SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

PICKENS COUNTY
and Cities of
JASPER, NELSON AND TALKING ROCK
2008-2018

Prepared by:

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Acronyms

DNR – Georgia Department of Natural Resources
EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FY – Fiscal Year
GRC – Georgia Recycling Coalition
KPB – Keep Pickens Beautiful
HDPE – High-Density polyethylene
Li-ion – Lithium Ion
LLC – Limited Liability Corporation
Ni-Cd – Nickel Cadmium
Ni-MH - Nickel Metal Hydride

NGRDC – North Georgia Regional Development Center
Pb – Lead
PETE – Polyethylene terephthalate
RBRC - Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation
RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SR – State Route

DEFINITION OF TERMS

1) Banned Item - Items prohibited from disposal in sanitary landfills such as used motor oil, discarded batteries and scrap tires, all of which must be disposed of separately as special wastes.

2) Commingled - Term that describes the typical mixture of household waste such as food, glass, metal, plastic and paper wastes.

3) Commingled Recyclables - Recyclables that are separated from the waste stream and mixed together in a separate container or bag for future separation and sorting.

4) Composting - The biological break down of inert materials such as grass, brush, leaves and other organic matter into a humus-like material, which when decomposed can be used for soil amendment, mulch or landscaping projects.

5) Convenience Center - A waste collection/reduction system concept, which utilizes manned and fenced centers strategically located to provide for convenient "drop-off" of solid waste and source-separated recyclables.

6) Curbside Collection - The collection of any type of waste by scheduled pick up at the curb or driveway of participating property owners.

7) Enterprise Fund - A fund for a specific purpose, such as composting, that is self-supporting from the revenue it generates.

8) Financial Incentive - The use of non-cash credit for the delivery of recyclables to the convenience centers, landfill invoice discounts to participating commercial haulers and landfill discounts or other invoice agreements to compensate for audited "internal" waste reduction.

9) Integrated Waste - A system that incorporates a variety of methods for collection, disposal and reduction of waste that provides convenience and cost-effective service to households and businesses.

10) Mulch - The product resulting from the reduction of selected inert wastes, mostly organic, into a landscaping cover used primarily for protecting plants from moisture loss, freezing or weed control.

11) Municipal Solid Waste – Any solid waste derived from households, including garbage, trash, and sanitary waste in septic tanks and means solid waste from single family and multifamily residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, campgrounds, picnic grounds, and day use recreation areas. The term includes yard trimmings and commercial solid waste but does not include recovered materials, or solid waste from mining, agricultural, or silvicultural operations or industrial processes and operations.

12) Privatization - Term used to describe the contracting out to private firms for public services previously performed by government, such as the collection of solid waste and or recyclables.

13) Recyclables - Term used to describe items that can be extracted or separated from the waste stream and processed for delivery to end-markets. Typical items include paper, cardboard, aluminum, plastic, glass and various metals.

14) Resource Recovery Center - A combination collection, processing and storage center for standard recyclable items as well as scrap tires, used motor oil, discarded batteries and scrap metal, including white goods. Composting or mulching can also be done here.

15) Solid Waste – Any garbage or refuse; sludge from a wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility; and other discarded material including solid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous materials resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations and community activities, but does not include recovered materials; solid or dissolved materials in domestic sewage; solid or dissolved materials in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges that are point sources subject to permit under 33 U.S.C. 1342; or source, special nuclear, or by-product material as defined by the Federal Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (68 Stat. 923).

16) Solid Waste Handling Facility – Any facility, the primary purpose of which is the storage, collection, transportation, treatment, utilization, processing, or disposal, or any combination thereof, of solid waste.

17) Source Separated Recyclables - Term that describes recyclable materials that are separated from each other at the source and sorted into categories, processed and hauled to market.

18) Subtitle D - The solid, non-hazardous waste section of the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976* (RCRA). Federal role is to provide minimum nationwide standards for protecting human health and the environment. Planning and implementation of solid waste management plans remain largely state and local functions.

19) Transfer Station - A facility specifically designed to facilitate the transfer of solid waste from a local waste collection system to vehicles for hauling such waste over long distances to disposal facilities. Compaction of the waste at transfer is an option.

20) Value of Recycling - Term used to respond to the typical question about recycling, "What's in it for me"? The environmental value relates to the saving of valuable resources, particularly trees, as well as landfill space. The economic value relates to the financial incentive program which gives monetary credit to those who recycle, the reduced cost for future landfill space from reduced volumes of waste disposal at the landfill, and the long-term reduction in the costs of many consumer products when the full economic benefits of recycling as a business are realized by the manufacturing industry.

Section 1: Introduction

The *Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990* (O.C.G.A. 12-8-20) establishes that all local governments must prepare a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan in order to receive a permit, grant, or loan for a solid waste facility. In addition, any request for a solid waste handling facility permit or funding for publicly owned and operated solid waste facilities or equipment must be consistent with the solid waste management plan of all affected governments.

Planning Area

This plan is a joint planning document that serves the needs of Pickens County, the Cities of Jasper and Nelson, and the Town of Talking Rock. The last Solid Waste Management Plan was also a joint planning effort and was adopted in 2002. This plan is an update to that document and covers the planning period from 2008 to 2018.

Geographic Location

Pickens County and its incorporated cities of Jasper, Nelson and Town of Talking Rock are located among the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains approximately 50 miles north of Atlanta. Pickens County is bounded on the north by Gilmer County, on the west by Gordon County, on the south by Cherokee County and on the east by Dawson County. Historically, the county developed as a series of small agricultural communities, with more concentrated residential, commercial and industrial development clustered along a central north-south transportation corridor, formed by Old Highway 5 and the railroad, which linked the cities of Jasper (the county seat), Nelson and Talking Rock (See Location Map).

Topographic Characteristics

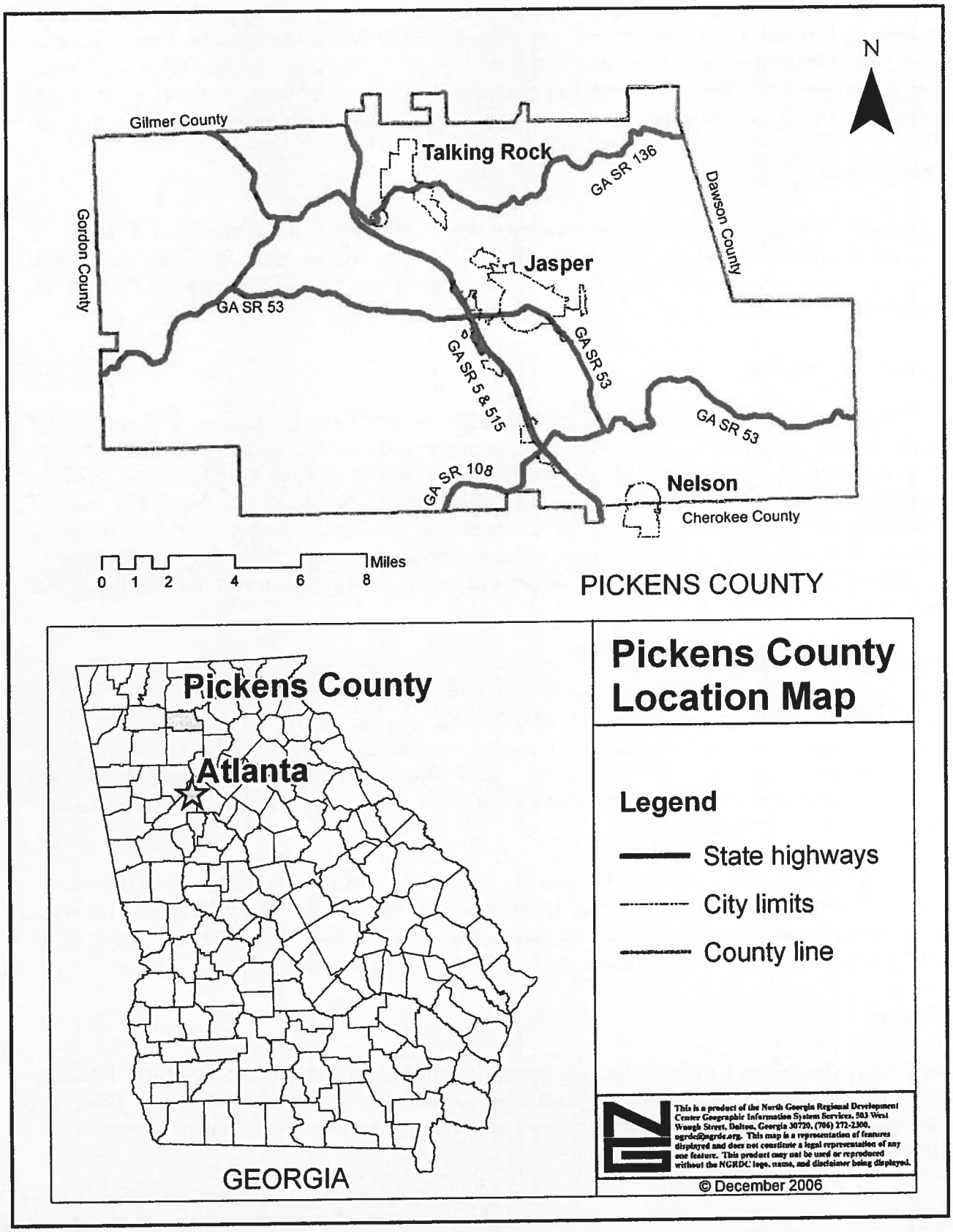
Pickens County lies within three major physiographic and geologic provinces, the Ridge and Valley area, the Blue Ridge Mountain area, and the Piedmont area. The Blue Ridge Mountain area constitutes all of the high uplands in the eastern part of the county with elevations ranging from 1,000 to 3,200 feet. This province is characterized by steep terrain, with small rough surfaced plateaus, narrow winding valleys, and mountain streams.

The Ridge and Valley area constitutes the western half of Pickens County, and is characterized by more rounded mountains with gentle to steep terrain and wide valleys. The Piedmont area includes the extreme southeast portion of Pickens County, and extends southward into Cherokee County. It is typified by uplands up to 1,000 feet in elevation with gently rolling terrain.

Population

Pickens County lies within a major transportation corridor that has direct access to the City of Atlanta and surrounding metropolitan counties that have experienced rapid growth over the past 30 years. As the metropolitan Atlanta grows, more and more citizens are moving to the outer fringes of the metropolitan region, including Pickens County.

Location Map



In the past twenty-five years, Pickens County has seen a steady increase in population, although the growth rate has been rapid since 1990. Between 1990 and 2000, the county grew by 59.3 percent well above the State rate of 26.4 percent. By comparison, Cherokee County to the south had a 57.3 percent rate of growth, Dawson County to the east had a 76 percent growth rate, and Gilmer County to the north had a 75 percent growth rate. From 2000 to 2007 (latest Census estimates), the county population increased by 32.6 percent from 22,983 residents to 30,488 residents.

The municipalities of Jasper, Nelson and Talking Rock saw more varied population change between 1980 and 2000, although according to latest Census estimates (2006), each city grew significantly in the past six years. The City of Jasper's population grew by 39.9 percent from 2000 to 2006 increasing from 2,167 residents to 3,032 residents. The City of Nelson saw a change in population from 626 residents to 879 residents from 2000 to 2006 - an increase of 40.4 percent. The most dramatic change was in the Town of Talking Rock, which had a 1.12 percent increase, and more than doubled the population from 49 residents to 104 residents.

Assuming that infrastructure needs can be provided, projections indicate that the county will continue to grow an average of 21 percent every five years and attain a population of 47,949 by the year 2018. Several factors contribute to this growth trend including the county's close proximity to the Atlanta Metropolitan region, which is easily accessible via State Route 515 (SR 515), a four-lane highway. Pickens County is an attractive place to live, work and play offering a growing economy and many cultural and natural resources. Because of its mountainous terrain and scenic environment, Pickens County is also a desirable location for retiree and recreation home developments.

The municipalities are likewise projected to grow, although at slower rates than the county as a whole. For projection purposes, the average annual rate of growth each municipality exhibited over the past 25 years was projected forward for the next 10 years.

Table 1.1

Historical and Projected Population Growth in Pickens County, 2000 – 2018

Year	County Total	Jasper	Nelson	Talking Rock
2000	22,983	2,167	626	49
2007	30,488	3,032	879	104
2008	31,802	3,156	888	105
2009	33,167	3,280	901	106
2010	34,046	3,404	916	107
2011	36,044	3,526	931	110
2012	37,556	3,648	946	113
2013	39,136	3,770	964	115
2014	40,772	3,892	982	118
2015	41,085	4,017	1001	121
2016	44,228	4,160	1,018	124
2017	46,048	4,320	1,036	127
2018	47,949	4,480	1,054	130

Source: U.S. Census, 2000, 2007. Projections prepared by NGRDC.

A lot of this growth will depend upon the amount of annexation the cities undertake. Jasper is expected to experience the most population growth because it has the higher developed water and sewer infrastructure and other public services.

Seasonal Populations

Pickens County contains a number of planned developments that contain second home/vacation home dwellings that are typically occupied on weekends and longer periods throughout the year. The heaviest periods of occupation occur during the summer and fall seasons. It is difficult to assess the specific number of seasonal population in the County; however in 2000, the U.S. Census indicated that 23.1% or 1,727 units were vacant. Many of these vacant units were probably vacation home dwellings.

Land Use

Pickens County contains a total of 144,299 acres of land that is dedicated to some type of development including forestry, agriculture, parks, recreation, and conservation lands (See Table 1-1 for a detailed breakout of each category for land use distribution). Approximately 87,197 acres remain undeveloped within the county. Most of this land consists of woodlands and dormant agriculture lands. The county also contains approximately 262 acres of water bodies.

Table 1.2
Pickens County Existing Land Use in Acres

Land Use Classification	Total County	City of Jasper	City of Nelson	Town of Talking Rock
Agricultural	9,424	29	8	0.17
Commercial	1,496	517	10	6
Forestry	8,245	0	0	837
Industrial	1,671	105	46	0
Residential, Multi-Family	23	86	0	0
Residential, Single-Family	26,740	857	385	92
Public/Institutional	1,286	259	5	6
Park/Recreation and Conservation	2,264	65	4	0.6
Transportation, Communication, Utilities, Right-of-Way	5,691	542	98	52
Undeveloped/Vacant	87,197	491	347	315
Water	262	0	0	0
Totals	144,299	2,951	903	1,308.77
Total County	**144,299**			
Total Cities		**5,162.77**		

Source: NGRDC, 2007.

Jasper contains a total of 2,951 acres of developed land, of which 857 acres are dedicated to single-family residential development. Approximately 491 acres remain undeveloped in the city. Most of this land consists of woodlands and dormant agriculture lands, which is changing and will continue to change over time as development continues along SR 515 and SR 53.

The City of Nelson contains a total of 903 acres of development. The predominant land use category is residential. No agricultural or forestry lands are present within the municipal boundary of the city. Approximately 346 acres remain undeveloped within the city.

The Town of Talking Rock is in the northwest area of the county and contains a total of 1,308.77 acres of development. The predominant land use category is forestry followed by residential. Approximately 315 acres remain undeveloped within the city.

Housing

Table 1-3 identifies the change of housing stock that occurred in Pickens County between 1990 and 2000. By far, single-family housing outnumbers all other housing types in Pickens County increasing from 4,538 to 7,773 (72.7 % of all units). Mobile homes rank second in Pickens County with more than 28 percent of the county residing in mobile homes in 2000.

Multi-family housing in Pickens County almost doubled from 1990 to 2000 by 45.4 percent increasing from 353 units to 647 units. The City of Jasper also experienced an increase in multi-family housing by 33.8 percent growing from 241 units in 1990 to 364 units in 2000. The City of Nelson only had one unit of multi-family housing in 1990 and had none in 2000. The Town of Talking Rock does not have multi-family housing. As the county and cities grow, there will be a need for additional multi-family housing to accommodate workers that wish to work and live locally.

Table 1.3
Number and Type of Housing Units, 1990 - 2000

	County Total		Jasper		Nelson		Talking Rock	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Total Units	6,403	10,687	797	1,033	223	261	24	22
Single Family	4,538	7,773	496	635	194	222	17	16
Multi-Family	353	647	241	364	1	0	0	0
Mobile Home	1,468	2,227	54	34	28	36	7	6
Other	44	40	6	0	0	3	0	0

Source: U.S. Census, 1990, 2000. (More recent data not available.)

Employment

Pickens County has seen steady employment growth between 2001 and 2006 increasing from 5,630 to 7,021 jobs (24.7 percent growth) By comparison; the total statewide employment growth was 3.9 percent over the same period. Most of the employment growth in Pickens County has been in the service producing sectors in response to the significant population growth that has occurred (See Figure 1-1). In 2001, service-producing sectors accounted for 71.2 percent of total employment; by 2006, it had increased to 73.9 percent. Goods producing industries (natural resources and mining, construction, and manufacturing) on the other hand have seen modest job growth (primarily in construction) and have declined as a percent of total employment.

