

Chapter 6: Community Facilities and Services

Introduction

The availability and location of community facilities and services plays an important role in shaping the future growth of the county. One of the major impediments, or facilitators, of growth is the existence of community infrastructure. We have come to expect our local governments to provide us with a certain level of service and as growth increases so do the demands for services. Many of the initiatives discussed in the economic development, housing, and land use sections of the plan rely on the expansion or construction of additional community facilities and services for their successful implementation. This chapter inventories the existing infrastructure throughout the county and identifies needs related to accommodating future growth.

Because of the relative rural nature of the county the predominant land use served by the various community facilities is residential. The majority of commercial and industrial land is located in and around Elberton and is served by both city and county facilities.

Purpose

The purpose of this section is to examine the inventories of existing facilities and services and to determine how adequately they are serving the existing population. Based on this assessment, future needs can be quantified relating to the expected population growth. The section attempts to illustrate the linkages between growth and the availability of community facilities and services. Increasing populations experience a demand for new infrastructure in the form of roads, water, sewer, schools, and public protection. This increased demand, combined with the requirements for periodic maintenance and expansion of existing facilities, creates an increasing financial burden on local governments and ultimately on the individual taxpayers. The comprehensive plan's intent is to carefully coordinate future infrastructure expansion with each section of the plan to provide for the orderly growth of the community.

The Governor's Office has formulated a set of statewide goals that include Quality Community Objectives, to coordinate local government planning throughout the state under each of the elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Statewide Community Facilities and Services Goal:** *To ensure that public facilities throughout the state have the capacity, and are in place when needed, to support and attract growth and development and/or maintain and enhance the quality of life of Georgia's residents.*

In accordance with the overall goal the state has developed a set of Quality Community Objectives to help direct local governments formulate a set of local goals, policies and objectives. The statewide objectives are as follows:

- **Transportation Alternatives Objective:** *Alternatives to transportation by automobile, including mass transit, bicycle routes and pedestrian facilities, should be made available in each community. Greater use of alternate transportation should be encouraged.*
- **Regional Solutions Objective:** *Regional solutions to needs shared by more than one local jurisdiction are preferable to separate local approaches, particularly where this will result in greater efficiency and less cost to the taxpayer.*

Elbert County, and the cities of Bowman and Elberton will work within the framework of this statewide initiative to create locally relevant goals and policies governing the future development of community facilities and services that meet the needs identified within the inventory and assessment components of this chapter.

Organization

This element is divided into nine sections discussing each of the community facilities and services identified in the Department of Community Affairs Minimum Planning Standards. These include:

- Water supply and treatment;
- Sewer and wastewater;
- Solid waste management;
- Public safety;
- Hospitals and other public health facilities;
- Recreation;
- General government;
- Educational facilities; and
- Libraries.

Each of these sections describes the presence and adequacy of the facility or service and the final section outlines the community goals and policies.

Water Supply and Treatment

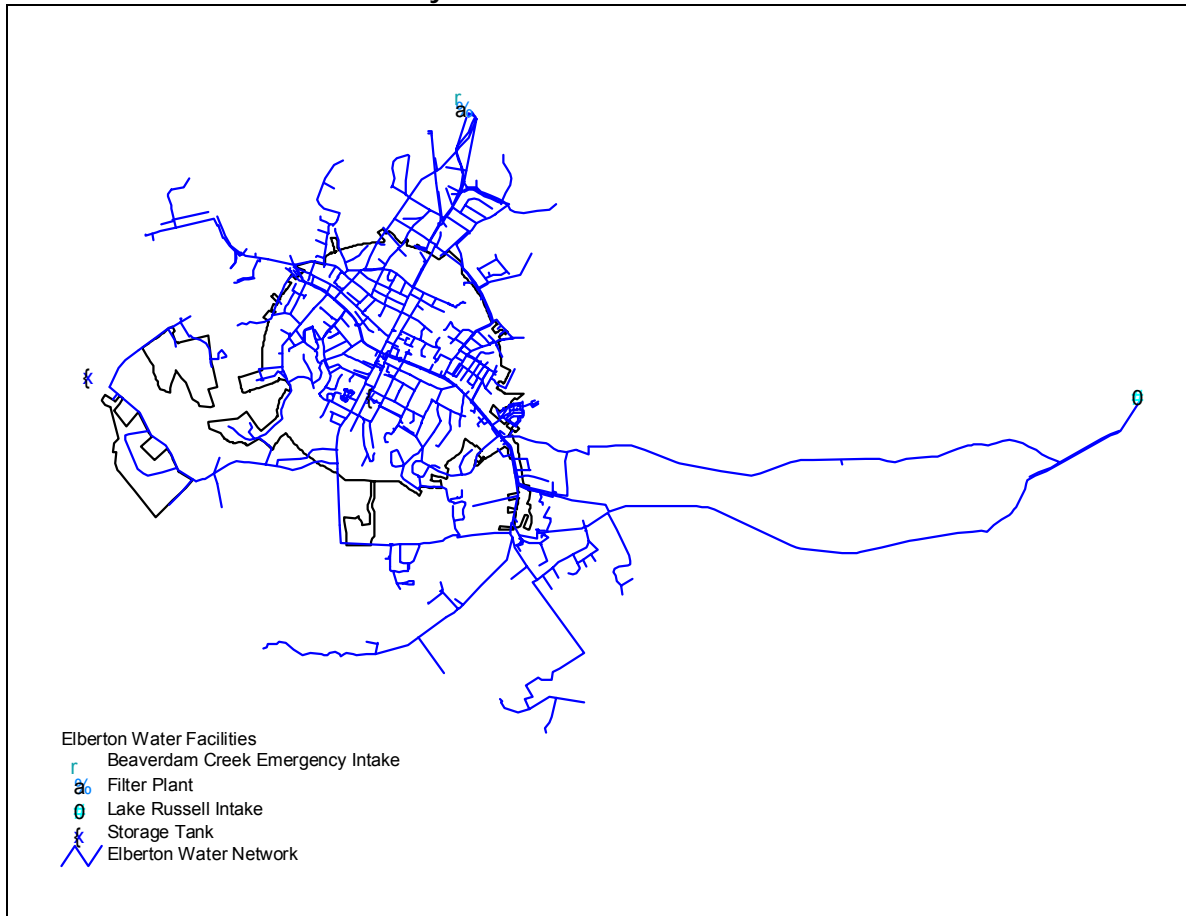
One of the most important issues throughout the state is the availability and quality of drinking water. The incredible growth rates experienced in the Atlanta Metro areas have put tremendous pressures on public drinking water sources and have depleted numerous private wells as the groundwater supply continues to decrease.

Inventory of Existing System

There is no public water provided to residents of the unincorporated county.

The City of Elberton draws its water from Lake Richard B. Russell, with an emergency intake on Beaverdam Creek. The city has a total permitted withdrawal of 7.5 million gallons per day (mgd), with a treatment capacity of 3.0mgd and an elevated storage capacity of 1.75mgd, utilizing two storage tanks. In 2002 the city had a total of 2,911 residential customers with 596 commercial and industrial customers. The average daily demand is 1.7mgd, with a peak demand reaching 2.7mgd. The City of Elberton water network is illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1
City of Elberton Water Network

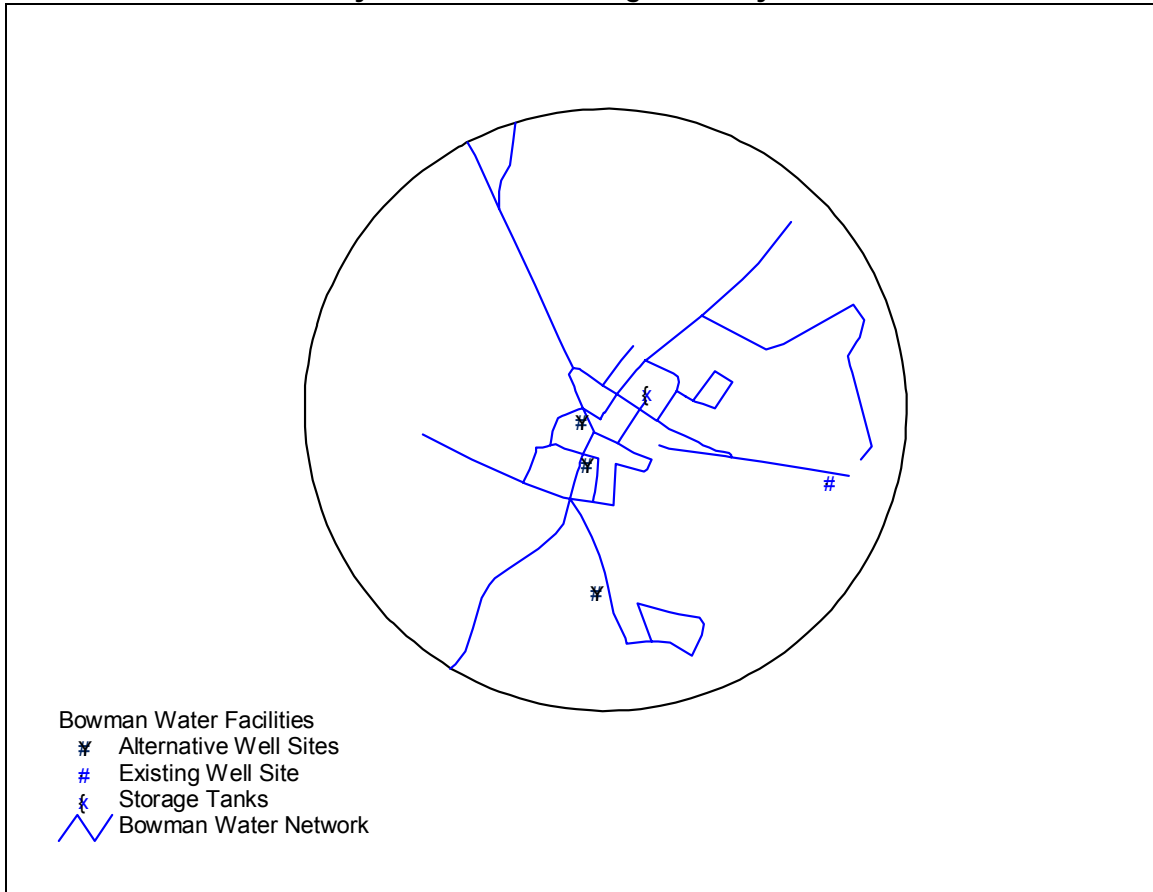


The network illustrates two storage tanks, one near downtown and the other near the industrial park, the water filter plant, north of the city near Beaverdam Creek (illustrated flowing north of the city), and the two intake points, one on Lake Russell (east of the city) and the other along Beaverdam Creek (north of the city). As illustrated, network customers are both within and outside of the city limits.

The City of Bowman provides a public water supply through a main well located within Bowman Community Park. The city has an approximate total treatment capacity of 0.15mgd and an elevated storage capacity of 0.15mgd, utilizing one storage tank. The city has an estimated 462 customers with an approximate average daily demand of 0.10 mgd. The City of Bowman water network is illustrated in Figure 2.

The network illustrates the location of the elevated storage tank and the main well site, located in the Bowman Community Park. All customers of the Bowman network are located within the city boundary.

**Figure 2
City of Bowman Existing Water Systems**



Water System Assessment

Based on population projections discussed in Chapter 2, community facilities and services must be assessed to determine their levels of service and ability to meet the demands of the existing and future population. A level of service analysis for the water systems must take a number of variables into consideration when determining the adequacy of the network to serve its users. Each of the municipal water systems must be assessed based on the ability of the four following variable's ability to adequately serve the population.

