

THE JOINT WILCOX COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2023-2033



**Prepared For:
Wilcox County
City of Abbeville
City of Rochelle
City of Pineview
City of Pitts**

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Introduction

General Description:

Wilcox County is located in the south-central region of the State of Georgia. Created by a legislative act in 1857, Wilcox County is a quaint rural community striving to constantly grow and improve. Although growth has taken place since the 1994 opening of the Wilcox State Prison in Abbeville, overall residential growth has declined in Wilcox County since the previous Solid Waste Plan Update in 2013. (Federal Reserve Economic Data, <https://fred.stlouisfed.org>, 2023) The County's transportation access, diversity of educational and employment opportunities, favorable location, available land for all uses, community facilities, and overall rural quality-of-life continues to indicate renewed future growth and development. Located south of Macon and Warner Robins, Wilcox County has good transportation routes connecting the county to several of Georgia's major cities. These transportation routes serve as major thoroughfares through Wilcox County. Many motorists traveling east to west from Columbus to Savannah utilize Georgia Highway 30/U.S. 280 as an efficient means of transportation, and this route is rapidly becoming a significant arterial route for commercial and industrial traffic between the state's new inland port at nearby Cordele and the port at Savannah. Georgia Highway 11/U.S. 129 also serves as a quick and efficient route to reach Macon and other cities further north and south in Georgia.

The County's landscape remains a rural expanse predominated by row crop agriculture, livestock, and southern yellow pines. This agricultural and forestry base, coupled with its geographic location and proximity to the rural growth centers of Cordele and Fitzgerald, give the County a firm foundation for future growth. The City of Abbeville, the county seat, has a population of 2,685, and the City of Rochelle has a population of about 1,167 according to the 2020 U.S. Census. These are the principal locations of the County's commercial, industrial, governmental, and social activity.

Description of Topography

The topography of Wilcox County consists of mostly narrow to broad well-drained uplands, round topped to smooth ridges, and flat to gently rolling convex hill sides. The landscape is dissected by numerous small, shallow streams. Elevations range from 450 feet above sea level west of Pitts to 150 feet along the Ocmulgee River in the southeast corner. The county lies in the Southern Coastal Plain, with mostly broad, nearly level soils on ridge-tops, gently to very gently sloping soils on ridge-tops and hillsides, as well as numerous small drainage-ways that dissect the landscape. The northwestern portion of the County has rolling hills with little level land. Most of the soil throughout the county features a sandy surface layer with a sandy to loamy subsoil, although clay subsoil is sometimes present. A vast majority of Wilcox County's land area consists of agriculture and forestland (95 percent). The total square mileage of land area in Wilcox County is 386 miles.

Description of Population

With an estimated 2022 population of 8,761, the County's population increased 14 percent from 1980 to 2022, but is estimated to have actually decreased about 6 percent between 2010 and 2022. This is likely due to prison population fluctuation, but current Census estimates do show a decline in population for all local governments of Wilcox County from 2010 to 2020.

Current population projections for Wilcox County by the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission show a 2022 total population projection of 8,761 and a 2030 total population projection of 9,400. The county seat, Abbeville, had a census population of 2,661 in 2020, a decrease from 2010's population of 2,908. The City of Rochelle had an estimated population of 1,165 in 2020, showing a slight decrease from 2010's population of 1,174. The City of Pitts had an estimated population of 252 in 2020, showing a decrease of 67 people from 2010's population. The Town of Pineview's 2020 population was 450, showing a decrease of 73 people from 2010 to 2020. The following population and household estimates shown in Tables 1-1 and 1-2, respectively, are from the U.S. Census Bureau and are the most recent data available.

Table 1-1
Total Population (2010,2020, and
2022) Wilcox County Governments

	2010	2020	2022	2010-2023 Percentage Change
Wilcox County	9,255	8,766	8,761	-5.34%
Abbeville	2,908	2,685	2,664	-8.76%
Pineview	523	454	447	-14.53
Pitts	320	252	248	-22.5%
Rochelle	1,174	1167	1168	-0.5%

Sources: United States Census, QuickFacts, Wilcox County, Data USA

Table 1-2
2020 Total Number of Households
Wilcox County Governments

	2020
Wilcox County	2,575
Abbeville	263
Pineview	163
Pitts	114
Rochelle	522

*Wilcox County, Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts and Rochelle,
GA Quickfacts, 2022, DATA USA, 2022*

Employment Information

There were 2,597 employed workers in Wilcox County as of 2023. Due to the presence of much larger populated counties nearby such as Ben Hill, Crisp, and Dodge, around 63 percent of Wilcox County's residence work outside the county. The number of employed workers in the County, however, has decreased 12.9 percent since 2010. The largest employers in Wilcox County include Wilcox State Prison in Abbeville and Doster Peanut in Rochelle. The state prison gives the local economy a source of relatively stable employment, while Doster Peanut is one of the leading manufacturers of shelled peanuts to peanut butter manufacturers, candy and confectionary plants, and salted nut roasters in the southeastern United States. In addition to peanuts, cantaloupes are another large-scale crop produced in Wilcox County. Although no employment projections are currently available, the agricultural base and Wilcox State Prison provide a measure of economic stability for the county.

Waste Disposal Stream Analysis

Inventory of Waste Stream Generators

Contributing to the overall waste stream in Wilcox County are mainly households with minimal contributions from very few commercial businesses. In the City of Abbeville, households, two institutions (Wilcox State Prison and a nursing home), along with a few commercial businesses and industries contribute to the overall waste stream. In the City of Rochelle, households, institutions, 3 public schools, the Wiregrass Georgia Technical College and several industries contribute to the overall waste stream. In the City of Pineview, households and a few commercial businesses contribute to the overall waste stream; the same is the case in the City of Pitts.

Table 2-1 highlights a breakdown of the estimated current overall waste stream in Wilcox County by specific categories. The percentages shown are based on a regional waste characterization study that was part of a broader statewide study done for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in 2005. The data is percentages from the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region, of which Wilcox County is included. Local percentages are assumed to be the same as that for the Region since no specific local data is available.

According to the study, paper and organic waste are by far the largest estimated contributors to the overall waste stream, both about one-third each, with plastic about one-sixth, and glass, metal, construction, and demolition (C&D) waste, and inorganic waste contributing much smaller amounts.

Table 2-1
Wilcox County Disposed MSW Waste
Composition (In Percentages)

Paper	Plastic	Glass	Metal	Organic	C&D	Inorganic
32.3	14.9	3.1	5.9	30.9	8.1	4.9

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs Waste Characterization Study, 2005.

Anticipated Waste Amounts

Because solid waste collection and disposal in Wilcox County is a countywide operation among the County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle, projections for the anticipated waste amounts of the municipalities are included in the countywide projections that are shown in Table 2-2. Several steps were required to determine the estimated amount of municipal solid waste disposed and expected to be disposed in Wilcox County in terms of pounds per person per day through the years of 2022 to 2034. First, the population estimate for 2022 was utilized, while the total population for the County was projected from 2023 through 2034. Once the population was projected, the amount of waste that was disposed of by Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle from 2021-2022 was recorded for each year. The total tonnage of waste disposed for 2021-2022 was then divided by 365 to get the total tons per day. Then the total tons per day was divided by the population totals for 2021-2022 to get a per capita ton disposed per day. Next, the total tons per capita were multiplied by 2,000 (2,000 lbs. equals one ton) to get the total pounds per person per day. Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle are projected to dispose approximately 3.16 pounds per person per day from 2023 to 2033. This 3.16 pounds per person per day figure calculated for 2022 is assumed to remain static throughout the planning period to better assure proper disposal capacity, even though it may well change. The composition of the municipal solid waste

generated each year from 2023-2034 is also broken down in tons based upon tonnage figures during 2022 and the regional waste characterization study mentioned earlier. Again, local percentages are assumed to be the same as that for the Region since no specific local figures are available that would break down the local waste composition by type. The projections are based on those made for total tonnage disposed from 2023-2034 in Table 2-2. The estimated composition of solid waste for each year is given from 2023 through 2034 in Table 2-3.

Table 2-2
Annual Projections Wilcox County Municipal
Solid Waste 2-4 (in Tons)

Year	Population	Tons Disposed	Lbs./Person/Day Disposed
2022	8761	5,050	3.16
2023	9,095	5,243	3.16
2024	9,138	5,489	3.16
2025	9,181	5,747	3.16
2026	9,225	6,023	3.16
2027	9,268	6,312	3.16
2028	9,312	6,608	3.16
2029	9,356	6,919	3.16
2030	9,400	7,244	3.16
2031	9,444	7,584	3.16
2032	9,488	7,940	3.16
2033	9,533	8,313	3.16
2034	9,981	8,703	3.16

*Sources: US Bureau of the Census (2022 population estimates data), www.census.gov;
Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC Staff (population projection)*

Table 2-3
Estimated Annual Projections Wilcox County Municipal Solid
Waste Separated by Type 2-4 (in Tons)

Year	Paper	Plastic	Glass	Metal	Organic	C&D	Inorganic
2022	1,631	752	157	298	1,560	409	247
2023	1,693	781	163	309	1,620	425	257
2024	1,773	818	170	324	1,696	445	267
2025	1,856	856	178	339	1,776	466	282
2026	1,945	897	187	355	1,861	488	295
2027	2,039	940	196	372	1,950	511	309
2028	2,134	985	205	390	2,042	535	324
2029	2,234	1031	214	408	2,138	560	339
2030	2,340	1079	225	427	2,239	587	355
2031	2,450	1130	235	447	2,343	614	372
2032	2,565	1183	246	468	2,453	643	389
2033	2,685	1239	258	490	2,569	673	407
2034	2,808	1295	270	513	2687	704	426

Sources: Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC Staff, 2023; Georgia Department of Community Affairs Waste Characterization Study, Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region, 2005.

Collection Element

Solid Waste Collection

Solid Waste Collection Programs

Wilcox County operates a collection system for residents of the unincorporated area, as well as for the commercial establishments in the unincorporated area, utilizing several convenience center sites distributed throughout the county. Citizens in the unincorporated area must bring their household solid waste to one of the convenience centers. While none of the convenience center sites are

manned full-time, Southern Refuse supervises the sites to ensure that waste is properly disposed. Southern Refuse does offer pick up residential and commercial pick up (\$12 per month) for citizens of Pitts, Pineview and the unincorporated areas in the county. The County does not charge its residents a fee for solid waste collection at a convenience site. Once the garbage is collected, it is transported by Southern Refuse, through a contract with the county, to the Crisp County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, with Houston County Landfill serving as an alternate landfill when required. The Crisp County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill has a permitted capacity in its current number of cells to operate until approximately 2088. Its remaining capacity is 9,259,417.00 cubic yards. The Houston County Landfill has a permitted capacity in its current number of cells to operate until approximately 2110. Its remaining capacity is 49,565,092.00 cubic yards.

The City of Abbeville and Rochelle contracts with GFL Transwaste Americus for curbside collection once a week to collect household garbage within its city limits. The City Abbeville charges a fee of \$17.18 per month to residents to furnish them a cart for solid waste collection. Rochelle charges \$20.00 per month for the same services. Once the household garbage is collected, it is taken by GFL to their transfer station in Americus, and then to the Taylor County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill in Taylor County. Commercial businesses in Abbeville may contract with GFL to have a bin onsite, and those businesses are charged depending on the size of the container. GFL will pick up the solid waste in the bins on a call basis. Commercial businesses in Rochelle may contract with TransWaste to have a bin onsite, and those businesses are charged depending on the size of the container. TransWaste will pick up the solid waste in the bins on a call basis.

Assessment of Solid Waste Collection Programs

The collection methods utilized to collect solid waste by Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle are adequate to serve its citizens. With the Taylor, Crisp, and Houston County Landfills, transfer stations and convenience center located in close proximity to Wilcox County, the accessibility of a landfill for solid waste collection purposes by the County and the municipalities is more than adequate. Collection programs are also adequate to meet future needs as well. The County and municipalities need to continue to expand their respective collections of programs as may be deemed appropriate in the future, through the acquisition of new or additional equipment and/or by other means as appropriate.

Solid Waste Collection Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Provide appropriate, adequate, and feasible collection of tires, solar panels, batteries, technology waste, and hazardous materials.
2. Establish a Countywide recycling program.
3. Explore more options on roadside trash pickup.

Needs:

1. The County and municipalities need to maintain the current contracts with Southern Refuse and/or GFL for residential and commercial solid waste collection.
2. The County and its municipalities need to explore the feasibility of expanding collection services, as appropriate.

Contingency Strategy

In case of a natural disaster or another event that may interrupt the flow of garbage pickup, it is the responsibility of Southern Refuse and GFL through its contract with Wilcox County's local governments, to ensure that their ability to effectively collect and dispose of municipal solid waste is maintained. Southern Refuse and GFL have a contingency in place as part of company policy should such an event take place. Wilcox County and all of its municipalities would also seek the assistance of nearby local governments to have access to solid waste collection equipment, if an excessive amount of waste is generated and such a need is warranted. If one of these options is necessary, the local governments would be required to go through the proper procedures in order to put an option into operation. The time frame required would probably require at least one week to be able to go through the proper procedures to continue solid waste collection. If the collection program should become interrupted in case of a natural disaster or other event, the public will be notified on what procedures will take place via the media. This notification will take place over the Cordele Dispatch, a public service announcement via the radio. Additionally, the County's website (www.wilcoxcountygeorgia.com) will provide information as well. In the event of the loss of electrical service and these options were to not be available, the County and cities would communicate with county and municipal officials via cellular communications to help spread notification to the public that either the County and/or one or both cities would not be able to accept municipal solid waste until such time as their respective collection and disposal capabilities could be returned to full operational status.

