



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Towards a Resilient Georgia:

How the Carl Vinson Institute of Government is helping communities address a changing landscape

Presenters



Taylor Hafley, Ph.D.

Applied Demographer

Taylor.hafley@uga.edu



Dessa Benson, Ph.D.

Military Community
Resilience Manager
dessabenson@uga.edu



Ileeia Smith, Ph.D.

Public Service Faculty

Ileeia.smith@uga.edu



Ben McGarr, AICP

Military Community
Resilience Manager
Benjamin.mcgarr@uga.edu



Agenda

- **Georgia's Demographics**
- **Forestry and Natural Resources**
- **GAPS and Emergency Management**
- **Resilience and Compatible Use**





Economic
Development



Downtown
Redevelopment



Infrastructure and
Community
Resilience



Workforce
Development



UGA Institute of Government

-  Governmental Services and Research
-  Governmental Training, Education, and Development
-  Information Technology Outreach Services
-  Infrastructure and Community Resilience
-  Survey Research and Evaluation Services
-  Workforce and Economic Development

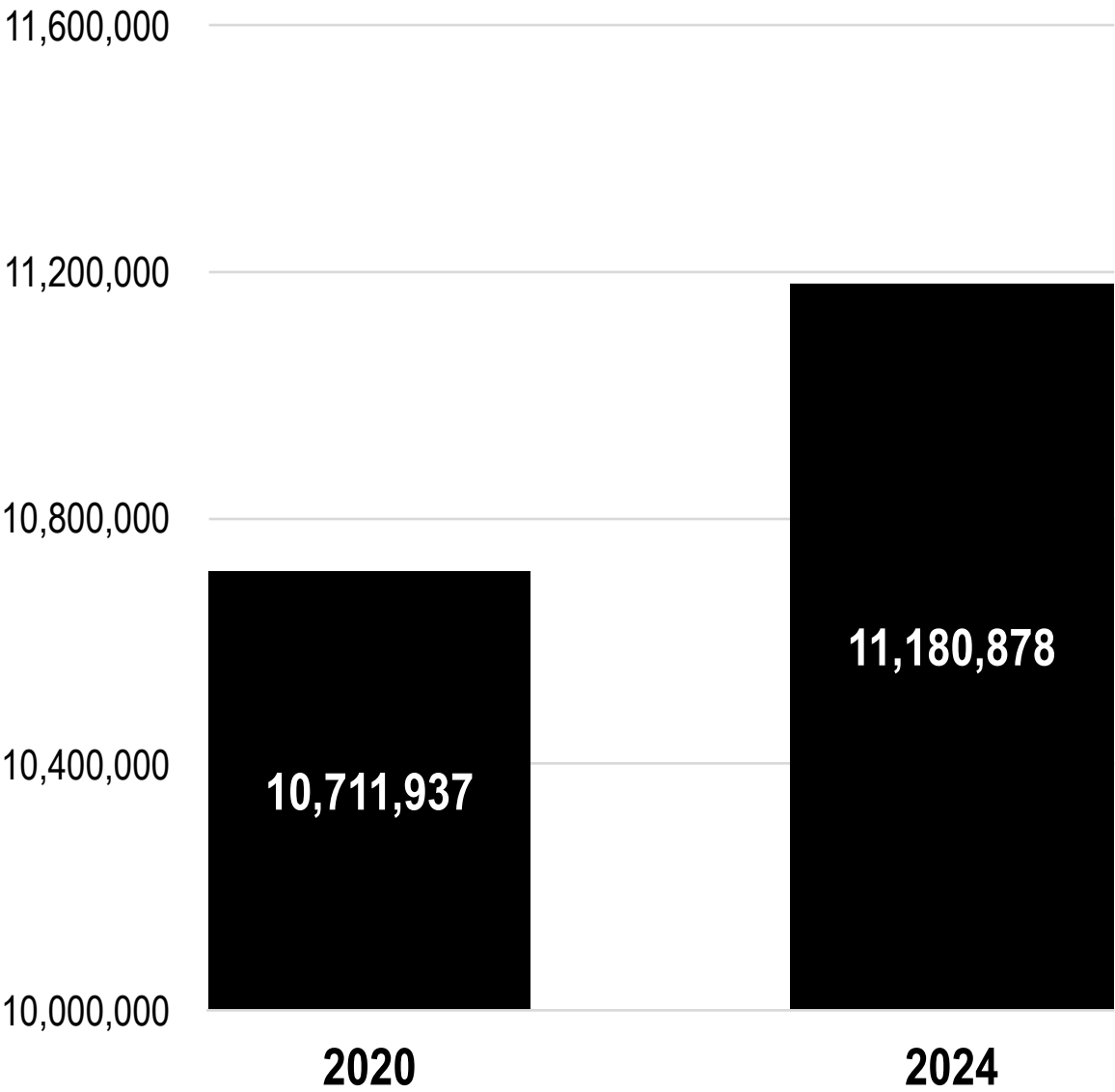


Applied Demography Program

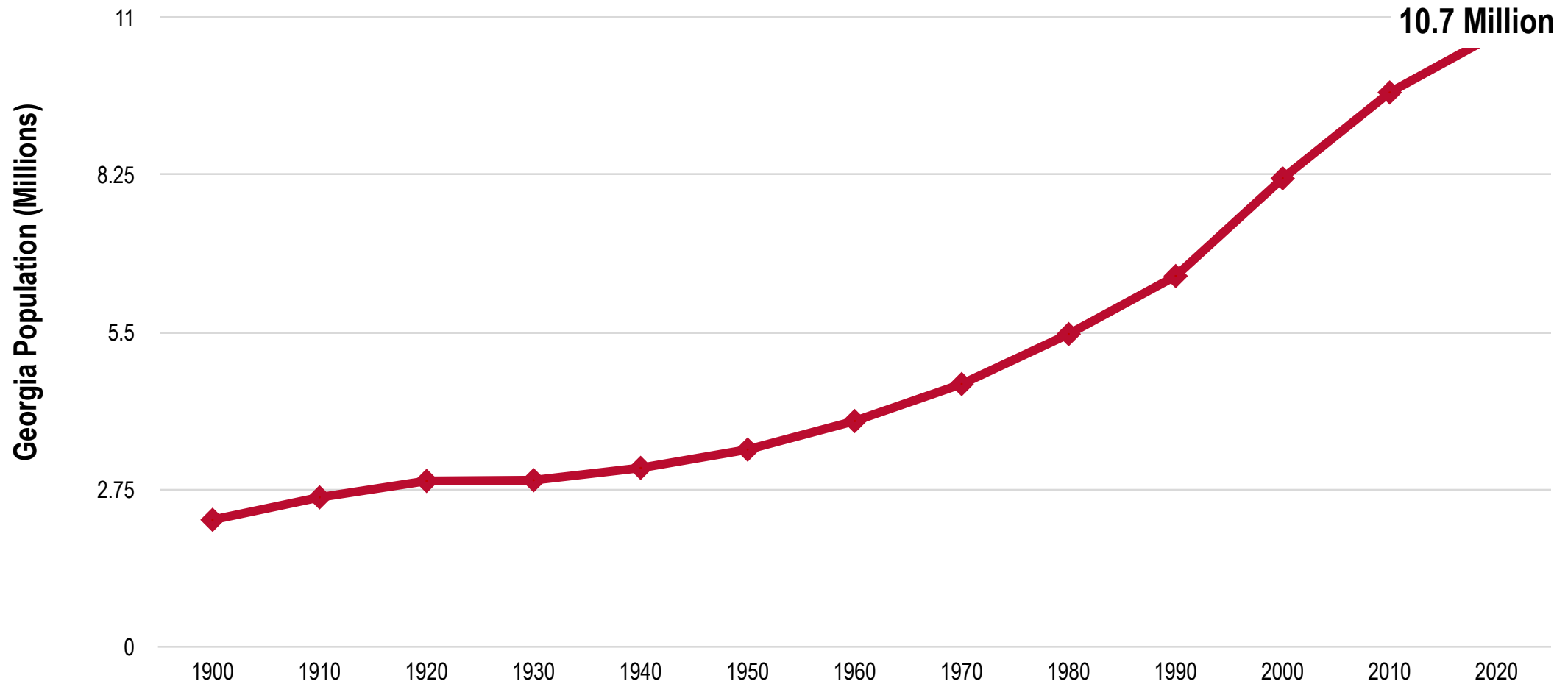
- Nearly two decades of partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
- Partner with OPB, USG, GDEcD, GDC, GFC, regional, and local governments
- Georgia Representative for Federal State Cooperative for Population Estimates and Projections (FSCPE/P)
 - Vital Statistics, Group Quarters, Housing Unit Review, Population Estimates, Population Projections



