

2018-2019
Annual Report



**Georgia Mountains
Regional Commission**



Your Regional Commission



13

Counties Served

51

Communities Served

57

Years

3

Award
Winning
Projects in
FY19

5

Program Areas

44

Member Council

719,000

Citizens Served

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From The Chairman

As I write this Chairman's report, I am reminded of just how fast years can pass. What an honor it has been to serve this organization for the last four years. To serve along so many dedicated community leaders, to serve with the many fantastic volunteers we have in our private sector appointees, and to work with such a professional staff, has been an honor. This organization sets forth every day with the goal to make our Georgia Mountains Region a better place to live, work, raise a family, vacation, and retire. This Council and staff maintains a clear focus in each of these categories.



The work of Georgia Mountains once again stands out by being awarded three National Association of Development Organization (NADO) Impact Awards. The national recognition of these projects reinforces the importance of each county and city to look around and take note of the projects and services GMRC provides for your neighbors. These same projects could be for your community as well. This year's NADO awards were awarded for the following projects: 1) The City of Toccoa Historic Resource Survey performed by the Planning Department; 2) The Georgia Renewable Power project in Franklin County prepared by the Economic Development Department, and 3) The GMRC Story Map Project which involved work from the entire GMRC staff. Of course, there are many more projects that were completed and others that are currently under way such as the very successful Census 2020 effort helping organize our communities to get the most accurate census numbers possible.

I would also like to highlight the efforts of our WorkSource Georgia Mountains program. This department of Georgia Mountains is federally funded under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). There are several different areas, and each offers many different services for the citizens in our communities that need it most. Youth and adult programs, On-The-Job-Training, Apprenticeships, Internships, Adult College and GED assistance programs are just a few of the areas WorkSource Georgia Mountains is involved in working with our communities. Keep up the good work!

One thing I can say with confidence about the future of our Georgia Mountains Region is that we will grow, and we will thrive. I look forward to serving with the new leadership team of Sam Norton, George Wangemann, and Ken Schubring, and of course, our great staff and Executive Director Heather Feldman as they continue to seek new ways to guide Georgia Mountains Regional Commission to make our region a better place for everyone.

Thank You!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Scarborough', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Dean Scarborough
Chairman



From The Executive Director



The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission strives to be a regional leader in driving collaboration and strategy within our 13 county region on issues that are critical to economic growth, quality of life, and sustainability of the region.

The GMRC has been a strong advocate for a regional approach to economic and community development over the past 57 years.

The GMRC has been concerned with economic growth in a sustainable manner and places specific emphasis on providing staff support for

planning commissions, rural transportation planning, public infrastructure planning, industrial development, small business financing, support for entrepreneurship, recreation and open space planning, historic preservation planning, housing planning, and workforce development initiatives such as Incumbent Worker Training, On-the-Job Training, and Apprenticeship programs. As the narrative continues to focus on regionalism, the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission stands ready to play an active role in our region's challenges and seeking new opportunities for programs and services to assist our local governments. The role of the GMRC will remain significant as we face future demands and opportunities.

Each year, the Annual Report provides us with the opportunity to showcase a variety of activities that we have been involved with over the past fiscal year. While specific activities are very diverse, there are some commonalities that define what we do as an organization every day. As specified in our Strategic Plan, the GMRC's Core Values include **Collaboration, Service, Trust, Innovation, Sustainability, and Rewarding**. These core values serve as our guiding principles in all that we do.

It is my privilege to present the work of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission for FY 2019. The coordination between GMRC staff and the communities we serve has resulted in several new projects, many of which are highlighted in this report. These projects highlight the diverse and competent work of the GMRC staff, and I want to express my sincere appreciation to all staff for their professionalism and dedication in meeting the needs of our communities and citizens of this region.

I would also like to thank all of the Council Members for their support. Without their guidance and leadership, we would not be able to achieve the success that we have had. I appreciate their time and dedication given each month to the GMRC.

Sincerely,

Heather Feldman

Heather J. Feldman
Executive Director

GMRC Council 2018-2019

Dean Scarborough | Stephens County | Chairman
Sam Norton | City of Dahlonega | Vice-Chairman
George Wangemann | City of Gainesville | Secretary
Danny Maxwell | Banks County
Jerry Payne | Town of Homer
Vicki Boling | Banks County Private Sector
Billy Thurmond | Dawson County
Mike Eason | City of Dawsonville
David Headley | Dawson County Private Sector
Pete Amos | Forsyth County *
Laura Semanson | Forsyth County *
Jason Evans | City of Cumming
Robert Long | Forsyth County Private Sector
Thomas Bridges | Franklin County
Ralph Owens | City of Lavonia
Gerald Voyles | Franklin County Private Sector
Natalie Crawford | Habersham County
Audrey Turner | Town of Alto
Ken Schubring | Habersham County Private Sector
Richard Higgins | Hall County
Deborah Mack | Hall County Private Sector
Ricky Carter | Hart County
Tray Hicks | City of Hartwell
William Chafin | Hart County Private Sector
Chris Dockery | Lumpkin County
J.B. Jones | Lumpkin County Private Sector
Greg James | Rabun County
Debbie Chisholm | City of Clayton
Douglas Wayne | Rabun County Private Sector
David Austin | City of Toccoa
Connie Tabor | Stephens County Private Sector
Cliff Bradshaw | Towns County
David Stovall | Towns County *
Liz Ordiales | City of Hiawassee
Denise McKay | Towns County Private Sector *
Lamar Paris | Union County
Jim Conley | City of Blairsville
Mitch Griggs | Union County Private Sector
Travis Turner | White County
Annie Sutton | City of Cleveland
Bill Black | White County Private Sector
Rex Farmer | Governor Appointee
Angela Whidby | Governor Appointee
Will Wade | Governor Appointee

* *Served Partial Year*



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



16
Grant
Applications
Completed

1,892
jobs created in
Region 2

\$471
Million in Private
Investment

It is the vision of the Economic Development Department to foster a dynamic regional economy by supporting local community efforts that facilitate job growth, business retention, recreational opportunities, sound infrastructure, tourism, and quality healthcare.

