

2023 Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report DRAFT



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2023 Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report DRAFT

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Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE REGIONAL PLAN

In 2019, the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council (Steering Committee) updated the Regional Plan with input from a Technical Advisory Committee, stakeholders, and the public. The Regional Plan includes Regional Goals and Policies; Regional Development Maps including the Regional Land Use Map, Conservation and Development Map, and Areas Requiring Special Attention Map; Regional Needs and Opportunities; and the Implementation Program including Performance Standards (Minimum and Excellence), Regional Work Program (2019-2023), and the Report of Accomplishments on the previous five-year work program. The Regional Plan meets Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Regional Planning Requirements. The Plan aligns with the Regionally Important Resource Plan, local Comprehensive Plans, state plans, and regional plans of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Atlanta Regional Commission, and Three Rivers Regional Commission.

1.2 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

NWGRC prepared this 2023 Annual Report on the Regional Plan Implementation Program according to Georgia Department of Community Affairs Regional Planning Requirements. It includes an annual Report of Accomplishments for FY 2022, a report on Local Government Minimum Standards, and additions or deletions to the current work program. This report has been reviewed by the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council and regional stakeholders including representatives of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Georgia Department of Economic Development. The Annual Update is in alignment with these state and regional plans:



NWGRC Council Meeting, Regional Plan Update February 2019

- Georgia Plan for Outdoor Recreation SCORP 2022-2026
- Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan (2017)
- Metro Water District 2022 Water Resources Management Plan
- Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Plan (2017)
- Northwest Georgia's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2022-2027 (CEDS),
- Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization FY2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan, Chattanooga Hamilton County-North Georgia TPO 2050 Regional Transportation Plan & TIP as amended, Cartersville-Bartow County FY 2021-2024 TIP, Rome/Floyd County 2021-2024 TIP and 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Atlanta Regional Commission MPO Regional Transportation Plan and TIP, Georgia DOT FY 21-24 STIP
- Georgia Mountains Regional Commission CEDS & Regional Plan 2022-2027
- Three Rivers Regional Plan Update 2019 & FY22 Annual Implementation Report

1.3 REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2022

The Report of Accomplishments for FY 2022 presents an annual status update on each project listed in the 2022-202 Regional Work Program. Each project must be listed as either Ongoing, Completed, Dropped or Postponed. If the project is shown as Dropped or Postponed, a reason must be given to show the circumstances and changes that occurred. If the project is shown as Completed, the date completed is also shown. If a project is shown as Ongoing, it means it is currently in progress by the Regional Commission or another agency.

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NWGRC 2023 Annual Regional Plan Implementation Update

Report of Accomplishments FY 2022-2025							
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing	Project Status
Economic Development							
Ensure infrastructure is in place across region to meet needs of existing and new business and industry.	Implement regional and local plans and strategies for infrastructure improvements needed to support job creation/retention and private investment	1. Assist 10-15 communities as identified annually to improve or expand infrastructure to support economic development through grant writing, planning, and document/plan updates	NWGRC	2022-2025 \$10,000/ YR			Ongoing
		2. Update the Northwest Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)	NWGRC	2022 \$10,000			Completed
		3. Implement Cares Act Supplemental Assistance for EDD Partnership Planning Grant Funds to identify potential resiliency, mitigation, and economic recovery projects in NW Georgia.	NWGRC	2022-2023 \$400,000			Ongoing, studies completed, now in implementation
Focus on improvement of skills for jobs in Northwest Georgia (specific training and skill development for the jobs and industries in our region).	Improve local and regional partnerships between industry/business, workforce development providers, and educational institutions both K-12 and post-secondary, and community leadership.	4. Develop and implement education, training, and employment opportunities for unemployed/ underemployed individuals in Northwest Georgia; provide leadership training and work ready skills for ages 14-21 through approved training providers; and provide layoff support services, under direction of	WIOA, Local Governments			\$7M/ yr. annual program budget	Ongoing