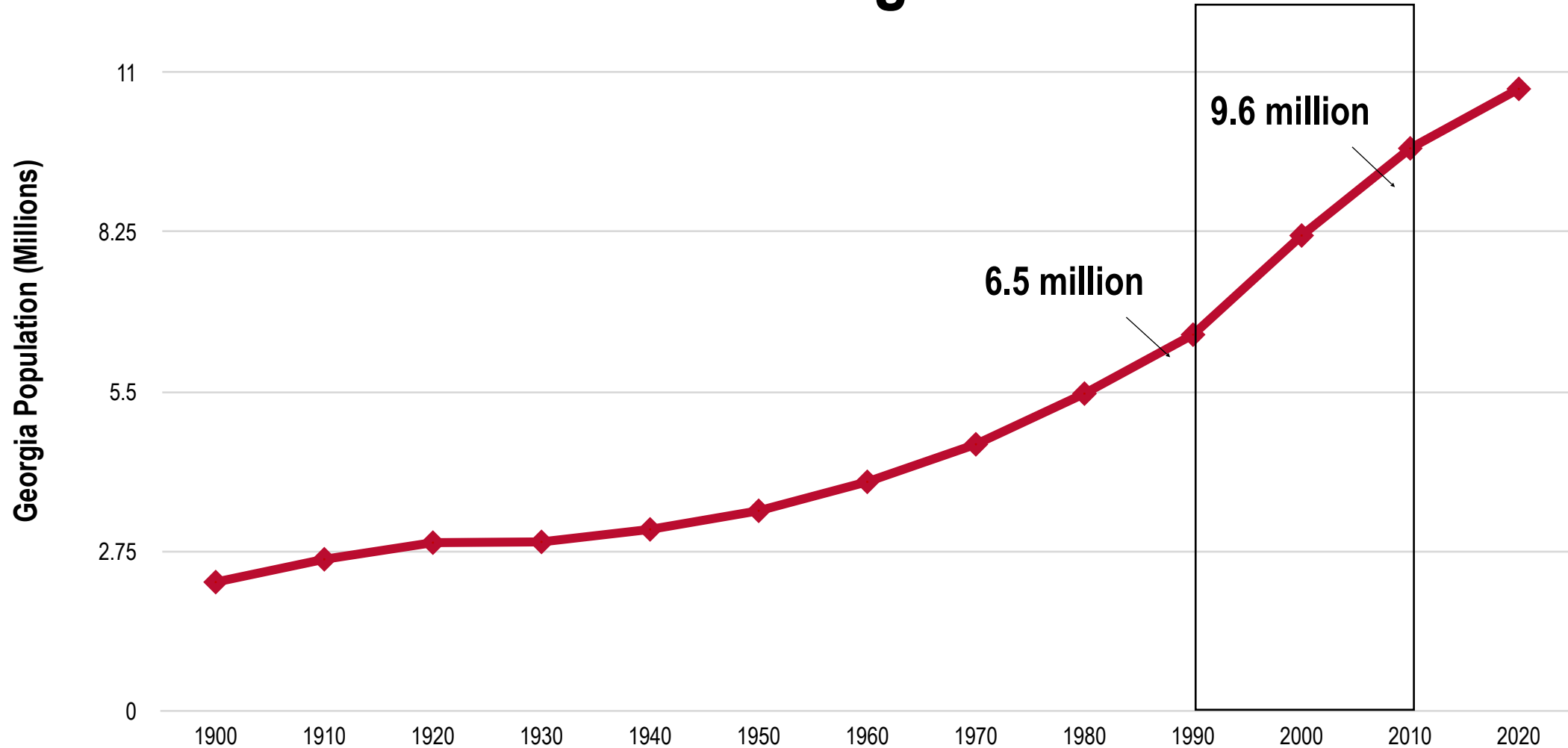
Georgia's Population increased by ~470,000 between 2020 Census and 2024 Estimates