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

The mission of the ARC is to innovate, partner and invest to build capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia. The Economic Development Department was proud to assist with the following grant awards:

- **City of Demorest Strategic Plan - \$10,000**
- **City of Franklin Springs Regional Water Plan - \$56,000**
- **Gainesville-Hall County Development Authority Apprenticeship 101 - \$300,000**
- **Dawson County Development Authority Economic Development Plan - \$50,000**

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

EDA invests in infrastructure, capacity building and business development that attract private capital investments and high quality jobs. The Economic Development Department assisted with the following grant projects:

- **City of Lavonia Water Infrastructure - \$2,000,000**
- **City of Hartwell Sewer Infrastructure - \$2,500,000**

OneGeorgia

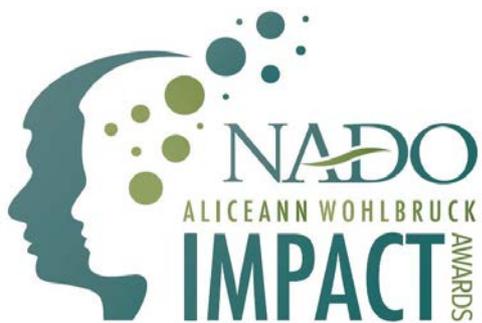
From land acquisition and infrastructure development to machinery purchases, business relocation assistance and entrepreneur support, OneGeorgia provides grants and loans for these economic development activities to qualified applicants. The Economic Development Department assisted with the following project:

- **Banks County Development Authority SELIT Project - \$250,000**

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA)

USDA Rural Development offers loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential community services. The Economic Development Department assisted with the following project:

- **City of Cornelia Appletree Alley Project - \$99,990**



Congratulations to **Franklin County** for being awarded a NADO Impact Award. In 2018, the Appalachian Regional Commission awarded a \$2,225,177 grant to assist in funding water infrastructure improvements to support Georgia Renewable Power (GRP) in Franklin, Madison, and Elbert Counties. The project will create over 100 new jobs and yield \$565 million in private investment.



Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was established by Congress in 1964 to fulfill a bipartisan commitment to safeguard our natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. Using zero taxpayer dollars, the fund invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve our history and protect our national endowment of lands and waters. The Economic Development Department assisted the following communities: **City of Carnesville** Splash Pad - \$87,500; **White County** Playground - \$50,000; **Stephens County** Splash Pad - \$100,000; **City of Lavonia** – Park Improvements \$85,000

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, the GMRC's Economic Development Department's goal is to assist in the creation of a diversified, well-balanced, progressive economy for the region. In FY19, the CEDS committee evaluated regional strategies and completed an annual update which emphasized the need for the development of a Regional Transportation Plan, increased broadband capacity, infrastructure security, expanded natural gas service, support for the film industry and increasing development of affordable housing.

City Charter Updates and Reviews

City charters establish the government structure of a city and defines boundaries, specific powers, functions, essential procedures, and legal control. The Economic Development Department is now assisting our governments with Charter updates and reviews. The **City of Clarkesville** approved their Charter revision in October 2019.

Contact Information:

Daniel Martin, Director of Economic Development
dmartin@gmrc.ga.gov

Patrick Larson, Senior Project Manager
plarson@gmrc.ga.gov

Laurin Yoder, Project Manager
lyoder@gmrc.ga.gov

Gina Kessler, Grants Administrator
gkessler@gmrc.ga.gov



Pictured L to R: Daniel Martin, Gina Kessler, Laurin Yoder and Patrick Larson

INFORMATION SERVICES

It is our vision to provide the geospatial services that fulfill the needs of our local governments. We will work in partnership to provide accurate, consistent, high quality, affordable and complete geospatial data. While raising the awareness of using GIS as a powerful tool, we will educate our local governments regarding technological advancements in software, hardware, and data.

U.S. Census Bureau PSAP and New Construction Programs

The Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) provides local governments the opportunity to review and modify statistical geographies that include Census tracts, block groups, designated places and county divisions. The New Construction Program allows local governments to add addresses to the previously submitted Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). The Information Services Department assisted the following communities with these programs: **Banks, Franklin, Stephens, Towns** and **White** counties along with the towns of **Alto** and **Clermont** and cities of **Buford** and **Toccoa**.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure Mapping

The Information Services Department assisted the **City of Hiawassee** with an update of their Water and Sewer Infrastructure maps. Using the Trimble Geo7 GPS unit with its sub-foot accuracy level, all of the manholes and water valves are being collected in the field located on the City's Water and Sewer System. GMRC staff has used the 2018 3" pixel resolution photography and other paper and digital maps to create a complete set of digital maps for use by the Mayor and Water/Sewer utility crews.

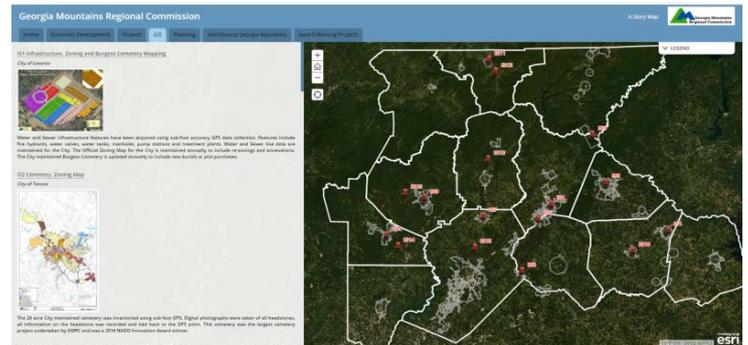
MAP 21

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act is an enhancement of federal efforts to improve the safety and efficiency of America's roadway transportation system. Map-21 requires states to report characteristics on the public road system (state, county, and city). GMRC has completed the above tasks for **Hall, Dawson, Lumpkin, Habersham, Banks, Towns** and **White** counties and all cities located within them.