Table 1.4

Employment Establishments in Pickens County, 2006

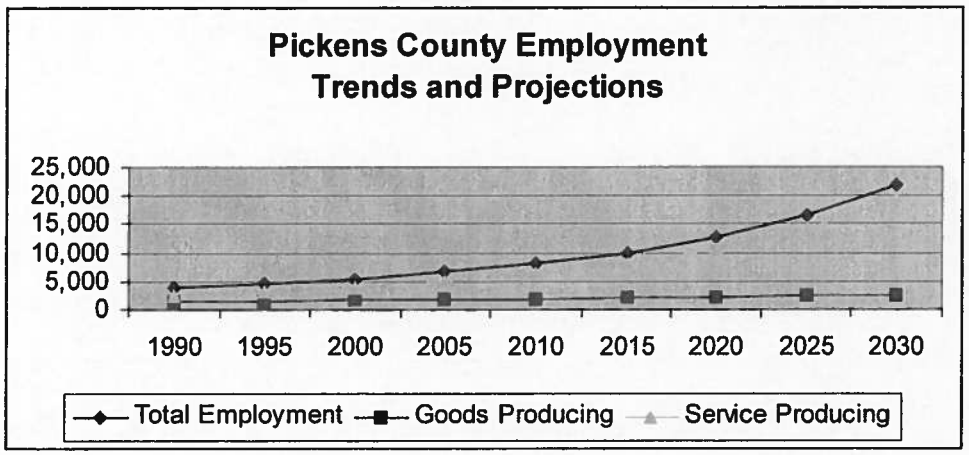
NAICS code	Business Sectors	Number of establishments	Number of employees
0	Total for all sectors	658	6,127
11	Forestry, fishing & hunting, & ag support services (113-115)	4	b
21	Mining	7	279
22	Utilities	4	112
23	Construction	108	647
31-33	Manufacturing	37	819
42	Wholesale trade	28	205
44-45	Retail trade	106	1,188
48-49	Transportation & warehousing	13	76
51	Information	14	57
52	Finance & insurance	34	253
53	Real estate & rental & leasing	45	100
54	Professional, scientific, & technical services	74	214
55	Management of companies & enterprises	2	b
56	Administrative & support & waste management & remediation service	33	181
61	Educational services	5	b
62	Health care & social assistance	46	928
71	Arts, entertainment, & recreation	4	a
72	Accommodation & food services	43	642
81	Other services (except public administration)	51	293

Source: 2006 County Business Patterns: Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns: 2006

NOTE: Data based on the 2006 County Business Patterns. Data for counties may not add to state totals due to the exclusion of "statewide" county data. Statewide data are included in the CBP html tables and download files found at County Business Patterns Website. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see Survey Methodology. Data in this table represent those available when this report was created; data may not be available for all NAICS industries or geographies. Excludes most government employees, railroad employees, and self-employed persons.

Based upon a trend line analysis of historical growth from 1990, projections indicate that total employment could reach 21,803 by the year 2030. Using the historical trends as a basis, and in the absence of a strong manufacturing development program, the projections indicate that the service producing sectors will continue to have the most growth and account for over 88 percent of total employment by 2030.

Figure 1.1



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1990 – 2006. Projections prepared by the North Georgia Regional Development Center.

The largest non-governmental employers in the county in 2005 were:

Amicalola Electric Membership Corp.
Imerys Pigments and Additives
Kroger Company
Lexington Rubber Group, Inc.
Royston LLC.

Section 2: Waste Disposal Stream Analysis

2.1 Existing Waste Disposal Stream

According to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Office of Environmental Management, the Georgia average per capita waste disposal rate was 6.38 pounds per day in 2003. Over the last ten years, the rate has risen slightly from 5.4 to 6.38 pounds per day.

Pickens County does not operate its own landfill, and therefore the majority of waste originating in the county is transported out of the county to other landfills. The exception is that the Whitestone Valley C&D Landfill is located in Pickens County and received 127.57 tons of construction and debris waste that was generated in Pickens County in 2007. The only known source of data for waste disposed at these landfills is the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR). According to DNR, during the past three fiscal years, the tons of waste generated in Pickens County varied from 25,213.37 tons in FY 2005 (4.81 lbs per capita), 27,133.01 tons in FY 2006 (5.01 lbs per capita) and 24,136.49 tons in FY 2007 (4.34 lbs per capita).

In FY 2007, waste from the county was disposed of at six landfills: Pinebluff Landfill in Cherokee County, Construction and Debris Landfill in Cherokee County, Eagle Point Landfill in Forsyth County, Redbone Ridges Landfill in Gordon County, Whitestone Valley C&D Landfill in Pickens County, and the Murray County Landfill in Murray County. Based upon the County's estimated population of 30,488 in 2007, and reported waste disposal, the disposal rate equates to 4.34 pounds per capita per day. Using this rate and the estimated population in each jurisdiction, Table 2.1 shows the current (2007) estimated waste disposed from each jurisdiction.

This rate is less than the State-wide average; however, Pickens County is a rural county with a relatively small commercial and industrial base. During the past ten years, the county has also implemented a successful recycling program, which has taken a considerable amount of waste out of the waste disposal stream. Furthermore, the private sector has also implemented a variety of recycling initiatives (see Section 3).

Table 2.1
FY 2007 Waste Disposal Stream

	Current Estimated Population	Per Capita Disposal Rate (lbs per capita per day)	Annual Tonnage
Pickens County (unincorporated area)	26,473	4.34	20,964
City of Jasper	3,032	4.34	2,400
City of Nelson	879	4.34	691
Town of Talking Rock	104	4.34	81
Totals	**30,488**	**4.34**	**24,136**

Source: Population Estimates from U.S. Census, 2007. Total annual tonnage for Pickens County is from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 2007.

Since solid waste is collected by the county via its convenience centers, by the cities via curbside pickup, and by several different commercial waste collection companies, it is also difficult to determine the actual percentages of waste currently generated by the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. The county collected the last data of this type in 1991 from waste volume data reported by the county landfill in existence at the time. Based upon this data and comparing it to population and employment statistics available at that time, it was estimated that 59% of the waste stream was residential, 25% was commercial, 9% was industrial, and 7% was construction and debris. The County has grown significantly since 1991, primarily in residential construction. It is estimated that the general distribution of waste generation among the categories mentioned above remain relatively the same.

2.2 Composition of the Waste Stream

There also isn't any current local data on the composition of municipal solid waste that is disposed of from Pickens County. As indicated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) "Waste composition data plays a critical role in solid waste system planning and design. Data from waste composition studies are used in several ways, including determining the quantity of material available for recovery, measuring the effectiveness of existing recycling programs, and right-sizing solid waste and recycling facilities."

Recognizing that local waste composition data was generally not available, and that it can be expensive to conduct these studies, DCA retained the services of R.W.Beck, Inc. to perform a state-wide study, and then provided the data to local governments for use in the preparation of solid waste management plans. Based on the results of this study, it is estimated that the composition of waste generated in Pickens County closely resembles that indicated in the following table.

Table 2.2
Composition of Waste in Pickens County

Materials	Percentage of Total Volume (%)
Paper and Cardboard	40.0
Organics (yard waste, wood, food, textiles, diapers, fines, other organics)	26.2
Plastics	15.8
Metals (steel, aluminum, other nonferrous metals)	5.6
Glass	3.8
Construction and debris	5.5
Inorganics (televisions, computers, other electronics, tires, etc.)	3.2
Total	100.0

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs Solid Waste Characterization Study, Appendix A, Table A-1, 2005

It is also assumed that the projected waste stream composition for Pickens County will continue to reflect the waste stream composition as represented by Table 2.2. Pickens County is a predominantly residential county with relatively small industry and commercial sectors. It is anticipated that in the next ten years Pickens County's growth will continue the same proportion of residential, industrial,

commercial activity. Thus the sources of waste generation or the composition of waste stream should not change significantly in the next ten years.

2.3 Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations

There is no indication that there are noticeable unique conditions that adversely affect the waste flow generation during the year. Waste generation is highest during the summer and fall months when there is a greater than average occupancy of the significant number of vacation home dwellings in the county.

Two festivals are conducted in Pickens County each year: a Marble Festival held in Jasper; and a Heritage Days Festival held in Talking Rock. Both are two day, weekend events that generate a considerable amount of waste; however, the waste is picked up and disposed by private waste collectors at out-of-county landfills.

2.4 Waste Generating Disasters

The county has experienced a few natural disasters in the past such as tornadoes, which produced a significant amount of debris. Since the county does not operate its own landfill, all of the debris was temporarily stored on a county owned site until it could be processed and deposited in landfills outside the county's jurisdiction that were equipped to handle the additional waste.

2.5 Projected Waste Stream

As indicated in Table 2.1 the amount of waste disposed of from Pickens County in 2007 equated to 4.34 lbs per capita per day. In light of the projected growth characteristics for the county, this is

Table 2.3
Projected Waste Stream – Pickens County Total

Year	Population Projection	lbs/capita	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Construction and Debris	Total Annual Tonnage
2008	31,802	4.34	14,861	6,297	2,267	1,763	25,189
2009	33,167	4.34	15,499	6,567	2,364	1,839	26,270
2010	34,046	4.34	15,910	6,742	2,427	1,888	26,966
2011	36,044	4.34	16,844	7,137	2,569	1,998	28,549
2012	37,556	4.34	17,550	7,437	2,677	2,082	29,746
2013	39,136	4.34	18,289	7,749	2,790	2,170	30,998
2014	40,772	4.34	19,053	8,073	2,906	2,261	32,293
2015	41,085	4.34	19,199	8,135	2,929	2,278	32,541
2016	44,228	4.34	20,668	8,758	3,153	2,452	35,031
2017	46,048	4.34	21,519	9,118	3,283	2,553	36,472
2018	47,949	4.34	22,407	9,495	3,418	2,658	37,978
		Cumulative Totals	201,800	85,508	30,783	23,942	342,033

Source: North Georgia Regional Development Center. Residential waste was assumed to be 59% of the total; commercial waste to be 25%; industrial waste to be 9 %, and construction and debris to be 7 %.

Table 2.4

Projected Waste Stream - Cities

Year	Jasper		Nelson		Talking Rock	
	Population	Projected Annual Tonnage	Population	Projected Annual Tonnage	Population	Projected Annual Tonnage
2008	3,156	2,500	888	703	105	83
2009	3,280	2,598	901	714	106	84
2010	3,404	2,696	916	726	107	85
2011	3,526	2,793	931	737	110	87
2012	3,648	2,889	946	749	113	90
2013	3,770	2,986	964	764	115	91
2014	3,892	3,083	982	778	118	93
2015	4,017	3,182	1001	793	121	96
2016	4,160	3,295	1,018	806	124	98
2017	4,320	3,422	1,036	821	127	101
2018	4,480	3,548	1,054	835	130	103

Source: North Georgia Regional Development Center. Per capita disposal rate is 4.34 lbs per capita. Information on source generation is not available.

assumed to be a reasonable rate to use for future planning purposes. Therefore, projections of future waste disposal have been based on this rate and are shown in the above tables.

Section 3: Waste Reduction Element

3.1 Inventory of Existing Waste Reduction Facilities and Programs

Source Reduction and Reuse

Source reduction is the most practical first step to reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal. Although quantitative data is not available, it is known that local industries are constantly determining ways to reduce and reuse waste that is generated. Considering that tipping fees at the county's facilities are $45.00 per ton, it makes economic sense for business and industry to reduce waste whenever practical. Examples are Home Depot and Royston Corporation, which have implemented a variety of in-house programs to reduce waste and reuse recovered waste in other products. (See descriptions below). Another example is Imerys, Inc. (formerly the Georgia Marble Company), which separates marble chips from the manufacturing process by sedimentation methods. The chips are brought to cement companies to add lime and whiten the cement.

Yard Trimming/Mulching/Composting

There is little quantitative data on yard trimming/mulching/composting activity that occurs in Pickens County. The county does not accept yard waste at its convenience centers, nor does it operate an on going mulching or composting program at its facilities. The cities likewise do not have any programs addressing yard trimmings, mulching or composting. The only private sector operation is conducted by Home Depot, which accepts and mulches Christmas trees only during the season.

The Whitestone Valley C&D Landfill located in Pickens County also maintains an inert landfill at the same location and accepts all inert waste including yard trimmings; however, they do not conduct any mulching or composting operations.

Items Requiring Special Attention

In 2007, approximately 100.8 tons of used tires were collected by the county and sent to Tri-State Tire Recovery, Blue Ridge, Georgia. These tires are then sent to Atlanta to remove 98 percent of the steel cables that are then recycled. The remaining tires without the steel cables are sent to Alabama to be shredded and used as mulch additives. White goods are currently accepted by both Pickens County Convenience Centers and sent to Self Recycling in Cartersville, Georgia. There are no known programs for handling household hazardous waste, except that paint is accepted at the convenience centers in April each year. The county also accepts lead acid batteries at its convenience centers. A private company located in Pickens County called North Georgia Recycling, Inc handles electronic equipment waste.

Public Recycling Programs and Facilities

Pickens County. The county maintains roll-off collection containers at two of its convenience centers for receiving recyclable materials. These collection centers are located at 3141 Camp Road, Jasper, Georgia, and at 9720 Cove Road, Marble Hill, Georgia.

In 2007, the county collected 42.3 tons of plastic, 279.56 tons of cardboard, 396.26 tons of metal, 15.1 tons of aluminum cans, 150.61 tons of glass, 105.31 tons of newspaper, and 286 tons of mixed paper

products. A total of 1,275.14 tons of materials were collected for recycling. The county currently contracts with a commercial waste handler to transport all recycled materials collected at its facilities to markets outside the county. Glass is transported to Strategic Materials in College Park, Georgia. Paper is transported to SP Recycling in Marietta, Georgia; and aluminum and other metals are transported to Self Recycling in Cartersville, Georgia.

The Pickens County School System utilizes the services of Pratt Industries out of Conyers, Georgia to recycle paper products used at all local schools. Pratt Industries picks up one container a week from each school in the system. During the school year, the schools recycle between 44,800 and 56,000 pounds of paper per year. Pratt Industries indicated that they do not compile the exact amount collected from Pickens County, but estimated that these amounts are within the normal amounts collected from the schools.

In 2008, Pickens High School started a new recycling program prompted by North Georgia Recycling, Inc. to bring recycling awareness to the students and faculty. Students deposit plastic drink bottles in bins provided by North Georgia Recycling and there is a new effort to collect food waste and compost this waste off-site. It is hoped that this new program will provide an 85 percent in waste reduction in the school's waste stream through this effort. At present, a new program will start at Jasper Elementary utilizing Pickens High School's program as a template.

Cities. The cities of Jasper and Nelson and Town of Talking Rock do not operate any recycling programs but rather rely on their citizens to utilize the recycling facilities operated by the county.

Private Recycling Programs

In the course of preparing this plan, a survey was conducted among business and industries in the county to determine the extent that the private sector was involved in recycling activity. Based upon this survey, it has been determined that there are a number of private business, industry and institutions that operate recycling programs as follows.

Home Depot uses recycled materials for their shopping bags, signage, and office supplies. Home Depot recycles all of their corrugated cardboard and wood pallets. Home Depot also has a program that keeps drywall separators out of our landfills by recycling them into useable products. During 2007, Home Depot recycled 206 tons of cardboard, 11.5 tons of wood pallets. Home Depot also chips and recycles Christmas trees during the winter holiday season.

Home Depot
205 Bill Wigington Parkway
Jasper, Georgia 30143

Royston Corporation recycles stainless steel, aluminum, paint solvent, and metal halide and florescent bulbs. In 2007 Royston Corporation recycled 1, 561,00 pounds of materials and deposited 592 tons of materials in the landfill. Royston also has a contractor that picks up used wood pallets and recycles these for additional uses.

Royston Corporation
1 Pickroy Road
Jasper, Georgia 30143

Bent Tree Corporation (a resort residential community) operates its own recycling program for residents within its community and collects 3.5 to 4 tons of recycled materials per week in 2007. The costs associated with this recycling program runs around $33,000 per year for Bent Tree. Bent Tree separates and delivers it materials to North Georgia Recycling, Inc., located in Jasper, Georgia.

Bent Tree Corporation
22 Bent Tree Drive
Jasper, Georgia 30143

Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) recycles used portable rechargeable batteries and old cell phones. Rechargeable batteries are commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders, digital cameras, and remote control toys. RBRC recycles the following battery chemistries: Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion) and Small Sealed Lead (Pb). In 2007, RBRC recycled 96 pounds of rechargeable batteries that were sent in from the Jasper Home Depot.

RBRC
1000 Parkwood Circle
Atlanta, Georgia 30339

Kroger recycles old corrugated cardboard, plastic bags and shrink-wrap. In 2007, Kroger recycled 474 tons of cardboard, several hundred pounds of plastic bags as well as several thousand pounds of shrink-wrap. Exact numbers for plastic bags and the amount of shrink-wrap could not be determined.

Kroger
115 Bill Wigington Parkway
Jasper, Georgia 30143

Ingles recycles cardboard and shrink-wrap. On a daily basis Ingles recycles 2,600 pounds of cardboard (474 tons per year) and sells the cardboard to a recycling company. Ingles also collects shrink-wrap plastic which is sent out to be recycled. The exact amount of plastic recycled could not be determined at this time.

Ingles
1449 West Church Street
Jasper, Georgia 30143

Piggly Wiggly, LLC recycles cardboard it bales two times a week and ships the cardboard bails to its central receiving location in Alabama for recycling. In 2007, Piggly Wiggly recycled 67.6 tons of cardboard.

Piggly Wiggly, LLC
55 Burnt Mountain Road
Jasper, Georgia 30143

North Georgia Recycling, Inc. provides a curbside recycling service for both residential and business customers. The recycling service fee will range from $10 for residential and $25-$30 for commercial service. Containers to hold the recyclables until pickup day are provided to residents for free. At

present, North Georgia Recycling has 230 resident customers, 40 small business customers and 2 large-scale subdivisions.

North Georgia Recycling collects plastics, glass, cardboard, mixed papers, newspapers, aluminum and cooking oil. Paper products, plastics, and metals are sent to Rock-Tenn Recycling in Huntsville, Alabama. Aluminum products that are collected are sent to Self Recycling in Cartersville, Georgia. In 2007, the company diverted 58.176 tons of cardboard, 50.472 tons of office paper, 12.78 tons of plastics (bottles and shrink wrap), 3.63 tons of plastic bags, 1.65 tons of aluminum, 2.04 tons of steel, 1.5 tons of scrap metal and 0.882 tons of electronic waste.

North Georgia Recycling also collects used cooking oil from 4 restaurants in Pickens County. The oil is dewatered and filtered. Once this is done, this by-product (biofuels) is used to run the company's delivery truck.

North Georgia Recycling, Inc.
P.O. Box 486
Jasper, Georgia 30143

Save-A-Lot bales its cardboard boxes that are then sent out of state for reprocessing. In 2007, Save-A-Lot sent out 101.4 tons of cardboard to be reprocessed.

Save-A-Lot
934 East Church Street
Jasper, Georgia 30143

Fred's Dollar Store bales its cardboard boxes that are then sent out of state for reprocessing. In 2007, Fred's Dollar Store sent out 67.6 tons of cardboard to be reprocessed.

Fred's Dollar Store
970 East Church Street
Jasper, Georgia 30143

Blue Star Super Market bales its cardboard boxes that are then sent out of state for reprocessing. In 2007, Blue Star Super Market sent out 101.4 tons of cardboard to be reprocessed.

