff
11. Implement a municipal clean energy action plan

GOAL 1*Protect the public health, safety, and welfare of residents from flood hazards*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
N.1.1	Strengthen policies and ordinances limiting allowable impervious coverage for new development	2025-2026	LG, MPC	N/A	ST
N.1.2	Develop a long-range regional plan for sea level rise that evaluates multiple adaptation and mitigation methods with short, medium, and long-term goals for implementation	2025-2026	LG, MPC, CEMA, CORE MPO, GDOT	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.1.3	Prevent damage to existing development and infrastructure from the impacts of sea level rise and consider sea level rise in future infrastructure investments and site development	2024-2026	LG, MPC, CEMA, CORE MPO, GDOT	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$\$
N.1.4	Retrofit and/or protect critical and essential facilities and infrastructure from flood damage	2022-2026	LG, MPC, CEMA, CORE MPO, GDOT	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$\$
N.1.5	Implement more stringent development standards to conserve undeveloped land and preserve open space areas, especially sensitive natural areas, to prevent impacts from flood waters and rising sea levels	2022-2023	LG, MPC	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.1.6	Facilitate mitigation actions on flood prone properties and Special Flood Hazard Areas by leveraging local, state, and federal grant funding	2022-2026	LG	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$
N.1.7	Amend floodplain ordinances to add standards to prevent fill and drainage of wetland portions of the floodplain	2022-2023	LG, MPC	LG	ST
N.1.8	Amend subdivision and planned unit development codes to encourage clustering of buildings on upland sites and to require dedication or permanent preservation of wetland areas	2022-2023	LG, MPC	LG	ST
N.1.9	Amend the Savannah building code to provide a higher standard of flood protection by requiring an additional 1 foot of freeboard above the base flood elevation (BFE) in flood prone areas	2022-2023	LG, MPC	LG	ST
N.1.10	Amend building codes to control and strengthen development on hydric soils and in flood hazard areas	2022-2023	LG, MPC	LG	LG
N.1.11	Plan and direct new infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, hospitals, housing) only in areas where new growth is appropriate	2022-2023	LG, MPC	LG	LG

GOAL 2*Improve public education and outreach efforts related to water, flooding, and hazards*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
N.2.1	Identify funding for the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission and its land conservation efforts that include protecting high priority habitats	2025-2026	LG, MPC, GADNR	SPLOST, Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership	\$
N.2.2	Develop a plan to repurpose publicly owned natural areas and open spaces to provide permanently protected habitat areas and public recreational spaces	2025-2026	LG, MPC, GC, GLT, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.2.3	Expand the City's flood hazard communication and outreach program	2022-2023	LG, CEMA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.2.4	Encourage residents to undertake mitigation projects on individual properties by utilizing education and outreach tools	2022-2023	LG, GA, STF, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.2.5	Develop partnerships with schools, churches, and community organizations to broaden public education and outreach efforts on flooding and natural hazards	2022-2023	LG, GA, FEMA, GAEPD, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.2.6	Educate the public on stormwater management techniques and the benefits of acknowledging water as a critical resource to be protected and managed	2022-2023	LG, GA, GAEPD, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.2.7	Develop and expand educational outreach materials to non-English speaking populations	2022-2023	LG, GA, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$

GOAL 3*Implement plans, policies, and property protection to reduce potential damages from climate change*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
N.3.1	Develop policies to facilitate coastal ecosystem migration through the maintenance and restoration of open space	2023-2026	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, DCA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.3.2	Utilize the most current data and projections to evaluate existing plans, policies, and regulations to ensure that they are up to date and consistent with current best practices	2023-2026	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, DCA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.3.3	Implement policies and standards that prevent private or public investments in areas most at risk of damage	2024-2026	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.3.4	Identify new mitigation measures, technologies, and practices for mitigating and adapting to climate change at the local level	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.3.5	Incorporate climate change into the everyday review, design, and planning process with regards to potable water, wastewater, stormwater, comprehensive planning, transportation, and emergency management	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.3.6	Prioritize critical facilities and infrastructure with projected sea level rise impacts for elevation and/or relocation	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.3.7	Develop and implement growth management policies to guide new development away from current or future high-risk areas	2025-2026	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.3.8	Monitor shorelines and wetlands to identify and mitigate erosion hotspots	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.3.9	Improve capabilities and coordination to implement hazard mitigation projects, programs, and activities	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.3.10	Develop and implement an Open Space Plan for each jurisdiction as well as a countywide Open Space Plan building on the jurisdictional plans	2026	LG, MPC, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.3.11	Enhance and update existing regulations to require and/or incentivize open space preservation	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$

GOAL 4*Conserve and protect potable water sources to ensure adequate drinking water supplies for existing and future residents*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
N.4.1	Develop a long-range regional plan for sea level rise that evaluates multiple adaptation methods for potable water source protection and conservation	2022-2023	LG, GAEPD, DCA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$
N.4.2	Update the Red Zone Water Management Plan to determine total usage and the region's capacity for growth	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.4.3	Reinstitute and dedicate funding for the Chatham County Resources Protection Commission (CCRPC) to prioritize land conservation for the protection of potable water sources	2026	LG, MPC, GADNR, GA, GLT	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$
N.4.4	Update plans, policies, and regulations to adopt stringent best management practices regarding water usage and the protection of water sources during site development	2025-2026	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$