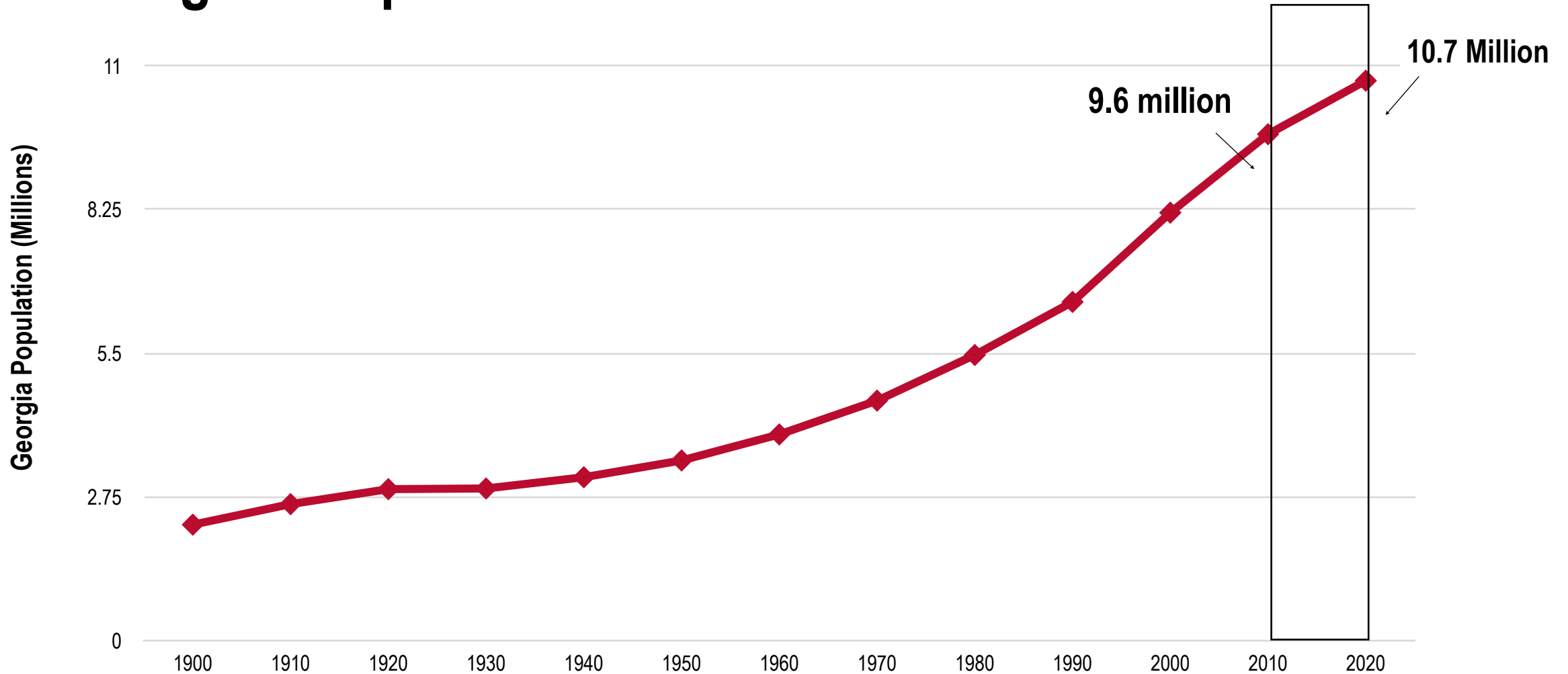
Georgia's Population, 1900-2020



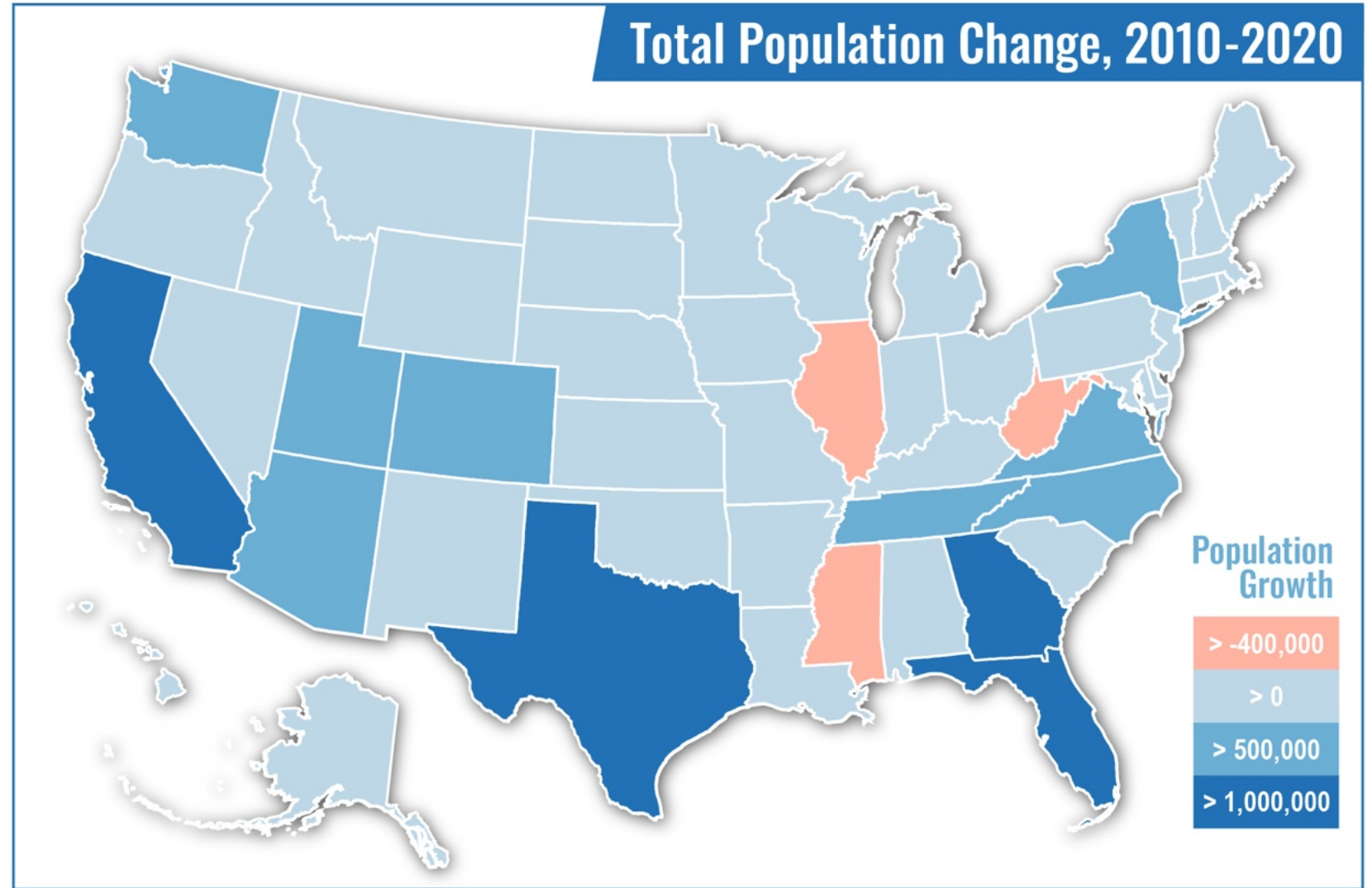
Three Million New Georgians in Two Decades



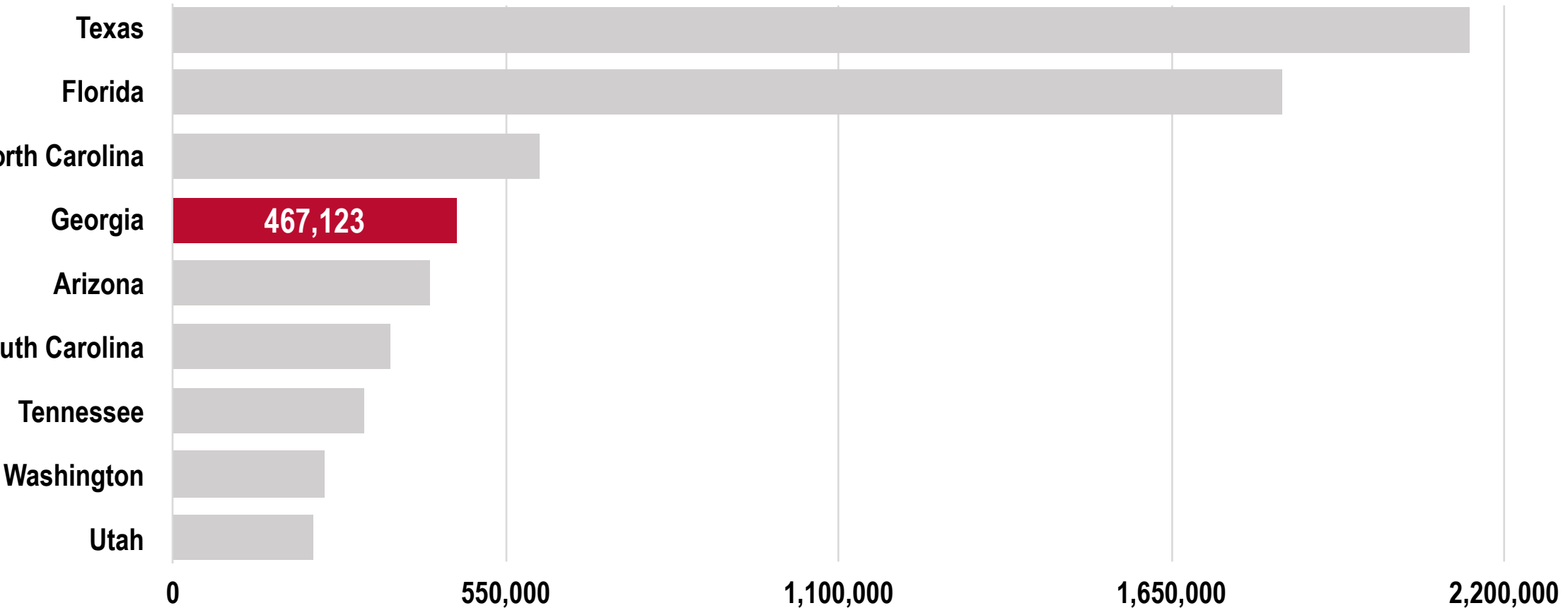