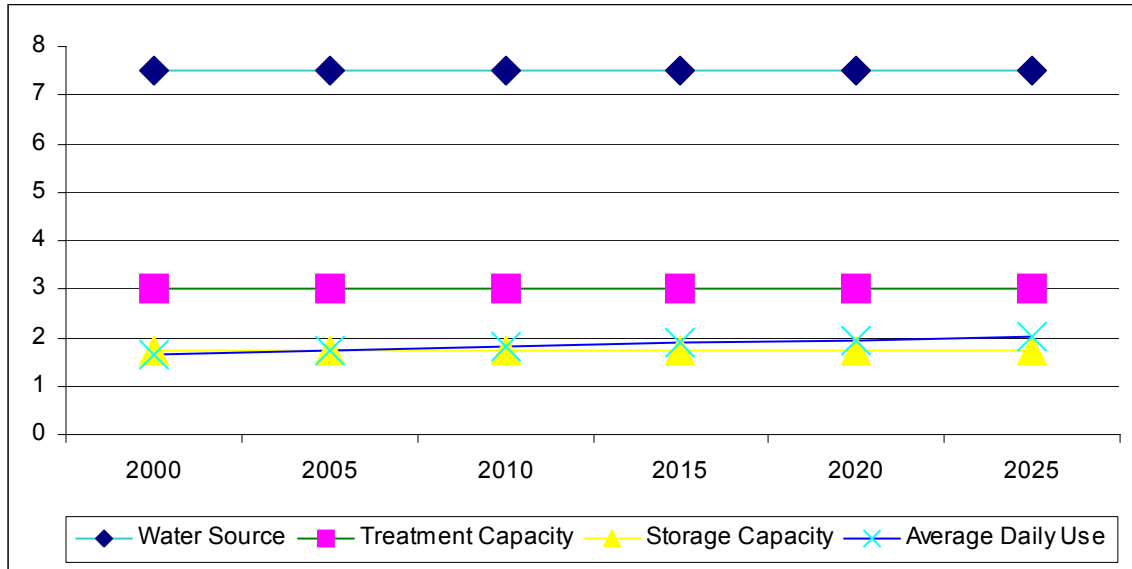
The first variable is the water source, which must be analyzed to determine whether or not the available water is adequate to supply existing and future demand. The second variable is the treatment capacity of the water system, which addresses the systems capability of providing potable water. The third variable deals with storage capacity and the ability to meet the average daily demand. The final variable is the delivery system, to determine if the current network can adequately provide water to those areas designated for service.

City of Elberton Water System Assessment

Elberton's source of water is Lake Russell, which is capable of holding approximately 336 billion gallons of untreated water. The city has a permitted withdrawal capacity of 7.5mgd that exceeds existing demand. Currently the city network experiences an average daily demand of 1.7mgd, peaking at 2.7mgd. The treatment capacity of the water filter plant is 3.0mgd. Currently the city utilizes two water storage tanks with a total capacity of 1.75mgd. Figure 3 illustrates the increased demand expected throughout the planning horizon based on the population and

employment projections and the assumption that existing conditions will not change. Forecasted figures are presented in million gallons per day (mgd).

Figure 3
Water System Projected Demand



Source: Northeast Georgia Water Study; City of Elberton Utilities Department

Water demand forecasts are derived from population, housing, and employment forecasts based on existing average use levels. These forecasts are based on minimal expansion of the network service area and would increase accordingly if water service were extended further into the unincorporated area.

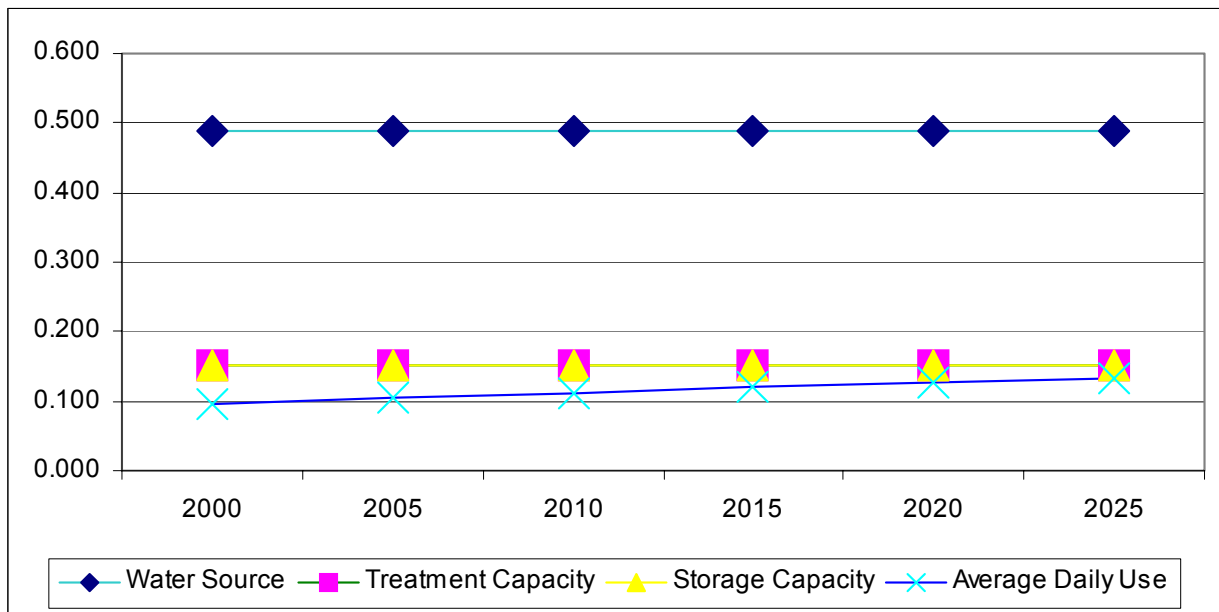
The projections illustrate that the source and treatment capacity are adequate to serve the future demand. The Utilities Department continually monitors the delivery system to identify inadequate pipe segments in disrepair or too small. The city has recently undergone a number of repairs to the delivery system and will mitigate problems on an as needed basis. The forecasts do illustrate an inadequacy in the amount of storage capacity. Based on current trends, and considering that peak average demand already exceeds 2.6mgd, the city will need to expand its existing storage capacity to ensure adequate service to future customers.

The city is planning an expansion beyond its existing service area to provide adequate service to residential and industrial areas within the county. New development in the unincorporated county may connect to the City of Elberton network provided the extension of service is economically feasible based on a complete and approved engineering study and provided adequate financing is available. As discussed in the Intergovernmental Coordination chapter, the city plans to explore the potential for cooperative relationships with other local governments to identify opportunities to fully utilize the water source capacity.

City of Bowman Water System Assessment

The city utilizes a main well as its single source of water located within the Bowman Community Park. The well has a maximum pumping capacity of 340 gallons per minute (approximately equal to 0.49mgd). Currently the city experiences an average daily demand of 0.10mgd, peaking at 0.14mgd. The treatment capacity of the well is 0.15mgd. Currently the city has a single elevated storage tank with a capacity of 0.15mgd. Figure 4 illustrates the expected increased demand based on the projected increase in total users. Forecasted figures are presented in million gallons per day (mgd).

**Figure 4
Water System Projected Demand**



Source: City of Bowman; Northeast Georgia RDC

Water demand forecasts are derived from population, housing, and employment forecasts based on existing average use levels. These forecasts are based on minimal expansion of the network service area and on the assumption that all new housing units in the City of Bowman will be connected to the water network. The projections illustrate that the source, storage and treatment capacity can adequately accommodate future growth in Bowman. The city needs to continually monitor the condition of the network delivery system because of the age and condition of water pipes throughout the city.

Public Sewerage and Wastewater

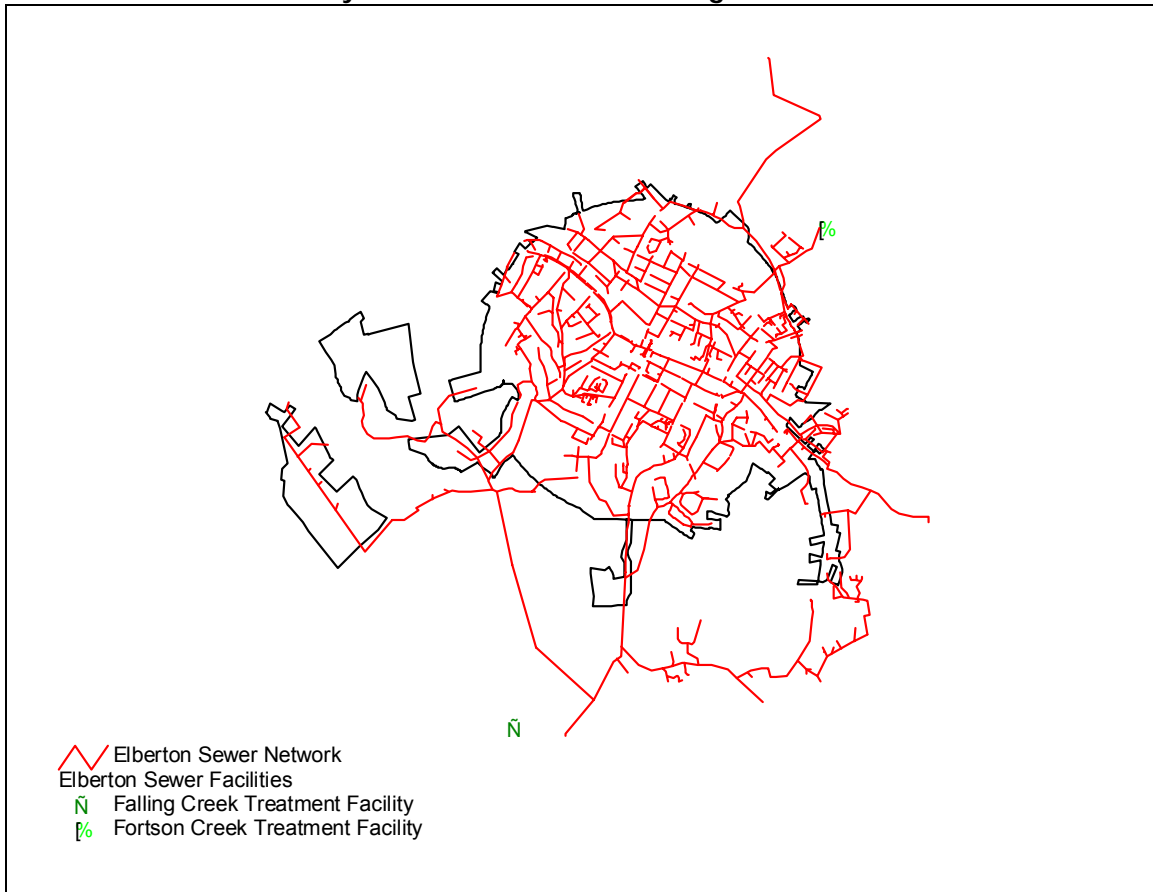
Another major issue concerning the development of Elbert County is the presence of a public sewerage system within the municipalities. Septic systems are intended to provide sewer service to low-density development and are used predominantly in the unincorporated areas.

Inventory of Existing Systems

There is currently no public sewerage system serving the unincorporated county.

The City of Elberton operates two water pollution control plants, one on Falling Creek and the other on Fortson Creek, with a total capacity of 1.5mgd (0.9mgd at Falling Creek and 0.6mgd at Fortson Creek). The average daily flow at the Falling Creek plant is 0.55mgd, and 0.35mgd at the Fortson Creek plant. The network served a total of 2,458 customers in 2002. The City of Elberton sewer network is illustrated in Figure 5.

