

APPENDIX E
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

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The location and quality of community facilities and services is as important to a community's well being as the traditional development of commercial, residential, and industrial uses. Community facilities include schools, parks, government administration offices, libraries, hospitals and fire and police protection. Community services also include public or semi-public water and sewer systems. Included in this appendix is the inventory and assessment of each category of community facilities grouped by jurisdiction. Services are described for joint services and for each individual municipality.

Water Supply And Treatment

The City of Waycross and Ware operate two separate water systems. Ware County's water system is governed by the Satilla Regional Water & Sewer Authority (SRWSA). All City residents are connected to the water system. Each system draws water from wells and each system has the potential to meet the needs of area residents for many years. The City of Waycross draws water from two deep wells (average 500 feet deep) with a permitted capacity of 3 million gallons per day with the average demand for water of 2 million gallons per day. There are also two wells and two elevated storage tanks at the Waycross/Ware County Industrial Park. The tanks and wells are owned and operated as part of an enterprise fund established in 1964. There is in excess of 2.6 million gallons per day available at the industrial park. The Satilla Regional Water & Sewer Authority also draws its water from deep wells. The SRWSA has five wells (average 850 feet deep) with a permitted capacity of 2.2 million gallons per day with the average demand for water of 1.2 million gallons per day. SRWSA maintains five elevated storage tanks with a holding capacity of 1.6 million gallons.

Sewer System and Wastewater Treatment

The City operates a wastewater treatment plant north of the city, adjacent to the Satilla River. The plant has a treatment capacity of 6.7 million gallons per day and includes secondary treatment by land application on the opposite side of the river. The plant is currently treating approximately 4.5 million gallons per day. The City also owns and operates the sewer system for the Waycross Ware County Industrial Park. The system to the industrial park runs through the county but has only a few residential customers. The sewer system to the industrial park has great potential for expansion in the Kettle Creek drainage basin.

The Satilla Regional Water & Sewer authority maintains the collection of sewage for the county. Sewer treatment is handled exclusively by the City of Waycross.

Stormwater Management

Precipitation that does not soak into the ground becomes stormwater runoff, which either flows into surface waterways or is channeled into storm sewers. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater runoff from naturally soaking into the ground. Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, or wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into our local waterbodies.

All communities are faced with stormwater issues; however, not all are required to address them. In 1990, the Phase I stormwater program was created under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and required a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for (1) "medium" and "large" municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) generally serving populations of 100,000 or greater, (2) construction activity disturbing 5 acres of land or greater, and (3) ten categories of industrial activity. In 1999, the Phase II stormwater program was created to further expand the Phase I program by requiring

additional operators of MS4s in urbanized areas and operators of small construction sites, through the use of NPDES permits, to implement programs and practices to control polluted stormwater runoff.

The City of Waycross and Ware County maintains a curb and gutter storm drain system throughout the much of Waycross and Ware County.

Solid Waste Management

The City of Waycross services over 6,700 residential and small business customers, providing once-a-week collection of garbage and yard trash. Businesses requiring a dumpster may contact Southland Waste Systems at 284-1000. Only the rollout may be used for disposal of residential garbage.

The city provides recycling for aluminum, newspaper, and cardboard at the following location:
1708 Riverside Ave on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday's from 8:30am - 1:30pm.

Ware County has a non-exclusive contract with Southland Waste Systems for curbside collection.

The Public Works department periodically sponsors bulk-trash collection days throughout the year in several communities, provided it can be financially supported. To provide a way for county residents to dispose of large, unwanted items prompted the development of this service.

