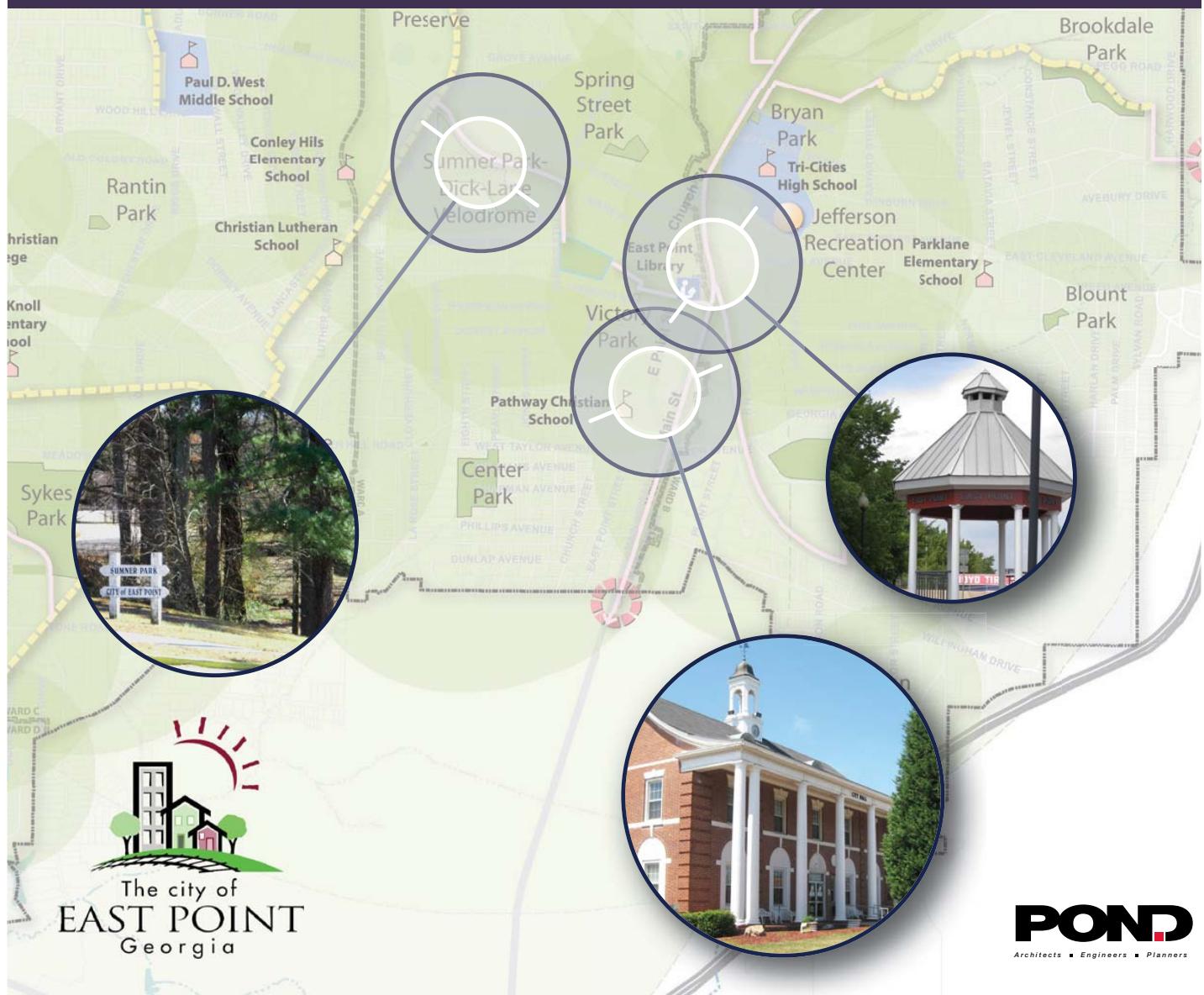


# CITY OF EAST POINT: MISSION 2036

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



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# **Mission 2036: City of East Point Comprehensive Plan Update Community Assessment**

Prepared for the City of East Point, Georgia  
Department of Planning & Zoning

by  
**POND & COMPANY**  
in association with  
**Huntley Partners & PEQ**

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September 26, 2011

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# **COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mission 2036: City of East Point Comprehensive Plan will update prior work completed in 2006 (Comprehensive Plan 2026). The Comprehensive Plan serves as a guide for making decisions and setting policies for city officials and staff concerning the future development of the city. This effort will provide policies and an implementation program for the 2011-2036 planning period, and it is undertaken per the Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), O.C.G.A. Chapter 110-12-1, effective May 1, 2005. Like a business plan for a successful company, the Comprehensive Plan should look at real world constraints and **provide a “road map”** for officials and community members to manage incremental decisions and allocation of resources in the short term that ensure progress toward the city's long term vision and goals.

Located in the southern portion of Fulton County, along the southern border of the City of Atlanta, the City of East Point lies within the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Metropolitan Planning Organization and land use planning area. East Point covers 13.8 square miles of suburban and urban landscape. East Point arguably boasts the best access available in the region – minutes to the busiest international airport in the country, direct access to I-285 and I-85, a MARTA stop located in a downtown undergoing revitalization, and uncongested access to Atlanta amenities. Despite this great asset and the success of the recent Camp Creek development, the city still faces several economic challenges including vacancies and increasing poverty rates.

## Prior and Recent Planning

To address the challenges, East Point has taken a very pro-active approach to planning, taking advantage of several regional and state tools over the past ten years. The current comprehensive plan process aims to respond to changing economic conditions and build on those efforts. The process will also re-evaluate or verify policies associated with the land use and zoning framework. Recent or pending planning efforts that the Comprehensive Plan will incorporate include: the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2010), the Economic Development Plan (pending 2011-2012), the pursuit of an Opportunity Zone (submitted), the implementation of a Transit-Oriented-Development (TOD) master plan (pending 2011-2012), the update to the city Solid Waste Management Plan, and the Stormwater Management Plan. Prior work includes, among others, two Tax Allocation Districts (TAD), the 2004 Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) study, and the Main Street City designation the city achieved, among others.

## Structure of the Comprehensive Plan

DCA rules structure the format of the Comprehensive Planning process such that three interlocking components comprise the final plan:

- Community Assessment: Summary of existing conditions with supporting data
- Community Participation: Program for providing public input opportunities
- Community Agenda: Vision, policy goals and strategies for plan implementation

The **Community Assessment** component of the Comprehensive Plan summarizes existing conditions for the community and identifies issues and opportunities that the City of East Point may desire to address during the 25-year Comprehensive Plan horizon. The Assessment contains a summary of key findings and a profile of the city in terms of land use, population, economic development, transportation, natural and cultural resources, community facilities, and intergovernmental coordination. A **Technical Appendix** contains the supporting data used in the Community Assessment and supplements information therein to include a complete analysis of existing conditions. As a base-line resource from which community members can draw during the development of that Community Agenda, the Community Assessment helps communicate the City's profile. A primary component of the Assessment is the **Character Area** map (categorizing areas of the City and their respective character type), from which a future development map will be derived during the creation of the Community Agenda. The Community Assessment should serve government officials and the public as a concise reference document.

The **Community Participation Program** details what measures a local government will undertake in order to ensure that community members can participate in the creation of an Agenda for future planning.

The Participation Plan and the Community Assessment serve as inputs to the Mission 2036 – East Point's **Community Agenda**, which is the heart of the Comprehensive Plan; it articulates the **community vision** for a 25-year planning period and provides the policy that guides land-use decision making. It presents the Future Development Map that represents city policy, and it also specifies the **strategies** by which the community intends to pursue its vision and policy goals. A five-year action plan, the **Short-Term Work Program**, helps implement the Community Agenda.

## Review Process

Following a public hearing, the City of East Point will submit the **Community Assessment** and the **Participation Plan** to the Atlanta Regional Commission ("ARC") and to DCA for review and approval. Upon approval, the city may proceed with preparing the Community Agenda. The Community Agenda also must receive review and approval by the ARC and DCA before the city can adopt it as official policy.

# PART ONE:

## Analysis of Existing Development Patterns

### Introduction

East Point was named for its original location as the eastern-most terminus of the Atlanta and West Point railroads. Although the City of East Point was chartered August 10, 1887, it was busy long before this date. From 1820 to 1930, the City grew from an Indian territory with few people to a manufacturing city that housed 10,000 people.

Early history shows that East Point was prosperous due to its location and ties to various transportation modes. From the railroad, to the horse and carriage, to the automobile, East Point has always been recognized for its location and accessibility. Even today, the commercial downtown area relies heavily on its attraction from the MARTA station located on Main Street.

After the depression, East Point experienced the same type of struggles as any southern city. Times were hard for everyone, and little development activity took place. In 1947, the City experienced the largest building boom since the pre-civil war movement. New structures began to align the streets again. Today these early roots are still an architectural asset for the city.

Like many cities in the 1970s, East Point recognized the need for urban renewal and adopted a redevelopment plan. In the 1990s the City undertook a master planning process and a variety of other planning efforts. More recent strategies by the city have been directed to supporting declining neighborhoods.

The purpose of this chapter is to analyze the current development patterns and growth opportunities in the City of East Point. An understanding of the existing character areas, land use inventory and location of areas requiring special attention will help guide quality growth in the future.

### Existing Land Use Inventory

The City of East Point has approximately **8,048 acres**, or 12.6 square miles, of land that are subdivided and developed or available for development. The remaining 1.2 square miles is taken up by public rights-of-way. Each parcel of land is associated with a certain category of use, the functional dimension of land for human purposes or economic activities. Table 1 shows existing land use for the City of East Point. Acreage was calculated using a geographic information system ("GIS") tool. This section discusses the composition of each land use category in more detail. Land use classification descriptions come from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning. Figure 1 shows the amount of each land use category as a percent of total acres.

Residential uses account for nearly **50%** of all land in East Point. Employment-generating non-residential uses, including public uses, make up 25%. **Vacant land, either undeveloped or abandoned, makes up 23% of the parcels.**

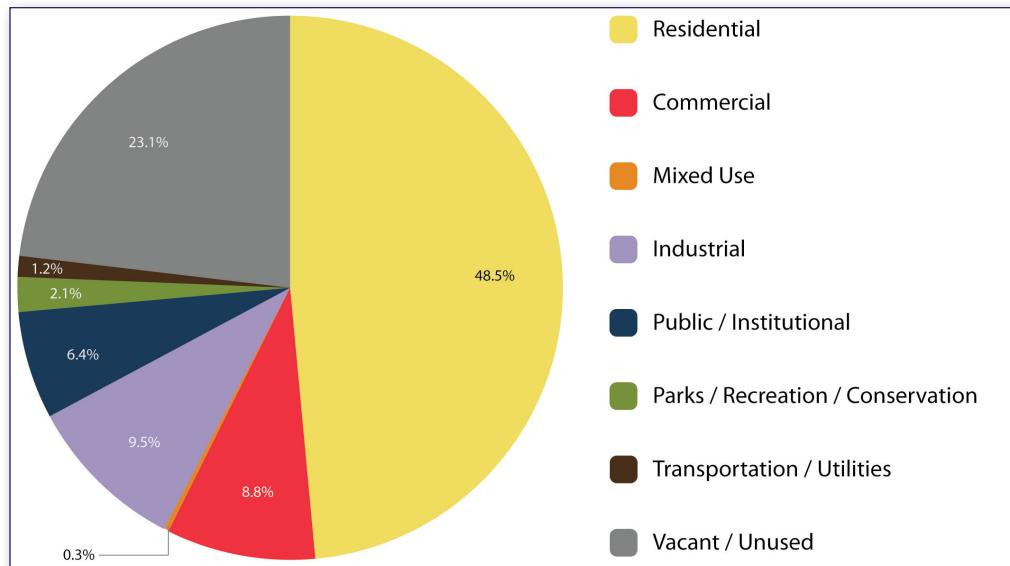
#### Quick Facts

- 8,048 acres of land not in roads or public rights of way
- Half of land area is residential
- 8.8% commercial
- 9.6% industrial
- 166 acres of parks
- 23% vacant

**Table 1 : Existing Land Use by Acre**

<b>Total Acreage by Existing Land Use</b>			
<b>Existing Land Use</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>% of Acres</b>	<b># of Parcels</b>
All Residential:	3,905	48.5%	10,185
High Density Residential	311	3.9%	277
Medium Density Residential	202	2.5%	772
Low Density Residential	3,393	42.2%	9,136
All Commercial:	720	8.9%	466
Commercial	551	6.8%	396
Office / Distribution	169	2.1%	70
All Mixed Use:	23	0.3%	64
All Industrial:	769	9.6%	211
Light Industrial	606	7.5%	177
Heavy Industrial	163	2.0%	34
All Public/Institutional:	514	6.4%	277
Parks/Recreation/Conservation:	169	2.1%	144
All Transportation/Utilities:	98	1.2%	58
All Vacant/Unused:	1,850	23.0%	1,449
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8,048</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>12,854</b>

Source: Fulton County Tax Assessor 2010, City of East Point

**Figure 1 : Existing Land Use by Acre**

Source: Fulton County Tax Assessor 2010, City of East Point

## Land Use Categories

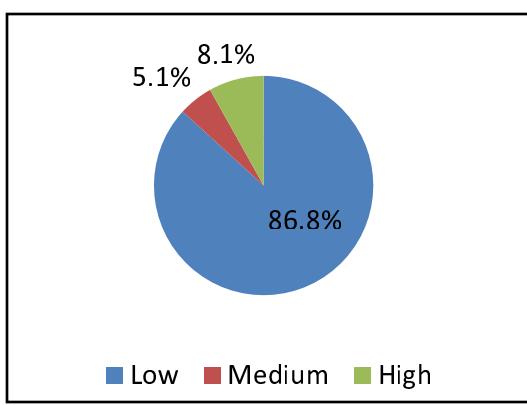
### Residential

Residential uses make up **48.5%** of the parcel acreage in East Point. The primary two types of residential uses are single-family and multifamily dwelling units, typically organized into general categories of densities.

- Low Density: Low density residential generally implies single family use, usually with a significant mix of forested or agricultural land cover. These areas often occur on the periphery of urban expansion and are generally characterized by houses on larger lots. Examples include suburban neighborhoods, rural housing, estates, and linear residential developments along transportation routes. In East Point, low density residential makes up much of the land in the central part of the city. These parcels are typically in single-family neighborhoods in subdivisions or traditional urban neighborhoods. While every community's distribution of residential densities is different, East Point's low density residential lots are usually over a quarter-acre in size. The vast majority of residential properties in East Point, and **42.2% of the total acres**, are made up of low density residential uses.
- Medium Density: Medium density residential areas are also typically characterized by single family dwellings, with or without a forested or agricultural land cover. These areas usually occur in urban or suburban zones. Lots are smaller and homes might be closer together than in a low density residential area. In East Point, medium density residential areas also include duplexes, townhouses, and homes in central business district zones. There are 202 acres on 772 parcels of medium-density land use, representing **2.5%** of the total acreage.
- High Density: High density residential areas designate concentrated single-family or multifamily use. These areas occur in urban neighborhoods with streets on a grid network or in apartment buildings. Most multifamily uses occur in East Point in the southwestern segment and along Washington Road. 277 acres, or **3.9%** of the total amount of land, is allocated to high density residential uses in East Point.

Most residential land in East Point is low density.

**Figure 2 : Residential Uses by Density**



Source: City of East Point parcel database, zoning ordinance

### Commercial

This category describes land dedicated to non-industrial business uses, including retail sales, office, service, and entertainment facilities. They may be located as a single use in one building or grouped together in a shopping center or office building. East Point identifies office and distribution uses as a unique type of commercial use, different from other commercial uses like retail or entertainment. Commercial areas sometimes include instances of institutional uses, such as churches and schools, that have moved into available space in commercial plazas.

- **Commercial:** The sale of goods occurs in commercial land use areas, including urban central business districts, shopping centers in suburban and outlying areas, commercial strip developments, and hotels. 539 acres, or 6.8% of the developed land in East Point, are dedicated to traditional commercial uses. These parcels are located primarily along the major transportation arteries, like Camp Creek Parkway, Main Street, Connally Drive, Washington Road, Cleveland Avenue, Virginia Avenue and the I-85 and I-285 exits that are in or near East Point. The scale of these uses include the large commercial center at Camp Creek Marketplace, small neighborhood-serving strip centers like the ones along Washington Road, traditional pedestrian-friendly downtown development, and a cluster of hotels on Virginia Avenue between I-85, Central Avenue and Norman Berry Drive/Bobby Brown Parkway.
- **Office/Distribution:** Office and distribution uses provide services and facilities for the shipment of goods. They differ from commercial uses in the types of structures typically needed, the amount of parking and square footage required, and the times of day and week that they are in use. 2.1% of East Point's land is devoted to office or distribution uses. There are a few large distribution centers in East Point outside of I-285 and near the railroad tracks downtown that make up most of the 169 acres of office uses. Additionally, there are number of small parcels of office/distribution uses throughout the city, primarily on Washington Road and Cleveland Avenue.

## Mixed Use

Mixed use development occurs when one or more different uses are permitted in one building or within one planned development. The types of uses that occur in a mixed use building may include offices, professional services, residential apartments or condominiums, and commercial uses like restaurants and shops. When permitted, the types of land uses allowed, the percentage distribution among the mix of uses, and the allowable density of each use is defined. Just **0.3%** of the land in East Point is currently occupied by a mix of uses. These could include apartment or condo buildings with ground floor retail or planned developments of single-family or multi-family homes with some limited commercial. East Point's mixed areas uses occur mainly near downtown, where a number of previously single-family homes may be used as apartments and offices or shops.

Only 0.3% of the land in East Point is currently occupied by mixed use development.

Most of East Point's zoning districts prohibit mixing uses. Many instances of mixed use development are non-conforming uses; they exist in zoning districts where they are not expressly permitted. Mixed use development is currently permitted in the Commercial Redevelopment and Mixed Use zoning districts, which make up less than **1%** of the land in East Point. In fact, there is no land currently zoned as Mixed Use. Medical Institutional zoning does allow single-family and multi-family homes in the district along with commercial and institutional uses.

Mixed use is only allowed on 1% of parcels (by acre).

## Industrial

Industrial uses make up almost **10%** of the land in East Point. Land used for heavy industrial activity is usually isolated from residential and commercial activities that might be disturbed by the sounds, odors, and truck traffic often associated with industrial production. However, industry creates stable jobs and is an important element of a city's economy.

- Light Industrial: Light Industrial uses make up **7.5%** of total parcel acreage in East Point and include those that are not traditionally seen in commercial areas, but are less intensive than heavy industrial. Light industrial areas might also be places where consumers would visit. Examples of light industrial uses permitted in the East Point zoning ordinance include automobile service stations and storage warehouses. East Point's legacy as a railroad town and its prime location along major transportation corridors makes it well suited to distribution and warehousing industries.
- Heavy Industrial: Heavy industrial activities represent only **2.0%** of all land use in the City and include processing, assembling, packaging and warehousing operations. They are not typically considered to be compatible with most other land uses and are often surrounded by buffers. Usually, heavy industrial uses are not places where consumers would need to visit. There are a number of manufacturing and production facilities in the eastern portion of East Point along the railroad. In addition, a large recycling facility is located on Central Avenue east of downtown.

## Quick Facts

### Largest Public Properties

Point University	49 acres
Connally Drive water treatment facility	26 acres
Tri-Cities High School	18 acres
Paul D. West Middle	15 acres

### Public/Institutional

The public and institutional land use category includes institutional, state, federal, and local government uses. Public uses include municipal buildings, such as city hall, police and fire stations, libraries, prisons, post offices, and public schools. Institutional uses include colleges, churches, and hospitals. **6.4%** of East Point's land is used for public or institutional services. The largest public and institutional facilities in East Point include Point University (formerly Atlanta Christian College), the water facility on Headland Drive, Tri-Cities High School, and P.D. West Middle School. Many East Point government properties are located in the oldest part of East Point, near downtown. The Community Facilities section includes more information on the location of municipal services in East Point.

### Parks/Recreation/Conservation

The City of East Point contains **169 acres** of park, recreation, or conservation land. Examples of land uses that fall into this category include playgrounds, public parks, neighborhood or private parks, nature preserves, golf courses, cemeteries, wildlife management areas, and national forests. This category includes both public land and private property, so it does not necessarily measure the total park space in the community. The section on Community Facilities includes more information on the location and size of public parks in East Point.

The City of East Point completed a 10-year update of its Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2010. The plan included a needs assessment based on comparisons to national guidelines and benchmarks; a community-wide survey; an evaluation of connectivity and existing level of service; and an assessment of existing natural features, facilities, and amenities in the community. The plan recommended activating inactive parks, adding mini-parks and neighborhood greenspace, adding several larger parks, and establishing a multi-use trail system to address the identified shortage of 100 acres of park space.

### Transportation/Utilities

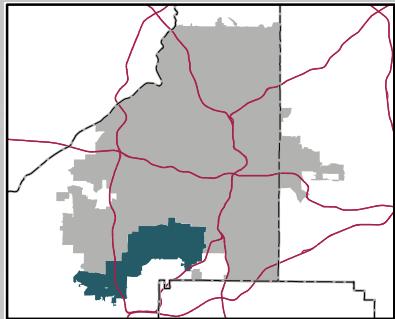
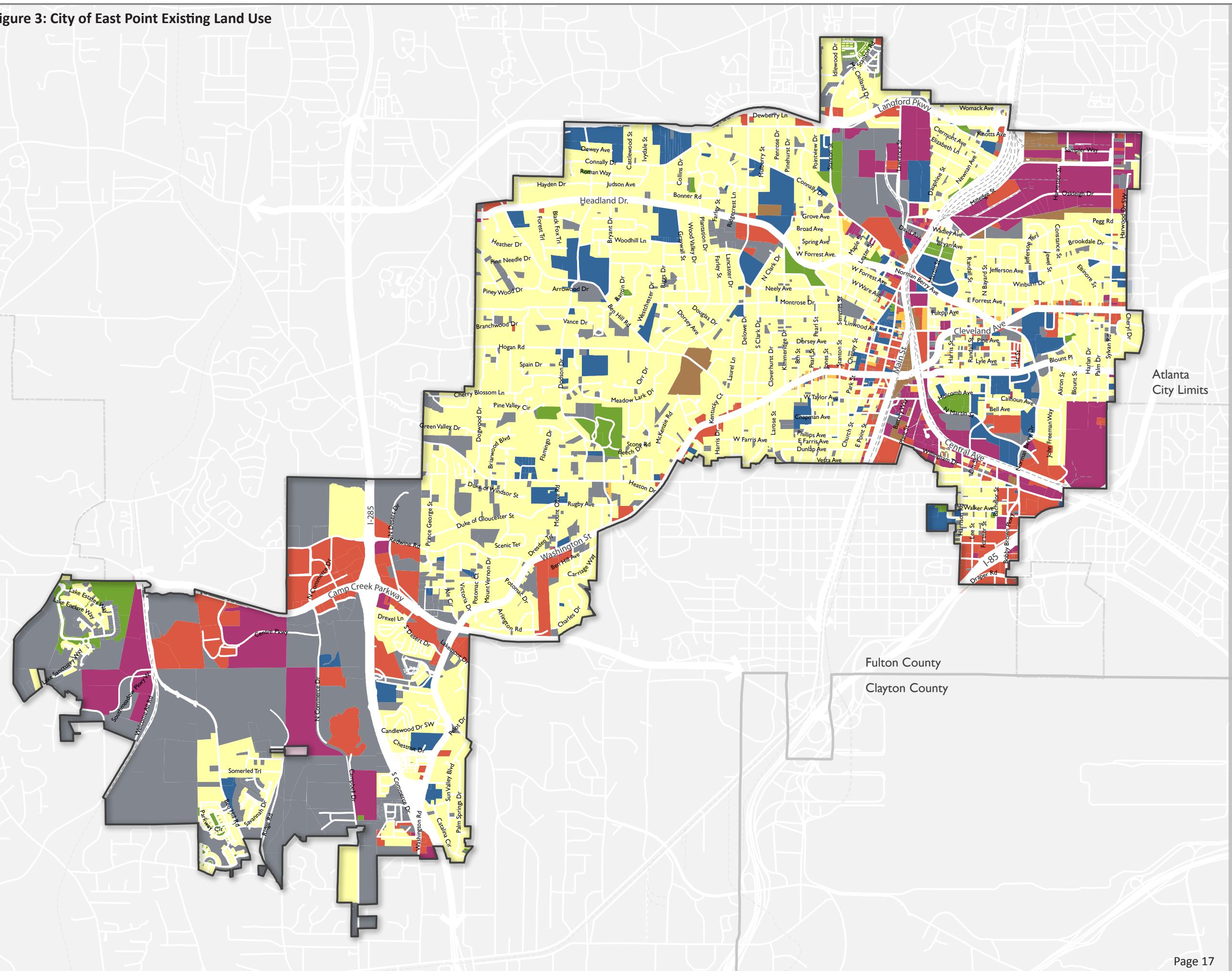
The transportation and utility land use category includes uses such as public transit stations, power plants, rail facilities, radio or television towers, and airports. Transportation routes, such as roads and railways, are also sometimes included in this category, but this land is not factored into the calculation of total acreage here. 100 acres in East Point are dedicated to transportation and utilities. A Georgia Power facility on Ben Hill Road and many freight rail and MARTA facilities fall into the Transportation / Utilities land use category and will be discussed more fully in the Community Facilities chapter.

