

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1	INTRODUCTION	
1.1	Planning Area	3
1.2	Persons Responsible for the Plan	3
1.3	Topographic Information/Unique Features	4
1.4	Population	4
1.5	Seasonal Population Variation	4
1.6	Number of Households	5
1.7	Economic Activity	5
Section 2	WASTE DISPOSAL STREAM ANALYSIS	
2.1	Disposal Rates	5
2.2	Inventory of Waste Disposed	6
2.3	Waste Characterization	6
2.4	Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations	6
2.5	Waste Generating Disasters	6
2.6	Projections of Waste to be Disposed	7
2.7	Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal	7
Section 3	WASTE REDUCTION ELEMENT	
3.1	Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs	8
3.2	Source Reduction Programs	9
3.3	Recycling Programs and Facilities	10
3.4	Yard Trimmings Programs & Facilities	10
3.5	Items Requiring Special Handling	10
3.6	Contingency Strategy	10
3.7	Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs	11
3.8	Needs and Goals	11
Section 4	COLLECTION ELEMENT	
4.1	Inventory of Existing Programs	11
4.2	Drop-Off Convenience Centers/Curbside Collection	12
4.3	Yard Trimmings and Bulk Item Collection	13
4.4	Illegal Dumping/Littering	13
4.5	Contingency Strategy/Natural Disaster-Emergency Situation	13
4.6	Assessment of Collection Programs	14
4.7	Needs and Goals	14
Section 5	DISPOSAL ELEMENT	
5.1	Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities	14
5.2	Assurance of Ten Year Capacity	15
5.3	Contingency Strategy/Natural Disaster-Emergency Situation	15
5.4	Needs and Goals	15
Section 6	LAND LIMITATION ELEMENT	
6.1	Natural Environmental Limitations	16

6.2	Land Use & Zoning Limitations	18
6.3	Plan Consistency Process	20
6.4	Needs and Goals	21
Section 7	EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	
7.1	Inventory and Assessment	22
7.2	Needs and Goals	22
Section 8	IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	
8.1	Implementation Strategy/Short Term Work Program	22

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1	Population Estimates and Projections	4
Table 2	Estimated Disposal Rates	6
Table 3	Waste by Sector	6
Table 4	Estimated and Projected Waste Amounts & Composition	7
Table 5	Disposal Projections	8
Table 6	Disposal Facilities	15
Table 7	Implementation Strategy Work Program	23

APPENDIX

Adopting Resolution	
Disposal Capacity Assurance Letter	
Definitions	
Solid Waste Ordinances and Contracts	
Georgia Recycling Markets Directory (Cobb County/Douglas County)	
Maps	

Section 1 INTRODUCTION

According to records maintained by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the City of Austell's last adopted Solid Waste Management Plan was dated 1990-2000. As a result, the 1990 plan will remain in effect until this new Solid Waste Management Plan is officially adopted by the Mayor and City Council. The planning period of this new plan has been adjusted to cover the period 2006-2017.

The Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 requires that each local government in Georgia develop independently, or be included in, a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. The purpose of solid waste plans is to provide local officials with a long-range "blueprint" regarding the provision of solid waste management services such as collection, disposal, and recycling. This plan represents Austell's participation in and contribution to Georgia's solid waste management strategy as set forth in the Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 and Georgia's Solid Waste Management Plan.

The Solid Waste Management Act requires that each plan:

- Provide for the assurance of adequate solid waste collection capability and disposal capacity within the planning area for at least ten (10) years from the date of plan completion.
- Promote a program to reduce the per capita rate of municipal solid waste disposed in solid waste facilities.
- Identify solid waste handling facilities within the plan's area as to size and type.
- Identify land areas in the planning area unsuitable for solid waste handling facilities based on environmental and land use factors.

In accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management, the City of Austell conducted an initial public hearing on June 1, 2009. A second Public Hearing was conducted on September 14, 2009, prior to submitting the draft plan to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for review and approval.

1.1 PLANNING AREA

The City of Austell, Georgia, is the planning area for this solid waste management plan. Austell is located in south Cobb County and is one of six cities within the county. A general location map is included in the Appendix.

1.2 PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLAN

The persons responsible for the preparation, maintenance, and administration of the solid waste management plan are:

Mr. Randy Bowens, Director of Public Works
City of Austell
5000 Austell-Powder Springs Road, Suite 101
Austell, Georgia
Office: (770) 944-4325
Fax: (678) 264-1522
E-mail: randy@austell.org

Mr. Duane Demeritt, Operations Manager
City of Austell
5000 Austell-Powder Springs Road, Suite 101
Austell, Georgia
Office: (770) 944-4325
Fax: (678) 264-1522
E-mail: duane@austell.org

1.3 TOPOGRAPHIC INFORMATION/UNIQUE FEATURES

Austell is located within the Piedmont region of Georgia. A topographic map of the Austell area is included in the Appendix. There are no unique land features within the City that would impact the provision of solid waste services.