Fire Protection

Waycross Fire Department

The Waycross Fire Department is a career department with 54 members. The department currently has three fire stations. Depending on the nature of the call there is a variety of equipment; four engines, a hook and ladder truck, air/light service truck and battalion chief. The department responds to a wide variety of situations to include but not limited to snakes in a house, vehicle wrecks, vehicle fires, grass fires, structure fires, activated alarms, hazardous material, medical calls, and weather related incidents. When called the department responds. The call volume is just over 1,000 per year and growing. In 2009 the Insurance Services Office performed an inspection of the fire department, water system, and dispatch system in order to rate the departments capabilities to handle emergency situations. This rating would then be used to establish residential and commercial insurance premiums. The department rated an ISO Class 3. There are only 1878 fire departments in the country that rate this well out of 47,648 certified fire departments countrywide. In the State of Georgia we are one of 56 certified fire departments that hold this classification out of 1,145.

The Waycross Fire Department provides non-emergency services as well. Smoke detectors are provided and installed for the elderly and low income citizens of the city. Fire prevention programs are given to area school children. Fire extinguisher training to local businesses is also provided. The department inspects local businesses and reviews plans for new businesses.

All of the suppression personnel receive a minimum of 240 hours of training each year. Each member is required to participate in eight drills each year that last a minimum of three hours each. In addition to their annual training they also test every section of fire hose and test every fire pump. Twice a year the firefighters inspect the 900 plus fire hydrants that are in the city. These fire hydrants are turned on to make sure that they are working properly.

Ware County Fire Department

The Ware County Fire and Rescue consists of both paid and volunteer staff. All staff members go through rigorous training to maintain the required firefighter certifications that help ensure firefighter safety. Many staff members are also cross-trained as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) to facilitate

immediate lifesaving medical treatment on the scene as the need arises. Together, the paid and volunteer staff of the Ware County Fire Rescue Department work to educate the citizens of Ware County about fire safety and prevention and to save lives and property when fires and other property and life-threatening crisis occur.

Station One, Industrial Park, is the only paid station in Ware County. Station One responds to every call within Ware County. Currently, there are seventeen paid personnel working at the station, including the Fire Chief, the Assistant Fire Chief and the Training Officer. There are three shifts (A, B, and C) with four personnel on duty per shift, plus one swing shift man that covers when a firefighter needs to be off. There is one Captain, one Lieutenant and two Firefighters per shift.

The Captain is responsible for the shift, and in case of the Captain's absence, the Lieutenant would be responsible. All paid staff are Georgia State Certified Firefighters. Each year, Firefighters must meet and maintain their certification requirements. There are many other certifications the paid staff may have, such as HazMat (Hazardous Material) Technician, EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), Fire Safety Educator and more.

Throughout the County, all volunteer districts have captains that are responsible for their districts and are in charge of the emergency until the paid staff arrives. Subsequently, the volunteer captain relinquishes his command to the paid officer in charge. An incident management system is used by all firefighters in Ware County to coordinate the emergency scene. We currently have sixty volunteers manning nine stations. They respond to calls in their respective districts along with the paid staff from Station One. Volunteer firefighters must have a minimum amount of training before they can fight fire, and they must pass a course of basic firefighting, including a structural fire fighting class. They are tested by Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training and receive a certificate.

There are 10 total fire stations within Ware County Fire and Rescue.

Public Safety

Ware County Sheriff's Department

The Ware County Sheriff's Office is a constitutional office with a Sheriff who is elected by the citizens of Ware County. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for providing and maintaining the county jail. The jail is operated by 75 employees. The jail staff insures the safety, security and humane treatment of the inmate population. The maximum jail capacity is 500 inmates. A daily average of the jail population is approximately 450 inmates.

The law enforcement side of the Sheriff's Office is composed of 48 personnel, 41 of which are sworn deputies. These individuals are divided up into several divisions which include the patrol division, criminal investigations division, civil process division, court security, and K-9.

The Sheriff's Office is located at 3487 Harris Road, Waycross.

City of Waycross Police Department

The Waycross Police Department is a professional Law Enforcement Agency which is both nationally accredited through CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) and State certified through the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification program. The Police department employs (68) sixty-eight individuals in a variety of functions, (57) fifty-seven of these employs are sworn law enforcement officers and perform the day to day tasks of law enforcement. The Waycross Police Department utilizes these individual in a variety of functions to achieve its mission such as Uniform Patrol, Criminal Investigations, K-9 team, Traffic team, Community Response team, Bicycle Patrol, SWAT, and School resource officers. The headquarters for the Waycross Police Department is located at 512 Oak Street in Waycross. The Waycross Police Department is responsible for the well being of all citizens who reside, work or travel through our great city.