GMRC StoryMap

GMRC created an on-line StoryMap illustrating two years of projects (2017 & 2018) from each department within the organization. The StoryMap is a visual tool which highlights the project successes of the regional commission. Each project is signified by a pin on the map and includes a full description, photos and the partners involved. The GMRC StoryMap can be accessed via the internet and is fully functional with zoom in/out capabilities. The Story Map can be accessed here: <https://arcg.is/OqjvH>

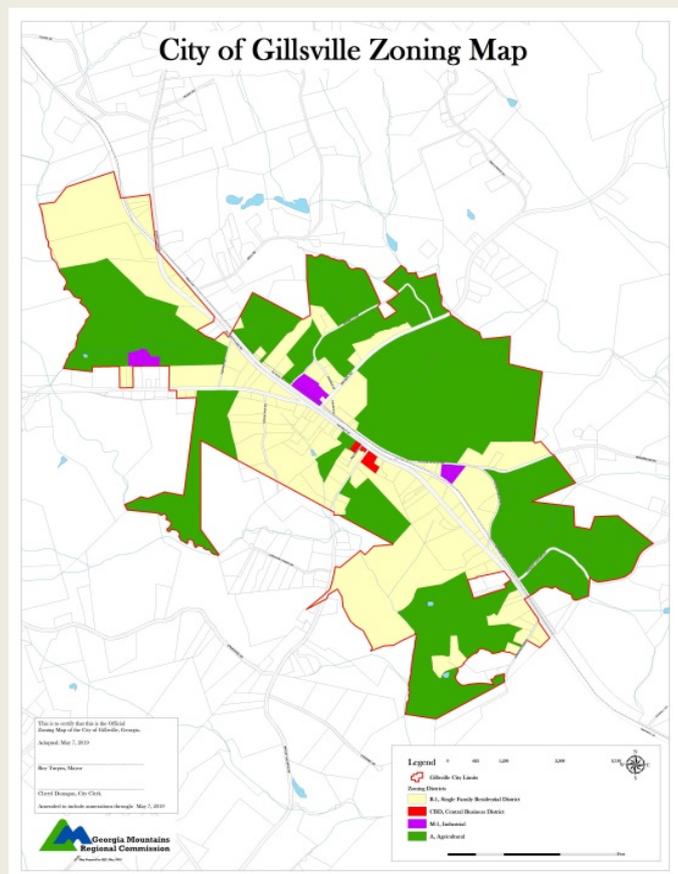


Boundary Mapping

To prepare for the upcoming 2020 Census, the **City of Gillsville** reviewed ten years of City Council meeting minutes and annexation records to determine their true municipal boundary. The annexed parcels were reported to the Department of Community Affairs and have been added to the U.S. Census Boundary and Annexation files during the BAS2019 process. The annexed parcels were assigned a zoning district and a new zoning map was created. The Official Zoning Map for the City of Gillsville was adopted May 7, 2019. Also created and adopted by the City Council was a Voting District Map.

Towns County Parcels and Road Right-of-Way Project

Over the past five years, GMRC staff has been assisting **Towns County** Tax Assessors Office with updating digital tax parcel maps with splits, merges and new subdivisions. This year road right-of-ways were included. In coordination with the County Road Department, we are determining ownership, lane width, surface type, shoulder width and right-of-way for every road in the county. This information is invaluable for the tax assessors office for property valuation and assessing true ownership of road right-of-way area.



Pictured L to R: Brandon Carlock and Faith Bryan

Contact Information:
Faith Bryan, Director of Information Services
fbryan@gmrc.ga.gov

Brandon Carlock, GIS Technician
bcarlock@gmrc.ga.gov

PLANNING



The goal of the GMRC Planning Department is to provide resources, information, and support to communities as they seek to positively shape their future in the most effective manner possible. By providing more information and insight to the decision makers at the local and State level, the Planning Department helps communities use their resources more efficiently, making progress toward achieving their vision and keeping the character intact. In addition to the development of local Comprehensive Plans, the Department also provided technical support on projects ranging from Service Delivery Strategy updates to local government retreats to branding exercises and more.

Regional Plan Update

During FY19, the GMRC began the state required update to the Regional Plan, which is a merged document with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The 5-year state update is done to ensure the information and analysis for matters such as land use, environmental protection, and community development issues is reflective of current conditions and objectives. The process involved an advisory committee, public meetings, and online surveys while staff worked to amend document material.

Regional Reviews

As part of our state duties for the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the GMRC conducts reviews for local comprehensive plans and projects and ensures compliance with state and federal regulations as well as working to prevent conflicting land uses or overtaxing of local resources and infrastructure.

Review Type	Total
Local Comprehensive Plans	9
Developments of Regional Impact	6
Metropolitan River Protection Act	3
State Intergovernmental (A-95)	4
Natural Resource (Sec. 106)	13

PlanFirst Communities

PlanFirst is a Department of Community Affairs (DCA) program to reward communities that clearly demonstrate an established pattern of successfully implementing their Local Comprehensive Plan. Successful applicants receive 3 years of eligibility for various rewards, such as the option to apply for Community Development Block Grants annually and bonus points on other DCA applications. GMRC helped compile and author applications for the cities of **Clayton** and **Cornelia**.



Figure 27. Georgian House Type, Trugden Hayes House, 101 E. Savannah Street, built 1904. GRANHS01 #18386. Similar to the Georgian Cottage, the Georgian House type was primarily built from 1900 to 1930. This would have followed the popularity that the cottage type received when the greatest concentration were built from 1850 to 1900. The floor plan is reminiscent of 18th-century English Georgian architecture and the square plan features a central hallway with two rooms on either side and a hipped or gabled roof with wide eaves. Chimneys may be located on the exterior but often are found in the interior so that they may serve two rooms. A recessed porch and double hung sash windows are also common. The exterior material is often wood siding, shingles or a combination.