1.4 POPULATION

Table 1 presents population estimates and projections for the City of Austell. According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the City's population was 5,359 in the year 2000. The City's current (2009) population is estimated to be 7,220, an increase of 35 percent since 2000. Recent Census Bureau estimates for Austell indicate that the City's population has increased at a faster rate than projected by the *City of Austell Comprehensive Plan*. As a result, the projections contained in the comprehensive plan have not been used for solid waste management planning purposes. Instead, the projections have been revised to take into consideration the most recent population estimates (2006-2008) available from the U.S. Census Bureau. As indicated below, the City's population is projected to increase to roughly 8,590 residents by the year 2017, a 19 percent increase over the City's estimated 2009 population of 7,220.

TABLE 1 POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS CITY OF AUSTELL												
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Population	6,744	6,954	7,062	7,220	7,380	7,540	7,705	7,875	8,050	8,230	8,410	8,590
<i>Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (2006-2008), Keck & Wood, Inc.</i>												

1.5 SEASONAL POPULATION VARIATION

There are no significant seasonal variations in the City's population that would warrant consideration.

1.6 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS

According to year 2000 U.S. Census Bureau data, there were an estimated 2,009 households residing in Austell in that year. In that year, the majority (65 percent) of the City's population resided in single-family detached housing units. Of the total housing units, 64 percent were owner-occupied, 31 percent were renter-occupied, and five percent were vacant. Local officials estimate that there are approximately 2,071 households currently residing in the City.

1.7 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

By virtue of its location with Cobb County and the Atlanta Metropolitan Area, the City of Austell has a fairly strong local economy. According to U.S. Bureau of the Census data (2000), the industries that employed the majority of the City's labor force (33,642) in that year were construction (18 percent), retail trade (15 percent), education/health/social services (13 percent), and manufacturing (12 percent). Major employers located within the City limits include:

City of Austell
Austell Natural Gas
AT&T
C&S Chemicals
Carustar Industries, Inc.
Gloves, Inc.
Mayo Company, Inc.
Metal Specialist
National Envelope Company, South
Norfolk-Southern Railway Corporation
RBC Bank

Section 2 WASTE DISPOSAL STREAM ANALYSIS

2.1 DISPOSAL RATES

Since no detailed local data exists regarding MSW and C&D disposal rates, statewide averages have been used to estimate and project waste amounts for the City of Austell. The City feels that the statewide per capita figures are consistent with local and regional trends and will provide a solid basis for the projections contained in later sections of this plan. These estimates are presented in Table 2.

TABLE 2 ESTIMATED DISPOSAL RATES CITY OF AUSTELL 2006			
	Tons Per Year	Population	Pounds/Person/Day
MSW	7,975	6,744	6.48
C&D	4,049	6,744	3.29
<i>Source: 2006 Solid Waste Management Annual Report, Georgia Department of Community Affairs.</i>			

2.2 INVENTORY OF WASTE DISPOSED

Table 3 presents estimates of the total amount of waste disposed of by sector for the City of Austell. As indicated, it is estimated that approximately 40 percent of the waste delivered to MSW landfills from the City of Austell is generated by the residential sector. The second largest contributor to MSW landfills is the commercial sector, which accounts for roughly 27 percent of waste disposed. The remaining sectors (industrial, C&D, and sludge/biosolids) combine for roughly 33 percent.

TABLE 3 WASTE BY SECTOR CITY OF AUSTELL 2006					
Sector	Tons to MSW Landfill		Tons to C&D Landfill	Total Tons	
Residential	3,134	39.30		3,134	26
Commercial	2,177	27.30		2,177	18
Industrial	1,117	14.00		1,117	9
C&D	981	12.30	4,049	5,030	42
Sludge & Biosolids	566	7.10		566	5
Total	7,975	100.00%		12,024	100%
<i>Source: Georgia Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan, 2005.</i>					

2.3 WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

Since there is no local data available regarding the composition of Austell's waste stream, regional (Atlanta Regional Commission) averages obtained from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) have been utilized. The results are presented in Table 4.

2.4 UNIQUE CONDITIONS AND/OR SEASONAL VARIATIONS

Austell does not experience any significant seasonal changes in population levels that would significantly impact solid waste amounts.

2.5 WASTE GENERATING DISASTERS

Local officials cannot reasonably project the additional amount of waste that might be generated by unknown and unanticipated disasters. Obviously, based on the impact of

recent storm events, it can be anticipated that there will be additional waste that would require management. Other elements of this plan outline local contingency plans to address additional waste amounts resulting from unforeseen events.

2.6 PROJECTIONS OF WASTE TO BE DISPOSED

Table 4 presents waste amount and composition projections through the year 2017. These projections represent the amount and composition of solid waste that will likely be disposed in landfills in the absence of increased waste reduction efforts. Assuming that Austell's waste composition is similar to regional averages (Atlanta Regional Commission), the City will need to target reductions in paper, organic, and plastic waste types. Combined, these materials make up over 80 percent of the City's waste stream.