GOAL 5*Preserve and enhance scenic views*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
N.5.1	Conduct study of scenic views in the city and county to inform associated green space protection	2022-2023	LG, GA, GAEPD, GADNR, DCA	LG	\$
N.5.2	Partner with the National Park Service to conduct a planning study that identifies opportunities to significantly improve access to the river, canals, and greenway connections	2025-2026	LG, GA, GAEPD, GADNR, DCA	LG	\$
N.5.3	Partner with the National Park Service to pursue federal funding (such as a Federal Lands Access Program grant) to support implementation of trail connections to and along the historic areas of the county with connections to existing and future trails	2025-2026	LG, GA, GAEPD, GADNR, DCA	LG	\$

GOAL 6*Conserve existing tree canopy and require planting of additional native trees during the development process to mitigate negative impacts of stormwater runoff, heat islands, reduced air quality, and loss of tree species from rising ambient temperatures*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
N.6.1	Develop policies and procedures to improve tree preservation and replanting during development	2022-2023	LG, GFC, MPC, STF	LG	ST
N.6.2	Propose a No Net Loss policy to protect existing tree canopy	2022-2023	LG, GFC, MPC, STF	LG	ST
N.6.3	Implement tree canopy coverage standards for new development and internal practices	2022-2023	LG, GFC, MPC, STF	LG	\$
N.6.4	Complete a tree canopy inventory in each jurisdiction	2022-2026	LG, STF, GFC	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.6.5	Develop and implement urban forest management plans	2024-2026	LG, GFC, MPC, STF	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.6.6	Develop a program to reclaim lost tree lawns to start planting tomorrow's tree canopy	2024-2026	LG, GFC, MPC, STF	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$

GOAL 7*Improve the ability of the community to adapt to changing natural and built environments*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
N.7.1	Identify ways to prepare for disruptive events and develop strategies for action in the face of uncertainty or unexpected events	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.7.2	Enact policies to reduce carbon footprints	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.7.3	Increase the use of renewable energy sources—solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal heat, and biomass	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$\$
N.7.4	Acquire open space parcels of all sizes to convert to public parks, greenways, and conservation areas	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$\$
N.7.5	Improve data collection, dissemination, and redundancy use of critical systems and services use to reduce hazard impacts	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$
N.7.6	Promote less energy-intensive industries, cleaner fuels, technologies, and build strong energy-efficient policies	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.7.7	Introduce and support new work habits for municipal staff, such as full or partial remote work mode, and by promoting a healthy and green way of life in society	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.7.8	Evaluate and address solid waste control and disposal on a regional basis to allow for a more thorough approach to management, reduction, and continued capacity for coastal areas	2022-2023	LG, GA, Private Partners	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
N.7.9	Explore composting alternatives for institutional, commercial, and residential areas	2022-2023	LG, GAEPD, Private Partners	LG	\$
N.7.10	Implement best practices to reduce air pollution	2022-2023	LG, EPD	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$

GOAL 8*Resist the Impacts of climate change they relate to land use and development through mitigation and adaptation measures*

STRATEGY	PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
N.8.1 Discourage building in areas that are currently or are projected to be more vulnerable to climate change-related impacts. Making it easier to build in safer areas can help relieve pressure to develop in more vulnerable areas	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, CEMA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.8.2 Coordinate land use and transportation infrastructure decisions and incorporate climate change projections into these decisions	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GDOT, CORE MPO	LG	ST
N.8.3 Ensure that public infrastructure is not designed for or constructed in areas prone to flooding or projected for future flooding	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GDOT	LG	ST
N.8.4 Reduce vehicle traffic by amending policies and regulations to remove barriers to movement between mixed uses in proximity of each other	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GDOT	LG	ST
N.8.5 Ensure that existing policies, plans, and regulations are consistent with best management practices of Smart Growth, energy efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. This can also help communities and their residents better cope with economic resiliency, drought, and extreme heat	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.8.6 Support compact and energy-efficient, green building techniques, which reduce emissions from both electricity generation and transportation	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GAEPD, DCA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	ST
N.8.7 Maximize the use of existing infrastructure and buildings while minimizing the costly conversion of undeveloped land at the periphery of a community	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GDOT	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.8.8 Preserve green space and large, contiguous areas of open space, which can sequester CO ₂ , by conserving ecologically valuable land and promoting development in previously developed areas, which helps reduce pressure to build on undeveloped land	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
N.8.9	Restore and preserve wetlands to act as a buffer and allow for infiltration and runoff storage, thus protecting areas from flooding	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.8.10	Maintain adequate and open floodplains to prevent property damage from floodwaters and natural shoreline migration due to sea level rise	2022-2026	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$