Recycling Collection

Public Recycling Collection Programs

Wilcox County and its municipalities currently do not provide recycling pick up services. Additionally, there are no longer any recycling programs except for scrap metal which may be brought to the county landfill. The County currently does not accept batteries or oil. Residents with used batteries are encouraged to return them to the business from which they were purchased to be properly recycled. Citizens with used motor oil can take it to various auto parts dealers (e.g. Wal-Mart, Advanced Auto Parts) in nearby cities for proper recycling. The County does not have a formal plan for handling household hazardous waste at this time, but instead will work with citizens to come up with a method to properly dispose of the waste on a case-by-case basis.

Private Programs

Currently there are no private recycling programs in the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts or Rochelle.

Anaerobic Digester and Composting

According to Georgia Department of Natural Resources Rule 391-3-4-.16, an “Anaerobic Digester” is defined as “an enclosed vessel that processes organic material under anaerobic conditions to produce biogas and digestate.” “Anaerobic Digestion” is defined as “the controlled decomposition of organic material under anaerobic conditions in an anaerobic digester to produce biogas and digestate.” Georgia EPD describes an anaerobic digestion facility as solid waste management/diversion facility that is regulated through their land protection/recovered materials department and states in Rule 391-3-4-.16 that composting is a desirable means of reducing the amount of solid waste destined for disposal.

Wilcox County has not enacted any local permitting requirements, zoning ordinances, formal processes, enforcement policies, pertaining to land use in the unincorporated areas, with exception of adherence to NFIP regulations and their 2001 local adoption of DNR’s Environmental Conservation, On-Site Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance. Anaerobic Digestion Facility oversight, compliance, and enforcement is

fulfilled for local facilities by the State of Georgia through Georgia EPD's Rule 391-3-4-.16.

In 2022, the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners previously submitted a letter of support to Vanguard Renewables, a proposed anaerobic digestion facility located on a local private dairy farm. The letter of support describes this development as beneficial to the agricultural community and expressing gratitude for the proposed community investment. The Wilcox County Board of Commission insists that this and possible future anaerobic digestion facilities follow state laws and regulations related to permitting and state oversight of this type of development.

Wilcox County will support the development of private anaerobic digester facilities within the unincorporated area for the benefit of local farming operations and the local economy. This type of facility aligns with the following goals, vision, and intent from other corresponding plans for Wilcox County:

2023 Wilcox County Joint Comprehensive Plan, *Wilcox on my Mind*:

- *Vision*: "Support local agriculture, to preserve natural resources and to capitalize on community assets while facilitating compatible development."
- *Goal*: *The community will maintain/enhance the county's solid waste/recycling facilities, programs, and initiatives, in conjunction with other efforts to improve community appearance,*

2019 – *Regional Plan - Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission*

- "Support the development of solid waste management plans, which support desired development patterns and economic development, while maintaining adequate access to solid waste services/facilities and promoting feasible and sustainable recycling programs."

Therefore, As:

- anaerobic co-digestion facilities are described as "a type of composting" by the Georgia Department of Environmental Protection,
- as this process would support sustainability through the conversion of food and farm waste to renewable energy and fertilizer,
- as this type of development proposes compatibility with agricultural uses, economic development, and some reduction to local solid waste disposal amounts,
- as this type of development is supported by the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners, this proposed facility aligns with the regional and local goals of encouraging compatible development, enhancing solid waste/recycling facilities, and supporting local agriculture.

Because anaerobic digester facilities process organic materials for the benefit of farming and are permitted and overseen by the State of Georgia, and could convert farm waste uses, the development of this type of facility would not be considered an unsuitable solid waste facility use in unincorporated Wilcox County. In the future, Wilcox County Board of Commissioners will seek applicable land use ordinances

and permitting pertaining to anaerobic digester and composting facilities, if necessary, at the Commission's discretion.

Recycling Collection Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Appropriate, adequate, and feasible methods to collect, transfer, and dispose of solid waste.

Consider the feasibility of a household curbside recycling program in the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle.

2. Reduce the impact of solid waste collected in landfills by encouraging the use of renewable/reusable product in the community.

3. Support the development of anaerobic digester facilities to increase agriculture yields through the composting of raw waste and manure.

Needs:

1. Explore the feasibility of expanding the recycling program in the County to include the acceptance of plastics and/or other recyclable materials, as appropriate.

2. Continue to work cooperatively with Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle to expand recycling efforts, as appropriate and feasible.

3. Explore the feasibility of pursuing additional recyclable materials available for collection in the community.

4. Seek to implement a County environmental codes enforcement program, as appropriate to further monitor convenience center sites.

5. Support the development of private anaerobic digestion facilities to process/recycle raw waste and generate reusable products that can benefit the local communities.

6. Create formal local ordinances, permitting, and review procedures for future recycling and composting operations, as needed and appropriate.

Yard Trimmings Collection

Yard Trimmings Collection Programs

Currently, the cities of Abbeville and Rochelle have programs that collect yard trimming when resources are available at no additional charge. The cities of Pineview and Pitts do not have formal yard trimmings collection programs, however in event of a storm, will hire a crew if necessary.

Assessment of Yard Trimmings Collection Program

The current needs of the County and its municipalities can be met with their respective facilities. However, the County may explore the feasibility of developing its own inert landfill. This would help to improve yard trimming collection measures countywide.

Yard Trimmings Collection Needs and Goals:

Goals:

1. Maintain the current collection method of yard trimmings by the County and its municipalities.
2. Explore the feasibility of expanding the yard trimmings collection program in the unincorporated areas as appropriate.

Needs:

1. The County needs to explore the feasibility of developing an inert landfill, as appropriate.
2. Purchase additional equipment for yard trimmings collection in each jurisdiction as appropriate.
3. Develop a composting/mulching program in the County and each municipality, as appropriate.

Inventory of Entities Involved with Solid Waste in Wilcox County

This section is an inventory comprised of entities that are related to the collection, transferal, and disposal of solid waste produced by Wilcox County and its municipalities. Listed below are the governmental entities of Wilcox County, along with the firms providing services to ensure the proper removal and disposal of solid waste.

Taylor County Municipal Solid Waste
Landfill 208 Southern States Road, Mauk,
GA 31058

Crisp County Municipal Solid Waste
Landfill 125 Eddie Road, Cordele, GA
31015

Houston County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill
2018 Kings Chapel Road, Perry, GA 31001

Southern Refuse & Recycling
P.O. Box 397 Rochelle, GA 31079

GFL Transwaste Americus
361 Mcmath Mill Rd., Americus, GA 31719

Wilcox County Board of Commissioners 103
North Broad Street, Abbeville, GA 31001

City of Abbeville
215 Depot St. South
Abbeville, GA 31001

City of Pineview
21 East Commerce
Street Pineview, GA
31071

City of Pitts
P.O. Box 533
Pitts, GA 31072

City of Rochelle
410 Stephens Street
Rochelle, GA 31079

Illegal Dumping and Littering Problem Areas

Wilcox County reports moderate issues related to illegal dumping. However, when a problem arises, the County works cooperatively with local law enforcement and DNR to resolve the issue. Although resources are limited, thus far the County's utilization of law enforcement has proven to be an effective deterrent against any illegal dumping in the County. Other measures such as cameras have been used to identify violators. The biggest challenge the County faces is positively identifying the vehicle or persons involved. The cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts and Rochelle have not reported any serious issues or problems related to illegal dumping and/or excessive littering.

Prevention/Enforcement Implementation Strategy

Wilcox County's implementation strategy to limit/prevent illegal dumping and littering involves the Sherriff's Department following regular monitoring practices, especially at more remote, isolated locations in the unincorporated area where illegal dumping may be more difficult to detect than in more developed areas. As violators are dettered and/or cited, citations will be issued, and violators handed over to the local Magistrate Court.

Illegal Dumping/ Littering Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Continue to develop an active code enforcement program countywide with an increased emphasis on litter control, promoting recycling, source reduction, and reuse where appropriate. Additional funds to expand the program's scope should be pursued as necessary.

Needs:

1. Develop additional ordinances, as needed and appropriate, to strengthen illegal dumping enforcement and prevention efforts.

2. Pursue funding to employ an environmental codes enforcement officer, as appropriate.

Disposal Element

Disposal

Disposal Facilities

Taylor County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill is a private commercial solid waste landfill located at 33 Stewart Road near Mauk, Georgia. According to Georgia EPD, in 2022, Taylor County's landfill had a remaining capacity of 39,229,041.00 cubic yards. Its average daily tons disposed in 2022 were 2,375, and it has a rate of fill of 2,795 cubic yards per day. Its estimated fill date is February 6, 2066, which means that the landfill has approximately 43 years of remaining permitted capacity in its current allotment of cells. Therefore, there is ample room for growth and sufficient disposal capacity to meet the disposal needs of Wilcox County and the cities of Pineview and Pitts for the upcoming 10- year planning period. The landfill accepts waste ranging from household to industrial waste.

Crisp County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill is a private commercial solid waste landfill located at 125 Eddie Road, Cordele, Georgia. According to Georgia EPD, in 2022, Crisp County's landfill had a remaining capacity of 9,172,103.00 cubic yards. Its average daily tons disposed in 2022 were 349.85, and has a rate of fill of 730.38 cubic yards per day. Its estimated fill date is August 9, 2056, which means that the landfill has approximately 33 years of remaining permitted capacity in its current allotment of cells. Therefore, there is ample room for growth and sufficient disposal capacity to meet the disposal needs of Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville and Rochelle for the upcoming 10- year planning period. The landfill accepts waste ranging from household to industrial waste.

Houston County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill is a private commercial solid waste landfill located at 2018 Kings Chapel Road, Perry, Georgia. According to Georgia EPD, in 2022, Houston County's land- fill had a remaining capacity of 48,969,425.00 cubic yards. Its average daily tons disposed in 2022 was 593, and it has a rate of fill of 1,151.46 cubic yards per day. Its estimated fill date is January 1, 2155, which means that the landfill has approximately 132 years of remaining permitted capacity in its current allotment of cells. Therefore, there is ample room for growth and sufficient disposal capacity to meet the

disposal needs of Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville and Rochelle for the upcoming 10-year planning period. The landfill accepts waste ranging from household to industrial waste.

It is estimated that Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle will dispose approximately 3.16 pounds per person per day from 2023 to 2033, as described previously under "Waste Disposal Stream Analysis." This 3.16 pounds per person per day figure calculated for 2023 is assumed to remain static throughout the planning period to better assure proper disposal capacity, even though it may well change.

Assessment of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities

The current municipal solid waste disposal needs for Wilcox County and its municipalities for the upcoming ten-year planning period can be met by continuing to utilize the Taylor, Crisp, and Houston County Municipal Solid Waste Landfills. The combined Taylor, Crisp, and Houston County land- fill had a remaining capacity of 97,370,560 cubic yards. It is estimated that the County will dispose of a total of approximately 78,472 tons of municipal solid waste from 2023-2033 (see Table 2-2). Wilcox County has received assurances from the Taylor, Crisp, and Houston County Municipal Solid Waste Landfills operator that the landfills could handle the 78,472 tons municipal solid waste generated in Wilcox County during the period 2023-2033. For the present time, there is significant capacity to meet the waste disposal needs of Wilcox County's local governments. However, should capacity become an issue in the future, the County can utilize several other regional landfills located in the region. Future expansion of the local recycling program will further local waste reduction efforts.

Assurance of Ten-year Disposal Capacity (See Appendix A)

The local governments of Wilcox County will continue to utilize the current method of solid waste disposal throughout the county. The Taylor, Crisp, and Houston County MSW Landfills have provided letters for assurance of capacity of disposal for at least the next ten years.

Contingency Strategy for Disposal

In case of a natural disaster or another event (e.g. the closure of the Taylor County MSW Landfill) that may interrupt current disposal methods or generate a large amount of extra waste, Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle have access to a number of regional landfill facilities to handle the excess waste that such an event might generate. These facilities are located in Houston, Tift, and Wayne counties. The Houston County MSW Landfill near Warner Robins would be the best option and most likely alternative destination. The County's transfer station can utilize its holding area to assist with temporary storage in the event of a natural disaster or other similar emergency. Should it become necessary, one or more local governments would also seek to borrow equipment from nearby local governments to assist in the continuation of disposal services in case of emergency. If these options are necessary to serve Wilcox County, the County and/or municipalities would be required to go through the proper procedures to be able to put the options into operation. The time frame required would probably require at least three to four days to be able to go through the proper procedures to continue disposal. If disposal should become interrupted in case of a natural disaster or other event, the public will be notified on what procedures will take place via the media. This notification will take place through the *Cordele Dispatch*, www.wilcoxcountygeorgia.com, and through public service announcements on the radio. In the event of the loss of electrical service and these options were to not be available, county, and municipal officials would communicate via cellular communications to help spread notification to the public that the County and/or any or all of the cities would not be able to accept municipal solid waste until such time as local collection and disposal capabilities could be returned to full operational status.