TABLE 4 ESTIMATED AND PROJECTED WASTE AMOUNTS (TONS) AND COMPOSITION CITY OF AUSTELL												
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Paper (40%)	3,190	3,290	3,340	3,415	3,491	3,567	3,645	3,725	3,808	3,893	3,978	4,064
Plastic (16%)	1,276	1,316	1,336	1,366	1,396	1,427	1,458	1,490	1,523	1,557	1,591	1,625
Glass (4%)	319	329	334	342	349	357	364	373	381	389	398	406
Metal (6%)	478	493	502	512	524	535	547	559	571	584	597	610
Organic (26%)	2,074	2,138	2,171	2,220	2,269	2,318	2,369	2,421	2,475	2,531	2,587	2,641
C&D (5%)	399	411	416	427	436	446	456	466	476	487	497	508
Inorganic (3%)	239	247	252	256	263	267	273	279	286	292	298	305
TOTAL	7,975	8,224	8,351	8,538	8,728	8,917	9,112	9,313	9,520	9,733	9,946	10,159
Tons/Day	21.79	22.53	22.88	23.39	23.91	24.43	24.96	25.52	26.08	26.67	27.25	27.83
Source: Georgia Statewide Waste Characterization Study, 2005. Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) averages.												

2.7 PER CAPITA MSW DISPOSAL REDUCTION GOAL

The waste amounts shown in Table 5 were calculated by applying per capita disposal rates to population projections contained in Table 1. Table 5 illustrates projected waste amounts assuming a ten (10) percent per capita reduction goal. As indicated in Table 5, the City's per capita disposal rate is projected to decrease from 6.48 pounds per day in 2006 to 5.83 pounds per day by 2017, a 10 percent decrease.

TABLE 5 DISPOSAL PROJECTIONS – CITY OF AUSTELL			
YEAR	POPULATION	POUNDS/PERSON/DAY	TOTAL TONS PER YEAR DISPOSED
2006	6,744	6.48	7,975
2007	6,954	6.42	8,148
2008	7,062	6.36	8,197
2009	7,220	6.30	8,301
2010	7,380	6.24	8,404
2011	7,540	6.18	8,504
2012	7,705	6.12	8,606
2013	7,875	6.07	8,724
2014	8,050	6.01	8,829
2015	8,230	5.95	8,937
2016	8,410	5.89	9,040
2017	8,590	5.83	9,140
Source: Keck & Wood, Inc.			

Section 3 WASTE REDUCTION ELEMENT

3.1 INVENTORY OF WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Existing waste reduction programs with the City of Austell include the following:

Curbside Recycling

The City of Austell contracts with Republic Waste, a private vendor, for weekly residential curbside collection of recyclable materials. The monthly fee for this service (\$2.86 per household) is included on monthly water bills. All of the City's households receive curbside recycling service. Republic Waste is responsible for processing and marketing recyclables collected through the program. According to City records, a total of 98.38 tons of recyclable materials were collected in Austell and diverted from landfills between October 2007 and October 2008. Materials collected include glass, plastic, metals, and paper. A copy of the City's contract with Republic Waste Services, Inc. is included in the Appendix.

Republic Waste also provides recycling services for commercial and office recycling through their *Single Stream Office Recycling Program*. This program accepts all types of office paper, newspaper, magazines, telephone books, aluminum cans, steel cans, plastic bottles, and mail. The City of Austell participates in the program at various City facilities, including City Hall and the Threadmill Complex.

Pay as You Throw (PYT) Program

To provide a financial incentive for residents to reduce the amount of waste generated for disposal, the City of Austell implemented a "Pay-As-You-Throw" program in 1993. Under the PAYT Program, residents pay for collection service

based upon a per-bag fee. The cost of a 20-gallon bag is currently \$1.50. A 32 gallon bag costs \$2.75 each. According to City officials, the PAYT Program has been effective in decreasing waste amounts within the City. In communities with pay-as-you-throw programs (also known as unit pricing or variable-rate pricing), residents are charged for the collection of municipal solid waste (ordinary household trash) based on the amount they throw away. This creates a direct economic incentive to recycle more and to generate less waste. Traditionally, residents pay for waste collection through property taxes or a fixed fee, regardless of how much, or how little, trash they generate. Pay-As-You-throw (PAYT) breaks with tradition by treating trash services just like electricity, gas, and other utilities. Households pay a variable rate depending on the amount of service they use.

Annual “Cleanup” Events

In April and October of each year, the City of Austell sponsors free curbside “Cleanup” events for the collection of large bulky items such as washers, dryers, hot water heaters, and metals that are not routinely collected. The City collects white goods throughout the year at no charge. These items are transported to local scrap yards for recycling.

Other Programs

By virtue of its location within Cobb County and the metropolitan Atlanta area, City residents have access to a wide variety of waste reduction programs operated by Cobb County, area civic and charitable groups; community organizations; neighboring jurisdictions; and private haulers. These include programs sponsored by Keep Cobb Beautiful (KCB), Inc., a “nonprofit organization created for the purpose of assisting the County and Board of Commissioners in establishing, promoting, and maintaining a countywide policy for improved environmental and waste management. Waste reduction programs sponsored by KCB include Electronics Recycling Day, “Bring One for the Chipper”, and “Teacher Supply Storehouse”

The Cobb County Transfer Station Recycling (CCTSR) program provides drop-off recycling opportunities for Austell residents and businesses. The station, located on County Services Parkway, is operated by the Cobb County Solid Waste Division. The facility accepts recyclable material such as newspaper, cardboard, office paper, magazines, telephone books, glass, and aluminum cans. Residents and businesses can also drop-off metal items (appliances, etc) at the Cobb County Transfer Station.