GOAL 9 *Develop brownfields for productive uses*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
N.9.1	Integrate brownfields into infill and new development	2024-2026	LG, SEDA, Private Development	SEDA, Private Development	N/A
N.9.2	Define appropriate, productive reuse options, ranging from open space to mixed-use developments, that meet the needs of existing and future residents	2022-2023	LG, MPC, SEDA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	ST
N.9.3	Develop plan/strategy to identify all existing or potential brownfields	2022-2025	LG, GAEPD, SEDA, MPC	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants, GA	\$\$
N.9.4	Find funding sources to assist in the assessment, cleanup, and/or redevelopment of brownfield sites	2022-2023	LG, MPC, SEDA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	ST
N.9.5	Remove barriers to the redevelopment of brownfields and encourage their redevelopment in ways that meet the needs of residents and promote a healthy community and vibrant economy	2022-2023	LG, MPC, SEDA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	ST

GOAL 10*Proactively manage stormwater runoff*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
N.10.1	Manage stormwater runoff on a regional basis	2022-2026	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.10.2	Implement a stormwater utility for the continued maintenance, management, and treatment of city and county stormwater systems	2025-2026	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GAEPD	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.10.3	Remove barriers to innovative and creative solutions to manage stormwater runoff	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GAEPD	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.10.4	Coordinate local Open Space Plans with regional Green Infrastructure Plans	2025-2026	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$
N.10.5	Upgrade stormwater systems to better manage heavier storm flows and expand the use of green infrastructure to reduce the amount of runoff from paved surfaces	2022-2026	LG, GAEPD	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$\$
N.10.6	Raise stormwater systems to appropriately plan for future sea level rise projections	2026	LG, GAEPD	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$\$
N.10.7	Implement incentives to protect wetlands from development and promote the expansion and reclamation of existing wetlands	2026	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.10.8	Gather data and implement best practices to reduce illegal dumping and the related point source pollution throughout Chatham County	2022-2023	LG, PD, GAEPD	LG	ST

GOAL 11*Implement a municipal clean energy action plan*

Strategy		Project Timeline	Lead Partner	Funding Source	Cost Estimate
N.11.1	Implement policy to prohibit single use plastics within all municipally owned properties	2022-2023	LG	N/A	ST
N.11.2	Evaluate municipal buildings for clean-energy retrofits	2022-2023	LG	LG, Grants	\$
N.11.3	Prioritize resources to train and hire local residents to participate in the energy conservation, energy efficiency, and clean energy workforce	2022-2023	LG, SEDA, STC	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.11.4	Facilitate energy efficiency upgrades	2022-2026	LG, GA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$
N.11.5	Evaluate and implement opportunities for clean transportation	2022-2026	LG, GDOT, GA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$
N.11.6	Prioritize and fund clean energy retrofits/installations in low-income communities	2025-2026	LG, GA	LG, Public/Private Partnership, Grants	\$\$\$
N.11.7	Gather information on incentives to support energy efficiency and natural resource protection in new construction	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, GAEPD, GADNR, DCA	LG	ST
N.11.8	Assess existing local and state policies to identify and address policy barriers and gaps to supporting municipal clean energy	2022-2023	LG, MPC, GA, PSC	LG	\$\$
N.11.9	Implement local policies that support municipal clean energy plan	2022-2026	LG, MPC	LG	ST

QUALITY OF LIFE



VISION

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah citizens achieve a superior quality of life within a safe, active, and healthy environment inclusive of the area's history, natural resources, public mobility, and efficient government



Historic Resources



Education



Community Health



Public Safety



Broadband & Fiber Optics

HISTORIC RESOURCES

GOAL 1

Survey culturally, historically, and architecturally significant sites, buildings, and structures in unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
HP1.1	Work with Chatham County to reinstate its status as a Certified Local Government	2022-2023	LG, MPC	LG, Grants	\$
HP1.2	Complete surveys in areas that have been identified as at-risk or historically underrepresented	2024-2026	LG, MPC, SHF	LG, Grants	\$
HP1.3	Update the Historic Site and Monument Commission’s Master Plan and Guidelines and provide on-going updates to the maps and lists of the monuments, markers, and public art within Chatham County and Savannah	2022-2024	LG, MPC	LG, Grants	\$
HP1.4	Establish on-going outreach initiatives to engage with and educate the community on the importance of historic preservation efforts	2022-2023	LG, MPC, SHF	LG, Grants	\$
HP1.5	Align City of Savannah historic protection efforts with the Forsyth Master Plan	2022-2023	LG, MPC, SHF, FOF	LG, Grants Public/Private Partnerships	\$

GOAL 2

Incorporate affordable housing strategies into current and future preservation plans

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
HP.2.1	Broaden partnerships with community planning and housing agencies in Chatham County and Savannah to combine preservation and affordable housing efforts	2022-2023	LG, MPC, HAS, CHSA, LBA, SHF	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$
HP.2.2	Identify where increased flexibility in preservation practices is appropriate to retain existing affordable housing and promote additional affordable housing	2022-2023	LG, MPC, HAS, CHSA, LBA, SHF, HPD	LG, Grants, GA, Public/Private Partnerships	\$