Mission Statement

The primary mission of the Waycross Police Department is to maintain civil order within prescribed ethical and constitutional limits, while providing professional law enforcement services utilizing community oriented strategies. The Waycross Police Department actively encourages the cooperation of all citizens to reduce and limit the opportunities for crime and to facilitate the maximum use of our combined resources.

911 / Emergency Management Agency

Ware County E9-1-1 is the Central Public Safety Answering Point for Waycross and Ware County Georgia. The Center coordinates and dispatch responders to emergency and non-emergency calls for service to the citizens of our community.

The Center provides dispatch service for the following agencies:

Ware County Sheriff's Office
Waycross Police Department
Waycross Fire Department
Ware County EMS
Ware County Fire Department
Ware County Volunteer Fire Departments
Air EVAC Lifeteam (Air Ambulance) - www.Lifeteam.net

The E9-1-1 center is located within the Public Safety Administration Building at 3395 Harris Road, Suite 400, Waycross, GA 31503 and is under the direction of Fay Cooper.

Parks and Recreation

The Ware County Recreation and Parks Department endeavors to provide quality and diversity in wholesome parks and recreation services that meet the needs of the citizens of Ware County. The Ware County Commission appropriates funding for the operation and maintenance of our facilities. They appoint the seven-member Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to guide and oversee this Department's activities. Ware County citizens form the membership of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, where each member has a shared interest in providing the best parks and recreation services possible for all of its citizens.

Our Services should ensure a better quality of life by:

- Unifying the cooperative spirit within the county.
- Communicating the opportunities and advantages of parks and recreation services.
- Being geographically accessible.
- Being economically feasible.
- Networking with community agencies and other recreation providers and the school system

Most of the youth and adult outdoor sports activity takes place at the Trembling Earth Complex. This modern complex features first-class ball fields, building structures and playground areas.

The Memorial Park Complex is the site of most of our Programmed Activities. From senior citizen computer classes to summer day camps, adults and youth are assured of a rewarding experience when they participate in these activities.

Hospitals And General Public Health

Satilla Regional Medical Center

Satilla Regional Medical Center is licensed for 231 beds and is the major medical referral center for the 9-county region it serves in southeast Georgia. Fully accredited by The Joint Commission, Satilla Regional handles over 7,000 admissions and 700 deliveries annually. The Emergency Department treats over 40,000 patients per year, resulting in approximately 4,000 annual admissions to the hospital. Services offered at SRMC include:

- Birthing Center
- Cardiac Care
- Center for Memory Disorders
- Critical Care
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Practice Residency Program
- Health & Wellness Center
- Heart Center
- Imaging
- Laboratory
- Long-term Care
- Nutrition
- Oncology
- Outpatient Surgery
- Pediatric Care
- Rehabilitation
- Respiratory Therapy
- Satilla Advocacy Services
- Senior Behavioral Center
- Sleep Lab
- Surgery Center
- Women's Health

Ware County Health Department

The Ware County Health Department offers a wide range of services, including a family planning clinic, clinics for diabetes screening and information, pap smear tests, blood pressure tests, X-rays, immunizations for all ages, child health services, and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental food program. Children's medical services include orthopedics, heart and congenital abnormalities, and sickle cell anemia. Confidential diagnosis and treatment of sexually and socially transmitted diseases are also available. The Ware County Health Department is a part of the Southeast Health District and is located at 604 Riverside Avenue in Waycross.

Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)

DFCS's mission is to promote and protect the well-being of children, adults, families and the community through a comprehensive and coordinated social services program, and to seek a safe and responsible environment in which the achievement of family and individual goals is possible. A variety of services are offered through the department:

Adoption Services
Foster Care Program

Recreational Services
Services to Expectant Parents

Home Evaluation and Supervision
 Home Management/Functional Educational Services
 Information and Referral
 Protective Services for Adults

Aid to Families with Dependent Children
 Transportation

Libraries And General Cultural Facilities

Library

The Waycross-Ware County Public Library is a branch of the Okefenokee Regional Library System which includes Appling, Bacon, Clinch, Ware, and Pierce Counties. The library is located at 401 Lee Avenue in Waycross. Library collections include popular fiction and non-fiction, magazines, books on tape, videocassettes DVDs, and reference materials. As a member of PINES, (Public Information Network for Electronic Services), materials can be easily borrowed between member libraries. Many programs for children are offered throughout the year. The Library's hours are from 12:00-8:00 p.m. on Monday and Thursday, 10:00-6:00 Tuesday and Wednesday, and 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The library is closed on Sundays.

Okefenokee Heritage Center

The Okefenokee Heritage Center is a regional art and history museum located amongst twenty acres of beautiful pine woodlands in Waycross, GA which serves: Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce & Ware Counties.

The OHC is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing art and history to a broad range of people in the community. Our goal is to enrich the community through the preservation and display of historical artifacts and to provide educational tours, art exhibitions and fine art clubs.

Over the past thirty years it has served the surrounding Okefenokee area by promoting an appreciation of the arts and an increased understanding of this region's history. with its exhibits, programs and activities. The museum serves the surrounding Okefenokee area, which includes 8 counties, We celebrate the many cultures that make up this diverse area through our exhibits and guilds.

The OHC houses exhibits on the history and development of the region. The most popular is the "Old Nine" exhibit. Our most well-known exhibit, Old Nine, is a restored 1912 Baldwin, 100 ton, 2-8-2, steam locomotive. It was named for the first settlement in Waycross, GA because Old Nine was the ninth stop on the railroad laid from Savannah. Along with the locomotive, the exhibit includes a mail/baggage, REA Express car, passenger car and caboose. An early Waycross depot with panels outlining the railroad's history in the region completes this exhibit.

Other exhibits include:

- Native American
- Founder's Hall
- Sacred Harp
- Black Heritage Exhibit
- Waycross Journal Herald

Educational Facilities

Public Schools

Ware County Public School System: Ware County's Public School System includes 10 schools that currently serve more than 6053 students in Grades Pre-K through 12. The schools include Daffodil

Preschool (Pre-K), Center Elementary School (K-5), Memorial Drive Elementary School (K-5), Ruskin Elementary (K-5), Wacona Elementary (K-5), Waresboro Elementary (K-5), Williams Heights Elementary (K-5), Ware County Middle School (6-8), Waycross Middle School (6-8), and Ware County High School (9-12).

Colleges and Universities

Waycross College provides higher education in Waycross and Ware County. Waycross College offers 2 year Associate of Arts and Associate of Science transfer degrees, as well as 1 year certificates of achievement in Education, Business, etc.

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE

Business Administration
Criminal Justice
English
General/Interdisciplinary Studies
History
Political Science
Psychology
Sociology

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCES DEGREE

Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Health and Physical Education
Mathematics
Pre-Nursing
Physics
Teacher Education

In addition, in cooperation with the University System of Georgia, Waycross College offers bachelor's degree opportunities on campus through the University Partnership Center. An associate's degree in nursing is also offered in cooperation with South Georgia College.

Okefenokee Technical College provides higher education services to the county. The college awards Associates Degrees, Diploma Degrees and Technical Certificates in the following program areas:

- Business Marketing
- Computer Information Technology
- Commercial Truck Driving
- Health Services
- Public Services and Education
- Telecommunications Technology

All facilities within Greater Ware County are depicted on Maps E-1 through and E-5. These facilities are definite benefits to the economic development of our community by providing jobs, preparing future employees, and attracting regional attention. However, both collective and individual planning is important to ensure each facility is surrounded by appropriate uses, has sufficient infrastructure, and does not cause a negative impact to the surrounding properties.