NWGRC 2023 Annual Regional Plan Implementation Update

Report of Accomplishments FY 2022-2025							
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing	Project Status
		Workforce Development Board.					
Improve competitiveness of Northwest Georgia communities to attract and retain business and industry	Provide planning and funding assistance to increase economic competitiveness in coordination with state and federal agencies	5. Provide loan packaging to assist 5-10 businesses each year to expand operations or add jobs, including assessment of need, preparation of loan packages and financial planning in partnership with EDA and lending institutions, and with COVID-19-related loan assistance	NWGRC, EDA, Lenders, Businesses	2022-2025 \$95,000			Ongoing
Housing							
There is a lack of safe, affordable housing and a lack of mid to high range housing investment in downtowns	Incentivize redevelopment of blighted or vacant areas for residential use; provide assistance for range of local government housing needs	6. Assist 1-2 communities/ YR to apply for GA Initiatives for Community Housing (GICH), to prepare housing inventories, and to implement GICH action plans	NWGRC, local governments	2022-2025 \$7,500/ YR			Ongoing

Report of Accomplishments FY 2022-2025							
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing	Project Status
		7. Survey local governments to determine interest in “circuit-riding” or shared assistance program for code enforcement, zoning, and related assistance	NWGRC	2022-2023 \$1,000/ YR			Postponed
		8. If enough communities express interest, develop local government pilot program for “circuit-riding” or shared assistance with code enforcement, zoning, and related assistance	NWGRC, DCA, local governments	2022-2024 \$5,000			Postponed
Natural and Historic Resources							
More people need to connect with Northwest Georgia’s natural resources so they will enjoy and protect its diversity and beauty	Identify, protect, preserve and promote identified Regionally Important Resources	9. Update the Regional Resource Plan per Section 110-12-4-, 02(4) of Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs, including recommended actions to address critical resources and improve access to natural resources	NWGRC	2022 \$5,000			Postponed, Update with Regional Plan 2023-2024
		10. Implement RIR plan: Develop publicly accessible GIS database and maps highlighting region’s historic, cultural and natural assets	NWGRC	2022 \$5,000			Postponed, Once RIR plan updated, implementation will begin

NWGRC 2023 Annual Regional Plan Implementation Update

Report of Accomplishments FY 2022-2025							
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing	Project Status
	Promote trails, greenways and blueways; Improve safety, visibility, and access to trails and blueways and add access points	11. Provide planning and grant writing assistance to 1-5 communities/ year to plan for expansion of and safety improvements to land and water trails, parks and recreation areas, trailheads, and water access/ put ins	NWGRC, local governments, DNR and grant agencies, SORBA, SETPL, other groups	2022-2023 \$7,500/ YR			Ongoing
Preserve irreplaceable historic and cultural resources through inventory, citizen engagement, planning and funding assistance	Identify and preserve historic and cultural resources	12. Prepare 1-2 National Register preliminary determinations and nominations for regionally significant historical assets (Grant Farm, LaFayette, Tunnel Hill, Cohutta/ St Andrews Chapel, Dallas Historic District, Cedartown Historic District, Bremen, others)	NWGRC, HPD	2022-2025 \$15,000/ YR			Ongoing
		13. Digitize NWGRC historic resource documents including National Register listings, historic resource surveys	NWGRC, Bandy Heritage Center	2022-2025 \$6,000			Ongoing
Maintain surface and groundwater quality throughout the region to meet federal and state regulations	Apply for funding to improve water quality, manage stormwater, restore streambanks, and protect water resources in the region	14. Apply for funds to implement the 2019 Woodward Creek Watershed Management Plan	NWGRC, Limestone Valley RC&D	2022-2025 \$5,000			Completed, Limestone Valley RC&D will pursue
		15. Administer finances and grant funds and provide staff support for monthly and annual meetings of the North	NWGRC	2022-2025 \$5,000/yr.			Ongoing