### Vacant/Unused

Vacant and unused land includes lots or tracts of land that are within the city limits and either have not been developed or have been developed but since abandoned. **23%** of the land in East Point is vacant. Many vacant parcels are in the new single-family developments in the far southwest portion of the city that have been subdivided but not yet built out or occupied. Other very large tracts of land in the southwest section have been zoned for medium-density residential, but construction on these neighborhoods has not begun. This type of vacant land differs from the scattered vacancies east of I-285, where many parcels have been developed but are left unoccupied, in both residential and commercial areas. A buffer of undeveloped land around the chemical plant on Lawrence Street that separates it from adjacent residential uses also makes up a large portion of the vacant land. The economic recession and the slow housing market have contributed to nationally high rates of residential and commercial vacancies.

23% of the land in East Point is currently vacant.

Figure 3: City of East Point Existing Land Use



## City of East Point Comprehensive Plan

### Existing Land Use Map



## Existing Zoning

An analysis of the existing zoning in East Point is important in that it helps identify what uses are legally permitted on each parcel. Zoning categories differ slightly from land use categories but help make it easier to compare what land use assets the city currently has to what is allowed. Figure 4 and Table 2 provide an inventory of the current zoning of all 12,796 zoned parcels within the city limits.

Community Unit Plan (CUP) was created as a zoning district in 2009. Prior to 2009, a CUP was treated as an overlay district. Currently no parcels are zoned CUP; however, there are a number of parcels that still retain a CUP overlay.

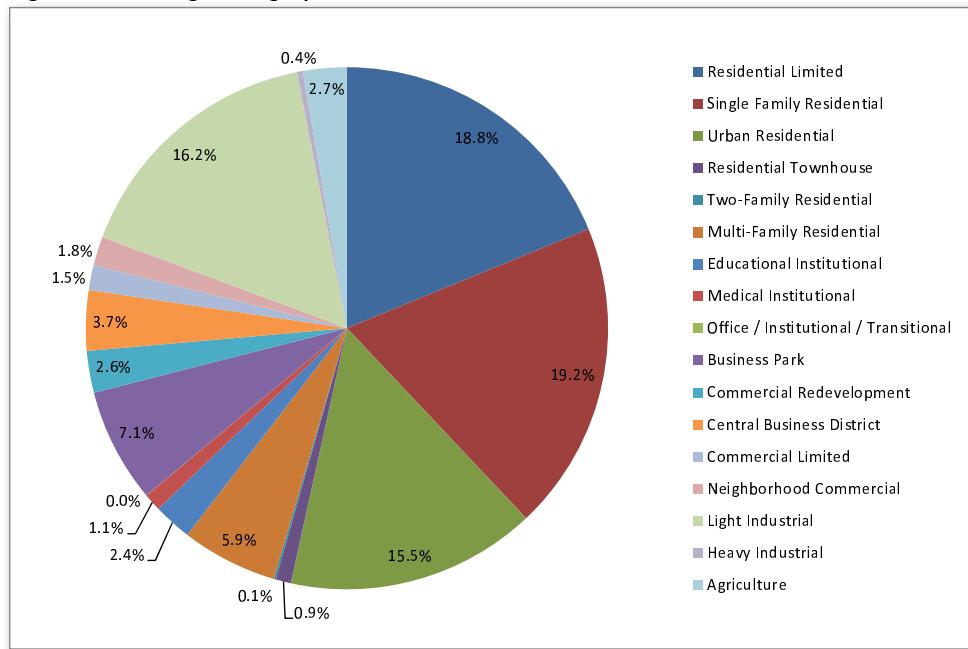
The city also maintains the following historical zoning maps: 1957 (no adoption date); May 2, 1960 (adopted); August 21, 1978 (adopted); 1988 (no adoption date, revision date of June 14, 1988); 1999/2000 (no adoption date); 2002 (no adoption date); October 4, 2004 (adopted); December 19, 2005 (adopted, revised January 18, 2006).

**Table 2 : Existing Zoning by Acre**

<b>Total Acreage by Zoning</b>				
<b>Existing Zoning</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>% of Acres</b>	<b># of Parcels</b>
All Residential:		4,827	61.0%	10,849
Residential Limited	RL	1,465	18.5%	2,128
Single Family Residential	R1	1,493	18.9%	3,195
Urban Residential	R1A	1,208	15.3%	4,467
Residential Townhouse	RT	73	0.9%	557
Two-Family Residential	R2	10	0.1%	35
Multi-Family Residential	R3	464	5.9%	449
Multi-Family Residential	R4	116	1.5%	18
Mobile Home Park District	R5	-	0.0%	-
All Office / Institutional:		826	10.4%	155
Educational Institutional	EI	185	2.3%	5
Medical Institutional	MI	85	1.1%	119
Office / Institutional / Transitional	OIT	1	0.0%	4
Business Park	BP	551	7.0%	26
Planned Office Park	POP	3	0.0%	1
All Commercial:		751	9.5%	1,127
Commercial Redevelopment	CR	202	2.6%	605
Central Business District	C2	290	3.7%	272
Commercial Limited	CL	120	1.5%	72
Neighborhood Commercial	C1	139	1.8%	178
All Industrial:		1,294	16.4%	400
Light Industrial	I1	1,266	16.0%	394
Heavy Industrial	I2	28	0.4%	6
All Other Uses:		212	2.7%	265
Agriculture	AG	212	2.7%	265
<b>Total:</b>		<b>7,910</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>12,796</b>

Note: Parks & Recreation account for 137 acres on 58 parcels with no zoning designation. They are therefore not included in the Total Acreage by Zoning table.

Source: City of East Point Official Zoning Map Adopted 3/2/2009

**Figure 4 : Existing Zoning by Acre**

Source: City of East Point



Residential Limited



Heavy Industrial



Business Park



Urban Residential



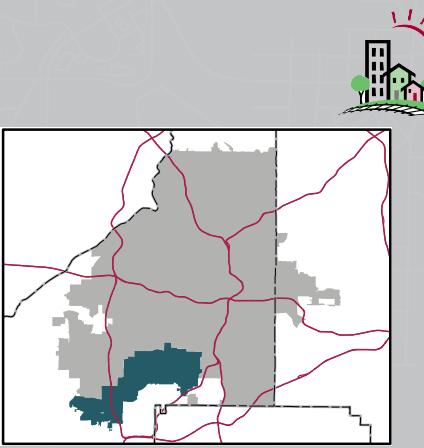
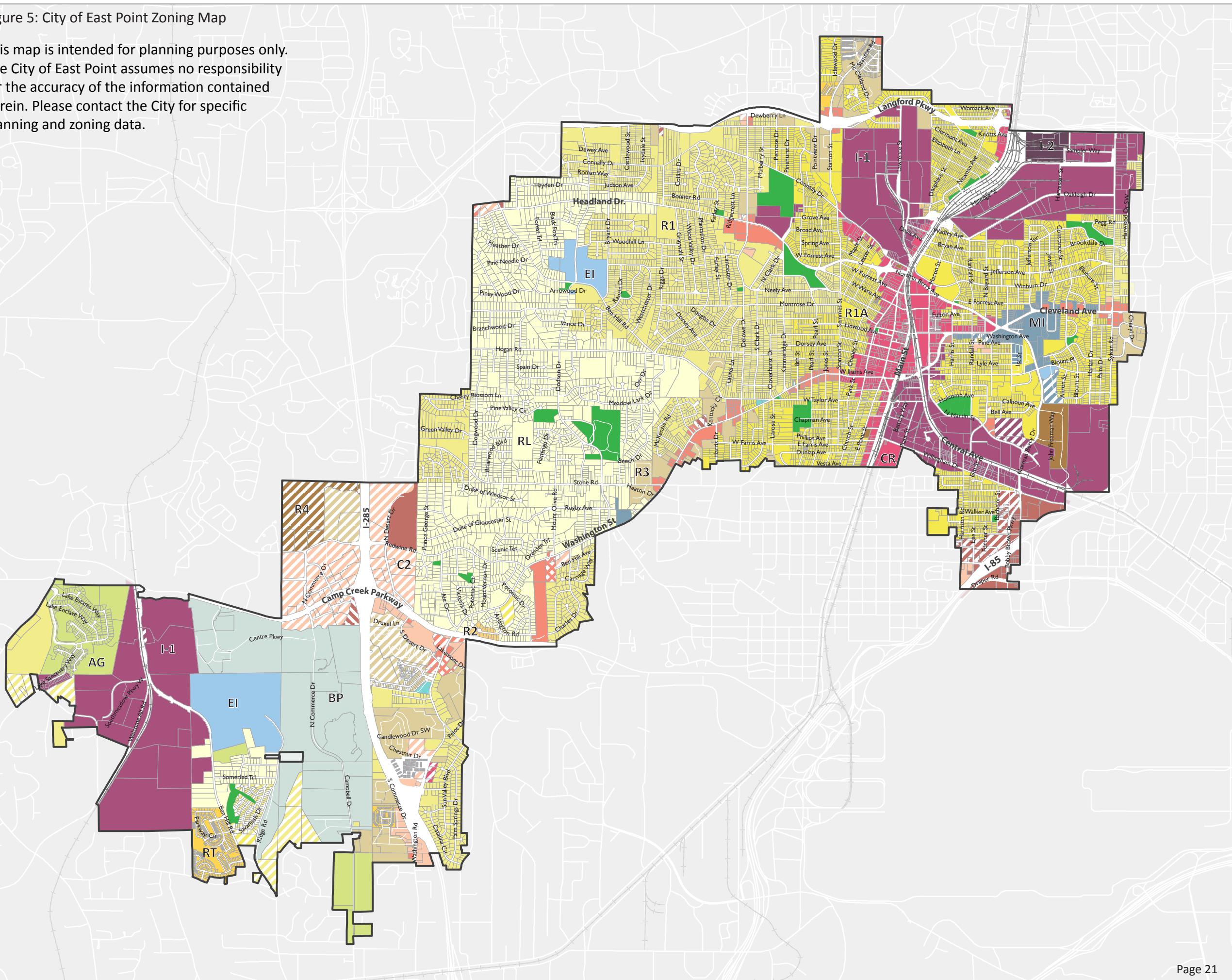
Medical Institutional



Central Business District

Figure 5: City of East Point Zoning Map

This map is intended for planning purposes only.  
The City of East Point assumes no responsibility  
for the accuracy of the information contained  
herein. Please contact the City for specific  
planning and zoning data.



## Zoning Districts

<b>R1</b>	Single Family Residential
<b>R1A</b>	Urban Residential
<b>R2</b>	Two-Family Residential
<b>R3</b>	Multi-Family Residential
<b>R4</b>	Muldti-Family Residential
<b>R5</b>	Mobile Home Park
<b>RL</b>	Residential Limited
<b>RT</b>	Residential Townhouse
<b>MIX</b>	Mixed Use
<b>EI</b>	Educational Institutional
<b>MI</b>	Medical Institutional
<b>OIT</b>	Office / Institutional / Transitional
<b>BP</b>	Business Park
<b>C1</b>	Neighborhood Commercial
<b>C2</b>	Central Business District
<b>CR</b>	Commercial Redevelopment
<b>CL</b>	Commercial Limited
<b>I-1</b>	Light Industrial
<b>I-2</b>	Heavy Industrial
<b>AG</b>	Agriculture
<b>With Conditions</b>	
<b>With Modifications</b>	
<b>East Point City Limits</b>	
<b>Parks and Greenspace</b>	
<b>Railroad</b>	

Source: City of East Point Zoning Map adopted 3/2/2009; modified 8/29/2011 based on Fulton County tax assessor parcel database

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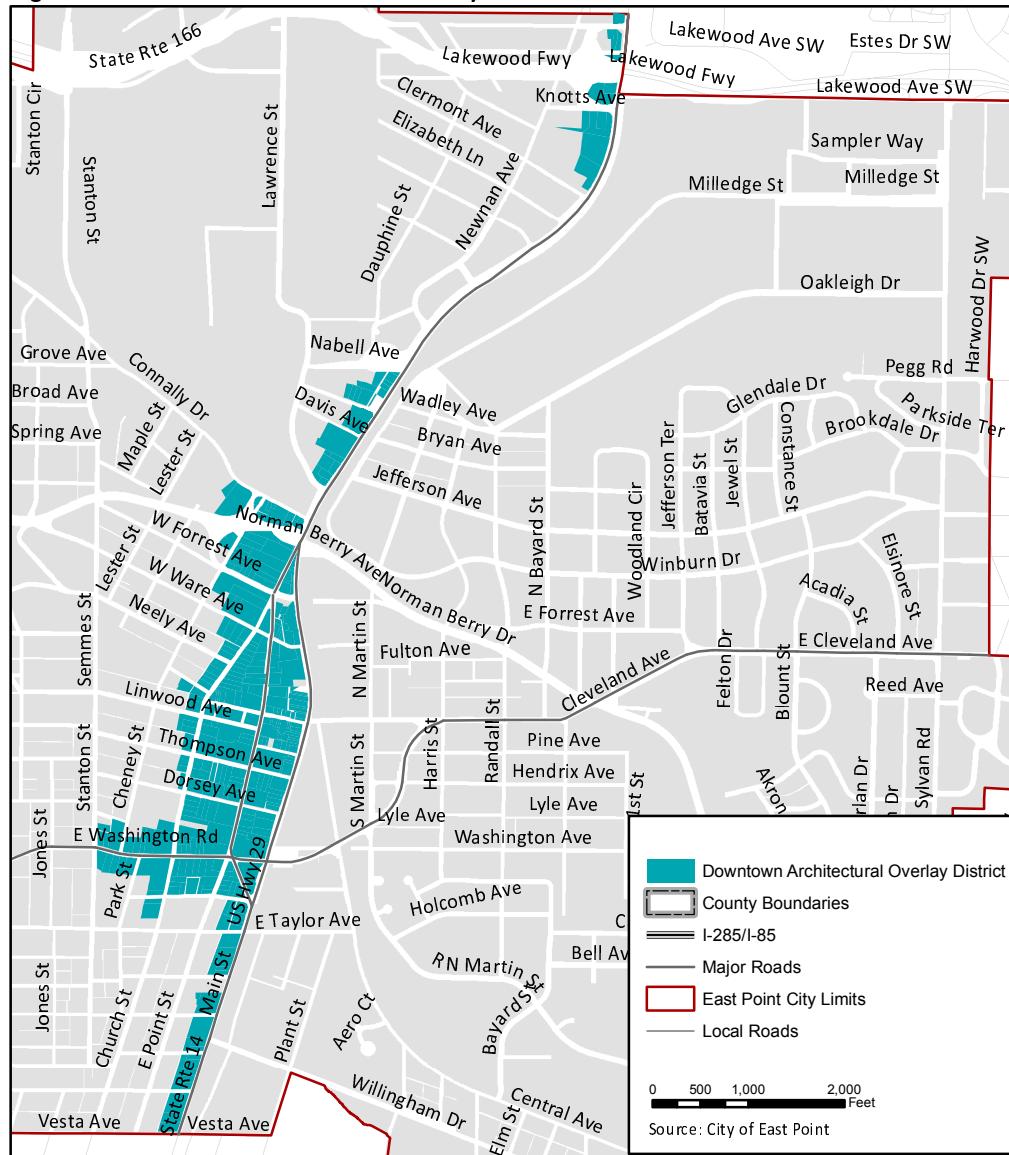




Overlay Districts are supplemental to the zoning district classifications established in the City of East Point's Municipal Code. All development and building permits for lots located within any overlay district shall meet all of the requirements of the base zoning district in which they are located and, in addition, shall meet all of the requirements of the overlay district applicable to the particular parcel. Where there are conflicts between overlay district regulation and other regulations contained in this Code, the overlay regulation shall govern. Where the overlay district regulation is equally restrictive with other regulations in the Code, the overlay district regulation shall govern. These districts are created to protect natural cultural resources, promote safety, and protect health. East Point has established two Overlay Districts: The Downtown Overlay District and the Cleveland Avenue Overlay District.

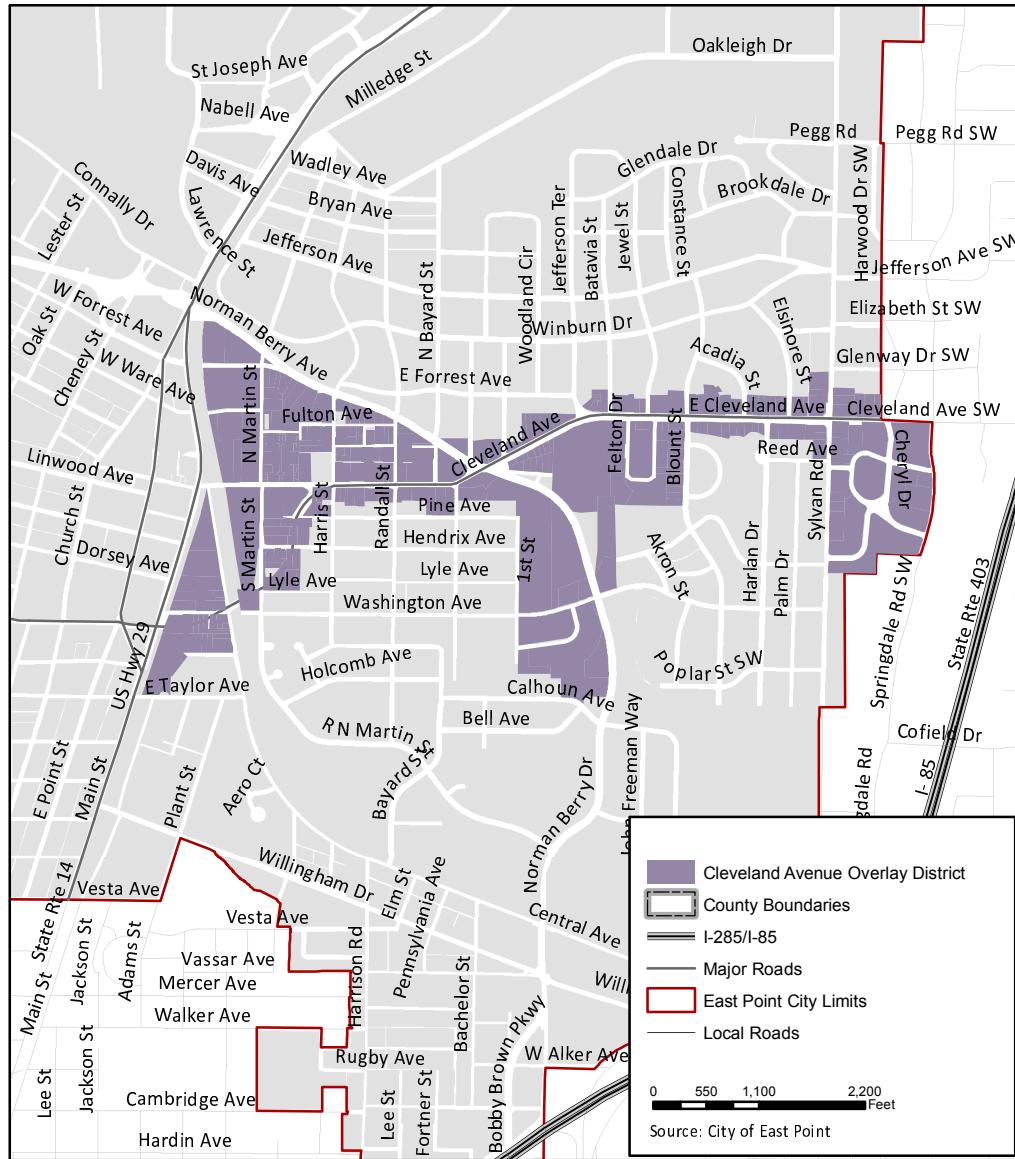
**The Downtown Architectural Overlay District applies to all properties zoned "CR," Commercial Redevelopment, as illustrated on Figure 6.** Within the Downtown Architectural Overlay District ("the District"), land and structures shall be used in accordance with the standards underlying the district. The overlay district outlines: development standards; landscaping; screening; pedestrian safety; site lighting; building size, orientation, setback, height, scale and parking; building and other structure design.

**Figure 6 : Downtown Architectural Overlay District**



The Cleveland Avenue Overlay District was established to implement design guidelines to promote future development that is consistent with the Cleveland Avenue Corridor Masterplan. Figure 7 identifies the boundaries of the district. Generally, the design guidelines are intended to support local and regional development goals that promote alternative transportation, mix of uses, pedestrian environments, traffic calming, active living, and greenspace. Additionally, providing safe and comfortable environments for people involves incorporating CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) strategies designed to provide 'eyes on the street' and to remove opportunities for crime inherent in the building or site design.

**Figure 7 : Cleveland Avenue Overlay District**



According to the American Planning Association's *Planner's Dictionary*, a nonconforming use is a use that was valid when brought into existence but by subsequent regulation becomes no longer conforming. Thus, any use lawfully existing on any piece of property that is inconsistent with a new or amended general plan, and that in turn is a violation of a zoning ordinance amendment subsequently adopted in conformance with the general plan, will be a nonconforming use.

Although the City of East Point has enacted zoning changes over the years and throughout the entire city, the most apparent zoning changes in which non-conformities were created took place in the residential neighborhoods near downtown that are now zoned R1-A. Historically, many of the properties that are currently zoned R1-A were zoned R2-R4, which permitted two-family and multifamily housing. In 2002, the R2-R4 designations were re-zoned via government initiated rezoning to R1, a low-density residential area that permits single family uses. Two-family or multifamily units are not listed as a permitted use under R1 zoning, and any such units existing at the time of adoption would have been rendered non-conforming. The same area was re-zoned R1-A as shown on the April 18, 2005 zoning maps, which is a medium-density residential area that only permits single family uses. The attached list documents properties within this area that have a Fulton County Tax Assessor land use code ("LUC") of 102, 103, 104, and 107 (Residential 2 Family, Residential 3 Family, Residential 4 Family, or Single Family Residential Townhouse) that are present within this R1-A zoning district. There are 397 non-conforming two-family or multifamily residential uses listed within the R1-A single family zoning district.









## Influences on Future Development

There are a few factors, both inside and outside of East Point's city limits, which might influence future land use development patterns within the city. It is important that these issues are considered when zoning and land development decisions are made, along with the Areas of Special Attention in the subsequent section.