Figure 5
City of Elberton Public Sewerage Network

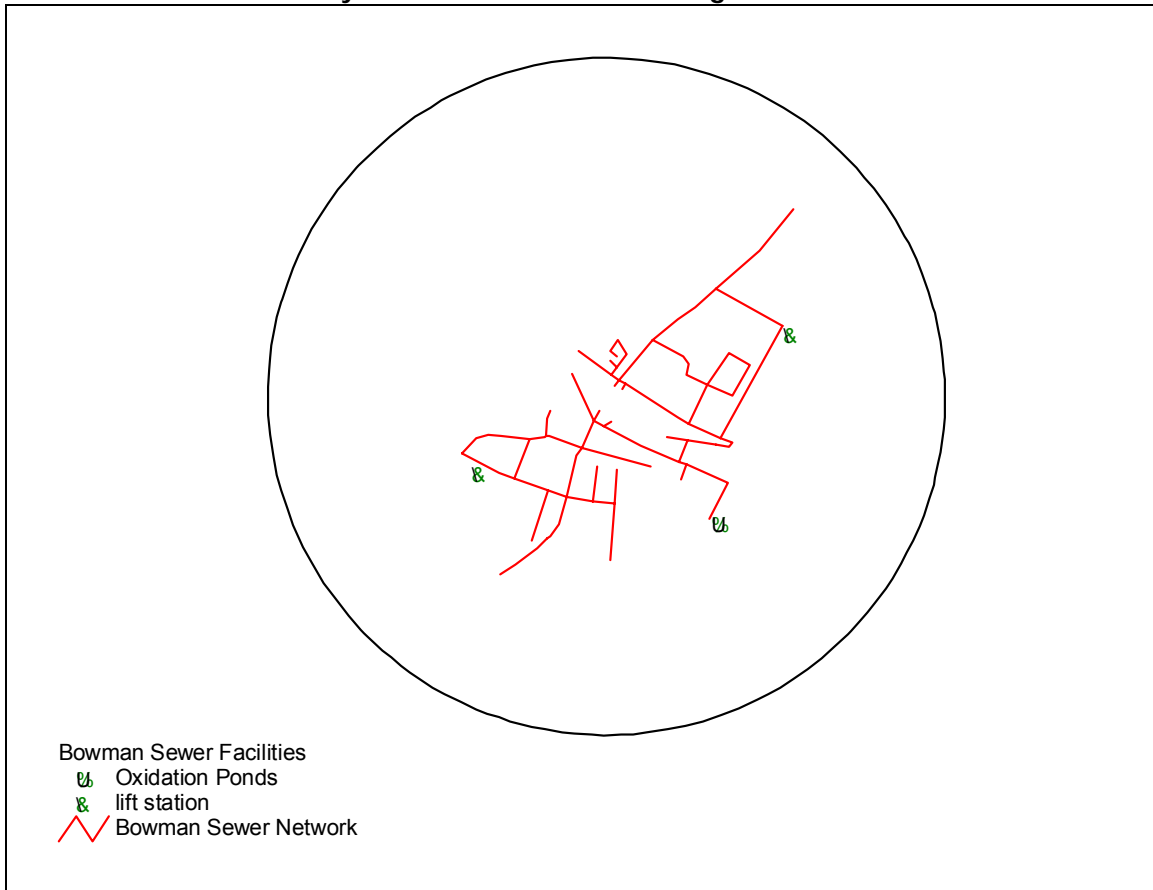


The network illustrates both wastewater pollution control plants, the Falling Creek facility northeast of the city, and the Fortson Creek facility south of the city. As illustrated, the network serves customers within and outside of the city boundary.

The City of Bowman utilizes two lagoons as oxidation ponds to treat waste for discharge into Deep Creek. Not all city residents are connected to the public sewerage system. The existing system currently serves approximately one-half of the city. Those not connected utilize personal septic tanks. There are currently 243 customers utilizing the sewerage system, generating an approximate average daily demand of 0.05mgd (approximation based on NEGRDC calculations).

The network illustrates the location of the oxidation ponds, as well as both lift stations utilized to pump sewerage to the lagoons.

**Figure 6
City of Bowman Public Sewerage Network**



Sewer System Assessment

A level of service analysis for the sewer systems must take a number of variables into consideration when determining the adequacy of the network to serve its users. Each of the municipal sewer systems must be assessed based on the ability of the three following variable's ability to adequately serve the population.

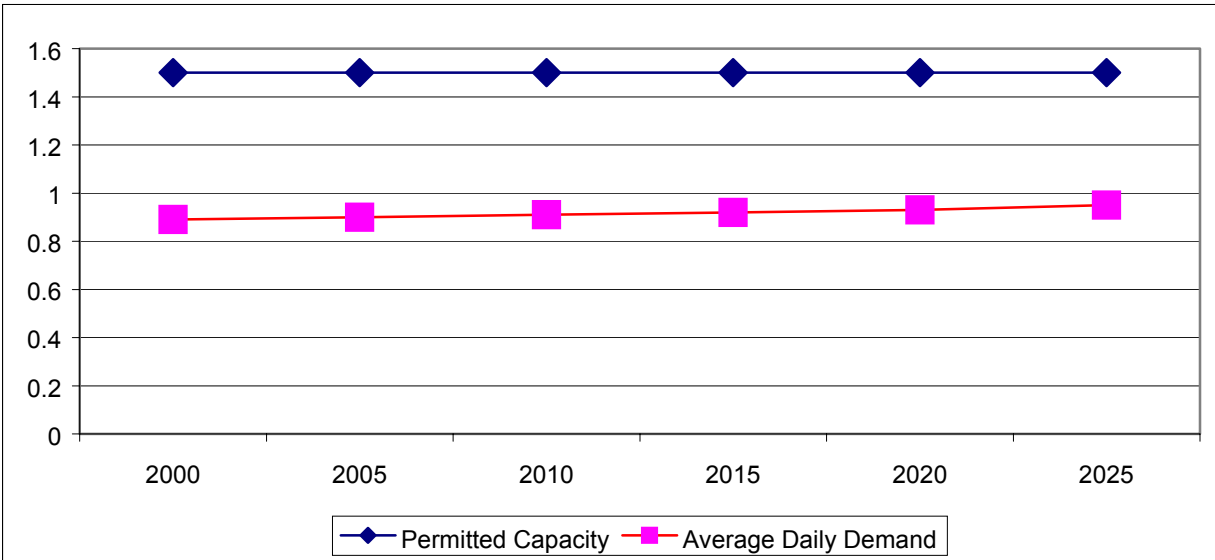
The first variable is the capacity of the treatment facility, which must be analyzed to determine whether or not the available capacity is adequate to accommodate existing and future demand. The second variable is the delivery system, to determine if the current network can adequately sewerage from those areas designated for service. The final variable is the ability of the receptor streams to accommodate additional treated wastewater in their systems.

City of Elberton Sewer System Assessment

The permitted capacity of the Falling Creek water pollution control plant increased to 0.9mgd in 1992. Currently the two plants provide a total of 1.5mgd, to serve the 2,458 existing customers. The average daily load on the two plants combined is 0.9mgd, which adequately meets the existing demands. The city is in the process of undergoing improvements to the Fortson Creek facility dealing with infiltration and inflow upgrades, which should improve the operation of the facility and may increase the design capacity.

Figure 7 illustrates the increased demand expected throughout the planning horizon based on the population and employment projections and the assumption that existing conditions will not change.

Figure 7
Sewerage System Projected Demand



Source: City of Elberton Utilities Department; Northeast Georgia RDC

Public Sewerage demand forecasts are derived from population, housing, and employment forecasts based on existing average use levels. These forecasts are based on minimal expansion of the network service area and would increase accordingly if sewerage service were extended further into the unincorporated area.

Forecasts indicate that the existing combined capacity of the two facilities should adequately serve future populations provided minimal expansion of the service area.

The current delivery system is reportedly in adequate condition, overall, to meet the existing and future needs. However, the city is in the process of analyzing its sewer network to prioritize areas for pipe replacements and upgrades. Sections of the network are old and outdated and will require replacement in order to fully meet future population and economic needs.

The environmental integrity of the stream systems serving the water pollution control plants must be continuously monitored in order to ensure that additional treated wastewater does not contaminate the receptor streams beyond repair. Falling Creek and Fortson Creek are the respective streams receiving the treated effluent from the wastewater treatment facilities.

Fortson Creek is listed on Georgia's 303 (d) list, indicating that it does not meet water quality standards, specifically the stream's ability to support existing fecal coliform loads. The impairment of the stream is a result of a number of variables, including septic tank failures, direct discharge of raw sewage, urban runoff, and leaks, overflows, and failures of the Fortson Creek water pollution control plant.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the concentration of fecal coliform within Fortson Creek and Elbert County and the City of Elberton have created a TMDL implementation plan to reduce the fecal coliform load in Fortson Creek. The implementation of this plan calls for intergovernmental coordination to reduce the amount of flooding within the drainage basin, development of a public education campaign to reduce sources of waste that generate fecal coliform, and to identify and eliminate failing septic systems.

Water quality sampling on Fortson's Creek has led to the discovery of an eroded sewer pipe crossing the stream that was dispensing raw sewage into the creek. Continued monitoring of the stream is necessary to determine the effectiveness of the implementation plan and to ensure that the stream can continue to function properly. The initiation of the infiltration and inflow program and improvements to the treatment plant should alleviate sediment load problems associated with the Fortson Creek wastewater treatment facility.

City of Bowman Sewer System Assessment

Bowman's sewer system has experienced little change over the past ten years. In 1993 there were a reported 243 customers, the number currently served by the existing network. The existing network serves only citizens within the city limits, and currently serves only half of the city.

The capacity of the oxidation ponds is unknown and the average daily use is not calculated. However, based on average use rates for different types of land use, an average daily use can be approximated as 50,000 gallons per day.

The oxidation pond treatment system is described as adequate to meet the existing and projected needs for the city. As part of the infrastructure assessment study, discussed previously in Bowman's water system assessment, the public sewerage system will be analyzed and assessed according to its total effectiveness. Included in this assessment is the identification of inadequate pipes within the delivery system. This detailed assessment will create recommendations for potential expansion of the network, where applicable, to include a greater proportion of city households.

Deep Creek, the system's effluent receptor stream, has not been identified as an impaired stream by the EPA analysis for TMDL. However, this is an issue that requires consistent monitoring to ensure the environmental integrity of the stream system remains intact.

Unincorporated County Sewer Assessment

The county does not operate a public sewerage system nor does it have plans for implementing the construction of a sewer network. New development in the unincorporated county may connect to the City of Elberton network based on the same criteria for extension of service discussed in the unincorporated county water assessment.

Regional watershed studies and TMDL implementation plans have increasingly identified septic tanks as an increasing non-point source pollutant. The abundance of septic tanks in unincorporated areas has increased dramatically over the past twenty years as suburban development has outpaced urban. It is not known for certain the number and location of all septic tanks in the county, but assuming that all households not connected to the municipal sewerage systems are using a septic system would indicate that there are currently approximately 6,400 individual septic systems (according to housing unit estimates from the Housing chapter). This is an approximation but it does illustrate the large number of essentially, unmonitored sewer systems in the county. A septic tank should be cleaned out every 3-5 years to ensure that it continues to work properly. Currently there is no regulation in place to monitor the maintenance of septic systems and once a problem is identified it is generally too late to prevent any contaminants from entering the ground and surface water.

Solid Waste

Solid waste management is an important issue in Elbert County, brought about by the combination of increased population growth, stringent environmental controls and public demand for more efficient and user-friendly collection systems. The closing of the county landfill, increasing quantities of solid waste and fewer acceptable sanitary landfills have placed more emphasis on source reduction, recovery, and reuse of materials.

Elbert County is a member of the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center's (NEGRDC) Solid Waste Task Force. The task force represents twelve counties in the NEGRDC region addressing solid waste management issues on a regional basis. In 1993, a regional comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWM) was finalized, required by law under the 1990 Georgia Solid Waste Management Act, which states that each county must have a SWM plan by July 1992. The Georgia SWM Act also calls for a 25 percent per capita reduction of waste being generated and disposed of. The Task Force is revising the SWM plan, scheduled for completion by June 30, 2004.

