



## **GMRC Information Form - Local Comprehensive Plan Performance Measures**

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Like our local governments the GMRC maintains a Regional Plan, developed as a bottom-up document that incorporates the objectives and issues identified in the local plans for all of our member communities. The Regional Plan identifies several performance measures targeted for our region which represent best practices or achievements indicative of communities actively seeking to plan and develop themselves in accordance with a defined vision. Local plans are evaluated for their consistency with the Regional Plan, which in turns helps the GMRC identify areas where they can better assist each community.

### **Coordinated Performance Standards**

As part of the State's regional planning standards the GMRC must establish two achievement thresholds for local governments. These standards, rated as Minimum and Excellence Standards, identify specific ordinances, programs, or requirements that may be implemented by local governments in order to realize the Regional Vision and/or address the Regional Issues and Opportunities. In establishing these standards, the GMRC sought to create a framework that works with the current level of planning requirements expected of local governments, then encourages each community to pursue their own higher standards for community development. In this regard the Minimum is something every local government can readily achieve by simply maintaining their existing level of obligations, and for which the GMRC is available to assist. To achieve the Excellence Standard communities must then employ/adopt a certain volume of policies and practices from the list included here. Communities achieving the Excellence Standard will be eligible for extra assistance from the GMRC and DCA.

Going forward these performance measures will be used to help a) evaluate the effectiveness of the GMRC's Regional Plan implementation efforts, and b) to help identify the various levels of planning and community development desired by the local communities.



### **Minimum Standard**

Items included here are considered essential activities for local governments to undertake for achieving their own planning ambitions and for consistency with the regional plan. The intent is to ensure a consistent and predictable basic level of local requirements across the region. All local governments in the region will be expected to attain the Minimum Standard within three years of adoption of the regional plan, or risk losing Qualified Local Government status.

- Maintain a local Comprehensive Plan as required by DCA
- Maintain and be compliant with all necessary Service Delivery Strategies
- Maintain and participate in a local Hazard Mitigation Strategy
- Maintain and participate in a Local Emergency Operations/Response Plan
- Maintain local solid waste management reporting as required by DCA
- Adopt the necessary minimum rules established by the DNR Part V Environmental Planning Criteria



### Excellence Standard

Items within the Excellence Standard are considered desirable activities for local governments to undertake for achieving their own planning aspirations and for consistency with the regional plan. The intent is to lay out a menu of recommended best practices for local governments to select for implementation. Each recommended best practice a local government implements will count toward achieving the Excellence Standard threshold established by the Department.

The Excellence Standard will be awarded to any community employing any 20 of the standards listed below and practicing at least 1 standard in each element. The GMRC will annually survey local governments regarding these practices, inviting demonstration/evidence of the standards applied. Any local government that attains this threshold will then be eligible for the Regional Steward Incentives Package identified and publicized by the Department.

*Note: Items marked with an \* are available in more than one category but can only be counted once toward a local inventory of practices.*

### Housing

- ✓ Adopt the latest construction standards for manufactured housing
- ✓ Allow and promote conservation design for subdivisions
- ✓ Maintain policies enabling and promoting compatible infill development\*
- ✓ Maintain policies enabling and promoting residences in mixed use developments where appropriate
- ✓ Maintain a plan and process for eliminating or fixing dilapidated/substandard housing
- ✓ Include goals and strategies specifically for senior and special needs housing within your comprehensive plan
- ✓ Include goals and strategies specifically for neighborhood revitalization/preservation within your comprehensive plan
- ✓ Include goals and strategies specifically for affordable housing within your comprehensive plan
- ✓ Annually review and assess implementation of housing objectives within your local comprehensive plan
- ✓ Adopt the DCA model development regulations for micro housing
- ✓ Adopt policies for management of short-term rental residential properties

### Intergovernmental Coordination

- ✓ Participate in county-wide intergovernmental forums (City-County Managers meetings, joint retreats, etc.) at least twice per year
- ✓ Annually review and assess intergovernmental contracts and Service Delivery Agreements
- ✓ Adopt policies establishing training standards for all elected and appointed officials
- ✓ Outline coordination of land use and transportation policies, either alone or in comprehensive plan
- ✓ Annually respond to Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS) and submit information as needed\*





### Transportation

- ✓ Adopt and implement policies that promote connected streets and sidewalks
- ✓ Maintain a transportation plan (alone, in your comprehensive plan or with an MPO) that specifically identifies, based on demand and maintenance concerns, needs and priorities for road improvement, sidewalks and pathways
- ✓ Participate in the Coordinated Transit Program administered by DHS
- ✓ Adopt land use policies that minimize curb cuts and intersections along arterial roads
- ✓ Adopt a Complete Streets policy
- ✓ Participate in the Safe Routes to School Program
- ✓ Have a policy that identifies urban areas with heavy pedestrian traffic and dictates employ traffic calming measures for such areas
- ✓ Annually review and assess implementation of transportation objectives within your local comprehensive plan