3.2 SOURCE REDUCTION PROGRAMS

“Source reduction” is defined as those actions taken to prevent the generation of waste in the first place. Although the City of Austell does not currently sponsor or participate in any formal source reduction programs, businesses operating within the City may be

involved in such programs. During the course of the planning period, the City plans on undertaking a Citywide survey of businesses and industries to inventory existing and planned source reduction programs in the private sector. The City also plans on encouraging source reduction through its website and through the use printed media that will be distributed at City Hall and other City facilities.

3.3 RECYCLING PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

In addition to existing curbside recycling programs, City residents and businesses have access to a variety of programs and facilities operated by Cobb County, Douglas County, and other neighboring jurisdictions. Many of the City's schools, churches, and apartment complexes provide and maintain recycling collection bins. Facilities operated by Cobb County that are within a reasonable distance from Austell include the Cobb County Transfer Station Recycling Center.

According to the *Georgia Recycling Markets Directory*, there are numerous businesses in Cobb and Douglas counties that accept recyclable materials. A listing of these businesses, by county, is included in the Appendix.

3.4 YARD TRIMMINGS PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

The Austell Public Works Department provides weekly collection services for yard trimmings at no cost to residents. Collected trimmings are converted into mulch and all brush is chipped. These products are used for various City projects and are made available to residents free of charge.

3.5 ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL HANDLING

The City of Austell does not provide or sponsor any organized collection programs or drop-off facilities for special waste items such as electronics, batteries, paint, and tires. The Cobb County Solid Waste Division has programs in place for the collection of special waste such as these. There are also numerous private haulers serving Austell that specialize in the collection and disposition of these items.

3.6 CONTINGENCY STRATEGY

In the event of a natural disaster or emergency situation that interrupts waste reduction and recycling services, the City has several options. Resuming normal services would require close coordination with private haulers serving the City and quick mobilization on the City's part to facilitate conditions conducive to the safe and efficient collection of disaster-related debris, such as yard waste and other items that cannot be placed in a municipal solid waste (MSW) facility. Due to the City's geographic location, there are numerous public and private recycling facilities and inert landfills within a 100-mile radius. The City has the authority to invoke emergency procurement authorization to negotiate services with private haulers and public/private facilities. Under these same emergency procurement provisions, the City could also choose to negotiate directly with firms representing

specific commodity markets to provide a collection, transfer, and marketing option on a temporary basis.

3.7 ASSESSMENT OF WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Existing waste reduction programs are generally considered adequate and should serve the City well in future years. Local officials will, however, review and monitor existing waste reduction practices and make modifications as necessary to ensure that programs are efficient and effective.

3.8 NEEDS AND GOALS

WASTE REDUCTION GOAL: *To reduce the per capita amount of waste disposed by 10 (ten) percent over the next 10 years.*

The City of Austell's goal is to reduce per capita disposal rates by 10 percent, from 6.48 pounds per day to 5.83 pounds per day. In order to achieve this goal, the City will need to:

1. Continue existing residential curbside recycling programs, including yard waste collection.
2. Continue Pay as You Throw (PYT) Program.
3. Continue April and October Cleanup events.
4. Explore source reduction programs for potential implementation.
5. Encourage business community participation in Republic's Single Stream Office Recycling Program.
6. Encourage residential composting of yard waste such as limbs, grass clippings, and leaves.

Section 4 COLLECTION ELEMENT

4.1 INVENTORY OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

Austell residents receive solid waste collection services from either the City of Austell or from a number of private waste haulers that operate within the City.

City of Austell (Municipal Solid Waste & Yard Trimmings Collection)

The City of Austell provides weekly solid waste collection service to approximately 460 households. During 2008, the City collected a total of 95.84 tons of municipal solid waste for disposal. The City uses a "Pay as You Throw" program, with

residents paying for service on a per-bag basis. The cost of a 20-gallon bag is currently \$1.50. A 32 gallon bag costs \$2.75 each. The City does not collect recyclable materials as part of its collection program.

Private Haulers (Municipal Solid Waste, Recycling & Yard Trimmings Collection)

Private waste hauling companies provide curbside collection services for the majority of Austell's residents and businesses. These private haulers operate in an open-competition environment. One of the largest haulers operating within the City, Republic Waste Services, Inc., recently acquired three of the private haulers known to provide service within the City. Private haulers providing service within Austell include the following:

Republic Waste Services, Inc.
16800 Greenspoint Park Drive
Suite 225N
Houston, Texas 77060
(281) 673-2030

Smith Sanitation
4260 Veterans Memorial Highway
Lithia Springs, Georgia 30122
(770) 941-2498

Roberson Sanitation (a division of Republic Waste Services, Inc.)
7100 Delta Circle
Austell, Georgia 30168
(770) 944-4974

Allied Waste (a division of Republic Waste Services, Inc.)
3045 Holowell Parkway NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30318
(404) 792-2660

United Waste (a division of Republic Waste Services, Inc.)
7100 Delta Circle
Austell, Georgia 30168
(770) 941-4363

4.2 DROP-OFF CONVENIENCE CENTERS/CURBSIDE COLLECTION

No solid waste drop-off centers, transfer stations, or convenience centers are located in Austell. There are, however, several facilities located within a 50 mile radius of the City that provide these services, including the Cobb County Waste Disposal/Transfer Station. This facility, located on County Services Parkway in Marietta, accepts municipal solid waste, recyclable material such as glass, paper, and plastics, and yard trimmings.