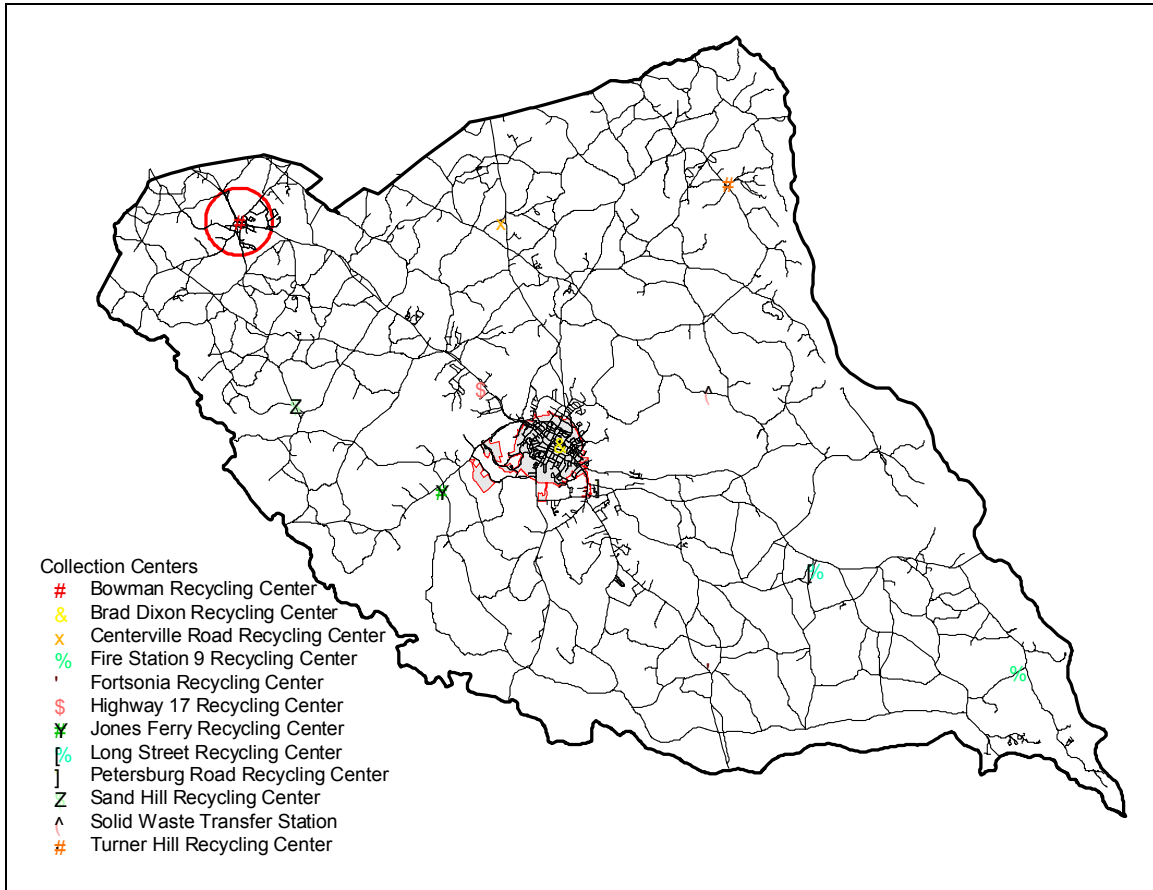
Waste Collection Inventory

Elbert County no longer operates a landfill, but has converted the location on Holmes Chapel Road to a transfer station where solid waste collected throughout the county is transferred to a municipal solid waste landfill in Homer. The transfer station currently handles a total of 60 tons of solid waste per day and accepts household, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition, and inert solid waste materials.

The county does not provide curbside pickup of solid waste in the unincorporated area, or either of the municipalities but does have a network of ten household waste disposal and recycling centers throughout the county. These manned collection centers are located within proximity to higher density residential areas throughout the unincorporated area (including a location within the Bowman City Limits). Household waste and recyclables are accepted at all collection stations, provided that household waste is contained in county trash bags. The county has shifted to a volume based (pay-as-you-throw) solid waste management system, as recommended in the 1993 regional solid waste management plan. As a result, the county now requires all household waste collected at manned collection centers or at the transfer station to be bagged using county bags, which are available at 28 retail outlets throughout the county.

Recyclables collected throughout the county include newspapers and magazines, plastics, steel and aluminum cans, cardboard, glass and scrap metal. All aforementioned recyclables are accepted at each of the manned collection centers. The locations of the county solid waste transfer station as well as each of the household waste disposal and recycling centers are illustrated in Figure 8.

**Figure 8
Location of Solid Waste Collection Facilities**



The City of Elberton offers residential customers weekly solid waste collection service and sells large containers to commercial customers. The city operates two solid waste collection trucks and hauls all solid waste to the county transfer station. The city also provides weekly curbside recycling collection for city residents. Recyclable materials are collected, processed and stored at the recycling center located on North Tusten Street. The city recycling center currently operates in cooperation with the county on recycling materials that the county is not capable of collecting at this time.

The City of Bowman offers residential customers weekly solid waste collection services, operating one solid waste collection truck hauling waste to the county transfer station. As previously mentioned, the county does operate a household waste disposal and recycling centers within the city that provides city residents with a recyclable collection center.

Assessment of Solid Waste Management

The locations of the convenience centers allow equal access to a waste disposal site for all county residents and the volume-based collection system ensures an equitable fee structure. The county intends to continue its public education campaign to help minimize the amount of waste generated in the county, and participate in regional solid waste planning to identify collaborative strategies to achieve the overall goals.

The existing transfer station has a projected useful life of, up to, 15 years. The transfer station currently handles approximately 60 tons of solid waste per day. The facility is capable of handling upwards of 150 tons of solid waste per day with additional equipment and employees.

The county is progressing with its solid waste management plan and is currently considered an “Extra Effort” local government by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in its community indicators program assessing the adequacy of local government’s efforts in environmental preservation. The county participates in the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan and has implemented identified needs in the plan over the years, including the construction of the manned household waste disposal and recycling centers and the implementation of the volume-based fee structure of solid waste collection.

Because of solid waste collection by each of the municipalities county services are generally only utilized by residents within the unincorporated county, however all residents of the county can purchase the county collection bags and access the collection stations.

Public Safety

Emergency 9-1-1 Center

Elbert County operates a countywide Emergency 9-1-1 System operating from the central communications building at 451 Taggart Street in Elberton. The Center is responsible for dispatching emergency services countywide, including the City of Elberton Police and Fire Department respectively.

The Center staffs a Director, an Operations Supervisor and 12 Communications Officers. The 12 Communications Officers are employed on 4 shifts a day with 3 Officers per shift. The Center handles an average of 13,554 emergency calls per year, and an additional 46,740 non-emergency calls.

Law Enforcement Inventory

Three law-enforcement offices serve Elbert County: the Elbert County Sheriff's Department, the Elberton Police Department, and the Georgia State Patrol. The Elbert County Sheriff’s Department provides police protection for unincorporated Elbert County and the City of Bowman. The Elberton Police Department provides services within the city limits.

Sheriff's Department

The Elbert County Sheriff’s Department provides law enforcement services throughout the unincorporated county as well as within the city limits of Bowman through a contractual agreement between the city and the Department.

The Department is located in the Sheriff’s Department facilities and operates the county detention center. The Department operates Investigation, Traffic and K-9 divisions aside from its general patrol officers. The Investigation Division has three investigating officers, the Traffic Division has two full-time officers, and the K-9 Division has two teams consisting of a handler and dog.

The Department currently staffs a total of 25 full-time officers, consisting of the Sheriff, two Captains, four Shift Patrol Sergeants, one Investigations Sergeant, one Investigations Lieutenant, four Shift Patrol Corporals, one Investigations Corporal, ten Shift Deputies, and one School Resource Deputy and 3 part-time Deputies on call. The Department reports an average of 12,000 calls per year with an average response time of 10 minutes. The Sheriff’s Department responds to calls on the countywide Emergency 9-1-1 system.

The detention center has a carrying capacity of 50 inmates. The Sheriff’s Department has an agreement with the City of Elberton Police Department to house excess county detention center inmates, up to a total of 12 inmates.

Elberton Police Department

The City of Elberton operates an independent police department, serving citizens of Elberton within the city limits, headquartered in the city Police Station. The Department staffs 16 Patrol Officers, 2 Criminal Investigators, 2 School Resource Officers, a Code Enforcement Officer, Administration Officer, Court Clerk, and Maintenance Supervisor in addition to the Chief of Police.

The Department reports an average of 6,000 calls per year with an average response time of two minutes. The Department responds to calls on the countywide Emergency 9-1-1 system.

As previously mentioned, the Department does cooperate with the Sheriff's Department on the handling of prison inmates. The city detention center has a capacity of 12 inmates.

Fire Protection Inventory

An excellent fire department is a vital link in the chain of regional development, affecting insurance costs and, thus, the willingness of people and industries to settle in a given area. Fire protection is directly affected by the quality of the water system and a lack of infrastructure can severely reduce the community's ability to provide adequate fire protection.

The existence and adequacy of a water system become a determining factor in the rating given a fire department by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO). Other factors include: the size and type of buildings in a community, the presence or absence of a fire alarm system, how calls are received and handled, whether fire fighters are paid or volunteer, whether there is a community water system, the size of water mains, and how long it takes a department to respond to a call. This independent organization weighs all these factors to assign a department a rating between one and ten, with a rating of nine or ten meaning that an area is relatively unprotected.

ISO ratings are not legal standards but recommendations that insurance companies can use to set fire insurance rates. Because they are set by an independent organization, they become an easy way of comparing community fire departments. However, because these ratings involve weighing several variables, they do not directly compare. For instance, a rating of seven in two different communities does not mean that each is working with the same equipment under the same circumstances. Rather, one could have an adequate water system but inadequate personnel and equipment, the other, the reverse.

Elbert County Fire Protective Services

The Elbert County Fire Department and the Georgia Forestry Commission provide fire protection throughout unincorporated Elbert County. The Elbert County Fire Department provides service to the unincorporated area of the county, as well as the City of Bowman. Each department is interconnected through a central communication system allowing countywide fire protection services. All calls are handled through the countywide Emergency 9-1-1 system.

