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# TEAM AND PROJECT PURPOSE

Strategies to promote compatible land uses, natural resource protection, and sustainable economic development

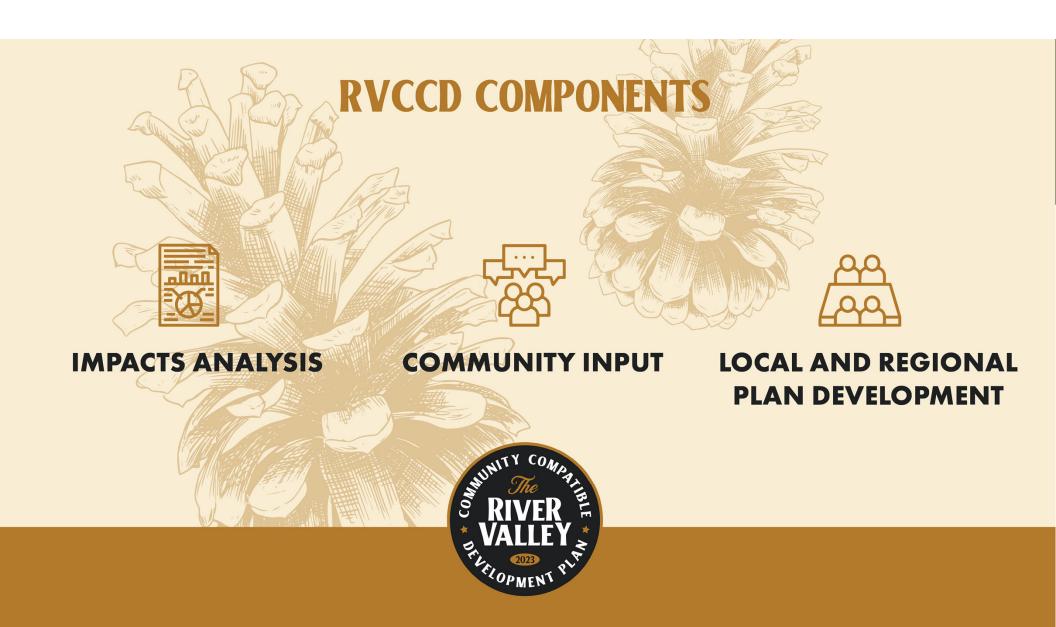














#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

#### **SURVEY RESULTS**

felt **FORT MOORE** is one of the greatest strengths in the region

68% chose OUTDOOR RECREATION as one of the biggest strengths; and

54% said that NATURAL RESOURCES are one of the greatest assets.

#### INTERVIEWS AND PLAN REVIEW

Rural character and a small-town sense of community greatly matter.

Every Comprehensive Plan in the study area emphasizes preserving rural landscapes and small-town character.

#### VIB<mark>RA</mark>NT DOWNTOWNS



Vibrant downtowns promote compatible use and preserve rural character.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS



Infrastructure investments are needed to promote compatible growth.

#### COMPATIBLE DEVELOPMENT



Compatible development can align with rural economic development.

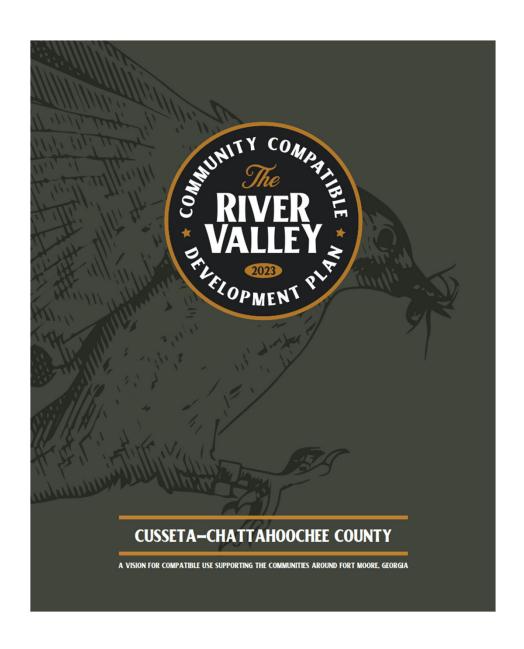
#### REGIONAL APPROACH



A regional approach leverages opportunities for drawing visitors to the landscape.





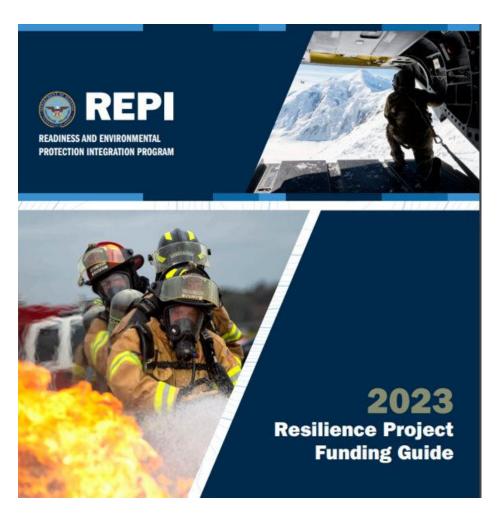












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#### **Outdoor Recreation**

Outdoor recreation is one of the strongest economic forces on Georgia's economy with:

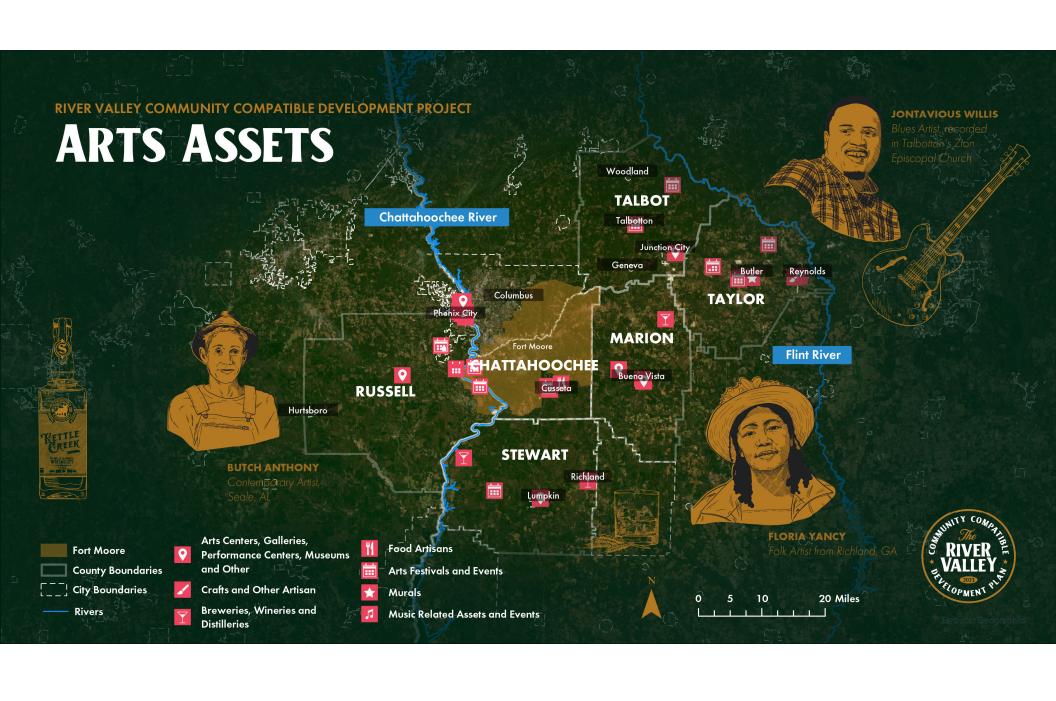
- . 238,000 directly related jobs;
- \$27.3 billion in consumer spending;
- . \$12.4 billion in value added greenspaces.



### **Arts Economy**

Across Georgia, the arts economy supports:

- . 200,000 jobs.
- . \$8 billion in wages.
- \$29 billion in revenue.

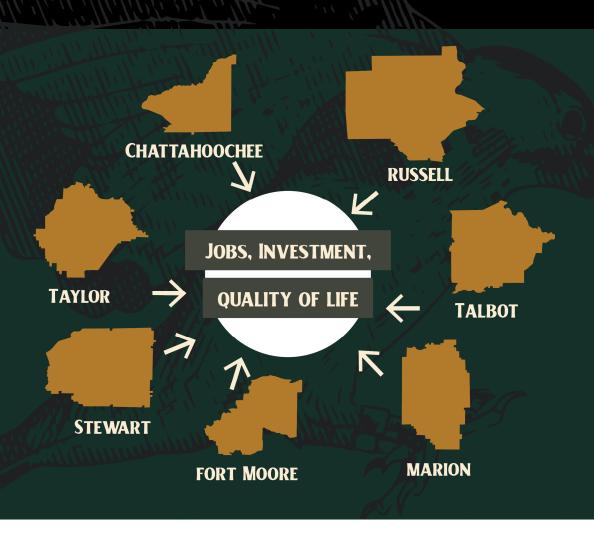


### **Tourism Economy**

Columbus MSA tourist economy produces more than **\$1.1 billion** in total economic output.

- Muscogee County captures 90% of that.
- Presently on about 1% is nature-based tourism.

### THE PLAN: TOWARDS A REGIONAL APPROACH



### REGIONAL VISION FOR RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

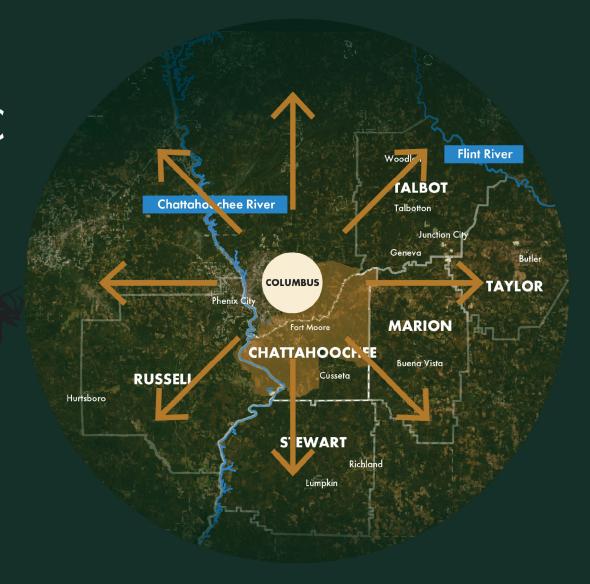
Creating connections with a REGIONAL TRAIL NETWORK

Identifying ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT opportunities

PRESERVING LOCAL HISTORIES

Embracing the arts with a REGIONAL ARTS PROGRAM

And more...



### Regional Brand: Wander North Georgia



Photo Credit: Wander North Georgia

Phase One: Uncovering a Regional Identity

## **Next Steps**

- Ongoing Engagement
- Capacity Building
- Resource Identification
- Technical Assistance

# We are just getting started.



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