4.3 YARD TRIMMINGS AND BULK ITEM COLLECTION

Georgia law specifies that effective September 1, 1996, each city, county, or solid waste management authority shall impose restrictions on yard trimmings which are generated in or may ultimately be disposed of in its area of jurisdiction. These restrictions shall include but are not limited to:

- (i) A requirement that yard trimmings not be placed in or mixed with municipal solid waste;
- (ii) A ban on the disposal of yard trimmings at municipal solid waste disposal facilities having liners and leachate collection systems or requiring vertical expansion within its jurisdiction;
- (iii) A requirement that yard trimmings be sorted and stored for collection in such a manner as to facilitate collection, composting, or other handling; and
- (iv) A requirement that yard trimmings be sorted and stockpiled or chipped, composted, used as mulch, or otherwise beneficially reused or recycled to the maximum extent feasible.”

The City of Austell provides regular curbside collection of yard trimmings and collects (bi-annually) bulk items such as appliances, furniture, and other household items. In addition to City-provided yard waste collection services, the majority of the major private waste haulers operating within the City also provide these services upon request.

4.4 ILLEGAL DUMPING/LITTERING

Illegal dumping is not perceived to be a significant problem in Austell. This is due in large part to the existence of curbside collection programs for household waste, yard trimmings, and special waste items. Austell Public Works routinely picks up litter and other debris within rights-of-way. The City is currently preparing an anti-littering ordinance to be enforced by the Code Enforcement division of the Austell Police Department. Littering and other environmental citations are heard in Municipal Court. A copy of the City’s anti-littering ordinance, prepared in compliance with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, is included in the Appendix.

4.5 CONTINGENCY STRATEGY/NATURAL DISASTER-EMERGENCY SITUATION

In the event of a natural disaster or an emergency situation that would alter current collection and disposal practices, the City could contract with one or more private haulers for interim collection services or with another public entity in the form of an intergovernmental agreement to provide interim collection services. Additionally, in the event of an emergency, the City has the ability (within 24 hours of an event) to alert

residents and businesses through email, website, and their 24/7 call center in order to get the information out and to alert the public of its contingency plan.

4.6 ASSESSMENT OF COLLECTION PROGRAMS

Collection services within Austell are generally considered adequate and should serve the City well in future years. The City will need to better regulate private haulers operating within the City through enforcement of existing registration requirements. This would require, among other things, that private haulers report waste amounts collected within Austell to the City on a monthly or quarterly basis.

4.7 NEEDS AND GOALS

COLLECTION GOAL: *To ensure the efficient and effective collection of solid waste and recyclable materials.*

To achieve the stated collection goals, the City of Austell will need to:

1. Continue existing public and private solid waste collection practices.
2. Amend the Solid Waste Ordinance in order to:
 - Require haulers to report tonnage collected within the City on a monthly or quarterly basis.
 - Require haulers to identify specific landfills they use to dispose of waste collected within the City.

Section 5 DISPOSAL ELEMENT

5.1 INVENTORY OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES

No permitted solid waste handling or disposal facilities are located within the City limits of Austell. All waste collected by the City of Austell is transported to the privately-operated Lee Industrial Transfer Station located in unincorporated Cobb County. From there, it is transported to the Pine Ridge Regional Landfill in Griffin, Georgia, for disposal. Solid waste collected by private waste haulers operating within the City is also transported to Pine Ridge Regional Landfill. Information regarding these disposal facilities is presented in Table 6.

TABLE 6 DISPOSAL FACILITIES					
Facility	Location	Permit Number	Waste Accepted	Remaining Capacity (Cubic Yards)	Year Expected to Reach Capacity
Pine Ridge Regional Landfill	105 Bailey Jester Road Griffin, GA	018-008D (MSWL)	MSW	33,573,784	2037
Lee Industrial Transfer Station	7100 Delta Circle Austell, GA	PBE-033-52TS	MSW	N/A	N/A
Source: EPD, July 2009.					

5.2 ASSURANCE OF TEN YEAR DISPOSAL CAPACITY

Based upon projected capacity, the Pine Ridge Regional Landfill currently being used for municipal solid waste (MSW) by the City and private haulers has sufficient disposal capacity to adequately serve Austell for the duration of the planning period. A disposal capacity assurance letter obtained from Pine Ridge Regional Landfill representatives is included in the Appendix.