Georgia's Population Increases ~1 million in 2010s



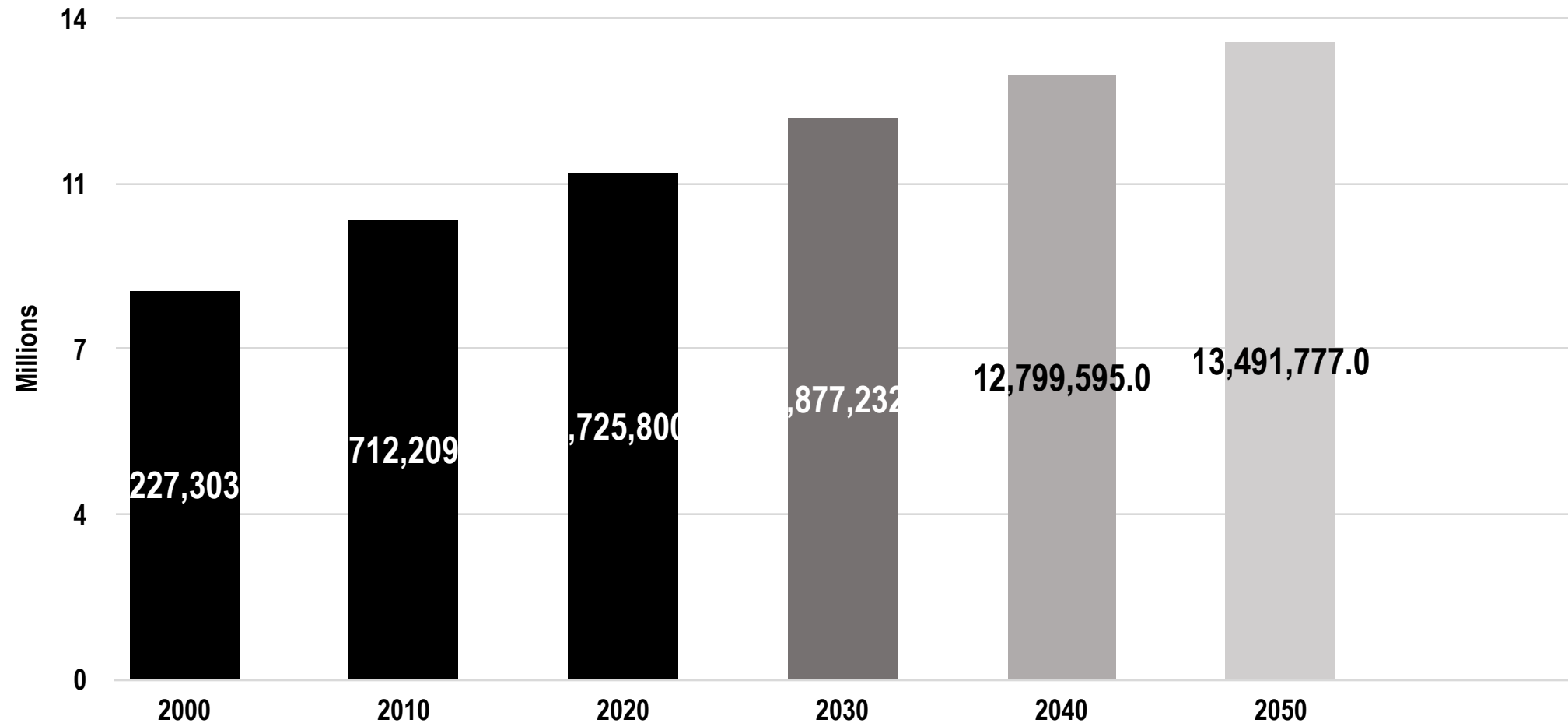
Georgia was one of four states to grow by more than 1 million people in 2010s