NWGRC 2023 Annual Regional Plan Implementation Update

Report of Accomplishments FY 2022-2025							
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing	Project Status
		Georgia Water Resources Partnership					
		16. Assist the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, or local governments and utilities to apply for state and federal funding to implement Regional Water Plans and related studies	NWGRC	2022-2025 \$7,500/yr.			Ongoing
		17. Work with GA EPD to develop a tool to prioritize delisting impaired streams in the Coosa-North Georgia Region and recommended implementation measures to delist these streams	Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, N GA Water Resources Partnership, NWGRC, GAEPD	2022-2025 Staff time			Completed
		18. Assist local governments with planning resources for green infrastructure, culvert redesign and improvement, greenspace and conservation design, etc.	NWGRC, GAWP, DCA, others	2022-2023			Ongoing
		19. Administer SFY22 RWP Seed Grant funds for Coosa-North Georgia Water Council project to provide water quality modeling of proposed	Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, N GA Water Resources Partnership,	2022-2023 Staff time			Ongoing

Report of Accomplishments FY 2022-2025							
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing	Project Status
		increases in Lake Lanier elevation levels.	TetraTech, other parties, GAEPD, NWGRC				
Land Use							
Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans and that balances conservation with development needs	Assist local governments to comply with current Georgia Zoning Procedures Law (O.C.G.A. 36-66-1, et seq.; 36-67-1, et seq.; and, 36-67A-1, et seq. as amended) and provide necessary technical assistance.	20. Assist 2-5 local governments each year with Zoning and Land Use Ordinance authoring and adoption, amendment	NWGRC, local governments	2022-2025 \$20,000/yr.			Ongoing
		21. Work with training providers including UGA CVIIOG, DCA, GAZA, and GPA to provide at least one annual planning and zoning training in the region, and local training as requested	NWGRC, local governments, Training providers (GAZA, GPA, DCA, UGA CVIIOG)	2022-2025 \$1,000/ yr.			Postponed
Planning and Local Government Assistance							
Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans	Assist local governments to prepare and implement Comprehensive Plans and service delivery strategies in accordance with the Georgia Planning Act and Service Delivery Strategy Act, to	22. Assist 2-3 local governments/ year to prepare scheduled updates to local comprehensive plans – Bartow, Dade, Polk, Haralson, Walker plans prepared in 2022	NWGRC, local governments	2022-2025 \$60,000/yr.			Completed for 2022
		23. Assist 1-2 communities each year with PlanFirst applications	NWGRC, local governments	2022-2025 \$5,000/ yr.			Ongoing
		24. Prepare 20+ Development of Regional Impact reviews and	NWGRC, local governments	2023-2026 \$7,500/year			Ongoing

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Report of Accomplishments FY 2022-2025							
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing	Project Status
	implement projects and initiatives in the comprehensive plan, and to apply for PlanFirst designation	reports for projects meeting DRI thresholds					
		25. Prepare map of completed Developments of Regional Impact in the region	NWGRC	Staff time			Ongoing
		26. Provide assistance as requested to 1-3 communities/ year to review and update Service Delivery Strategy agreements as required- Whitfield in 2022	NWGRC, local governments	2022-2025 \$3,500/ yr.			Completed for 2022
		27. Provide planning assistance related to implementation of federal recovery funds and projects; assist with plan amendments as needed to reflect emerging priorities	NWGRC	2022-2025 \$5,000/ yr.			Ongoing
	Update the Regional Plan according to Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning	28. Update the <i>Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, 2019-2023</i> in 2023; prepare annual implementation reports.	NWGRC	2022-2024 \$7,500			Annual report in progress, update not yet begun
Provide resources to assist local governments to meet demands of growth, reinvestment, needs of rural areas	Provide outreach, training and technical assistance on planning and development needs of local governments	29. Develop marketing, branding, media, training and outreach materials, newsletter, and Facebook page for Regional Commission services and assistance	NWGRC local governments	2022-2023 \$5,000/ yr.			Ongoing

Report of Accomplishments FY 2022-2025							
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing	Project Status
		30. Prepare 20-30 local plan reviews, transportation plan review, environmental reviews, Section 106 reviews, and other coordinated reviews each year	NWGRC	2022-2025 \$5,000/ yr.			Ongoing
Transportation							
Provide safe, efficient movement of people and goods through Northwest Georgia to enhance economic growth	Improve coordination between local governments, GDOT, MPOs and federal agencies to implement regionally significant transportation projects	31. Participate in meetings of federal and state transportation agencies, Atlanta MPO, Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO, Greater Dalton MPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO; provide quarterly planning and coordination between these agencies and the NWGRC Council and non-MPO governments on regionally significant projects	NWGRC, GDOT, MPOs			Ongoing \$20,000/ yr.	Ongoing
		32. Prepare Regional Transit Study/ Assessment	GDOT, NWGRC	2022 \$40,000			Postponed for 2022, awaiting GDOT technical assistance