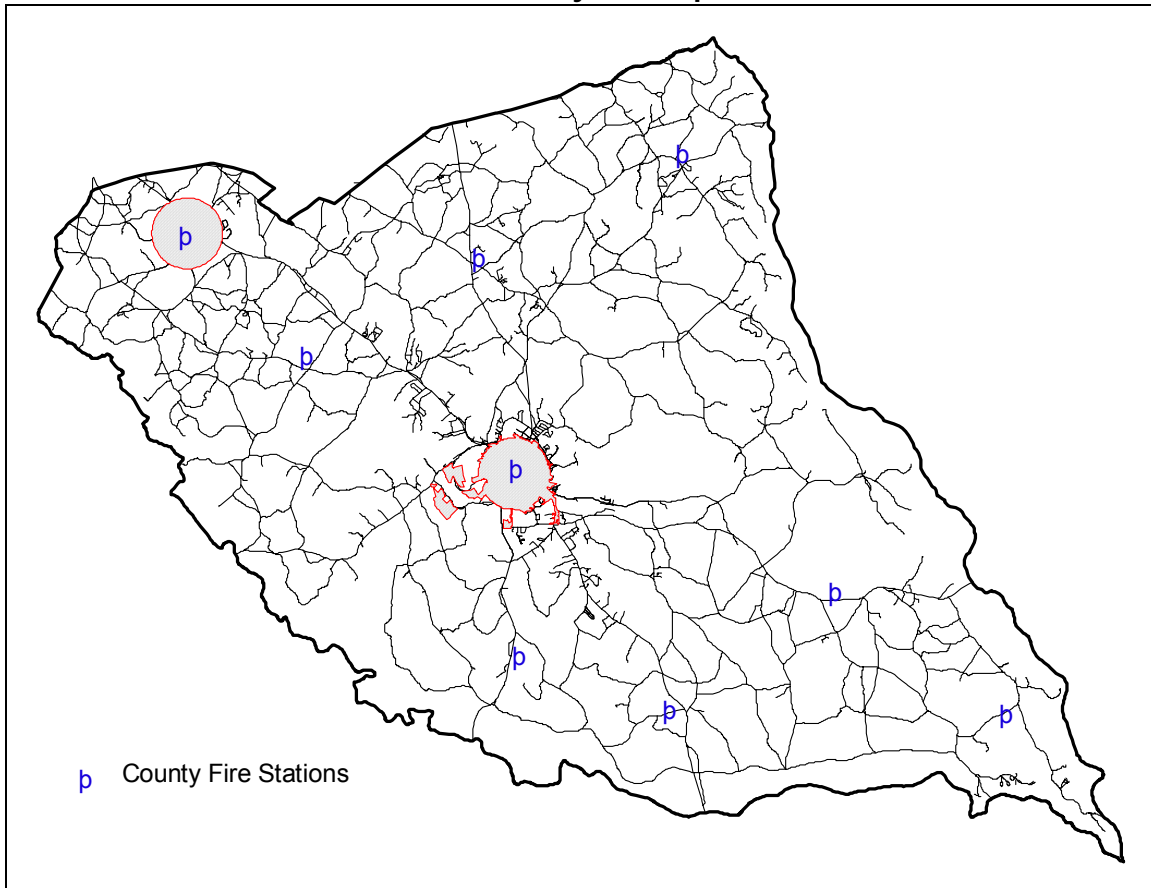
The County Fire Department includes nine stations located throughout the county, with primary coverage areas extending a three-mile radius around each station. Secondary coverage area includes a five-mile radius around each station. The county Department headquarters are located in Elberton. Figure 9 illustrates the locations of the county Fire Departments.

The Department consists of 140 volunteer firefighters. Water is supplied in the unincorporated areas through a network of 64 dry hydrants, as well as 16 boat ramp suction sources on Lake Russell. Pressurized hydrants are available in both municipalities.

The county's ISO rating is 5/9, indicating a rating of 5 within five road-miles of a fire station within 1,000 feet of a hydrant and a rating of 9 within five road-miles of a station without a water source.

The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) is funded by the state to combat woodland, wild land and agricultural fires, generally not responding to structure fires. The Elbert County Unit is located outside of Elberton on Jones Ferry Road. This unit serves all of Elbert County and must contend with special fire hazards such as large pine plantations.

Figure 9
Location of County Fire Departments



City of Elberton Fire Protective Services

The Elberton Fire Department is located at 202 North Thomas Street in Elberton. The department staffs 18 full-time personnel (including a Fire Chief, a Fire Inspector, 3 shift commanders, 3 assistant shift commanders, and 10 firefighters) and has 15 volunteer firefighters. The City of Elberton independently runs the fire department and provides the department an annual operating budget. The department reports an average of 200 calls per year with an average response time of 4 minutes. All calls are handled through the countywide Emergency 9-1-1 system. The department's primary coverage area is the city limits and has an ISO rating of 4.

Emergency Medical Services Inventory

Elbert County operates an Emergency Medical Services department serving the entire county, including each of the municipalities. The Department operates 4 fully equipped ambulances and 2 fully equipped rescue trucks. The vehicle fleet is dispatched out of the Elbert Memorial Hospital and responds to calls through the countywide Emergency 9-1-1 System.

The Department staffs 12 full-time Paramedics, 2 full-time Emergency Medical Technician's (EMT), 12 part-time EMT's and 45 volunteer First Responders. The First Responder Program is a volunteer program responding to

motor vehicle and industrial accidents, possible cardiac arrest, and respiratory distress calls. The Department reports an average of 3,120 calls per year with an average response time of 7 minutes.

Public Safety Assessment

Both county and city emergency services are seeking to increase the efficiency of providing services to the public. The county and Elberton have already begun this process by consolidating all emergency services on a single emergency 9-1-1 network to increase the efficiency of dispatching the various departments.

In order to fully increase the efficiency in delivery of emergency services, the county plans to consolidate each of the three departments into a single emergency facility. The emergency services facility will also house the Emergency 9-1-1 system, and provide a training facility for all emergency services staff and volunteers.

The city also intends to consolidate the emergency services that it provides. The police and fire department have both begun using the countywide 9-1-1 system and intend to consolidate the departments to increase the level of service provided to city residents. The departments will coordinate efforts to avoid duplicative services and accentuate operational efficiency.

Emergency 9-1-1 Assessment

The county has consolidated all county emergency departments under a single emergency 9-1-1 system and upgraded its phone system to handle the increased load of calls as a result of the consolidation.

Current staff levels are adequate to handle the existing workload. The number of emergency calls must continually be monitored to ensure that staff levels are capable of dealing with increased workloads as the population increases.

Communications equipment and facilities maintenance and upgrades must take place on a regular basis to ensure a continued high level of service to county residents. The 9-1-1 system will move into the county emergency services facility upon its completion and equipment and facilities upgrades will be undertaken at that time.

Law Enforcement Assessment

Overall the Sheriff's Department adequately serves the existing population. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report of 2002, national averages of rural counties for the number of sworn officers per 1,000 population was 2.5 sworn officers per 1,000 residents and 4.2 total personnel per 1,000 residents. According to the staff figures for the Elbert County Sheriff's Department county averages per 1,000 persons are currently 1.2 sworn officers per 1,000 residents, and 1.4 total personnel per 1,000 residents.

The Sheriff's Department will move into the county emergency services facility upon its completion. This facility will include a new detention center, alleviating many of the capacity issues the county currently faces. The existing facility will be converted to a women's detention center.

The Uniform Crime Report states that the national average for cities under 10,000 people was 4.1 sworn officers per 1,000 residents and 5.0 total personnel per 1,000 residents. According to the staff figures for the Elberton Police Department city averages per 1,000 persons are currently 4.7 officers per 1,000 residents and 6.2 total personnel per 1,000 residents.

These statistics are merely national averages and do not constitute standardized levels of service. There are a number of variables that determine the effectiveness of local law enforcement agencies aside from the total available staff, including crime rates, geographic size of the service area, population densities, and demographics.

The Elberton Police Department reports that they are currently understaffed and in need of upgraded equipment and facilities to adequately serve existing populations as well as the projected growth. As part of the consolidation of

services efforts with the city fire department, deteriorated police facilities also need renovation to increase the Department's ability to serve the public.

Because of the expected growth throughout the county staff levels will need constant monitoring to ensure that the agencies are able to maintain adequate levels of service to an increasing population.

The total number of crimes reported in 2000 was 236 (6.8% violent crimes and 93.2% property crimes), which created an index crime rate of 1,150.6/100,000 residents ranking Elbert County 32 in the state (a rank of 159 represented the highest crime rate).

Fire Protective Services Assessment

It is difficult to assess the county's level of service for fire protection because of all the variables involved. Overall, every department has reported a general adequacy in providing service to its jurisdiction, however as the population continues to grow, additional staff, and equipment will be required to maintain adequate response times and qualified personnel. Of the 140 volunteer firefighters, 120 have completed the Georgia Firefighters Module 1 Course.

The county has constructed a ninth fire station since the initial comprehensive plan was created and has created a tenth fire district, in which a station is planned for construction. The tenth district is planned northwest of the City of Elberton to increase protection in the area that has seen the greatest economic and population growth. The county headquarters will move into the new county emergency services facility upon its completion.

The Elberton Fire Department has expressed that they are currently able to provide adequate service to the city. The Department is intent on consolidating its services with the Police Department to increase its level of service.

Emergency Medical Services Assessment

The department reports that it is currently able to meet the demands throughout the county, but like all other public safety departments, increased population requires more staff, equipment, and ambulances. It is also imperative that staff, equipment and facilities are consistently upgraded in terms of training, latest available technologies, and adequate space.

The existing level of service is 1 ambulance per 5,127 residents. To maintain this level of service, investment in new equipment and staff must keep pace with population growth. The Department has identified the need to replace two ambulances with newer models in order to ensure they can continue to provide an adequate level of service.

The Emergency Medical Services Department will move its facilities to the County Emergency Services Facility upon its completion.

Hospitals and Other Public Health Facilities

Hospitals and Health Centers

The Elbert Memorial Hospital is the only acute care facility in the county. It has a 52-bed capacity and offers emergency and full outpatient facilities and services, staffed by a total of 215 employees. The Elberton-Elbert County Hospital Authority governs the Hospital.

The Hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, demonstrating the Hospital's compliance with nationally recognized healthcare standards. The public has access to a wide variety of physicians through the Hospital, including a number of specialists. There are a total of 31 physicians available through the Hospital, including 22 of who are located in Elberton.

The Hospital reports an average of 2,200 inpatients, 12,000 outpatients, 8,500 emergency department visits, 1,200 surgical procedures, and 150 births per year.

The Elbert County Health department offers a variety of health services to county residents and is located at 27 West Church Street in Elberton. The Department has Registered Nurses on staff and services offered include children's medical care, preventive healthcare, women's health services, family planning, birth control, counseling, and immunizations. The County Health Department is also responsible for personal septic tank permitting.

The City of Bowman has a medical clinic, staffed with a General Practitioner full-time from Monday to Friday, as a part of the Ty Cobb Healthcare System.

Nursing Homes

There are three privately run nursing home facilities operating in Elbert County, the Heardmont Nursing Home, Nancy Hart Nursing Center, and Spring Valley Health Care Center. According to 2001 statistics, there were a total of 187 beds available among the three facilities and they were reporting an average occupancy rate of 87.3%.

The county also has additional smaller private personal care homes, reportedly capable of handling up to five patients each.

Hospitals and Public Health Facilities Assessment

The demand for health services in the county continues to grow as Elbert County's population grows and ages. There is currently adequate room in the hospital, reporting an average occupancy rate of 44.4% of its 52 beds. The number of practicing physicians has increased from 15 in 1990, to 22 locally practicing physicians in 2003. The ratio of residents to physicians has decreased from 1,263:1 in 1990 to 932:1 in 2003. Elbert County is within close proximity to state of the art medical facilities in Athens and Atlanta.

The Hospital facility is reportedly inadequate to meet both existing and future populations. The majority of the infrastructure in the existing facility has met, or exceeded its useful life and is in need of repair or replacement. The Hospital facility is disjointed and is comprised of a number of separate buildings rather than a single facility, resulting in increased burdens on the infrastructure particularly the heating and air conditioning units.

From a cost-benefit standpoint renovation and expansion is a cost-prohibitive option because of the separation of the facilities. In order to fully meet the healthcare needs of the existing and future populations a new facility is needed, whether on the existing site or in a anew location.

All of the private nursing homes are below state averages in terms of staff hours per resident per day. The current state average is 3.5 hours/resident/day and all three are operating below that level. This is merely an average reported across the state and does not represent a standardized level of service. There are a number of variables that determine the number of staff hours per resident based on occupancy and the dependency level of the residents.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

An important aspect of population growth is recreational opportunities, both passive and active. The availability of parks and recreation opportunities plays a large role in the perceived quality of life of one area over another and can make the difference in a relocation decision.