### **Fort McPherson**

The September 2011 closure of Fort McPherson will likely have an impact on East Point's economy. While Fort McPherson is located just outside the city limits, people who lived and worked at the base often came into East Point for shopping and dining. As the base closes, East Point's business owners are losing this market. In addition there are a number of individuals working at the base and living in the City. The base closure could have significant impacts on housing vacancy rates. While the final development plan for the 488-acre site is still being finalized, it may include commercial uses that could draw shoppers away from East Point. However, likely plans for future development of the site include a large science and technology center, which would serve as a large employment center. The new site could potentially create jobs and bring in workers from outside the community. East Point is uniquely positioned to provide to this new market and attract them to businesses in the city.

**Figure 8 : Fort McPherson Redevelopment Area**



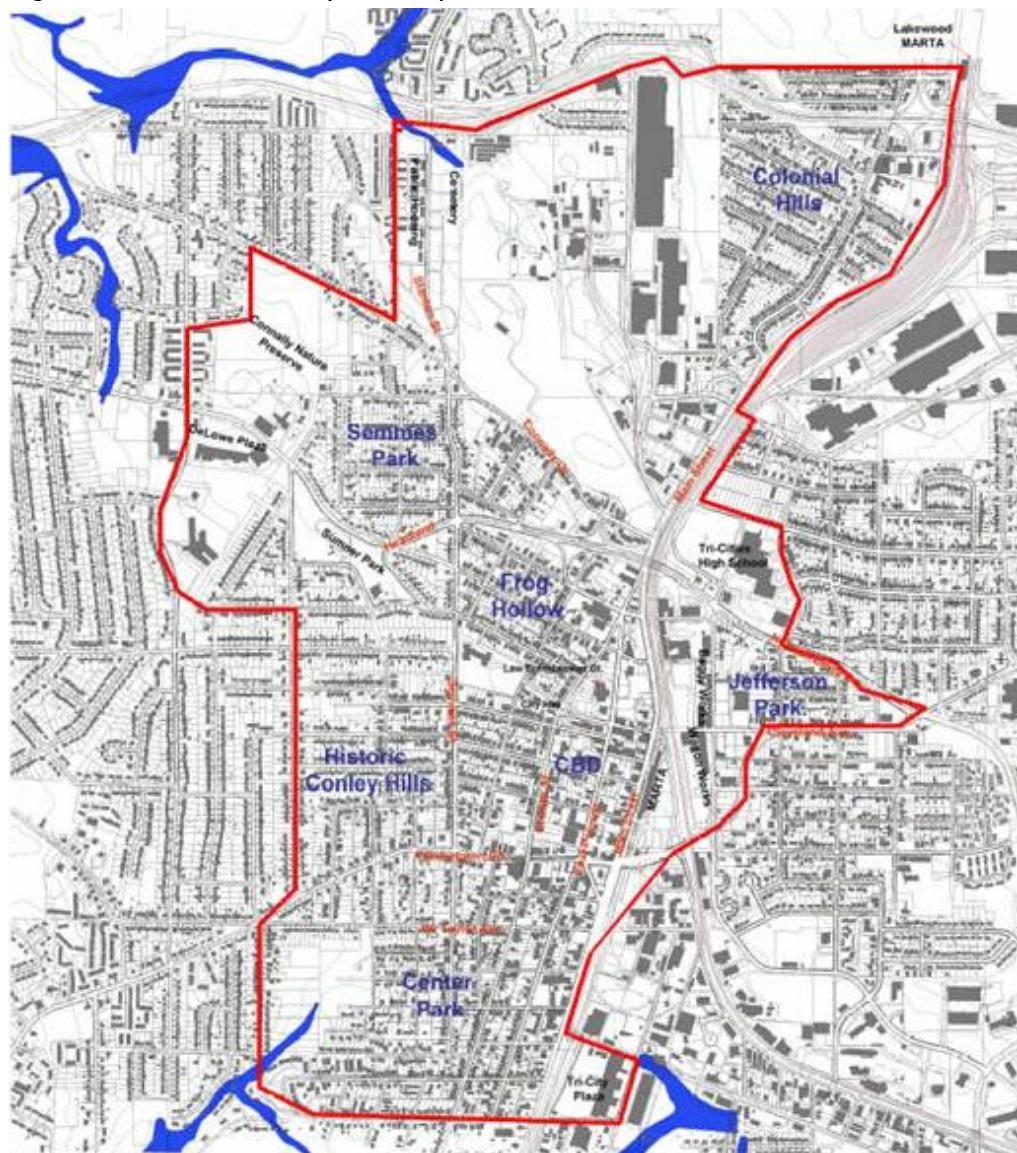
Source: *Fort McPherson Research Park Master Plan and Development Districts Conceptual Plan, 2010*

### **Livable Centers Initiative**

The Atlanta Regional Commission funded a Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) master plan and study for the City of East Point in 2005. The area of the LCI included downtown, Tri-Cities Plaza and De Lowe Plaza, the Lawrence Street industrial area, and the residential neighborhoods of Colonial Hills, Semmes Park, Frog Hollow, Conley Hills, Jefferson Park, and Center Park. The intent of the study was to develop a plan that would capitalize on the existing sense of place and community and original compact street grid network to create a livelier downtown urban center, stimulating investment in the city's commercial core and historic neighborhoods. After a public participation process, the biggest goals identified by the community were redeveloping the Lawrence Street brownfield and industrial area, restoring Center Park, redeveloping a shuttered primary school, renovating De Lowe Plaza and Tri-Cities Plaza. The community desired retail along Main Street and in front of the MARTA station and a grocery store and drug store within the downtown area. The LCI identified a number of vacant properties in downtown prime for redevelopment.

The city has accomplished some of the objectives outlined by the LCI. Almost all parcels in the downtown area are currently zoned "Commercial Redevelopment," which "is intended to facilitate and encourage innovative, functional, aesthetically pleasing and creative design and development of the most compatible and desirable mixed-use pattern of retail, commercial service, institutional and residential land uses which are primarily pedestrian and public transit oriented." When these properties are substantially redeveloped, they must comply with the requirements of the zoning regulation. Additionally, there is a Downtown Architectural Overlay District that applies to all properties zoned Commercial Redevelopment within the overlay boundaries, which surround the downtown area. The architectural guidelines require pedestrian-friendly development with attractive landscaping, creating a unified and attractive downtown district. Future land use planning should continue to concentrate on bringing a mix of uses that will attract a variety of visitors, residents, and consumers to the central downtown district.

Figure 9 : East Point LCI Study Area Map



Source: City of East Point Livable Centers Initiative Report, 2005

### Tax Allocation District

A Tax Allocation District, or “TAD,” is established for the purpose of catalyzing investment by financing certain redevelopment activities in underdeveloped or blighted areas using public dollars. Redevelopment costs are financed through the pledge of incremental increases in property taxes generated by the resulting new development. Financing incentives encourage development that fits within the plan and falls within the TAD boundaries. East Point has two TADs: one around Camp Creek Marketplace and another on major transportation corridors. The Areas of Special Attention Map (Figure 16) shows the TAD boundaries.

The City of East Point developed its **Camp Creek Redevelopment Plan & Tax Allocation District for Camp Creek & I-285** in 2001. Reacting to slower economic and demographic growth than in North Fulton, East Point worked with Fulton County to create a Tax Allocation District that would bring jobs, new shopping and entertainment opportunities, and enhanced sales tax revenue to the city. The TAD site is primarily south of Camp Creek Parkway between Ben Hill Road and I-285, with a smaller portion north of Camp Creek Parkway to Redwine Road. The “Camp Creek Gateway” was built on 814 acres of real estate that had been difficult to develop due to noise from the airport and its location in a floodplain; now, Camp Creek Marketplace has become a major regional shopping destination.

In response to the LCI, the 2006 comprehensive plan update, and a **2005 Cleveland Avenue Corridor Study Master Plan** (shown in Figure 10), the City of East Point developed a Corridors Tax Allocation District and Redevelopment Plan in 2006. The purpose of this plan is to “provide a financing mechanism to help facilitate recommended improvements,” including attracting private taxable redevelopment opportunities, improving underdeveloped urban areas, and creating employment opportunities. As East Point had tremendous success with the Camp Creek TAD, this plan implements TADs around Cleveland Avenue, Washington Road, and Main Street.

**Figure 10 : Cleveland Avenue Corridor Study Masterplan**



Source: Cleveland Avenue Corridor Study: Masterplan, 2005

Public redevelopment or improvement projects to be made with TAD-generated funds include new parks and open spaces; pathways and trails to link the area’s parks; roadway improvements; sidewalk and pedestrian-friendly streetscape improvements; land assemblage or site preparation for development; construction of new public facilities, including a community recreation center; and improvements to the area’s water, sewer, and transportation infrastructure. Anticipated private development projects that could be generated or supported by the TAD incentives are as follows:

- **Buggy Works** expansion
- **East Point Commons:** mixed-use development on the block between Ware Avenue, East Point Street, Cleveland Avenue, and Main Street
- **Tri-Cities Plaza:** redevelopment, potentially with townhouses
- **MARTA South Parking Lot MXD:** major mixed-use project, potentially with a new hotel in CBD
- **North Main District:** mid-size commercial or residential development and small-store retail and local office space located along Main Street north of Normal Berry Drive
- **North Main Mixed-Use Development:** assemblage of parcels to create a larger mixed-use development
- **Central Main District:** Town Center retail and services
- **South Main District:** similar development as in the North and Central Main Districts
- **SFMC Campus and King Building:** medical-related professional office development
- **Sylvan Road Mixed-Use:** large assemblage of land south of Cleveland Avenue between Sylvan Road and Springdale Road, potentially with “big-box” and supermarket retail
- **Wagon Works Mixed-Use Expansion:** loft condominiums with local-serving retail
- Unspecified redevelopment along **Washington Road**

## Areas of Transitional Land Use

Founded in 1887, East Point is one of the older original railroad cities in the Atlanta area. The original residential and commercial areas surround downtown, along East Point Street and Main Street. The railroad tracks, which follow Main Street and Central Avenue, have attracted industrial development and distribution uses throughout the city's history. The older residential neighborhoods, located east of downtown to the city limits and extending west of downtown to Delowe Drive, include a mix of housing types and a diverse residential population. Located close to MARTA and several local parks, these historic areas have always been a source of pride for East Point residents. As the economy improves and the housing vacancy in East Point decreases, these neighborhoods will likely continue to attract a variety of residents.

Unfortunately, some of the original residential neighborhoods have been suffering from years of disinvestment and high rates of vacancies. The current economic climate has contributed to the decline of some of these areas. In particular, the neighborhood east of downtown and south of Cleveland Avenue, the neighborhood south of Washington Road and west of Main Street within the city limits, and a small neighborhood immediately west of the Lawrence Street brownfield have been identified by the city as in need of investment. These areas have been identified on the **Areas of Special Attention map** as “Areas of Significant Disinvestment.”

New housing opportunities closer to the city limits have been identified and are beginning to be developed. The **Villages at East Point**, a new multi-family, high-density development, is conveniently located just off of Lakewood Freeway and adjacent to the Fort McPherson site. Several other new residential developments, including some conservation subdivisions and some multi-family housing, are currently under construction near the Camp Creek Marketplace, south of Camp Creek Parkway. These neighborhoods are also conveniently located to major transportation arteries and commercial attractions. However, connectivity from downtown East Point to these neighborhoods is lacking. To incorporate these new neighborhoods into East Point and to attract these new residents to downtown, the eastern and western centers should

be better connected. Enhancing commercial properties at nodes along Washington Road, the only route that connects east and west, will draw visitors towards downtown.

A few commercial properties have also been identified by the city as prime redevelopment opportunities. The intersection of Delowe Drive and Headland Drive is currently home to a gas station and several declining strip centers. Its location amidst a thriving residential neighborhood and adjacent to a large apartment complex makes it an excellent target for neighborhood commercial redevelopment. Another strip center, on Main Street between Vesta Avenue and Willingham Drive, has suffered from vacancies in recent years but is well situated to attract large supermarket or big-box retail opportunities. The **Areas of Special Attention map** highlights these prime redevelopment opportunities.

## Incompatible Land Use Relationships

East Point has a significant industrial heritage, which has contributed much to the city's economy and early growth. However, industrial uses are typically considered to be incompatible with other land uses, particularly residential uses, due to externalities like noise, odor, and truck traffic. Sound planning principals including land development standards can help reduce or remove conflicts that arise with issues such as layout, buffers, and location. It is important that future land use plans and ordinances guard these important financial and economic resources while simultaneously protecting adjacent residents from any perceived negative effects. Natural vegetative buffers can be used to distance industrial properties from other uses. An alternative to using buffers is to gradually step down the intensity of use from industrial to residential. Heavy industrial uses can co-exist with light-industrial uses, which are usually compatible with some commercial uses. Commercial uses can be sited next to office buildings that are, in turn, good neighbors to residential uses. Careful land use planning can reduce any potential negative impacts of industrial use while preserving their important economic contributions.

## Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Significant environmental resources should be protected from being harmed by development, and their location should be an important consideration in a city's land use plan. The section on Natural and Cultural Resources fully explores the location and quantity of a variety of environmentally sensitive areas within the city limits. East Point does not have a large amount of sensitive areas, but it does have some areas of steep slopes and floodplains where development must be controlled. The largest floodplain area occurs immediately south of Camp Creek Parkway, in an area that is not currently densely developed. Existing uses include warehouses on large tracts of land and residential subdivisions. This area will likely be developed at a low to medium density, since new construction within the floodplain is restricted. Areas of steep slopes are also located in already-developed residential neighborhoods, so will not prevent any significant challenges to future development.

See the chapter on Natural and Cultural Resources for an index of the parcels that are affected by environmentally sensitive areas.

## Future Land Use

The future land use (“FLU”) map created by the city is the visual representation of the existing plans, policies, and goals, indicating the location of various land use categories. Figure 11 is East Point’s **current** future land use map, and Table 4 provides an inventory. In order to achieve the development that a FLU map depicts, existing zoning must allow for the amount of each type of development specified by the future land use plan.

With the economic decline exacerbated by a high rate of vacancy, the city faces a crisis. This update to the Comprehensive Plan is timely, since it offers an opportunity to objectively analyze policies and economic goals. Analysis and implications of current policy and regulations as they relate to existing land use conditions can help reveal the effectiveness of current policy. This assessment helps decision-makers determine whether the current regulations meet the needs and objectives of the city.

**Table 4 : Future Land Use by Acre, Existing Policy 2006**

<b>Total Acreage by Future Land Use</b>			
<b>Future Land Use</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>% of Acres</b>	<b># of Parcels</b>
All Residential	4,930	61.3%	10,794
High Density Residential	679	8.4%	751
Medium Density Residential	1,881	23.4%	5,623
Low Density Residential	2,370	29.4%	4,420
All Mixed Use	728	9.0%	948
Mixed Use	593	7.4%	518
Mixed Use Town Center	134	1.7%	430
All Commercial	554	6.9%	561
Commercial	191	2.4%	47
Hospitality Commercial	210	2.6%	432
Neighborhood Commercial	153	1.9%	82
All Industrial	504	6.3%	232
Light Industrial	503	6.2%	231
Heavy Industrial	1	0.0%	1
All Other Uses	1,332	16.5%	319
Office Park	779	9.7%	111
Public/Institutional	268	3.3%	83
Parks/Recreation/Conservation	243	3.0%	80
Transportation/Utilities	42	0.5%	45
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8,048</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>12,854</b>

*Source: City of East Point*



## 2026 Future Land Use Map

### Residential

- Yellow Low Density Residential - up to 4 units per acre
- Orange Medium Density Residential - up to 8 units per acre
- Brown High Density Residential - up to 18 units per acre

### Commercial

- Pink Neighborhood Commercial
- Red Hospitality Commercial
- Red Commercial

### Live, Work, Play

- Purple Mixed Use
- Purple Mixed Use Town Center
- Purple Office Park

### Institutional

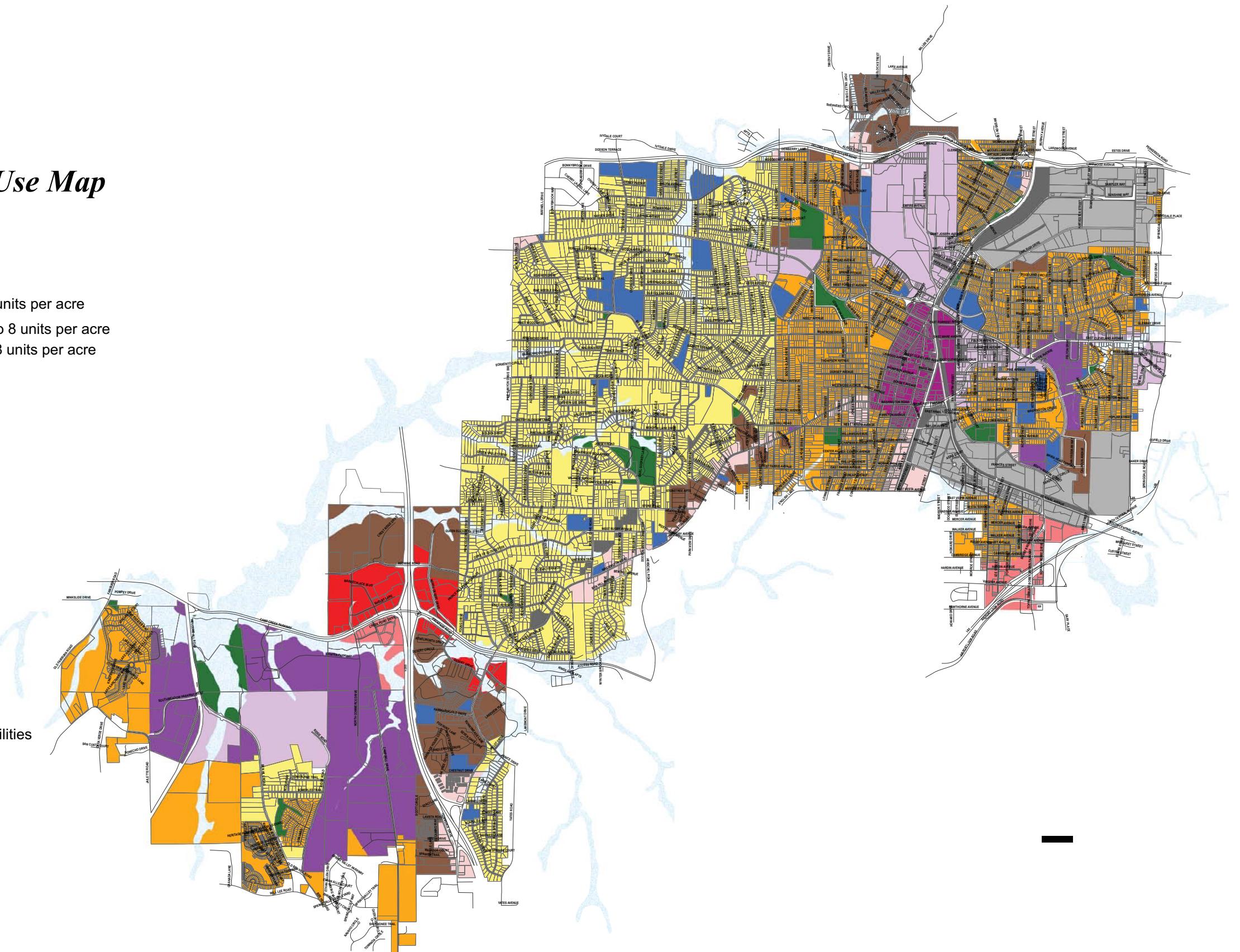
- Blue Public/Institutional

### Industrial

- Grey Industrial
- Dark Grey Transportation, Communication, Utilities

### Open Space

- Light Blue ep\_100yr\_floodplain
- Green Parks, Recreation, Conservation





## Land Use and Economic Development Patterns

How can decision makers measure or quantify the fiscal impact of the land development patterns? What is the appropriate mix of residential and commercial use for a healthy tax base? What employment activities should the city recruit or encourage expansion of? What are the strategic locations for city investment that will create the most stable and dynamic economic environment for the future? These are questions that elected officials, stakeholders, property owners and city staff ask themselves on a daily basis. The *East Point Market Assessment and Demand Trends* report begins to address these questions by assessing existing market conditions and economic trends and then projecting the demands of Office, Industrial, Retail and Housing Development in East Point over the next 25 years<sup>1</sup>.

The Fiscal Impact assessment, herein, continues to help answer these questions. The fiscal impact assessments will then be used as a comparison for adjustments to future land use policies and map, along with community and stakeholder input, in the Mission 2036 Community Agenda.

### Market Demand Summary

Net 10-year and 25-year demand trends for the City of East Point are summarized below. Taking into account excess inventory, the demand for Retail and Office space is significant and stays constant through both the 10 and 25 year periods. Industrial demand also shows steady demand over the 25-year period while Residential shows a negative need for units in the first 10 years but then projects demand emerging again during years 2011-2036. That said, the market may still be attracted to areas for new housing.

**Table 5 : East Point Demand Net Current Excess Inventory**

<b>Total East Point Demand Net of Current Excess Inventory, 2011-2036</b>		
	<b>Years 1-10 2011-2021</b>	<b>Total 25 Years 2011-2036</b>
Retail	690,302 sq ft	1,366,051 sq ft
Neighborhood Services (from household growth)	20,887 sq ft	64,430 sq ft
Office (from employment growth)	756,878 sq ft	1,871,498 sq ft
Industrial (from employment growth)	102,523 sq ft	404,425 sq ft
Residential: Single Family Detached Houses	(242) units	1,024 units
Residential: Townhouses/Condos	(1) units	222 units
Residential: Multi-family Rentals/Apartments	(289) units	1,125 units
<b>Total Residential Units: All Types</b>	<b>(532) units</b>	<b>2,371 units</b>

Source: Huntley Partners, 2011

<sup>1</sup> Full report attached to Technical Appendix, discussed in the Economic Development Technical Appendix and summarized within Community Profile Economic Section.

Although the demand trends provide the potential for *economic* development the city could capture, building various scenarios of potential tax base (using a zoning scenario and FLU scenario) based on the tax assessor's existing tax base adds the *fiscal* dimension to the economic "story", which will help decision makers consider the best balance to pursue for future land use. The city does not currently collect data on cost-of services; therefore, the fiscal analysis only measures impact in terms of revenue generation. Assessment of the viability of meeting demand projections given constraints of the current zoning and FLU (2006) will provide a more complete picture of the true trade-offs facing the city regarding land use decisions. This approach allows a rough magnitude-of-scale type comparison of potential value the city policy implies.

### **Fiscal Impact Assessment**

The following tables and associated maps provide the fiscal impact associated with the current Land Use, Zoning, and FLU (2006). The method employed standardized categories across the three scenarios: the base scenario, which is the use according to **tax** records; uses allowed by **zoning**; and uses indicated by the 2006 future land use **policy** as appropriate, as shown in Table 6.

**Table 6 : Land Use Category Descriptions**

<b>Standardized Land Use Category Descriptions</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>
A	Commercial
B	Industrial
C	Low Density Residential
D	Medium Density Residential
E	High Density Residential
F	Mixed Use
G	Office / Distribution
H	Public / Institutional
Other	Parks / Recreation / Conservation, Transportation / Utilities

The average assessed value per acre was then calculated based on the 2010 Fulton County Assessors values for all parcels within each category, which is shown in Table 7.