In the event of a natural disaster that generates an excessive amount of vegetative storm debris to the degree that it would not be feasible or practical to store such debris at the County's transfer station, or transport to any neighboring facility, Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle may request a variance to EPD's open burning requirements. The disaster would be of such a nature that it would require the local Emergency Management Agency or State Emergency Operations Center to activate, thereby meeting EPD's guidelines for a qualifying event. The vegetative storm debris will be solely generated within Wilcox County and exceed 300 cubic yards in order for it to become necessary for one or each of the County's local governments to request a variance for burning the overload/excess material. No Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste or other types of waste shall be included with the vegetative storm debris. Should a variance for open burning of vegetative storm debris be granted, the County and/or applicable City will follow the proper procedures so as to maintain compliance with Section 391-3-1-.02 (5) of EPD's Air Quality Rules.

Disposal Needs and Goals:

Goals:

1. Maintain current method of solid waste disposal throughout the County.
2. Maintain current method of disposal of special management items county-wide.

Needs:

1. Consider alternative regional landfills, such as the Houston County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill or the Broadhurst Environmental Landfill, in case of natural disaster, landfill closure, or other unforeseen event that would necessitate use of such sites.

Land Limitation Element

Natural Environmental Areas

Wilcox County's abundant natural resources are becoming recognized by its citizens as an increasingly important asset to the County's future growth and development. A growing interest is emerging in protecting the area's fragile resources while balancing the need for growth. The following discussion highlights the natural environmental limitations of Wilcox County.

Water Supply Watersheds

Water supply watersheds are not present in either Wilcox County or the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle and thus are not applicable. However, should a water supply watershed be found to be in existence within either the County or the municipalities, DNR Rule 391-3- 16.01(7)(c)I requires that at any location within a small water supply watershed, solid waste handling facilities must include synthetic liners and leachate collection systems. It is desired by both the County and all municipalities that no such solid waste handling facility locate within one-half mile of any water supply watershed, should one be found to be located within either the County or any municipality.

Groundwater Recharge Areas

According to the Hydrologic Atlas 18 of the Georgia Geologic Survey, Wilcox County's significant groundwater recharge areas are contained in the Southern Coastal Plain Major Land Area and the Floridan Aquifer, and two of the state's seven major confined aquifers are located within the County's significant groundwater recharge areas. The Floridan/Jacksonian Aquifer System is located in the northern one-third of the county, including the City of Pineview. Significant groundwater recharge areas in the Miocene/Pliocene- Recent Unconfined Aquifers are located in several small areas in the southern portion of the county around Bowens Mill and in west south central Wilcox County (See Appendix B). These areas have been identified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in a companion pollution susceptibility map as having high pollution susceptibility (the Floridan/Jacksonian Aquifer System in the northern one-third of the county, including Pineview) and the southern two-thirds of the county (including the Miocene/Pliocene- Recent Unconfined Aquifer's system and the cities of Abbeville, Pitts, and Rochelle) as having average pollution

susceptibility. However, a countywide ordinance modeled after the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Part V Environmental Planning Criteria, "*Environmental Conservation, On-Site Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance*," has been in effect in the County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle since August 2001 that protects the county's groundwater recharge areas from possible contamination due to toxic or hazardous substances.

Wetlands

A sizable portion of Wilcox County (approximately 13 percent) has also been designated as wetlands on the National Wetlands Inventory prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (See Appendix B). Much of the wetlands in the County are located along the Ocmulgee and Alapaha river basins, the Turkey Creek Corridor, the Buckeye Creek Corridor, major creeks (House, Cedar, Mill), and generally in the eastern and southwestern areas of the county, but not all of the wetlands in the County are confined to these areas. A sizable area of wetlands are located just to the east of Abbeville and adjacent to the city limits along the Ocmulgee River. These areas of the County are known to contain a variety of habitats of protected flora and fauna, as well as nesting and breeding grounds for a number of protected animals. DNR Rule 391-3-16-.03(3)(e) maintains that solid waste landfills may constitute an unacceptable use of a wetland, and hazardous sanitary solid waste landfills are prohibited in a wetland area under Section 6.5 of the local *"Environmental Conservation, On-Site Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance"* that was adopted by the County and all municipalities in August, 2001. DNR Rule 391-3-4.0S(l)(e) requires that no solid waste handling facility be located in a wetlands area, as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, unless evidence is provided by the applicant to EPD that the use of such wetlands has been permitted or otherwise authorized under all other applicable state and federal laws and rules. The owner or operator of the solid waste handling facility must place a demonstration of compliance in the operating record and give notification that it has been placed in the operating record. Any solid waste handling facility must also demonstrate consistency with the locally adopted *"Environmental Conservation, On-Site Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance"* (August, 2001) and *Wilcox on My Mind: A Joint Comprehensive Plan for Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle* (2023).

Protected River Corridors

The County also has one river, the Ocmulgee River, which is identified for protection under the 1991 River Corridor Protection Act (See Appendix B). The Ocmulgee River flows on the eastern end of the county, forming the County's eastern boundary with Dodge and Telfair counties and its northeastern border with Pulaski County. A portion of the river flows through the City of Abbeville. Flowing southeast from Wilcox County, the Ocmulgee River combines with the Oconee River in Wheeler County, southeast of Wilcox County, to form the Altamaha River, the largest free-flowing river (unobstructed by dams) on the East Coast of the United States. From the confluence of the Oconee and Ocmulgee rivers, the Altamaha River flows southeast before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean just north of Brunswick at Altamaha Sound. It is Georgia's largest river-swamp system and is vitally important in maintaining the ecological balance of the state's estuarine coast. A variety of hunting and fishing opportunities are located along the river, making it very popular for recreational uses. Two public boat landings are located along the Wilcox County side of the river. Statham Shoals Landing is maintained by the County, and Half-moon Landing is maintained by the City of Abbeville. Development along the Ocmulgee River in Wilcox County has been minimal, generally limited to weekend hunting/fishing dwellings, since much of the land along the river is owned by timber companies and private landowners. Any development in these areas would likely be based largely on adequate access to roads.

One other major river, the Alapaha River, is also located in southwestern Wilcox County. However, the segment of the river that is located in the county does not meet the minimum flow criteria necessary to qualify as a protected river corridor under present DNR standards but is still an important resource worthy of conservation. The Alapaha River begins in the southeastern corner of Dooly County and flows southeastward through Wilcox County before continuing southward through seven more Georgia counties before joining the Suwannee River in north Florida. Within Wilcox County, the Alapaha is very narrow, more like a creek than a river and intermittent or prone to dry up during prolonged droughts. Land adjacent to the river is primarily privately owned woodland.

These resources are somewhat protected throughout Wilcox County under a model ordinance (adopted by the County and all four municipalities) that was based on DNR's Part V Environmental Planning Criteria, "*Environmental Conservation, On-Site Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance*" (August, 2001). This ordinance provides for strict limitations on the use of land near these identified resources. However, because the community wishes to utilize the Ocmulgee Alapaha rivers for recreation, tourism, and natural resource conservation, it is desired that no solid waste handling facility locate within one-half mile of either the Ocmulgee or Alapaha rivers.

Any proposed solid waste handling facility must demonstrate compliance with the above cited Environmental Conservation Ordinance and consistency with *Wilcox on My Mind: A Joint Comprehensive Plan for Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle* (2023).

Protected Mountains

One other environmental resource identified by DNR under the Part V Environmental Planning Criteria, protected mountains, is not present anywhere in Wilcox County and thus is not applicable.

Criteria for Siting Solid Waste Facilities

Because of the County's abundant natural resources and the intent of the County's Community Vision to utilize these resources in the County's future growth and development, the County does not believe that the location of any additional solid waste handling facilities, with the exception of those local government facilities that may be necessary in the future, would be compatible with the community's vision for its future growth and development.

Local Zoning

While neither Wilcox County nor the cities of Pineview and Pitts currently have a zoning ordinance in place, all three jurisdictions have only limited land use regulations, such as manufactured housing regulations, in place at this time. The cities of Abbeville and Rochelle do have a zoning ordinance in place covering their respective jurisdictions. The County recognizes the need for more adequate land use regulation, but generating and maintaining a sufficient level of public support towards adoption and implementation has been difficult. DNR Rule 391-3-4.05(l)(a) requires that a site must conform to all local zoning and land use ordinances. Any applicant proposing to locate a solid waste handling facility must provide written verification to EPD demonstrate that the proposed site complies with all local zoning and land use regulations, if any. This must also include a letter from the local government stating whether the proposed site complies with all local zoning and land use regulations, if any. The verification must be provided at the time a permit application is submitted to EPD and reaffirmed by the local government prior to a permit being issued. Any proposed solid waste handling facility must show how it is compatible and consistent with the local adopted joint comprehensive plan, *Wilcox on My Mind: A Joint Comprehensive Plan for Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle (2023)*, and its expressed community vision and desired future land development patterns, as well as compliance with all local ordinances.

There are several factors to be taken into consideration when determining the compatibility of waste handling facilities to the surrounding area. The Land Use Element and other portions of Wilcox County's Joint Comprehensive Plan, as well as this Solid Waste Management Plan, identify areas where such a facility may or may not be acceptable. DNR Rule 391-3- 4.05(l)(b) requires a local government to provide documentation which demonstrates compliance with O.C.G.A. 12-8-26(a) when beginning the site selection process for a municipal solid waste disposal facility, as well as when a local government takes action resulting in a publicly, or privately, owned municipal solid waste disposal facility. The community has designated a five-mile radius around each of the municipalities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle, which extends five miles beyond the city limits of each municipality, as the appropriate location for intense urban growth in the local comprehensive plan. It is the community's presumption that any proposed solid waste handling facility is not a comparable location if proposed for a location within, or within a five-mile radius of, any designated city limit, and would be inconsistent with the community's expressed community vision and adopted comprehensive plan. Any proposed solid waste handling facility must demonstrate consistency with *Wilcox on My Mind: A Joint Comprehensive Plan for Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle* (2023) and why the community presumption of incapability of location in or near a municipal growth area is incorrect. Map SWP-7 (Appendix B), illustrates the areas that are not suitable for landfill establishment or development within Wilcox County.

Airport Safety

Although no airport is located within Wilcox County or any of its four municipalities at this time, should an airport be constructed in the future, DNR Rule 391-3-4.05 (1) (c) requires "that new solid waste landfill units or lateral expansions of existing units shall not be within 5,000 feet of any public use or private airport runway end used by only piston type aircraft."

Flood Plains

Flood plains are another consideration (See Appendix B). Both the County and the municipalities do not desire that such a facility locate in the 100-year flood plain. In fact, DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05

(1) (d) states that a facility cannot restrict the flow of the 100-year flood. The protection of natural functioning rural landscapes and natural resources are an expressed and important element of the future Wilcox County identified in the community's joint comprehensive plan.

Wetlands

Wetlands are protected by the countywide (including the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle) Environmental Conservation Ordinance that was adopted in August, 2001 that is based on DNR's Part V Environmental Planning Criteria. Both the County and the municipalities presume that any solid waste handling facility within one-half mile of any stream located in or near a wetland is not consistent with the local adopted county joint comprehensive plan. DNR Rule 391- 3-4.05(1)(e) requires that no solid waste handling facility be located in a wetlands area, as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, unless evidence is provided by the applicant to EPD that the use of such wetlands has been permitted or otherwise authorized under all other applicable state and federal laws and rules. The owner or operator of the solid waste handling facility must place a demonstration of compliance in the operating record and give notification that it has been placed in the operating record. The owner or operator must also show compliance and compatibility with the policies, community vision, and other facets of the community's joint comprehensive plan.

Fault Areas, Seismic Impact Zones, and Unstable Areas

Other considerations such as fault areas, seismic impact zones, and unstable areas do not apply to Wilcox County or the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle at this time. However, should such entities be found to be existence anywhere in Wilcox County at a later date, all applicable DNR rules concerning such entities will be followed. DNR Rule 391-3-4- .05(1) (f) requires that new solid waste handling facilities shall not be located within 200 feet of a fault that has had displacement in the Holocene Epoch unless the owner or operator can demonstrate that an alternative setback distance of less than 200 feet will prevent damage to the structural integrity of the facility and will be protective of human health and the environment

DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(l)(g) prohibits the location of new solid waste handling facilities in seismic impact zones unless the owner or operator can demonstrate that all containment structures are designed to resist the maximum horizontal acceleration in lithified earth material for the site. DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(l)(h) requires owners or operators of new solid waste handling facilities located in unstable areas to demonstrate that engineering measures have been incorporated in the facility's design to ensure that the structure's integrity will not be disrupted. It is desired by both Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle that no solid waste handling facilities locate within one-half mile of any such fault area, seismic impact zone, or unstable area that may be found to be in existence anywhere in Wilcox County in the future.

Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas

Groundwater recharge areas are protected by the countywide ordinance (which includes the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle) that was adopted that is based on DNR's Part V Environmental Planning Criteria. Both the County and the municipalities also desire that no facility located within two miles of any significant groundwater recharge areas. DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)0) requires such facilities within two miles of significant groundwater recharge areas to have liners and leachate collection systems, except for 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 that is designated as a significant groundwater recharge area. The owner or operator must also show compliance and compatibility with the policies, community vision, and other facets of the community's joint comprehensive plan.