Report of Accomplishments FY 2022-2025							
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing	Project Status
		33. Implement FHWA Nat'l Economic Partnership Grant freight and truck parking study and THRIVE2055 transportation initiatives, representing NWGRC Counties of Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray	NWGRC, THRIVE2055	2022 \$5,000/yr.			Study Completed, Freight Mobility implementation is ongoing
		34. Incorporate all local bike/ ped plans into a regional database; identify favorable connection corridors between bike/ ped infrastructure	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike! Walk! NWGA	2022			Ongoing
		35. Assist local governments to prepare for regional TSPLOST/ TIA referendum: Reconvene TIA roundtable; hold regular meetings; assist with development of priorities, project list and data; Citizen Review Panels	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts, legislative delegation	2022 \$5,000			Postponed
		36. Coordinate with GDOT District 6 and/or Office of Planning and with local governments and MPOs in needs related to ARP and IIJA recovery funding, incl training, technical assistance, etc.	NWGRC, GDOT, local governments	2022-2025 \$5,000/ yr.			Underway

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Report of Accomplishments FY 2022-2025							
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing	Project Status
Improve connectivity of bike and pedestrian pathways throughout the region	Implement bike & pedestrian safety plans, GA Bicycle/ Pedestrian Safety Action Plans, Safe Routes to School, implement Complete Streets design	37. Staff and administer and update website for Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia to implement the Regional Bike and Pedestrian Safety Plan and local plans.	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike! Walk! NWGA	2022 \$5,000/ yr.			Ongoing
		38. Participate in 1-2 Safe Routes to School Resource Center walk safety audits per year and assist 1-2 schools and local governments/ year to implement audit recommendations and GDOT Complete Streets policies through planning, training, and grant writing assistance	NWGRC, GDOT, Safe Routes Resource Center	2022-2025 \$5,000/ yr.			Postponed
	Develop more trails and trails systems that connect to parks, neighborhoods, retail centers, libraries, workplaces, and downtowns	39. Assist Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities with planning and grant writing to implement the 2015 NW GA Feasibility Study for Bikeway & Pedestrian Multi-Use Trails	NWGRC, Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities, funding agencies, Chick-Chatt Greenway Association, THRIVE2055	2022-2025 \$7,500			Ongoing (LWCF and/or ARC application)

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Report of Accomplishments FY 2022-2025							
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing	Project Status
		40. Assist Floyd County, Cave Spring, Cedartown, and Polk County with planning and grant writing to implement the Cave Spring to Cedartown Trail Study	NWGRC, Floyd County, Cave Spring, Cedartown and Polk County, funding agencies	2022 Staff time			Completed, included in comprehensive plan updates
Broadband							
Improve broadband and telecommunication services	Partner with the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, local governments, providers, and other agencies and initiatives, and participate in the Georgia Broadband Ready Program.	41. Assist 1-5 communities/ year to apply for Broadband Ready designation	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2022-2025 \$5,000			Ongoing
		42. Assist 1-3 local governments/ year to amend their comprehensive plans to include a Broadband Element	NWGRC, local governments	2022-2025 \$5,000			Completed through updates of Comprehensive Plans
		43. Regional Broadband Committee of NWGRC Council and NWGRC staff: With GA Broadband Deployment Initiative and providers, assist 5-10 local governments/ year to identify and prioritize service and speed demand, identify gaps in infrastructure and costs to address those gaps, and to develop local and/or regional plans of action or feasibility study to address priority gaps in service	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2021-2022 \$5,000			Postponed

Report of Accomplishments FY 2022-2025							
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing	Project Status
		44. Provide planning and grant-writing assistance to 1-10 local governments/year to implement local broadband action plans or feasibility assessments	NWGRC, local governments, providers	2021-2022 \$7,500/ yr.			Postponed

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1.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINIMUM STANDARDS UPDATE

To encourage implementation of the Regional Plan, realize the Regional Vision and address the Regional Issues and Opportunities, the NWGRC set Minimum and Excellence thresholds for local governments as required by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Regional Planning Requirements. The Minimum Standard includes essential activities for consistency with the Regional Plan.