GOAL 3*Identify and address community health issues that impact historic preservation efforts and encourage healthy communities through historic preservation*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
HP.3.1	Identify and address potential public health threats to preservation efforts	2025-2026	LG, MPC, HAS, CHD, SHF	GA, LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$\$\$
HP.3.2	Create contingency plans to address the economic, operational, and social impacts on historic preservation associated with a public health emergency event	2022-2023	LG, MPC, HAS, CHSA, LBA, SHF	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$\$
HP.3.3	Promote and support reinvestment in older and historic places as a key component of community resiliency	2022-2026	LG, MPC, HAS, HPD, SHF	GA, LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$

GOAL 4*Identify and address climate resiliency strategies and incorporate them into a climate resiliency plan for unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah's historic and cultural resources*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
HP.4.1	Incorporate historic and cultural resources into disaster planning strategies	2022-2023	LG, MPC, HPD, SHF, CEMA	GA, LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$
HP.4.2	Identify and address strategies for increasing the resiliency of historic and cultural resources	2022-2023	LG, MPC, HAS, HPD, SHF, CEMA	GA, LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$\$\$
HP.4.3	Establish a clear process for the protection and management of historic resources in the result of a natural disaster	2022-2023	LG, MPC, CEMA	GA, LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$

GOAL 5*Broaden historic preservation efforts to highlight and include historically underrepresented stories, sites, and communities*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
HP.5.1	Review and modify practices that impede the identification, nomination, and designation of historic places meaningful to underrepresented communities	2022-2026	LG, MPC, HPD, SHF	GA, LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	ST
HP.5.2	Develop and implement new tools for the identification of intangible resources	2023-2026	LG, MPC, HPD	GA, LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$
HP.5.3	Follow and expand upon the recommendations of the Savannah Civil War Memorial Task Force	2022-2023	LG, MPC	GA, LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$

GOAL 6

Create new and support existing heritage tourism programs in unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah in order to highlight their cultural and historic heritage

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
HP.6.1	Expand heritage tourism programming in Chatham County	2022-2023	LG, MPC, SHF, COC, SEDA	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$\$
HP.6.2	Promote the economic and place-based benefits of heritage tourism to the public	2022-2023	LG, MPC, HPD, SHF, COC, SEDA	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$\$
HP.6.3	Align with the vision of the Savannah Ogeechee Canal Trail to expand the site's heritage tourism and preservation program	2022-2026	LG, MPC, HPD, SHF, COC	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$

GOAL 7

Promote the preservation and public awareness of culturally and archaeologically significant sites in unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
HP.7.1	Survey, identify, and protect archaeological resources through legislation and other means	2025-2026	LG, MPC, SHF, HPD	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$\$
HP.7.2	Develop partnerships with community groups to develop an ethical process for discovery, storage, and ownership of archaeological artifacts	2022-2023	LG, MPC, SHF, HPD	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$
HP.7.3	Develop interpretive and educational materials, programs, and signage for identified cultural landscapes, prioritizing those that lack interpretive elements to include smartphone applications	2022-2023	LG, MPC, HPD, SHF	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnerships	\$

EDUCATION

GOAL 1

Ensure equitable access of critical life skills including soft skills, financial, social, and conflict resolution skills are available to parents/legal guardians and taught to all students through the use of technology, community partnerships, and counseling

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
E.1.1	Integrate financial literacy into curriculum throughout all aspects of learning to include schools, clubs, and youth serving organizations	2022-2023	SCCPSS, JA, CGIC	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.1.2	Facilitate comprehensive child development skills from birth through age five	2022-2026	DECAL, CGIC, SCCPSS	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$\$
E.1.3	Expand Georgia’s BEST curriculum (incorporation of soft skills, communication, and leadership skills) in all middle and high schools and consider expansion into post-secondary education courses	2022-2026	DOL, SCCPSS, CGIC	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$\$
E.1.4	Implement school safety curriculum (including conflict resolution, peer mediation, bullying, social media, and cyber safety) across the school district	2024-2026	SCCPSS, CGIC	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.1.5	Reduce discipline referrals resulting in out-of-school suspensions and address the racial disparity in out-of-school suspensions by utilizing peer mediation referrals	2022-2023	SCCPSS, CGIC, DJJ	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.1.6	Expand conflict resolution and peer mediation in all schools for students and teachers	2022-2023	SCCPSS, DJJ, CGIC	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.1.7	Provide equitable access to continuous education	2022-2023	SCCPSS, CGIC	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.1.8	Offer budgeting and financial management courses to adults	2022-2023	CCCS, UGAE	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$

GOAL 2

Implement career track, internship, and mentorship programs between employers and students, while increasing leadership development programs between community organizations, businesses, and public schools to prepare students for employment and promote upward mobility