The GMRC’s **Toccoa** Historic Resources Survey was named a 2019 Impact Award winner for the National Association of Development Organizations. This architectural assessment surveyed almost 800 properties and allows the city and the State to utilize the information in future planning and historic preservation decisions.

Educational Programs

The Planning Department continues to produce and promote educational forums such as regular Lunch-and-Learn events. Covering new and critical issues facing local communities these events are designed to provide area planners and local stakeholders with resources and tools for updating their policies and programs in the face of evolving development issues. Recently discussed topics include the state’s new planning rules, managing short-term rental properties, and the Georgia Broadband Initiative.

Environmental Support

The Planning Department maintains a variety of support programs for local communities and with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) aimed at preserving the quality of local aquatic resources and area habitats. This can include the development of watershed management plans, water quality monitoring, and resource surveys. During FY19, the GMRC continued to oversee watershed improvement projects within the Upper Chestatee River Basin and the Stekoa Creek watersheds, working with area stakeholders to implement stream bank mitigation and stormwater runoff control measures.

City of Maysville Projects - Overlay District and Amphitheater Concepts

The Planning Department continued supporting the **City of Maysville** with efforts to improve their community. The GMRC assisted the city in drafting an ordinance to enhance the quality and compatibility of development in the Overlay District with historic appearance and character of Maysville. During this process, the GMRC worked with local stakeholders to develop the conceptual layout, location, and design for this addition to their City Park.

Hartwell Historic Resource Survey

The GMRC retains a historic preservation specialist and works with the State Historic Preservation Office to support local efforts to protect, restore, and revitalize historic sites and structures. This can include resource surveys, property assessments, and guidance on restoration and reuse. This project involved the survey and assessment of structures throughout and around the urban core of the **City of Hartwell**, both to update state records and provide the city with additional information in use of managing their codes and ordinances in protecting historic properties.

Hudson River Dam

The purpose of this Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is to reduce the risk of human life loss and injury and minimize property damage during an unusual or emergency event at Hudson River Watershed, Dam # 11. This document identifies the likely impacted area in the event of downstream flooding and ensures emergency responders know the approximate area from which to evacuate residents and target response efforts.

Contact Information:

Adam Hazell, Director of Planning
 ahazell@gmrc.ga.gov

Caleb Davidson, Regional Planner
 cdavidson@gmrc.ga.gov

Joe Rothwell, Regional Planner
 jrothwell@gmrc.ga.gov



Pictured L to R: Caleb Davidson, Joe Rothwell and Adam Hazell

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The goal of WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM) is to build a world-class workforce that enables individuals to achieve their highest potential; ensures employers have the skilled workers they need to compete effectively in the global economy; and to capitalize on the untapped potential of underemployed and dislocated workers, youth, and other job seekers with special needs.

WSGM provides funding for education and training to eligible individuals to enhance their current skills or learn a new trade. WSGM also supplies funding and services for Georgians who lose their job as a result of plant closures, mass layoffs, and other effects of the changing economy.

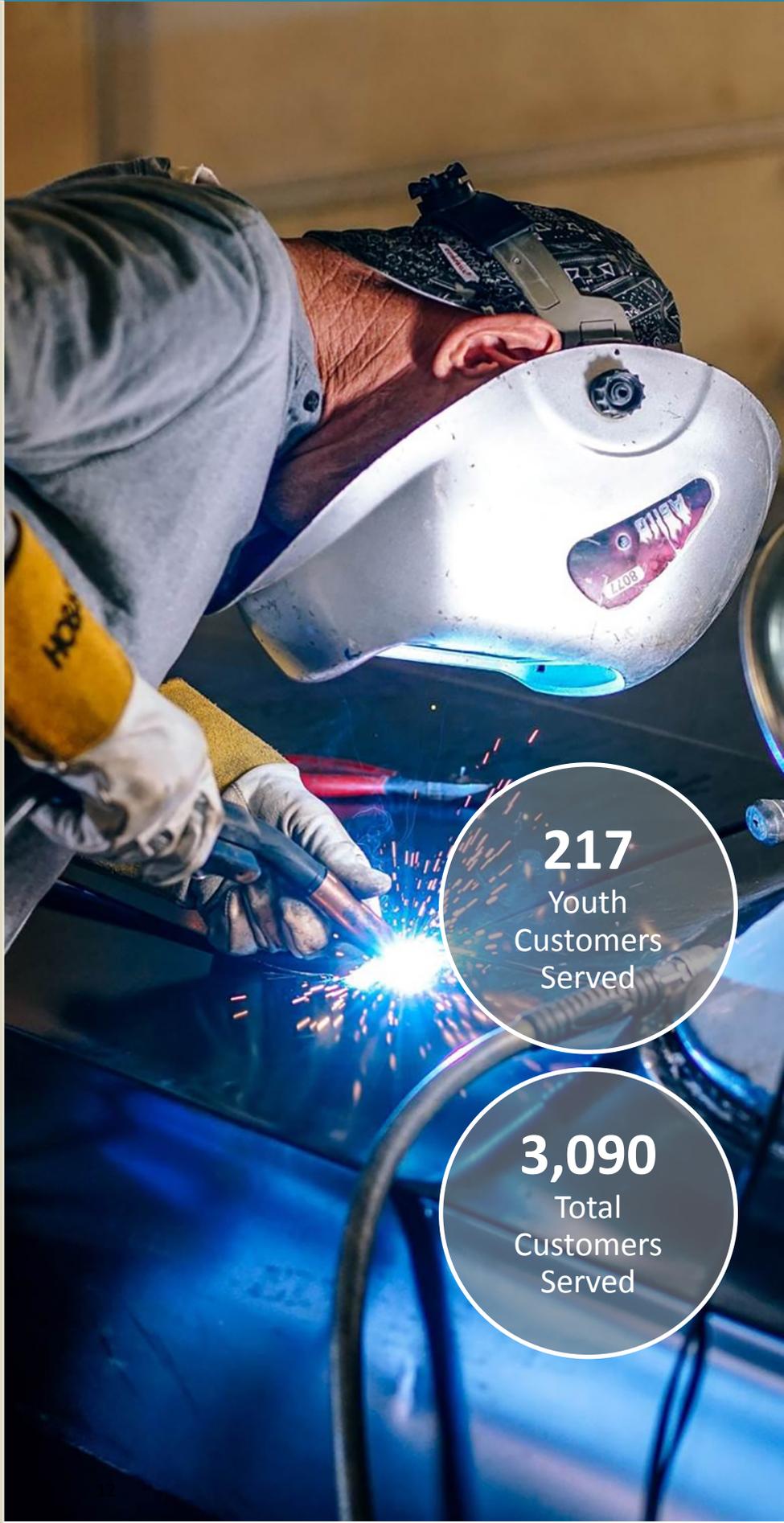
WSGM's mission is to provide workers with the skills and credentials necessary to secure and advance in employment with family-sustaining wages and to provide America's employers with the skilled workers they need to succeed in a global economy.