Georgia ranks 4th in numeric growth since 2020



Georgia's Population Projections, 2025 Series

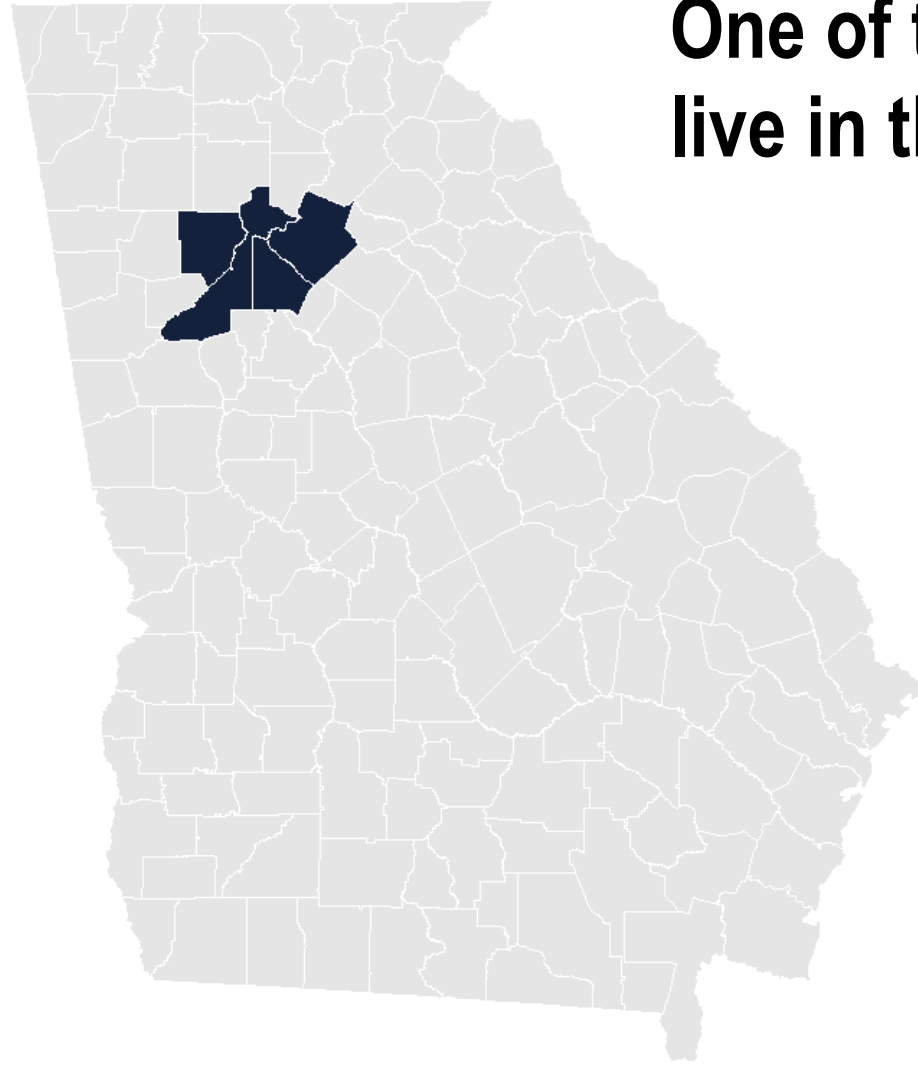


The Geography of Georgia's Population

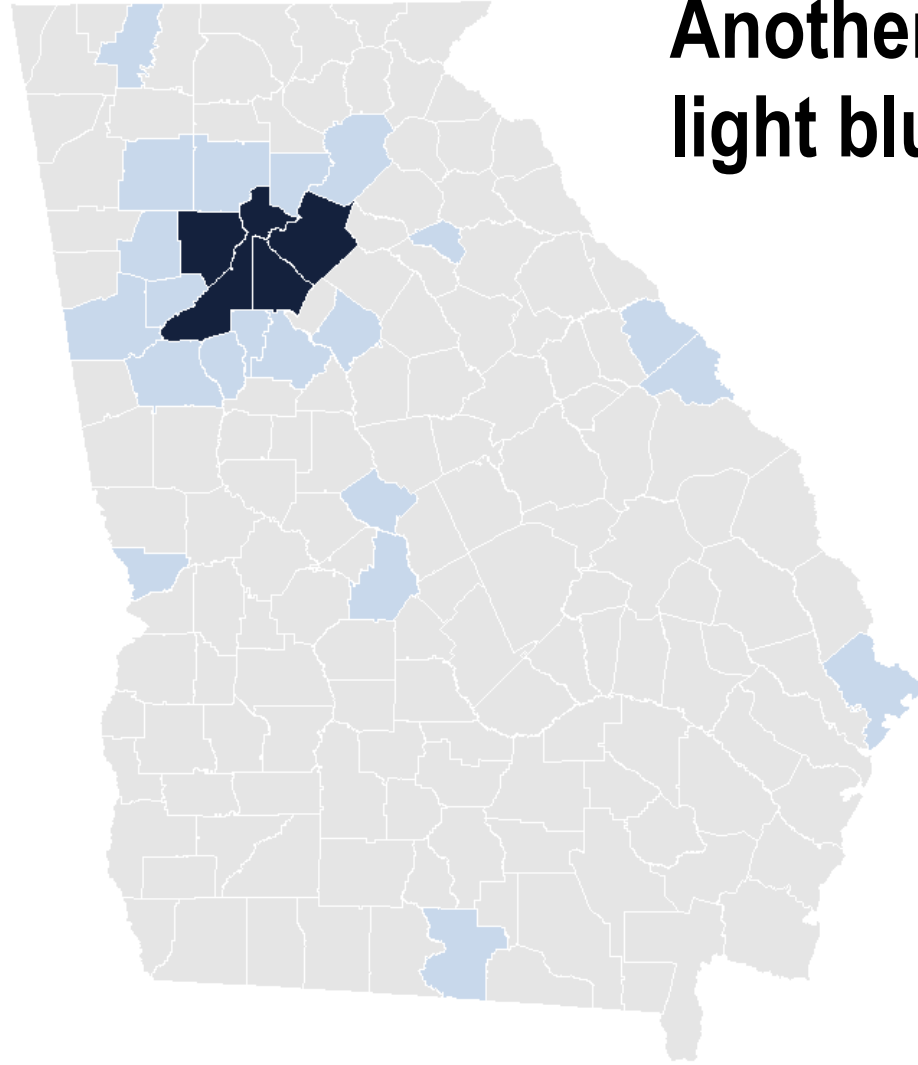


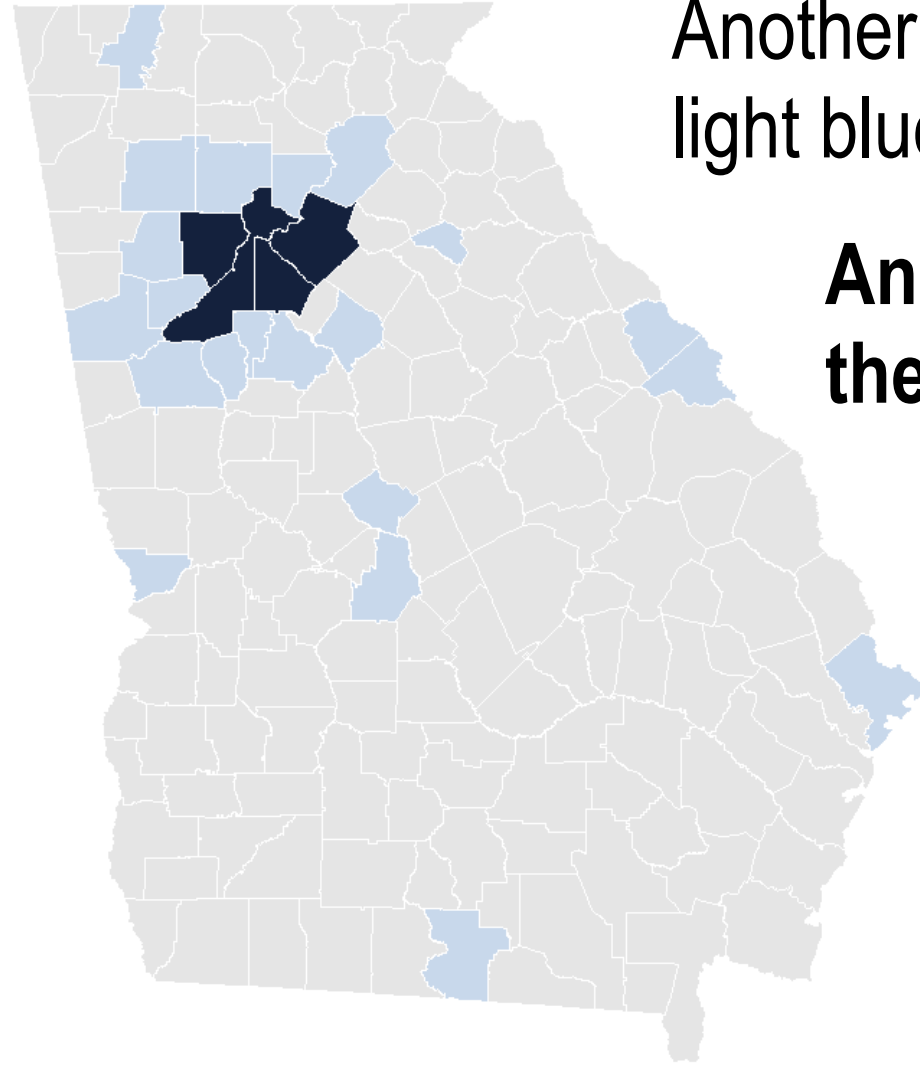
Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