Blue Star Super Market
294 East Church Street
Jasper, Georgia 30143

There currently are no private businesses located in Pickens County that accept recyclable materials from the public at large or from other businesses. North Georgia Recycling, Inc. has plans to establish such a facility in 2009, and is currently developing a business plan and seeking permits.

3.2 Disaster Debris Management – Waste Reduction Strategy

The Pickens County Emergency Management Agency is currently developing a specific strategy for disaster debris management as part of an overall emergency management plan. This plan should be completed in approximately 4 months. In the interim, the county will utilize the following strategy, which has been used successfully in past disasters. The county will set up a temporary debris storage

site at property it owns on Camp Road near the airport. This site has been approved by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Debris that can be chipped into mulch will be done with county equipment. For the remaining debris, the county will contract with debris management firms to process and dispose of the remaining waste and/or recyclables for disposal at out-of-county facilities.

Various media will be utilized immediately following a disaster event to inform the public regarding proper procedures.

Table 3.1
Summary of Recycling Programs in Pickens County

Type of Program	Operator	Population Served	Materials Accepted	Annual Tons Diverted
Drop-off Centers	Pickens County	30,488 county residents	Newspapers, plastic, cardboard, metal, aluminum, mixed paper products, tires, oil, batteries	1275.14
School In-house recycling program	Pratt Industries	Entire school system	Paper products	28
In-house business recycling program	Home Depot		cardboard, wood pallets, christmas trees	217.5
In-house business recycling program	Royston Corporation		stainless steel, aluminum, paint solvent, metal halide and fluorescent bulbs	780.5
Curbside Recycling	Bent Tree Corporation	Approximately 2,000 residents	glass, aluminum, paper, plastic	182
In-house business recycling program	Kroger		cardboard, plastic	479
In-house business recycling program	Ingles		cardboard, plastic	474.5
In-house business recycling program	Piggly Wiggly		cardboard	67.6
Curbside Recycling	North Georgia Recycling, Inc. (private hauler)	230 residential customers, 40 business customers	plastics, glass, cardboard, mixed paper, newspapers, aluminum, cooking oil, electronic equipment	131.13
In-house business recycling program	Save-A-Lot		cardboard	101.4
In-house business recycling program	Fred's Dollar Store		cardboard	67.6
In-house business recycling program	Blue Star Super Market		cardboard	101.4
			Total	**3905.77**

Source: North Georgia Regional Development Center

3.3 Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs and Facilities

Pickens County. Considerable progress has been made in waste reduction efforts in the county since preparation of the last Solid Waste Management Plan (2002). In 2002, approximately 1,350 tons of

materials were diverted from the waste stream in the county. In 2007, approximately 3,905 tons were diverted - a 189 percent increase. The percentage of waste diverted from disposal is currently 14.2 percent of the total waste stream. In 2002, it was estimated to be 11 percent, and therefore, progress has been made. However, there are still opportunities for increasing the amount of waste that could be recycled. Attaining a higher percentage of waste diversion will require improvements in both equipment and operations conducted by the public sector, and expanded programs within the private sector. When comparing the amount and type of materials that are currently being diverted from the waste stream as indicated in the Table 3.1 with the estimated composition of waste as indicated in Table 2.2, it appears that all waste types are being diverted to some degree. The county's convenience centers currently accept all types of recyclable materials except yard trimmings. Local residents who do not mulch yard trimmings on their own property can dispose of the yard trimmings at the Whitestone Valley C&D Landfill located in Pickens County, which also accepts inert waste.

Cities. None of the cities currently offer curbside pick up of recyclable materials or operate any other waste reduction programs. Residents in the cities bring their recyclable materials to the county convenience centers. The Town of Talking Rock is considering the establishment of curbside pickup of recyclable materials, however, the details of this plan have not been finalized.

3.4 Needs and Goals

Based upon the inventory and assessment of current programs and operations in this Section, the following goals and needs have been identified for this element.

Goal: The goal for Pickens County, the Cities of Jasper, and Nelson and the Town of Talking Rock is to increase the amount of materials diverted from disposal from the current 14.2 percent of the total waste stream to 25 percent.

Goal: Assure that all types of waste materials that can be reasonably diverted from disposal are in fact recycled.

Needs:

- Expand the number of facilities for collecting recyclable materials at each the county's convenience centers as needed.
- Encourage participation in existing recycling programs.
- Work with all governments and other institutions to expand recycling opportunities at each facility.
- Work with businesses to expand commercial and industrial waste reduction opportunities.
- Since the Whitestone Valley C&D Landfill recycles C&D materials, efforts should be made to expand this operation, as well as include programs and facilities to mulch or compost yard trimmings and other yard waste.

Section 4: Collection Element

4.1 Inventory of Existing Waste Collection Systems

Pickens County. The county does not provide curbside waste collection services to residents in the unincorporated areas, but instead operates two manned convenience centers and a transfer station/convenience center where waste is received from county residents and businesses for transfer to an out-of-county landfill (See Figure 4.1).

The Cove Road Convenience Center accepts all bagged waste as well as recyclable materials except appliances. Depositors pay either $1.00 per bag, or $2.00 per bag larger than 33 gallons. There is a tire fee for cars and truck tires at $2.00 per tire, full size pickup truck tires are charged $2.50 per tire, dump truck tires are charged $6.00 per tire and tractor tires are charged $15.00 per tire.

The Camp Road Convenience Center also accepts all bagged waste as well as recyclable materials. Residents also pay $1.00 per each garbage bag deposited at this facility and $2.00 per bag larger than 33 gallons. The Camp Road Convenience Center is the main recycling center for Pickens County and accepts aluminum, cardboard, glass (separated by color), plastic (PETE and HDPE), loose paper, magazines, newspaper, phone books, motor oil, Christmas trees, and tires. The Camp Road Convenience Center is the only center that accepts appliances and charges $15.00 for any appliance that contains Freon.

The Jones Mountain Transfer Station/Convenience Center takes bagged trash as well as loose waste brought in by truck or trailer. It charges $20.00 for a pickup truck load up to 880 pounds, $25.00 for a trailer load up to 1,100 pounds, then $2.25 per 100 pounds for overage. The Jones Mountain Transfer Station does not accept recyclables except tires.

The transfer station and convenience centers are open Tuesday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Waste Management Corporation provides compacters for waste and open top roll-off containers for recyclables under contract with Pickens County. These compactors and containers can be easily expanded if need arises. (See Appendix for a copy of this contract).

Based upon county records, the county collected 2,565.12 tons of waste at its facilities in 2007. Total cost to operate the collection facilities was $381,138 in 2007, including hauling the waste to an out-of-county landfill.

The majority of waste collected in Pickens County is collected by several private waste collection companies, which operate in Pickens County and adjacent counties. Since the County does not issue business licenses or permits for these private operators, it is difficult to determine how many currently collect waste in Pickens County. On average, the cost for residential curbside pick-up once a week varies from $13.00 to $19.00 per month. The cost for commercial pickup varies depending upon the amount of pick-ups per week; however, the typical cost for once a week pickup is $65/month for a 2 cubic yard container, $95/month for a 6 cubic yard container, and $130/month for an 8 cubic yard container. These costs may vary depending on the distance the hauler has to drive to deposit waste into a landfill. At the current time, there are no private or public waste collectors collecting yard trimmings or other yard waste within the county. The following table lists the various private haulers that are known to operate in Pickens County.

Jasper. The City of Jasper owns two compactor garbage trucks and operates these with city employees to provide once-a-week back-door pickup services to all city residents and small businesses that do not require bulk containers. Larger businesses that require bulk containers must contract with private firms for this service. Approximately 380 residences and businesses are served. The city does not collect yard trimmings or other yard waste.

Nelson. The City of Nelson owns a compactor truck and operates it with a city employee to provide once-a-week curbside collection to 276 residential units within the city limits. Businesses that require waste collection must contract with private firms for this service. The city does not collect yard trimmings or other yard waste.

Talking Rock. The Town of Talking Rock utilizes a pickup truck operated by a city employee to provide once-a-week back-door collection to all residents units within the city limits. Approximately 30 residents and businesses are served. Businesses that require bulk containers must contract with private firms for this service. The Town does not collect yard trimmings or other yard waste.

Table 4.1
Solid Waste Collectors Operating in Pickens County

Collector Name	Address
Appalachian Waste Systems LLC	Blue Ridge, GA 706-632-6519
Mauldin Trash Service	Fairmont, GA 706-337-2603
Hills Trash Service	Talking Rock, GA 706-253-1261
Watkins Sanitation	Ellijay, GA 706-635-8595
Pickelsimer Garbage Service	Tate, GA 770-735-1332
Triple C Sanitation	Talking Rock, GA 770-737-3111
DSI Waste Services	Ball Ground, GA 678-454-5700
Waste Management	Atlanta, GA 404-799-1047

Source: Pickens County Government. This list may not be inclusive of all collectors operating in Pickens County.

4.2 Contingency Collection Strategy

If for some reason, the county's contracted hauler was unable to perform its duties of providing collection containers and hauling collected waste to an out-of-county waste disposal facility, another provider would be contracted to provide collection and hauling services within two weeks. Should a convenience center become non-operational, residents will take their solid waste to another convenience center.

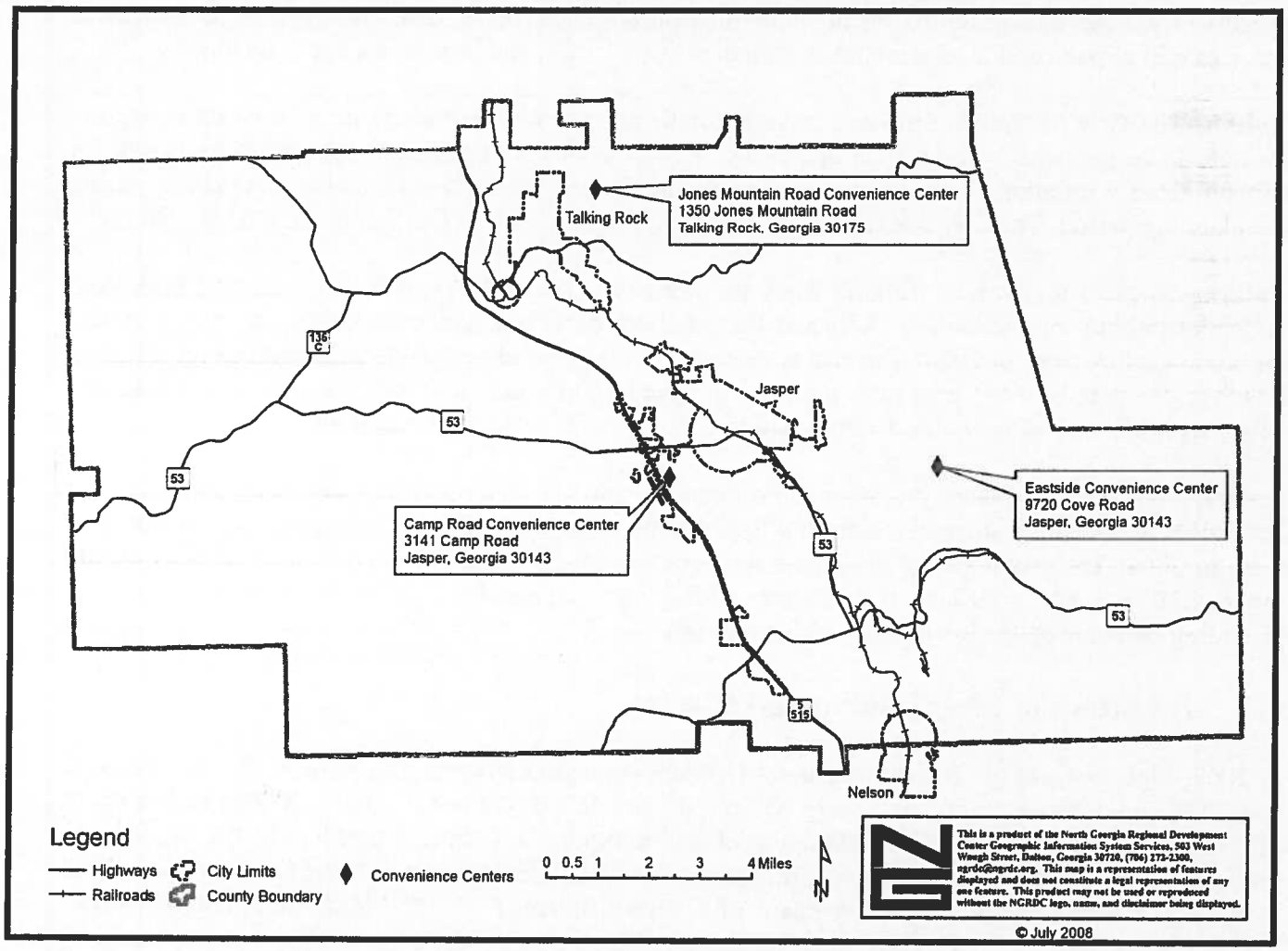
If for some reason, the three cities were unable to perform their waste collection duties, other providers would be contracted to offer collection services within two weeks. In the unlikely event of an

interruption of collection service, residents of the cities would be able to take their solid waste and recyclables to a county convenience center.

4.3 Disaster Debris Management – Collection Strategy

In case of a disaster that generates significant amounts of debris, the County and Cities would cooperatively use their existing equipment to collect debris from public right-of-ways and store it an interim location until there is time to process it and transport to an appropriate waste disposal facility. Private property owners will also be allowed to bring debris to the temporary location. Various media will be used immediately following the event to inform the public about proper procedures. Debris management firms will be contracted to haul non-recyclables to an out-of-county landfill. This approach has been used successfully as a result of past storms. A temporary staging location on Camp Road near the airport has already been identified and approved by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Various media will be used immediately following a disaster event to inform the public on proper procedures.

Figure 4.1: Waste Collection Locations in Pickens County



4.4 Assessment of Collection Programs

An assessment of the existing collection systems indicates that Pickens County residents and businesses have a variety of options that serve their waste collection and recycling needs. Those that want the convenience of curbside pickup and are willing to pay for it have a number of private providers to choose from, which are sufficient to meet demand. However, those that wish to minimize cost and carry their own waste and recyclables to a county operated facility currently have three locations within the county.

Pickens County. In the short term, the county will continue to operate its three manned waste collection centers for those residents and businesses that do not subscribe to a private collection service. However, since the county is growing rapidly, the county should add at least one new waste collection/recycling center in the near future, preferably on the west side of the county. This will make it substantially more convenient for local residents on the west side to dispose of both waste and recyclables. Actual implementation of this proposal will depend the county's ability to secure State grants and other financial resources.

All residential or commercial curbside collection of waste in the unincorporated area is proposed to remain privatized and provided on an individual subscription basis. The county expects that these services will expand and meet demand as the county population and businesses continue to grow.

Nelson. The City of Nelson proposes to continue to provide city operated curbside waste collection services to its residents. The annual operating cost to the city is expected to remain stable except for adjustments for inflation. The city does not anticipate the need to replace the collection vehicle during the planning period. The City does not anticipate providing curbside collection of recyclable materials.

Talking Rock. The Town of Talking Rock proposes to continue to provide city operated back-door collection within its jurisdiction. Adjusted for inflation, costs are projected to remain approximately the same as they were in 2008. The city is planning to also provide curbside collection of recyclables; however, the details of this plan have not been finalized. It does not anticipate the need to purchase any new equipment except for individual household containers for recyclable materials.

Jasper. The City of Jasper proposes to continue to provide city operated back-door collection for residences and small businesses. Adjusted for inflation, costs are projected to remain the same as they were in 2008. The city does not anticipate the need to replace the existing collection vehicles during the next five years, nor does it anticipate adding new equipment. The City does not anticipate providing curbside collection of recyclable materials.

4.5 Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering

In 2007, Pickens County Code Enforcement Officers witnessed 104 littering infractions. In that same year, 0 illegal dumping complaints were witnessed by code enforcement. Although code enforcement officials have not witnessed illegal dumping, illegal dumping is a chronic problem in the county. At present, Pickens County utilizes two ordinances for illegal littering and dumping activities. This includes the development and enforcement of a litter ordinance and an illegal dumping ordinance. Person caught littering or illegally dumping may be fined at a minimum of $100 to a maximum of $300.

Pickens County has an active litter pick-up program and utilizes public works employees, volunteers, community service labor and inmates to pick-up litter on a regular basis. This labor pool is also utilized to clean up all illegal dumpsites, as they are located.

4.6 Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal/Dumping

Pickens County government is in process for developing a more comprehensive strategy to combat illegal dumping and littering in concert with the Keep Pickens Beautiful (KPB) organization. At present, KPB is handling public education, and provides education materials on litter and illegal dumping to a variety of other organizations in the county. This issue is also addressed through the public media. One program has been initiated in Pickens County High School to teach students the value of recycling and non-littering habits.

The proposed components of a program to address illegal disposal and dumping include:

- Developing Neighborhood Programs for Enforcement
- Developing a Littering and Illegal Dumping Customer Service Center
- Establishing a Speaker's Bureau
- Developing and distributing newsletters
- Initiate a Solid Waste Management Planning Advisory Group

4.7 Goals and Needs

Based upon the inventory and assessment of existing conditions, the following goals and needs have been identified for this element.

Goal: The goal for Pickens County and the Cities of Jasper and Nelson and the Town of Talking Rock is to provide consistent and universal access to a variety of collection services for solid waste and recyclables in Pickens County.

Needs:

- Expand the number of waste and recycling collection centers in the unincorporated area as the population grows and densities increase.
- Ensure that the convenience centers have adequate facilities to handle anticipated tonnages and traffic in a cost effective manner.
- Continue to provide the options of curbside collection in the incorporated areas.
- Establish a permitting and reporting system for private waste collectors so that better data can be achieved on waste collection activity.
- Establish an enhanced illegal dumping/littering education and enforcement program.

Section 5: Disposal Element

5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities

Pickens County. The county no longer operates its own landfill. A previously operated landfill located on Jones Mountain Road was closed in 1994, and since then the county's disposal operations have been privatized. The county currently contracts with Waste Management Corporation to haul collected wastes from the county operated convenience centers to the Pinebluff Landfill in Cherokee County on an as-needed basis.