5.3 CONTINGENCY STRATEGY/NATURAL DISASTER-EMERGENCY SITUATION

Should existing disposal facilities used by the City become unavailable, the City and Republic Waste will identify and use alternative disposal locations. The City could also contract with another public entity in the form of an intergovernmental agreement to provide interim disposal services.

To facilitate the collection and disposal of disaster-related debris, the City coordinates its efforts with the Cobb County Emergency Management Agency and state and federal agencies such as the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The City uses a combination of City forces (Public Works) and contractors to collect, transport, and process disaster-related waste. This arrangement worked well during the flooding event that occurred in September of 2009. Additionally, in the event of a natural disaster, the City has the ability (within 24 hours of an event) to alert residents and businesses through email, local community access television, radio, and its website in order to get information out and alert the public of its contingency plan. The Cobb County EMA will also assist in public notification efforts.

5.4 NEEDS AND GOALS

DISPOSAL GOAL: *Ensure that the City has a plan in place to ensure that sufficient disposal capacity is available to handle the amount of waste projected to be disposed of over the next 10 years.*

In order to achieve the stated disposal goal, the City of Austell will need to:

1. Continue existing disposal practices.
2. Monitor capacity levels of landfills used by private haulers and the City.
3. Develop a contingency plan of alternate landfills in order to dispose of the City's solid waste.

Section 6 LAND LIMITATION ELEMENT

There are a number of different factors that must be taken into consideration when selecting a suitable site for development of new landfills and/or other waste handling facilities. Demographic factors, land use factors, and environmental factors collectively place limitations and pose challenges with regard to finding an appropriate site. Sites selected for landfills and other related facilities should not diminish the overall quality of life for residents. These sites should also have a minimal impact on the natural environment. The factors discussed in this section are not designed to prohibit development within any of these areas. Rather, this discussion is included to provide guidance and consideration in an effort to minimize the adverse effects that could result from selecting a site.

6.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITATIONS

Natural environmental limitations include floodplains, wetlands, water supply watersheds, groundwater recharge areas, river corridors, and protected mountains. Maps illustrating the locations of these limitations in Austell are included in the Appendix.

Floodplains

“(DNR) Rule 391-3-4.05(1) (d) stipulates that any solid waste landfill located in the 100-year floodplain shall not restrict the flow of the 100-year flood, reduce the temporary water storage capacity of the floodplain, or result in a washout of solid waste so as to pose a threat to human health or the environment.”

The 100 year floodplain is defined as the land area with a one (1) percent chance of being flooded every year. The 100-year floodplain is used for planning purposes to assist in identifying land that is not suitable for development. The City of Austell has designated floodplains along creek and stream beds as delineated in referenced mapping. Five specific creeks have been identified by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as flooding periodically: Noses Creek, Sweetwater Creek, Olley Creek, Powder Creek, and Buttermilk Creek. The City participates in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program for the protection of properties within flood hazard areas. In addition, the City and Cobb County closely regulate development in or near the floodplain with local ordinances, including a Flood Hazard Prevention Ordinance.

Wetlands

“(DNR) Rule 391-3-16-.03(3) (e) establishes that solid waste landfills may institute an unacceptable use of wetland.”

“DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(e) prohibits the development of solid waste landfills in wetlands, as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, unless evidence is provided by the applicant that use of the wetland has been permitted or otherwise authorized under all other applicable state and federal laws and rules.”

The City of Austell has concentrations of wetlands along Sweetwater Creek, Powder Springs Creek, Noses Creek, and Olley Creek. Applicable DNR rules will be referenced and applicants will be required to obtain a Section 404 Permit prior to obtaining a Land Disturbance Permit.

Groundwater Recharge Areas

“(DNR) Rule 391-3-16-.02(3)(a) requires that in significant groundwater recharge areas, GA DNR shall not issue permits for new solid waste landfills not having synthetic liners and leachate collection systems.”

No significant groundwater recharge areas are found within the City of Austell.

Water Supply Watersheds

“(DNR) Rule 391-3-16-.10(7) c requires that at any location within a small water supply watershed, new solid waste landfills must have synthetic liners and leachate collection systems.”

The City of Austell is located in the Sweetwater Creek water supply watershed and the Chattahoochee River Basin. As stated in the rule, synthetic liners and leachate collection systems will be required as part of any proposed solid waste landfill.

River Corridors

“(DNR) Rules prohibit the development of new solid waste landfills within protected river corridors.”

There are no protected river corridors within the City of Austell.

Protected Mountains

“(DNR) Rule 391-3-16.05(4) (1) prohibits the development of new solid waste landfills in areas designated as protected mountains.”

There are no protected mountains within the City of Austell.

Fault Areas, Seismic Impact Zones & Unstable Areas

“(DNR) Rule 391-3-4-.05(1) (f) requires that new landfill units and lateral expansions of existing landfills shall not be located within 200 feet of a fault that has had displacement in the Holocene Epoch unless the owner or operator demonstrates to EPD that an alternative setback distance of less than 200 feet will prevent damage to the structural integrity of the landfill unit and will be protective of human health and the environment.”