Inventory of Parks and Recreation Facilities

The National Recreation and Park Association has developed a set of standards that communities can use when developing guidelines for parks and recreation facilities planning. The Association defines parkland in a tiered approach and assigns a potential service boundary for each tier. The four tiers of parks can be defined as:

1. **Neighborhood Park:** serves the population of a neighborhood, and is generally accessible by bicycle or on foot. Typical facilities include an equipped play area, multipurpose courts, multipurpose fields, picnic area, and passive recreation area. The customary service area is a one-mile radius.
 2. **Community Park:** located near major roadways and designed to serve the needs of more than one neighborhood. Typical facilities include a large group picnic shelter, swimming pool, lighted or unlighted baseball/softball fields, lighted tennis courts, recreation building, gymnasium, rest room, passive recreation area, and parking. The customary service area is a three-mile radius.
 3. **Regional Park:** developed to serve several communities, population centers, or large portions of the county. Typical features include nature, hiking, riding or exercise trails, nature center, amphitheater, or other specialized building, area for boating or swimming, rest room, passive recreation area, and parking. The customary service area is a twenty-mile radius.
 4. **Highly Specialized Park:** primarily used for athletics or specialized recreational activities. Typical facilities include baseball field, softball field, football field, soccer field, gun range, rest rooms, passive recreation area, and parking. The customary service area is a twenty-mile radius.
- Recreation, Park, Open Space, and Greenway Standards and Guidelines; National Recreation and Park Association, 1996.*

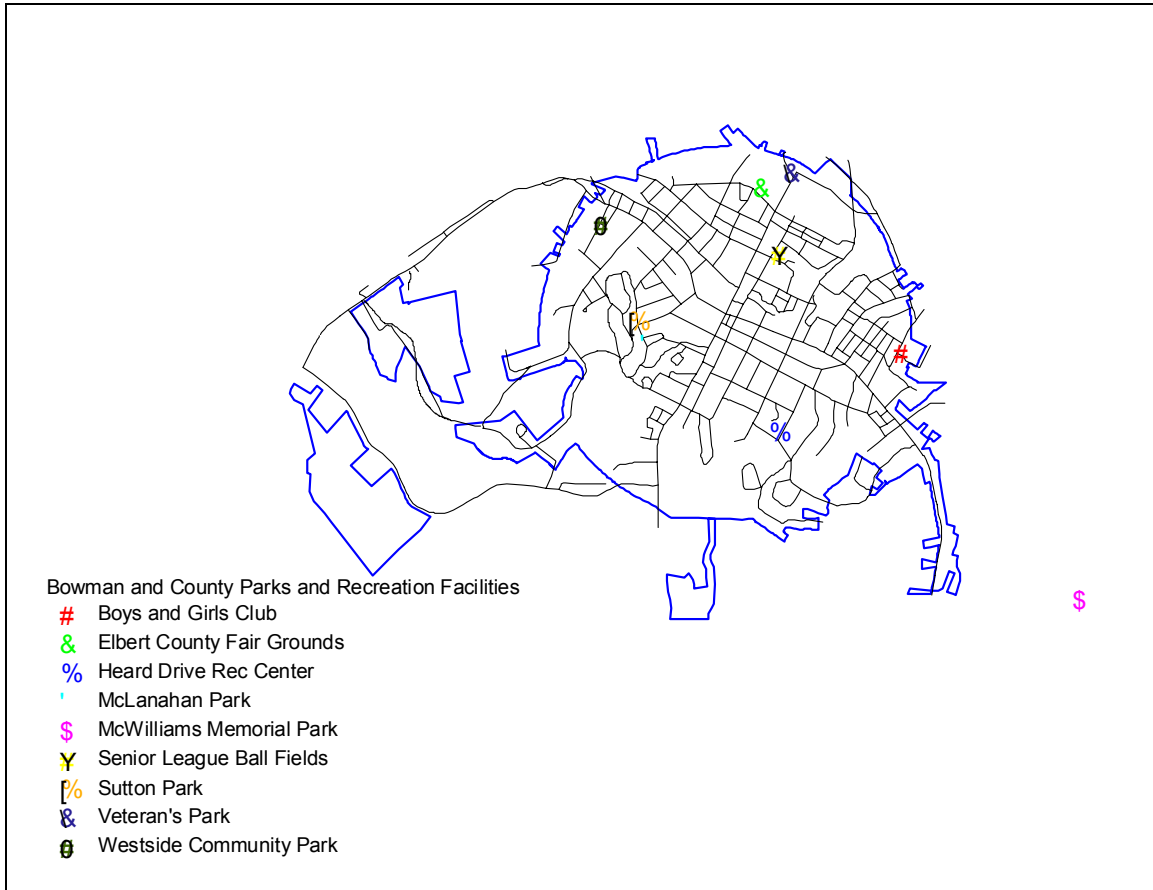
These four categories are broad-based and can be further refined to provide greater definition in classifying a community's park space.

There are other areas in the county that may be classified as parks and recreation that do not meet the definitions set forth. Areas that have been set aside within new subdivision developments for common open space may provide passive recreational activities or simply be used for the conservation of naturally sensitive lands. The county also has a state-owned game reserve, approximately 850 acres, which could be classified as a recreation area to a segment of the population. School sites may also provide recreational opportunities to the general population after school hours. See Table 1 for an inventory of existing park facilities throughout the county (based on the four identified park classifications).

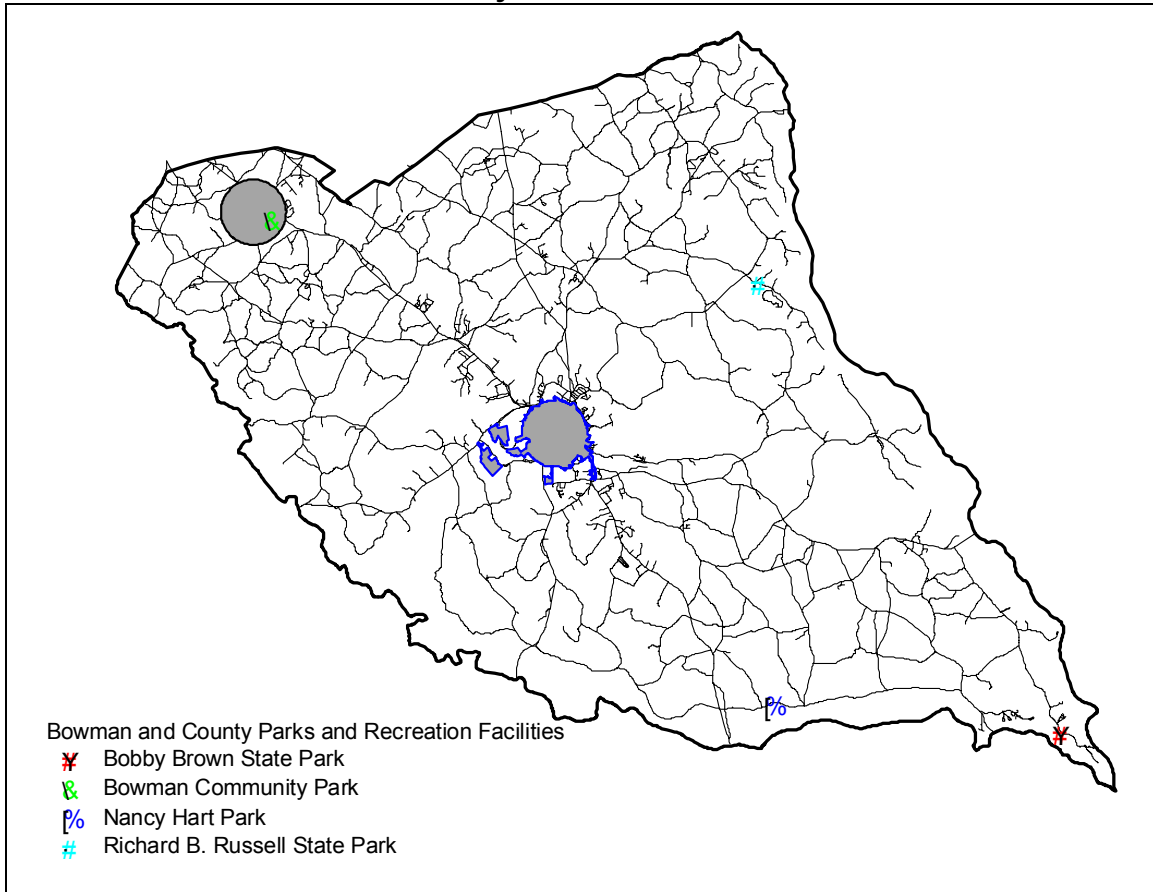
Table 1
Location of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Facility	Acres	Location	Category
Heard Drive Recreation Area	5.5	Elberton	Community Park
Bowman Community Park	45.0	Bowman	Community Park
Rock Branch Park	3.0	Rock Branch Community	Community Park
McWilliams Memorial Park	50.0	Elbert County	Community Park
Senior League Recreation Center	4.5	Elberton	Highly Specialized
Westside Community Park	0.3	Elberton	Neighborhood Park
Sutton Park	3.0	Elberton	Neighborhood Park
McLanahan Park	3.5	Elberton	Neighborhood Park
Bobby Brown State Park	665.0	Elbert County	Regional Park
Richard B. Russell State Park	2,241.0	Elbert County	Regional Park
Nancy Hart Park	14.0	Elbert County	Regional Park

Figure 10
Elberton Area Parks and Recreation Facilities



**Figure 11
Bowman and County Parks and Recreation Facilities**



Assessment of Parks and Recreation Facilities

The National Recreation and Park Association has set as a guideline level of service 10 acres of park, recreation, or open space per 1,000 persons. This is merely a guideline and every community has its own set of needs based on the demographics of the population. Table 2 illustrates the ratio of park acreage by category per 1,000 people.

Looking specifically at each park classification can provide better clarification of the types of parkland available within the community. The ratio of neighborhood park space in the county is 0.5 acres per 1,000. It is difficult for the county to maintain parks of this type within the unincorporated area because of the low-density, scattered style of residential development that occurs outside of municipal boundaries. All of this park acreage is present within the City of Elberton.

**Table 2
Existing Park Acreages**

Park Type	Acreage	Acres per 1000 Persons
Neighborhood	10.8	0.5
Community	53.5	2.6
Regional	2,920	142.4
Highly Specialized	4.5	0.2
Totals	2,995.8	145.8

The ratio of community park space per 1,000 is 2.9 acres per 1,000 people. These types of parks combine a greater amount of recreation activities than neighborhood parks. The City of Elberton has 12.5 acres of community park space, the Rock Branch Community has 3 acres, and the City of Bowman has approximately 45 acres within the Bowman Community Park.

The county has an abundance of regional park space because of the presence of two large state parks. Both parks provide a variety of recreation activities and serve not only the entire county, but also attract visitors from throughout the state and beyond.

The only park currently classified Highly Specialized is the Senior League Recreation Center used exclusively for softball and baseball.

The overabundance of regional park acreage in the county inflates the ratio of total park acreage per 1,000 residents. The excess acreage above and beyond the recommended ratio does not necessarily mean the existing level of service is adequate. The construction of the multi-use trail network connecting the state bicycle routes intersecting Elberton, as discussed in the Transportation Chapter, increases the amount of recreation acreage available and also incorporates additional park space that is planned along the network behind Athens Tech and on Jones Street.

Currently, the facilities at Heard Street are dilapidated and unused. In order to provide functional recreational use the park requires revitalization and refurbishing of its facilities to increase the amount of useable park space within the city.

The county operates a Boys and Girls Club and also has land dedicated for use as the county fairgrounds. The county plans to improve the facilities and activities provided at McWilliams Park, including the construction of a new multi-purpose facility and swimming pool.

Bowman’s community park provides the city with ample recreation space and the city plans to continue investment in the park to diversify the types of activities that the park can provide.

Government Facilities

Inventory of General Government Facilities

This section presents an inventory of general government facilities. Although the respective local governments own and operate a variety of buildings only those that are used for everyday government activity are reported on. Table 3 presents an inventory of all general government facilities throughout the county.