Based upon records from the DNR, other waste collected in the county by private collectors was disposed at six landfills as indicated in the following table.

Table 5.1: Capacity of Landfills Receiving Waste from Pickens County

Facility Name	Mailing Address	Facility Type	Owner/ Operator	Types of Waste Accepted	Remaining Capacity (Cubic yards)	Year Expected to reach capacity.
Murray Co. – US 411 Westside 2 MSWL	P.O. Box 1129, Chatsworth, GA	MSW Landfill	Public	Municipal solid waste	13,306,719	6/25/2068
Cherokee Construction and Demolition landfill	P.O. Box 409 Ball Ground, GA	C&D Landfill	Private Commercial	Construction and demolition debris	2,889,195	2/16/2026
Eagle Point Landfill	9250 Baymeadows Road, Suite 220, Jacksonville Fl	MSW Landfill	Private Commercial	Municipal solid waste	30,950	5/14/2043
Cherokee Pine Bluff Landfill, Inc.	13809 E. Cherokee Dr Ballground, Georgia 30107	MSW Landfill	Private Commercial	Municipal solid waste	49,084,766	5/24/2041
Gordon Co. Redbone Ridges Rd	P.O. Box 580 Calhoun, Georgia 30703	MSW Landfill	Public	Municipal solid waste	12,466,223	6/25/2102
Whitestone Valley C&D Landfill	1714 Old Whitestone Rd, Talking Rock, GA	C&D Landfill	Private Commercial	Construction and demolition debris	4,247,940	2060

Nelson. The City of Nelson disposes their collected waste at Pine Bluff Landfill in Cherokee County.

Talking Rock. The Town of Talking Rock hauls its collected solid waste to the Jones Mountain Road Transfer Station/Convenience Center in Pickens County. The County contracts with Waste Management to haul Talking Rock's waste to Pinebluff Landfill in Cherokee County.

Jasper. The City of Jasper disposes its collected solid waste at Pine Bluff Landfill in Cherokee County.

5.2 Contingency Strategy

Waste Management Corporation is the current hauler of waste for Pickens County. Waste Management currently disposes of the county's solid waste at the Pine Bluff Land fill in Cherokee County. Should a natural disaster or other event cause this landfill to be unusable, Waste Management will find an alternate landfill. The change from one landfill to another should be immediate.

Should the current hauling/disposal practices become interrupted or unavailable, Pickens County will contract with another hauler who will be able to provide for the disposal of solid waste. This contracted hauler will be responsible for disposing the waste at a landfill of their choosing. This process should take two weeks or less. During that time, waste could be temporarily stored at the Jones Mountain Road Transfer Station/Convenience Center. Additional containers might be needed to handle the short-term storage.

The City of Nelson currently hauls its collected solid waste to the Pine Bluff Landfill in Cherokee County. Should a natural disaster or other event cause this landfill to be unusable, The City of Nelson will find an alternate landfill. The change from one landfill to another should be immediate.

The City of Jasper currently hauls its collected solid waste to the Pine Bluff Landfill in Cherokee County. Should a natural disaster or other event cause this landfill to be unusable, The City of Jasper will find an alternate landfill. The change from one landfill to another should be immediate.

The Town of Talking Rock currently hauls its collected waste to the Jones Mountain Road Transfer Station/Convenience Center in Pickens County. In the event this facility is no longer available, the Town of Talking Rock will dispose of its waste at one of the landfills listed in Table 5.1. This change should be immediate.

5.3 Disaster Debris Management – Disposal Strategy

The Pickens County Emergency Management Agency is currently developing a specific strategy for disaster debris management as part of an overall emergency management plan. This plan should be completed in approximately 4 months. In the interim, the county will utilize the following strategy, which has been used successfully in past disasters. The county will set up a temporary debris storage site at property it owns on Camp Road near the airport. This site has already been approved by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Debris that can be chipped into mulch will be done with county equipment. For the remaining debris, the county will contract with debris management firms to process and dispose of the remaining waste and/or recyclables for disposal at out-of-county facilities. Various media will be utilized to inform the public on proper procedures.

5.4 Assessment of Disposal

The most cost effective method for Pickens County to dispose of its waste is to continue to contract with a private contractor to transport and dispose of collected waste at an out-of-county landfill. The city of Nelson will continue to dispose of its collected waste at the Pinebluff Landfill in Cherokee County. The Town of Talking Rock will continue to haul its collected waste to the Pickens County Jones Mountain Road Transfer Station/Convenience Center, from where it will be hauled by the County's contractor and disposed at the Pinebluff Landfill in Cherokee County. The city of Jasper will continue to dispose of its collected waste at the Pinebluff Landfill in Cherokee County.

In light of unforeseen cost escalations under these privatization methods, the local jurisdictions reserve the right to investigate alternative disposal solutions such as joining adjacent counties in establishing a regional landfill facility.

5.5 Assurance of 10-Year Disposal Capacity

Pickens County, the Cities of Jasper and Nelson and the Town of Talking Rock propose to achieve their ten year disposal capacity requirement by continuing current arrangements to dispose of locally generated waste at private, out of county landfills. A copy of the waste disposal assurance capacity letter is included in the appendix.

5.6 Goals and Needs

Based upon the inventory and assessment of existing conditions, the following goals and needs have been identified for this element.

Goal: The goal for Pickens County, the Cities of Jasper and Nelson, and the Town of Talking Rock is to assure that there will be adequate disposal capacity to meet the needs of local businesses and residents for the next ten years and beyond.

Needs:

- **Pickens County.** Continue contract arrangements with a private solid waste hauler to transport and dispose waste collected at county facilities at an out-of-county landfill.
- **Nelson.** Continue to dispose of waste collected by the City of Nelson at an out-of-county landfill.
- **Jasper.** Continue to dispose of waste collected by the City of Jasper at an out-of-county landfill.
- **Talking Rock.** Continue to transport waste collected by the Town to the Jones Mt. Road Transfer Station/Convenience Center in Pickens County.
- **All jurisdictions.** Continue to utilize the Whitestone Valley C&D Landfill in Pickens County to dispose construction debris. This Landfill may need to be expanded from time to time to help meet the county's C&D disposal needs.

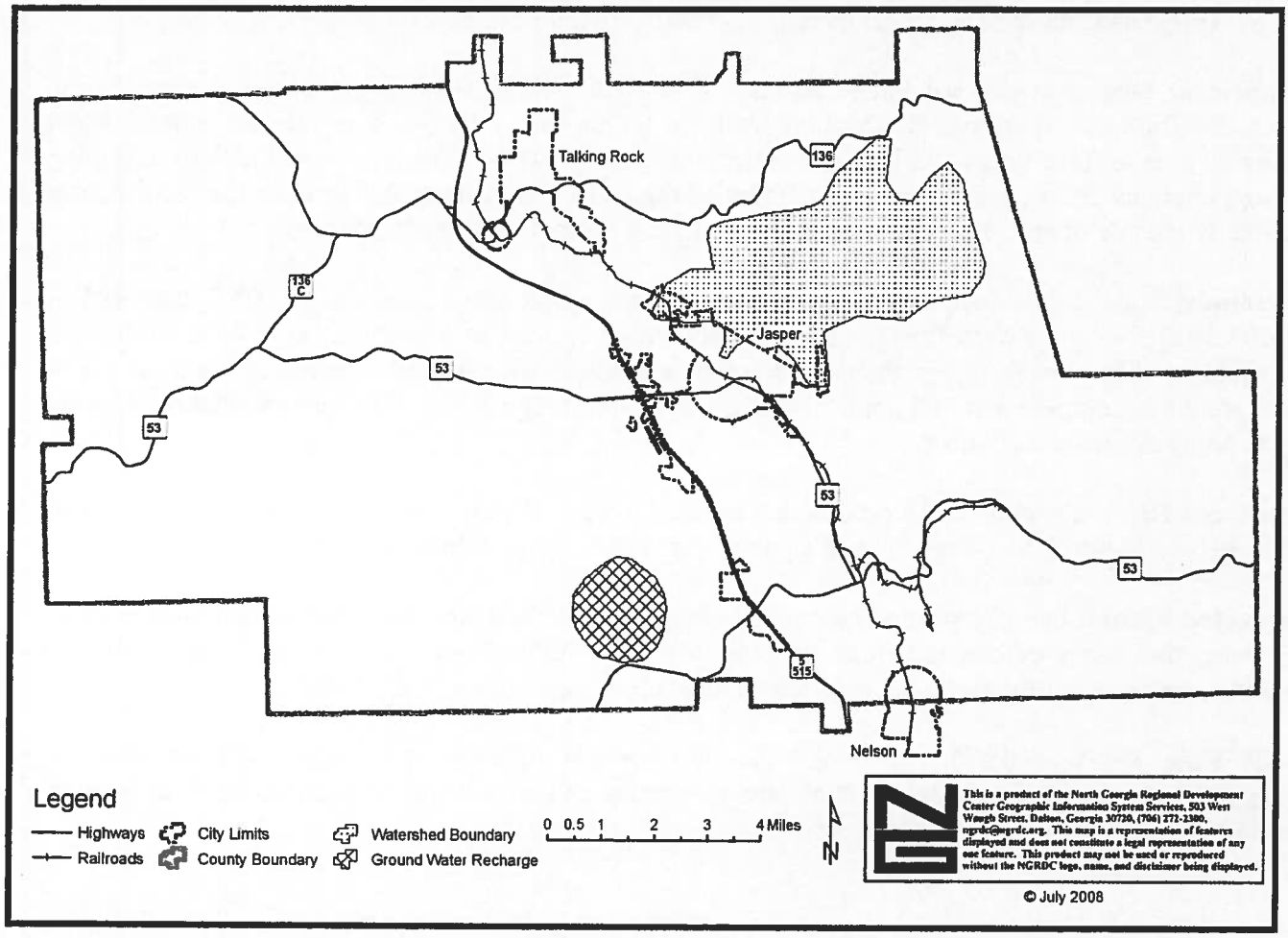
Section 6 - Land Limitation Element

The purpose of this element is to provide an assessment of areas in Pickens County that are unsuitable for solid waste recycling, recovery, composting, or disposal facilities because of natural environmental limitations or land use criteria. Environmental limitations include such things as water supply watersheds, ground water recharge areas, wetlands, river corridors, and protected mountains. Land use criteria refer to heavily developed areas, zoning restrictions, historic resources, and airports.

6.1 Natural Environmental Limitations

Water Supply Watersheds: There is one water supply watershed in Pickens County, which serves as the City of Jasper's water supply and is classified as a small watershed (less than 100 square miles). The boundaries of this watershed are shown in Figure 6.1.

Figure 6.1
Water Supply Watersheds and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas in Pickens County



The criteria for locating of a solid waste facility within a water supply watershed are as follows:

- Within a seven mile radius upstream of a public water intake, no solid waste facility should be constructed within a 100 foot buffer on both sides of a perennial stream. No impervious surfaces should be constructed within 150 feet of either side of the stream.
- In small water supply watersheds, beyond seven miles, a 50 foot buffer must be maintained and no impervious surfaces should be constructed within 75 feet of a perennial stream.
- No solid waste facility should be located in the 150 foot buffer around water supply reservoirs.
- In small water supply watersheds, new municipal solid waste landfills must have synthetic liners and leachate collection systems. (DNR Rule 391-3-16-.01(7)(c)1)

Ground Water Recharge Areas: There is one small significant ground water recharge area in Pickens County located in the south central part of the county. (See Figure 6.1). The criteria for locating a solid waste facility within a ground water recharge area is as follows:

- New waste disposal facilities must have synthetic liners and leachate collection systems.(DNR Rule 391-3-16-.02(3)(a))
- No land disposal of hazardous waste shall be permitted within a groundwater recharge area. (Pickens County Land Development Standards, Chapter 26, Section 26.13).

Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas: DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(j) requires that new solid waste landfills or expansions of existing facilities within two miles of a significant ground water recharge area to have liners and leachate collection systems, with the exception of facilities accepting waste generated from outside the county in which the facility is located. In that case, the facility must be totally outside of any area designated as a significant ground water recharge area.

Wetlands: Solid waste landfills may constitute an unacceptable use of a wetland. (DNR Rule 391-3-16-.03(3)(e)) No solid waste handling facility should be located in a wetland, as defined by the US Army Corp of Engineers, unless there are no other alternative sites or methods available and the use of such wetlands complies with all applicable state and federal regulations. Wetlands in Pickens County area shown in Figure 6.2 below.

Protected River Corridors: As determined by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR Rule 391-3-16-.04(4)(h), there are no designated protected rivers in Pickens County.

Protected Mountains: A protected mountain is defined as all land area 2,200 feet or more above mean sea level that has a percentage slope of 25% or greater for at least 500 feet horizontally. It also includes crests, summits, and ridge tops which lie at elevations higher than any such area.

DNR Rule 391-3-16-.05(4)(l) prohibits the development of new solid waste landfills in areas designated as protected mountains. Protected mountains and areas with steep slopes (25% or greater) are shown in Figure 6.3.

Figure 6.2
Wetlands in Pickens County.

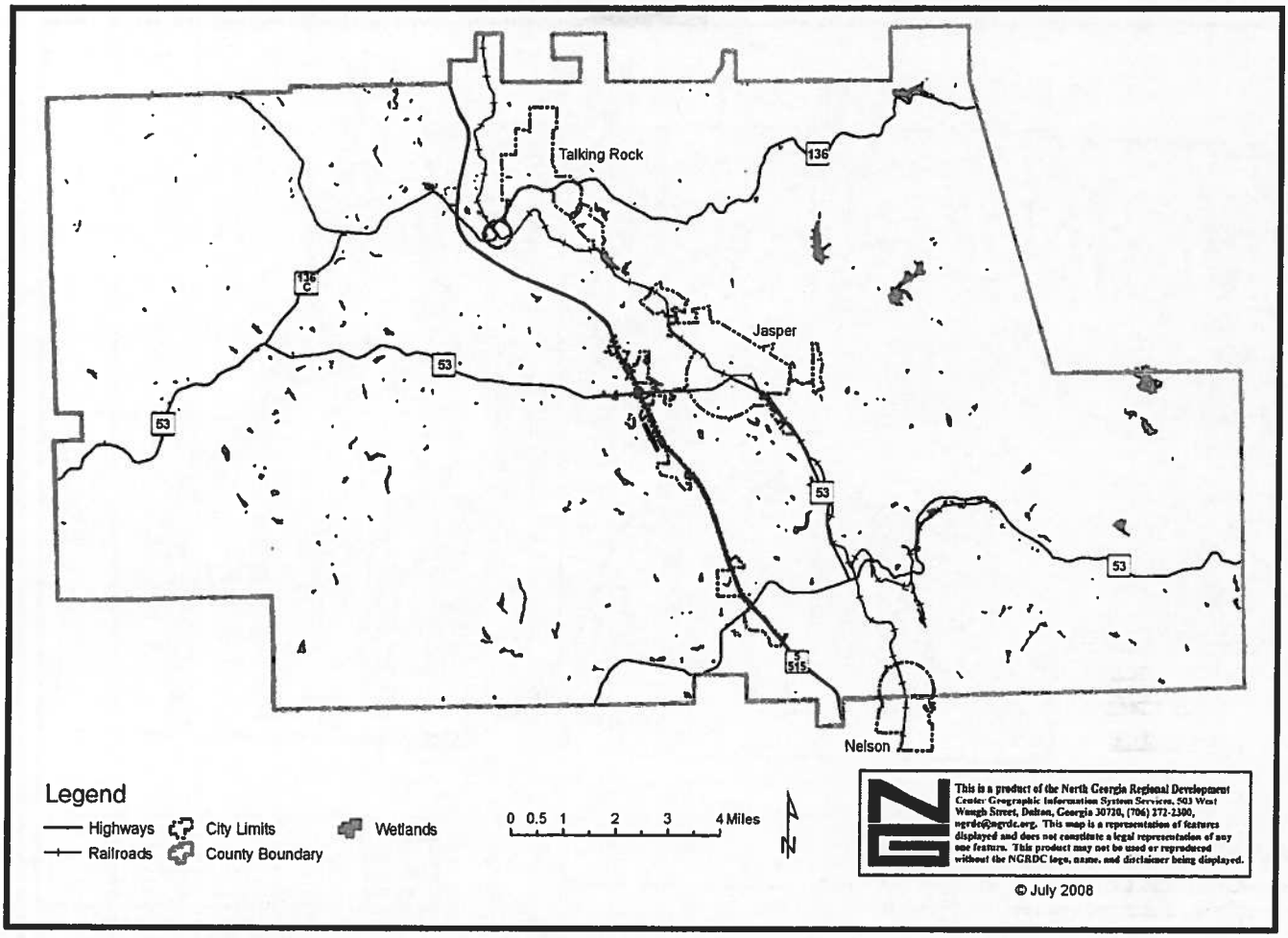
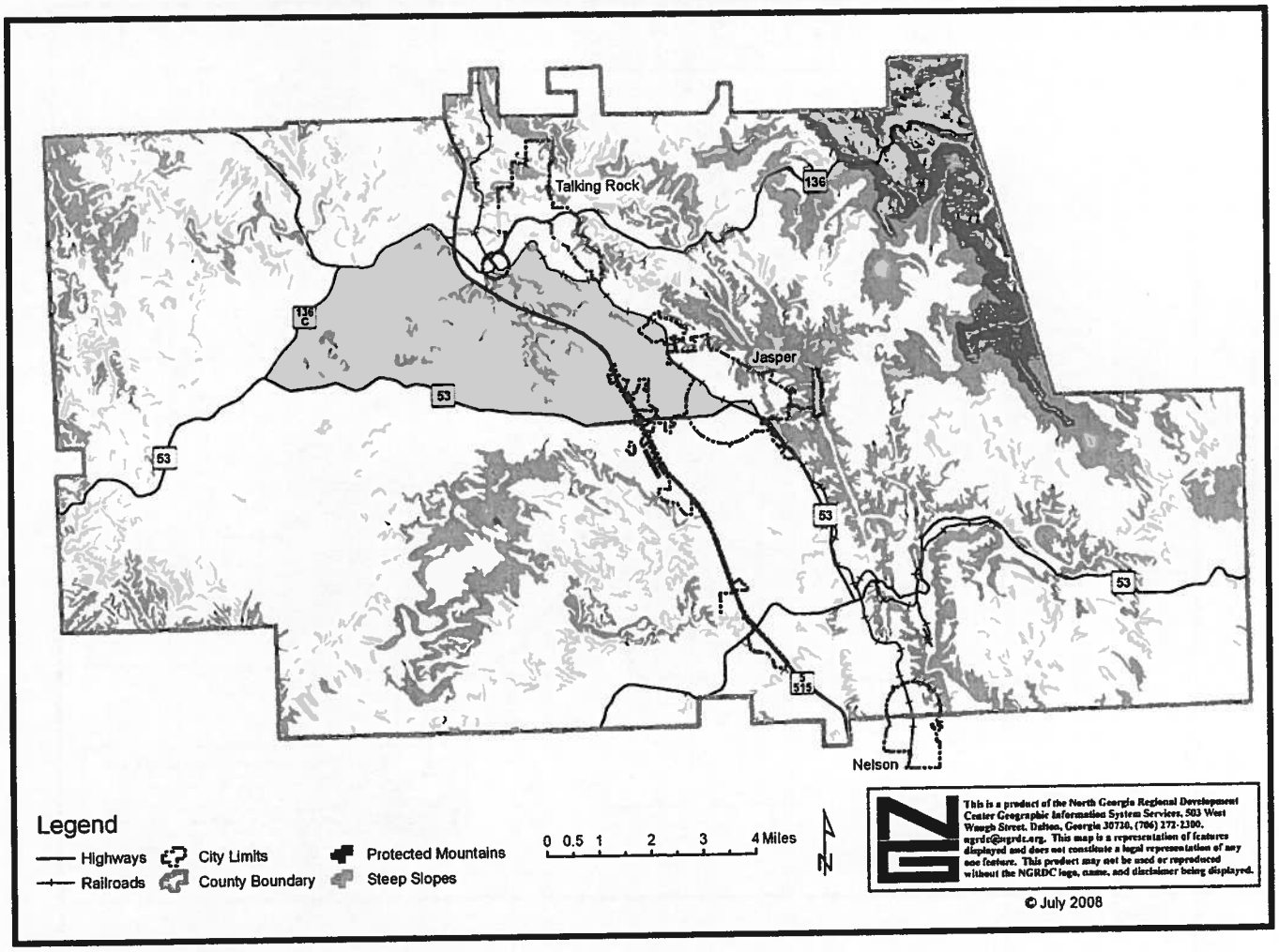