**Table 7 : Average Assessed Value per Acre by Land Use Category**

<b>Average Assessed Value per Acre by Land Use Category</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Average Assessed Value per Acre</b>
A	Commercial	\$ 290,425
B	Industrial	\$ 132,910
C	Low Density Residential	\$ 83,490
D	Medium Density Residential	\$ 180,719
E	High Density Residential	\$ 221,902
F	Mixed Use	\$ 274,002
G	Office / Distribution	\$ 144,696
H	Public / Institutional	\$ 20,735
Other	Parks / Recreation / Conservation, Transportation / Utilities	\$ 8,313

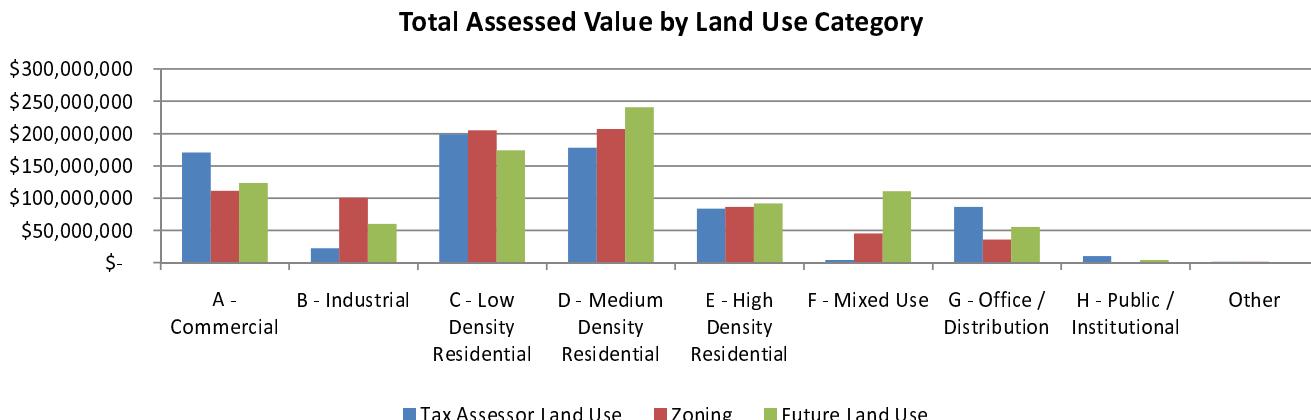
A scenario for potential fiscal impact was run using the tax assessor's current values in order to show tax revenue implication if all city parcels were actually used as zoned. Similarly, if all parcels were used as the future policy indicates, this analysis shows the revenue implications in today's dollars. Table 8 shows the results comparing all three scenarios.

**Table 8 : Comparison of Assessed Values**

<b>Comparison of Assessed Value: Existing Tax Base, Current Zoning, and Future Land Use Policy</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b>Tax Assessor Land Use</b>	<b>Zoning</b>	<b>Future Land Use</b>	
A	\$ 170,448,080	\$ 111,496,709	\$ 123,696,567	
B	\$ 22,553,920	\$ 100,660,502	\$ 60,382,901	
C	\$ 198,847,580	\$ 205,161,357	\$ 173,855,020	
D	\$ 178,225,170	\$ 207,406,722	\$ 240,804,532	
E	\$ 84,031,510	\$ 86,590,794	\$ 92,170,810	
F	\$ 4,180,120	\$ 45,741,889	\$ 110,526,297	
G	\$ 86,715,400	\$ 35,736,272	\$ 55,668,549	
H	\$ 10,244,720	\$ 1,158,658	\$ 4,180,399	
Other	\$ 1,336,200	\$ 1,382,039	\$ 601,744	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 756,582,700</b>	<b>\$ 795,334,943</b>	<b>\$ 861,886,820</b>	

The results detail that the total assessed value of the **existing land use** is **\$756,582,700**, **zoning** would be **\$795,334,943**, and **future land use** would be **\$861,886,820**. If all parcels were currently used as zoned then the potential fiscal impact would be \$38,752,243 greater than currently assessed. If the FLU was implemented, then the fiscal impact would be \$105,304,120 greater than what is currently assessed.

Further analysis of the total assessed value by land use category indicates that the fiscal impacts from implementing the zoning and FLU result primarily from increases in categories B (**Industrial**), D (**Medium Density Residential**) and F (**Mixed Use**). The increase in medium density residential and industrial is primarily driven by areas near downtown that are categorized as low density on the base scenario, but are categorized as medium density on the FLU scenario. Clearly the greatest difference in potential revenue in the zoning and FLU scenarios come from category F, "mixed use," which demonstrates a 994% increase in the total value of land based on zoning and 2544% increase based on the FLU. This results from relatively high average assessed value per acre of the mixed use category in conjunction with current and future development goals as indicated on the zoning and FLU maps of large increases in the percentage of mixed use parcels in the city.

**Figure 12 : Comparison of Assessed Values**

Given the market demand study and current zoning and FLU maps along with fiscal values associated with each, East Point appears well positioned to realize goals given market conditions. The fiscal impact indicates that there would be significant increase in tax revenue through implementation of the future land use map with increased values being driven primarily by the growth of mixed use parcels in the City. The market demand data supports that development can take place on these parcels to the degree that the city can capture the demand projected over the next ten years (690,302 square feet of retail and 756,878 square feet of office which are categories of uses supported within the mixed use district).

For the best economic performance, the city will want to optimize the uses that generate the greatest tax revenue so it can provide the quality of use and services it envisions.

In addition over the next 25 years the demand study projected 1,125 residential multifamily units that would be appropriate to be developed within these mixed use projects. Mixed use projects will most likely occur within the Commercial Redevelopment (CR) zoned parcels in or around downtown which is a prime location given the location of MARTA and availability of infill opportunities on undeveloped and underutilized parcels. A majority of the CR parcels lie within the quarter- and half-mile radii around the East Point MARTA Station. Proximity to public transportation often increases market values of properties and supports more compact mixed use projects often referred to as Transit Oriented Development (TOD). Thus the location of these CR parcels in relation to public transportation will further the chances of mixed use development patterns in this location.

Using tax revenues to test alternative scenarios helps provide quantitative measures for the land use policy that the city will ultimately adopt at the completion of the comprehensive plan update. It obviously only tells one part of the whole economic story for the city. Similarly, the positive results of the market demand study is a critical quantitative set of data to know; however, the city will still have the hard work of capturing the demand potential the study shows.

The following tables were used to prepare the comparison above.

**Table 9 : Base Scenario: Tax Assessor Existing Land Use Value per Acre**

<b>Base Scenario: Tax Assessor Existing Land Use</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b># of Parcels</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Average Assessed Value per Acre</b>	<b>Total Assessed</b>
A	474	586.9	\$ 290,425	\$ 170,448,080
B	35	169.7	\$ 132,910	\$ 22,553,920
C	5,370	2,381.7	\$ 83,490	\$ 198,847,580
D	4,358	986.2	\$ 180,719	\$ 178,225,170
E	312	378.7	\$ 221,902	\$ 84,031,510
F	40	15.3	\$ 274,002	\$ 4,180,120
G	104	599.3	\$ 144,696	\$ 86,715,400
H	309	494.1	\$ 20,735	\$ 10,244,720
Other	97	161	\$ 8,313	\$ 1,336,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,099</b>	<b>5,773</b>	<b>\$ 131,066</b>	<b>\$ 756,582,700</b>

**Table 10 : Zoning Scenario: Potential Value**

<b>Zoning Scenario</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b># of Parcels</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Average Assessed Value per Acre</b>	<b>Total Potential Value</b>
A	267	383.9	\$ 290,425	\$ 111,496,709
B	261	757.4	\$ 132,910	\$ 100,660,502
C	4,934	2,457.3	\$ 83,490	\$ 205,161,357
D	4,509	1,147.7	\$ 180,719	\$ 207,406,722
E	240	390.2	\$ 221,902	\$ 86,590,794
F	624	166.9	\$ 274,002	\$ 45,741,889
G	8	247.0	\$ 144,696	\$ 35,736,272
H	83	55.9	\$ 20,735	\$ 1,158,658
Other	173	166.2	\$ 8,313	\$ 1,382,039
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,099</b>	<b>5,772.5</b>	<b>\$ 131,066</b>	<b>\$ 795,334,943</b>

**Table 11 : Future Land Use Scenario: Potential Value**

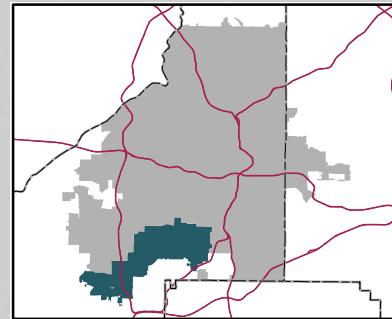
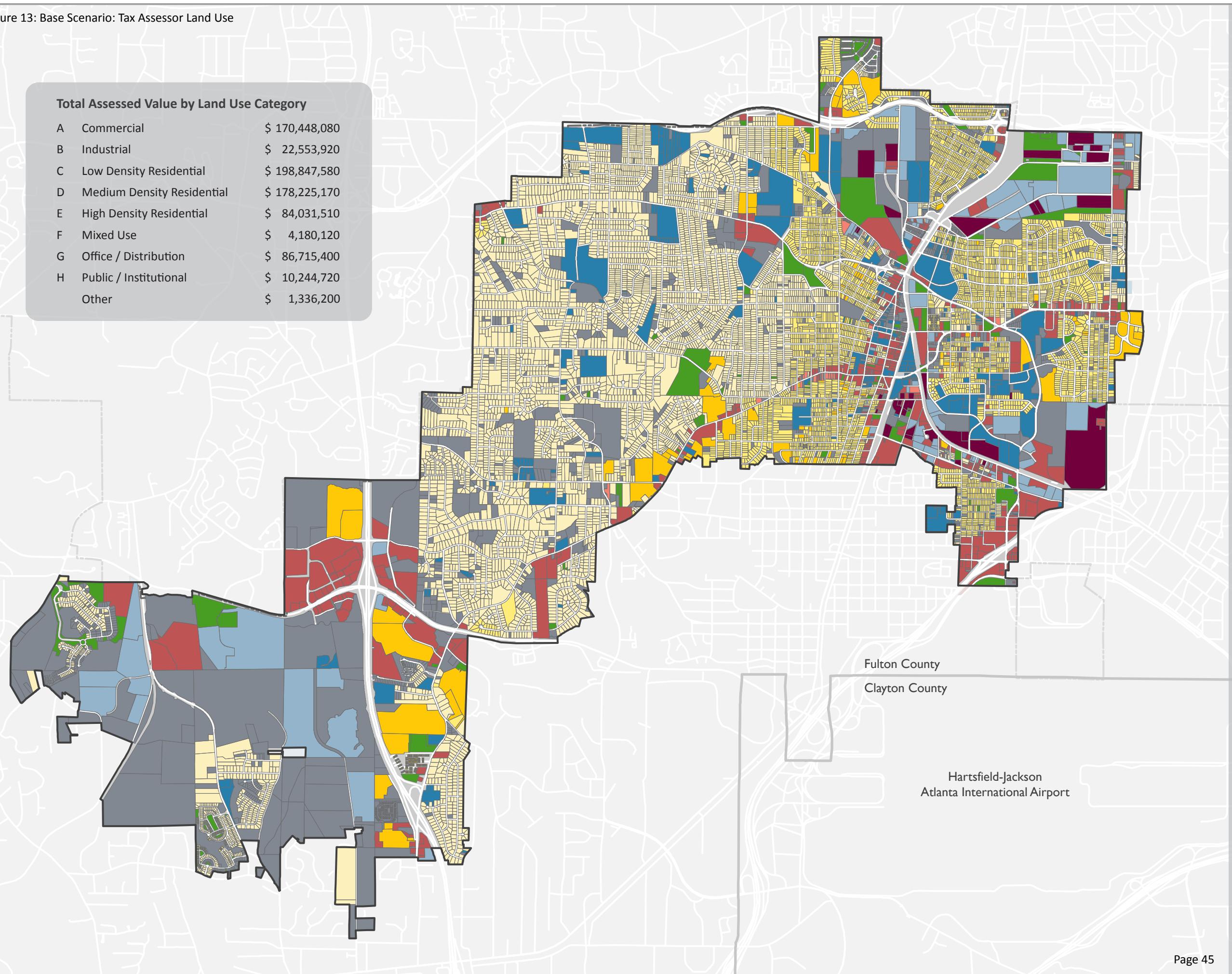
<b>Future Land Use Scenario</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b># of Parcels</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Average Assessed Value per Acre</b>	<b>Total Potential Value</b>
A	491	425.9	\$ 290,425	\$ 123,696,567
B	194	454.3	\$ 132,910	\$ 60,382,901
C	4,140	2,082.4	\$ 83,490	\$ 173,855,020
D	5,055	1,332.5	\$ 180,719	\$ 240,804,532
E	340	415.4	\$ 221,902	\$ 92,170,810
F	719	403.4	\$ 274,002	\$ 110,526,297
G	53	384.7	\$ 144,696	\$ 55,668,549
H	66	201.6	\$ 20,735	\$ 4,180,399
Other	41	72.4	\$ 8,313	\$ 601,744
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,099</b>	<b>5,772.5</b>	<b>\$ 131,066</b>	<b>\$ 861,886,820</b>



Figure 13: Base Scenario: Tax Assessor Land Use



Total Assessed Value by Land Use Category	
A Commercial	\$ 170,448,080
B Industrial	\$ 22,553,920
C Low Density Residential	\$ 198,847,580
D Medium Density Residential	\$ 178,225,170
E High Density Residential	\$ 84,031,510
F Mixed Use	\$ 4,180,120
G Office / Distribution	\$ 86,715,400
H Public / Institutional	\$ 10,244,720
Other	\$ 1,336,200



## City of East Point Comprehensive Plan

### Tax Assessor Land Use

- A Commercial
- B Industrial
- C Low Density Residential
- D Medium Density Residential
- E High Density Residential
- F Mixed Use
- G Office / Distribution
- H Public / Institutional
- Other
- Vacant
- East Point City Limits
- Atlanta City Limits
- County Boundary



Figure 14: Zoning Scenario

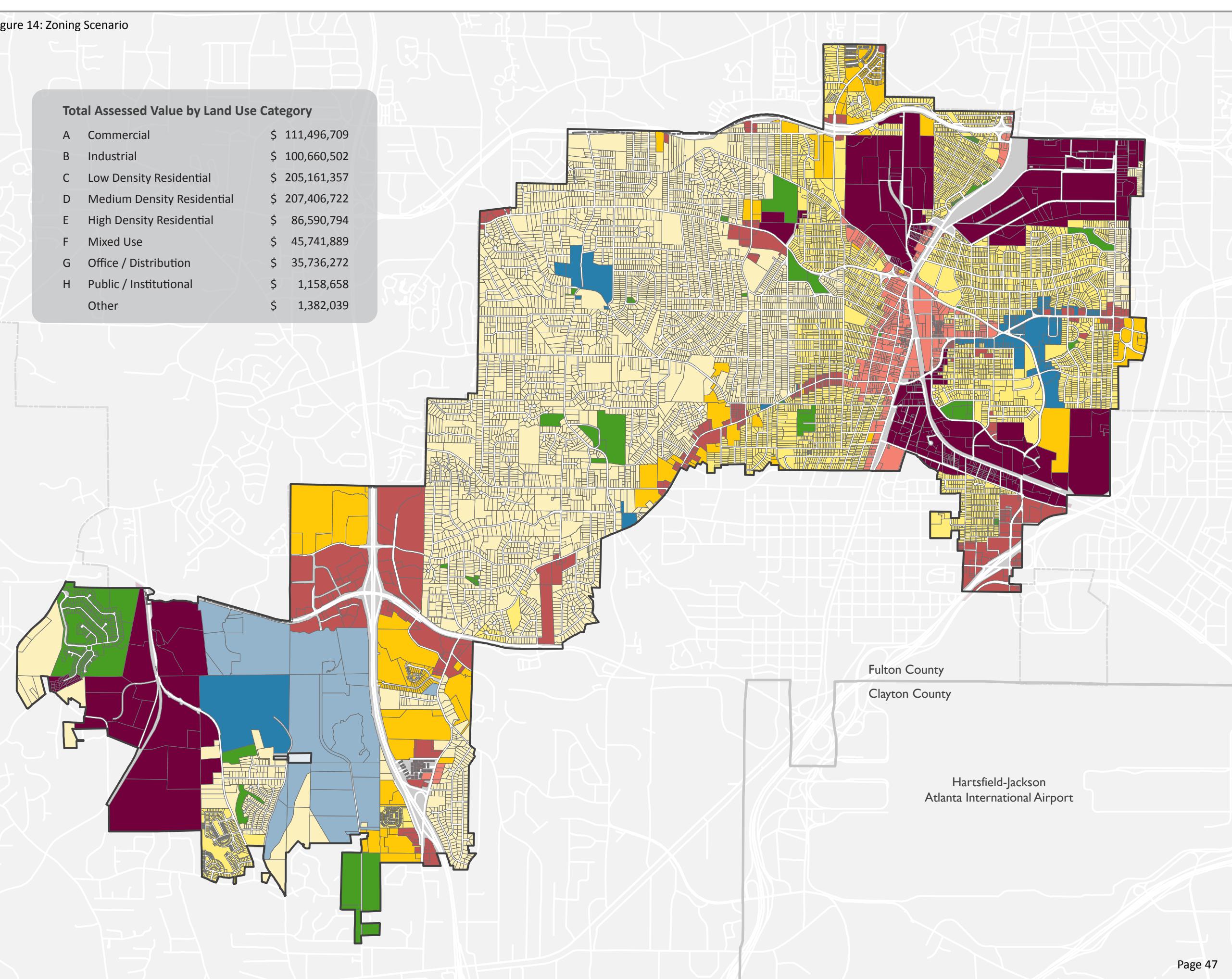
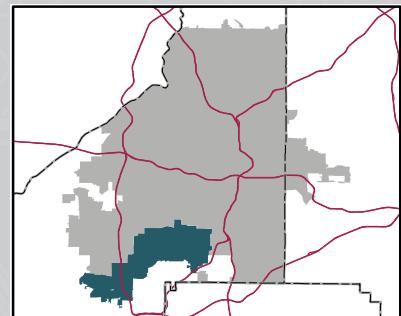
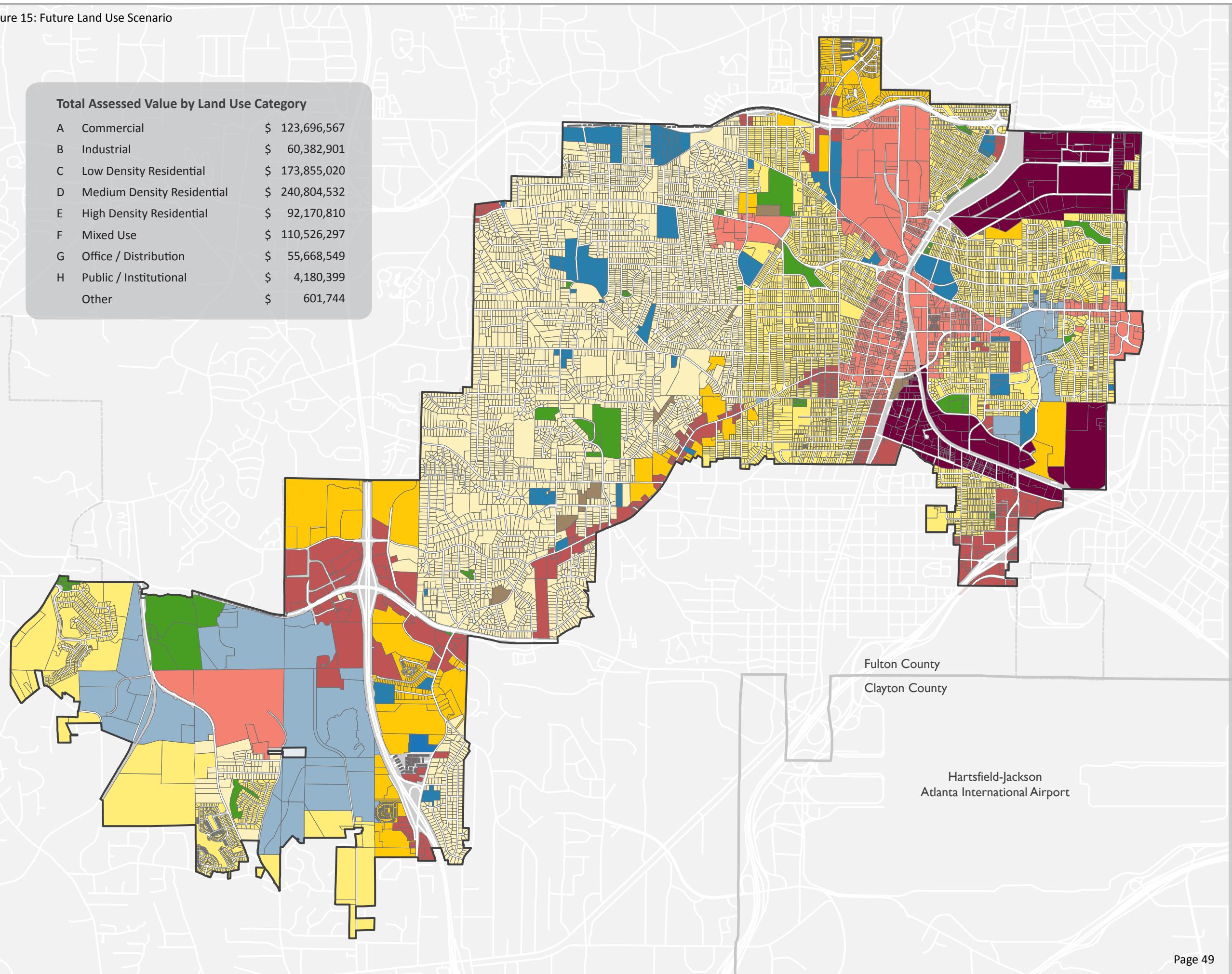




Figure 15: Future Land Use Scenario



Total Assessed Value by Land Use Category	
A Commercial	\$ 123,696,567
B Industrial	\$ 60,382,901
C Low Density Residential	\$ 173,855,020
D Medium Density Residential	\$ 240,804,532
E High Density Residential	\$ 92,170,810
F Mixed Use	\$ 110,526,297
G Office / Distribution	\$ 55,668,549
H Public / Institutional	\$ 4,180,399
Other	\$ 601,744



## City of East Point Comprehensive Plan

### Future Land Use Scenario

- A Commercial
- B Industrial
- C Low Density Residential
- D Medium Density Residential
- E High Density Residential
- F Mixed Use
- G Office / Distribution
- H Public / Institutional
- Other
- East Point City Limits
- Atlanta City Limits
- County Boundary

Source: Fulton County Tax Assessor 2010,  
City of East Point

0 3,000 6,000 ft





# Areas Requiring Special Attention

## Introduction

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs requires that communities evaluate the existing land use patterns and trends to identify and map any areas requiring special attention:

- Natural or cultural resources, particularly where likely to be impacted by development;
- Areas where rapid development is likely to occur;
- Areas where the pace of development has and/or may outpace the availability of community facilities and services, including transportation;
- Areas in need of redevelopment and/or significant improvements to aesthetics or attractiveness;
- Large abandoned structures or sites;
- Areas with significant infill development opportunities; and
- Areas of significant disinvestment, levels of poverty, and/or unemployment higher than average levels for the community as a whole.

Areas of Special Attention are locations within the City of East Point with current or expected future conditions that warrant special planning interventions or targeting of incentives and resources. These areas include sections of the city with such characteristics as redevelopment potential, special service deficiencies, and areas of special resource value such as historic sites or local landmarks.

## Areas Requiring Special Attention

The Areas Requiring Special Attention map, Figure 16, shows the location of each of these important resources in the city of East Point. Descriptions of each area follow below.

### Natural or Cultural Resources



Areas that have been identified as having significant natural or cultural resources should be identified and protected as development occurs. The streams and rivers in East Point's city limits are identified on the map. Development adjacent to these areas is regulated by the Stream Buffer Ordinance and the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

- Downtown
- Downtown Traditional Urban Neighborhoods
- Dick Lane Velodrome



### Likely Land Use Change



This category signifies locations in the city that are likely to experience land use changes in the relative short term.