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
E.2.1	Increase number of opportunities for youth and young adults to access job shadowing, apprenticeship programs, and internships to include “green-friendly” approaches to agriculture and infrastructure	2022-2023	SCCPSS, JA, CGIC, UGAE, LG	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	ST
E.2.2	Expand and enhance existing mentorship programs (peer mentors and adult mentors)	2022-2023	SCCPSS, JA, CGIC, COC	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	ST
E.2.3	Explore and encourage expansion of classroom lab opportunities for hands-on experience in middle and high school, to ensure equal opportunities at all campuses	2022-2023	SCCPSS	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.2.4	Maintain at least 17 career clusters/pathway models of training opportunities that align with career demand and career occupations for all middle and high school students	2025-2026	SCCPSS, CGIC, SEDA, COC	SCCPSS, Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$\$
E.2.5	Establish method and process for volunteer engagement with public schools	2022-2023	SCCPSS	SCCPSS	ST

GOAL 3

Plan for changing populations, capacities, and overcrowding and increase the quality of education and performances at SCCPSS

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
E.3.1	Work with local governments and local planning agencies to ensure new development and expansion of schools are strategically developed with future growth in mind	2022-2023	SCCPSS	N/A	ST
E.3.2	Increase teacher funding and support	2022-2023	SCCPSS	SCCPSS, GA, Private/Public Partnership	\$\$
E.3.3	Increase standards for teachers seeking licenses and raise standards in areas where student outcomes are lowest	2022-2023	SCCPSS	SCCPSS, GA, Private/Public Partnership	\$

GOAL 4*Incentivize and promote parental involvement in schools by teaching parents to advocate for their child(ren), facilitating better communication between parents and school leadership, and eliminating barriers to parent engagement*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
E.4.1	Increase understanding and diversification of parental engagement to include assessment of family needs and resources	2022-2023	SCCPSS	SCCPSS, Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.4.2	Coordinate service and resources between youth serving organizations for better integration and reduce silos	2022-2023	SCCPSS, UWCE	SCCPSS, Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.4.3	Increase parental understanding of school attendance and ensure enforcement of truancy policies and facilitate broad awareness of barriers to school attendance	2022-2023	SCCPSS, DJJ	SCCPSS	ST
E.4.4	Encourage employers to provide incentives such as transit vouchers, paid “leave” time for parents to attend/participate in school functions	2022-2023	SCCPSS, UWCE, COC, SEDA, LG	SCCPSS, Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.4.5	Assess and expand resource allocation to increase access to affordable quality childcare	2022-2026	SCCPSS, UWCE, DECAL	SCCPSS, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA, DECAL	\$\$
E.4.6	Expand and maintain cultural diversity, equity and inclusion training and practices	2022-2026	SCCPSS, UWCE	SCCPSS, Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.4.7	Create parental support groups within community and faith-based organizations	2022-2023	SCCPSS, UWCE	SCCPSS, Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$

GOAL 5*Ensure families and community members have the ability to promote and reinforce literacy and numeracy instruction that takes place in a student's learning environment*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
E.5.1	Promote early reading and vocabulary development beginning at birth	2022-2023	SCCPSS, UWCE, DECAL	SCCPSS, Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.5.2	Promote reading and numeracy achievement on grade level through early intervention and comprehensive development	2022-2023	SCCPSS, LIB, LH, UWCE	SCCPSS, Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.5.3	Increase availability of children's books that promote reading and numeracy in health care settings, faith-based organizations, non-profit settings, and neighborhoods	2022-2023	SCCPSS, UWCE, LH, LIB, COC, LG	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
E.5.4	Provide access for early childhood professionals to utilize community resources for reading and numeracy	2022-2026	SCCPSS, UWCE, LIB, LG	SCCPSS, Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$

COMMUNITY HEALTH

GOAL 1

Effectively address mental health by educating the public and reducing stigma, increasing early intervention programs, removing gaps and barriers, and increasing access to treatment including returning and detained residents, children, adolescents, and the homeless

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
C.1.1	Expand network of providers to meet regularly and provide better coordination of services and leveraging of resources	2022-2023	UWCE, CGIC, LH, LG, PD, SBHU, DJJ, CCSD, BHU, GCSB	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	ST
C.1.2	Increase access to recovery and crisis services and increase capacity of service providers to provide for those who lack resources	2022-2023	UWCE, CGIC, LH, LG, PD, SBHU, DJJ, CCSD, BHU, GCSB	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$
C.1.3	Advocate for high quality transitional care management services, and advocate for expanded health insurance funding to equip supportive and rehabilitation housing services	2022-2026	UWCE, CGIC, LH, LG, PD, SBHU, DJJ, CCSD, BHU, GCSB	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	ST
C.1.4	Integrate behavioral health screening with primary care assessments and services	2022-2023	UWCE, CGIC, LH, LG, PD, SBHU, DJJ, CCSD, BHU, GCSB	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$
C.1.5	Enhance accessibility to behavioral health services by developing community-based and school-based behavioral health/counseling centers that operate on a sliding fee scale	2025-2026	SCCPSS, UWCE, CGIC, LH, LG, PD, SBHU, DJJ, CCSD, BHU, GCSB	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$
C.1.6	Identify an organization with a steward who will create and maintain an online resource directory specific to behavioral health services	2022-2023	UWCE, CGIC, LH, LG, PD, SBHU, DJJ, CCSD, BHU, GCSB	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
C.1.7	Increase employer and employee awareness and training regarding health insurance coverage to facilitate a broader understanding benefits of behavioral health services and Employee Assistance Program (EAP) resources	2022-2023	UWCE, COC, CGIC, LH, LG, PD, SBHU, GCSB	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	ST
C.1.8	Increase suicide prevention efforts to include safety and resilience training	2022-2023	UWCE, CGIC, LH, PD, SBHU, DJJ, CCSD, BHU, GCSB	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$
C.1.9	Advocate increased access to health care through a variety of resources	2022-2023	UWCE, CGIC, LH, LG, PD, SBHU, DJJ, CCSD, BHU, GCSB	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	ST