The Minimum Standard requirements are the same for all local governments in the region, as follows:

Number	Minimum Standard Requirement	Not Meeting	Action to assist
Min1	The local government has a comprehensive plan that complies with the <i>Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-12-1, Minimum Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning</i> and has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.	Braswell	NWGRC will offer assistance.
Min2	The local government has a Service Delivery Strategy (O.C.G.A. 36-70-22) that is verified by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.	None	
Min3	The municipal/county clerk meets the mandated orientation training as specified in State law (O.C.G.A. sections 36-1-24 and 36-45-20).	None	
Min4	Newly elected municipal/county officials participate in training sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association or the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.	None	
Min5	The local government uses the Guiding Principles contained in the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan as guidance for making decisions consistent with achieving the Regional Vision or addressing the Regional Priorities and Strategies.	None	
Min6	The local government uses the General Policies and Protection Measures in the <i>Northwest Georgia Regionally Important Resource Plan</i> when making decisions that affect Regionally Important Resources.	None	
Min7	The local government complies with the <i>Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-12-3, for Developments of Regional Impact</i> .	None	
Min8	A hazard mitigation plan approved by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.	None	
Min9	The local government has the ability to send and receive electronic communications.	None	
Min10	The local government meets state financial reporting requirements.	Aragon, Braswell, Buchanan, Ranger, and Resaca have more than one delinquent report (Report of Local Govt Finance and Government Management Indicators).	NWGRC will continue to offer assistance.
Min11	The local government meets E-Verify requirements through Department of Audits.	City of White, City of Braswell, City of Ranger	NWGRC will continue to offer assistance.

1.5 REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS

COVID-19 caused changes in operations for local governments, Regional Commissions and state agencies and some ongoing effects are still seen, however federal funding is now coming to state and local governments for infrastructure, broadband, and economic recovery. Developments of Regional Impact are seen often. Comprehensive planning is now more critical than ever. CARES Act Supplemental EDA funding is now in place for NWGRC Community and Economic Development including preparation of a regional resiliency plan and identifying local and regional projects. COVID-related SBA and EDA loan funding assistance was also provided by NWGRC. New projects are indicated with an underline, while projects that were completed or dropped are shown in ~~striketrough~~.

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NWGRC 2023 Annual Regional Plan Implementation Update

Regional Work Program FY 2023-2026						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
Economic Development						
Ensure infrastructure is in place across region to meet needs of existing and new business and industry.	Implement regional and local plans and strategies for infrastructure improvements needed to support job creation/retention and private investment	1. Assist 10-15 communities as identified annually to improve or expand infrastructure to support economic development through grant writing, planning, and document/plan updates and to implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; assist with projects related to ARP, IIJA, recovery funds	NWGRC	2023-2026 \$70,000/ YR		
		2. Update the Northwest Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)	NWGRC	2022 \$10,000		
		2. Implement Cares Act Supplemental Assistance for EDD Partnership Planning Grant Funds to identify potential resiliency, mitigation, and economic recovery projects in NW Georgia.	NWGRC	2023-2026 \$400,000		
Focus on improvement of skills for jobs in Northwest Georgia (specific training and skill development for the	Improve local and regional partnerships between industry/ business, workforce development providers, and educational	3. Develop and implement education, training, and employment opportunities for unemployed/ underemployed individuals in Northwest Georgia; provide leadership training and work ready skills	WIOA, Local Governments	2023-2026		Federal funds

