



3.0 Environmental Features

This chapter describes the study area's environmental conditions and features. Topics include:

- Water Resources;
- Protected, Threatened, and Endangered Species;
- Hazardous Materials;
- Noise;
- Air Quality;
- Parks; and
- Cultural and Historic Resources.

3.1 Water Resources

This section describes the water bodies, wetlands, and floodplains within the study area. For the purposes of this Existing Conditions and Future Trends Report, a desktop survey to identify water resources was performed.

3.1.1 Water Bodies

The study area includes numerous water bodies including rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. The named rivers and streams in the study area include Long Island Creek, March Creek, Chattahoochee River, Big Creek, Foe Killer Creek, and Camp Creek. Numerous unnamed streams are intermittent or perennial. There are no significant lakes or ponds in the study area. Figure 3-1 depicts the water bodies within the study area. ARC and GDOT provided the data.

3.1.2 Wetlands

The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) indicates the approximately 681 acres of recorded wetlands within the study area. Figure 3-1 depicts wetlands within the study area.

3.1.3 Floodplains

According to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), there are approximately 2,016 acres of floodplains within the study area. They are illustrated in Figure 3-2.

3.2 Protected, Threatened, and Endangered Species

Table 3-1 identifies protected plant and animal species listed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for Fulton, DeKalb, and Forsyth Counties. The GADNR characterizes these as known occurrences within a particular county of special concern plants, animals and natural communities, and "rare elements".

3.3 Hazardous Materials

A preliminary search for sites within the study area containing contaminated or hazardous materials relied upon the EPA's Geospatial Data Access Project GIS Shapefile, http://www.epa.gov/enviro/geo_data.html, October 2011, and the Multisystem Envirofacts Query Form (<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/>

multisystem.html). These sources provide data from multiple EPA environmental databases of permitted-facility information including toxic chemical releases, water discharge permit compliance, hazardous waste handling processes, Superfund status, and air emission estimates.

The EPA Geospatial Data Download file(s) includes records from the following sources:

- Superfund National Priorities List (NPL)
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information (RCRAInfo) - EPA and State Treatment, Storage, Disposal facilities
- Toxic Release Inventory System - All reported years including 2009
- Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) and Permit Compliance System (PCS) - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Majors
- RCRAInfo - Large Quantity Generators (LQG)
- Air Facility System (AFS) - Major discharges of air pollutants
- RMP - Risk Management Plan
- SSTS - Section Seven Tracking System (Pesticides)
- Assessment Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) - Brownfield Properties

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR), Environmental Protection Division (GEPD) maintains a Hazardous Site Inventory (HIS) database (Revised July 2011). In November 2011, one site was identified, the Huntridge Shopping Center located at 8540 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, 30350. It has a suspected toxic chemical release (HIS site number 10758).

3.3.1 Hazardous Waste Designations

As detailed in Table 3-2, the preliminary EPA Geospatial Data Download found five sites within the study area that meet the following designations.

3.3.1.1 Air Facility System (AFS)

The Air Facility System (AFS) is a computer-based repository for information about air pollution in the United States. This information comes from source reports by various stationary sources of air pollution, such as electric power plants, steel mills, factories, and universities, and provides information about the air pollutants they produce. There are two AFS sites within the study area.

3.3.1.2 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information (RCRAInfo) Sites

Those that generate, handle, and dispose of hazardous waste are required to provide information on their activities to state

environmental agencies. These agencies then provide the information to regional and national EPA offices through the RCRAInfo System. Information on cleaning up after a release of hazardous materials must also be reported through RCRAInfo. There are two RCRA sites within the study area.

3.3.1.3 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Sites

The TRI provides information on the release and transfer of toxic chemicals from federal and industrial facilities in any given area. The TRI contains information about more than 650 toxic chemicals that are being used, manufactured, treated, transported, or released into the environment. Manufacturers of these chemicals are required to report the locations and quantities of chemicals stored on-site to state and local governments. The reports are submitted to the USEPA and state governments. USEPA compiles this data in an on-line database. There are two TRI sites within the study area.

3.3.1.4 Section Seven Tracking System (SSTS)

SSTS tracks the registration of all establishments producing pesticides and tracks annually the types and amounts of pesticides, active ingredients, and related devices that are produced, sold, or distributed.

3.4 Noise

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment guidance manual (May 2006) provides a basis for the identification of potential noise sensitive land uses within the study area. Table 3-3 shows the FTA land use categories. This information provides a general assessment of the land uses that are noise-sensitive. Table 3-4 identifies the existing land uses within the study area and provides the FTA land use category that applies.

3.5 Air Quality

Metropolitan Atlanta currently exceeds national ambient air quality standards and is designated an air quality "nonattainment" area for ozone and particulate matter 2.5 by the USEPA. However, as of January 25, 2012, Atlanta now meets the Federal one-hour ozone standard, one of several measurements to determine when air becomes unhealthy. The region still must demonstrate a plan to continue meeting the standards over the next 20 years.