GOAL 2

Invest in community-based health resources to increase health equity by providing access to preventive health services, health education, and strategies to encourage individuals and families to adopt healthy behaviors

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
C.2.1	Expand availability of preventative services while including screening tests, counseling services, preventative medicine, and treatment that medical providers employ to identify and prevent illness before symptoms or problems associated with the illness occur	2022-2026	DCH, CHD, HS, CGIC, LH, LG, UWCE	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$\$
C.2.2	Improve access to and enrollment in affordable health insurance, including Peach Care and Medicaid, and connection with primary care providers	2022-2023	DCH, CHD, HS, CGIC, LH, LG, UWCE	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$
C.2.3	Assist healthcare providers and patients with opportunities for successful implementation of clinical guidelines to prevent and manage chronic illness, including but not limited to cancer, diabetes, weight management, heart disease, asthma and other significant community illnesses and diseases	2022-2026	CHD, HS, CGIC, LH, LG, UWCE	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$
C.2.4	Provide consumer preventive education programs free (participatory education) including tele-medicine programs at school-based health centers and facilitate public recognition of success stories to encourage and motivate others to provide incentives	2022-2023	CHD, HS, SCCPSS, CGIC, LH, LG, UWCE	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$\$

GOAL 3

Instill healthy practices in schools by providing comprehensive health education, nutrient-rich foods, opportunities for physical activity, and prevention education including but not limited to violence prevention

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
C.3.1	Provide health and wellness educational programming specific to adolescents regarding risky behaviors	2023-2024	SCCPSS, HS, UWCE, CHD	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$
C.3.2	Implement 30 minutes a day of physical exercise that fosters leadership, sportsmanship, and social skills for all students	2024-2026	SCCPSS, HS, UWCE, CHD	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$
C.3.3	Request that employers provide health enrichment and wellness programs to all employees	2022-2023	SCCPSS, HS, UWCE, CHD, COC, LG, CGIC	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	ST
C.3.4	Increase healthy snack options at public and private school events	2022-2023	SCCPSS, HS, UWCE, CHD	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$

GOAL 4

Increase access to healthy food for populations that are most likely to be food-insecure such as older adults, children, those in poverty, and those who live in food apartheid

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
C.4.1	Explore policy and funding mechanisms to eliminate food apartheid via a rotating schedule	2022-2023	SCCPSS, HS, UWCE, CHD, LG, CGIC	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$
C.4.2	Create farmer support programs to support and expand community gardens, urban farmers, and educational programming for residential sharing, cooking, learning, etc.	2022-2023	HS, CHD, UGAE, LG	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$
C.4.3	Provide educational programming and nutritional counseling specific to healthy cooking (serving sizes, use of local-home ground foods and herbs), health eating habits	2022-2023	SCCPSS, HS, UGAE, CHD, LH, LG	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$
C.4.4	Create incentives with local grocery and convenience stores regarding product placement of healthy food options	2022-2023	HS, UGAE, CHD, LG	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$
C.4.5	Request local institutions to examine their procurement policies to create a long-range plan for buying and using local produce	2022-2023	SCCPSS, HS, CHD, LG	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	ST
C.4.6	Create and expand community gardens, education, and programing for the residential sharing, learning, cooking, etc.	2022-2023	HS, UGAE, CHD, LG	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$
C.4.7	Expand urban agriculture to promote healthy eating as well as to encourage personal sustainability	2022-2023	HS, UGAE, CHD, LG	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$

PUBLIC SAFETY

GOAL 1

Ensure better quality of life through multifaceted strategies of public safety. The strategies include reducing crime by focusing on asset building; meeting community needs; expanding visibility and capacity of resources and programs provided by first responders; and building trust between law enforcement and residents