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Regional Work Program FY 2023-2026						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
jobs and industries in our region).	institutions both K-12 and post-secondary, and community leadership.	for ages 14-21 through approved training providers; and provide layoff support services, under direction of Workforce Development Board.				
Improve competitiveness of Northwest Georgia communities to attract and retain business and industry	Provide planning and funding assistance to increase economic competitiveness in coordination with state and federal agencies	4. Provide loan packaging to assist 5-10 businesses each year to expand operations or add jobs, including assessment of need, preparation of loan packages and financial planning in partnership with EDA and lending institutions, and with COVID-19-related loan assistance	NWGRC, EDA, Lenders, Businesses	2023-2026 \$95,000		
Housing						
There is a lack of safe, affordable housing and a lack of mid to high range housing investment in downtowns	Incentivize redevelopment of blighted or vacant areas for residential use; provide assistance for range of local government housing needs	5. Work with state agencies to hold 1-2 regional workshops per year, including Housing Resource Workshops, to provide resources and training for local governments and agencies on regional housing issues and needs	NWGRC, DCA, UGA, GICH, GA Conservancy, GA Power	2023-2026 \$3,000		
		6. Assist 1-2 communities/ YR to apply for GA Initiatives for Community Housing (GICH) and to complete program	NWGRC, local governments	2023-2026 \$7,500/ YR		
		7. Survey local governments to determine interest in "circuit-	NWGRC	2023 \$1,000/ YR		

NWGRC 2023 Annual Regional Plan Implementation Update

Regional Work Program FY 2023-2026						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
		riding” or shared assistance program for code enforcement, zoning, and related assistance				
		8. If enough communities express interest, develop local government pilot program for “circuit-riding” or shared assistance with code enforcement, zoning, and related assistance	NWGRC, DCA, local governments	2023-2026 \$5,000		
Natural and Historic Resources						
More people need to connect with Northwest Georgia’s natural resources so they will enjoy and protect its diversity and beauty	Identify, protect, preserve and promote identified Regionally Important Resources	9. Complete update of the Regional Resource Plan per Section 110-12-4-, 02(4) of Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs, including recommended actions to address critical resources and improve access to natural resources	NWGRC	2023-2024 \$5,000		
		10. Implement RIR plan: Develop publicly accessible GIS database and maps highlighting region’s historic, cultural, and natural assets	NWGRC	2024-2026 \$7,500/ YR		
	Promote trails, greenways and blueways; Improve safety, visibility, and access to trails and	11. Provide planning and grant writing assistance to 1-5 communities/ year to plan for expansion of and safety improvements to land and	NWGRC, local governments, DNR and grant agencies, SORBA, SETPL, other groups	2023-2026 \$7,500/ YR		

NWGRC 2023 Annual Regional Plan Implementation Update

Regional Work Program FY 2023-2026						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
	blueways and add access points	water trails, parks and recreation areas, trailheads, and water access/ put ins, including assistance related to recovery funds				
Preserve irreplaceable historic and cultural resources through inventory, citizen engagement, planning and funding assistance	Identify and preserve historic and cultural resources	12. Prepare 1-2 National Register preliminary determinations and nominations for regionally significant historical assets and/or assist 1-2 local governments/ YR to prevent loss of HPD Certified Local Government (CLG) status	NWGRC, HPD	2023-2026 \$15,000/ YR		
		13. Digitize NWGRC historic resource documents including National Register listings, historic resource surveys	NWGRC, Bandy Heritage Center	2023-2026 \$6,000		
		19. Assist 1-2 local governments/ YR to prevent loss of HPD-Certified Local Government (CLG) status through technical assistance or grant writing to update ordinances, surveys, etc.	NWGRC, HPD, local govts	2021-2024 \$10,000/ YR		
Maintain surface and groundwater quality throughout the region to meet	Apply for funding to improve water quality, manage stormwater, restore streambanks, and protect water	20. Prepare Dozier Creek, Dykes Creek, Woodward Creek, Etowah River (Hwy 411-Coosa R.), Watershed Management Plans for USDA NRCS NWOI	NWGRC, Limestone Valley RC&D	2021 \$20,000		