Figure 6.3
Protected Mountains and Steep Slopes in Pickens County



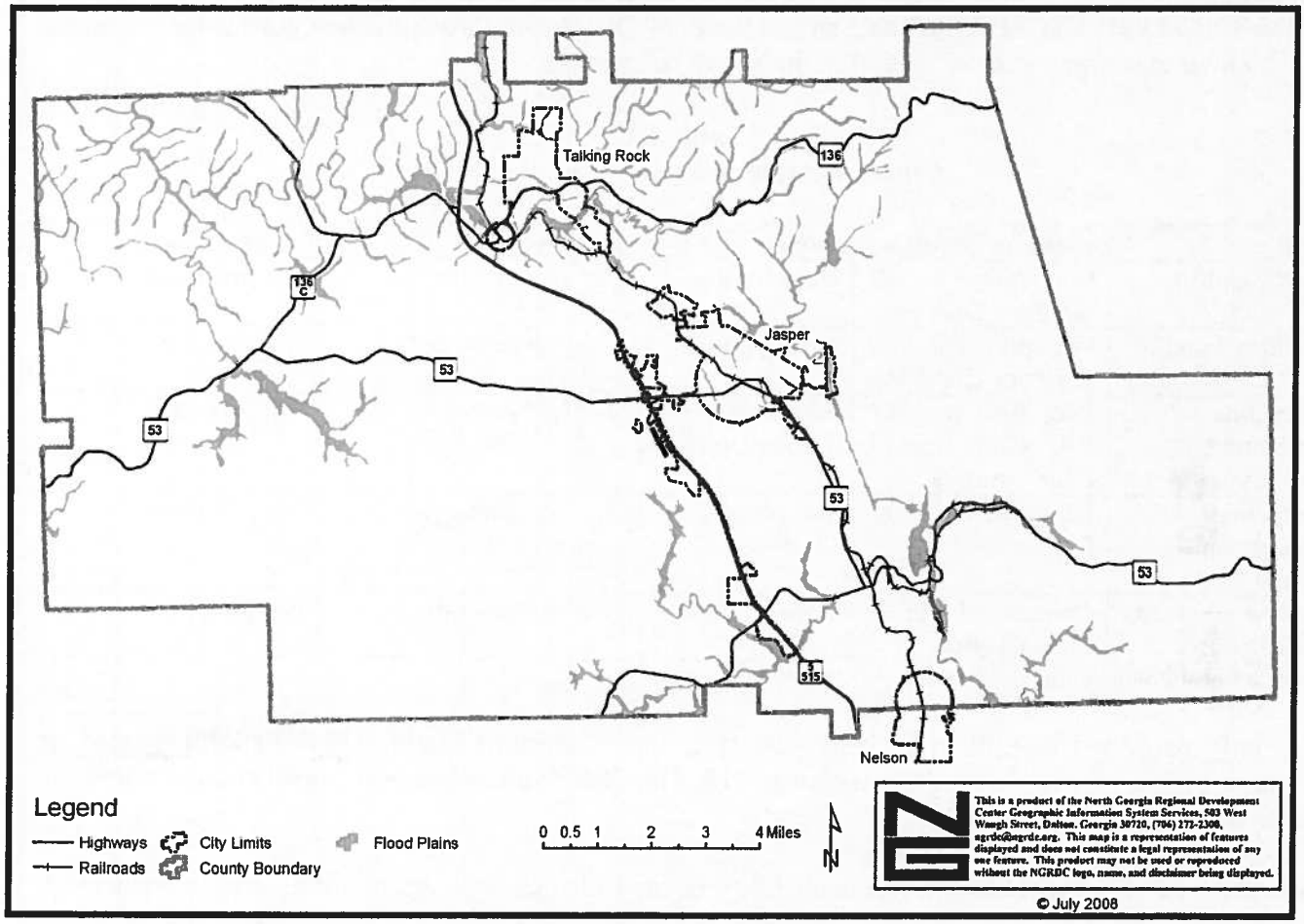
Fault Areas. New landfill units and lateral expansions of existing landfills shall not be located within 200 feet (60 meters) of a fault that has had displacement in Holocene time unless the owner or operator demonstrates to the Director that an alternative setback distance of less than 200 feet (60 meters) will prevent damage to the structural integrity of the landfill unit and will be protective of human health and the environment. (DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(f))

Seismic Impact Zones. New landfill units and lateral expansions shall not be located in seismic impact zones, unless the owner or operator demonstrates to the Director that all containment structures, including liners, leachate collection systems, and surface water control systems, are designed to resist the maximum horizontal acceleration in lithified earth material for the site. (DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(g))

Unstable Areas. Owners or operators of new landfill units, existing landfill units, and lateral expansions located in unstable areas must demonstrate that engineering measures have been incorporated in the landfill unit's design to ensure that the integrity of the structural components of the landfill unit will not be disrupted. (DNR rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(h))

Flood Plains. Pickens County and its municipalities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. No solid waste facility located in the 100-year flood plain shall restrict the flow of the 100-year flood, reduce the temporary water storage capacity of the flood plain, or result in a washout of solid waste so as to pose a threat to human health or the environment. (DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(d)) Flood plains in Pickens County are shown in Figure 6.4.

Figure 6.4
Flood Plains in Pickens County



6.2 Land Use Limitations

Airports: There is a general aviation airport located within the Pickens County planning area. State law requires that no landfill be located within typical runway length requirements of an airport, 5,000 feet for non-jet airports and 10,000 feet for airports that can accommodate jet aircraft. (DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(c))

Zoning: Solid waste facilities must conform to all local zoning and land use ordinances. (DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(a)) The following table shows the Zone Districts in those jurisdictions that have zoning, in which various types of solid waste facilities may be located.

Table 6.1
Zoning Related to Solid Waste Facilities

Use	Pickens County	Jasper	Nelson	Talking Rock
Inert Landfill	Conditional in AG & I Zone Districts	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted
Sanitary Landfill	Conditional in AG & I Zone Districts	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted
Recycling Collection Centers	Permitted in AG, RR, NC, HB, and I Zone Districts	Permitted in C-2, M-1 Zone Districts	Not permitted	Not permitted
Recycling Processing Centers	Permitted in I Zone District	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted
Hazardous waste facilities	Conditional in I Zone District	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted

Source: Local Zoning Ordinances

The only permitted landfill in Pickens County is the Whitestone Valley C&D Landfill located in northern Pickens County near State Highway 515. This 228 acre site has been zoned and permitted for expansion on site as needed.

Summary of Site Suitability. The availability of land for development of solid waste management facilities is limited by environmental and land use factors. Figure 6.5 is a composite map of all of these factors combined. The black areas on the map represent land areas that are geotechnically poorly suited for a sanitary landfill.

6.3 Local Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities

The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources reviews solid waste handling facility permit requests to determine if they are consistent with local solid waste management plans. The following procedure will be followed by Pickens County's local governments to determine if a proposed facility, public or private, is consistent with the Pickens County Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Management Plan:

No proposed facility or facility expansion will be sited in the planning area without a letter from the Commissioner of Pickens County and when applicable, the appropriate Mayor and City Council, stating that the facility is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan.

To determine if a proposed facility or facility expansion is consistent with the Plan, an owner/operator of the facility shall at least 60 days prior to filing for a solid waste handling permit, or notifying EPD in the case of a solid waste handling facility that is permitted by rule, submit to the local governing authority a written document addressing the following:

1. How the proposed facility or facility expansion will meet the specific goals and/or needs identified in the Solid Waste Management Plan. Specifically what will be:

   (a) The impact upon the collection capability within the planning area;

   (b) The impact upon disposal capacity identified in the planning area; a financial analysis shall be included.

   (c) The impact to the waste reduction and recycling efforts within the planning area; and impact to the current solid waste management infrastructure within the planning area, both public and private; Relevant Plan needs and goals will be addressed.

2. How the proposed facility or facility expansion and it's operation will impact the community; specifically, what will be:

   The impact to vehicular traffic and public safety around the proposed facility and throughout the planning area;

   Road conditions, estimated traffic, traffic routes, hours of operation, dust generated, odor, noise and nighttime lighting shall be addressed in the provided data.

Traffic Safety: All such operations shall be located on a state highway or county primary road, as defined by the County Commissioner, for ingress and egress thereto, and on a road that does not create traffic through an area developed primarily for residential purposes. Where necessary, the Commissioner may require the applicant to construct and/or improve a road to accommodate the truck travel necessitated by the operations, as condition of such operation, and for the purpose of routing traffic around residential areas. A stop sign shall be erected and maintained by the owner/operator at all egress roads from the landfill. Under no circumstances shall trucks use private drives or private access routes to or from the applicants' property that are within 300 feet of any residence.

Sight Barriers and Fencing: Sight barriers shall be provided along all setback lines of the sites that lack natural screening conditions. Sight barriers shall consist of the following: a berm of at least 10 feet in height and plantings of evergreen trees, not more than 10 feet apart, or evergreen shrubbery not more than 5 feet apart, in staggered rows, on the berm, parallel to the boundaries of the property. Evergreens shall be at least two-year transplants at the time of planting, shall grow to not less than 10 feet in height within two years or less, and shall be sufficiently spaced to provide effective sight barriers when 10 feet in height. Trees or shrubs that die must be promptly replaced.

Nuisance Abatement: Air pollution, noise, and vibration, and their effects upon adjacent property owners will be mitigated. The proper use of berms, walls, and natural planting screens will be utilized.

Rodent traps shall be placed 100 yards apart around the perimeter of the landfill, inside the fence, and shall be inspected and cleaned not less than once per day.

Any security lighting deemed necessary by the owner/operator shall be the sodium vapor type and shall be aligned so that no part of the illuminated field falls on adjacent property.

Every landfill shall, at its own expense, connect to a public water supply and install at least one outlet per square acre in order to ensure adequate water supply and facilities for quick delivery of water to any part of the property for the purpose of extinguishing fires. Capacity shall be such that at least 50 gallons of water per minute can be applied to any fire, continuously, for at least 10 hours. The source of the water supply and facilities to provide for the delivery of the water shall be indicated on the plans submitted for approval to the County Commissioner.

Every landfill shall, at its own expense, connect to a public sewer system for the disposal of its leachate, the owner/operator shall fund all necessary improvements to the publicly owned treatment works through which the leachate will be discharged.

All litter shall be collected from the landfill site by the end of each working day and either placed in the fill, compacted and covered that day, or stored in a covered container.

Access to the Public: Any landfill shall be open to use by County residents, property owners, and businesses, during established business hours, at a rate to be agreed upon by the governing authority. Special handling fees may be charged for bulky or difficult to process items.

Other Impacts: Other impacts of the proposed facility or expansion must be assessed including the following:

- The impact to the financial viability of the existing solid waste management system within the planning area. This will include impacts to individual and business solid waste management rates.

- The impact of the proposed facility or facility expansion to natural or cultural resources within the planning area. The applicant must submit information on how the planned facility impacts existing and nearby natural, historic and cultural resources. This includes bodies of water used for recreation, public parks, schools and other public facilities. A one (1) mile radius from the proposed facility will be used.

- How the owner/operator of the proposed facility (and any subsequent owner/operators, if sold) will satisfy the financial assurance provisions of the plan and local ordinances, if any.

- That the owner/operator notified all adjacent property owners and conducted a public hearing.

- That the proposed facility or facility expansion is sited in an area deemed suitable according to criteria listed in the plan.

- That the proposed facility or facility expansion is sited in a location that is consistent with local zoning ordinances.

Notices and Hearings: References below, to governing authority(s), shall mean just the County or both the County and the affected City.

Application Submission and Hearing Schedule: Upon receipt of an application, the governing authority(s) shall review the application for completeness. If incomplete, the governing authority will return it with deficiencies noted. The application may be resubmitted upon correction of deficiencies. Once the application is complete the applicant will be advised of the date of the initial hearing.

Mailed Notice: The applicant shall determine all owners of adjacent parcels. Parcel determination will be from the records of the Pickens County Assessor's Office. Owners will be mailed information such as time, date, place and purpose of the initial hearing.

Published Notice: The applicant will also pay for a notice to be published in the official legal organ of the County. Notice will be at least 4 by 6 inches and located in the general news section of the paper. Notice title shall be in bold. Notice will be published at least one week before hearing.

Application Fee: The proposed facility applicant shall be required to submit a fee of $750.00 for the review process. This fee shall be paid to each governing authority. Failure to provide these funds within 30 days of demand shall result in termination of the application process.

Initial Hearing: The applicant shall present its request to the governing authority. Only elected officials or their experts will be allowed to ask questions at this hearing. Governing authority may request further information.

Public Comment Hearing: The public comment hearing will allow the applicant to again present its application. Opponents may also present their case. At the conclusion of this hearing no vote will be taken.

Decision Hearing: The next hearing shall be the next regularly scheduled governing authority meeting, which shall be at least 5 business days after the public comment hearing. The governing authority will have their attorney prepare a proposed written decision. The governing authority will vote on this document.

Written Decision by Governing Authority(s): A written decision shall determine if the application is consistent or inconsistent with the Multi-jurisdictional Solid Waste Management Plan. The governing authority shall issue the "Written Statement of Consistency" and shall determine if the proposed facility or facility expansion is consistent with the Plan. Within 30 days of making a determination, the governing authority shall notify the developer whether or not the proposed facility or facility expansion is consistent with the Plan. The decision will also state why the application is deemed consistent or inconsistent. No vote shall be final until a written decision is adopted by the governing authority.

Appeal Process: The applicant shall have the right to appeal to the Superior Court of Pickens County within 30 days of the date of the written decision.

6.4 Assessment of Land Limitation

A substantial portion of Pickens County is geo-technically unsuited for the development of sanitary landfills. In addition, the county and cities have initiated zoning procedures and standards for considering permits for any new solid waste handling facilities. The public would have ample opportunity to provide input into the permitting process.

6.5 Goals and Needs

Goal: The goal of the County and Cities is to insure that proposed solid waste handling facilities are located in areas which are suitable for such developments, are compatible with surrounding uses, and are not considered for locations in areas which have been identified by the community or region as having environmental or other development or land use limitations.

Needs:

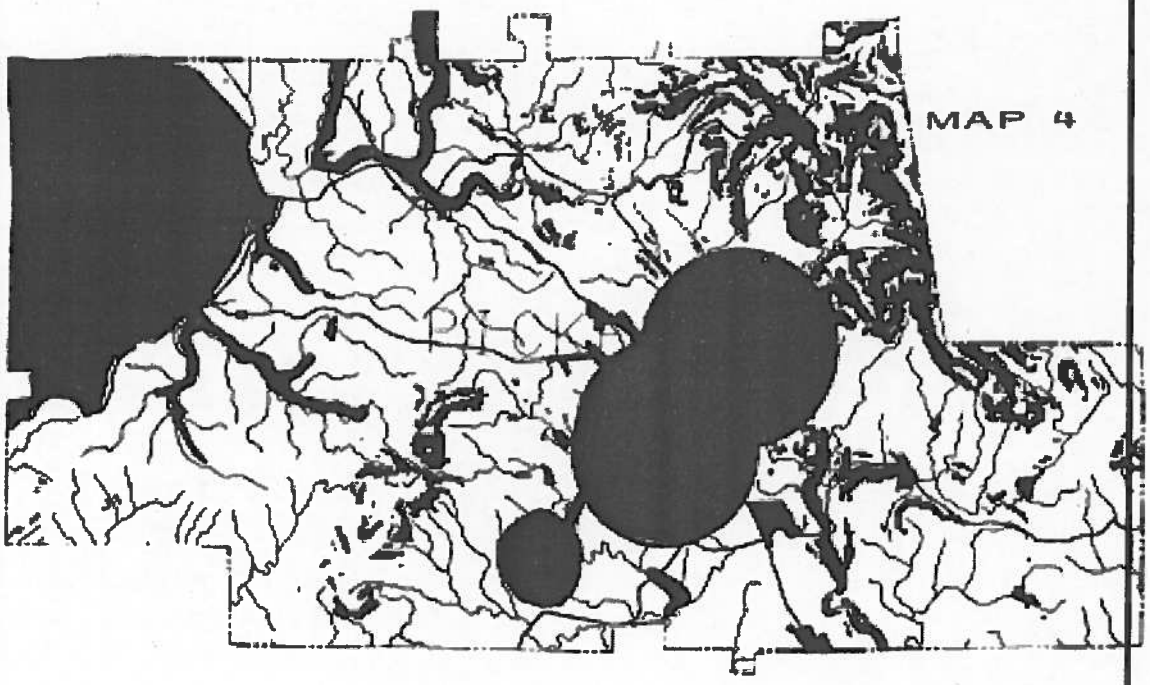
- Periodically review and modify, if necessary, all zoning and other procedures for reviewing and approving the siting of new solid waste handling facilities.