- City of East Point Livable Centers Initiative
- Camp Creek TAD
- Corridors TAD
- Future development area: Much of the land in the southwest region of East Point is currently vacant. However, it is zoned for light industrial use and residential use. Some of the land may already have plans in place for development. The city should make sure that adequate services are provided to the new residents.





### Redevelopment

This category highlights areas that have been identified as sites in need of redevelopment and/or significant improvements to aesthetics or attractiveness. Redevelopment areas focus more on revitalization and reinvestment than Likely Land Use Change sites.

- DeLowe Plaza
- Tri-Cities Plaza
- Washington Road corridor
- Cleveland Avenue commercial
- Main Street commercial



### Abandoned Structures or Sites

The areas mapped only identify the largest sites and structures, as these areas offer a unique opportunity for master planning. While the original use of the sites may no longer be viable, the structures and site conditions can be adaptively reused for possible residential or mixed-use development. There are multiple smaller abandoned and vacant sites throughout the city.

- Lawrence Street brownfield



### Infill Opportunities

East Point has a number of vacant properties throughout the city. These consist of both abandoned, vacant buildings and undeveloped sites in otherwise built-out neighborhoods. One particularly large site located near downtown is identified on the map as an infill opportunity. Many additional infill opportunities exist within the “Areas of Significant Disinvestment”.

### Areas of Significant Disinvestment

Areas identified as having experienced significant disinvestment experience higher levels of vacancy, poverty rates, and unemployment than the community as a whole are shown on the map.

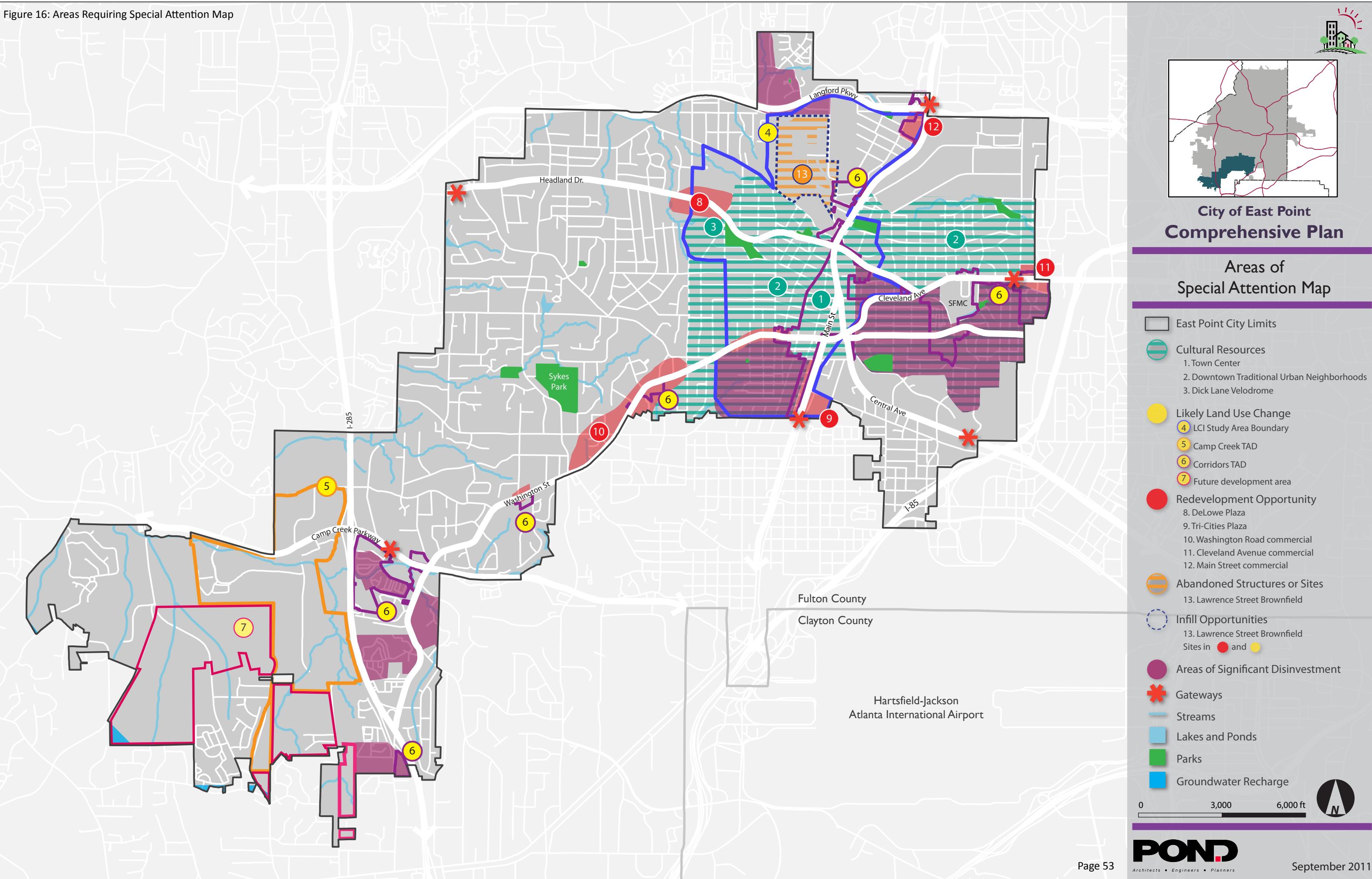
### Gateways



All major entrances to the city need to be evaluated. These include:

- Main Street southbound
- Cleveland Avenue
- Central Avenue
- Main Street northbound
- Camp Creek Parkway from I-285
- Headland Drive

Figure 16: Areas Requiring Special Attention Map





# Character Areas

## Introduction

Character areas in East Point are identified based on the visible characteristics of existing development patterns. The locations and descriptions of many of the character areas draw upon the knowledge provided by the planning and zoning department of East Point and from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' recommended character areas. The Comprehensive Plan Update completed in 2006 was also evaluated for reference.

## Existing Character Areas

The included Character Area map shows the location of each character area type in the city of East Point. Descriptions of each character area and suggested future development strategies are laid out below.

### Suburban Residential

The largest character area in East Point is Suburban Residential. This area is categorized by homes on medium-sized lots, minimal pedestrian facilities, a curvilinear street network, and many mature trees. The primary land use within this area is single-family residential, but there may be some instances of small neighborhood commercial nodes or institutional uses like churches and schools.



### Traditional Urban Neighborhood

Another major residential character area in East Point is its Traditional Urban Neighborhoods. Located close to the downtown area, these neighborhoods are older than the ones in the Suburban Residential character area, but they are stable and thriving. Homes are located on somewhat smaller lots in a traditional urban neighborhood fashion, and the streets are generally laid out on a grid system. The city values the diversity of housing types represented in this neighborhood, from early twentieth-century bungalows to multi-family units. A number of the homes in these neighborhoods have had major renovations, but some maintain their original historic features.



### Intown Residential

The Intown Residential character area falls between Suburban Residential and Traditional Urban Neighborhood. It is a newer neighborhood (characterized by post-World War II cottages and bungalows) than the Traditional Urban Neighborhood area, but older than the suburban-style development. Homes are on small- to medium-sized lots, and the streets are laid out on a grid, but the buildings are farther apart than in the Traditional Urban Neighborhood.



### Growing Residential

Growing Residential neighborhoods are located near the East Point city limits. These are the newest homes in the city but are somewhat disconnected from downtown. Housing types include multi-family buildings, townhouse, and traditional single family subdivisions. Development patterns include conservation subdivision designs and planned unit developments. There are also a few small, low-intensity, neighborhood-serving commercial uses in these areas.





### Redevelopment Neighborhood

While these neighborhoods are located near downtown and have traditional urban neighborhood attributes, such as a gridded street network and small housing lots, they are in need of investment. They have declined over the past several years, leaving bad housing conditions and large areas of vacant land. Many buildings are unoccupied. These neighborhoods include an assortment of housing types, such as single-family, multi-family, and public housing. They are situated close to downtown East Point and commercial nodes.



### Neighborhood Commercial

East Point's Neighborhood Commercial areas have a variety of activities such as general retail, service commercial, professional office, higher-density housing, and some public and open space in shopping centers with a large amount of parking. These locations are also identified on the Areas of Special attention map as "Redevelopment Opportunities." There are a number of Neighborhood Commercial areas, located along major corridors and at transportation nodes. Most, if not all, of these commercial centers are in need of investment. These sites are primarily declining, unattractive, vacant or under-utilized shopping centers, which are characterized by a high degree of access by vehicular traffic, on-site parking, little open space, and moderate floor-area ratios. Developers can work to retrofit these sites to make them more aesthetically appealing, more marketable to prospective tenants, and more accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists. East Point lacks high-quality local or neighborhood commercial and retail, and all of these sites are in prime locations for redevelopment and could potentially fill that need.



### Regional Center

There are two major Regional Centers in East Point: Camp Creek Marketplace and the Virginia Avenue hotel corridor in East Point at I-85. Regional Centers contain regionally-marketed commercial and retail uses, office and employment areas, higher-education facilities, sports and recreational complexes. These areas are characterized by a high degree of access by vehicular traffic, and high transit use, including stops, shelters, and transfer points; on-site parking; a low degree of internal open space; high floor-area ratios; and large tracts of land. These resources draw many visitors from outside of East Point. Future planning strategies for Regional Centers should include pedestrian-oriented designs, parking located in the rear of buildings, bicycle lanes, and improved connectivity.



### Airport Amenity

A specific type of regional center, this type of character area is used almost entirely by airport travelers. East Point has three large park-and-ride lots, characterized by a high degree of vehicle traffic and large expanses of surface parking. People who use these services come from outside of East Point specifically to park here. Park-and-ride lots take up large amounts of land and generate revenue but only employ a few individuals.



### Town Center

East Point's historic downtown contains a mix of commercial, civic, institutional, and residential uses. The downtown area contains many of the landmarks and cultural resources that make East Point unique. Historic properties should be protected and rehabilitated when possible, and any new development should be of a scale and architectural design that would fit well into the historic fabric of the area. Compatible infill development should focus on providing high-density retail, office, services, and employment, and/or residential development targeted to a broad range of income

levels. Pedestrian access and open space are important to enhance citizens' enjoyment of downtown East Point.

### **Campus/Institutional**

East Point has two areas with campus-type development, the Atlanta Christian College and the South Fulton Medical Center. Each of these areas is distinct from its surroundings, with a node of high-density commercial and institutional use within a residential neighborhood. They are distinct from Regional Centers in that they are somewhat more isolated and less accessible from outside of East Point, but users and employees may come from the broader region.



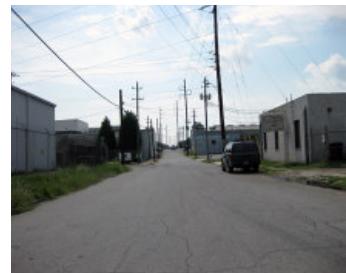
### **Industrial/Business Park**

The Industrial / Business Park character areas are located in the southwestern part of the city on large tracts of low-intensity, suburban-scale land. East Point's convenient location near I-285, I-85, and the airport makes it a prime location for warehousing and shipping services, several of which have located here. These uses are characterized by large isolated parking lots and buildings that house office or light industrial facilities. Industrial parks depend on a high degree of vehicular traffic, especially tractor-trailers. As the land surrounding these zones continues to develop, planners must take care to manage any traffic or incompatibility issues that arise with new residential development.



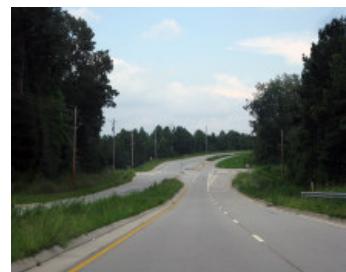
### **Legacy Industrial**

East Point has a rich industrial heritage, which has survived the decline in manufacturing experienced nationally. Its location at the end of the Atlanta & West Point Railroad made it a key location for industrial development. The original industrial areas are located near downtown on or near the rail line. Central Avenue is a major industrial corridor and a key road connecting East Point to Hapeville, Atlanta, and I-85. The industrial uses here include both light (including automotive repair shops and warehousing facilities) and heavy (such as manufacturing and recycling). These character areas might come with special zoning concerns but are major employment and economic providers for the city. As the nation emerges from a major recession, the city may choose to re-evaluate the economic asset that these employment centers represent.



### **Undeveloped**

There are several large undeveloped tracts of land in the southwestern portion of East Point. Most of this land has been zoned for medium-density development, but the current economic climate has slowed construction and development. Plans may already exist for these areas. The City should ensure that adequate services are provided for these future residents.



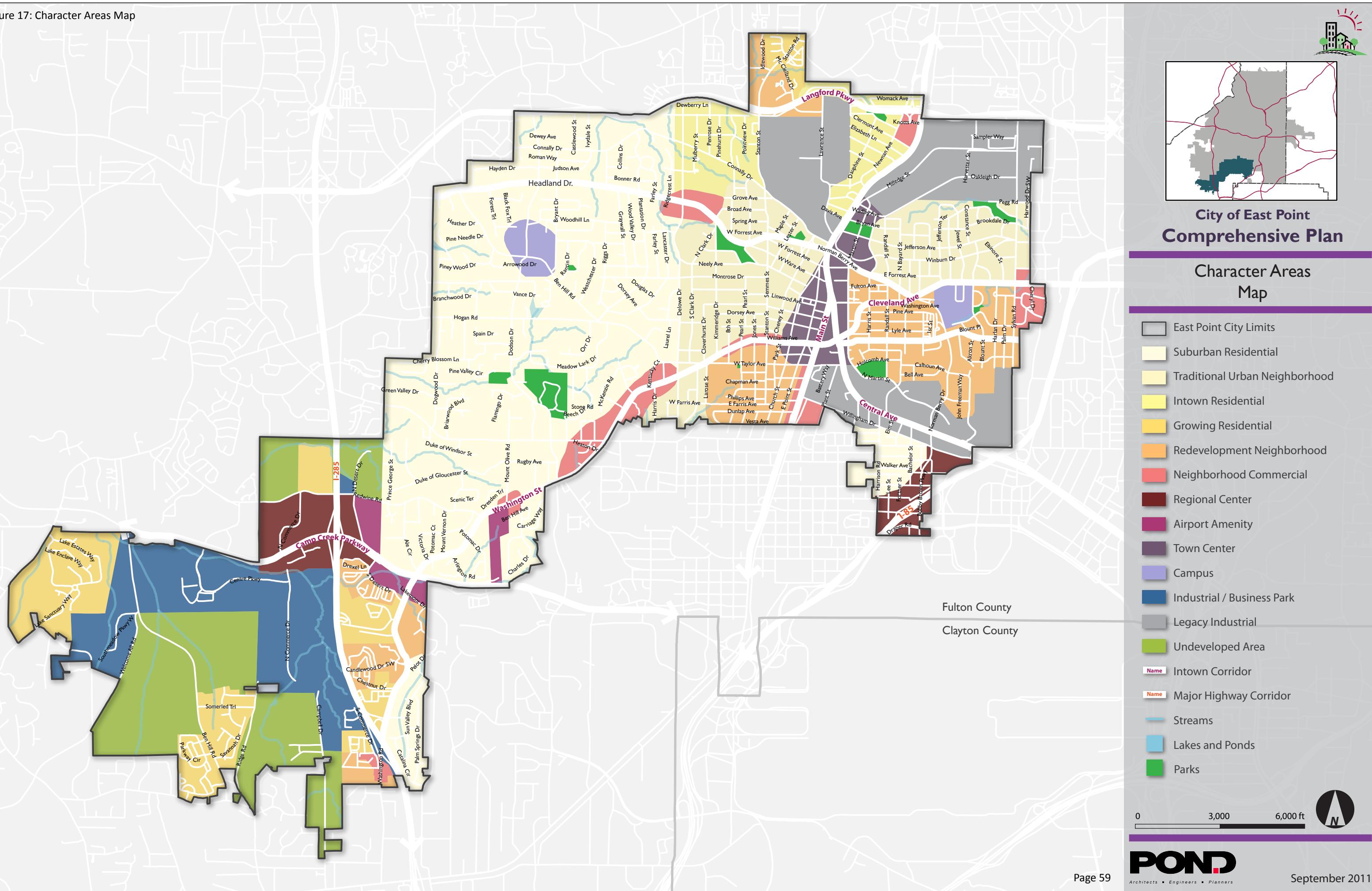
### **Intown Corridor**

East Point's major in-town corridors are identified on the character area map. While they may fall into another character area, the parcels abutting these corridors have unique concerns. They may be developed or undeveloped, but they are likely to experience uncontrolled strip development if growth is not properly managed. Planning strategies include gradually converting these corridors to attractive boulevards, enhancing streetscapes, enacting design guidelines for new development, employing traffic-calming measures, and providing basic access for pedestrian and bicycles that is integrated into the public transit system.

### **Major Highway Corridor**

This area covers the developed and undeveloped land on both sides of the high-volume transportation facilities in East Point, including I-285, I-85, Camp Creek Parkway, and the Lakewood Freeway. The DCA recommends maintaining a natural vegetation buffer along the corridor, behind which all new development should be located. Landscaped, raised medians can provide vehicular safety, aesthetics, and pedestrian crossing refuges; paved shoulders can be used by bicycles or as emergency lanes.

Figure 17: Character Areas Map





# PART TWO:

## Issues and Opportunities

### Overview and Purpose

This section identifies a series of issues and opportunities that can help frame and prioritize the city's discussions when developing the Community Agenda. The Department of Community Affairs offers a list of topic areas to consider. Only those that are relevant to the city are included here. As they assess the list of Issues and Opportunities here, community members will benefit from Part Four, which reviews Georgia policy regarding "quality communities" and benchmarks items that local governments should use in pursuing improved quality of life for their residents. The assessment tool is known as the Quality Communities Objectives (QCO) survey.

Several of the items below were drawn from the QCO Survey and an analysis of the existing conditions in the East Point area, documented in both the Community Profile section as well as the Technical Appendix. These items provide a simplified list of assessment points to provide to the community for affirmation or revision. Below are issues and opportunities that emerge from the assessment process.

### Land Use

#### Issues

- 23% of the developed or developable land in East Point is currently vacant, either abandoned or undeveloped.
- There is no land zoned for mixed-use development with the MIX zoning designation.
- Many small lots were created near downtown when parcels were subdivided in 2005.
- There are 396 non-conforming multifamily uses in the R1-A "Urban Residential" single family zoning district.
- Community Unit Plan (CUP) districts are auto-dependent and not located within walking distance of any neighborhood-serving commercial districts.
- The Neighborhood Commercial (C-1), Central Business Commercial (C-2), Commercial Limited (C-L), and Light Industrial (L-I) zoning districts do not allow residential uses and therefore prevent mixed-use projects from being built.
- The city could consider adding language from the Commercial Redevelopment (CR) zoning district to the C-1, C-2, CL, and LI districts to permit a more diverse mix of uses.
- There are some incompatible land use districts within the city limits; for example, heavy industrial districts abut residential uses without appropriate buffers.

## Opportunities

- Infill development can occur on vacant and underutilized properties. Applying the Infill Development Ordinance will help to protect the existing character of East Point's neighborhoods.
- There is a good supply of Industrial land in the city, which is already developed with heavy rail infrastructure and represents an economic asset for the community.
- The city should strive to provide a diversified and balanced mix of residential, commercial, and industrial uses.
- The Housing Authority could acquire vacant and abandoned land.
- Recommendations from the 2010 Update to the Parks & Recreation Master Plan could be implemented to address the identified 100 acres of park space needed.
- Recommendations from the Livable Centers Initiative plan (2005) can be implemented.
- Recommendations from the Corridors Tax Allocation District plan and the Camp Creek/I-285 Tax Allocation District can be implemented to encourage development and re-development in these areas.
- A Residential Historic District could protect the valuable cultural resource that exists in the downtown neighborhoods.

## Population

### Issues

- Total population decrease of 5,883 or 15% since 2000.
- Based on historical trends, forecasted population for East Point is expected to remain flat over the next 30 years.
- The educational attainment for the city is behind that of the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, and the State. Only 29.4% of East Point graduates have a college degree, compared to about half of Atlanta and Fulton County residents.
- The per capita income levels for the city are approximately half of those for the City of Atlanta or Fulton County. East Point's income per capita is \$20,726, which is less than \$38,147 in Atlanta and \$36,486 in Fulton County.
- The population is aging, with an expected 20% increase of those 65 and older in the next 30 years.

### Opportunities

- Abundance of vacant land to be used for neighborhood renewal and infill development projects to reverse trends of population decline.
- Promote young families to the city to build stable diversified community.
- Take advantage of aging in place residents and provide sufficient facilities.
- Promote and celebrate increased ethnic diversity in the city.

# Economic Development

## Issues

- East Point's unemployment rate is 13.7%.
- The central business district is not yet a true economic destination.
- There is an abundance of vacant land in the central business district.
- The Main Street businesses in the central business district need more diversity of retail goods and services.
- Reinvestment is needed on some industrial sites.
- There are underutilized footprints of shopping centers.
- There are unknown environmental hazards that complicate the redevelopment of sites.
- Fewer people living and working in place.
- Just 0.3% of the land in East Point is dedicated to mixed-use development.

## Opportunities

- Capture a catalyst project to ignite infill mixed-used redevelopment of the Central Business District.
- Emphasize Architectural Overlay when Commercial Redevelopment occurs in order to help create a sense of place in commercial nodes along Washington Road and Headland Drive.
- Facilitate the acquisition of vacant property and or the temporary relocation of business in order to spur economic revitalization.
- Use the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to help facilitate the investment in public amenities such as parks, trails, public open space, and greenspace.
- Attract residents to fill East Point jobs reducing travel time and expenses, keeping earned dollars in the community, and building a sense of place.
- The proactive city established Enterprise and TAD zones to increase redevelopment opportunities in blighted or disadvantaged areas.
- Increase opportunities for market-driven residential and commercial development within the East Point Corridors area.
- Attract private, taxable redevelopment opportunities to the East Point Corridors sectors of the city.
- Implement the LCI Master Plan and capitalize on the 2011-2012 TOD study.
- Continue to capitalize on East Point's location near the airport.
- East Point's location with excellent access to several transportation modes is an enviable economic development asset.
- The success of Camp Creek Marketplace shows the area's market potential.
- Existing industrial provides an employment sector that few cities offer.
- The city hired the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau in 2011 to attract more visitors and convention business.
- East Point will launch an Economic Development plan in 2011.
- Apply and enforce the Infill Development Ordinance as vacant lots and abandoned structures are redeveloped.

# Housing

## Issues

- Over 24% of the housing units in East Point are vacant.
- Almost half (44.2%) of households in East Point are cost burdened, or pay more than 30% of their household income towards housing costs.
- There are not enough housing units that are affordable to households at all levels of income.
- There is no historic district to protect the unique bungalows and housing mix in the downtown area.
- In East Point, there is less than 1 job per worker. The jobs-housing balance is low.
- There is a lack of special needs housing (mental and mobility handicapped) in East Point.
- Many non-conforming multifamily residential units exist in the urban residential, or R-1A, zoning district.
- The upcoming closure of Fort McPherson could potentially have an impact on housing vacancy rates, as many base employees live in East Point.

## Opportunities

- A relatively high percentage of housing units are renter-occupied. The homeownership rate is 50.2%, which is lower than in Fulton County and Georgia. Since many of the vacant homes and apartments are rental units, there may be an opportunity for offering some of these properties for sale and encouraging home ownership.
- East Point is a Naturally-Occurring Retirement Community, with a significant proportion of households headed by seniors. The city can strive to become a model for aging in place.
- There are a number of strong neighborhood associations in East Point. These groups can be used to promote community development and build on East Point's identity and character.
- Mixed use development is permitted in several districts but is only sparsely represented in the community. Allowing for mixed use in more zoning districts could create more opportunities for individuals to live, work, and shop in one place.
- Accessory dwelling units are permitted in residential zones, providing additional housing options. "Granny flats" or garage apartments are typically more affordable and can make neighborhoods more diverse, opening them up to a wider portion of the population.
- The downtown district has many opportunities for mixed use or loft conversion of historic properties.