**One of three Georgians
live in these four counties**



**Another third lives in the
light blue counties**



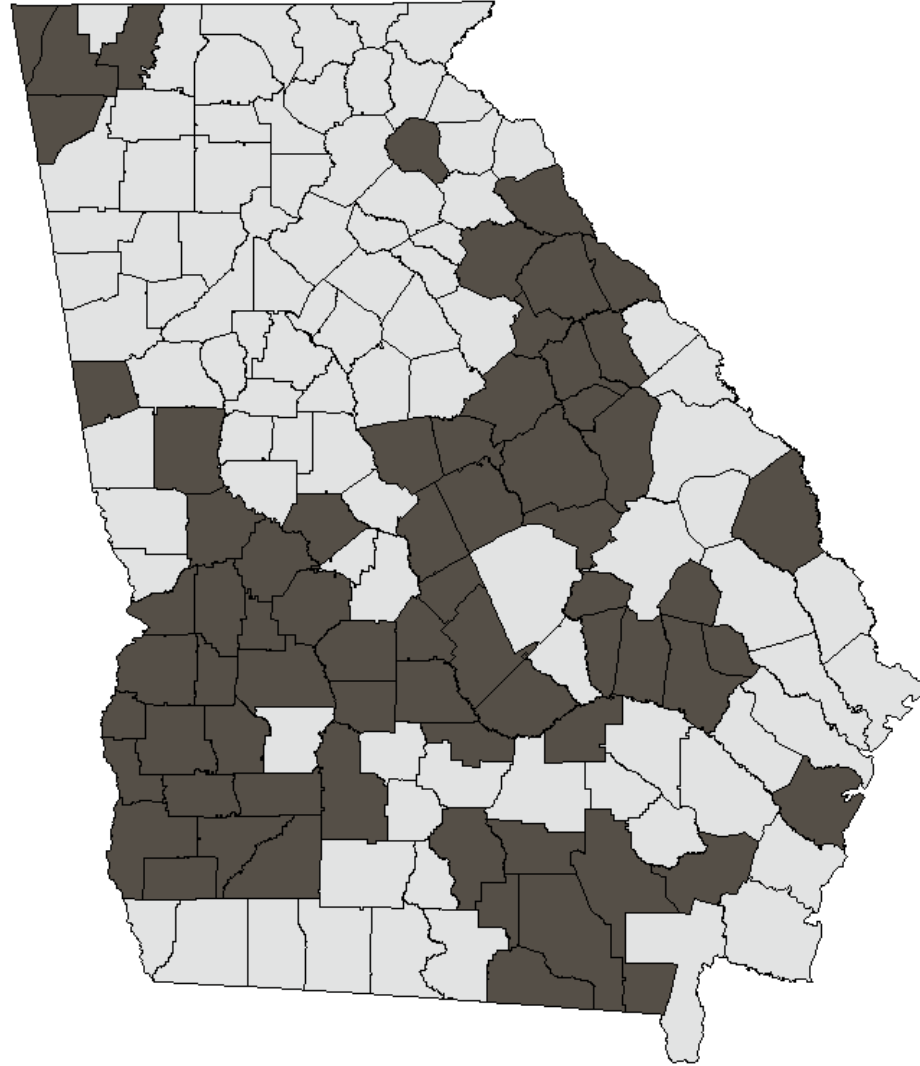


Another third lives in the
light blue counties

**And another third lives in
the gray counties**

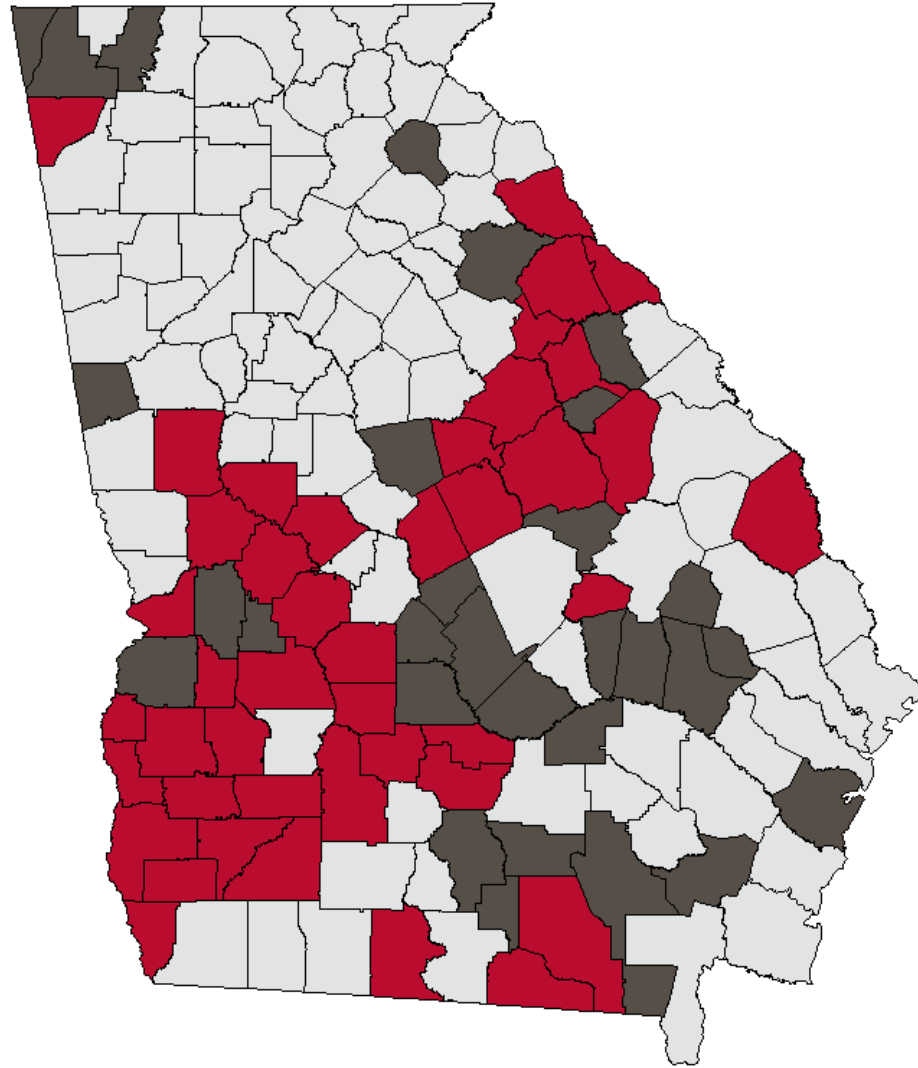


68 counties lost population between 2010 and 2020



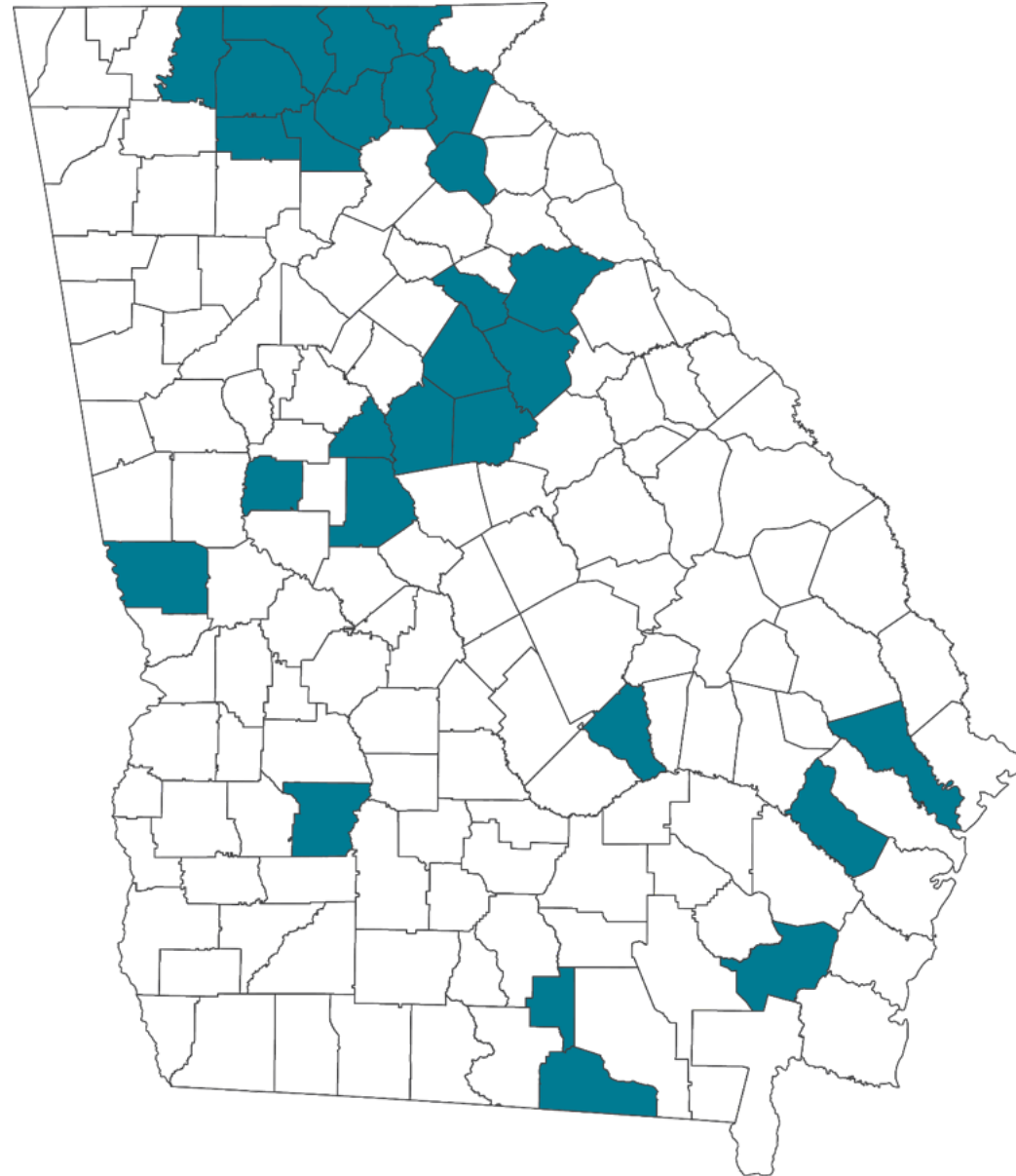
68 counties lost
population between 2010
and 2020

**43 counties have
fewer people in 2020
than in 2000**



Georgia's Rural Growth

**28 rural counties have
experience population
increase of more than 50%
since 1990**



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Source: US Census Bureau, NHGIS, Minnesota Population Center