As a component of the High Demand Career Initiative grant received by WSGM, a contract was initiated with Maher and Maher for the development of a comprehensive sector strategy for Advanced and Diversified Manufacturing. This includes both durable goods manufacturing and a number of non-durable goods sub - 43 industries. In 2019, the efforts were revealed which outlined a regional industrial maintenance career pathway, a collaborative series of both Lanier and North Georgia Tech technical training modules, a plan for aligning work-based learning programs directly with interested employers and career awareness marketing flyer, talking points, and a calendar for manufacturing career awareness activities.

Success Story

I was a single mother trying to support my children as a supervisor at Wal-Mart. I wanted to finish school but needed assistance. I heard about WIOA through North Georgia Technical College. I enjoyed attending NGTC and feel accomplished now that I have finished my training. WIOA services made it possible for me to achieve my goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. The tuition assistance makes it possible for you to concentrate on school instead of worrying about money.

*Melissa Dalton
Registered Nurse*



217
Youth
Customers
Served

3,090
Total
Customers
Served

Adult Services

Occupational Skills Training

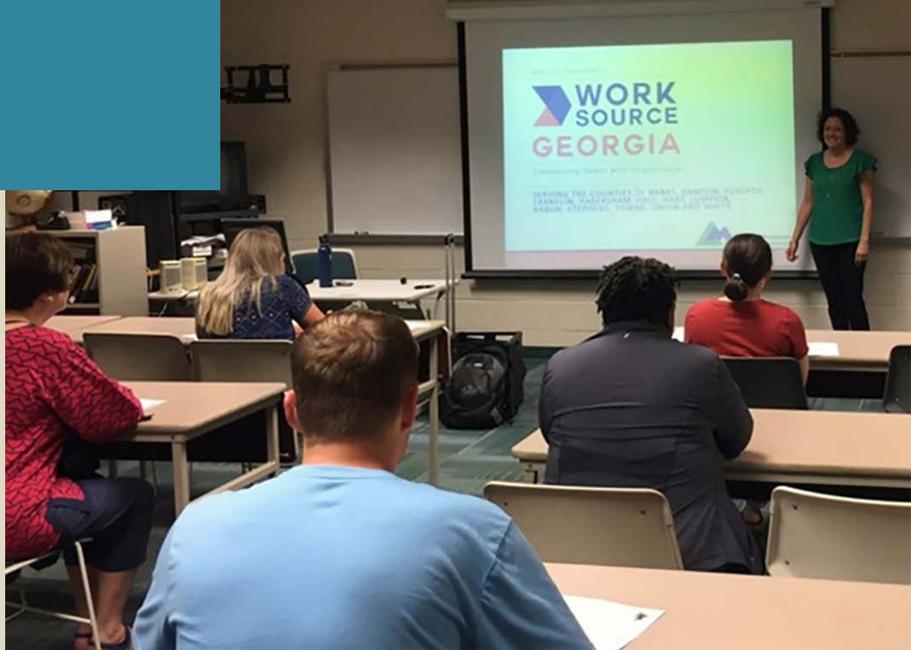
WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM) serves adults and dislocated workers in the region who have been laid off, are unemployed, or underemployed. All participants train in a Growth and Demand Occupation for the Georgia Mountains Region and are working toward earning a certificate, diploma, or degree at a participating college or technical school, GED, or professional license.

WSGM enrolled 291 new participants in occupational skills training this year which is a 30% increase from Program Year 2017. Services received include the cost of tuition, books, and supplies along with supportive services such as gas and childcare reimbursements while attending classes and job search support once training is completed.

All potential participants attend an Overview session before applying for WorkSource assistance. This year 1,312 potential participants attended an Overview to learn about the benefits and eligibility requirements of WIOA services before filling out an application. In an effort to better meet the needs of individuals in our region, the Overview is now offered in person, through scheduled online sessions, onboard the Career Coach, or through a self-guided session available on the WSGM public office computers. Application assistance has also been added to help customers; 199 individuals took advantage of this service with 126 submitting applications.

Transition Programs

The goal of the Transition Welding and Transition Culinary programs is to allow participants to earn a skill with which they can make a living wage upon release and help lower recidivism rates. WSGM, in partnership with the Hall County Correctional Institution, Arrendale State Prison, Goodwill of Northeast Georgia, Lanier Technical College, and North Georgia Technical College, has offered occupational and job skills training to 46 soon-to-be-released incarcerated individuals.



Mobile Career Coaches



The Career Coaches visited 52 unique locations this year including job fairs, community events, food banks, correctional facilities, libraries, high schools, and correctional facilities and served 1,474 individuals all over the Georgia Mountains Region. Visitors to the Career Coach received assistance with job searches, online applications, resume assistance, WIOA Overview and application assistance, and more from our Career Coach Instructors. The Career Coaches also assisted several area businesses on-site during hiring and Rapid Response events.

1,474

Individuals served

657

Online job searches

663

Resumes developed & critiqued

Youth Services

WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM) offers assistance to eligible young adults ages 16-24 through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), a federally funded program. The Youth Service Programs focus is to target low-income, at-risk out of school young adults and connect, or reconnect those to educational programs or, occupational skills training that will lead them into self-sufficiency.