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
PS.1.1	Increase capacity of “diversion” programs across all jurisdictions in Chatham County for first-time offenders to reduce case load, providing case management, restorative justice programs, and wrap around services via community partners	2025-2026	PD, DJJ, GA, CCSD, LG	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$\$
PS.1.2	Provide continuous evaluation on enhanced trainings and screenings for First Responders in all jurisdictions specific to trauma responsiveness, cultural sensitivity, confidentiality, and behavioral health, as well as ensuring these processes/procedures are made transparent to the community	2022-2023	PD, FD, EMS, LH, CCSD, LG	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	ST
PS.1.3	Expand, market, and engage community-based organizations with police actively through citizen engagement programming. Develop opportunities for law enforcement and families/children to interact peacefully at community events	2022-2026	PD, UWCE, CCSD, LG, CGIC	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$
PS.1.4	Re-institute waiting periods to purchase guns, limit local gun shows, and explore gun buy-back programs to reduce access to guns	2022-2023	PD, GA, CCSD, LG	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$\$
PS.1.5	Implement Project Step Forward (taking guns off the streets, breaking up gangs and groups).	2025-2026	PD, GA, CCSD, LG	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$\$
PS.1.6	Explore and develop criteria and implement recognition and award programs to further incentivize law enforcement who complete additional training towards best practices including categories such as de-escalation, implicit bias, trauma responsiveness, and other emerging fields	2022-2023	PD, CCSD, LG	LG, Grants	\$
PS.1.7	Develop domestic violence case worker teams so that social workers respond to domestic violence calls with law enforcement	2022-2023	PD, BHU, FD, EMS, LH, DJJ, DFACS, CCSD, LG	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$\$
PS.1.8	Increase capacity to improve re-entry programs including expungement, housing, employment, behavioral health services, and connection to additional wrap-around services	2022-2026	PD, DJJ, GA, CCSD, LG, HAS, DOL, UWCE, CGIC	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$\$

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
PS.1.9	Explore and expand victim, witness, and whistle blower programs to meet evidence-based practices ensuring information is confidential and those who report information feel safe	2022-2026	PD, FD, EMS, LH, CCSD, LG	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$
PS.1.10	Hold continuous community education and feedback sessions regarding the ongoing process of enhanced trainings and screenings for First Responders, where community members are able to be forthcoming about whether or not these trainings and screenings are effective	2022-2023	PD, CCSD, FD, EMS, LG, CGIC	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$
PS.1.11	Assess external and internal public safety policies with community input that can be created, reviewed, changed, and/or removed at the local level to ensure policies are implemented through an equitable lens	2022-2023	PD, DJJ, GA, CCSD, LG	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$
PS.1.12	Implement a pre-trial release texting service to ensure a return to court to end unnecessary stays in jail	2022-2023	CCDA, LG	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$
PS.1.13	Audit the internal culture within law enforcement/emergency management agencies for best policies and incentivize first responders into complying with those policies	2022-2023	PD, FD, EMS, DJJ, GA, CCSD, LG	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$
PS.1.14	Integrate environmental design elements that discourage criminal behaviors into the planning and construction of public space	2022-2023	PD, MPC, LG	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	ST

GOAL 2

Develop local and regional collaboration among organizations to improve the delivery of social services and to expand resources including but not limited to behavioral health and public health services

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
PS.2.1	Provide additional resources for residents with a behavioral health disorder through a continuum of care facility rather than jail	2025-2026	UWCE, CGIC, LH, LG, PD, SBHU, DJJ, CCSD, BHU, GCSB	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership, GA	\$\$\$
PS.2.2	Consider development of new and existing community-based facilities for use of a multi-agency resource centers to include behavioral health, wellness, adolescent development, learning center, computers, and senior activities	2026	UWCE, CGIC, LH, LG, PD, SBHU, DJJ, CCSD, BHU, GCSB	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership, GA	\$\$\$
PS.2.3	Develop a community information exchange between mental health, healthcare, public safety, and social services for clear collaboration	2025-2026	UWCE, CGIC, LH, LG, PD, SBHU, DJJ, CCSD, BHU, GCSB	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership, GA	\$\$
PS.2.4	Locate and maintain community centers in low wealth and under served districts with expanded operating hours, diverse services, and resources	2026	UWCE, CGIC, LG	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership, GA	\$\$\$
PS.2.5	Host an annual meeting of local funders and community residents to review community needs and outcomes	2022-2023	LG, UWCE, CGIC	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership, GA	\$
PS.2.6	Create a community resource and common platform for funders, to ensure accessibility for organizations	2026	UWCE, CGIC, LH, LG, PD, SBHU, DJJ, CCSD, BHU, GCSB	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership, GA	\$\$
PS.2.7	Establish working relationships between planning departments of neighboring jurisdictions to ensure alignment on long term projects and goals	2022-2023	MPC, CORE MPO, LG, PD	LG	ST

GOAL 3*Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
PS.3.1	Create clearer processes of the use of SPLOST funding regarding neighborhood improvements, infrastructure, parks, and community centers	2022-2023	LG, CGIC	LG	ST
PS.3.2	Conduct a countywide review of current policies and ordinances to consolidate and update where applicable	2025-2026	LG	LG	
PS.3.3	Convene representatives of neighborhood and homeowner associations countywide semi-annually and provide consistent feedback on projects	2022-2023	LG, CGIC	LG	ST
PS.3.4	Explore innovative methods of marketing and communicating with residents; implement use of smart phone notification methods that are neighborhood and community specific	2022-2023	LG, CGIC	Grants, LG, Public/Private Partnership, GA	\$
PS.3.5	Establish an asset life cycle replacement schedule for local public entities	2022-2023	LG	LG	ST