Figure 6.5
Overall Site Suitability for Sanitary Landfills in Pickens County

AREAS IN BLACK ARE CONSIDERED GEOTECHNICALLY POORLY SUITED FOR A SANITARY LANDFILL

This map depicts areas that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, considers geotechnically poorly suited for the construction and/or operation of a sanitary landfill.

Actual site investigations, meeting rules for solid waste management, are required before any letter of site acceptibility can be issued. This map is intended to help applicants focus site selection activities on areas where the prospects for successful siting are better.



PICKENS COUNTY

Source: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the United States Geological Survey, 1990 A digital data product of Growth Strategies Legislation Provisional Data subject to revision

Section 7 – Education and Public Involvement Element

7.1 Inventory of Existing Educational Programs and Public Involvement Opportunities

Most existing public education activities are conducted by the Keep Pickens Beautiful (KPB) organization - a group of concerned citizens striving to develop a clean and beautiful environment for the county. KPB is governed by a volunteer board of directors. An affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful, Inc. program, the KPB meets the first Monday night of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Georgia Highway Patrol office located at 3100 Camp Road, Jasper, Georgia. The current mailing address is P.O. Box 342, Jasper GA 30143. The organization currently employs two part-time staff persons.

The KPB conducts public education and awareness programs in three primary emphasis areas: 1) encouraging citizens to Adopt-A-Highway, A-Spot, or A-County Road for purposes of general clean up; 2) Litter Prevention, which is designed to encourage more responsible attitudes toward keeping the area clean and beautiful; and 3) Recycling, which is a generic effort to educate local citizens, businesses and government institutions on the value of recycling. As of 2008, there are fifty four groups in Pickens County that have adopted road segments in the county for semi-annual clean-ups.

Pamphlets have been prepared for each of the topical areas and are widely distributed throughout the community. In addition to preparing and distributing pamphlets, the KPB members monitor litter issues and problems in the county, organize clean up events, and maintain a speaker's bureau to make presentations before civic organizations and other groups.

The public education efforts primarily focus on clean up, litter control, recycling and beautification. The KPB website (www.keeppickensbeautiful.com) contains information on county goals for recycling and the location of the county recycling centers, and also provides information of what type of materials can be recycled at the centers.

The total expenditures of the KPB in 2007 were $28,872. Total revenue was $31,176 including contributions of $24,475 from Pickens County; $2,100 from the City of Jasper; $612 from the City of Nelson; and $200 from the Town of Talking Rock; and the balance came from membership dues and donations totaling $2,285 for membership and $1,495 from donations.

The Pickens County government also organizes clean up events include utilizing Community Service workers on each Saturday to clean up road segments, and conducts an annual spring clean up involving the entire county.

Pickens County Government also educates the public through the use of utility bill inserts and by utilizing the local newspaper (Pickens County Progress) to highlight recycling and solid waste programs that are available to the public.

7.2 Assessment of Education and Public Involvement Initiatives

The KPB organization does a good job of educating local citizens on the value of keeping a clean community and the benefits of recycling. The organization also does a good job of involving local citizens in its education and anti-littering campaigns. One area that the KPB and county could address is to improve monitoring of waste reduction efforts; publish the results of these efforts; and educate the public on how well the community is attaining the County's goal of reducing the amount of waste diverted from landfills by 25 percent.

7.3 Goals and Needs

Goal: To ensure that all citizens of Pickens County, the cities of Jasper and Nelson, and the Town of Talking Rock are provided information about the solid waste management program, litter reduction and waste reduction efforts.

Needs: The county and cities will continue to support and utilize Keep Pickens Beautiful (KPB) to carry out public education and involvement programs. These programs include the Governor's Clean Community Challenge (CCC) Program, Litter Control, Recycling and Beautification. KPB is involved in education in all of these program areas, and is directly involved in the CCC Program and Beautification. KPB serves as an advisor to the county, cities, and general public in these areas. In addition to existing programs, the KPB will initiate new program activities as follows:

- Continue providing education and oversight for the Adopt-A-Road program and expanding it to include additional participations.
- Serve as local contact to implement the components of the state directed Clean Community Challenge (CCC) program.
- Develop a Litter Prevention Plan/Strategy by taking the following steps:
    1. Conduct a visual litter index/survey of the community
    2. Conduct a litter attitude and awareness survey.
    3. Review and confirm the Litter Community Profile information reported to DCA in the annual Solid Waste Management Survey.
    4. Identify a list of partners/resources to help address littering; and
    5. Identify strategies for addressing litter in the community.
- Provide education to implement and maintain the CCC:
    1. Incorporate the *Litter It cost you* campaign material and report how they were used.
    2. Develop outreach programs to address both intentional and "passive" littering – items that have fallen out or were blown off of trash and recycling trucks, from construction sites, unsecured loads, or debris left from damaged vehicles.
    3. Promote the YCCC program to schools and civic groups in our community.
    4. Measure results and report using the *Litter It costs you* Attitude Survey.
- Identify sites that need clean up and report them to local or state authorities. Provide education to help eradicate the problem.
- Encourage recycling in county, cities, public and private schools, businesses and industries and the general public. Provide education and at times assist in purchasing containers for collecting recyclables. Serve as community consultant on recycling issues and implementing individual programs.

- Encourage local involvement and directly manage some beautification projects. Maintain current projects such as: memorial garden, murals and beautification locations. Expand projects to include others locations.
- Maintain pamphlets that include comprehensive information on involvements of KPB.

It is estimated that it will take a minimum budget of $35,000 per year for the KPB to effectively carry out the Public Education and Involvement Program and its other activities. Funds for this budget should come from both the private and public sectors. KPB raises funds from membership fees and by fundraising for specific projects. Most donations are in-kind for its projects. Fundraising is limited as this organization is recognized as government funded It is proposed that a portion of the budget continue to come from each of the four governments based on the prorate share of population. On this basis Pickens County's share would be $26,600; Jasper's $2,300; Nelson's $650; and Talking Rock's $200.

Section 8 – Implementation Strategy

8.1 Summary of Goals and Needs

The following Table is a summary of the goals and needs, which were identified in Elements 2 through 7.

Table 8-1
Summary of Solid Waste Management Goals and Needs

Waste Reduction
Goal: The goal for Pickens County, the Cities of Jasper and Nelson and the Town of Talking Rock is to increase the amount of materials diverted from disposal from the current 14.2 percent of the total waste stream to the County's goal of 25 percent.
Needs
• Expand the number of facilities for collecting recyclable materials at each the county's convenience centers as needed. • Encourage participation in existing recycling programs. • Work with all governments and other institutions to expand recycling opportunities at each facility. • Work with businesses to expand commercial and industrial waste reduction opportunities. • Since the Whitestone Valley C&D Landfill recycles C&D materials, efforts should be made to expand this operation, including the provision of programs and facilities to mulch or compost yard trimmings and other yard waste.
Collection
Goal: The goal for Pickens County, the Cities of Jasper and Nelson and the Town of Talking Rock is to provide consistent and universal access to a variety of collection services for solid waste and recyclables in Pickens County.
Needs
• Expand the number of waste and recycling collection centers in the unincorporated area as the population grows and densities increase. • Ensure that the convenience centers have adequate facilities to handle anticipated tonnages and traffic in a cost effective manner. • Continue to provide curbside or back-door collection in the incorporated areas. • Establish a permitting and reporting system for private waste collectors so that better data can be achieved on waste collection activity. ▪ Establish an enhanced illegal dumping/littering education and enforcement program.
Disposal
Goal: The goal for Pickens County, the Cities of Jasper and Nelson, and the Town of Talking Rock is to assure that there will be adequate disposal capacity to meet the needs of local businesses and residents for the next ten years and beyond.
Needs

- **Pickens County.** Continue contract arrangements with a private solid waste hauler to transport and dispose waste collected at county facilities at an out-of-county landfill.
- **Nelson.** Continue to dispose of waste collected by the City of Nelson at an out-of-county landfill.
- **Jasper.** Continue to dispose of waste collected by the City of Jasper at an out-of-county landfill.
- **Talking Rock.** Continue to transport waste collected by the Town to the Jones Mt. Road Transfer Station/Convenience Center in Pickens County.
- **All jurisdictions.** Continue to utilize Whitestone Valley C&D Landfill as needed. This disposal site may need to be expanded from time to time to expand this operation.

Land Limitation

Goal: The goal of Pickens County, the Cities of Jasper and Nelson, and the Town of Talking Rock is to insure that proposed solid waste handling facilities are located in areas which are suitable for such developments, are compatible with surrounding uses, and are not considered for locations in areas which have been identified by the community or region as having environmental or other development or land use limitations.

Needs

- Periodically review and modify, if necessary, all zoning and other procedures for reviewing and approving the siting of new solid waste handling facilities.

Public Education and Information

Goal: To ensure that all citizens of Pickens County, the cities of Jasper and Nelson, and the Town of Talking Rock are provided information about the solid waste management program, litter reduction, and waste reduction programs.

Needs: The county and cities will continue to support and utilize Keep Pickens Beautiful (KPB) to carry out public education and involvement programs. These programs include the Governor's Clean Community Challenge (CCC) Program, Litter Control, Recycling and Beautification. In addition to existing programs, the KPB will initiate new program activities as follows:

- Continue providing education and oversight for the Adopt-A-Road program and expanding it to include additional participations.
- Serve as local contact to implement the components of the state directed Clean Community Challenge (CCC) program.
- Develop a Litter Prevention Plan/Strategy
- Provide education to implement and maintain the CCC.
- Identify sites that need clean up and report them to local or state authorizes. Provide education to help eradicate the problem.
- Encourage recycling in county, cities, public and private schools, businesses and industries and the general public. Provide education and at times assist in purchasing containers for collecting recyclables. Serve as community consultant on recycling issues and implementing individual programs.
- Encourage local involvement and directly manage some beautification projects. Maintain current projects such as: memorial garden, murals and beautification locations. Expand projects to include others locations.

8.2 Implementation Strategy/Short Term Work Program

The implementation strategy identifies the activities that Pickens County, the Cities of Jasper and Nelson and Town of Talking Rock will undertake to meet the goals and needs identified over the next ten years, from June 30, 2008 through June 30, 2018. Activities in the first five years constitute the Short Term Work Program. Because Pickens County and the cites are already operating a full complement of waste management programs at present, many of the activities to be implemented over the ten-year planning period involve continuation of existing facilities and programs.

Plan Implementation Activities and Schedule

Table 8-2 summarizes the various plan activities and shows the projected time line for the county and cities' proposed implementation schedule.

Table 8-2
Ten-Year Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Schedule for Pickens County, Cities of Jasper and Nelson, and Town of Talking Rock

Activities	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Waste Reduction Element														
Continued operation of recycling centers	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Pickens County	Costs are included in collection costs below.	Recyclable material revenues; general fund
Establish recyclable collection facilities at new convenience center on the west side of county		*										Pickens County	$10,000	State grants; general fund
Consider purchase of recycling containers and establishment of curbside collection of recyclables		*										Town of Talking Rock	Unknown	State grants; general fund
Collection Element														
Continue operation of transfer station and convenience centers	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Pickens County	$381,138/yr-adjusted each year for inflation	Collection fees; general fund
Establish new convenience center on west side of county		*										Pickens County	$125,000 - $150,000	State grants; general fund
Continue back-door waste collection for residents and businesses	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	City of Jasper	$147,177/yr – adjusted each year for inflation	General fund
Continue curbside collection services	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	City of Nelson	$22,500/yr – adjusted each year for inflation	General fund
Continue back-door collection services	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Town of Talking Rock	$3,924/yr-adjusted each year for inflation	General fund

Activities	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Acquire new or used collection vehicle					*							Town of Talking Rock	$10,000	General fund
Establish permit/data collection system for private waste collectors		*										Pickens County	Staff time	General fund
Disposal Element														
Continue to dispose of collected waste from transfer station and convenience centers to an out-of-county landfill	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Pickens County	$175,952/yr – adjusted each year for inflation	Collection fees; general fund
Continue to utilize the Whitestone Valley C&D landfill as needed and support expansion, if needed	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		Pickens County and cities	Unknown	General Fund
Continue to dispose of collected waste at an out-of-county landfill	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	City of Jasper	$15,000/yr – adjusted each year for inflation	General fund
Continue to dispose of collected waste at an out-of-county landfill	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	City of Nelson	$10,000/yr – adjusted each year for inflation	General fund
Continue to dispose of collected waste at the Jones Mt. Transfer Station in Pickens County	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Town of Talking Rock	$1,100/yr – adjusted each year for inflation	General fund
Land Limitation Element														
Periodically review and update solid waste facility siting and zoning requirements as needed		*		*		*		*		*		Pickens County and cities	Staff time only	General fund
Public Education and Involvement Element														
Public notifications, media releases and similar activities regarding solid waste management activities	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Pickens County and cities	Staff time only	General fund
Support for Keep Pickens Beautiful (KPB) Public Education Programs	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Pickens County and Cities of Jasper, Nelson, Talking Rock; Citizens for Clean Community	$35,000/yr-adjusted for inflation each year	County and city general fund; private contributions

Activities	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Implement Program to Prevent Littering/Illegal Dumping including: * Developing Neighborhood Programs for Enforcement * Developing a Littering and Illegal Dumping Customer Service Center * Establishing a Speaker's Bureau * Developing and distributing newsletters * Initiate a Solid Waste Management Planning Advisory Group	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Keep Pickens Beautiful	Costs included in public education programs indicated above	County and city general fund; private contributions

Appendix

A. Disposal Assurance Letter

B. Current County Contract for Waste Collection and Disposal

C. Solid Waste Ordinance for Pickens County

Appendix A: Disposal Assurance Letter

WASTE MANAGEMENT

BOLTON ROAD LANDFILL
2236 Bolton Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30318
(404) 799-1047
(404) 799-1328 Fax

Deborah E. Watson
County Clerk
Pickens County Government
1266 E. Church St., Suite 188
Jasper, GA 30143

July 24, 2008

Subject: Disposal Capacity Assurance for Pickens County, City of Nelson, City of Jasper, City of Talking Rock

Dear Ms. Watson:

This letter serves as a disposal capacity assurance for waste generated by Pickens County, the City of Nelson, the City of Jasper and the City Talking Rock governments from 2008 to 2018 and disposed of at Pine Bluff Landfill in Ball Ground, Georgia.

The Georgia EPD permit number for this facility is 028-039D(SL). The remaining permitted capacity of the landfill is 43,016,428 tons or 47,796,032 cubic yards as of January 1st, 2008. The estimated life of permitted capacity remaining at current and projected rates of waste disposal is 34.4 years. Based on the estimated life of this facility, there is sufficient capacity to meet the solid waste disposal needs until 2018.

This assurance is based upon Pickens County, the City of Nelson, the City of Jasper and the City of Talking Rock governments disposing of approximately 34,930 tons of waste at this facility on an annual basis.

We thank these fine municipalities for this business partnership and reserve a portion of our capacity on behalf of these municipalities as long as these municipalities remain customers of Pine Bluff Landfill. We appreciate your business and look forward to providing environmentally sound waste disposal options for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,
Waste Management of Metro Atlanta, Inc.

David Stuart
Director of Atlanta Landfill Operations

Cc: Jo Ann Birrell, Waste Management
Larry Vanden Bosch, AICP
Director, Community and Economic Development Services
North Georgia Regional Development Center
503 West Waugh Street,
Dalton, GA 30720

Appendix B: Current County Contract for Waste Collection and Disposal

CONTRACT

THIS CONTRACT, is made and entered into this 20th day of February, 2007, by and between Pickens County, Georgia, a duly chartered local government in the State of Georgia (hereinafter "County") and Georgia Waste Systems, Inc., a Georgia corporation (hereinafter "Waste Management").

WITNESSETH:

In consideration of the following mutual agreements and covenants, it is understood and agreed by and between the parties hereto as follows:

1. Waste Management is hereby granted the sole and exclusive right within the territorial limits of the County to provide solid waste and recycling services as specified in the Contract Documents.

2. Waste Management shall provide the services described in its proposal which is included in the Contract Documents as specified below.

3. The initial term of the Agreement shall be one year beginning 1/1/07 and ending 12/31/07, unless extended by mutual agreement of the parties.

4. The term of this Agreement may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties for up to two one-year terms.

5. The rates to be charged the County are those specified in Waste Management's proposal which is incorporated into the Contract Documents.

6. The Contract Documents shall consist of the following documents and this Contract does hereby expressly incorporate the same herein as fully as if set forth verbatim in this Contract.

   a. The Contract
   b. The County's RFP
   c. Waste Management's Proposal
   d. Any addenda or changes to the foregoing documents agreed to by the parties in writing.

7. This Contract is entered into subject to the following conditions:

   a. The Contractor shall procure and keep in force and effect throughout the term of this Contract the amounts of insurance specified in the certificate of insurance submitted with its proposal.

   b. The Contractor's performance may be suspended and its obligations hereunder excused in the event and during the period that such performance

is prevented by a cause or causes beyond the reasonable control of the Contractor. Such causes may include by way of example and not limitation, acts of God, acts of war, riot, fire, explosion, accident, flood or sabotage; lack of adequate fuel, power or raw materials; judicial, administrative or governmental laws, regulations, requirements, rules, orders or actions; injunctions or restraining orders; the failure of any governmental body to issue or grant, or the suspension or revocation or modification of any license, permit or other authorization necessary for the services envisioned by this Agreement; national defense requirements, labor strike, lockout or injunction.

c. The compactors will be located on property provided by the County at the Pickens County Recycling Centers at Jones Mountain Road, Cove Road, and Camp Road.

d. There will be no price increases during the initial year of the Contract.