WSGM may assist eligible applicants with the cost of GED testing and college tuition along with supportive services such as; childcare, transportation reimbursement, tuition, and book costs while attending classes. WSGM also partners with high schools and community-based organizations that are committed to the well-being and success of participants, and help to ensure that they are prepared to complete their education and become active members of the workforce.



Annual Summer Youth Conference

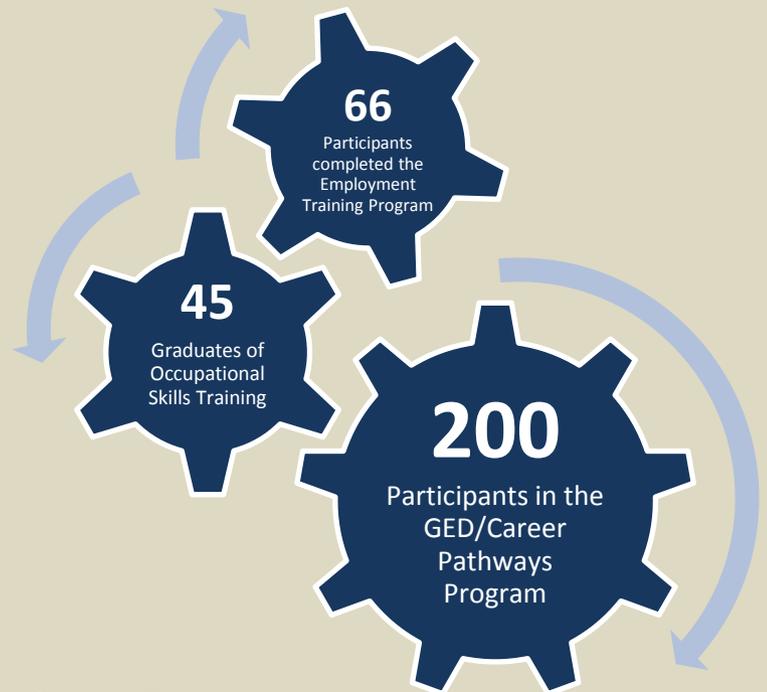
WSGM hosted **82** attendees at the Annual Summer Youth Conference. This one day event offered a Reality Store which included real life scenarios and how to handle them, Human Resources to discuss getting a job and keeping it, a session on understanding credit and outreach for WIOA services. The closing session included a motivational speaker and door prizes.

Project Search

WSGM, in partnership with the Hall County School system, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and the Northeast Georgia Medical Center, offers the Project Search program to students with disabilities. The program provides real life work experience and helps youth with disabilities transition from school to adult life. There were 7 Project Search graduates this year with 5 students now working.

SHIFT

Two (2) SHIFT participants obtained their GED this year and one began college. Eligible Applicants ages 16-24, who are currently incarcerated in the Regional Youth Detention Center, on probation, or under court supervision, are offered specific WSGM services in order to assist them in completing and furthering their educational and employment goals. This collaborative program between WSGM and Goodwill also assists in developing career skills through hands-on training. Assistance for transportation and childcare may also be provided.



Employment Training Program

This program provides eligible participants with exposure to the workforce, career professionals, work practices and expectations, helps clarify career interests and enhances occupational skills.

Occupational Skills Training

Eligible Applicants pursuing college or technical school may receive assistance with the cost of books, tuition, and supplies needed to complete their educational programs.

GED/Career Pathways Programs

Eligible Applicants ages 16-24, who have dropped out of school, or eligible high school graduates may be offered assistance including obtaining a GED through funding for test fees, works skills/employment training and internships.

Business Services

On-the-Job Training

In 2019, five of our 13 counties had businesses receiving reimbursements for their employees through our On-the-Job (OJT) Training Program. Businesses ranged from restaurants and production facilities to auto shops proving that OJT will work for any industry.

Incumbent Worker Training

A total of eight companies, located in six different counties, benefited from the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) program this year. 67 current employees were trained by their employer increasing the employee's knowledge level and potentially their wages.

Internships

Students earn work experience, wages and are exposed to the company culture helping both the student and employer determine if they would be a good fit for a permanent position.

Registered Apprenticeships

Registered Apprenticeships normally consist of a combination of On-the-Job or Incumbent Worker training along with a classroom component. WorkSource Georgia Mountains is currently helping fund training for four Registered Apprentices at four small manufacturing businesses in the Georgia Mountains Region.

Rapid Response

Rapid Response services are designed to respond to business and existing employee needs prior to a plant closing or company relocation. Seven businesses and hundreds of dislocated workers were able to learn about services and programs in the region that may assist or interest them during this employment transition period.

Georgia Mountains



Connecting Talent with Opportunity

Contact Information:

1856 Thompson Bridge Rd, Gainesville, GA 30501

(770) 538-2727



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

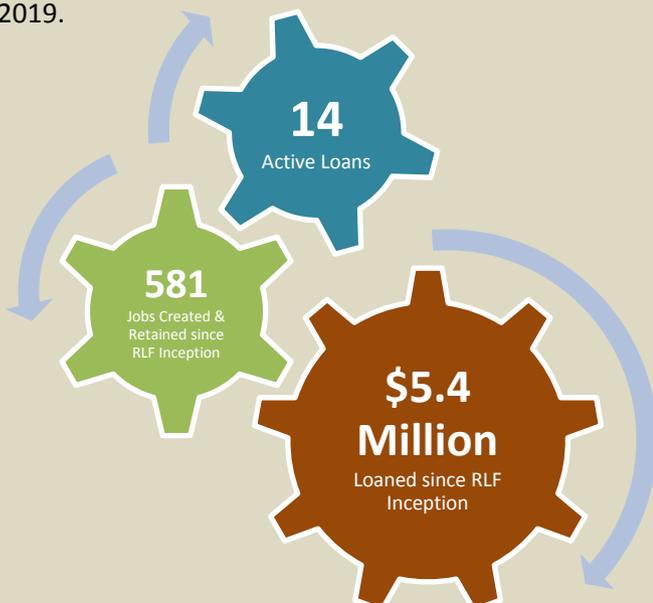
The Finance Department is a team committed to assisting our employees, Revolving Loan Fund clients, and communities with sincerity, loyalty, respect, and honor. The Finance Department responsibilities include audits, budget, day-to-day accounting practices, supportive services, Revolving Loan Fund maintenance, and Human Resources.