Other Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The County is also desirous of protecting the many and various natural streams that dot the area's landscape. Solid waste handling facilities are also discouraged from locating near any area of the county that is identified as prime farmland or as an area having either archaeological or historical significance. The owner or operator must also show compliance and compatibility with the policies, community vision, and other facets of the community's joint comprehensive plan.

Mapping of Areas identified as Unsuitable for locations of Solid Waste Handling Facilities

Map SWP-7, illustrates the areas that are not suitable for landfill establishment or development of solid waste handling facilities within Wilcox County. Additional maps to identify important natural resources with Wilcox County are included in Appendix B.

Local Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities

Required Procedures

As part of the site selection process, an applicant must prepare an engineering report detailing how the solid waste handling facility will comply with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations, as well as compliance and compatibility with the policies, community vision, and other facets of the community's joint comprehensive plan and this solid waste management plan. The report must also discuss how the facility will be compatible with surrounding land uses and community facilities, including detailing the impact on roads and any required improvements, the uses of land in close proximity, adjacent properties, required water system improvements, wastewater management systems, and erosion control measures. It should also articulate information pertaining to the operation of the facility, such as the hours of operation, location and size of the facility, capacity, types of materials to be accepted, disposal fees, private or public usage, and number of employees. This would also be required should one or more of the local governments propose such a facility, unless this plan is amended. Finally, the applicant must provide certification that all State and Federal agencies and departments that regulate landfills have been timely notified of the application and the intent to construct a landfill. Upon the submittal of a completed application to the County or applicable city, whichever is applicable, the applicant must notify all adjoining property owners and all property owners where any portion of their property is within 1,000 feet of the proposed landfill's boundaries via first class mail. Certification of the notification, along with a list of all property owners, must be provided to the County and/or applicable city, whichever is applicable.

Public Notification

Along with an engineering report, the applicant must prepare a Public Participation Plan. This plan will highlight to the County and/or applicable city how the applicant will inform the public, businesses, and interested parties of the proposed facility. The plan must identify the order in which these parties will be notified and the manner in which such notification will be conducted. The County and/or applicable city would then review the plan, and upon approval, the applicant would execute the plan and prepare a Public Participation Report that would document the results of the Public Participation Plan. A minimum of two Public Hearings would then be held at the applicant's expense to solicit the views and concerns of local citizens, with no less than one Public Hearing being held on a weekday evening after normal work hours to help ensure the equal and full opportunity of citizens to be able to attend one or more hearings. Should one or each of the local governments propose such a facility, they would also be required to follow these public notification procedures. The applicant is also required to provide at their expense for notice of a public hearing to be published in the local newspaper no less than seven days prior to the required public hearings.

Impact of Proposed Facility on Solid Waste Management Infrastructure, Solid Waste Management Collection and Disposal and Wilcox County Joint Comprehensive Plan

Finally, the applicant must provide an Impact Statement and an Environmental Assessment prior to any action by the County and/or applicable city or any public hearings. This is so that the proposed impact on the current solid waste management infrastructure, collection capability, and disposal capacity can be adequately addressed, along with the potential impact on the surrounding natural environment. The Impact Statement should also address compliance and compatibility of the project with this Solid Waste Management Plan as well as the policies and community vision outlined in the Wilcox County Joint Comprehensive Plan. Upon the completion and submittal of all required documentation, public hearings, and public meetings, the County and/or applicable city will then conduct a review and issue its findings as to the approval or denial, based on all applicable local, state, and federal regulations, and compatibility with local plans. Should one or each of the local governments propose such a facility, they would also have to conduct an Impact Statement and Environmental Assessment to ensure the facility's compatibility with the aforementioned criteria.

Land Limitations Needs and Goals:

Goals:

1. Implement a formal application process, if necessary, with rules and procedures up- dated regarding solid waste handling facilities that are consistent with the newly adopted Solid Waste Management Plan.

Needs:

1. Meet with all applicable stakeholders to establish a formal application process that will insure that solid waste handling facilities are located in areas that are suitable for such facilities, are compatible with surrounding land uses, are in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, preserve the existing rural character and maintain/enhance the current quality of life while providing for compatible and quality future growth and development, prevent nuisances and uses disruptive to the community's plans and vision, and are not considered for location in areas that have been identified as unsuitable due to environmental or land use limitations.

Education and Public Involvement Element

Public Education Programs

The local governments in Wilcox County have been limited in their efforts to educate the public concerning solid waste management. The County does have a full-time Environmental Codes Enforcement officer, who is responsible for enforcing a local codes enforcement program to combat the problems of littering and illegal dumping countywide. The environmental codes enforcement officer is also responsible for supervising the County's six convenience center sites for solid waste collection and disposal on a rotating basis. In addition to enforcing the countywide codes ordinance and supervising the convenience center sites, the local code enforcement officer also has the responsibility of educating the general public about proper solid waste management and source reduction. Realizing that educating the youth of the County is essential to any public education effort, the code.

Informational articles are periodically submitted to the local media to help reach out to the public at large. This is a program that has some potential to educate the public on the importance of proper solid waste management. The County's environmental codes enforcement program needs to be expanded as means are available to do so, and the County has expressed an interest in doing so when feasible. The Cooperative Extension Office also assists in promoting educational programs targeted at proper solid waste disposal.

The lack of available resources due to the County's small tax base creates limits on the scope of any program that is undertaken. The County and both cities recognize the need to foster increased utilization of recycling activities countywide and will continue to pursue avenues to expand their recycling operations and increase its use by the local citizenry. Local government participation in local or regional public involvement programs is rather limited. The County does not currently participate in any regional or state programs; however, local civic and garden clubs and others are encouraged to engage in such efforts.

School System Programs

There currently is no organized education program through the Wilcox County School System, other than through the countywide environmental codes enforcement program mentioned earlier. A partnership between the local governments and the local school system focusing on recycling and source reduction education would likely go a long way towards providing needed education and outreach efforts within the community.

Litter Control Programs

Wilcox County has attempted to use inmate labor from the Wilcox State Prison at Abbeville to conduct roadside pickups and other cleanup methods. This course of action has proved to be challenging due to a lack of officers and resources. Additionally, there are some adopt a highway programs; however, volunteer sustainment has been a challenge.

Regional RC Programs

There currently are no RC programs in effect in Wilcox County, nor are there any plans to establish a program(s) in the near future.

Education and Public Involvement Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Continue to encourage countywide education and technical assistance programs as a joint effort among Wilcox County and all municipalities in source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting; and seek funding as appropriate to expand the program.
2. Increase reduction opportunities for businesses and industries.
3. Maintain and increase participation in local, regional, and state areas, beautification efforts, both in the incorporated and unincorporated and form additional local programs, as appropriate.
4. Seek to establish a partnership among the County, Cities, and Wilcox County School System concerning waste reduction education, as appropriate.

Needs:

1. Increase the promotion and utilization of recycling activities county-wide through creating an environmental codes enforcement program, as appropriate.
2. Pursue funding to implement an environmental codes enforcement program, as appropriate.
3. Work with the Wilcox County School System to increase participation in local recycling and waste reduction activities.

Implementation Strategy

Summary of Needs and Goals Solid

Waste Collection Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Provide appropriate, adequate, and feasible collection of solid waste in both the unincorporated areas of the County and the municipalities.

Needs:

1. The County and its municipalities need to maintain the current contracts with Southern Refuse and GFL for residential and commercial solid waste collection.
2. The County and its municipalities need to explore the feasibility of expanding collection services, as appropriate.

Recycling Collection Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Appropriate, adequate, and feasible methods to collect, transfer, and dispose of solid waste.
2. Consider the feasibility of a household curbside recycling program in the cities of Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle
3. Encourage the expansion of recycling activities countywide, and establish recycling facilities, as appropriate.
4. Work towards increasing the amount of solid waste diverted from disposal each year.

Needs:

1. Explore the feasibility of establishing a recycling program in the unincorporated area and cities to include the acceptance of plastics and/or other recyclable materials, as appropriate.
2. Establish a recycling county convenience center and develop additional sites, as appropriate.

3. Continue to work cooperatively with Abbeville, Pineview, Pitts, and Rochelle to establish recycling efforts.
4. Explore the feasibility of pursuing additional recyclable materials available for collection in the community such as cardboard, hazardous chemical waste, and batteries.
5. Seek to implement a County environmental codes enforcement program, as a propriate to further monitor convenience center sites.

Yard Trimmings Collection Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Develop a more effective collection method of yard trimmings by the County and its municipalities.
2. Expand yard trimmings collection program in unincorporated and municipal areas as appropriate.

Needs:

1. The County needs to explore the feasibility of developing an inert landfill, as appropriate.
2. Purchase additional equipment for yard trimmings collection in each jurisdiction, as appropriate.
3. Develop a composting/mulching program in the County and each municipality, as appropriate.

Illegal Dumping and Littering Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Continue to develop an active codes enforcement program countywide with an increased emphasis on litter control, promoting recycling, source reduction, and reuse where appropriate. Additional funds to expand the program's scope should be pursued as necessary.

Needs:

1. Develop additional ordinances, as needed and appropriate, to strengthen illegal dumping enforcement and prevention efforts.

2. Pursue funding to create an environmental codes enforcement program, as appropriate.

Disposal Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Maintain current method of solid waste disposal throughout the County.
2. Establish a method of disposal of recyclables county-wide.
3. Maintain current method of disposal of special management items county-wide.

Needs:

1. Complete an analysis on additional recyclable materials available for collection in the community.
2. Create a plan for recycling efforts, household curbside recycling and other recyclable materials.
3. Consider alternative regional landfills, such as the Houston County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill or the Broadhurst Environmental Landfill, in case of natural disaster, landfill closure, or other unforeseen event that would necessitate use of such sites.

Land Limitation Needs and Goals:

Goals:

1. Implement a formal application process, if necessary, with rules and procedures updated regarding solid waste handling facilities that are consistent with the newly adopted Solid Waste Management Plan.

Needs:

1. Meet with all applicable stakeholders to establish a formal application process that will insure that solid waste handling facilities are located in areas that are suitable for such facilities, are compatible with surrounding land uses, are in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, preserve the existing rural character and maintain/enhance the current quality of life while providing for compatible and quality future growth and development, prevent nuisances and uses disruptive to the community's plans and vision, and are not considered for location in areas that have been identified as unsuitable due to environmental or land use limitations.

Education and Public Involvement Needs and Goals**Goals:**

1. Continue to develop a countywide education and a technical assistance program as a joint effort among Wilcox County and all municipalities in source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting; and seek funding as appropriate to expand the program.
2. Increase voluntary recycling and reduction opportunities for businesses and industries.
3. Maintain and increase participation in local, regional, and state areas, beautification efforts, both in the incorporated and unincorporated and form additional local programs, as appropriate.
4. Increase public and private efforts to educate citizens as to the benefits of recycling and mulching.
5. Seek to establish a partnership among the County, City, and Wilcox County School System concerning recycling and waste reduction education, as appropriate.

Needs:

1. Reach out to local stakeholders on the importance of recycling.
2. Educate the community on the benefits of waste reduction.
3. Pursue funding to implement the environmental codes enforcement program, as appropriate.

Appendix A

10-Year Capacity Assurance Letters

Crisp Municipal Solid Waste Landfill

Houston Municipal Solid Waste

Landfill Taylor Municipal Solid Waste

Landfill



CRISP COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Phone
229.276.2650

125 Eddie Road
Cordele, Georgia 31015

Fax
229.276.2658

September 12, 2023

Michael Pomirko
Wilcox County Manager
103 North Broad Street
Abbeville, Georgia 31001

Mr. Pomirko,

This letter serves as a disposal capacity assurance at present time for waste generated by Wilcox County and the cities of Pitts and Pineview. Waste is hauled to the Crisp County Landfill, and the Georgia EPD permit number for this facility is 040-008D. This present time assurance is based upon the estimated total disposal of approximately 3600 tons of municipal solid waste per year by Wilcox County and the cities of Pitts and Pineview.

In accordance with present remaining capacity report, Crisp County Landfill will accept MSW from Wilcox County as it has done in the past.

We thank Wilcox County for this business partnership and look forward to providing environmentally sound waste disposal options for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Carl Gamble
Crisp County Public Director



Houston County Public Works

September 13, 2023

Office

2018 Kings Chapel Road
Perry, Georgia 31069
478-987-4280
FAX 478-988-8007

Brian Jones, PE
Director of Operations

Jordan Kelley
Office Manager

Michael Phillips
Facilities Superintendent

Christopher Stoner
Fire Chief/ EMA Director

Ronnie Heald, PLS
County Engineer

Travis McLendon
Roads Superintendent

Terry Dietsch
Utility Director

Michael Pomirko
Wilcox County Manager
103 North Broad Street
Abbeville, Georgia 31001

Mr. Pomirko,

This letter serves as a disposal capacity assurance for waste generated by Wilcox County and the cities of Pitts and Pineview. Waste is hauled to the Houston County Landfill, and the Georgia EPD permit number for this facility is Permit # MSW: 076-020D (MSWL) and C&D: 076-024D(C&D). This assurance is based upon the estimated total disposal availability of approximately 47,204,383 CY waste volume (95.6 years) remaining in the MSW landfill and 1,114,567 CY (6.5 years) remaining in the C&D landfill. We accepted 832.38 tons of municipal solid waste and C&D waste for fiscal year 2022 from Wilcox County and the cities of Pitts and Pineview.

We thank Wilcox County for this business partnership and look forward to providing environmentally sound waste disposal options for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Smith".