### Community Facilities and Services

- ✓ Maintain a Capital Improvements Plan (alone or within your comprehensive plan) for police, fire suppression, public works or parks and recreation that specifically identifies, based on demand and maintenance concerns, the needs and priorities for new equipment, facilities, vehicles or personnel advancement for the next 5 years
- ✓ Maintain a Water or Wastewater Utility Improvement Plan (alone or within your comprehensive plan) that specifically identifies, based on demand and maintenance concerns, the needs and priorities for line repair and service area expansion for 5+ years
- ✓ Create and maintain a strategy for improving your community's ISO rating
- ✓ Maintain a site selection policy and long-term growth strategy with the local school board
- ✓ Provide a recycling program and centers
- ✓ Annually review and assess the health care needs for your community
- ✓ Annually review and assess implementation of public facilities and services objectives within your local comprehensive plan

### Economic Development

- ✓ Maintain a designated economic development professional or support a local development authority
- ✓ Support/Participate in Quick Start, Georgia Work Ready, Workforce Investment or other economic development programs
- ✓ Maintain a targeted marketing strategy (alone or within your comprehensive plan) that specifically identifies the top three specific industries targeted for local expansion or recruitment, and outlines specific measures to foster such expansion
- ✓ Maintain a strategy for support of agriculture and/or agri-tourism
- ✓ Maintain a tourism strategy that features collaboration with the State Department of Economic Development and at least one other jurisdiction
- ✓ Annually review and assess your community based on the GMRC CEDS performance criteria
- ✓ Annually review and assess implementation of economic development objectives within your local comprehensive plan



- ✓ Maintain an Urban Redevelopment Plan (or comparable formal strategy) for older, established areas such as downtowns and urban neighborhoods\*
- ✓ Achieve DCA's PlanFirst designation
- ✓ Achieve designation for State or Federal Opportunity Zone
- ✓ Achieve designation for State Rural Zone
- ✓ Achieve designation for State Enterprise Zone
- ✓ Maintain an inventory of any local brownfields and have a defined strategy for eventual mitigation

### Land Use Management

- ✓ Maintain and enforce soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution control policies complying with Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Service standards
- ✓ Maintain specialized land use policies designed to preserve/foster agricultural use
- ✓ Maintain residential land use policies that favor urban lot sizes (< 1 acre) and rural lot sizes ( $\geq 3$  acres)
- ✓ Enable and promote mixed use development
- ✓ Enable and promote parking standards that encourage minimal space counts, pervious surfaces, incorporated pedestrian access and/or shade trees
- ✓ Maintain and promote design guidelines for new development
- ✓ Maintain and promote signage standards and landscape and maintenance standards
- ✓ Require sidewalks of new development
- ✓ Adopt policies establishing training standards for all elected and appointed officials
- ✓ Maintain policies enabling and promoting compatible infill development\*
- ✓ Annually share notice of development trends and statistics with the GMRC and neighboring jurisdictions
- ✓ Designate, and maintain through policy, Gateway corridors, Scenic Byways and tourist corridors
- ✓ Annually review and assess planning, zoning and permitting actions by your community for consistency with the comprehensive plan, past precedence and across staff and official levels
- ✓ Annually review and assess implementation of land use objectives within your local comprehensive plan
- ✓ Annually respond to Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS) and submit information as needed\*
- ✓ Maintain an Urban Redevelopment Plan (or comparable formal strategy) for older, established areas such as downtowns and urban neighborhoods\*

### Natural and Cultural Resources

- ✓ Include in your comprehensive plan remediation measures for all 303(b) and 305(d) listed waters within your community
- ✓ Maintain an open space/greenspace strategy
- ✓ Maintain support for Adopt-A-Stream, Keep America Beautiful or other environmental programs



- ✓ Maintain compliance with the NFIP program
- ✓ Maintain a Historic Resources Commission
- ✓ Maintain historic district overlay zones/ preservation ordinances in line with HPD guidelines
- ✓ Maintain Certified Local Government status through HPD
- ✓ Promote and support Main Street or Better Hometown programs
- ✓ Develop annual report summarizing compliance with your respective River Basin Management Plan (as designated by DNR)
- ✓ Annually review and assess implementation of natural and cultural objectives within your local comprehensive plan
- ✓ Achieve GEMA's WaterFirst designation
- ✓ Adopt 2 of the 4 practices required of Tree City USA communities