This project is not included in the approved ARC's Plan 2040 RTP. As such, the project is not part of the Conformity Determination Report and is not included within the air quality model and travel demand modeling processes. However, air quality impacts

will be assessed as part of the alternative development process. Additionally, once the Locally Preferred Alternative is selected for this project, it can be submitted for inclusion into the next RTP update.

3.6 Parks

Information identifying and describing public parks within the study area was obtained from ARC and each city. Table 3-5 lists the public parks, the responsible jurisdiction, type, total acreage, and acreage within study area. There are 31 public parks, totaling approximately 1,850 acres within the study area. This group of parks extends beyond the study area to cover a total of approximately 8,547 acres.

The study area contains parks of different types including 17 Community parks, one Greenway, one Forest, one Conservation park, one historic site, one municipal park, two county parks, and seven Recreational Facilities. Table 3-5 lists these parks by type with the responsible jurisdiction and both total acreage and acreage within the study area. Figure 3-3 presents a map depicting parks.

3.7 Historic and Cultural and Resources

This section discusses the historic resources identified within the study area. The following sources were reviewed to complete this survey:

- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This is a register of buildings and districts within the United States maintained by the National Park Service.
- Natural Archaeological Historical Resources Geographical Information System (NAHRGIS) database. This is a statewide collection of buildings, structures, landscapes and districts surveyed by the Georgia Historic Preservation Division, the DCA, and GDOT. The NAHRGIS database also includes Historic American Building Survey (HABS) data and Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) data. The archaeological elements of this database are collected by the ARC and are not distributed to the public in order to protect the integrity of the sites.
- Section 106 Survey data. The ARC collects multiple data sources for Historic and Cultural Resources, including the Section 106 Surveys completed by GDOT to meet requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 400). Section 106 surveys include both structures and districts.
- Cemetery data. The ARC collects historic cemetery data from local jurisdictions, the National Register and NAHRGIS.
- Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (GHBS). This survey is maintained by GDOT and lists historic covered bridges in the state.

The cities were contacted in order to identify any additional

resources or regulatory requirements for historical sites or districts in the study area. Based upon this research, no additional resources were identified.

The following websites for local historical societies also were reviewed for any additional information:

- Alpharetta Historical Society
- Dunwoody Preservation Trust
- Roswell Historical Society
- Sandy Springs Historic Preservation Society

The following sections discuss the findings of each source that was reviewed. Figure 3-4 depicts all of the resources within the study area except for the archaeological sites.

3.7.1 National Register of Historic Places and Districts

One NRHP-listed district is located within the study area, the Roswell Historic District. Eight properties in the study area are listed on the NRHP:

- The Cheek-Spruill House (Dunwoody),
- Glenridge Hall (Sandy Springs),
- Barrington Hall (Roswell),
- Bulloch Hall (Roswell),
- Founders Cemetery (Roswell),
- Independence High School (Roswell),
- Ivy Hall (Roswell),
- Roswell Mill Buildings A and C (Roswell).

3.7.2 NAHRGIS Sites

There are 527 surveyed sites in the study area, mapped in Figure 3-4, including the nine NRHP-listed places and districts identified above. Most of these sites are clustered around the Roswell Historic District. The sites were surveyed between 1977 and 2000, and include various structures from single-family homes to commercial and religious buildings. Due to the time lapse since the last surveys, the NRHP eligibility will need to be reviewed.

Eleven identified archaeological sites within the study area are located in Roswell, Alpharetta and Milton. Identification, local jurisdiction and eligibility are provided in Table 3-6.

3.7.3 Section 106 Surveys

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires federal agencies and those entities utilizing federal monies or obtaining federal permits to take into account the effects of the projects on properties listed or eligible for listing

on the NRHP. The ARC has collected data provided by GDOT from previous Section 106 considerations for projects within the study area.

It includes seven districts in the study area, all located near I-285 and mapped in Figure 3-4. Surveyed in 2010, all but one district is proposed eligible for NRHP listing. All of the districts incorporate neighborhoods built in the ranch or colonial revival architectural styles.

3.7.4 Cemeteries

The ARC also tracks cemeteries in the region based on submittals from local jurisdictions as well as from NAHRGIS and the NRHP. Eight potentially historic cemeteries are located in the study area, depicted in Figure 3-4:

- Arlington Cemetery in Sandy Springs
- Providence Baptist Church in Sandy Springs
- Lebanon Cemetery in Roswell
- Old Roswell Cemetery
- Roswell Presbyterian
- Greenlawn Cemetery in Roswell
- Maxwell Cemetery in Alpharetta next to Fire Station #3
- Resthaven Cemetery and the Ruth Teasley Upshaw Memorial in Alpharetta

3.7.5 Georgia Historic Bridge Survey

No historic bridges were identified within the study area.