NWGRC 2023 Annual Regional Plan Implementation Update

Regional Work Program FY 2023-2026						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
federal and state regulations	resources in the region	17. Apply for funds to implement the 2019 Woodward Creek Watershed Management Plan	NWGRC, Limestone Valley RC&D	2022-2025 \$5,000		
		14. Administer finances and grant funds and provide staff support for monthly and annual meetings of the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership	NWGRC	2023-2026 \$5,000/yr.		
		15. Assist the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, or local governments and utilities to apply for state and federal funding to implement Regional Water Plans and related studies	NWGRC	2023-2026 \$7,500/yr.		
		16. Administer FY2023 Regional Water Plan Seed Grant funds to Implement Lake Lanier Pilot Nutrient Trading Study with	Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, N GA Water Resources Partnership, NWGRC, GAEPD, TetraTech	2023-2024 \$2,000 year Staff time		
		17. Administer SFY22 RWP Seed Grant funds for Coosa-North Georgia Water Council project to provide water quality modeling of proposed increases in Lake Lanier elevation levels.	Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, N GA Water Resources Partnership, TetraTech, other parties, GAEPD, NWGRC	2023 Staff time		
		18. Assist local governments with planning resources for green infrastructure, culvert redesign and improvement,	NWGRC, GAWP, DCA, others	2022-2023 Staff time		

NWGRC 2023 Annual Regional Plan Implementation Update

Regional Work Program FY 2023-2026						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
		greenspace and conservation design, etc.				
Land Use						
Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans and that balances conservation with development needs	Assist local governments to comply with current Georgia Zoning Procedures Law (O.C.G.A. 36-66-1, et seq.; 36-67-1, et seq.; and, 36-67A-1, et seq. as amended) and provide necessary technical assistance.	19. Assist 2-5 local governments each year with Zoning and Land Use Ordinance authoring and adoption, amendment	NWGRC, local governments	2023-2026 \$20,000/yr.		
		20. Work with training providers including UGA CVIOG, DCA, GAZA, and GPA to provide at least one annual planning and zoning training in the region, and/or local training as requested	NWGRC, local governments, Training providers (GAZA, GPA, DCA, UGA CVIOG)	2023-2026 \$1,000/ yr.		
		21. Prepare 20+ Development of Regional Impact reviews and reports for projects meeting DRI thresholds	NWGRC, local governments	2023-2026 \$7,500/year		
		22. Prepare map of completed Developments of Regional Impact in the region	NWGRC	2023-2026 Staff time		
Local Government Planning Assistance						
Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans		23. Provide planning assistance related to implementation of federal recovery funds and projects; assist with plan amendments as needed to reflect emerging priorities	NWGRC	2023-2026 \$5,000/ yr.		

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Regional Work Program FY 2023-2026						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
and that balances conservation with development needs		24. Assist with preparation of 3-6 scheduled updates to joint comprehensive plans – Bartow, Gordon, Pickens, and Murray Counties and Municipalities in 2023	NWGRC, local governments	2023-2026 \$60,000/yr.		
Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans	Assist local governments to prepare and implement Comprehensive Plans and service delivery strategies in accordance with the Georgia Planning Act and Service Delivery Strategy Act, to implement projects and initiatives in the comprehensive plan, and to apply for PlanFirst designation.	29. Meet with 5-10 local governments each year to discuss topics related to local planning and implementation; assist with plan amendments as needed to reflect emerging priorities	NWGRC, local governments	2023-2026 \$3,000/yr.		
		25. Provide assistance as requested to 1-3 communities/ year to review and update Service Delivery Strategy agreements as required	NWGRC, local governments	2023-2026 \$3,500/ yr.		
		26. Assist 1-2 communities each year with PlanFirst applications	NWGRC, local governments	2023-2026 \$5,000/ yr.		
		27. Update the <i>Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, 2019-2023</i> in 2023; prepare annual implementation reports.	NWGRC	2023-2024 \$7,500		
	Update the Regional Plan according to Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning					