**Table 3
Existing Government Facilities**

Building Name	Use
Elbert County Facilities	
Elbert County Commissioner’s Office	Houses County Commission offices and county departments.
Elbert County Sheriff’s Department	Sheriff’s offices and detention center.
Solid Waste Transfer Station and Collection Centers	Manned collection centers throughout the county and centrally located solid waste transfer station.
Elbert County Health Department	Health Department
Volunteer Fire Stations	County Fire Stations
Elbert County Courthouse	Probate, Magistrate, Criminal court.
Emergency Management Offices	Emergency 9-1-1 and Emergency Services office.

Building Name	Use
Elbert County Facilities	
Board of Education Offices	Board of Education.
Recreation Department Offices	Recreation Department.
Elbert County DFCS Facility	Department of Family and Children Services
City of Elberton Facilities	
Public Works Administration	Admin. Offices for all public works departments and motor pool repair shop.
Recycling Center	Collects, processes and stores recycled materials.
Cemetery Office	Administrative office for both municipal cemeteries and shop area for small engine repair.
Old Public Works Building	Materials, supplies, and surplus equipment storage.
Animal Control Facility	Used for impoundment of stray animals.
Customer Service Building	Houses utility customer service departments including finance and customer and support services.
Elberton Municipal Building	City Hall and city departments.
Elberton Fire Department	City Fire Station.
Elberton Police Department	City Police Station.
City of Bowman Facilities	
Bowman City Hall	City Hall and library service outlet.
Bowman Public Works Admin. Building	Houses public works department.

Government Facilities Assessment

The county has constructed new facilities over the past decade to house the Health Department, the manned solid waste and recyclable collection centers, and a new fire station. The county also plans on constructing a new emergency service facility (as discussed in section 6.4.5.0), to house the Fire Department Headquarters, Sheriff’s Department, Emergency Medical Services Department, and the Emergency 9-1-1 offices to consolidate emergency services under a single facility, as well as an additional Fire Station to serve the tenth Fire District discussed earlier in “Fire Protection Services Assessment.”

The courthouse is in need of renovation, as also discussed in the Natural and Cultural Resources section and the county offices require additional space. The DFCS facility does not provide adequate space and is in need of expansion. The county has identified the opportunity to relocate the department as opposed to constructing a new facility. In order to maximize the use of existing facilities the county has identified the opportunity to renovate the old Middle School to use as county office space. The county also plans on constructing a new animal control facility.

The City of Elberton, as part of consolidating its emergency services, intends to upgrade its existing Police Department facility increasing the amount of available space and upgrading the equipment. The city also intends to increase services at the Utilities Customer Service building, implement a more efficient financial management software system, and renovate space within the existing Municipal Building to expand the amount of available office space. The city also plans on developing teleconferencing capabilities to allow opportunities for distance learning continued education and a variety of other potential applications.

The City of Bowman has no foreseeable need for expansion or construction of facilities.

Educational Facilities

The Elbert County Board of Education provides public elementary and secondary education throughout Elbert County. There are no private schools operating in Elbert County.

Inventory of Existing Educational Facilities

The most recent student enrollment figures (March of 2002) report the total enrollment in Elbert County schools at 3,813. This represents a 3.4% decrease over 1995 figures, which reported the county school system at 3,949 full-time students. Table 4 presents the total enrollment at each of the existing schools in both school districts and Figure 12 illustrates their locations.

The numbers of school children have either decreased or remained relatively constant since 1995 in the majority of the schools. The newly constructed Doves Creek Elementary School (opened in 2000) decreased enrollment in the three other Elberton area elementary schools. The decreasing population in the City of Elberton can also be attributed to the decreasing enrollment figures. The Bowman Elementary School has increased marginally since 1995, reflecting the increase in population as reported in Chapter 2. Overall the county has five Elementary Schools offering Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5, one Middle School offering Grades 6 to 8, and one High School offering Grades 9-12.

**Table 4
Full-Time Student Enrollments – 1996-2002**

School Name	1995 Enrollment	2003 Enrollment	% Change	Capacity
Beaverdam Elementary School	540	389	-27.9	600
Blackwell Elementary School	587	305	-48.0	820
Bowman Elementary School	255	271	6.3	350
Doves Creek Elementary School	-	427	NA	600
Elbert County High School	1,069	1,076	0.7	1,200
Elbert County Middle School	900	933	3.7	1,200
Falling Creek Elementary School	598	412	-31.1	650
Totals	3,949	3,813	-3.4	5,420

Source: Georgia Department of Education

Figures 12 and 13 illustrate the locations of each of the education facilities throughout the county.

Figure 12
Elberton Area Education Facilities

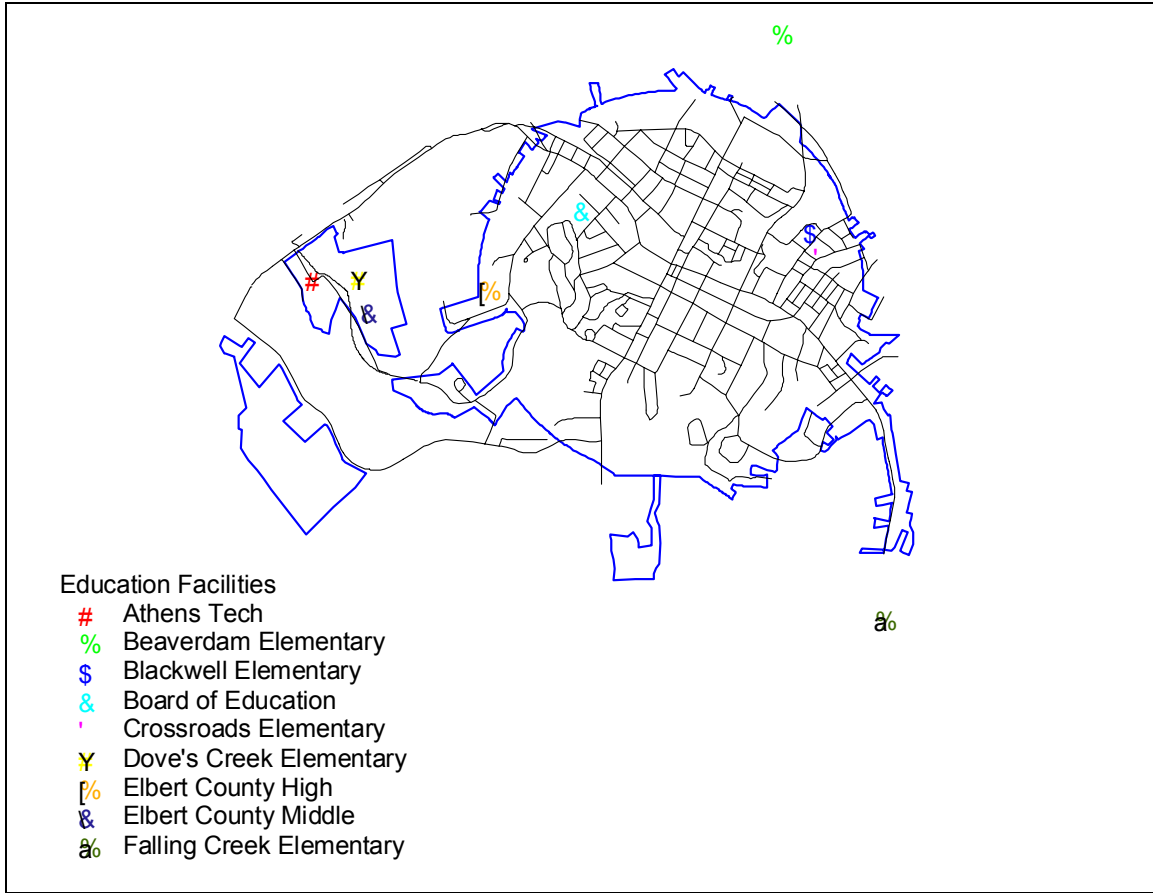
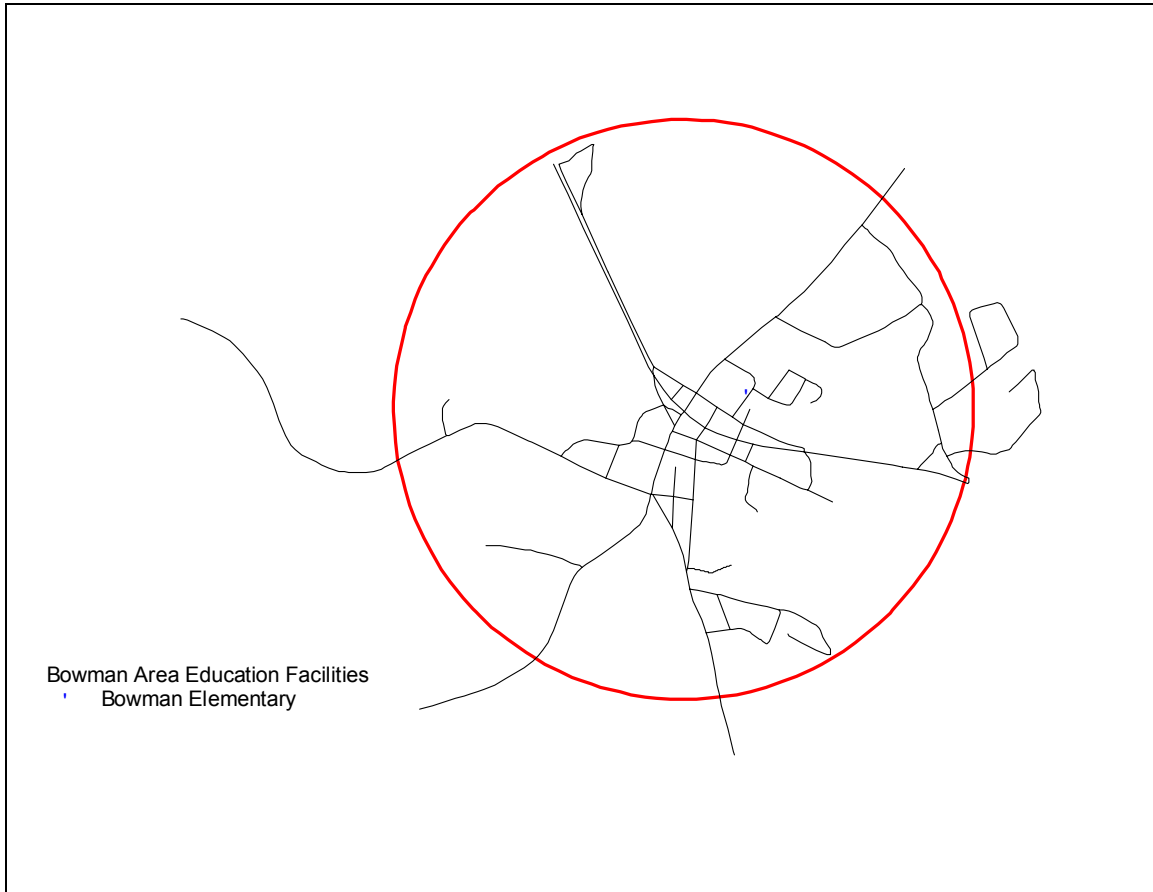


Table 5
Addresses of Existing Schools

School Name	Address
Beaverdam Elementary School	1088 Ruckersville Road, Elberton
Blackwell Elementary School	373 Campbell Street, Elberton
Bowman Elementary School	P.O. Box 489, Bowman
Doves Creek Elementary School	1150 Athens Tech Road, Elberton
Elbert County High School	600 Abernathy Circle, Elberton
Elbert County Middle School	45 Forest Avenue, Elberton
Falling Creek Elementary School	1019 Falling Creek Circle, Elberton

Source: Georgia Department of Education

**Figure 13
Bowman Area Education Facilities**



Education Facilities Assessment

Since 2000 the Elbert County Board of Education (BOE) has completed the construction of the Middle School in Elberton (opened for the start of the 2003 school year) and Doves Creek Elementary School in Elberton (opened for the start of the 2000 school year). Both of these projects are located adjacent to the Athens Tech campus. This new construction has alleviated congestion within the elementary schools and expanded the capacity of the middle schools.