8. This Contract constitutes the entire Contract and understanding between the parties hereto, and it shall not be considered modified, altered, changed or amended in any respect unless in writing and signed by the parties hereto.

9. This Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia both as to interpretation and performance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Contract has been executed in duplicate original on the day and in the year first above mentioned.

PICKENS COUNTY, GEORGIA

TITLE: Pickens Co. Commission

ATTEST:

Deborah C. Watson

COUNTY CLERK

GEORGIA WASTE SYSTEMS, INC.

TITLE: Vice President

ATTEST:

ASST. SECRETARY

Appendix C: Solid Waste Ordinance for Pickens County

Chapter 58

SOLID WASTE*

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* **Cross References:** Environment, ch. 26; health and sanitation, ch. 34; landfills and waste disposal systems, § 38-616 et seq.; utilities, ch. 74.

State Law References: Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act, O.C.G.A. § 12-8-20 et seq.; local, multijurisdictional and regional solid waste plans, O.C.G.A. § 12-8-31.1; transporting garbage or waste across state or county boundaries without permission, O.C.G.A. § 36-1-16; transportation of biomedical waste, O.C.G.A. § 40-6-253.1; solid waste management education program, establishment of Georgia Clean and Beautiful Advisory Committee and Interagency Council on Solid Waste Management, O.C.G.A. § 50-8-7.3; authorization to provide garbage and solid waste collection and disposal, Ga. Const. art. IX, § II, ¶ III(a)(2).

Article I. In General

Article II. Yard Trimmings Disposal

Article III. Litter Control

Article IV. Solid Waste and Scrap Tire Management

ARTICLE I.

IN GENERAL

Sec. 58-1. Findings.

The Constitution of the State of Georgia grants the county authority to regulate, monitor and control of solid waste management facilities.
(Res. of 10-9-1990)

Sec. 58-2. Regulations authorized.

The commissioner of the county may establish regulations and guidelines in the construction and operations of solid waste management facilities located in the county.
(Res. of 10-9-1990)

Sec. 58-3. Permits.

Any solid waste management facility constructed shall be required to obtain approval and permit from the governing authority of the county.
(Res. of 10-9-1990)

Sec. 58-4. Enforcement.

These rules shall be enforced by authorized officers of the law or designees of the county commissioner.
(Res. of 10-9-1990)

Secs. 58-5--58-35. Reserved.

ARTICLE II.

YARD TRIMMINGS DISPOSAL*

* **State Law References:** Yard trimmings disposal restrictions, O.C.G.A. § 12-8-40.2.

Sec. 58-36. Commercial solid waste.

All types of solid waste generated by stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses and other nonmanufacturing activities, excluding residential and industrial wastes.
(Ord. of 9-2-1996, § 1)
Cross References: Businesses, ch. 18.

Sec. 58-37. Composting.

The controlled biological decomposition of organic matter into a stable, odor-free humus.
(Ord. of 9-2-1996, § 1)

Sec. 58-38. Leachate collection system.

A system at a landfill for collection of the leachate which may percolate through the waste and into the soils surrounding the landfill.
(Ord. of 9-2-1996, § 1)

Sec. 58-39. Municipal solid waste.

Any solid waste derived from households, including garbage, trash and sanitary waste in septic tanks and includes solid waste from single-family and multifamily residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, campgrounds picnic grounds, and day use recreation areas. The term includes yard trimmings and commercial solid waste but does not include solid waste from mining, agricultural or silvacultural operations or industrial processes or operations.
(Ord. of 9-2-1996, § 1)

Sec. 58-40. Municipal solid waste disposal facility.

Any facility or location where the final deposition of any amount of municipal solid waste occurs, whether or not mixed with or including commercial or industrial solid waste, including but not limited to municipal solid waste landfills.
(Ord. of 9-2-1996, § 1)

Sec. 58-41. Municipal solid waste landfill.

A disposal facility where any amount of municipal solid waste, whether or not mixed with or including commercial waste, industrial waste, nonhazardous sludges or small quantity generator hazardous waste, is disposed of.
(Ord. of 9-2-1996, § 1)

Sec. 58-42. Yard trimmings.

Leaves, brush, grass clippings, shrub and tree prunings, discarded Christmas trees, nursery and greenhouse vegetative residuals, and vegetative matter resulting from landscaping development and maintenance, other than mining, agricultural and silvacultural operations.
(Ord. of 9-2-1996, § 1)

Sec. 58-43. Same--Placement and disposal; prohibitions.

(a) It shall be unlawful to place or mix yard trimmings with municipal solid waste within the county.

(b) Yard trimmings shall not be disposed at any municipal waste disposal facility having a liner and leachate collection system or requiring vertical expansion located within the county.
(Ord. of 9-2-1996, § 1(2))

Sec. 58-44. Same--Sorting, storing, composting and collecting.

Yard trimmings shall be sorted and stored in the following manner:

(1) May be composted on owner's property or carried to a permitted public composting site.

(2) Yard trimmings may be taken to a permitted inert landfill for disposal.

(3) Yard trimmings may also be chipped into mulch to be reused.

(4) Yard trimmings may also be incinerated in compliance to EPA Clean Air Act.
(Ord. of 9-2-1996, § 1(3))

Sec. 58-45. Same--Penalties.

Any person violating section 58-44 shall upon conviction be punished as provided in section 1-11.
(Ord. of 9-2-1996, § 1(4))

Secs. 58-46--58-75. Reserved.

ARTICLE III.

LITTER CONTROL*

* **State Law References:** Litter Control Law, O.C.G.A. § 16-7-40 et seq.; transporting garbage or waste across state or county boundaries without permission, O.C.G.A. § 36-1-16; littering highways, O.C.G.A. § 40-6-249.

Sec. 58-76. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Litter means all sand, gravel, slag, brickbats, rubbish, waste material, tin cans, refuse, garbage, trash, debris, dead animals, or discarded materials of every kind and description.

Public or private property means the right-of-way of any road or highway; any body of water or watercourse or the shores or beaches thereof; any park, playground, building, refuge, or conservation or recreation area; and residential or farm properties, timberlands, or forests.
(Res. of 3-5-1990)
Cross References: Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 58-77. Littering public and private property.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to dump, deposit, throw or leave or to cause or permit the dumping, depositing, placing, throwing, or leaving of litter in any public or private property in this county or any waters in this county, unless:

(1) The property is designated by the county for the disposal of litter and the person is authorized by the proper public authority to use such property;

(2) The litter is placed into a litter receptacle or container installed on such property; or

(3) The person is the owner or tenant in lawful possession of such property or has first obtained consent of the owner or tenant in lawful possession or unless the act is done under the personal direction of the owner or tenant, all in a manner consistent with the public welfare.

(b) Any person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as follows:

(1) By a fine of not less than $100.00 nor more than $300.00;

(2) In the sound discretion of a court in which conviction is obtained, the person may be directed to pick up and remove from any public street or highway or public right-of-way for a distance not to exceed one mile any litter the person has deposited and any and all litter deposited on the public street or highway or public right-of-way by anyone else prior to the date of execution of sentence; or

(3) In the sound discretion of the judge of a court in which conviction is obtained, the person may be directed to pick up and remove from any public beach, public park, private right-of-way, or, with the prior permission of the legal owner or tenant in lawful possession of such property, any private property upon which it can be established by competent evidence that the person has deposited litter, any and all litter deposited on the public beach, public park, private right-of-way by anyone prior to the date of execution of sentence.

(c) The court may publish the names of persons convicted of violating subsection (a) of this section.
(Res. of 3-5-1990)

Sec. 58-78. Prima facie evidence; rebuttable presumption.

(a) Whenever litter is thrown, deposited, dropped, or dumped from any motor vehicle, boat, airplane, or other conveyance in violation of section 58-77, it shall be prima facie evidence that the operator of the conveyance has violated the

provisions of this article.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this section, whenever any litter which is dumped, deposited, thrown, or left on public or private property in violation of section 58-77 is discovered to contain any article or articles, including but not limited to letters, bills, publications, or other writings which display the name of a person on the letters, bills, publications, or writings in such a manner as to indicate that the article belongs or belonged to such person, it shall be a rebuttal presumption that such person has violated section 58-77.
(Res. of 3-5-1990)

Sec. 58-79. Enforcement.

All law enforcement agencies, officers, and officials of this county or any enforcement agency, officer, or any official of any commission of this state or any political subdivision of this state is authorized, empowered, and directed to enforce compliance with this article.
(Res. of 3-5-1990)

Sec. 58-80. Receptacles to be provided; notice to public.

The commissioner of the county shall establish and maintain receptacles for the deposit of litter at appropriate locations where the property is frequented by the public, post signs directing persons to the receptacles and serve notice of the provisions of this article and to otherwise publicize the availability of litter receptacles and requirements of this article.
(Res. of 3-5-1990)

Secs. 58-81--58-100. Reserved.

ARTICLE IV.

SOLID WASTE AND SCRAP TIRE MANAGEMENT

Sec. 58-101. Definitions.

Commercial solid waste shall mean all types of solid waste generated by stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses and other non-manufacturing activities as defined in O.C.G.A. 12-8-22(4.1).

Disposal facility means any facility or location where the final deposition of solid waste occurs and includes but is not limited to land-filling and solid waste thermal treatment technology facilities as defined in O.C.G.A. 12-8-22(8).

Dump means to throw, discard, place, deposit, discharge, bury, burn, or dispose of a substance.

Industrial solid waste shall mean waste generated by manufacturing or industrial processes or operations. Such waste includes, but is not limited to, fertilizer, agricultural chemicals, food and food-related products and other by-products as defined in O.C.G.A. 12-8-22(12.1).

Inert waste shall mean wastes that will not or are not likely to cause production of leachate of environmental concern. Such wastes are limited to earth and earth-like products, concrete, cured asphalt, rock, bricks, yard trimmings, stumps, limbs, and leaves. This definition excludes industrial and demolition waste not specifically listed above (Section 391-3-4-.06 of the Georgia Rules for Solid Waste Management).

Litter shall mean discarded materials of every kind as defined in O.C.G.A. 16-7-42(1).

Municipal solid waste shall mean any solid waste derived from households, including garbage, trash, and sanitary waste in septic tanks and means solid waste from single-family and multi-family residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, campgrounds, picnic grounds, and day use recreation areas. The term includes commercial solid waste, but does not include solid waste from mining, agricultural, or industrial process or operations as defined in O.C.G.A. 12-8-22(18).

Open dump or *dump site* means a disposal site, location or facility at which solid waste from one or more sources is left to

decompose, burn or to otherwise create a threat to human health or the environment as defined in Section 391-3-4-.01(44) of the Georgia Rules for Solid Waste Management.

Person is any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, group, entity or organization of any kind.

Public or private property shall mean the right of way of any road or highway; any body of water or watercourse or the shores or beaches thereof; any park, playground, building, refuge, or conservation or recreation area; and residential or farm properties, timberlands, or forests, as defined in O.C.G.A. 16-7-42(2).

Recovered materials shall mean those materials which have known use, reuse, or recycling potential and have been diverted or removed from the solid waste stream for sale, use, reuse or recycling as defined in O.C.G.A. 12-8-22(25).

Recovered materials processing facility shall mean a facility engaged solely in the storage, processing, and resale or reuse of recovered materials as defined in O.C.G.A. 12-8-22(26).

Scrap tire shall mean a tire that is no longer suitable for its original intended purpose because of wear, damage, or defect, or one that cannot be retreaded or otherwise recycled. O.C.G.A. 12-8-22(31).

Scrap tire carrier shall mean any person engaged in picking up or transporting scrap tires not otherwise exempted under Section 391-304-.19(5.g) for the purpose of removal to a scrap tire processor, end user, or disposal facility. O.C.G.A. 12-8-22(32).

Scrap tire generator shall mean any person who generates scrap tires as defined in Section 391-3-4-.19(2.i) of the Georgia Rules of Solid Waste Management.

Solid waste means any garbage or refuse; sludge for a wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution contract facility; and other discarded material including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations and from community activities, but does not include recovered materials; solid or dissolved materials in domestic sewage; solid or dissolved materials in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges that are point sources subject to permit under 33 U.S.C. Section 1342; or source, special nuclear, or by-product materials as defined by the Federal Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (68 Stat. 923). O.C.G.A. 12-8-22(33).

Solid waste handling means the storage, collection, transportation, treatment, utilization, processing or disposal of solid waste, or any combination of such activities. O.C.G.A. 12-8-22(34).

Tire retailer shall mean any person engaged in the business of selling new, retreaded or used replacement tires. O.C.G.A. 12-8-22(39).

Waste shall mean all discarded substances and materials whatsoever exceeding ten pounds in weight or 15 cubic feet in volume, or any such substance in any weight or volume if biomedical waste, hazardous waste (as that term is defined in O.C.G.A. Section 12-8-62), or any such substance or material dumped for commercial purposes. With the exception of non-hazardous, low-impact animal bi-products classified by DNR, "waste" includes without limitation, bottles, boxes, containers, papers, tobacco products, tires, dead animals including their bedding and other wastes from such animals, appliances, mechanical equipment or parts, building or construction materials, tools, machinery, wood, motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts, vessels, aircraft equipment, waste oil, batteries, antifreeze, sludge from a wastewater treatment facility, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility, air contaminants from any source or facility, and any other discarded material or substance of every kind and description resulting from domestic, industrial, commercial, mining, or governmental operations, including household, commercial, construction and demolition waste, or industrial solid waste by which is nonhazardous, nonmedical, and in a form classified as solid waste by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. O.C.G.A. 16-7-51.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003, § 1)

Sec. 58-102. Waste disposal--General.

(a) The owner or occupant of any premises shall be responsible for the sanitary handling and disposing of all litter, scrap tires, and municipal, commercial or industrial solid waste on the premises used or occupied by such persons.

(b) It shall be unlawful to dump, or permit the dumping of litter, scrap tires, municipal, commercial, or industrial solid

waste or recyclables at any place in Pickens County including, and without limitations, any public or private property in the county or any waters in Pickens County unless such litter or waste originates in Pickens County or other areas authorized by the sole commissioner of Pickens County; and

(1) The property is designated by the sole commissioner or the duly designated agent for the disposal of litter, municipal, commercial or industrial solid waste, scrap tires or recovered materials and the person is authorized to use such property.

(2) The litter, municipal, commercial or industrial solid waste, recyclables or scrap tires is place into a receptacle or container installed specifically for such property; and

(3) The property has a valid solid waste handling permit issued by EPD.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to dump or place waste unless authorized to do so by law or by a duly issued permit:

(1) In or on any public highways, road, street, alley, or thoroughfare, including any portion of the right of way thereof, or on any other public lands except in containers or areas lawfully provided for such dumping;

(2) In or on any fresh water lake, river, canal, stream, or creek, or;

(3) In or on any public or private property unless such dumping will not adversely affect the public health and is not in violation of any other local, state or federal law, rule or regulation.

(d) All persons defined as scrap tire generators, scrap tire carriers, tire retailers, shall be subject to rules as defined in Section 391-3-4-.19 and handle scrap tires in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. 12-8-20, et. seq. and the Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-33-4, 392-3-4-.19 applicable to solid waste and tires.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003, § II)

Sec. 58-103. Transporting solid waste and litter.

(a) It shall be unlawful to drive or operate a vehicle in Pickens County hauling municipal, commercial, or industrial solid waste that leaks, flows freely or spills from said vehicle.

(b) No person shall drive or move any truck or other vehicle within the county unless such truck or other vehicle is so constructed or loaded or covered so as to prevent any load, contents or litter from being blown, scattered or in any manner deposited in or upon any street, sidewalk, or other public place or upon private property within the county. Any litter or municipal, commercial, or industrial solid waste hauled on a moving vehicle shall be covered in such a manner that litter will not blow or escape from said vehicle while moving or parked on public or private property in Pickens County.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any vehicle to transport litter or waste on any public streets, or roadways, in Pickens County without suitable coverings or other restraint devices securely fastening such litter or waste to the vehicle so as to prevent any materials from being deposited onto other motor vehicles, pedestrians, or the roadway and its adjoining areas. However, this section shall not prohibit the necessary and permitted spreading of any substance in public road maintenance or public road construction operations.

(d) It shall be unlawful for a business or private person(s) engaged in waste hauling or transportation for hire from businesses or private residences to a county landfill or lawfully permitted dump site to dispose of materials as solid waste that have been intentionally sorted as recyclables by the business or private residence customers, rather than placing the materials in the location designated by the county or appropriate authority for said recyclables.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or move any truck or other vehicle within the county, the wheels or tires of which carry unto or deposit in or upon any street, sidewalk, or other public place or upon private property within the county, mud, dirt, sticky substance, litter or foreign matter of any kind.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003, § III)

Sec. 58-104. Regulation of all solid waste or litter containers and receptacles.

(a) All solid waste or litter containers or receptacles shall be maintained in as sanitary a manner as is reasonably possible consistent with its use for solid waste and litter disposal.

(b) Persons using solid waste and litter containers or receptacles shall deposit only authorized solid waste and refuse in the container or receptacle.

(c) No person shall deposit a scrap tire in any container or receptacle unless authorized by the owner of the receptacle or the sole commissioner of Pickens County or his or her designee.

(d) No person shall deposit any burning or smoldering material in such container or receptacle.

(e) No person shall set fire to the contents of any such container or receptacle.

(f) No person shall deposit large non-compatible articles in containers or receptacles such as, but not limited to, stoves, refrigerators, bed springs, automobile parts, boat parts, large tree limbs or air conditioning units, except containers or receptacles designated for that purpose only.

(g) No person shall deposit any flammable or explosive materials in any such container or receptacle.

(h) No dead animals, livestock or poultry shall be deposited in any such container or receptacle, except receptacles designed for such purpose and so designated by the sole commissioner of Pickens County.