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

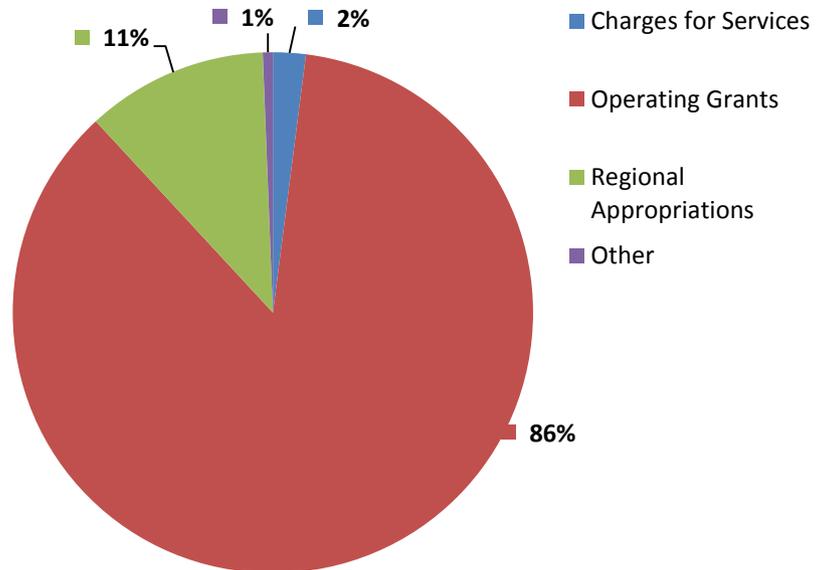
The Revolving Loan Fund is available to businesses of all sizes and varieties. Borrowers are eligible for 100% or gap financing only when declined from a conventional bank.

In FY 2019, the GMRC received numerous inquiries into the RLF Program. We were able to close a Phase III loan with Wicked Bacon, LLC for a restaurant in Hartwell. This phase included a loan of \$48,000 to purchase an adjacent unit to the existing restaurant Bobbers & Beer. This phase included a build out to allow kitchen access to both units and an interior remodel. This phase will bring live music indoors. The business started with four employees and has grown to 16. Projections are to hire six more employees.

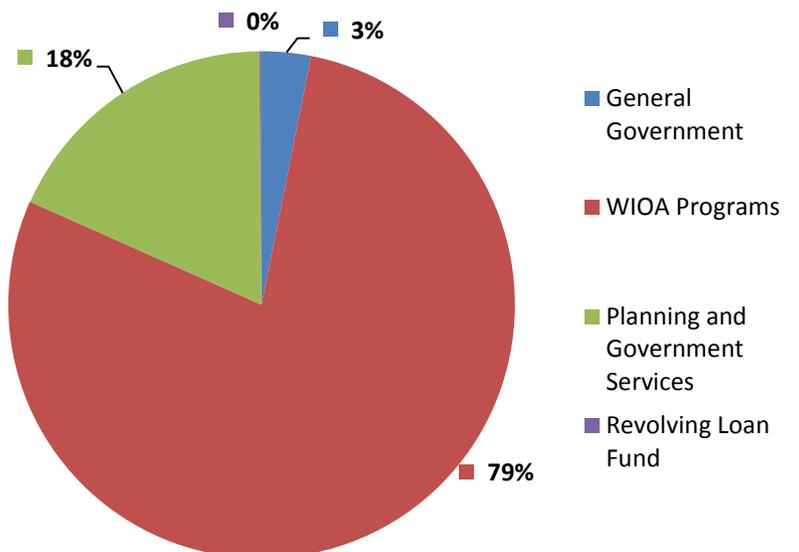
GMRC Revolving Loan Fund, Inc. was approached by the Hartwell DDA/Mainstreet to assist in the purchases of a building for a family one stop shop on the square. GMRC was able to assist in the purchase of the building with approval from the State Historic Preservation Office. The business has a hair and nail salon downstairs and a tanning salon upstairs. The business opened in late 2019.



Revenues by Source
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019



Expenses
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019



FY 19 Financial Highlights

- GMRC's total assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded its total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$3,681,627 for FY 19.
- There was a \$356,431 increase in GMRC's fund balance in the General Fund.
- As of the end of FY19, GMRC's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$2,840,235, and increase of \$356,431 from the prior year. Of this amount, \$2,769,134 (unassigned fund balance) may be used to meet GMRC's ongoing obligations to the member local governments and creditors.



441 Diesel which is located in Banks County received funding through the GMRC Revolving Loan Fund to assist with construction and business expansion.

Finance Contact Information:
Andrea Newsom, Finance Director
anewsom@gmrc.ga.gov

Nona Turk, Financial Assistant
nturk@gmrc.ga.gov

Barbara Moseley, Financial Assistant
bmoseley@gmrc.ga.gov

Cheryl Smith, Financial Assistant
csmith@gmrc.ga.gov



Pictured L to R: Cheryl Smith, Barbara Moseley, Nona Turk and Andrea Newsom

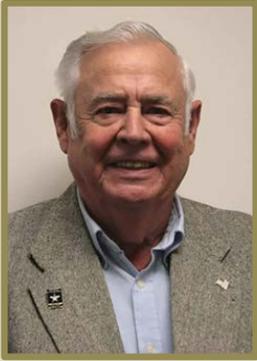


Pictured L to R: Karen Clark and Peggy Lovell

Administration Contact Information:
Peggy Lovell, Executive Assistant
plovell@gmrc.ga.gov

Karen Clark, Receptionist
kclark@gmrc.ga.gov

Awards & Recognitions



J.B. Jones
Chairman's Award



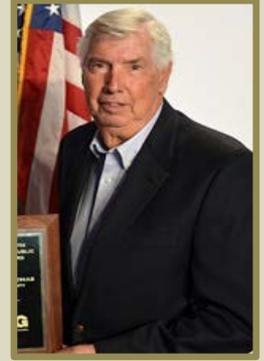
George Wangemann
Council Member of the Year



Cheryl Smith
Employee of the Year



David Headley
Appointed Official of the Year



Thomas Bridges
Elected Official of the Year

Notable Achievements

Heather Feldman, Executive Director, was selected to represent Georgia on the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) Board of Directors. She was also a presenter at the Southeast Regional Directors Institute (SERDI).