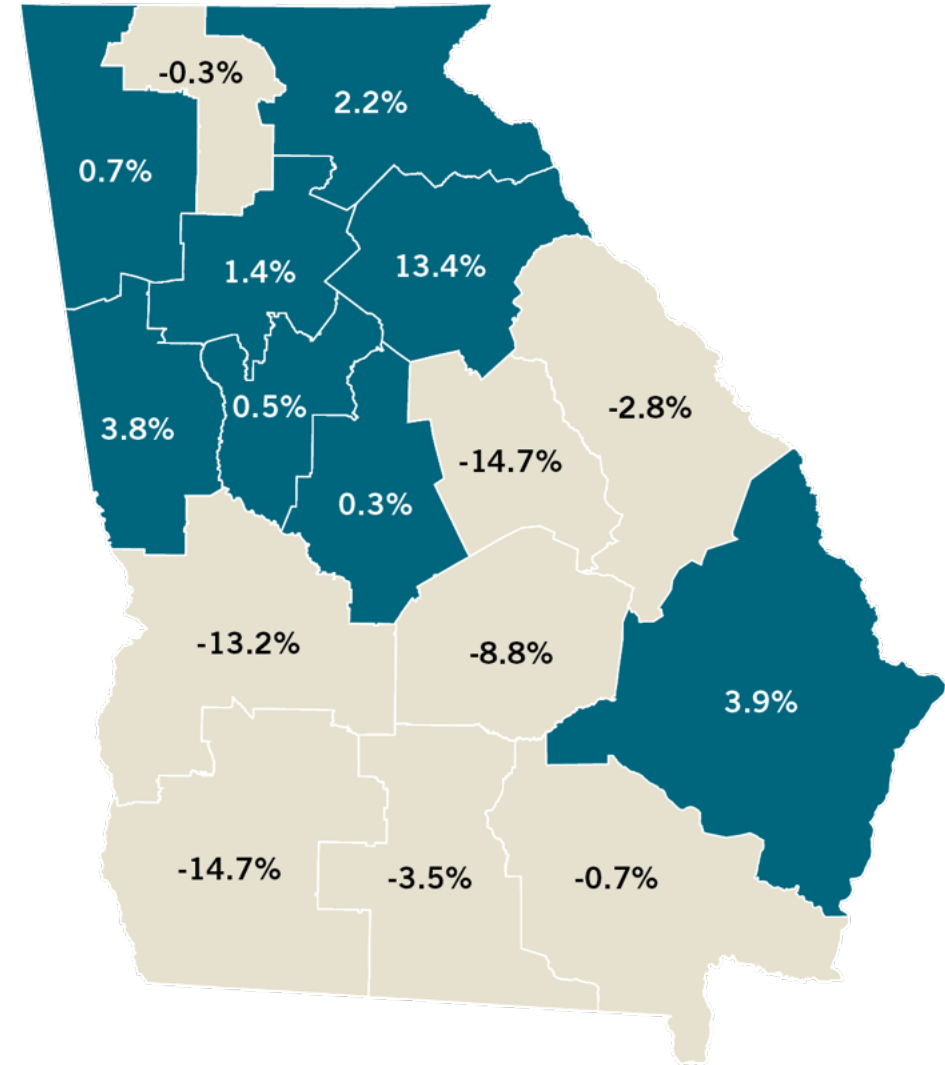
Georgia's Aging Population



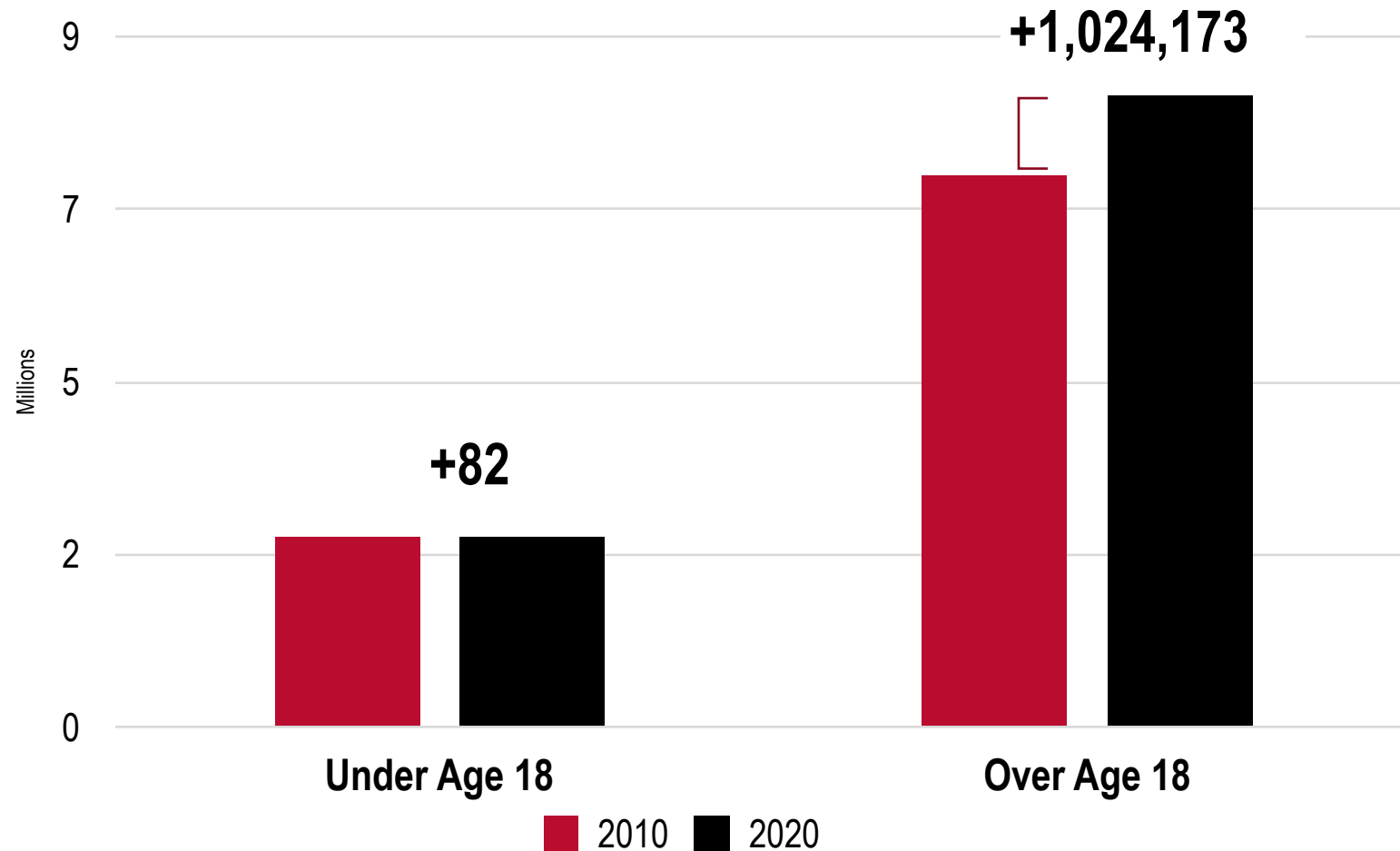
Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Declining number of births already impacting local school systems

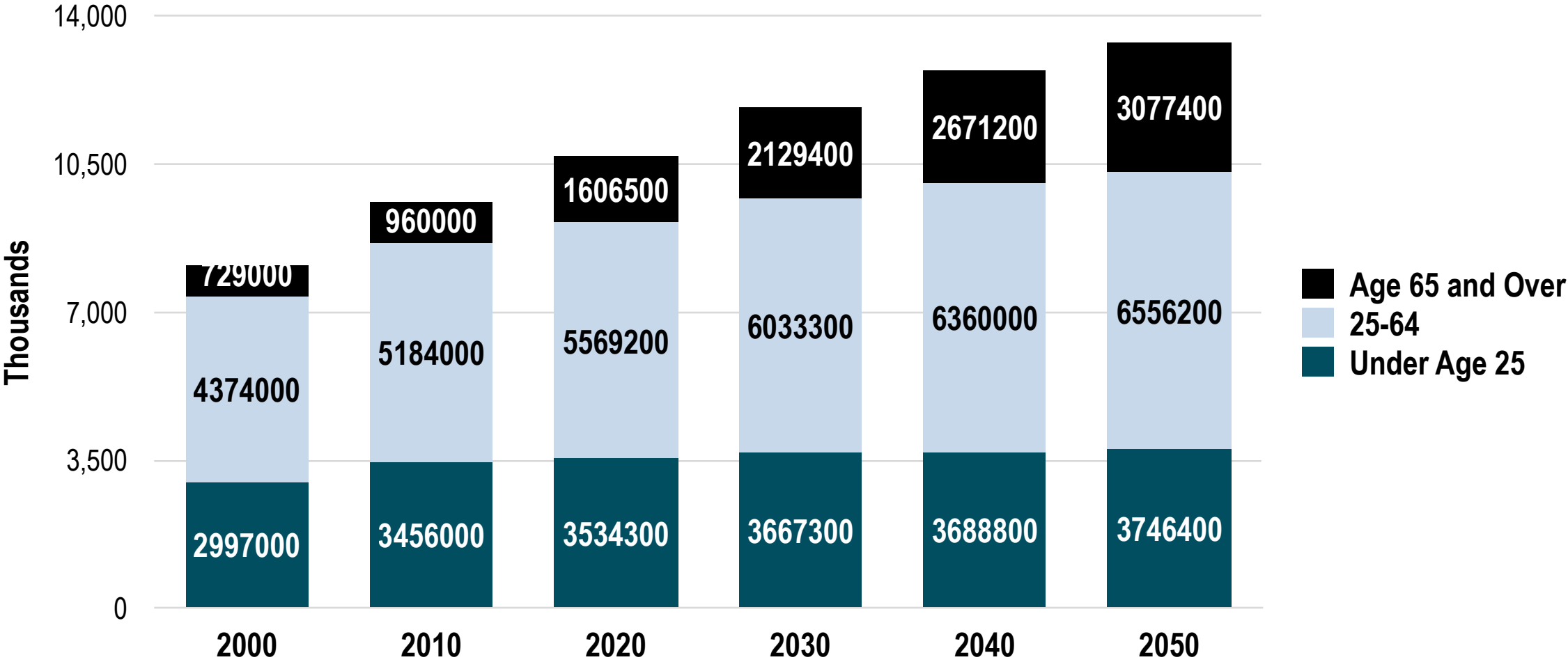
- K-12 Enrollments have declined in half of the Regional Education Service Areas (RESAs) over the past ten years (Fall 2013-2023)



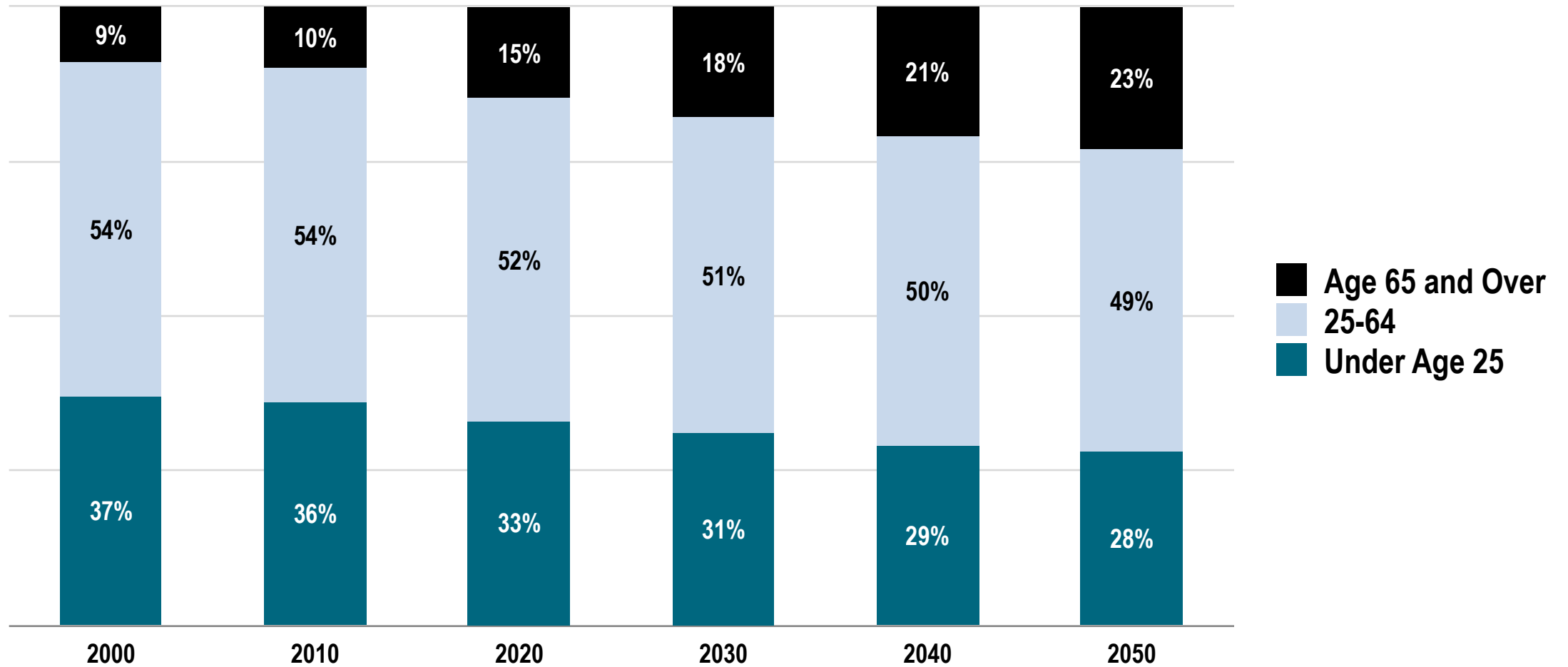
Georgia's Population Growth in 2010s was Adult Population Growth