Currently there are no schools operating at, or beyond capacity. Long-term, the BOE will expand facilities as needed to support the population growth.

The BOE also operates an alternative school, the Crossroads Elementary, and the county has access to a private K-12 school, Elberton Christian School, which occupies the old Truett McConnell College facility.

Future impacts on the public school system must be monitored as growth occurs, to determine the ability of existing facilities to handle the projected growth. Forecasts may be based on average statistics generated from national averages utilized in the Rutgers University Fiscal Impacts of Land Development Patterns study done in 1997. The study estimates that every new single-family household generates 0.72 public school-aged children, every multi-family household generates 0.21 public school-aged children, and every manufactured household generates 0.30

public school-aged children. Using the household forecasts from the Housing Element enrollment projections may be done.

It is difficult to project the needs long-term over this document's planning horizon (twenty years) but short-term forecasts may be somewhat useful to determine potential impacts on the school system. Household forecasts to 2010 illustrate an increase of 309 single-family households, 39 multi-family households, and 234 mobile/manufactures households. Utilizing the Rutgers study statistics generates an expected 300 school-aged children increase by 2010.

The slow growth expected throughout the county, combined with the recent construction of the new middle and elementary schools should allow the existing facilities to adequately accommodate the population's needs in the foreseeable future.

As mentioned in the Economic Development section, the education level of county residents is an important tool in recruiting potential business. Table 6 illustrates comparison data between the county school district and the overall state averages for key indicators in determining the effectiveness of the education system.

**Table 6
1990-2000 Comparison for Select Statistics**

Category	2001-2002 Data	
	Georgia	Elbert
% Grads with college prep diploma	64.8%	45.1%
High School dropout rate	5.8%	6.7%
Ratio of students to teachers	15:1	14:1
Average cost/full-time student	\$6,484	\$6,259

Source: Georgia Department of Education

This data reflects the decreased value placed on education that has been discussed in the Economic Development section. The county school board continues to work with children through a variety of volunteer programs to help address the overall lack of educational attainment in the county.

Libraries and Cultural Facilities

Inventory of Existing Library and Cultural Facilities

The Elbert County Public Library operates its main branch in the City of Elberton, located at 345 Heard Street, and has a service outlet located in Bowman City Hall.

The main branch is staffed two full-time employees and three part-time employees. The library also operates a bookmobile that mobilizes 1,867 print materials. The library is equipped with 15, Internet capable, public access computer stations. The main branch houses a total of 83,312 total print materials and 3,717 non-print materials, for a total of 87,029 total volumes.

The Senior Community Service Employment Program staffs the Bowman service outlet. The facility operates four, Internet capable, public access computers. The facility houses a total of 1,126 print materials.

Overall, the Elbert County Public Library System has 88,155 total volumes in circulation.

Elbert County, Elberton, and Bowman are steeped in history and house a variety of historical cultural facilities, as noted in the Historic Resources Section. In addition to the historic structures the county also has the Granite Museum, located in Elberton providing historic and educational displays relating to the history of Elberton's granite industry, The Elbert Theatre, in Elberton offering live performances, and the Georgia Guidestones, located in northern Elbert County on Highway 77, a mysterious granite monument known as the Stonehenge of America.

Assessment of Libraries and Cultural Facilities

The county, rich in history, has a variety of cultural resources for its residents to explore and the continued preservation efforts in Bowman and Elberton ensure that these historic structures remain intact. To increase tourism opportunities and potential visitors to the county, and its cities, historic and cultural resources may be marketed to a wider range of potential users, as will be discussed further in the Economic Development Chapter.

The libraries possess a total of 88,155 volumes, which is equal to 4.3-volumes per capita. The Georgia Public Library System has adopted standardized recommendations for libraries based on the population size they are serving. Elbert County's total population of 20,511 (as reported in the 2000 Census) is right at the threshold for communities either greater than or less than 20,000, both illustrating different recommended levels of service.

There are three levels of service, basic, full and comprehensive. For communities under 20,000 the basic level of service is 4 volumes per capita, the full service is 6 volumes per capita, and the comprehensive is 8 volumes per capita. For communities over 20,000 the basic level of service is 2 volumes per capita, full service is 4 volumes per capita, and comprehensive service is 6 volumes per capita.

Based on these recommendations, the Elbert County Library System is operating, at-worst on a basic level of service, or at-best a full level of service. However the main branch does report a need for additional space within the existing facility. Currently the shelving space is inadequate to properly store all of the volumes and the computer lab space is inadequate to house all of the terminals. Small expansion is needed to mitigate both of these problems.

The Elbert Theatre continues to undergo renovations to fully restore the theatre and allow a wider variety of functions to occur. The renovations represent a long-term commitment from all aspects of the county including local governments and the general public.

Goals and Policies

Water Supply and Treatment

Vision Statement: *Provide potable water service in a safe, clean, efficient, economical, and environmentally sound manner concurrent with new development.*

Goal 1.1: Meet environmental criteria and public health rules and guidelines. *(Applicable to Elbert County and the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Policy 1.1.1: Adopt environmental planning criteria related to water quality.

Policy 1.1.2: Promote the conservation of water resources.

Goal 1.2: Coordinate new development with the existence and availability of adequate potable water service and continue to maintain and expand existing facilities as required to efficiently meet increasing demands. *(Applicable to the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Policy 1.2.1: Analyze the ability of existing infrastructure to handle all new development.

Policy 1.2.2: Maximize the use of existing infrastructure for potable water service.

Policy 1.2.3: Invest in new infrastructure as needed to ensure the continued provision of an adequate level of service.

Goal 1.3: Increased storage capacity for treated water. *(Applicable to the municipality of Elberton)*

Public Sewerage and Wastewater

Vision Statement: *Provide sanitary sewer service in a safe, clean, efficient, economical, and environmentally sound manner, concurrent with urban development.*

Goal 1.1: Continue to maintain and expand existing facilities as required to efficiently meet increasing demands. *(Applicable to the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Policy 1.1.1: Analyze the ability of existing infrastructure to handle all new development.

Policy 1.1.2: Maximize the use of existing infrastructure for sanitary sewer service.

Goal 1.2: Meet environmental criteria and public health rules and guidelines. *(Applicable to Elbert County and the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Policy 1.2.1: Implement a maintenance management program to minimize infiltration/inflow problems in the conveyance system. *(Applicable to the municipality of Elberton)*

Policy 1.2.2: Continue to monitor the environmental integrity of Fortson's Creek and mitigate identified deficiencies. *(Applicable to the municipality of Elberton)*

Policy 1.2.3: Monitor the location and number of on-site septic systems throughout the county. *(Applicable to Elbert County)*

Solid Waste Management

Vision Statement: *Ensure a dependable, environmentally safe means of disposing of solid waste and recyclables is available to all homes and businesses.*

Goal 1.1: Continue participation in the Northeast Georgia regional Solid Waste Authority. *(Applicable to Elbert County and the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Policy 1.1.1: Strive to meet the waste reduction goals set forth in the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

Goal 1.2: Increase citizen awareness of solid waste issues throughout the county. *(Applicable to Elbert County and the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Public Safety

Vision Statement: *Provide responsive and effective public safety services ensuring adequate staff, equipment and space is available to each of the departments.*

Goal 1.1: Continued investment in the public safety agencies to maintain an adequate level of service in the face of increased population. *(Applicable to Elbert County and the municipality of Elberton)*

Policy 1.1.1: Invest in personnel, equipment, training and facility expansion as dictated by growth.

Policy 1.1.2: Increase citizen involvement in crime prevention through public education and neighborhood watch programs.

Policy 1.1.3: Coordinate water and transportation infrastructure improvements with fire protection agencies to ensure that adequate fire protection can be maintained in all new developments.

Goal 1.2: Increased efficiency in the provision of emergency services through the coordination amongst all departments. *(Applicable to Elbert County and the municipality of Elberton)*

Goal 1.3: Utilize existing space for the creation of a women's detention facility. *(Applicable to Elbert County)*

Hospitals and Other Public Health Facilities

Vision Statement: *Continue to support public and private health care providers ensuring that all of the county's needs are capably met, including all special needs communities.*

Goal 1.1: A new Hospital facility is needed to ensure adequate provision of health care services to future populations. *(Long-term goal, outside of the short-term work program scope applicable to Elbert County and the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Policy 1.1.1: Continue to assist the Hospital Authority in fundraising initiatives in effort to construct a new facility.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Vision Statement: *Provide, protect and maintain a quality, accessible, and economically efficient network of parks, recreation facilities, and open space that serves all residents.*

Goal 1.1: Provide additional recreation opportunities in accordance with future growth. *(Applicable to Elbert County and the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Policy 1.1.1: Acquire, maintain and refurbish parks and recreation facilities as needed in accordance with increased populations.

Policy 1.1.2: Coordinate public park expansion with local law enforcement agencies to ensure that they are adequately protected.

General Government

Vision Statement: *Provide adequate space, equipment, and technology to elected officials and staff to facilitate local government operations and decision making processed.*

Goal 1.1: Create a cooperative environment that facilitates the sharing of information among all levels of government. *(Applicable to Elbert County and the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Policy 1.1.1: Evaluate the use and efficiency of local government facilities.

Policy 1.1.2: Maintain ongoing communication between county and municipal governments to provide services in a coordinated and efficient manner.

Policy 1.1.3: Continue to solicit and utilize citizen advisory committees to provide public input into all planning activities.

Goal 1.2: Complete renovations to the county courthouse. *(Applicable to Elbert County)*

Goal 1.3: Expand the amount of available space for government offices through the reuse of the former county middle school. *(Applicable to Elbert County)*

Goal 1.4: Provide a facility for use as an animal control shelter. *(Applicable to Elbert County)*

Goal 1.5: Increase the efficiency of utility payment services through increased access to utilities customer services representatives. *(Applicable to the municipality of Elberton)*

Goal 1.6: Increase the availability of office space within the Municipal Complex. *(Applicable to the municipality of Elberton)*

Goal 1.7: Develop teleconferencing capabilities to increase educational opportunities for city employees. *(Applicable to the municipality of Elberton)*

Goal 1.8: Increase the efficiency of the financial management software system. *(Applicable to the municipality of Elberton)*

Goal 1.9: Expand the amount of space available to the DFCS department. *(Applicable to Elbert County)*

Educational Facilities

Vision Statement: *Collaborate with the local school boards to provide and maintain a quality education system that meets the needs of residents now, and into the future.*

Goal 1.1: Coordinate facility expansion based on future population projections and local land use planning. *(Applicable to Elbert County and the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Policy 1.1.1: Facilitate school board participation in the development review process to ensure that adequate educational facilities exist to accommodate new development.

Policy 1.1.2: Coordinate the location of future school sites with local governments ensuring the compatibility of adjacent land uses.

Policy 1.1.3: Maximize the use of existing school facilities.

Goal 1.2: Expand classroom space to ensure educational facilities adequately serve the population's demands. *(Applicable to Elbert County and the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Libraries and Cultural Facilities

Vision Statement: *Provide and maintain accessible, economically efficient libraries and cultural facilities to meet the information, educational and recreational needs of all residents.*

Goal 1.1: Continued support of the public library system and other cultural facilities to ensure adequate service is provided to existing and future populations. *(Applicable to Elbert County and the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Policy 1.1.1: Continue to provide financial and human resource support to the Elbert County Public Library System to meet identified needs.

Policy 1.1.2: Continue to support the preservation and enhancement of cultural facilities throughout the county.

Goal 1.2: Increase the amount of space available in the main branch of the public library. *(Applicable to Elbert County and the municipalities of Bowman and Elberton)*

Goal 1.3: Complete renovations to the Elbert Theatre. *(Applicable to the municipality of Elberton)*