Jeff Smith
Solid Waste Superintendent
Houston County Landfill
478-8-987-0089



Taylor County Landfill, 208 Southern States Road, Mauk, GA 31058
www.win-waste.com

September 13, 2023

Michael Pomirko
Wilcox County Manager
103 North Broad Street
Abbeville, Georgia 31001

Mr. Pomirko,

This letter serves as a disposal capacity assurance for waste generated by the cities of Abbeville and Rochelle. Waste is hauled to the Waste Industries Taylor County Landfill, and the Georgia EPD permit number for this facility is 133-003254. This assurance is based upon the estimated total disposal of approximately 800 tons of municipal solid waste yearly by Wilcox County and the cities of Abbeville and Rochelle.

We thank Wilcox County for this business partnership and look forward to providing environmentally sound waste disposal options for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

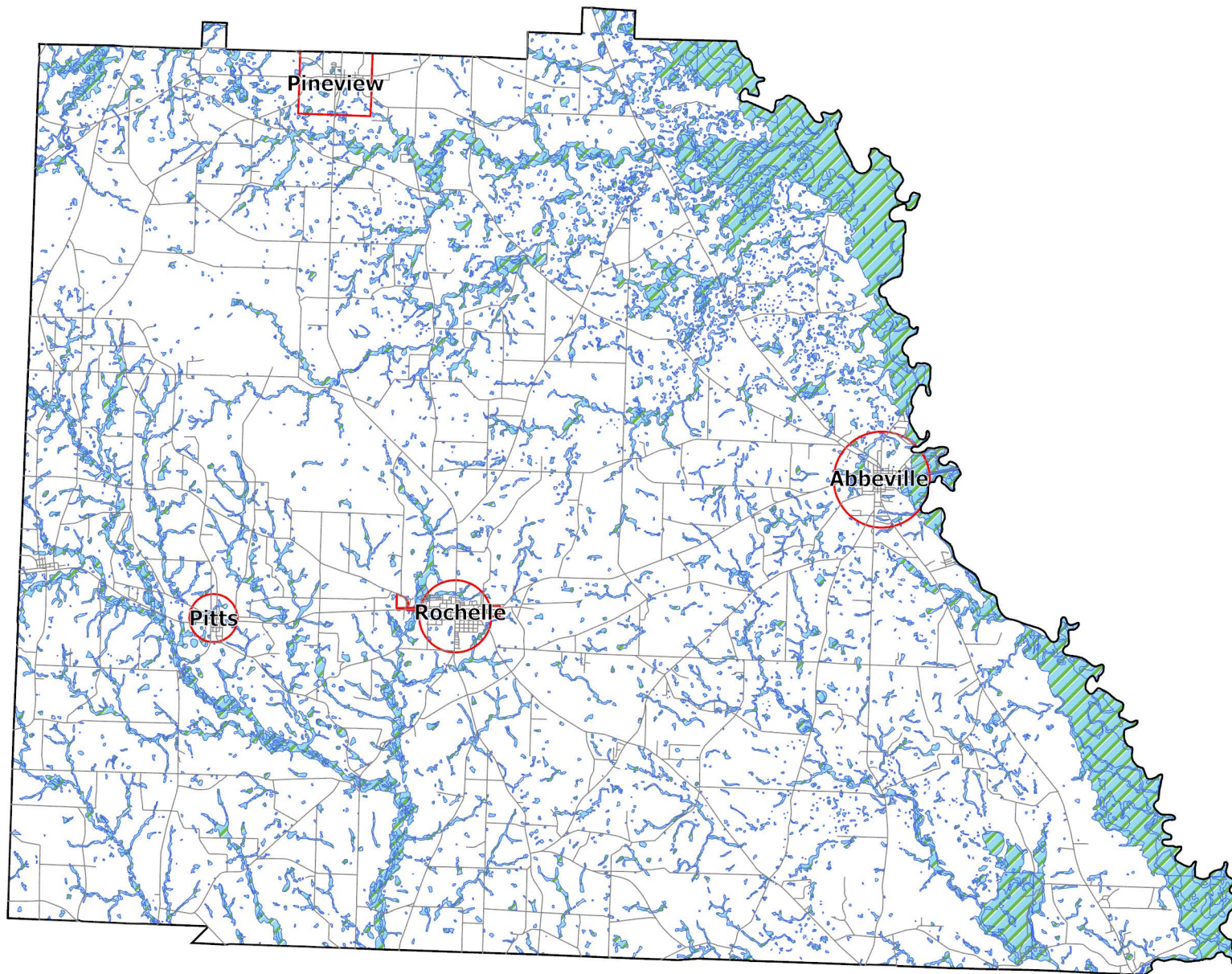


Trey Allen
General Manager
Taylor County Landfill

Appendix B

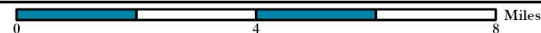
Maps

- Wetlands (GIS) also says clearing house
- Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas Also says Hydrologic Atlas 18 of Georgia Survey 1989
- Protected River Corridor (Ocmulgee) GIS and clearing house
- Flood Zones GIS
- Soils and development limitations (Soil Survey “of Pulaski and Wilcox, 2003)
- Prime Farmland (Soil Survey “of Pulaski and Wilcox, 2003)
- Wilcox Map of unusable location of Solid Waste Handling Facilities



Wilcox County Solid Waste Project

"The data sets represented here-in are presented to the user with the understanding that, because of the nature of some GIS datasets, there is no guarantee of completeness or accuracy. Conclusions drawn from, or actions taken on the basis of this data are the sole responsibility of the user."



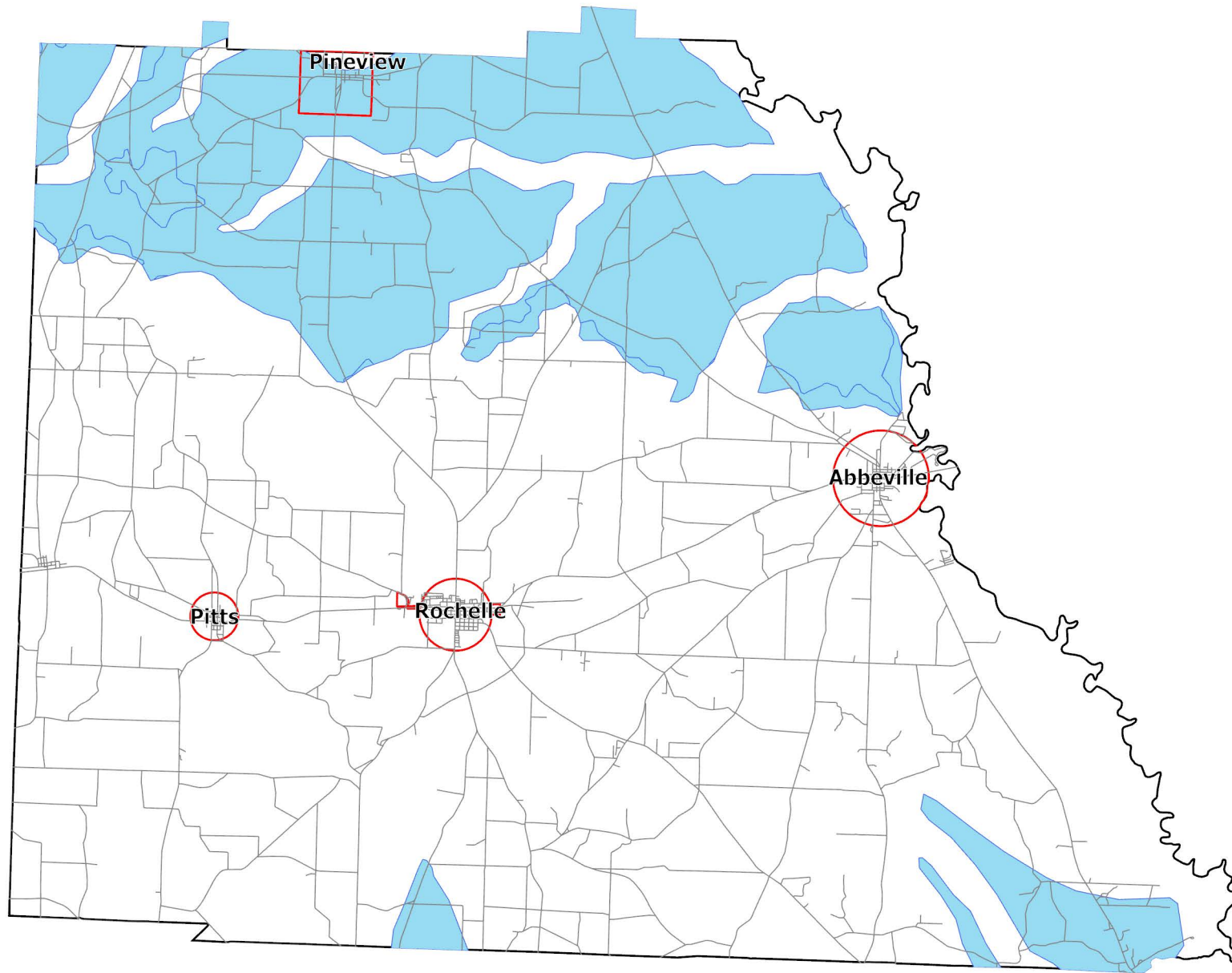
National
Wetlands
Inventory

2023



Source: Georgia GIS Clearing House
Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC, 2023

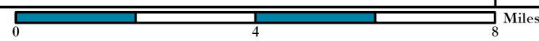
- Roads
- ▬ County Boundary
- ▭ City Limits
- ▨ Wetlands



Wilcox County Solid Waste Project

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2023

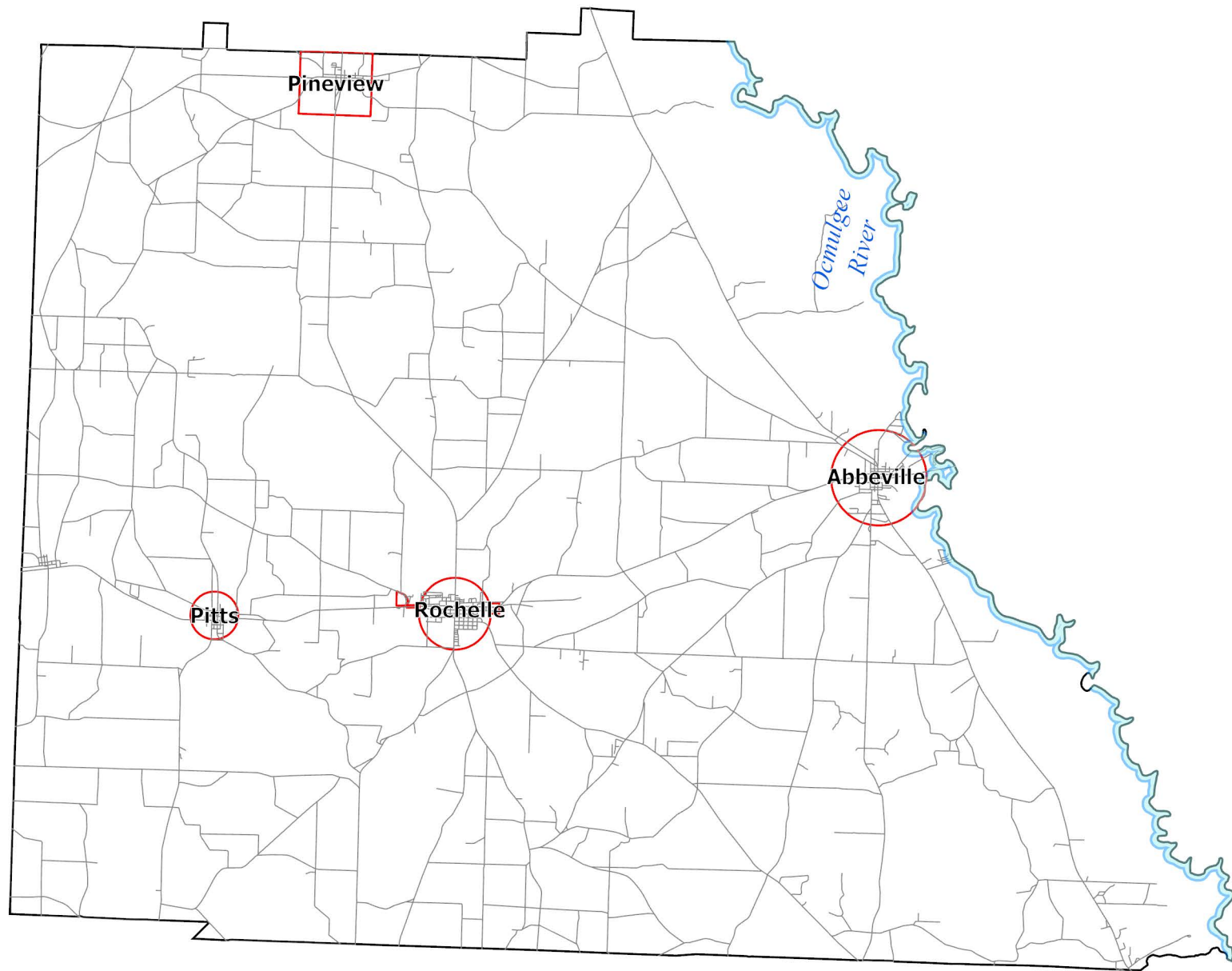


Significant
Ground Water
Recharge Areas



Source: Hydrologic Atlas 18 of Georgia
Geologic Survey, 1989
Heart of Georgia Allamaha RC, 2014

