

6. Community Policies

The following policies, numbered to align with the Community Goals, were developed in conjunction with all stakeholders and are intended to provide qualitative guidance to address the Needs and Opportunities identified in this Plan and to provide a framework for the development of the Community Work Program. The Community Work Program then addresses the Needs and Opportunities through specific projects, for each of which the participants, anticipated cost, and time frame are identified.

Development Patterns

Natural Resource

Goal: 1: Establish and maintain the conservation and protection measures for natural areas, where those areas would be endangered by development. These areas include, but are not limited to, floodplains, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, protected river corridors, forested hardwood areas, and areas where Georgia and Federally Endangered species and habitat exist.

Needs & Policies

Need: *There is limited enforcement of regulations for taxes on timber, which results in lost revenue for the county because there is no way to check or prove. The cost-profit ratio for enforcement doesn't make it feasible to enforce taxation.*

Policy 1.1: Consider the pursuit of Federal and State grant opportunities with the assistance of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission to fund the hiring of additional staff to monitor the timber industry.

Need: *Protection of the wetlands is a concern because the natural filters are removed, and endangers the water quality in Echols County. No enforcement impacts groundwater recharge areas.*

Need: *No enforcement of Part V Environmental Ordinances.*

Policy 1.2: Consider the creation of land development regulations that will promote Conservation Subdivisions and Best Management Practices for business developments to prevent development from polluting or exhausting the natural replenishment cycles of the water bodies throughout the County.

Need: *Need to promote the use of the Alapaha River.*

Policy 1.3: Encourage more people to use the Alapaha River Water Trail, paddle excursions, and events.