(i) No person shall willfully damage or alter the location of any such container or receptacle without the written consent of the sole commissioner of Pickens County.

(j) No salvage or scavenging operations shall be conducted in or around such containers or receptacles except by written consent of the sole commissioner of Pickens County.

(k) No person shall deposit any solid waste at a county solid waste collection and recycling center unless such solid waste is contained in such a manner that it can be handled by the attendant. Solid waste shall be deposited only during the official hours of operation, unless express written permission is given by the sole commissioner of Pickens County or designee.

(l) No person shall deposit solid waste, water or litter of any kind at any county solid waste collection and recycling center into county owned receptacles or containers designated for the collection of recovered materials. Only authorized materials such as a glass, aluminum, newspaper, cardboard, plastic, and tin or other accepted material may be deposited in the appropriate container designated for said material.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003, § IV)

Sec. 58-105. Regulation of municipal solid waste landfills, inert landfills, construction and demolition landfills, and solid waste collection and recycling centers.

(a) No landfill shall be operated in Pickens County, Georgia other than a landfill designated by the sole commissioner as the county landfill, and no private municipal solid waste landfill shall be operated in Pickens County, Georgia without a solid waste handling permit issued by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, with the exception of inert construction and demolition landfills having been properly permitted as such by the Georgia DNR/EPD.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit solid waste of any kind outside the gate of a solid waste collection and recycling center.

(c) No scavenging operation of any kind shall be allowed at a solid waste collection and recycling center, without express written permission from the sole commissioner.

(d) No person shall move, remove, or cross any fence, gate, barrier, or sign at a solid waste and recycling center.

(e) Price on solid waste brought to said center will be set to defray total cost of solid waste and recycling operations.

(f) Hours of operation of said centers will be set to maximize convenience to residents of that area.

(g) All recovered materials (recyclables) brought to collection centers will be accepted free of charge provided, it is separated under current market specifications and likewise uncontaminated.

(h) Attendant on duty will have full authority of said center consistent with this ordinance.

(i) All rules listed above shall apply to all public and/or private property in said county, all waters and/or waterways of Pickens County, and all Pickens County Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Centers.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003, § V)

Sec. 58-106. Accumulation.

(a) No owner or occupant of any such property shall bury or burn litter or waste without prior authorization and written permission from the sole commissioner or applicable regulatory agency, including but not limited to, the Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Protection Division and/or the Georgia Forestry Service. Nothing in this provision shall authorize or be construed to permit the burial or burning of any material which is otherwise prohibited by state or federal law.

(b) No owner or occupant of any property shall allow the accumulation, on his or her premises, of garbage, litter or waste where such material creates or causes a health hazard to neighbors or other citizens, or which is unsightly or emits foul or obnoxious odors.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to set fire to the contents of, indiscriminately scatter or disperse the contents of, or otherwise vandalize any containers used for the storage or dumping of litter or waste.

(d) The conduct described in subsections (a)--(c) of this section shall constitute a separate violation of the article for each day the garbage or waste material remains or continues to unlawfully pollute, contaminate or burn on such premises.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003, § VI)

Sec. 58-107. Violations and penalties.

(a) Any person(s), firm, or corporation violating any portion of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in the magistrate court of Pickens County, shall be punished as follows:

(1) For the first offense: By a fine of not less than $100.00 and not more than $1,000.00 or up to 30 days imprisonment, or both. Each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. O.C.G.A. 16-7-43. However, this section shall not preclude the county from choosing to seek civil redress in a court of competent jurisdiction in addition to the criminal prosecution, it being the intent of the county to have both the civil and criminal rights of prosecution in this area;

(2) For the second or more offense(s): The violator shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of high and aggravated nature punishable by a fine of not less than $750.00 and not more than $1,000.00, or up to 60 days imprisonment, or both. Each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. O.C.G.A. 16-7-53-B; and/or

(b) In the sound discretion of the judge of the court with jurisdiction, the offender(s) may also be directed to pick up and remove litter from any public streets or highways and/or other public right of way or private areas for a distance not to exceed one mile, any litter the person has deposited and any and all litter deposited thereon by anyone else prior to the date of execution or sentence as provided in O.C.G.A. Section 16-7-43(b); and/or

(c) In the sound discretion of the judge of the court with jurisdiction, the person may be directed to pick up and remove litter from any public park, private right of way, or with the prior permission of the legal owner or tenant in lawful possession of such property, any private property upon which it can be established by competent evidence that the person has deposited litter thereon, and all litter deposited thereon by anyone prior to the date of execution of sentence; and/or

(d) The court may order the publication of the names and photographs of persons convicted of violating this article;

and/or

(e) The court may order the violator to repair or restore property damaged, or pay damages resulting from such violations, or perform public service related to the repair or restoration of property damaged by the violation; and/or

(f) In the case of an improper garbage or waste disposal site, the property owner, contractor, developer, builder or other person responsible for the property shall cause the property to be cleaned and to come into full compliance with this article. Pickens County shall not be responsible for any costs of cleanup or remediation; and/or

(g) The expense incurred by the county for cleanup, enforcement of violations and penalties shall be chargeable to the violator, including, but not limited to: court costs, filing fees, special investigations, mutual aid assistance from other agencies and other costs necessary for the reasonable enforcement of this article.

(h) In addition to actions filed by Pickens County for violations of this article, any state or federal agency may independently file separate or concurrent charges within their respective applicable authority and seek conviction within a court of competent jurisdiction.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003, § VII)

Sec. 58-108. Enforcement.

(a) Enforcement of this article shall be the responsibility of the sole commissioner of Pickens County, the environmental education and enforcement officer or his/her designee, and/or the Pickens County Marshal's Office and/or the Pickens County Sheriff's Office.

(b) Any person or persons authorized to enforce this article shall be empowered to enter any property, upon reasonable cause, at reasonable or necessary times in order to properly inspect for violations of this article, subject to the condition that to allow entry onto private property for inspection, the alleged violation of this article must be visible from a public road or right of way, or upon said officer(s) having received a valid complaint alleging a violation of this article, or by a judge's order upon said officer(s) having received information/allegations that constitute reasonable suspicion that a serious unlawful act or threat to the health and safety of the community and/or the environment has occurred or is about to occur.

(c) Appeals for violation of this article may be made to the magistrate court of Pickens County, or higher court if the offender so chooses. The offender always has the right to consult his/her attorney at any time before the hearing is scheduled for court.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003, § VIII)

Sec. 58-109. Civil remedies and abatement of nuisance.

(a) In the event that any person violates any provision of this article, the county or other appropriate authority may, in addition to other remedies, institute an action for injunction, clean-up or stop work orders, mandamus, irreversible damage fines, lien on property or other appropriate action or proceeding to prevent such unlawful acts or to correct or abate any such violation. O.C.G.A. 16-7-52, 16-7-53. In addition, the county may immediately revoke or suspend any and all business, building, development or any and all other county issued permits related to the property or properties involved with the violation until such time that compliance is met, or until the ruling of a court of competent jurisdiction is obtained, at which time respective permits may be reissued.

(b) Upon finding evidence, a written notice of violation may be issued at the discretion of the enforcing officer(s) in lieu of a citation. In the absence of corrective action or in the event that a second violation occurs, the evidence constituting the notice of violation may be submitted as evidence for consideration as a first offense before a court with competent jurisdiction and the pending case treated as a second offense by the court as defined in subsection (a)(2) of section 58-107 of this article.

(c) If a person is found guilty of a violation of the provisions of this article, the court and/or the sole commissioner may cause written notice to be given, or incorporate into the court to the violator instructing that person to properly address any provision still remaining in violation of this article for which said violator is convicted. Such notice shall be by personal service and in the event the violator cannot be so served, then by registered mail sent to the violators last known address.

(d) Upon failure, neglect or refusal of any person so notified to properly address said provisions within 20 days after receipt of notice as provided in this section, the sole commissioner is hereby authorized and empowered to cause the cleanup, removal

or disposal of, including but not limited to, any litter, or any type of waste(s) as defined in this article, dumped, deposited, thrown, or left on public or private property in violation of the article on behalf of the county. The expenses incurred by the county shall be chargeable to the violator and a statement of the amount due for said expenses shall be sent by the sole commissioner and/or the court by registered mail.

(e) When the full amount of such charges are not paid by the violator within 30 days after receipt of said statement as provided for in this section, the sole commissioner shall cause to be recorded in the execution docket a sworn statement showing the cost and expense incurred by the county, the dates of county action, the location of the property for which action was taken and the name of the person to be charged for the expenses incurred. The recordation of such statement shall constitute a lien on the personal and real property of the person to be charged and shall remain in full force and effect until final payment is received in full, including accrued interest from the date of recording and any and all costs. Such amount as shall constitute final payment shall be subject to collection in the manner fixed by laws for the collection of taxes.

(f) In the event that waste(s) or hazardous materials in a dump site cannot be removed from public or private property without causing further endangerment to the environment and/or public health, whether legal or illegal, caused with intent or by accident, acts of God or force of nature, or where a permit for such long-term or permanent disposal has been issued by the proper authority as defined in section 58-105 of this article, the county may attach or otherwise affix a permanent addendum to the deed of real property wherein the dump site exists, stating the approximate size and location of the dump on the property and an approximate description of the materials contained therein, as well as the approximate dates such dumping occurred, to be recorded on the property plat as a fill area O.C.G.A. 12-8-30. The purpose of said attachment is to preserve the health and safety of current and future landowners and users of said properties, to promote the integrity of property description and values, and to record the location of said dump sites. The county's exercise of subsection (f) of this section shall in no way be mandatory, and Pickens County or its agents shall not be held liable for exercise of action or inaction for implementation of this subsection nor for the costs of such action or inaction, (Section 391-3-4-.06 of the Georgia Rules of Solid Waste Management).

(g) This section shall apply with full force and effect regardless of the provisions of any order of the court in which the violator was convicted. This action should not be construed as an excuse for failure on the part of the violator to perform any cleanup ordered by the court, nor shall it be considered as a mitigating factor in any contempt action against a violator who has failed to obey the order of the court.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003, § IX)

Sec. 58-110. Evidence of violations.

(a) Whenever litter, or any type of waste(s) as defined in this article, is thrown, deposited, dropped, or dumped by any person(s) or, from any motor vehicle, boat, airplane, or other conveyance in violation of this article, it shall be prima-facie evidence that said person(s) or the operator of the conveyance has violated this article.

(b) Whenever any litter, or any type of waste(s) as defined in this article, which is dumped, deposited, thrown, or left on public or private property in violation of the article is discovered to contain any article or articles, including, but not limited to letters, bills, publications, or other writings which display the name of a person thereon in such a manner as to indicate that the article belongs or belonged to such person, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that such person has violated this article.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003, § X)

Sec. 58-111. Yard trimmings.

Yard trimmings shall not be placed in or mixed with solid waste. Yard trimmings shall not be disposed at any solid waste disposal facility having liners and leachate collection systems or requiring vertical expansion within the county. Yard trimmings shall be sorted and stockpiled or chipped, composted, used as mulch or otherwise beneficially reused or recycled to the maximum extent feasible. Any yard trimmings to be collected by any entity other than the property owner shall be sorted and stored in such a manner as to facilitate collection, composting, or other handling.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003, § XI)

Sec. 58-112. Recycling.

The sole commissioner of Pickens County hereby finds that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Pickens County, in order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the county, to recycle as many waste materials as possible in order to

reduce the accumulation of litter and garbage and solid waste materials which must be properly disposed of, therefore, it is the policy of the sole commissioner of Pickens County to encourage recycling wherever practicable.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003, § XII)

Sec. 58-113. General procedures for handling scrap tires.

All scrap tires generated in Georgia must be disposed of properly. The proper way to dispose of scrap tires is to make sure that they end up at an approved handling facility. An approved handling facility is any end user, sorter or processor which is approved by the Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

Anyone who ends up with scrap tires is called a scrap tire generator. All scrap tire generators must have a generator identification number issued by the EPD. Anyone who hauls scrap tires for profit must have a scrap tire carrier permit. However, scrap tire generators can haul their own scrap tires to an approved handling facility. In order for anyone to accept scrap tires as an approved handling facility, they must be permitted by EPD.

The Environmental Protection Division has developed a procedure for tracking the scrap tires from the generator until they end up at the proper handling facility. A three-part document, called a manifest, is used to verify that the scrap tires are handled correctly. The scrap tire generator fills out part I of the manifest. It is important that the generator list the amount and eventual destination of the tires. The carrier is to fill out part II of the manifest and sign it before the scrap tires are hauled away. The carrier then takes the tires to an approved handling facility which is responsible for filling out part III of the manifest. The completed manifest must then be returned to the generator within 30 days. It is the responsibility of the generator to make sure that the manifest is returned within the required time period. Most of the approved handling facilities have their own scrap tire carriers. In this case, the carrier can sign both part II and part III of the manifest and leave it with the generator. The generator is required to keep the manifest on location where it is available for inspection for a time period of three years.

The responsibility for keeping up with this procedure has been placed on the generator. Therefore, it is the generators responsibility to make sure that the carrier is permitted, that the carrier fills out part II of the manifest and that the manifest is returned within 30 days. If the above procedure has been followed correctly, we can be assured that the scrap tires are properly disposed of and no one will be in violation of the law.
(Ord. of 5-8-2003)

STATE OF GEORGIA **PICKENS COUNTY**

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PICKENS COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF JASPER AND NELSON AND THE TOWN OF TALKING ROCK SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008-2018

WHEREAS, Pickens County, in conjunction with the municipalities of Jasper, Nelson, and Talking Rock, has completed the 2008 Solid Waste Management Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, this document was prepared according to the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management rules established by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs effective on January 1, 2004, and

WHEREAS, two joint public hearings were held in conformance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management with one on August 7, 2008, and one upon completion of the draft Solid Waste Management Plan on September 8, 2008;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Pickens County Commissioner does hereby adopt the 2008 Solid Waste Management Plan for Pickens County and Cities of Jasper, Nelson, and Talking Rock.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 8TH DAY OF JANUARY 2009.

Robert P. Jones
Sole Commissioner

ATTEST:

Deborah E. Watson
County Clerk

CITY OF JASPER

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT

WHEREAS, The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act requires county and municipal governments to prepare a local solid waste management plan and periodic update; and

WHEREAS, The City of Jasper, Georgia has compiled, reviewed and modified an update to the Solid Waste Management Plan for Pickens County, the Cities of Jasper, Nelson and Talking Rock; and

WHEREAS, The City of Jasper, Georgia has complied with the Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management (Chapter 110-4-3) including public participation requirements;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the City Council of Jasper that the document entitled "Solid Waste Management Plan for Pickens County and Cities of Jasper, Nelson and Talking Rock, 2008 – 2018" be officially approved and adopted.

Be it resolved this 5th day of January, 2009.

John W. Weaver, Mayor

Councilman Jim Looney, Mayor Pro Tem

Councilman Greg Burgess

Councilwoman Margia Craft

Councilman Tony Fountain

Councilman John Foust

City Clerk

(seal)

A Resolution to Adopt

WHEREAS, The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act requires county and municipal governments to prepare a local solid waste management plan and periodic update; and

WHEREAS, The City of Nelson, Georgia has compiled, reviewed and modified an update to the Solid Waste Management Plan for Pickens County, the Cities of Jasper, Nelson and Talking Rock; and

WHEREAS, The City of Nelson, Georgia has complied with the Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management (Chapter 110-4-3) including public participation requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Nelson City Council that the document entitled **"Solid Waste Management Plan for Pickens County and Cities of Jasper, Nelson and Talking Rock, 2008 – 2018"** be officially approved and adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED THIS 2 **DAY OF** February **2009**

(Chief Elected Official)

ATTEST:

Brandy Edwards
(Witness)

A Resolution to Adopt

WHEREAS, The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act requires county and municipal governments to prepare a local solid waste management plan and periodic update: and

WHEREAS, The Town of Talking Rock, Georgia has compiled, reviewed and modified an update to the Solid Waste Management Plan for Pickens County, the Cities of Jasper, Nelson and Talking Rock; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Talking Rock, Georgia has complied with the Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management (Chapter 110-4-3) including public participation requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Talking Rock Town Council that the document entitled **"Solid Waste Management Plan for Pickens County and Cities of Jasper, Nelson and Talking Rock, 2008 – 2018"** be officially approved and adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED THIS 5 **DAY OF** Feb, **2009**

(Chief Elected Official)

ATTEST:

(Witness)

US121611.004 CEDS PLANS PICKENS

File SWMP

Sonny Perdue
Governor

Georgia™
Department of
Community Affairs

Mike Beatty
Commissioner

July 7, 2008

Mr. Robert Jones
Sole County Commissioner
Pickens County
1266 E. Church Street
Jasper, Georgia 30143

Dear Commissioner. Jones:

We are in receipt of a request dated July 3rd, 2008 from Larry Vanden Bosch for a Solid Waste Management Plan planning due date extension for Pickens County and the participating cities. Based upon the request of the RDC the circumstances described in their e-mail the request is granted.

In order for the County and participating cities to remain eligible for solid waste loans, grants, and permits the updated Plan must be submitted, reviewed, approved by DCA and adopted by the County and participating Cities no later than October 31, 2008.

If you have any questions about the Plan adoption and approval process, please contact Jennifer Szabo at (404) 558-4249 or at jszabo@dca.state.ga.us.

Sincerely,

Randy Hartmann, Director
Office of Environmental Management

CC: Larry Vanden Bosch, North Georgia RDC
John Karrh, DCA Solid Waste Planner
Kenny Dove, DCA Solid Waste Planner

Randy Hartmann

From: Larry Vanden Bosch [lvandenbosch1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2008 4:38 PM
To: Randy Hartmann
Subject: Pickens SW Plan extension request

Randy:

I am requesting an extension for the Pickens County SW Plan to October 31. We have already received an extension for the Comprehensive Plan. The reasons are that staff we hired to complete the plans quit in May. Therefore, I am preparing these plans myself. The Comp plan was finished on June 30. The SW plan is mostly finished, buts needs more work. I am currently on vacation and won't be back till July 15. I can finish the plan by July 30, but will still need to hold the public meeting. If possible, I would prefer an extension to October 31. I am currently in Chicago and can't prepare a formal letter.

Larry Vanden Bosch