BROADBAND & FIBER-OPTICS

GOAL 1 *Ensure all of Chatham County has access to broadband service*

STRATEGY		PROJECT TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
BB.1.1	Improve broadband services in unserved Chatham County	2022-2026	LG, Public/Private Partnerships, GA	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$\$
BB.1.2	Make the necessary investments in broadband infrastructure to address the “digital divide” so that service reliability meets or exceeds National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTA) upload and download speeds	2022-2026	LG, Public/Private Partnerships, GA	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$\$
BB.1.3	Research Public/Private Partner agreements to add small cell sites and smart city components in under served areas to improve cellphone and broadband coverage and expand digital equity	2022-2026	LG, Public/Private Partnerships, GA	Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$
BB.1.4	Incorporate Virtual and Augmented Reality planning and as-built documents into the municipal review and planning process	2024-2026	LG, Public/Private Partnerships, GA, PD, FD, EMS	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$\$\$
BB.1.5	Implement strategies to decrease costs so all households have access to broadband services	2022-2023	LG, Public/Private Partnerships	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$\$

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

STRATEGIES	ANNUAL TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
Continue the use of historic preservation as an economic driver	Ongoing	LG, HSF, SEDA	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnerships	ST
Reference the Context Sensitive Design Manual when designing streets and roads	Ongoing	LG, CAT, CORE MPO	LG	ST
Allow new infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, hospitals, housing) only in areas where new growth is appropriate	Ongoing	LG, MPC	LG	LG
Educate residents on undertaking mitigation projects on individual properties	Ongoing	LG, GA, STF, GADNR	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnership	\$
Prevent private or public investments in areas most at risk of damage	Ongoing	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnership	\$
Guide new development away from current or future climate change high-risk areas	Ongoing	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnership	\$\$
Promote resiliency and addressing the impacts of climate change on naturally occurring hazards (i.e., hurricanes, etc.)	Ongoing	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnership	\$
Ensure that at least 45% of the tree canopy is collectively maintained in each jurisdiction within Chatham County	Ongoing	LG, GFC, MPC, STF	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnership	\$
Ensure residents and businesses plant diverse tree species to ensure tree canopy is varied to limit damage due to disease and pests	Ongoing	LG, GFC, MPC, STF	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnership	\$
Educate property owners about the importance of trees to the community, the need to protect the region's tree canopy, and their value in maintaining property values	Ongoing	LG, GFC, MPC, STF	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnership	\$
Reduce human activities that make effects of climate changes worse through education, policies, and regulations	Ongoing	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnership	\$
Provide support and safety nets for the residents with the fewest resources so they can respond and adapt to disruptions	Ongoing	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Grants, Public/Private Partnership	\$\$\$

STRATEGIES	ANNUAL TIMELINE	LEAD PARTNER	FUNDING SOURCE	COST ESTIMATE
Reduce heat island effect on neighborhoods	Ongoing	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnerships	\$\$\$
Preserve and protect threatened and endangered plant and animal habitats	Ongoing	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnerships	\$\$\$
Promote that buildings should be designed with adaptation and resilience in mind	Ongoing	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnerships	\$
Encourage data and resource sharing across jurisdictions	Ongoing	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GDOT, GAEPD, DCA, CEMA	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnerships	ST
Promote that homes, jobs, stores, parks, schools, and other destinations be placed close to each other so that people can easily walk, bike, use public transit, or drive shorter distances	Ongoing	LG, MPC, GDOT	LG	ST
Encourage green roofs, parks, street trees, and other elements that can reduce ambient air temperatures and filter pollutants from stormwater runoff and the air	Ongoing	LG, MPC, GA, GADNR, GFC, STF	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnerships	\$
Support the City of Savannah's 100% Savannah Resolution	Ongoing	LG	N/A	ST
Advocate for state policies that support municipal clean energy plans	Ongoing	LG, MPC	LG	ST
Promote and educate the community about federal and state preservation tax incentives for rehabilitation	Ongoing	LG, MPC, SHF	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnerships	\$
Balance the goals of heritage tourism with local concerns	Ongoing	LG, MPC, SHF, COC, SEDA	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnerships	\$
Support projects that educate the public about archaeology and important Savannah and Chatham County cultural sites and resources	Ongoing	LG, MPC, SHF, COC, HPD	LG, Grants, Private/Public Partnerships	\$
Promote parental involvement in their child(ren)'s education	Ongoing	SCCPSS, CGIC	Grants, Private/Public Partnership	\$
Provide for all children from birth to age five receive ample opportunities for language rich adult-child interactions for critical brain development	Ongoing	SCCPSS, UWCE, DECAL, LH, LIB	SCCPSS, Grants, Private/Public Partnership, GA	\$\$