“(DNR) Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(g) prohibits that development of new landfill units and lateral expansions in seismic impact zones unless the owner or operator demonstrates to EPD that all containment structures, including liners, leachate collection systems, and surface water control systems are designed to resist the maximum horizontal acceleration in lithified earth material for the site.”

“(DNR) Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(h) requires owners or operators of new landfill units, existing landfill units, and lateral expansions located in unstable areas to demonstrate that engineering measures have been incorporated in the landfill unit's design to ensure that the integrity of the structural components of the landfill unit will not be compromised.”

A registered engineer or registered geologist is required to conduct a hydro-geological assessment at the proposed location of any new solid waste disposal facility. The potential for problems to result from development on fault zones, areas susceptible to seismic activity, and unstable ground are evaluated as part of the assessment.

Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas

“DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(j) requires that new solid waste landfills or expansions of existing landfills located within two miles of a significant groundwater recharge area have liners and leachate collection systems, with the exception of 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 designated as a significant groundwater recharge area.”

No significant groundwater recharge areas are found within the City of Austell.

6.2 LAND USE & ZONING LIMITATIONS

Zoning Restrictions

“(DNR) Rule 391-3-4-.05(1) (a) requires that solid waste facility sites must conform to all local zoning/land use ordinances and that written verification of such be submitted to EPD.”

The City of Austell Zoning Ordinance allows solid waste landfills in certain zoning districts with a Special Use Permit. The ordinance's Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial districts specifically list solid waste landfills as permitted uses that require a Special Use Permit. It is

important that the City consider land uses and environmental conditions when reviewing proposed locations of solid waste facilities.

National Historic Sites

Municipal solid waste landfills are not permitted within 5,707 yards of a National Historic Site. No National Historic Sites are located within the City of Austell.

Archaeological Sites

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 requires federal agencies or local governments utilizing federal funds to conduct archaeological investigations on lands under their jurisdiction to determine the nature and extent of the protected cultural resource present. No solid waste handling facility should be located so as to negatively impact an area of concentrated or known archeological sites on file with the Georgia Archaeological Site File (GASF). If a facility siting has the potential to impact an area of concentrated or known archaeological sites, then consultation with the State Archaeologist and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) would be required.

Surface Water Intake

According to Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Rule 391-3-19-.01, solid waste landfills must have engineering modifications such as liners, leachate collection systems, and groundwater monitoring systems if they are located within two (2) miles of a surface water intake for a public source, unless such a site is the only feasible location.

Airport Safety

“(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 runway planned or used for piston-type aircraft or within 10,000 feet of any runway planned or used for turbo-jet or piston-type aircraft.”

No airports are located within the City of Austell.

Co-Located Landfills

Section 12-8-25.4 of the O.C.G.A. states that no solid waste handling facility, excluding materials recovery facilities and composting facilities, can be sited on a site that falls within a two-mile radius of three or more solid waste landfills (including closed landfills that receive waste on or after June 29, 1989).

Political Subdivisions

The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act prohibits the siting of a municipal solid waste landfill within one-half mile of another county's border without the approval of the jurisdiction's governing authority.

6.3 PLAN CONSISTENCY PROCESS

The requirements that a developer of a new solid waste management facility must fulfill in order to demonstrate that the facility is consistent with the City of Austell Solid Waste Management Plan are outlined below. It is the responsibility of the facility owner to prove consistency. No proposed facility or facility expansion will be sited without a letter from the City of Austell stating that the facility is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan. To determine if a proposed facility, public or private, or facility expansion is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan, an owner/operator of the facility shall:

A. At least 60 days prior to the filing for a solid waste handling permit, or notifying EPD in the case of a solid waste handling facility that is permitted by rule, submit to the local governing authority a written "Statement of Consistency" documenting the following:

1. How the proposed facility or facility expansion will meet the specific goals and/or needs identified in the Solid Waste Management Plan, specifically what will be:
 - (a) the impact upon the collection capability within the planning area;
 - (b) the impact upon disposal capacity identified within in the planning area: and
 - (c) the impact to the waste reduction and recycling efforts within the planning area.
2. How the proposed facility or facility expansion and its operation will impact the community, specifically what will be:
 - (a) the impact to vehicle traffic and public safety around the proposed facility and throughout the planning area;
 - (b) the impact to the financial viability of the existing solid waste management system within the planning area;
 - (c) the impact to individual and business solid waste management rates;
 - (d) the impact of the proposed facility or facility expansion to other natural or cultural resources within the planning area: and
 - (e) the impact of the proposed facility or facility expansion to the current solid waste management infrastructure within the planning area, both public and private.

3. How the owner/operator of the proposed facility (and any subsequent owner/operators if sold) will satisfy any financial assurance provisions of the SWMP and any local ordinances.
4. That the proposed facility or facility expansion is sited in an area deemed suitable according to the criteria listed in the Solid Waste Management Plan; and
5. That the proposed facility or facility expansion is sited in a location that is consistent with local zoning ordinances.