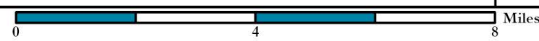
- County Boundary
- HOGA Ground Water Pollution Susceptibility Recharge Areas
- City Limits
- Roads



Wilcox County Solid Waste Project

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2023

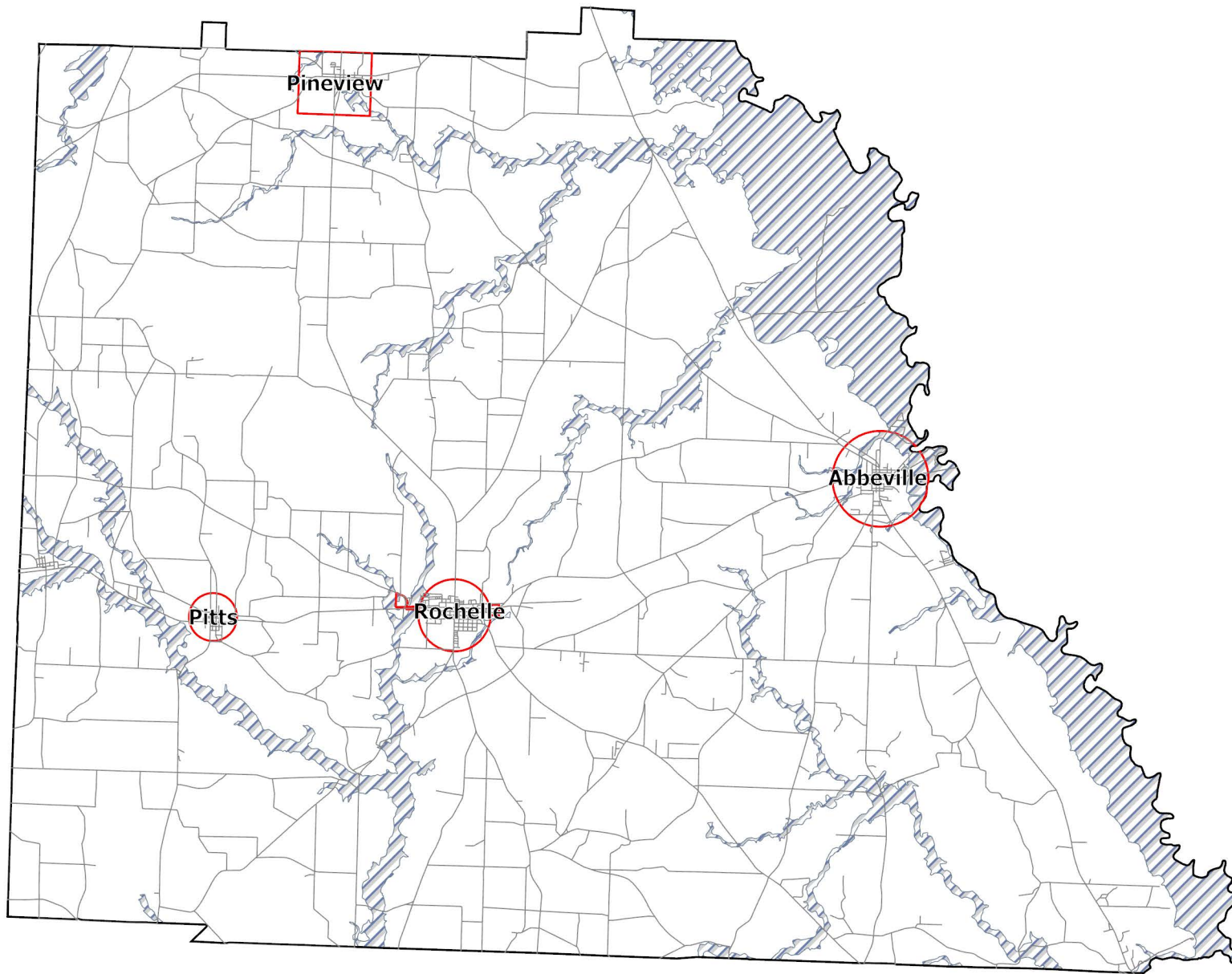


Protected River
Corridor



Source: Georgia GIS Clearing House
Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC, 2023

-  County Boundary
-  City Limits
-  Roads
-  HOGA Rivers



Wilcox County Solid Waste Project

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2023

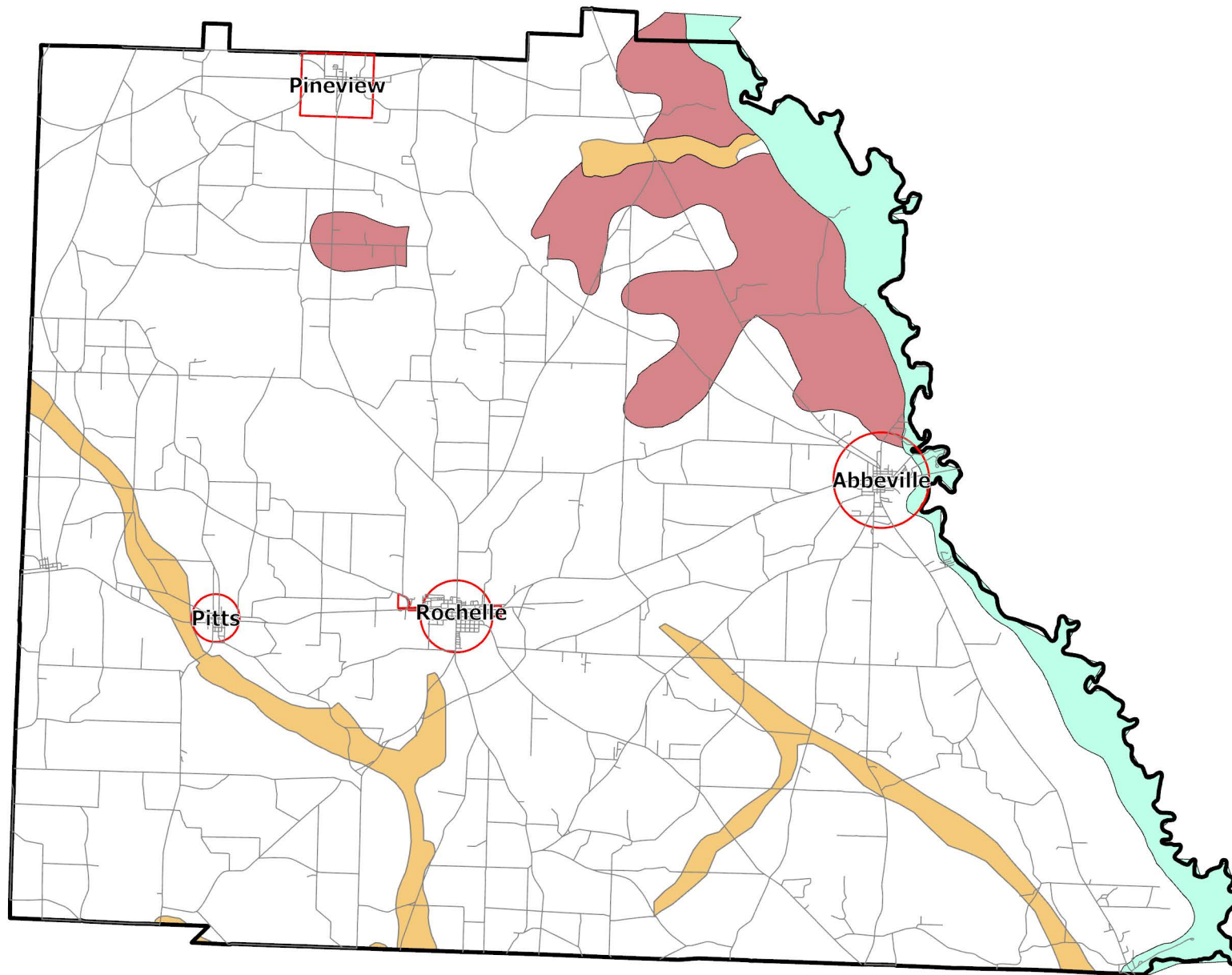


Flood Zones

-  County Boundary
-  Flood Zones
-  City Limits
-  Roads



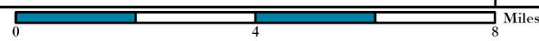
Source: Georgia GIS Clearing House
Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC, 2023



Wilcox County Solid Waste Project

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2023

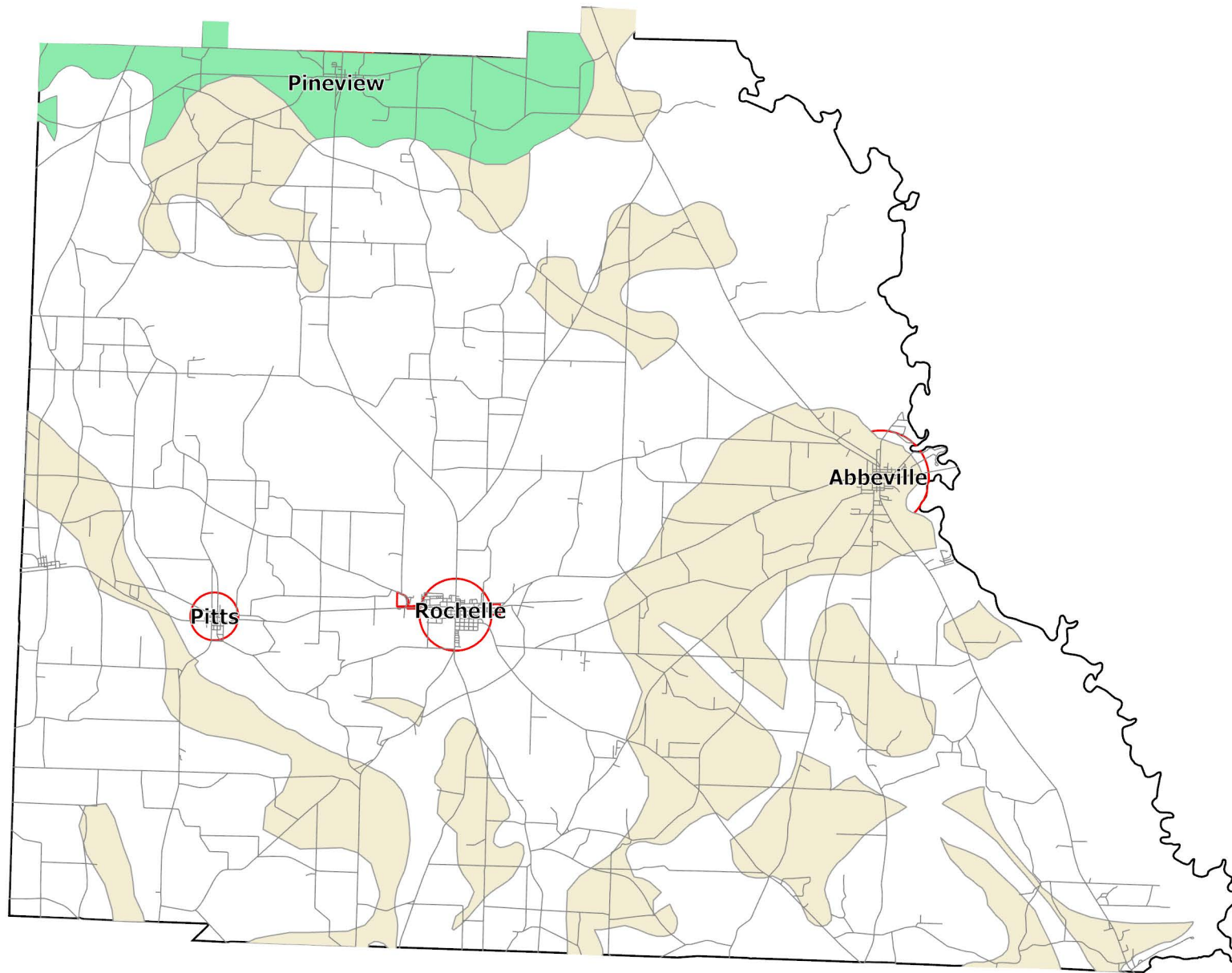


Soils with
Development
Limitations



- County Boundary
- City Limits
- Roads
- Bibb-Osier
- Pelham-Stilson-Fuquay
- Tawcaw-Meggett

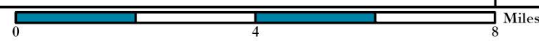
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Survey of Pulaski and Wilcox Counties, Georgia, 2003
Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC, 2023