## Natural and Cultural Resources

### Issues

- There is no historic preservation district or ordinance in place to protect these valuable cultural resources.
- East Point does not participate in any land conservation programs, either at the state or national level or on its own.

### Opportunities

- There are several large forested tracts of land in the city, which are currently unprotected but could become community amenities if preserved.
- Existing power transmission line buffers could be used as bicycle or pedestrian trails to connect neighborhoods in the city.
- Stream buffers and undeveloped flood zones, which are required in the city's development regulations, could be converted to accessible community greenspace.
- The Dick Lane Velodrome is a unique but underutilized community asset.
- The city positioned itself well to pursue grants and financing with its recently completed update to their Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Several structures have been accepted into the National Trust of Historic Places registry (including seven historic manufacturing warehouse sites).
- There is an active historical society, the East Point Historical Society.

## Community Facilities and Services

### Issues

- The 2011-2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update identified a deficit of approximately 100 acres of park space in the City of East Point, based on benchmark comparisons and National Recreation and Park Association Guidelines.
- The city west of I-285 is disconnected from the remainder of the city and is lacking community facilities.
- There appears to be a geographically-driven divide between new citizens and old citizens in the area.
- The city suffers from a perception of politics, staff turnover, instability of the development process, and financial problems.

### Opportunities

- Recent land acquisition will create a new customer care center; there are plans for a new municipal complex.
- Potential new site within the city for new library (part of Atlanta-Fulton County Library System).
- Opportunity for brownfield conversion to park space.
- Potential for partnerships with neighborhood groups, non-profit organizations (including grant funding), and athletic associations.
- Interest in new civic plaza or greenspace facilities downtown.
- The city owns and runs key services such as water and power.

## Intergovernmental Coordination

### Issues

- The City of East Point appears to conduct little collaboration with Fulton County or adjacent cities for Comprehensive Planning purposes.
- Except for state notification requirements related to zoning and related changes, no formal mechanisms exist regarding border agreements.

### Opportunities

- East Point could explore mechanisms to share services, such as parks and recreation, 911, police, water, or sewer, with other local governments.
- Since the government of East Point may not be adequately represented at local and regional group meetings, it can work to promote representation at metropolitan-area gatherings and meetings.
- The city coordinates with county, regional, and state agencies regarding infrastructure, environmental issues, and water management.

## Transportation

### Issues

- Regional reliance on the roadway system has shifted business away from downtown toward locations along major interstates.
- Major corridors through East Point suffer from congestion, including Camp Creek Parkway/SR 6, Main Street/US 29, Washington Road and Cleveland Avenue, due to heavy peak period traffic volumes.
- There is a conflict of scale between the city's competitive advantage in hosting industrial uses with freight truck activity and its goal of compact, pedestrian-friendly infill development.
- A lack of wayfinding signage contributes to the lack of identity in the city and increases the difficulty of navigating within the city.
- Some parts of the community have few alternatives to using a car to travel and to eliminate traffic congestion.
- Streets in the community are not designed according to their use in order to assure appropriate travel speeds, particularly through downtown, making pedestrian activity unsafe and unappealing.
- Many community streets, pedestrian paths, and bicycle routes are not utilized because they do not create inviting facilities.
- The City of East Point does not have enough sidewalks, and those that exist are in need of maintenance improvements.
- No dedicated bike paths, multi-use trails or bike lanes within the city.
- No greenway or multi-use trail currently exists along Main Street/US 29 providing a connection outside of the city.
- Major components of the transportation system are not under the jurisdiction of the City, which includes interstate highways, major thoroughfares, air, rail, and public transportation facilities; this situation complicates the City's ability to address community-identified needs due to challenges of coordination and permitting.
- Freight rail lines and MARTA rail lines create physical barriers within the community.

## Opportunities

- Great connectivity exists throughout most of the city, although there is a need to maintain and repave city streets.
- The existing sidewalk network needs to be maintained, improved, and expanded.
- Improving sidewalks, streetscapes, and street furniture, and installing artwork throughout downtown will improve the image and character of downtown and increase its viability as an activity center.
- The LCI identified a need for a public parking deck downtown to remedy existing and future parking issues, especially providing adequate parking for retail customers.
- Display prominent automobile signage for wayfinding and to help create an identity for the city.
- Consider the appropriate balance between industrial uses with freight truck activity and compact, pedestrian-friendly infill development.
- Increase the availability of alternative modes of travel in parts of the city that are underserved by these modes.
- Desire for a greenway with a multi-use trail along Main Street/US 29 from downtown to the Lakewood MARTA station to connect into the greenway trail as proposed in the Lakewood/McPherson LCI study, and for a pedestrian connectivity loop that connects Center Park, Sumner Park, and Conley Preserve with downtown.
- Improve the bicycling and pedestrian experience and slow vehicular travel speeds by redesigning streets appropriately for their use, adding traffic calming features, and spatially defining the streets with buildings, trees, and lighting.
- Promote the usage of MARTA public transportation to reduce and prevent traffic congestion.
- Create attractive and welcoming gateways into the city boundaries and define the entrances into the Central Business District.
- Promote landscaped pedestrian linkages between the downtown area and various neighborhoods within the city.
- Create a network of multi-use trails that will link into the PATH system or the City of Atlanta's planned BeltLine trail, transit, and park project.
- Strengthen relationships with regional and state agencies to reduce challenges related to coordination and permitting of transportation projects.
- Continue to market community based on its regional locality and its proximity to major roadway networks.
- Use of the East Point MARTA station for long-term parking serving Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.
- Enhancement of Washington Road to serve as a connection between Downtown East Point and The Marketplace joining the newly annexed area with East Point.



# PART THREE:

## Community Profile

### Introduction

The Community Profile section provides support and evidence for the potential issues or opportunities identified in the previous section. This section also uncovers and discusses in more detail any further issues or opportunities not previously identified. It also explores any significant local trends of which decision-makers should be made aware and identifies whether recommended character areas should be adjusted (for example, to avoid intrusion into environmentally sensitive areas).

In order to ensure a concise and readable Community Assessment report, the Community Profile only includes evaluations, data, and maps necessary to substantiate and illustrate potential issues or opportunities, to document significant trends affecting the community, or to support character area delineation. All other evaluations, data, and maps that were not essential for substantiating potential issues or opportunities, documenting significant trends, or supporting character area delineation can be found in the Technical Appendix to this report.

## Population

### Quick Facts

- Population: 33,712
- Lost 15% of population since 2000
- More racially diverse - rapidly growing Hispanic population
- Aging population
- Per capita income: \$20,726
- 18% poverty rate

Since 1990, East Point has experienced both growth and decline. After trends of continued growth to 2000, the 2010 Census shows that the population of East Point dropped to **33,712**. This represents a reduction of 5,883 residents since the 2000 Census, an average annual rate of decline of approximately 1.5%, and a **total reduction of 14.9%** over the last 10 years. Coinciding with total population loss, there has been a decrease in the number of households as well, specifically an 8.4% reduction since 2000. In contrast, the majority of other municipalities in the indirect area and region have seen steady to large increases in population.

**Table 12 : East Point Population and Household Trends**

	<b>City of East Point Population and Household Trends, 2010</b>					
	1990	2000	2010	1990 to 2000 % Change	1990 to 2010 % Change	2000 to 2010 % Change
Total Population	34,402	39,595	33,712	15.1%	-2.0%	-14.9%
Total Households	13,373	14,553	13,333	8.8%	-0.3%	-8.4%
Average Household Size	2.57	2.72	2.53	5.8%	-1.7%	-7.1%

Source: *United States 2010 Census*

The forecasted population, shown in the following Figure 18, shows an estimated increase of 1,380 residents by 2020 but then decreases in both 2030 and 2040 based on historic trends. When comparing East Point to the City of Atlanta and Fulton County in terms of growth based on their respective projected estimates, the data shows that East Point is not expected to grow as rapidly or as much as the City of Atlanta and Fulton County over the next 30 years. East Point's growth projection for future population based on historic trends indicates **little to no growth** over the next 30 years. Population trends reveal that the number of families is declining more rapidly than the number of households; there are more households occupied by single individuals or non-families than there were in the past.

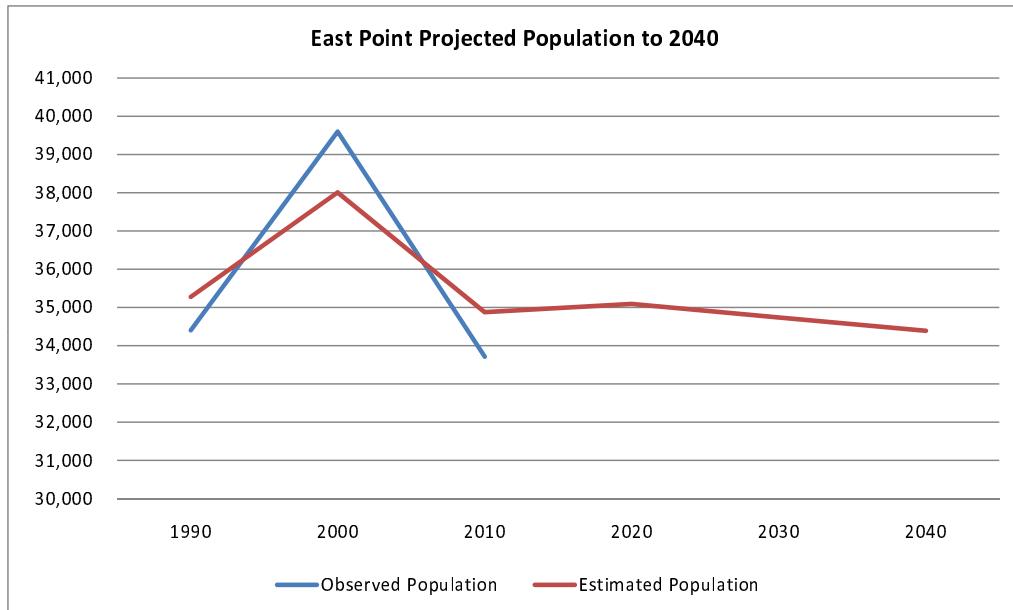
Both external factors and internal policy and investment may interrupt the population trend. An alternative future projection should be developed based on the results of the Community Agenda and targeted development goals.

During the period of population growth from 1990 to 2000, East Point's population grew younger on average, with more people aged 24 and under replacing older adults. However, from 2000 to 2010, this trend reversed, and the population got older. There are fewer young people born or moving into East Point to replace the growing senior population.

**Table 13 : East Point Population 1990-2000**

<b>East Point Historic Population by Age, 1990-2010</b>							
Total	Stage of Life	1990	%	2000	%	2010	%
Under 5 years	Pre-School	2,767	8.0%	3,457	8.7%	2,676	7.9%
5 to 14 years	Elementary to Middle School	5,042	14.7%	6,401	16.2%	4,674	13.9%
15 to 19 years	High School	2,384	6.9%	3,048	7.7%	2,385	7.1%
20 to 24 years	College	2,786	8.1%	3,401	8.6%	2,634	7.8%
25 to 44 years	Family Forming	11,947	34.7%	12,408	31.3%	10,144	30.1%
45 to 64 years	Peak Earning	5,486	15.9%	7,734	19.5%	8,274	24.5%
65 years and over	Seniors	3,990	11.6%	3,146	7.9%	2,925	8.7%
	TOTAL	34,402	100.0%	39,595	100.0%	33,712	100.0%

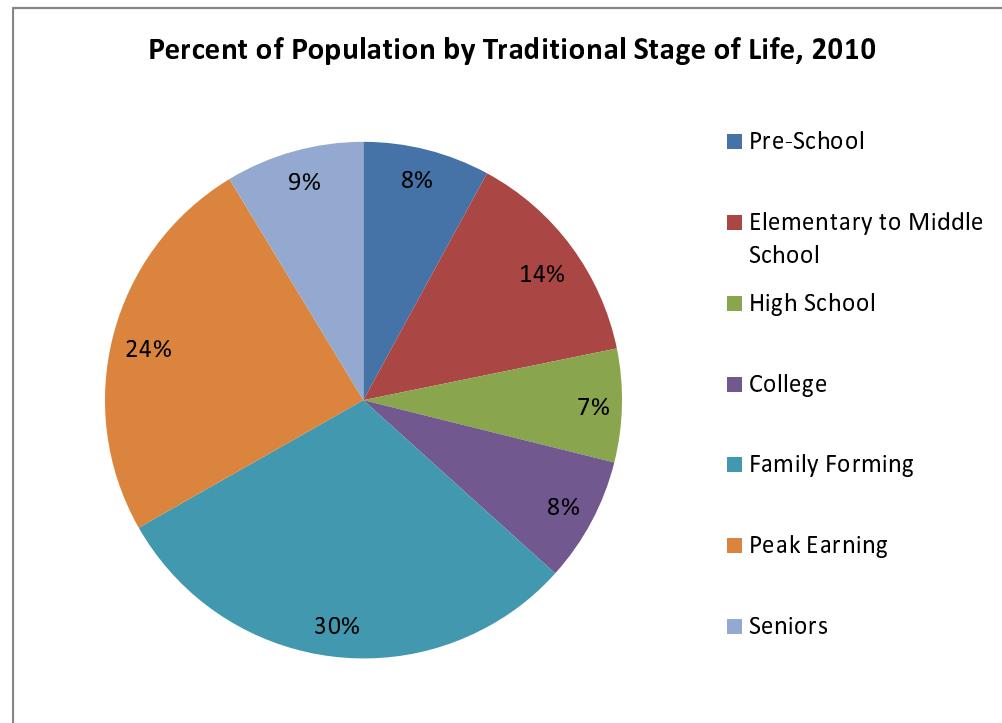
Source: *United States Census 1990, 2000, 2010*

**Figure 18 : East Point Projected Population to 2040**

Source: United States 2010 Census; Pond & Company projection

In the next 20 years 24% of East Point's population will have aged into the 65 and over age cohort (see Technical Appendix, Section 1). This follows the national and regional trend of an **aging population**. The Atlanta Regional Commission ("ARC") predicts that one in five Atlanta residents will be over the age of 60 by the year 2040. As our society's lifespan extends and active seniors live independently for longer, access to recreation, health services, and appropriate housing choices for older residents will become more and more important. East Point will need to be able to adapt and provide sufficient services and access to services if there is a desire to accommodate an option of aging in place for residents.

24% of East Point's population will be 65 or older in 20 years. This aligns with national and regional trends.

**Figure 19 : East Point Population by Stage of Life**

Source: United States Census, 2010

The Hispanic population of East Point has grown by 500% in the last 20 years.

The largest racial group in East Point is African American with a population of 24,924 or 73.9% of the city's total population. The White population has decreased significantly from 10,881 in 1990 to 3,978 in 2010. The 2010 Hispanic population has increased six times or is nearly 500% its 1990 level, making it the fastest growing racial group in East Point. Currently, Hispanics comprise 11.5% of East Point's population, a proportion comparable to the Atlanta region, according to the ARC. As seen in Table 14, Hispanics make up a larger share of the population in East Point than in Atlanta or Fulton County, but smaller than the national share. The White population is smaller and the Black population is larger in East Point than in the comparison areas.

**Table 14 : East Point Racial Composition**

<b>East Point Racial Composition, 2010</b>		<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>
White Alone		10,881	6,376	3,978
Black or African American Alone		22,823	30,949	24,924
Hispanic Origin		653	2,998	3,890
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone		74	80	94
Asian or Pacific Islander		249	280	277
Other Race		375	1,910	549

*Source: United States 1990, 2000, 2010 Census*

Nationally, the 2000-2010 period experienced births overtaking immigration as the main driver of Hispanic population increases. If East Point follows regional trends, Hispanics could make up 20% of the population by 2035. The entire Atlanta metro region is growing more diverse and will continue to do so for the next several decades. Not only does East Point need to ensure that adequate services are provided for these new residents, the city should create opportunities for new citizens to be active, engaged, and connected to the community.

**Table 15 : East Point Racial Composition Compared, 2010**

	<b>East Point</b>	<b>Atlanta</b>	<b>Fulton County</b>	<b>US</b>
White Alone	11.8%	36.3%	40.8%	63.7%
Black or African American Alone	73.9%	53.4%	43.5%	12.2%
Hispanic Origin	11.5%	5.2%	7.9%	16.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.7%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.8%	3.1%	5.6%	4.8%
Other Race	1.6%	1.8%	2.0%	2.1%

*Source: United States Census 1990, 2000, 2010*

East Point has identified and made efforts to alleviate poverty within the city, including applying for Opportunity Zone support to redevelop blighted areas and creating Tax Allocation Districts to spur economic development. **18% of East Point's residents are in poverty**, a rate that is greater than the national poverty rate (13.5%) and the poverty rate in Georgia (15%) but lower than in Atlanta (21.3%). The **per capita income** in East Point is **almost half** of the per capita income in Atlanta and Fulton County. Although the average family income is similar to that of the City of Atlanta and Fulton County, the lower per capita income signifies that there are more workers in each household. More specifically, it suggests that both parents are wage earners rather than one staying home as a primary caregiver.



## Economic Development

### Quick Facts

- Number of jobs: 13,342
- Biggest employer: Tenet South Fulton Medical Center, with 875 jobs
- Major industries: services, healthcare, retail, manufacturing
- Unemployment rate: 13.7%

As East Point prepares its Community Agenda, decision makers will evaluate a range of questions related to the economic health of the city. For example, what economic mix should the city seek for a healthy employment base? What kind of industries will emerge in the metropolitan region, and how can the city position itself to take advantage of changing markets? This section presents information regarding the economic base (employment type and industry categories), wage and labor force information, and regional trends. Analysis of the economic base can direct recruitment toward businesses that complement existing industry or require the skills of residents currently exporting labor to other regions. This data provides basic but vital information for more effective decisions concerning the health of the local economy.

The two biggest employers in East Point - Tenet South Fulton Medical Center and the City of East Point - fall into the services and government categories. East Point's largest employers are listed in Table 19. According to the National Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the 20 fastest growing occupations in the U.S. economy, **half are related to healthcare** (Occupational Outlook Handbook 2010-2011). For the **Metro Atlanta region**, all of the fastest growing occupations identified by the Georgia Department of Labor through 2018 also occur in the health and medical related jobs. Home Health Aides top the list, projected to grow over 100% in the next five years. In Georgia, healthcare is also a rapidly growing industry, with jobs in elderly care and individual and family services expected to almost double from 2008-2018. Consulting and office administrative workers are also expected to be in high demand statewide by 2018.

**Table 19 : East Point Major Employers, 2011**

<b>East Point Major Employers, 2011</b>		
<b>Company</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>
Tenet - South Fulton Medical Center	Cleveland Ave	875
City of East Point	East Point St	523
Owens-Brockway Glass Company, Inc	Sylvan Rd	416
Newell Recycling	Central Avenue	325
Williams Printing Company	North Commerce Dr	221
Bonterra Nursing Center	Felton Dr	157
Lowe's	Camp Creek Marketplace	155
Target	Camp Creek Marketplace	151
Holiday Inn	Virginia Ave	140
Crowne Plaza Hotel - Atlanta Airport	Virginia Ave	133
PPG Industries, Inc	Oakleigh Dr	105
Doubletree Club Hotel	Norman Berry Dr	72

*Source: City of East Point*

Around 40% of East Point's labor force is concentrated within three industry sectors for employment: **Educational Services / Healthcare / Social Assistance** at 15.3%; Professional, Scientific / Management / Administrative / Waste Management Services at 13.1%; and Retail trade at 12.1%. Due to the close proximity to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the Accommodation and Food Services industries play a key employment role, growing from 1% in 1990 to 10.6% in 2009. Overall total employment has grown by 22.5% from 2000 to 2009 (U.S. Census 2000, American Community Survey 2007-2009).

For the “Tri-City” Super District (East Point, College Park and Hapeville), ARC 2010 estimate reports indicate that the **Services** and the **Transportation / Utilities / Communications industry (TCU)** categories each generate about **one-third of all employment**. Retail provides 17% of all employment, while Government accounts for 10%.

By 2030, ARC anticipates that the Tri-City Super District will maintain essentially the same employment profile, although TCU will drop to 26% and Services will increase slightly to constitute 31% of total share. “FIRE” industries (Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate) will likely experience an increase to provide 11% of employment.

**Table 20 : East Point Major Employers, 2011**

Employment Forecast for Tri-City Super District (East Point, College Park, Hapeville)									
Year	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation, Communication, Utilities	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	Services	Government	TOTAL
2010	607	1,348	16,003	1,049	7,496	1,871	12,513	4,533	45,420
2020	702	1,352	16,699	1,248	9,435	5,656	17,075	5,245	57,412
2030	740	1,416	17,199	1,146	10,588	7,422	20,094	6,611	65,216
2040	785	1,602	17,739	1,038	12,329	9,456	23,464	8,015	74,428

Source: ARC 20-County Forecast - TriCity Super District 2011

In 2000, approximately 1,715 of East Point residents worked and lived in the city, but the 2009 ACS results showed that only 978 of East Point residents worked and lived in the same place. This was a 43% reduction in the number of people who lived and worked in East Point. The jobs-to-housing ratio is 0.86 (discussed in the Housing section). Geographically, the majority of the workforce is located in the eastern portion of East Point. The eastern portion of East Point lies within close proximity to the airport and I-85; further, the MARTA Rail Station directly serves the subarea.

There are only 0.86 jobs in East Point for every household.

As of June 2011, **13.7% of East Point residents were unemployed**. A greater portion of the work force is unemployed in East Point than in Georgia (9.9%), Fulton County (11%), and Atlanta (11.8%). The current national unemployment rate is 9.2% (Georgia Department of Labor Civilian Labor Force Estimates, <http://www.dol.state.ga.us/pdf/pr/laborforce.pdf>).

**Table 21 : East Point Labor Force Participation**

East Point Labor Force Participation, 2000-2009			
	2000	2009 (ACS)	Percent Change (Weighted Average)
Total Males and Females	28,767	33,556	7.7%
In labor force:	18,985	24,013	11.7%
Civilian Labor force	18,960	23,863	11.4%
Civilian Employed	17,300	20,903	9.4%
Civilian unemployed	1,660	2,960	28.1%
In Armed Forces	25	150	71.4%
Not in labor force	9,782	9,543	-1.2%

Source: U.S. Census 2000, ACS 2009

For both Labor Force Participation and Place of Work statistics, the data was analyzed based on a weighted average in order to compare the population changes between 2000 and 2009. During that time, East Point's labor force increased by 26% from 18,985 in 2000 to 24,013 in 2009 (American Community Survey, "ACS").

**Table 22 : Median Household Income by Age of Householder**

Median Household Income by Age of Householder	East Point	Fulton Co.	Georgia
All households:	\$ 40,546.00	\$ 58,648.00	\$ 49,173.00
Householder under 25 years	\$ 25,811.00	\$ 25,792.00	\$ 24,819.00
Householder 25 to 44 years	\$ 43,060.00	\$ 61,777.00	\$ 53,035.00
Householder 45 to 64 years	\$ 40,607.00	\$ 71,173.00	\$ 58,203.00
Householder 65 years and over	\$ 33,832.00	\$ 35,382.00	\$ 31,662.00

*Source: Data collected from 2009 American Community Survey*

The median household income in East Point is \$40,564.

The median **household income for East Point is \$40,564**, which is \$18,102 lower than Fulton County and \$8,627 lower than the State of Georgia. The household earners between the ages of 45 to 64 years old, which is typically the peak earning period during a person's career, earn 75.3% less (\$30,566) than those in Fulton County.