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Regional Work Program FY 2023-2026						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
	Provide outreach, training and technical assistance on planning and development needs of local governments	28. Develop marketing, branding, media, training and outreach materials, newsletter, and Facebook page for Regional Commission services and assistance	NWGRC, local governments	2023-2026 \$5,000/ yr.		
		29. Prepare 20-30 local plan reviews, transportation plan review, environmental reviews, Section 106 reviews, and other coordinated reviews each year	NWGRC	2023-2026 \$5,000/ yr.		
Transportation						
Provide safe, efficient movement of people and goods through Northwest Georgia to enhance economic growth;	Improve coordination between local governments, GDOT, MPOs and federal agencies to implement regionally significant transportation projects	30. Prepare Regional Transit Study/ Assessment	GDOT, NWGRC	2024 \$40,000		
		31. Participate in meetings of federal and state transportation agencies, Atlanta MPO, Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO, Greater Dalton MPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO; provide quarterly planning and coordination between these agencies and the NWGRC Council and non-MPO governments on regionally significant projects	NWGRC, GDOT, MPOs			Ongoing \$20,000/yr.

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Regional Work Program FY 2023-2026						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
		32. Implement THRIVE2055 transportation and freight mobility initiatives, representing NWGRC Counties of Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray	NWGRC, THRIVE2055	2023-2026 \$5,000/yr.		
		33. Incorporate all local bike/ped plans into a regional database; identify favorable connection corridors between bike/ ped infrastructure	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike! Walk! NWGA	2023-2026 \$10,000		
		34. Coordinate with GDOT District 6 and/or Office of Planning and with local governments and MPOs in needs related to ARP and IJJA recovery funding, incl training, technical assistance, etc.	NWGRC, GDOT, local governments	2023-2026 \$5,000/ yr.		
Improve connectivity of bike and pedestrian pathways throughout the region	Implement bike & pedestrian safety plans, GA Bicycle/ Pedestrian Safety Action Plans, Safe Routes to School, implement Complete Streets design	35. Staff and administer and update website for Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia to implement the Regional Bike and Pedestrian Safety Plan and local plans.	NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike! Walk! NWGA	2023-2026 \$5,000/ yr.		
		36. Participate in 1-2 Safe Routes to School Resource Center walk safety audits per year and assist 1-2 schools and local governments/ year to implement audit recommendations and GDOT Complete Streets policies	NWGRC, GDOT, Safe Routes Resource Center	2023-2026 \$5,000/ yr.		

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Regional Work Program FY 2023-2026						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
		through planning, training, and grant writing assistance				
	Develop more trails and trails systems that connect to parks, neighborhoods, retail centers, libraries, workplaces, and downtowns	37. Assist Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities with planning and grant writing to implement the 2015 NW GA Feasibility Study for Bikeway & Pedestrian Multi-Use Trails including development of Chick-Chatt greenway, trail, and Lookout Mountain trail connections	NWGRC, Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities, funding agencies, Chick-Chatt Greenway Association, THRIVE2055	2023-2026 \$7,500		
Broadband						
Assess needs regarding 5G, provide assistance and resources Improve broadband and telecommunication services	Partner with the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, local governments, providers, and other agencies and initiatives, and participate in the Georgia Broadband Ready Program.	38. Assist 1-5 communities/ year to apply for Broadband Ready designation	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2023-2026 \$5,000		
		39. Regional Broadband Committee of NWGRC Council and NWGRC staff: With GA Broadband Deployment Initiative and providers, assist 5-10 local governments/ year to identify and prioritize service and speed demand, identify gaps in infrastructure and costs to address those gaps, and to develop local and/or regional plans of action or feasibility	NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers	2022-2025 \$5,000		

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Regional Work Program FY 2023-2026						
Priority	Strategy	Action	Partners	Short-Term (1-5 yrs.)	Long-Term (6-10 yrs.)	Ongoing
		study to address priority gaps in service; including assistance for Federal and state ARPA/IIJA funding				
		40. Provide planning and grant-writing assistance to 1-10 local governments/year to implement local broadband action plans or feasibility assessments; including assistance for Federal and state ARPA/IIJA funding	NWGRC, local governments, providers	2022-2025 \$7,500/ yr.		

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1.6 PUBLIC HEARING AND STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION DOCUMENTATION

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NWGRC website

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