Wilcox County Solid Waste Project

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2023

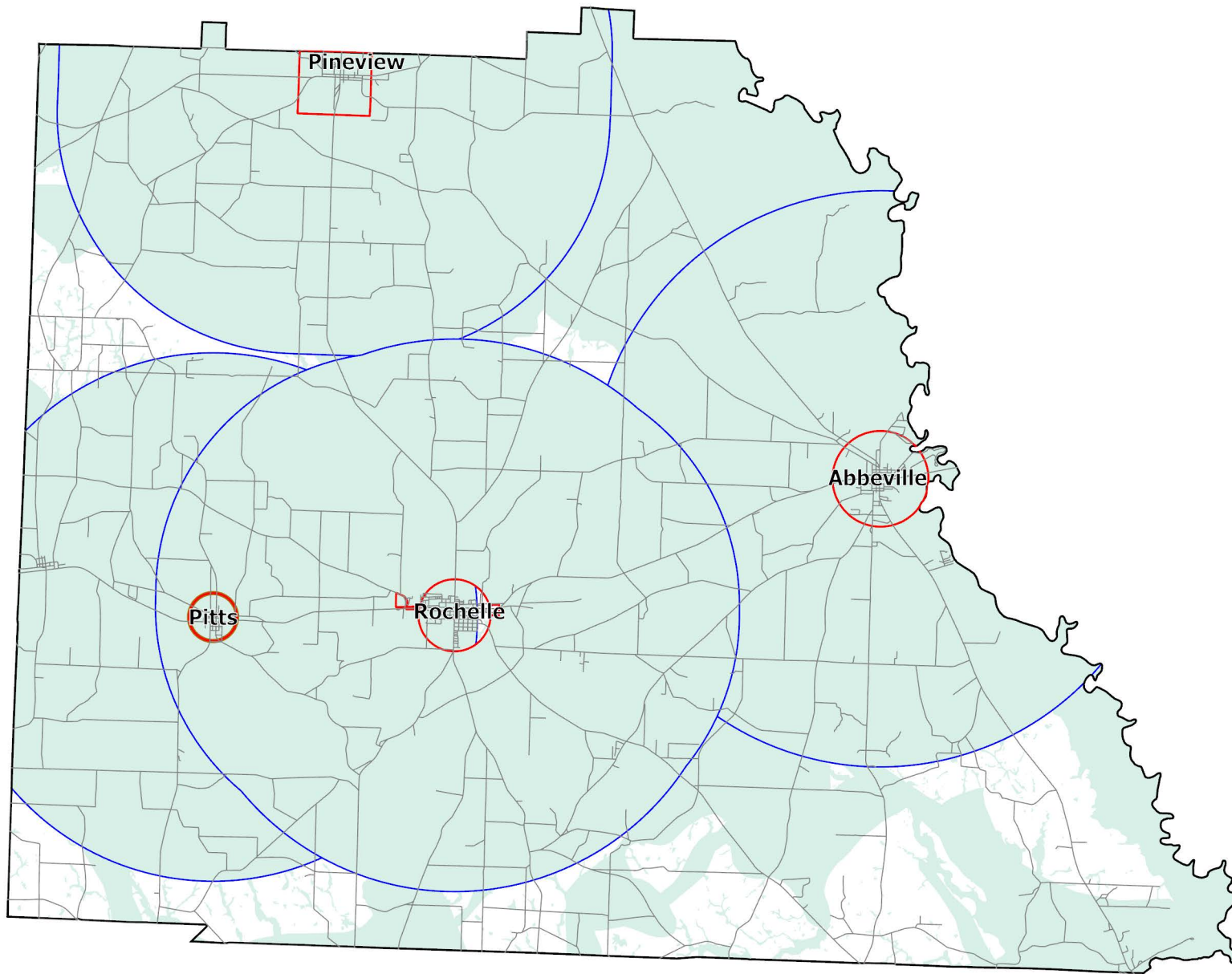


Prime
Farmland



- County Boundary
- City Limits
- Roads
- Tifton-Dothan-Nankin
- Tifton-Fuquay-Dothan

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Survey of Pulaski and Wilcox Counties, Georgia, 2003
Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC, 2023



Wilcox County Solid Waste Project

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Areas Unsuitable
for Solid Waste
Disposal

2023



Source: Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC, 2023

- Unsuitable
- 5 Mile Radius
- County Boundary
- City Limits
- Roads

Appendix C

Anaerobic Digestion

The Anaerobic digestion Overview

Anaerobic digestion is the natural process in which microorganisms break down organic materials. In this instance, “organic” means coming from or made of plants or animals. Anaerobic digestion happens in closed spaces where there is no air (or oxygen). The initials “AD” may refer to the process of anaerobic digestion or the built system where anaerobic digestion takes place, also known as a digester. Biogas is generated during anaerobic digestion when microorganisms break down (eat) organic materials in the absence of air (or oxygen). Biogas is mostly methane (CH₄) and carbon dioxide (CO₂), with very small amounts of water vapor and other gases. The carbon dioxide and other gases can be removed, leaving only the methane. Methane is the primary component of natural gas. Biogas is produced throughout the anaerobic digestion process. Biogas is a renewable energy source that can be used in a variety of ways. Communities and businesses across the country use biogas to: Power engines, produce mechanical power, heat and/or electricity (including combined heat and power systems).

United States Environmental Agency (2023)

Permitting and Regulations on Anaerobic Digesters

Anaerobic digesters must meet local, state, and federal regulatory and permitting requirements for air, solid waste, and water. It is important for all stakeholders working with digesters to be able to find information about permits and regulations. EPA's AgSTAR program compiled a comprehensive set of requirements for livestock digesters. These requirements also apply to all other types of digesters. Solid waste processing facilities are required to meet Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle D requirements covering the landfilling of non-hazardous solid wastes. Solid waste processing facilities are also required to meet 40 CFR Part 258, which covers the criteria to define nonhazardous solid waste. United States Environmental Agency (2023)

Anaerobic digestion facilities are classified as Class 6 In-Vessel Composting and are regulated by the rules found in Chapter 391-3-4-.16(5)(f) of the Georgia Rules for Solid Waste Management. Class 6 facilities are required to obtain a Solid Waste Handling permit according to Chapter 391-3-4-.16(1) in the Georgia Rules for Solid Waste Management. Georgia Environmental Protection Division (2023)

Required Permits:

Air Quality

Water Quality

Water Supply

Solid Waste

Land Use

Co-Digestion Feedstock

Public and Community Outreach

It is very important to conduct community outreach and education when a new AD/biogas project is developed. Educating the members of the community who are most likely to be affected contributes to the success of the project. Engage, early and open, with members of the community to educate them about AD/biogas systems; this will help obtain buy-in and approval from the community. This includes, but is not limited to, regulatory approval and the community and neighborhood where the project is

located, as well as the surrounding region where the project may have an impact (e.g., truck traffic or odor impacts).

Safety

AD/biogas system accidents in the United States rarely occur, producing biogas does result in several potential safety hazards. These hazards include asphyxiation and poisoning from the gaseous compounds that comprise biogas as well as from the gaseous emissions resulting from biogas combustion. Additionally, there is a danger of fire, or explosions, potential electrical hazards, and other risks associated with the management of digestion material.

Considerations

In addition to the above state and federal laws, an Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility Study is recommended to identify all the potential risks and advantages associated with this future facility. Additionally, the current Joint Comprehensive Plan (Land Use), Hazard Mitigation, and Zoning Ordinance should be reviewed for compliance. Review of the Wilcox County Wetland Inventory, Groundwater Recharge Areas, River Protected Corridor, Flood Zones, and County Soils with Development Limitations should all be considered during the planning process. (See Appendix B for Maps)

Appendix D

Wilcox County Environmental Conservation, On-Site
Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance

*ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT,
AND PERMIT ORNANCE*

AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA PROVIDING FOR HOME RULE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS; TO REQUIRE PERMITS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT; TO REGULATE INSTALLATION OF ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PRESCRIBE PENALTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Georgia Comprehensive Planning Act of 1989 and pursuant regulations by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources charge local governments with the protection of certain natural resources and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Human Resources' "Rules of Public Health for On-Site Sewage Management Systems" (Chapter 290 5-26) regulates installation of individual septic tank and other on-site sewage management systems, including those in the regulated natural resource areas; and

WHEREAS, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, and protected river corridors are among the critically sensitive environmental areas defined and mandated to be protected by local governments in

the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division's "Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria Chapter 391- 3-16" and the Georgia River Corridor and Mountain Protection Act of 1991; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for local coordination of the requirements for on- site installation of sewage management systems and the local protection of certain environmentally sensitive areas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, ESTABLISHED, AND DIRECTED BY THE WILCOX COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA AS GRANTED THEREOF AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Short Title. This Ordinance shall be known, referred to, and may be cited as "The Environmental Conservation, On-site Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance of Wilcox County."

Section 2. Purpose. It is the intent and policy of the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners to promote the health, safety, convenience, order, prosperity, and general welfare of Wilcox County and its residents; to protect the natural resources, the environment, and the public health of Wilcox County; to facilitate the adequate provision of on- site sewage management for all development in the local jurisdiction; to protect significant groundwater recharge areas from pollution by spills, discharges, leaks, impoundments, applications of chemicals, and other development; to promote the wise use of wetlands and protect them from alterations that will significantly affect or reduce their primary functions for water quality, flood plain and erosion

control, groundwater recharge, aesthetic natural areas, and wildlife habitat areas; to establish measures to preserve an adequate supply of safe drinking water and a quality for state waters which is necessary to protect the health and welfare of the public as well as to provide for future growth; to protect the environment, including the soils, air quality, and water resources, from pollution and inappropriate development; to assist in the orderly, efficient, and integrated development of the county; and to require permits for new development or location within the county.

Section 3. Definitions. When used in this Ordinance the following words and phrases shall have meanings given in this section.

- A. **Hazardous Waste.** Any solid waste which has been defined as a hazardous waste in regulations promulgated by the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) pursuant to the federal act, which are in force and effect on February 1, 1988, codified as 40 C.F.R. Section 261, and as amended.

- B. **Lot.** The contiguous land in the same ownership which is not divided by any public highway or alley, including any part thereof subject to any easement for any purpose other than a public highway or alley, but excluding any part thereof severed from another lot where the severance creates any nonconformity of size or use.

- C. **Perennial River/ Stream.** A river/stream or section of a river/stream that normally flows continuously throughout the whole year.
- D. **Protected River Corridor.** All land, inclusive of islands, in areas of a protected river within a distance of one hundred (100) feet horizontally on both sides of the river measured from the uppermost part of the riverbank; the area between the top of the bank and the edge of the water is included in the protected area.
- E. **River/Stream Bank.** The rising ground, bordering a river or a stream, which serves to confine the water to the natural channel during the normal course of flow.
- F. **Subdivision.** All divisions of a tract or parcel of land into two or more lots, building sites, or other divisions for the purpose of sale, legacy, or building development, whether immediate or future. This shall include all divisions or re-subdivisions of land involving a new road or changes to existing roads. Excluded from this definition is the combination or recombination of portions of previously plat- ted lots where the total number of lots is not increased.
- G. **Utility.** Public or private water or sewer piping systems, water or sewer pumping stations, electric power lines, fuel pipelines, telephone lines, roads, driveways, bridges, river/lake access facilities,

stormwater systems and railroads or other utilities identified by a local government.

H. **Wetlands.** Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. The ecological parameters for designating wetlands include hydric soils, hydrological vegetation, and hydrological conditions that involve a temporary or permanent source of water to cause soil saturation.

Section 4. **General Provisions.**

4.1. Permit Required. No building, mobile home, structure, or land within the jurisdiction of Wilcox County shall hereafter be erected, constructed, located, moved, used, subdivided, altered or disturbed except in conformity with the regulations herein and without first obtaining a permit from the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners. This provision does and shall apply to the location of all manufactured housing and industrialized buildings in the county.

4.2. Minimum Lot Size. All lots intended for residential or other use within the county shall be of such size as necessary to meet all requirements, rules, and regulations of the Georgia Department of Human Resources according to the "Rules of Georgia Department of Human Resources Public Health for On-Site Sewage Management Systems" Manual for On-site Sewage Management; and as necessary to comply with the minimums set forth in the tables MT-1 and MT-2 hereby attached to and made a part of this Ordinance as Appendix 1, if on-site sewage management is utilized; and/or this Ordinance, whichever is stricter.

4.3. On-Site Sewage Management Permit Requirement. No person or business shall construct an on-site sewage management system on any lot within the county until site approval and an on-site sewage management construction permit has been obtained from and issued by the Wilcox County Health Department.

4.4. Permit Coordination. The required permit under Section 4.1 of this Ordinance shall not be issued until the Wilcox County Health Department issues an on-site sewage management construction permit or a site approval letter, whichever is appropriate, so that all lots proposed to be used or subdivided would satisfy the requirements of this Ordinance, including the "Rules of Georgia Department of Human Resources for On-Site Sewage Management Systems." If the Wilcox County Health Department is delegated the responsibility for administering this Ordinance, the permit or letter under this Section 4.4 shall suffice as the permit required under Section 4.1.

4.5. Requirements are Minimum. The regulations and requirements set by this Ordinance shall be the minimum requirements.

4.6. Compliance with State and Federal Regulations. All developments, structures, and uses within the county shall also meet the requirements of all other local, federal, and state regulations in effect, including but not limited to, Department of Transportation regulations, State Fire Marshal regulations, Georgia's Uniform Construction Codes, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources and Georgia Environmental Protection Division environmental rules and regulations. Issuance of a permit under this Ordinance does not constitute certification of compliance with such codes or regulations and does not abrogate responsibility of the owner to so comply.

4.7. Map Interpretation. If there is any uncertainty as to whether a lot, portion of lot, or a proposed construction or location impacts an environmental resource regulated by this Ordinance because of interpretation of the applicable map, the decision of the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners, or the Wilcox County Health Department, if it is delegated the responsibility for administering this Ordinance, shall take precedent and be considered correct and final, but may be appealed as set forth in Section 4.8.