The City Council will hold at least one public hearing on the proposed facility to get feedback from City residents. Notification of the public hearing will be done in accordance with City policy. Additionally, the meeting agenda for the hearing will be made available at City Hall and on the City's website one week prior to the hearing. Based upon the results of the hearing, the City can decide whether or not additional public meetings are necessary.

B. The City of Austell shall review the written "Statement of Consistency" and shall determine if the proposed facility or facility expansion is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan. Within 30 days of making their determination, the City of Austell shall notify the developer whether or not the proposed facility or facility expansion is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan. If the proposed facility is not consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan, the developer may address the inconsistencies and resubmit their request for another review.

6.4 NEEDS AND GOALS

LAND LIMITATION GOAL: *To ensure proposed solid waste handling facilities are consistent with state and local solid waste management plans, as well as other federal, state and local environmental requirements.*

In order to achieve the stated goal, Austell will need to:

1. Implement the City of Austell Comprehensive Plan.
2. Review and amend the City zoning ordinance and other regulatory tools in order to comply with the Comprehensive Plan and Solid Waste Management Plan.
3. Implement the Plan Consistency Process of the Solid Waste Management Plan.
4. Continue to protect environmentally sensitive areas and lands within the City.

Section 7 EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ELEMENT

7.1 INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

Although the City of Austell does not currently provide formal education and public involvement programs, City residents have access to a wide range of programs and activities. The City does have the tools in place to provide educational outreach, including the City's newsletter, website, and e-mail capabilities. The majority of existing programs within the Austell area are provided by Cobb County and neighboring jurisdictions. Programs available to Austell residents include a variety of waste reduction, beautification, and litter prevention programs sponsored and administered by Keep Cobb Beautiful (KCB). A detailed listing of KCB's programs is included in the Appendix.

7.2 NEEDS AND GOALS

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT GOAL: *Educate City residents and businesses in becoming more aware of the need to support and participate in local waste reduction efforts.*

In order to achieve this goal, Austell will need to:

1. Continue making brochures and other educational material available at City Hall and the Threadmill Complex.
2. Use the City's website as an educational tool to inform the public on recycling practices, programs, and local events.
3. Collaborate with Keep Cobb Beautiful to provide educational materials and training in waste reduction practices.
4. Prepare information to be included in the City's newsletter on recycling practices and programs inside the City as well as those in surrounding communities.
5. Create a link on the City website to list educational resources such as EPA Pay As You Go program, Department of Community Affairs (DCA) established resource list, free recycle programs (www.freecycle.com), etc.

Section 8 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The work program presented in the Table 5 identifies the various programs and activities the City of Austell will undertake over the next 10 years to achieve the plan's stated goals. Activities programmed for the first five years represent the Short Term Work Program.

TABLE 7
CITY OF AUSTELL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN – IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
WORK PROGRAM 2006-2017

<i>ACTIVITY</i>	<i>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>COST ESTIMATE</i>	<i>FUNDING SOURCE</i>
WASTE AMOUNTS				
Maintain accurate waste amount data	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
WASTE REDUCTION				
Continue “Pay-As-You Throw” Program	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	Included in collection cost	Fees/General Fund
Continue yard waste and bulky item collection programs	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	\$7,000/Year	General Fund
Use website to encourage recycling participation	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
Attend/participate in solid waste management-related workshops & seminars	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
Conduct survey of City businesses & industries regarding source reduction programs	2011, 2012	Austell Public Works	Staff Time/Interns	General Fund
Encourage businesses & industries to implement recycling programs	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
Continue Bi-Annual Clean-Up Events	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	\$3,000/Year	General Fund
COLLECTION				
Continue City-provided collection of MSW & yard waste	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	\$15,000/Year	General Fund
Amend & enforce the City Solid Waste Ordinance	2010-2017	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
Begin requiring private haulers to register with the City and report waste amounts collected	2010, 2011	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
DISPOSAL				
Continue use of private vendors for disposal services	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	\$37/Ton	General Fund
Begin monitoring capacity levels of area landfills	2010, 2011	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
Develop a contingency plan that identifies alternate landfills.	2010,2011	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
LAND LIMITATIONS				
Implement Comprehensive Plan	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
Reference environmental maps in planning efforts	2006-2017	Community Development/Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund

<i>ACTIVITY</i>	<i>IMPLEMENTATION YEAR</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>COST ESTIMATE</i>	<i>FUNDING SOURCE</i>
Review & amend zoning ordinance as needed	2011, 2012	Community Development/Consultant	Staff Time/\$2,500	General Fund
Implement Solid Waste Management "Plan Consistency Process"	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
EDUCATION & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT				
Publicize local waste reduction efforts & programs through brochure placement at City facilities	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
Support local education & public involvement efforts & programs	2006-2017	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
Update the City website to include links to educational resources relating to waste reduction	2010, 2011	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
Begin working with area businesses to encourage public awareness of the benefits of waste reduction	2010, 2011	Austell Public Works	Staff Time	General Fund
GENERAL				
Prepare new Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)	2016	Austell Public Works/Consultant	\$40,000	General Fund
Prepare 5-Year SWMP Update	2011	Austell/Public Works/Consultant	\$1,000	General Fund

APPENDIX