Two of the greatest development changes that will influence the city will stem from the Fort McPherson closing and redevelopment efforts and the expansion of the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. How the city recovers along with the region from housing market instability will also determine the economic health of the East Point as an attractive draw for new businesses and industry.

The city has pursued multiple initiatives targeting economic dynamics it can more directly influence. Work to stimulate economic conditions include the development of two Tax Allocation Districts (TADs), becoming a Main Street City, pursuing a TOD master plan to implement its LCI, pursuing an Opportunity Zone for tax incentives, and launching an Economic Development Plan (summer 2011). For more detailed descriptions of these and **economic development resources**, see the Technical Appendix, which also describes the function of the East Point Business and Industrial Development Authority, the East Point Main Street efforts, the East Point Business Association, the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce and county business support agencies, among others.

East Point has small-scale, local-serving office uses, which are supported by those seeking office locations close to home, those that require clients to visit them and find their customer base within a residential community, and those that seek convenient regional access. The downtown core of East Point is well positioned to support this type of office development. The city arguably boasts the **best access** in the region; direct interstate access, MARTA commuter rail, and close proximity to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport form an unusual group of assets that create a competitive advantage.

Strategic planning by the City of East Point to exploit local assets will become more critical as the region and nation recover from the recent recession; market trends in the metro Atlanta region indicate only slow recovery. Recovery across all industries will occur only as employment grows. In its most recent (February 2011) 2010-2040 regional population and employment projections, the Atlanta Regional Commission lowered its estimates of job growth in the 20-county Atlanta region, last published in

2009. Nonetheless, the ARC's population and employment forecasts show moderately strong long-term growth for the 20-county Atlanta region. The ARC expects that **8.3 million people will call the region home** by the year 2040, an increase of roughly three million people from today. Job growth, although not as robust as in the 1990s, will remain strong in the long term, as well. The ARC forecasts the region to have 3.65 million jobs by 2040, an addition of about 1.5 million jobs from today. One of the more significant trends that the ARC expects is the shrinking of the labor force participation rate (LFPR) over the coming decades. The labor force participation rate is expected to fall from a high of almost 74% in 2000, to around 62% by 2040.

## **Economic Demand Projection**

Local Economic Demand projections are based on economic trends and population projections and project demands in four (4) major market areas in East Point: office, industrial, retail, and residential. The majority of data is based on the *East Point Market Assessment and Demand Trends* report prepared by Huntley Partners, Inc. (2011).

### **Residential**

The lingering impact of the recent recession and current slow recovery is most keenly felt in the housing industry. Specifically, East Point's stock of vacant housing is quite large and likely to take several years to achieve any degree of normality, or equilibrium. Demand for all types of housing is projected to remain negative over the next ten years – i.e. there is more than enough excess housing inventory to satisfy demand through 2021 for both single-family detached and multi-family attached housing.

### **Industrial**

Considering both the current amount of excess industrial inventory in East Point as well as ARC's employment projections for jobs in industrial occupations in the East Point area, demand for new industrial space in East Point will be minimal not only over the next ten years, but also over the next 25. While there remains the possibility – perhaps even the probability – that the definition of "industrial space" will broaden to include facilities for emerging "new industries" that are geared toward biomedical and information technologies, creating jobs that will be highly valued in any urbanized community, "old industries" in East Point are rapidly disappearing.

### **Retail**

Demand for new retail will be strong in East Point and could begin to generate new retail businesses and perhaps new development in the City as early as 2012-2013. Current unmet retail demand of 326,700 square feet is geared toward the type of Power Center and Community Shopping Center retailers that tenant Camp Creek Marketplace, and that center will likely move to attract that demand as the ability of mainstream national and regional retailers to expand improves with the consumer economy over the next 2-3 years. However, there also appears to be both current unmet and growing demand for dining and "non-box" general merchandise stores that are found more often in urbanized communities and city/town centers.

### **Office**

Perhaps the biggest area of new development for East Point based on projected demand is space for professional and business services – generally Class A office and new Class B office park multi-tenant space. Camp Creek Trade Center will continue to provide opportunities for single-user build-to-suit office space as well as "new industrial" space mentioned above. It may move to attract multi-tenant leased office buildings and, in doing so, meet the anticipated demand for Class B office park – i.e.,

suburban – space. However, demand should also generate activity in the existing warehouse-conversion facilities in the Downtown/MARTA district as well as the development of new office buildings – or office space in mixed-use facilities – in the city's center.

### **Gross 10-Year and 25-Year Demand for space in East Point**

Based on households, income and employment growth, total projected demand for retail, office and residential product within the City of is summarized in Table 23.

**Table 23 : Total Demand for Space/Units in East Point 2011-2036**

	<b>Total Demand for Space/Units within East Point 2011-2036</b>		<b>Years 1-10</b>		<b>Total 25 Years</b>	
			<b>2011-2021</b>		<b>2011-2036</b>	
			sq ft		sq ft	
Retail from Current Unmet Demand	163,369	sq ft	163,369	sq ft	163,369	sq ft
From Employee/Visitor Markets	24,073	sq ft	54,258	sq ft	54,258	sq ft
Retail from Market Area Household & Income Growth	514,831	sq ft	1,160,394	sq ft	1,160,394	sq ft
<b>Retail*</b>	<b>702,272</b>	<b>sq ft</b>	<b>1,378,021</b>	<b>sq ft</b>	<b>1,378,021</b>	<b>sq ft</b>
<b>Neighborhood Services (from household growth)</b>	<b>27,046</b>	<b>sq ft</b>	<b>70,588</b>	<b>sq ft</b>	<b>70,588</b>	<b>sq ft</b>
<b>Office (from employment growth)</b>	<b>822,890</b>	<b>sq ft</b>	<b>1,937,510</b>	<b>sq ft</b>	<b>1,937,510</b>	<b>sq ft</b>
<b>Industrial (from employment growth)</b>	<b>442,907</b>	<b>sq ft</b>	<b>744,810</b>	<b>sq ft</b>	<b>744,810</b>	<b>sq ft</b>
<b>Residential: Single Family Detached Houses</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>units</b>
<b>Residential: Townhouses/Condos</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>units</b>
<b>Residential: Multi-family Rentals/Apartments</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>units</b>
<b>Total Residential Units: All Types</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>4,706</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>4,706</b>	<b>units</b>

\*2022-2036 Retail AGR = 1.52%

### **Excess Inventory within East Point**

“Excess inventory” is defined as the portion of vacant supply that is in excess of a “normal” amount of vacant supply that one would find in a stable, balanced community where supply and demand are in relative equilibrium – is reflected in Table 24. Based on current levels of vacant retail, office and industrial space, as well as the number of months of housing unit supply on the market, the City has an overabundance of existing retail, neighborhood services, office and industrial space, as well as residential units as indicated in the far-right column in Table 24.

**Table 24 : Current Excess Inventory in East Point**

<b>Current Excess Inventory within East Point</b>				
City as % of Total Submarket:	Retail	30%		
	Neighborhood Services	100%		
	Office	10%		
	Industrial	5%		
	<b>City Vacant SF</b>	<b>Vac %</b>	<b>Excess %</b>	<b>Excess SF</b>
Retail: Stable Vacancy @ 8%	188,148	8.5%	6%	11,970
Neighborhood Services: Stable @ 9%	22,368	12.4%	28%	6,158
Office: Stable @ 10%	170,875	16.3%	39%	66,012
Industrial: Stable @ 8%	684,110	15.9%	50%	340,385
Residential	<b>City Vacant Units</b>		<b>Excess Units</b>	
Total Vacant Units	3,892		60%	2,335
SFD % of Vacant Units	44%			1,027
Townhouses % of Vacant Units	6%			140
Rental % of Vacant Units	50%			1,168

**Net 10-year and 25-year Demand within East Point**

Taking into account the excess inventory that current exists in the East Point' market area across product categories, the net demand for new retail and office space is over the next ten years (2011-2021) is relatively high, particularly with respect to retail. Over the 25-year period through 2036, that demand becomes even more significant.

**Table 25 : East Point Demand Net Current Excess Inventory**

<b>Total East Point Demand Net of Current Excess Inventory, 2011-2036</b>		
	<b>Years 1-10 2011-2021</b>	<b>Total 25 Years 2011-2036</b>
Retail	690,302 sq ft	1,366,051 sq ft
Neighborhood Services (from household growth)	20,887 sq ft	64,430 sq ft
Office (from employment growth)	756,878 sq ft	1,871,498 sq ft
Industrial (from employment growth)	102,523 sq ft	404,425 sq ft
Residential: Single Family Detached Houses	(242) units	1,024 units
Residential: Townhouses/Condos	(1) units	222 units
Residential: Multi-family Rentals/Apartments	(289) units	1,125 units
Total Residential Units: All Types	(532) units	2,371 units

Based on the analyses above, the East Point could experience new development in the amounts given below over an initial 10-year 2011-2021 period, as well as the total 25-year period 2011-2036. Several caveats bear repeating, however:

- In all markets – office, retail and residential – there are relatively large “excess” inventories. For purposes of converting total area demand into feasible, demand-supported new development, one must assume that at least a sizeable portion of currently vacant commercial space or dwelling units will absorb an amount of new demand over the next ten years approximately equal to 50-60% of the excess vacant inventories in the East Point Market Area.
- Some products – demand notwithstanding – will not be built/developed in the East Point due to (1) the lack of available land for the type of product envisioned and/or (2) community policies which put constraints on such development. An example of the first is single-family detached residential homes, due primarily to the amount of land each requires. An example of the second is multi-family rental units, apartments not being viewed favorably in communities where rental units appear to dominate ownership units.

## Housing

Detailed housing statistics were obtained from the American Community Survey (ACS) results. For a city of East Point's size, the most comprehensive statistics are estimates based on three years of data. The results discussed here are based on data collected from 2007-2009.

According to the ACS 2007-2009 estimate, there are **18,797 housing units** in East Point. Slightly more than half of the housing units are single-family detached homes, and about a third of the housing units are in multi-family buildings. Most of East Point's housing stock was built in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Construction slowed in the 1980s and 1990s, but picked up in the 2000s, with about 15% of East Point's homes dating from the last decade.

The **housing vacancy rate** in East Point is **24.3%**, with 4,571 vacant housing units in the city. The housing vacancy rates from Fulton County and the state of Georgia from the same time period are 17.2% and 14.1%, respectively. About 40% of the vacant homes are listed for rent.

About half of the occupied housing units are owner-occupied, while the other half is occupied by renters. Most owners live in single-family homes, while most renters live in apartment buildings. More young people in East Point (under 45) live in rental housing, while more people aged 45 and up live in owner-occupied housing. Many owner-occupied homes in East Point (about a third) are occupied by a householder over the age of 60, more than Fulton County or Georgia. This fact contributes to East Point's designation as a "Naturally-Occurring Retirement Community," or a place where there are many seniors living independently in the community.

### Quick Facts

- Housing units: 18,797
- Vacancy rate: 24.3%
- Home ownership rate: 50%
- Median home value: \$146,100
- 44.2% are cost burdened

**24.3% of homes in East Point are currently vacant.**

**Table 26 : East Point Household Units in Structure**

<b>Units in Structure, 2009</b>				
	<b>Owner-Occupied</b>		<b>Renter-Occupied</b>	
	<b>Units</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>%</b>
Total Occupied Units	7,135	100.0%	7,091	100.0%
Single-family	6,842	95.9%	2,381	33.6%
Duplex	39	0.5%	714	10.1%
3-19 units	75	1.1%	2,841	40.1%
20 or more units	69	1.0%	829	11.7%
Mobile home	110	1.5%	326	4.6%

Source: American Community Survey (2007-2009) Table B25032

Home values have been rising fast, increasing by 70% since 2000.

The **median value of an owner-occupied home** in East Point was **\$146,100** in 2009. Housing values have increased almost 70% since 2000, faster than in Fulton County or Georgia. Median monthly owner costs were \$1,263. The **median monthly rent was \$822**. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recommends spending no more than 30% of a household's total income on housing costs. In East Point, there are not enough housing units that would be classified as affordable by this standard to the almost 4,000 households with annual incomes of less than \$25,000. East Point's **median household income is \$40,546**, making homes with total monthly costs of \$1,013 or less affordable to the average household. The relatively low per capita income in East Point could present a barrier to housing affordability.

The U.S. Department of Housing prepares Census data to identify "cost burdened" households, or those that actually do pay 30% or more of their income on housing. In East Point, **44.2% of households are cost burdened**, and **20.1% are severely cost burdened**, or paying more than 50% of their total income on housing. Renters are more likely to pay more of their household income on housing; 53.9% of East Point renters are cost burdened, while 35.4% of owners are cost burdened.

**Table 27 : Cost Burdened Households**

Cost Burdened Households, 2009						
	East Point		Fulton County		Georgia	
	All Households: Owners and Renters	Units	%	Units	%	Units
Not cost burdened	7,539	53.0%	213,849	58.8%	2,146,153	62.1%
30% - 49%	3,422	24.1%	77,340	21.3%	674,506	19.5%
50% or Greater	2,860	20.1%	63,548	17.5%	520,480	15.1%
Not Computed	405	2.8%	8,689	2.4%	113,886	3.3%
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>14,226</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>363,426</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,455,025</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
	Owners					
	Units	%	Units	%	Units	%
Not cost burdened	4,511	63.2%	138,860	66.4%	1,637,145	70.4%
30% - 49%	1,515	21.2%	41,078	19.6%	413,807	17.8%
50% or Greater	1,013	14.2%	27,904	13.3%	258,919	11.1%
Not Computed	96	1.3%	1,362	0.7%	17,083	0.7%
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>7,135</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>209,204</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,326,954</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
	Renters					
	Units	%	Units	%	Units	%
Not cost burdened	3,028	42.7%	74,989	48.6%	509,008	45.1%
30% - 49%	1,907	26.9%	36,262	23.5%	260,699	23.1%
50% or Greater	1,847	26.0%	35,644	23.1%	261,561	23.2%
Not Computed	309	4.4%	7,327	4.8%	96,803	8.6%
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>7,091</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>154,222</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,128,071</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: American Community Survey (2007-2009) Tables B25070 and B25091

East Point residents experience some other housing problems, as well. 122 occupied housing units lack plumbing, and 199 are missing complete kitchen facilities. About **4.6%** of homes in East Point are **overcrowded**, with more than 1 person per room. The overcrowding rate in East Point is higher than in Fulton County (2.4%) and in Georgia as a whole (1.4%).

One of East Point's greatest cultural assets is its historic neighborhoods. Located close to downtown, these original neighborhoods are made up of a variety of housing types and styles. These residents have strong ties to the community; there are a number of active neighborhood associations. One organization, the East Point NORC (Naturally-Occurring Retirement Community), provides services and social opportunities for the many senior adults living in their own homes.

**East Point is a  
“Naturally Occurring  
Retirement  
Community.”**

While East Point is extremely well situated between Atlanta and the airport and on interstates and MARTA, it does not have enough employment opportunities for its residents. The U.S. Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies identified **12,279 jobs** in East Point, fewer than the 14,226 households. 7.2% of these jobs are held by East Point residents, and 6% of East Point residents work in the city.

## Natural and Cultural Resources

East Point does not have an abundance of natural resources within its city limits, but it does have a rich history and valuable cultural resources. The city has adopted the Environmental Part V standards to protect their water resources while allowing development to occur. These resources, as well as other environmentally sensitive areas and cultural assets, are catalogued below. East Point does not produce an **inventory of its environmentally sensitive areas or natural resources**.

No major rivers fall within the East Point city limits. There are a few large creeks, such as Camp Creek and Utoy Creek, running through the city limits. These water bodies are protected by city's Stream Buffer Protection ordinance, which requires a 50-foot natural vegetative buffer on both sides of a stream bank and an additional 25-foot impervious surface setback.

There are a few small lakes and ponds located within the city limits, including Judy's Lake. The city also has a reservoir within its boundary, on Headland Road.

Portions of East Point fall into a water supply watershed. There are two water supply watersheds within the city limits, both in the eastern older part of the city: the Flint River Watershed and the Ocmulgee River Watershed. Both of these watersheds are larger than 100 square miles, so they are considered to be large water supply watersheds and there are no specified minimum criteria for protection of streams in these areas.

Only about ten acres of East Point's land area, just along the city limits in the southwest region, fall into a groundwater recharge area. The recharge area has been designated as a probable area of thick soils and should be treated as a significant recharge area. The Department of Natural Resources protects groundwater recharge areas with criteria for storage and disposal of hazardous and agricultural wastes, design of septic systems, and new development.

### Quick Facts

- Part V standards are in place to protect water resources
- 2 water supply watersheds within city limits
- 10 acres of groundwater recharge area
- Historic downtown, homes, and warehouses are an important cultural resource

Wetlands within the State of Georgia are protected by the Department of Natural Resources' Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria. There are a number of small areas of wetland scattered throughout East Point, totaling about 28 acres. Filling or draining these areas should be avoided.

The city has no protected mountains within its boundary, but it does regulate development on steep slopes. The City of East Point's zoning regulations discourage constructing buildings on sites with slopes of 33% or greater. While a few areas of steep slopes have been identified primarily in the central part of the city, the topography poses few development concerns. The soil types in East Point are also suitable for urban development.

The City of East Point's primary public water source is Sweetwater Creek via an intake in Douglas County. Water storage and flow management take place at the Ben Hill Reservoir.

The city has approximately 735 acres of land, or almost 8% of the city's total land area, in floodplains. Most of this falls into the 100-year floodplain. Many of the floodplain areas are located along the western boundary of the city. In the southwest region, Camp Creek produces the largest floodplain area and most of the 500-year floodplains that are within the city limits.

While there are a few endangered and threatened species with habitats in Fulton County, none of them can be found in East Point. There are a few species that can be found in East Point that the Georgia DNR has classified as rare, including one bird and three plants. While it does indirectly protect habitats through ordinances protecting stream buffers and trees, East Point **does not currently participate in any land conservation programs**. Conserving land and protecting it from development can provide both habitat protection and a community asset.

East Point has deep roots as an early industrial and railroad town. While a number of historic commercial and industrial properties survive downtown, the city has not documented them or listed them on historic registers. However, the city's seven old warehouses along Norman Berry Drive on the north and extending south to the Atlanta Utility Works were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The early residential neighborhoods are important historic and cultural resources, as well. With a variety of housing types and styles, these diverse neighborhoods exemplify the early housing market in East Point, with industrial workers living on the same street as factory managers. The **Dick Lane Velodrome** is another unique but underutilized community feature. While there is a historical society in East Point, the city has **not formally adopted historic preservation regulations** into its municipal code.

## Community Facilities and Services

The City of East Point is governed by a Mayor and City Council. The City Manager is the head of the administrative branch of East Point's government and is responsible for ensuring that adequate services are provided to the city's approximately 33,000 residents.

The City of East Point has signed a Service Delivery Strategy ("SDS") agreement with Fulton County and the thirteen other cities within its boundaries. The SDS determines which entity is responsible for each of a number of services, from emergency response to environmental protection. The Fulton County SDS has been reviewed to confirm which services East Point is responsible for and to make sure that the city is providing them.

East Point's police force of 139 officers and three fire stations provide public safety to residents. The South Fulton Medical Center, located on Cleveland Avenue, provides emergency and extended medical care.

Governed by the Fulton County School System, East Point has **six public elementary schools, two public middle schools, and one public high school**. One charter middle school and four private schools are also located within the city limits. Point University, formerly Atlanta Christian College, is a higher-education facility located on Dodson Drive. The Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library System has one branch in downtown East Point and plans to construct another within the city in 2011 or 2012.

The city has a total of **163 acres of park space** in 18 different parks. East Point has nine mini-parks (all three acres or smaller), five neighborhood parks, two community parks, a nature park, and a sports complex. The updated 2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified a deficit of about 100 acres of park space in the city.

East Point owns its own municipal water system, with water supplied by Sweetwater Creek and stored in the Ben Hill reservoir. The city also purchases electricity for its citizens through the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia. Both of these assets result in low utility rates for East Point citizens. The city has also established a Stormwater Management Utility, a funding mechanism that supports stormwater services provided to community residents. East Point is currently updating its Solid Waste Management Plan.

### Quick Facts

- 6 public elementary schools, 2 public middle schools, and 1 public high school
- New Fulton County library will soon be built in the city
- 163 acres of park space in 18 parks
- City-owned utilities, including water, power, and stormwater management

The city has several historic residential and industrial neighborhoods.

## Intergovernmental Coordination

The Technical Appendix identifies the full range of government entities the City of East Point coordinates with for comprehensive service delivery, including Fulton County, Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), Fulton County Schools, MARTA, the Metropolitan North Georgia Metropolitan Water District, and state agencies such as the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Several opportunities for enhanced coordination have been identified. For example, the city does not collaborate with Fulton County or adjacent cities for Comprehensive Planning purposes, and there are no border agreements in place. East Point does not share any services, such as parks and recreation, E-911, police, water, or sewerage, with other local governments.

## Transportation

### Quick Facts

- 198 miles of road
- Dick Lane Velodrome in Sumner Park is a destination for cyclists
- Good transit coverage, with MARTA rail station and 319 MARTA bus stops

The City of East Point is well served by regional air, rail, and vehicular transportation facilities. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, on the southeastern border of the City, provides superior access to all parts of the United States and the rest of the world. CSX and Norfolk-Southern both operate north-south rail lines through the City. The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority's (MARTA) north-south rail line passes through the City. Interstate highways I-85, I-75, and I-285 pass through or near the city, and the city has a well-developed local roadway network. This mix of airport facilities, freight rail, transit, highway, and local roads helps to provide the City of East Point with a well-connected, multi-modal transportation network. The Technical Appendix fully documents the City's existing and planned transportation network.

### Roads and Highways

There are approximately 198 road miles in the city. The City of East Point has very good regional roadway access, with interstate highways I-85 and I-285 passing through the city limits of East Point. I-75 is located a little over a mile from the city, while I-20 is located approximately 3 miles north of the City. Numerous other roadways serve the local needs of drivers in the city.

All of the roadways with more than two lanes in the city are interstate highways, freeways, and arterials. These roadways, particularly I-85, I-285, and Camp Creek Parkway/SR 6, are the primary roadways that experience traffic congestion problems in the city. Most of these roadways pass along the edges of the city. The primary multi-lane roadway that passes through the city is Main Street/US 29. Having multilane roadways primarily on the edges of the city prevents significant amounts of external commuter traffic from passing through the heart of the city. The 2-lane, local roadway network then provides good connectivity throughout most of the city.

The street network in downtown East Point is a grid. This provides very good connectivity in the downtown area. The rest of the city's roadways do not make a true grid street network. However, the street network is roughly a grid, composed of arterial and collector roadways which cut across the city and numerous local roadways which provide connectivity between the arterial and collector roadways.

While local street connectivity overall is very good, there are a number of barriers to connectivity throughout the city. The most notable are the CSX and Norfolk-Southern freight railroad lines and the MARTA heavy rail line located in the city. A number of roadways also act as barriers within the city or along the edge of the city including I-75, I-285, Langford Parkway/SR 166, and Camp Creek Parkway/SR 6. Vehicular traffic as well as bicyclists and pedestrians can only cross the rail lines and these roadways at specific locations. The rail lines cutoff the eastern side of the city from the rest of the city. However, these identified roadways are primarily along or near the edges of the city, so they have little impact on internal connectivity within the city. The main impact is to connectivity to the area surrounding the city.

The local street network provides very good connectivity within East Point, allowing local traffic to avoid congested highways and arterials. However, many of these roadways were not designed appropriately according to their use to assure appropriate travel speeds, particularly in downtown, making pedestrian activity unsafe and unappealing. The city has the opportunity to redesign streets appropriately for their use, add traffic calming features, and spatially define the streets with buildings, trees, and lighting to improve the bicycling and pedestrian experience.