4.8. Map Appeal. Any person who feels aggrieved by a decision of the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners or the Wilcox County Health Department, as appropriate, regarding map interpretation may at their own expense request reconsideration. Such reconsideration shall include submission of scientific evidence for reversal of the alleged error in map interpretation, and such evidence must be documented by a state registered engineer, geologist, or soils scientist. To obtain a reversal of the decision of map interpretation, the evidence must be acceptable to Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division, and the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners, or/and the

Wilcox County Health Department if the Wilcox County Health Department is delegated responsibility for administering this Ordinance. Any costs for submission of evidence to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division shall be borne by the person requesting reconsideration.

4.9. Coordination with Zoning and Other Regulation. This Ordinance shall be coordinated with any zoning or other regulations adopted by the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners, and if there is any conflict with those zoning or other regulations, the stricter provisions shall apply. If zoning is or has been adopted, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be considered an overlay, or additional requirement(s) to the requirements of underlying zoning regulations and district.

4.10. Fees. Any fees for applications, inspections, and the issuance of permits or certificates required or issued under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be paid by the person seeking such permit at the time of application in advance of the issuance of such permits or certificates.

The amount of such fees, if any, shall be those established by the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners from time to time.

Section 5. Delegation of Ordinance Administration. The Wilcox County Board of Commissioners, because of the need for coordination, hereby charges the Wilcox County Health Department with responsibility for administering this Ordinance and ensuring compliance with its provisions.

Section 6. Wetlands Protection Regulations.

6.1. Findings of Fact. The wetlands within Wilcox County are indispensable and fragile natural resources with significant development constraints due to flooding, erosion, and soil limitations. In their natural state, wetlands serve man and nature. They provide habitat areas for fish, wildlife, and vegetation; water quality maintenance and pollution control; flood control; erosion control; natural resource education; scientific study; open space; and recreational opportunities.

6.2. Reference Map. The official maps to be used as the determinant for location of wetlands in Wilcox County and to be regulated areas under this Ordinance will be the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory Maps for Wilcox County. These maps portray generalized wetlands inventory areas, and these wetlands inventory areas do not necessarily represent the boundaries of jurisdictional wetlands under the authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and cannot serve as a substitute for a jurisdictional wetland determination or a wetland delineation by that agency.

6.3. Wetlands Development Permit Requirements. No activity or use except those identified in Section 6.4 shall be allowed within wetlands without a permit under this Ordinance. Activities or uses permitted under Section 404 of the U.S. Clean Water Act may receive a local permit once any required federal permit, or if appropriate, letter of permission/determination, is obtained as described below, and any other applicable provisions of this Ordinance have been satisfied.

- A. If there is a determination in the administration of this Ordinance that a proposed activity, use, or development subject to permit herein may be located in or near an identified wetlands inventory area and might disturb wetlands which appear to be under the jurisdiction of Section 404 of the U.S. Clean Water Act, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' jurisdictional wetlands determination shall be required prior to issuance of a permit under this Ordinance

- B. If a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' jurisdictional wetlands determination is required, no local permit under this Ordinance will be issued until the person requesting the permit, at their own expense, obtains either a Section 404 permit, if so required, or a letter of permission/determination from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that no federal permit is required.

- C. No action in the administration of this Ordinance, or no local permit issued pursuant to this Ordinance relieves the landowner from any federal or state permitting requirements, including those relating to wetlands or land disturbance.

- D. No action in the administration of this Ordinance, or no local permit issued pursuant to this Ordinance relieves the landowner from any federal or state permitting requirements, including those relating to wetlands or land disturbance.

6.4. Permitted Uses Not Requiring a Permit. The following uses are permitted without permit within the wetlands of the County to the extent they are not prohibited by any other ordinance or law and provided they do not require structures, grading, fill, draining, or dredging except as provided herein.

- A. Forestry practices applied in accordance with best management practices approved by the Georgia Forestry Commission. (Section 404 does not require permits for normal, ongoing silvicultural activities. However, Section 404 does list some required road construction best management practices that must be followed in order to qualify for such an exemption).
- B. Conservation or preservation of soil, water, vegetation, fish, or other wildlife, provided they do not affect waters of the State of Georgia or of the United States in such a way that would require a Section 404 Permit.
- C. Outdoor passive recreational activities, including fishing, bird watching, hiking, boating, horseback riding, and canoeing.

- D. Natural water quality treatment or purification.
- E. Normal agriculture activities include the planting and harvesting of crops and pasturing of livestock. Such activities shall be subject to best management practices approved by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

6.5. Prohibited Use. In compliance with the Georgia "Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria," the following uses are prohibited entirely, and no permit shall be issued for them.

- A. Receiving areas for toxic or hazardous waste or other contaminants.
- B. Hazardous or sanitary waste landfills.

Section 7. Groundwater Recharge Areas Protection Regulations.

7.1. Findings of Facts. Recharge areas are vulnerable to urban development activities as well as agricultural activities. Pesticides and herbicides sprayed on crops and animal waste, like septic tank effluents, contribute to a deterioration in the groundwater quality and can threaten the health of residents relying on well water. Development usually means an increase in the amount of land covered with impervious surfaces. Paving land in recharge areas can alter or impair their recharge characteristics thereby decreasing groundwater supplies.

7.2. Reference Map. The official map for delineation of significant groundwater recharge areas in Wilcox County to be regulated areas under this Ordinance is the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' "Significant Recharge Areas, Hydrological Atlas 18 (1989 edition)."

7.3. Groundwater Recharge Areas Development Permit Requirements.

All uses except those identified in Section 7.4. and those subject to further restriction by any underlying zoning district are allowed. The following are additional requirements for specific uses:

- A. All new above ground chemical or petroleum storage tanks, having a minimum volume of 660 gallons, shall have secondary containment for 110 percent of the volume of such tanks or 110 percent of the volume of the largest tank in a cluster of tanks, and shall otherwise meet the requirements of U.S. EPA rules for oil pollution prevention, 40 CFR 112.1. Such tanks used for agricultural purposes are exempt, provided they comply with all federal requirements. All single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, mobile home parks, or other uses located within a groundwater recharge area and not served by both public water and sewer systems shall be required to have 150 percent of the minimum lot or space size calculated based on application of the Georgia Department of Human Resources Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems (DHR Manual) Tables MT-1 and MT-2 (included as part of this Ordinance in Appendix 1). The minimums set forth in Tables MT-1 and MT-2 may be increased further based on consideration of other factors (set forth in Sections A-F) of the DHR Manual. Said minimum lot size shall not be in any case less than the minimum lot size specified by any underlying zoning district. The regulations specifying the largest minimum lot size shall apply.

- B. All lots shall have a minimum width of 150 feet, or as specified in any underlying zoning district if stricter (larger), in the area where an approved on-site sewage management system is to be located.

- C. No construction may proceed on a building or mobile home to be served by a septic tank or other on-site sewage management system unless the Wilcox County Health Department first approves the proposed on-site sewage management system installation as meeting the requirements of the Georgia Department of Human Resources Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems and the provisions of this Ordinance.

- D. All new wastewater treatment basins shall have an impermeable liner except for the construction of mining settling basins.

- E. All new agricultural waste impoundment sites shall be lined. As a minimum, the liner shall be constructed of compact clay having a thickness of one-foot and a vertical hydraulic conductivity of less than 5×10^{-7} cm/sec or other criteria established by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

7.4. Prohibited Uses. The following uses are prohibited entirely, and no permit shall be issued for them.

- A. All new hazardous waste storage, treatment, and disposal facilities.
- B. New facilities handling 10,000 pounds or more of hazardous materials of the types listed in Section 312 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, excluding underground storage tanks, on any one day.
- C. Permanent stormwater infiltration basins.

Section 8. Major River Corridor Protection District Regulations.

8.1. Findings of fact. Perennial river or water courses with an average annual flow of at least four hundred (400) cubic feet per second are of vital importance to Georgia in that they help preserve those qualities that make a river suitable for habitat for wildlife, a site for recreation, and a source for clean drinking water. These river corridors also allow the free movement of wildlife from area to area within the state, help control erosion and river sedimentation, and help absorb flood waters.

8.2. District Delineation. Protected Rivers as defined under the Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, adopted by Georgia Department of Natural Resources pursuant to Section 12-2-8 of Article 1, Chapter 2, Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, includes any perennial river or water courses with an average annual flow of at least four hundred

(400) cubic feet per second. The Altamaha and the Ocmulgee River through Wilcox County meets this criteria. A protected river corridor and a protective one hundred (100) foot vegetation buffer is hereby established along the entire length of these rivers within the jurisdiction of Wilcox County. The buffer area is measured horizontally from each river bank within the County jurisdiction. Under the method prescribed by the Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, no development or other land disturbing activity will be allowed to occur within the protected river corridor and within a one hundred (100) foot buffer of the river bank except for the following permitted uses.

8.3. Permitted Uses. No development, or construction, or other land disturbing activity will be allowed to occur within the one hundred (100) foot buffer from the protected river except for the following uses, and the natural vegetative buffer shall be restored as quickly as possible following any land-disturbing activity or construction permitted within the river corridor for these acceptable uses.

- A. Single-family dwellings, if any underlying zoning district so permits, provided each dwelling is located on a lot with a minimum size as specified by the Wilcox County Health Department or the underlying zoning district regulations, but shall be the greater of these requirements; however, in any case the lot for each dwelling shall not be less than two (2) acres, not including any area between the river banks; and provided the septic tank drainfield is located outside of the one hundred (100) foot buffer area.
- B. Any residential uses existing or under construction prior to the adoption of these local protection ordinances, provided the use has an on-site sewage management construction permit issued by the Wilcox County Health Department prior

to the date of adoption of these local protection ordinances.

- C. Any industrial or commercial uses existing prior to the adoption of these local protection ordinances, providing they do not impair the drinking quality of the river water as defined by the federal Clean Water Act, as amended, and meet all other federal and state environmental regulations.

- D. Road and utility crossings, providing the construction of these crossings meets the requirements of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975, as amended, or any local requirements, if stricter.

- E. Timber production and harvesting, providing it is consistent with the best management practices established by the Georgia Forestry Commission, and does not impair the drinking quality of the river water as defined by the federal Clean Water Act, as amended.

- F. Agricultural production and management, provided it is consistent with the best management practices established by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and all other state and federal laws and regulations, including those promulgated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division; and does not impair the drinking quality of the river water as defined by the federal Clean Water Act, as amended.

- G. Wildlife and fisheries management activities consistent with the purposes of Section 12-2-8 (as amended) of Article 1, Chapter 2, Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.).
- H. Natural water quality treatment or purification.
- I. Wastewater treatment.
- J. Recreational usage consistent with the maintenance of a natural vegetative buffer or with river dependent recreation.

8.4. Prohibited Uses. In compliance with the Georgia "Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria," the following uses are prohibited entirely, and no permit shall be issued for them.

- A. Facilities or areas used for the handling, receiving, storing, or disposal of hazardous wastes.
- B. Hazardous or solid waste landfills.
- C. Septic tank drainfields within the 100-foot buffer area under any circumstance.
- D. Septic tanks within the 100-foot buffer area, except as expressly provided for single-family dwellings which are permitted under and comply with Section 8.3.A.

Section 9. Variances. When due to a particular hardship or extraordinary circumstance of the property involved which is not easily corrected, it is impractical for an owner or developer to comply with all of the requirements of this Ordinance, the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners shall be authorized to vary such requirements (under its jurisdiction) only to such extent as to provide fairness to the owner or developer and as to not violate the intent and purposes of this Ordinance. Such variances shall only be granted in an official public meeting, and the reasons for granting them shall be entered into the minutes of the public meeting.

Section 10. Violation and Penalties. Violation of these provisions, prohibitions, and installation restrictions by any private individual, land owner, builder, remodeler, contractor, licensed electrician, licensed plumber, septic tank dealer or installer, mobile or manufactured home dealer or mover, or developer; or installation and delivery of any utility services by a public or private utility to any property which holds a septic tank system installed against these prohibitions and restrictions, shall be a violation of this ordinance.

Any person violating, neglecting, or refusing to comply with any provision of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to such penalties as are provided by law. The Wilcox County Board of Commissioners may take other actions or remedies as available at law to ensure compliance with or to prevent violation of provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 11. Court of Jurisdiction. The Wilcox County Board of Commissioners or the Wilcox County Board of Health, as appropriate, may bring complaints of violation of any provision of this Ordinance before the Magistrate Court of Wilcox or the State Court of Wilcox County, as so desired.

Section 12. Legal Status Provisions. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the Ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 13. Conflicting Ordinances. Whenever the provision of this Ordinance and those of some other ordinance or statute apply to the same subject matter, that ordinance requiring the highest, or more strict, standard shall govern. All other ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance, to the extent of such conflict and not further, are hereby repealed to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 14. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force on the date that is enacted and ordained by the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners, Wilcox County, Georgia.

Approved, enacted, ordained, and so resolved by the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners this 7 day of AUG, 2001.

WILCOX COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Y: Thomas J. Connor

ATTEST:

Hayl Keen
County Clerk

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10. Georgia Environmental Protection Division, (2023), Anaerobic Digestion, [Anaerobic Digestion | Environmental Protection Division \(georgia.gov\)](#)