Daniel Martin, Director of Economic Development, was elected Chairman of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) Economic Development group. He was also a panelist at the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Conference in Washington D.C.

Andrea Newsom, Finance Director, was a guest panelist for the Finance summit held at Brenau University.

Laurin Yoder, Project Manager, completed the Georgia Academy for Economic Development program.

Joe Rothwell, Regional Planner, was appointed to the White County Historic Preservation Committee.

Faith Bryan, Director of Information Services, was a presenter at the Georgia Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) conference.

Jessica Williams, Youth Program Supervisor, was a panelist and presenter at the International Project Search Conference.

Our Mission

To serve the local governments of the Georgia Mountains Region by improving the quality of life through economic development, community planning, information technology, and workforce development to support and enhance the region's prosperity.

Our Vision

The GMRC envisions the Georgia Mountains Region as an area that values its diverse communities and resources, fosters economic vitality and innovation, and provides opportunities to meet local and regional needs. This is accomplished through maximum cooperation between the GMRC staff, council, member governments, and other stakeholders.

Our Values

- Collaboration
- Service
- Trust
- Innovative
- Sustainability
- Rewarding

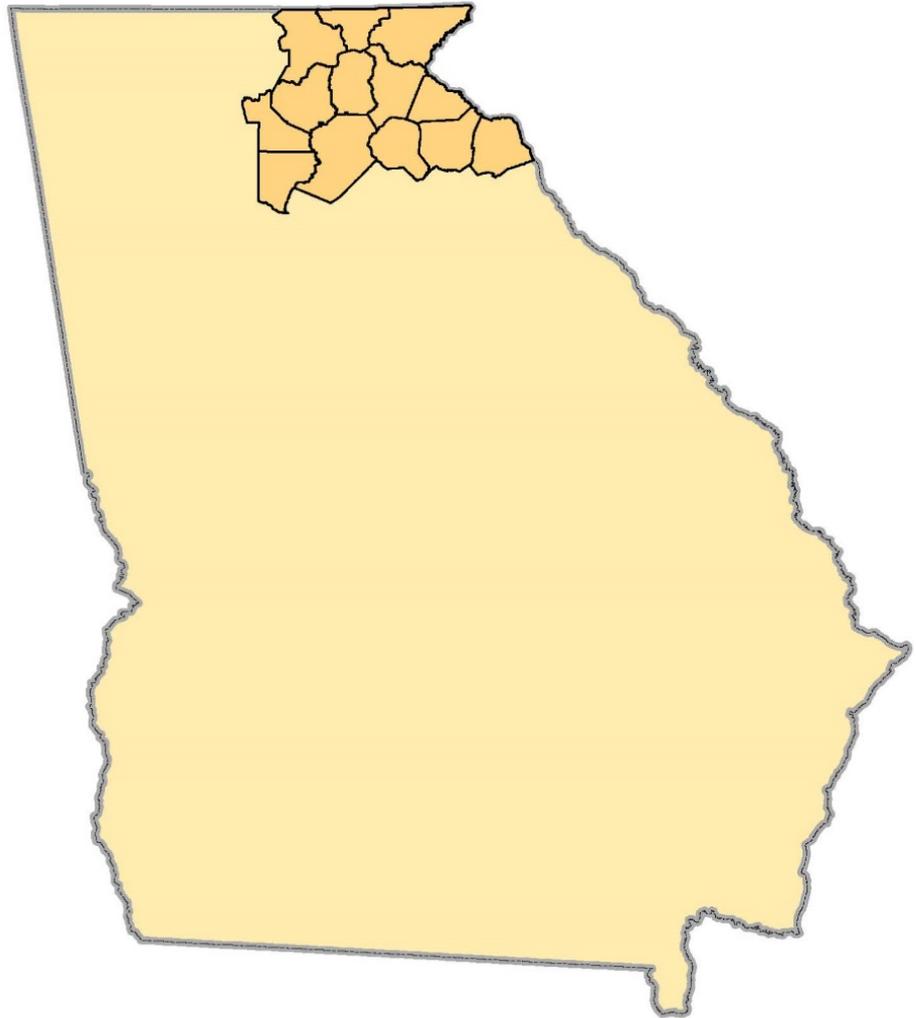
Georgia Mountains Region

COUNTIES

Banks
Dawson
Forsyth
Franklin
Habersham
Hall
Hart
Lumpkin
Rabun
Stephens
Towns
Union
White

CITIES

Homer
Maysville
Dawsonville
Cumming
Cannon
Carnesville
Franklin Springs
Lavonia
Royston
Alto
Baldwin
Clarkesville
Cornelia
Demorest
Mt. Airy
Tallulah Falls
Clermont
Flowery Branch
Gainesville
Gillsville
Lula
Oakwood
Bowersville
Hartwell
Dahlonega
Clayton
Dillard
Mountain City
Sky Valley
Tiger
Avalon
Martin
Toccoa
Hiawassee
Young Harris
Blairsville
Cleveland
Helen



Serving the Region Since 1962!

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission
P.O. Box 1720
Gainesville, GA 30503



(770) 538-2626 www.gmrc.ga.gov