## Bicycle Facilities

The City of East Point is home to the Dick Lane Velodrome, a 0.2-mile 36° banked concrete track for bicycle racing. The Velodrome, located in Sumner Park, is owned by the city and is home to bicycle racing, youth bicycle activities, and is used for city functions. While the Velodrome is an asset to the city, there are no dedicated bike paths, multi-use trails, or bike lanes within the city.

The *City of East Point LCI Study* recommended a greenway trail along Main Street/US 29 from downtown to the Lakewood MARTA station to connect into the greenway trail proposed in the Lakewood/McPherson LCI study. The study also recommended other greenway trails, including one connecting downtown to the Dick Lane Velodrome. Implementing these recommended projects would start to address the lack of bicycle facilities in the city and help to make the city more bicycle-friendly.

## Pedestrian Facilities

The premier pedestrian facility in the city is the 210-foot-long, eight-foot-wide pedestrian bridge which was constructed in 2001. The bridge spans the MARTA lines and four active rail lines and links downtown with new redevelopment sites east of the tracks. This facility helps pedestrians, including many students from Tri-Cities High School, to cross over the MARTA and freight rail tracks.

The *City of East Point LCI Study* documented the need for improvements to and maintenance of the current sidewalk network as a community-identified issue. Streets in the downtown core area of East Point typically have some type of sidewalk, but conditions vary. Major streets within the downtown area have minimum sidewalk widths of five feet and maximum sidewalk widths of ten feet along the east side of Main Street near the MARTA station. They are continuous throughout. The streets, however, are in need of street treatments. The sidewalks come alive during lunchtime, and the East Point MARTA station generates a significant amount of pedestrian traffic.

The 210-foot pedestrian bridge provides connectivity across the railroad tracks.

The local street grid in and around the downtown core provides numerous opportunities for pedestrian access to several downtown attractions. However, a lack of sidewalks and pedestrian amenities such as shade trees, benches, and wayfinding signage discourages pedestrians. To address this issue, the *City of East Point LCI Study* made recommendations for pedestrian facilities including sidewalks as well as greenways that would be used by bicyclists and pedestrians.

East Point has a MARTA rail station and 319 bus stops.

### Public Transportation

Fulton and DeKalb Counties are serviced by the largest transit system in Georgia, the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA). Public transportation, including rail and bus, is available throughout East Point. A number of bus routes serve the city, feeding riders into the MARTA heavy rail system. The East Point MARTA heavy rail station is located in the heart of downtown at the intersection of East Main Street with Washington Road.

There is fairly good transit coverage overall in the city. Increased MARTA usage has the potential to reduce traffic congestion on roadways in and around the city and make downtown a more vibrant activity center. The city can promote usage of MARTA by improving the pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure downtown and encouraging new development and redevelopment in the downtown area.

### Areas with Limited Mode Choices

Relative to most of Metro Atlanta, the city is fairly well served by alternative transportation choices, particularly in the downtown core and along major thoroughfares. The area of the city least served by alternative transportation modes is that which developed west of the downtown core in the style of low density, auto-dependent subdivisions of single-family residences. The intersection of Dodson Drive and Hogan Road is at the heart of this area. There are numerous cul-de-sacs in this area, the streets are not laid out in a grid, and there is no sidewalk network. These factors discourage pedestrian traffic and effective transit service.

Additional bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure are the primary ways the city can address this issue. The additional infrastructure will improve the bicycling and pedestrian environment. It will also make the area more transit supportive by making it easier for people to reach the transit service.

### Areas with Insufficient/Inadequate Parking

An assessment of the availability of parking was performed for the downtown core as part of the *City of East Point LCI Study*. Based on conversations with City staff and City Council, there is a perceived need for parking as 85% of the total spaces are private. Since the success of retail redevelopment in the downtown core depends on providing sufficient parking for patrons, it is clear that there is a need for adequate public parking. Development of an adequately sized public parking deck, however, is hampered by the parcel size and the need for appropriate clear zones for interior movement. Ultimately, the study identified parking as a priority and suggested that a parking deck downtown, available for the public, would remedy the current and future parking issues.

## Freight

CSX and Norfolk-Southern both operate north-south rail lines through the city making freight connections to the rest of the nation readily available. Norfolk-Southern operates Industry Yard in the city of East Point. Other intermodal facilities are operated throughout the rest of the Metro Atlanta area by both railroad companies.

All state routes and interstate highways are available for use to commercial truck traffic. Trucks also use other roadways, particularly in commercial and industrial areas. These roadways include, but are not limited to, Central Avenue, Washington Road, Sylvan Road, Norman Berry Drive, and Willingham Drive. In some locations there is a conflict of scale between the city competitive advantage in hosting industrial uses with freight truck activity and its goal of compact, pedestrian-friendly infill development. Where appropriate, the city can identify ways to reduce or restrict truck traffic on some roadways while making roadways in industrial areas more truck-friendly. This will help both types of development and their associated transportation infrastructure to exist successfully in the city.

## Commercial and General Purpose Air Terminals

There is no airport in the City of East Point. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, on the southeastern border of the city, provides superior air access both domestically and internationally. As the world's busiest airport, it serves as a major connecting hub for destinations around the world. Due to the airport's proximity to the city, three private off-site parking lots for the airport are located along Camp Creek Parkway/SR 6. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is accessible from East Point via multiple roadways as well as by taking the MARTA heavy rail system two stations south of the city.

## Areas with Significant Traffic Congestion

Traffic congestion is a significant problem in the Metro Atlanta area. Congestion is a result of both the existing transportation infrastructure and the existing land use in an area. As development intensifies, more trips are made, increasing the demand on the transportation network.

The primary roadways that experience traffic congestion problems in the city are I-85, I-285, and Camp Creek Parkway/SR 6. These roadways experience high traffic volumes as they carry significant amounts of commuter traffic, regional traffic, and interstate traffic. It should be noted that residents of East Point can use MARTA heavy rail transit to avoid this traffic congestion when commuting to a number of major job centers, including downtown and midtown Atlanta, Buckhead, Perimeter Center, and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Some segments of Main Street/US 29 and Washington Road also experience traffic congestion problems. However, alternate routes exist for local trips so that drivers can avoid these roadways when needed, particularly during the peak hours.

**Table 28 : Programmed Long-Range Transportation Projects**

<b>Planned Long-Range Projects in the City of East Point</b>					
<b>ARC ID</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
FS-017A	2020	Interchange Capacity	Reconstruction, with increased capacity, of the interchange at I-285 and Washington Road	I-285 Interchange	At Washington Road
AR-268B	2020	Fixed Guideway Transit Capital	Commuter Rail Stations and Park and Ride lots; <i>Note - No stations are planned in East Point, but the transit line passes through the City on an existing freight rail line.</i>	City of Atlanta	City of Lovejoy
FS-197	2020	Roadway Operational Upgrades	Roadway update/safety and signal improvement project and includes fiber optic interconnections for traffic signals on Virginia Avenue.	Harrison Road	Norman Berry Drive/Bobby Brown Parkway
FS-201	2030	General Purpose Roadway Capacity	Addition of one general purpose lane in each direction along Virginia Avenue.	Main Street/ US 29 (College Park)	I-85 (East Point)
FS-200A	2030	General Purpose Roadway Capacity	Segment 1 of this project includes widening Washington Road to a 4-lane undivided road, improving traffic signals on Washington Road, intersection improvements at Hammarskjold Avenue, Janice Drive and Carmel Drive, sidewalks, bike paths, and street lighting.	I-285	Desert Drive
FS-200B	2030	General Purpose Roadway Capacity	Segment 2 involves adding one general purpose lane in each direction along Washington Road.	Camp Creek Parkway/SR 6	Delowe Drive
FS-200C	2030	General Purpose Roadway Capacity	Segment 3 involves adding one general purpose lane in each direction along Washington Road.	Delowe Drive	Legion Way/US 29

Source: ARC Envision6 Regional Transportation Plan ( RTP )

**Table 29 : Programmed Short-Range Transportation Projects**

<b>Programmed Short-Range Projects in the City of East Point</b>					
<b>ARC ID</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
FS-211	2013	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility	Addition of two 4' wide bicycle lanes and two 6' wide sidewalks on Semmes Street.	Washington Road	Norman Berry Drive

Source: ARC Envision6 FY 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

In addition to the locations described above, field reviews indicated that traffic congestion is present at the I-285 at Camp Creek Parkway/SR 6 interchange. This area experiences traffic congestion problems primarily during the lunchtime peak period, weekday PM peak period, and at times during weekend PM peak periods. Traffic congestion at highway interchanges is common during AM and PM peak commute travel periods. Local land use includes a large amount of retail and restaurant development, multi-family residential development, and offsite parking facilities for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Additionally, nearby industrial development adds significant amounts of truck traffic to Camp Creek Parkway/SR 6 and to this interchange. This combination of local land uses, as well as commuter and regional traffic, all contribute to the traffic congestion at and near this interchange.

Shifting future development to the downtown area will reduce the need for trips to take place on already congested freeways and other major roadways. Instead, local roads can be used to access downtown by vehicular traffic. Implementing plans for improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure will provide bike/pedestrian connections between downtown and the surrounding area. The MARTA heavy rail station will continue to provide regional connectivity without the delays associated with congested roadways during peak traffic periods.

The Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC's) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long-range plan that includes a mix of projects including roadways, bridges, bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure, transit services, and more. By federal law, the RTP is required to cover a minimum planning horizon of 20 years and must be updated every four years in areas that don't meet federal air quality standards. The Envision6 RTP is the currently adopted plan for the Metro Atlanta area.

The ARC's RTP is used to create a short-term work program with programmed funding sources known as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is developed using the highest priority transportation projects from the RTP and must be financially balanced. The current TIP is for FY 2008-2013. Programmed projects from the current TIP and planned projects from the current RTP are listed in Tables 28 and 29.

The tables show that one project in the City of East Point is included in the current TIP. This is a bicycle and pedestrian safety project on Semmes Street. The typical cross section for this project includes two 11' wide traffic lanes, two 4' wide bicycle lanes, one 8' wide parking lane, and two 6' wide sidewalks.

The ARC RTP includes a number of projects in the city. The projects that may have the most impact on the city include the interchange capacity project at I-285 and Washington Road and the capacity projects along Washington Road. These projects will increase the roadway capacity for the primary connection between downtown East Point, I-285, and the development along Camp Creek Parkway/SR 6. The interchange project will also help to relieve traffic congestion at the interchange of Camp Creek Parkway/SR 6 and I-285. These projects have completion dates in 2020 and 2030. As no funding has been programmed for these projects, this is a projected completion date that may change before the projects are implemented.

It should be noted that project AR-268B, the commuter rail line from the City of Atlanta to the City of Lovejoy, passes through the City of East Point but likely will not have a station in East Point. Nearby stations for this commuter rail line will likely be in downtown Atlanta and at the Southern Crescent multi-modal station.

## **Underutilized Transportation Facilities**

A small number of roadways in the city are interstates, freeways, or arterials. Most of the roadways in the city are local roadways, along with some collector roadways. These roadways carry relatively low traffic volumes, although they also have a relatively low volume capacity. These roadways are utilized well by local traffic but do not have excess capacity for commuter or regional traffic.

The East Point MARTA rail station is marketed as a major asset to the City; however, it is an under-utilized part of the city's transportation infrastructure. While the East Point MARTA rail station is located in downtown, it is surrounded by relatively low-density land uses. Additional development and some redevelopment in the downtown area, particularly at higher densities than some of the existing development, would provide more potential riders to better utilize the East Point MARTA rail station. Increasing transit ridership will also help to reduce future traffic congestion on roadways in the city as well as in the region.

# PART FOUR:

## Consistency with Quality Community Objectives

DCA adopted the Quality Community Objectives (QCO) as a statement of the development patterns and options that will help Georgia preserve unique cultural, natural and historic resources while looking to the future and developing to its fullest potential. As a planning tool, the Quality Community Objectives Assessment delineates a series of indicators for 15 policy objectives, organized into the form of a checklist meant to help conduct the analysis for the Community Assessment.

This assessment is meant to give a community an idea of how it is progressing toward reaching these objectives set by the Department, but no community will be judged on progress. The assessment is a tool for use at the beginning of the comprehensive planning process. Each of the fifteen QCOs has a set of yes/no questions, with additional space available for assessors' comments. The questions focus on local ordinances, policies, and organizational strategies intended to create and expand quality growth principles.

The QCOs serve as policy reference for the community as it prepares to participate in developing the Community Agenda. This initial assessment is meant to provide an overall view of the community's policies, not an in-depth analysis at this stage.

## DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

### Traditional Neighborhoods

Traditional neighborhood development patterns should be encouraged, including use of more human scale development, compact development, mixing of uses within easy walking distance of one another, and facilitating pedestrian activity.

Statement	Yes	No	Comments
If we have a zoning code, it does not separate commercial, residential and retail uses in every district.	X		Zoning separates uses, but there are zoning categories that allow mixed-use (MI, MIX, CR, CUP, EI)
Our community has ordinances in place that allow neo-traditional development "By right" so that developers do not have to go through a long variance process.	X		
We have a street tree ordinance that requires new development to plant shade-bearing trees appropriate to our climate.	X		
Our community has an organized tree-planting campaign in public areas that will make walking more comfortable in summer.	X		We do however have a Sidewalk Bank.
We have a program to keep our public areas (commercial, retail districts, parks) clean and safe.	X		
Our community maintains its sidewalks and vegetation well so that walking is an option some would choose.	X		
In some areas, several errands can be made on foot, if so desired.	X		
Some of our children can and do walk to school safely.	X		However not beyond the frontage of the school
Some of our children can and do bike to school safely.	X		Bike lanes do not exist. However a Safe Route to School Program is being established
Schools are located in or near neighborhoods in our community.	X		

### Infill Development

Communities should maximize the use of existing infrastructure and minimize the conversion of undeveloped land at the urban periphery by encouraging development or redevelopment of sites closer to the downtown or traditional urban core of the community.

Statement	Yes	No	Comments
Our community has an inventory of vacant sites and buildings that are available for redevelopment and/or infill development.	X		Not all vacant sites throughout the City are identified, but all of the prime redevelopment properties are.
Our community is actively working to promote Brownfield redevelopment.	X		
Our community is actively working to promote Greyfield redevelopment.	X		The 2006 Corridors TAD Plan identified several areas and staff actively promotes redevelopment through contact with developers and brokers.
We have areas of our community that are planned for nodal development (compacted near intersections rather than spread along a major road.)	X		The 2006 Corridors TAD Plan identifies 11 such areas, and staff actively promotes redevelopment through contact with developers and brokers.
Our community allows small lot development (5000 SF or less) for some uses.	X		

### Sense of Place

Traditional downtown areas should be maintained as the focal point of the community or, for newer areas where this is not possible, the development of activity centers that serve as community focal points should be encouraged. These community focal points should be attractive, mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly places where people choose to gather for shopping, dining, socializing, and entertainment

<i>Statement</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
If someone dropped from the sky into our community, he or she would know immediately where she was, based on our distinct characteristics.		X	
We have delineated the areas of our community that are important to our history and heritage and have taken steps to protect those areas.		X	
We have ordinances to regulate the aesthetics of development in our highly visible areas.	X		
We have ordinances to regulate the aesthetics of development in our highly visible areas.	X		
We have ordinances to regulate the size and type of signage in our community.		X	
If applicable, our community has a plan to protect designated farmland.			N/A

### Transportation Alternatives

Alternatives to transportation by automobile, including mass transit, bicycle routes, and pedestrian facilities, should be made available in each community. Greater use of alternate transportation should be encouraged.

<i>Statement</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
We have public transportation in our community.	X		
We require that new development connects with existing development through a street network, not a single entry/exit.		X	
We have a good network of sidewalks to allow people to walk to a variety of destinations.		X	
We have a sidewalk ordinance in our community that requires all new development to provide user-friendly sidewalks.	X		Sidewalk Bank
We require that newly built sidewalks connect to existing sidewalks wherever possible	X		
We have a plan for bicycle routes through our community.		X	
We allow commercial and retail development to share parking areas wherever possible.	X		

**Regional Identity**

Each region should promote and preserve a regional “identity,” or regional sense of place, defined in terms of traditional architecture, common economic linkages that bind the region together, or other shared characteristics.

<i>Statement</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Our community is characteristic of the region in terms of architectural styles and heritage.		X	
Our community is connected to the surrounding region for economic livelihood through businesses that process local agricultural products.		X	
Our community encourages businesses that create products that draw on our regional heritage (mountain, agricultural, metropolitan, coastal).		X	
Our community participates in the Georgia Department of Economic Development's regional tourism partnership.		X	
Our community promotes tourism opportunities based on the unique characteristics of our region.	X		This has become a larger area of focus with the increase of the Hotel Tax in June 2011. The City has partnered with the ACVB to better capitalize on potential tourism opportunities.
Our community contributes to the region, and draws from the region, as a source of local culture, commerce, entertainment, education.		X	

## RESOURCE CONSERVATION

### Heritage Preservation

The traditional character of the community should be maintained through preserving and revitalizing historic areas of the community, encouraging new development that is compatible with the traditional features of the community, and protecting other scenic or natural features that are important to defining the community's character.

Statement	Yes	No	Comments
We have designated historic districts in our community.		X	
We have an active historic preservation commission.	X		
We want new development to complement our historic development, and we have ordinances in place to ensure that happening.		X	

### Open Space Preservation

New development should be designed to minimize the amount of land consumed, and open space should be set aside from development for use as public parks or as greenbelts/wildlife corridors. Compact development ordinances are one way of encouraging this type of open space preservation.

Statement	Yes	No	Comments
Our community has a greenspace plan.	X		
Our community is actively preserving greenspace – either through direct purchase, or by encouraging set-asides in new development.	X		Conservation subdivision permitted under regulations adopted 2008 and 2009
We have a local land conservation program, or, we work with state or national land conservation programs to preserve environmentally important areas in our community.		X	
We have a conservation subdivision ordinance for residential development that is widely used and protects open space in perpetuity.	X		See subdivision regulations adopted in 2009

### Environmental Protection

**Environmentally sensitive areas should be protected from negative impacts of development, particularly when they are important for maintaining traditional character or quality of life of the community or region. Whenever possible, the natural terrain, drainage, and vegetation of an area should be preserved.**

Statement	Yes	No	Comments
Our community has a comprehensive natural resources inventory.		X	
We use this resource inventory to steer development away from environmentally sensitive areas.	X		
We have identified our defining natural resources and have taken steps to protect them.		X	
Our community has passed the necessary Part V Environmental Ordinances, and we enforce them.			???
Our community has and actively enforces a tree preservation ordinance.	X		
Our community has a tree-replanting ordinance for new development.	X		
We are using stormwater best management practices for all new development.	X		
We have land use measures that will protect the natural resources in our community (steep slope regulations, floodplain or marsh protection, etc.).	X		

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Growth Preparedness

Each community should identify and put in place the pre-requisites for the type of growth it seeks to achieve. These might include infrastructure (roads, water, sewer) to support new growth, appropriate training of the workforce, ordinances and regulations to manage growth as desired, or leadership capable of responding to growth opportunities and managing new growth when it occurs.

Statement	Yes	No	Comments
We have population projections for the next 20 years that we refer to when making infrastructure decisions.		X	
Our local governments, the local school board, and other decision-making entities use the same population projections.	X		
We have a Capital Improvements Program that supports current and future growth.	X		
We have designated areas of our community where we would like to see growth. These areas are based on the natural resources inventory of our community.	X		We have identified prime redevelopment areas in 2 TAD Plans.

### Appropriate Businesses

The businesses and industries encouraged to develop or expand in a community should be suitable for the community in terms of job skills required, long-term sustainability, linkages to other economic activities in the region, impact on the resources of the area, and future prospects for expansion and creation of higher-skill job opportunities.

Statement	Yes	No	Comments
Our economic development organization has considered our community's strengths, assets, and weaknesses and has created a business development strategy based on them.	X		Recognizing this deficit, the City approved a Citywide Strategic ED Plan to address this and other essential ED strategies. It will begin in August 2011.
Our ED organization has considered the types of businesses already in our community, and has a plan to recruit business/industry that will be compatible.	X		Recognizing this deficit, the City approved a Citywide Strategic ED Plan to address this and other essential ED strategies. It will begin in August 2011.
We recruit businesses that provide or create sustainable products.	X		
We have a diverse jobs base, so that one employer leaving would not cripple us.	X		

### Employment Options

A range of job types should be provided in each community to meet the diverse needs of the local workforce.

Statement	Yes	No	Comments
Our economic development program has an entrepreneur support program.	X		Only through partnership with other organizations at this time.
Our community has jobs for skilled labor.	X		
Our community has jobs for unskilled labor.	X		
Our community has professional and managerial jobs.	X		Although this is an area we are seeking to improve

### Housing Choices

A range of housing size, cost, and density should be provided in each community to make it possible for all who work in the community to also live in the community (thereby reducing commuting distances), to promote a mixture of income and age groups in each community, and to provide a range of housing choice to meet market needs.

<i>Statement</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Our community allows accessory units like garage apartments or mother-in-law units.	X		
People who work in our community can afford to live here, too.	X		
Our community has enough housing for each income level (low, moderate, and above-average incomes)	X		
We encourage new residential development to follow the pattern of our original town, continuing the existing street design and recommending smaller setbacks.		X	
We have options available for loft living, downtown living, or “neo-traditional” development.		X	
We have vacant and developable land available for multifamily housing.	X		
We allow multifamily housing to be developed in our community.	X		
We support community development corporations building housing for lower-income households.	X		
We have housing programs that focus on households with special needs.		X	
We allow small houses built on small lots (less than 5,000 square feet) in appropriate areas.		X	

### Educational Opportunities

Educational and training opportunities should be readily available in each community – to permit community residents to improve their job skills, adapt to technological advances, or to pursue entrepreneurial ambitions.

<i>Statement</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Our community provides work-force training options for our citizens.		X	Only through partnership with other organizations at this time.
Our workforce training programs provide citizens with skills for jobs that are available in our community.		X	
Our community has higher education opportunities, or is close to a community that does.	X		
Our community has job opportunities for college graduates, so that our children may live and work here if they choose.	X		Several businesses , organizations and medical facilities that actively recruit people w/ degrees are located in EP.

## GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

### Local Self-Determination

Communities should be allowed to develop and work toward achieving their own vision for the future. Where the state seeks to achieve particular objectives, state financial and technical assistance should be used as the incentive to encourage local government conformance to those objectives.

<i>Statement</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
We have a citizen-education campaign to allow all interested parties to learn about development processes in our community.	X		
We have processes in place that make it simple for the public to stay informed on land use and zoning decisions, and new development.	X		
We have a public-awareness element in our comprehensive planning process.	X		
We have clearly understandable guidelines for new development.	X		
We offer a development guidebook that illustrates the type of new development we want in our community.		X	
We have reviewed our development regulations and/or zoning code recently and are sure that our ordinances will help us achieve our QCO goals.	X		
We have a budget for annual training for planning commission members and staff, and we use it.	X		
Our elected officials understand the land-development process in our community.	X		

### Regional Cooperation

Regional cooperation should be encouraged in setting priorities, identifying shared needs, and finding collaborative solutions, particularly where it is critical to success of a venture, such as protection of shared natural resources or development of a transportation network.

<i>Statement</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
We plan jointly with our cities and county for Comprehensive Planning purposes		X	
We are satisfied with our Service Delivery Strategies	X		
We cooperate with at least one local government to provide or share services (parks and recreation, E911, Emergency Services, Police or Sheriff's Office, schools, water, sewer, other).		X	



**City of East Point  
Mission 2036 Comprehensive Plan Update**

**Prepared for the city of East Point, Georgia  
Department of Planning & Zoning**

by  
**POND & COMPANY**

in association with

**Huntley Partners & PEQ**

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