Georgia's Population is Aging



Georgia's Changing Age Distribution



Georgia Demographics in Summary

- Georgia's Population Growth Slowed in the 2010s
 - Remains among the fastest-growing states in the country
 - Migration drives Georgia's population growth
- Aging Population
 - The age 65 and older population is growing faster than the rest of the state
- Suburban and Exurban areas are projected to experience the fastest growth in the next 20 years



Defense Communities: Forest and Land Management

Dessa Benson, Ph.D.



RESILIENCE

Resilience includes the ability to respond to:

- *Natural Hazards*
- *Environmental Changes*
- *Development Impacts*
- *Bad Actors*

Resilience refers to the capacity to continue to progress towards long-term success and prosperity despite impacts from external shocks.



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

UGA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT
DEFENSE COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE
—★— PROGRAM —★—

DCRP: A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PARTNERSHIP

The **Defense Community Resilience Program (DCRP)** is a multi-disciplinary partnership housed at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government that supports shared resilience planning between military installations and

UGA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT
DEFENSE COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE
—★— PROGRAM —★—



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

THE **GOAL** OF DCRP

is to bolster capacity for
resilience planning
by connecting university
resources to military
installations and
defense communities.

**BOLSTER CAPACITY FOR
RESILIENCE PLANNING**

**BY CONNECTING
UNIVERSITY RESOURCES**

**TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
AND DEFENSE COMMUNITIES**



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

UGA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT
DEFENSE COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE
—★— PROGRAM —★—

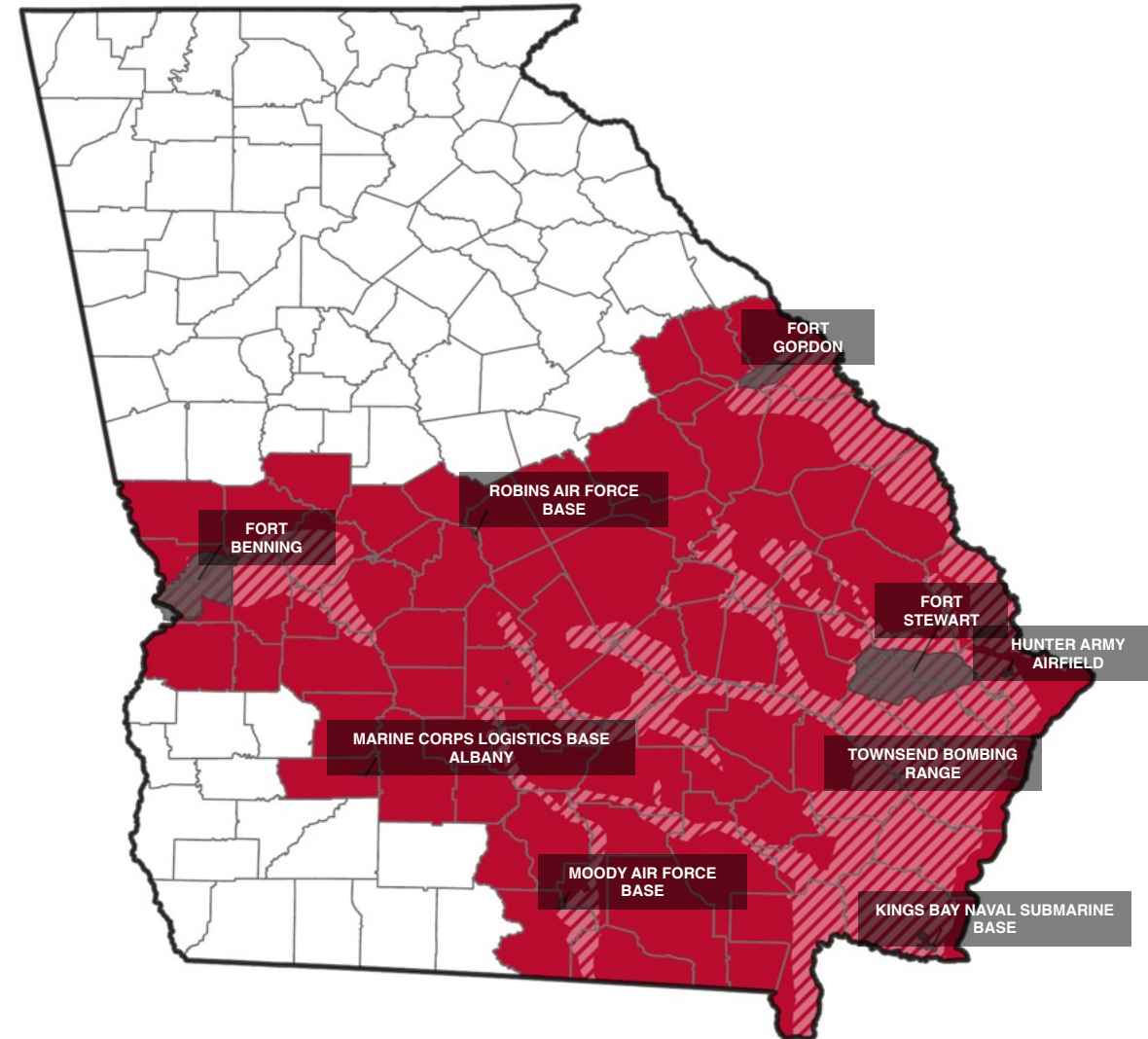
DEFENSE COMMUNITIES

are the towns, cities, counties, regions and states that serve as home to our nation's military installations, missions, private sector partners, and that otherwise support military readiness.

These areas are home to more than **70%** of the military population.

76 of 159 counties in Georgia

Georgia's resilience is linked to the resilience of both military installations and defense communities



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Carl Vinson Institute of Government

—★— UGA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT —★—
DEFENSE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAM

DCRP ORIGIN: WORK IN PARTNER WITH DEFENSE COMMUNITIES



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

UGA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT
DEFENSE COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE
—★— PROGRAM —★—



RVCCD PARTNERS



PROJECT SPONSORS





PROJECT AREA



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COMPATIBLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND PRIORITIES

The following map was created by the **Nature Conservancy** for the **Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation Partnership** (CFLCP) and represents the Local Implementation Team Project Area (LIT). This map has been adapted by the **Carl Vinson Institute of Government** (CVIOG) to highlight overlapping conservation priority areas and existing conservation lands over The River Valley Community Compatible Development Project area.



RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER

Leuconotopicus borealis



LONGLEAF PINE

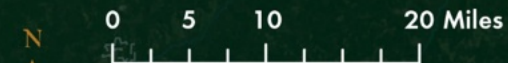
Pinus palustris

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE "FALL LINE?"

It's all about geology and soils. The Fall Line is literally a fall...a drop in elevation from the rocky, more clay-based soils found to the north of the Fall Line, to a drier, sandier soil system to the south side of the Fall Line.

The lands to the north of the Fall Line typically support more hardwood-dominated forests and rocky streams, while south of the Fall Line, dry sandhills reminiscent of ancient dunes support a pine-dominated landscape with an incredibly diverse assemblage of plant and animal life. The Fall Line is where these natural worlds collide and merge together.

MICHAEL HENSLEY,
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY,
Chattahoochee Fall Line
Program Director



* SP - State Park, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, and WMA - Wildlife Management Area

County Boundaries
City Boundaries
Rivers

CONSERVATION LANDS

Federal
Private
State

ACUB Priority Area 1
ACUB Priority Area 2
LIT Boundary

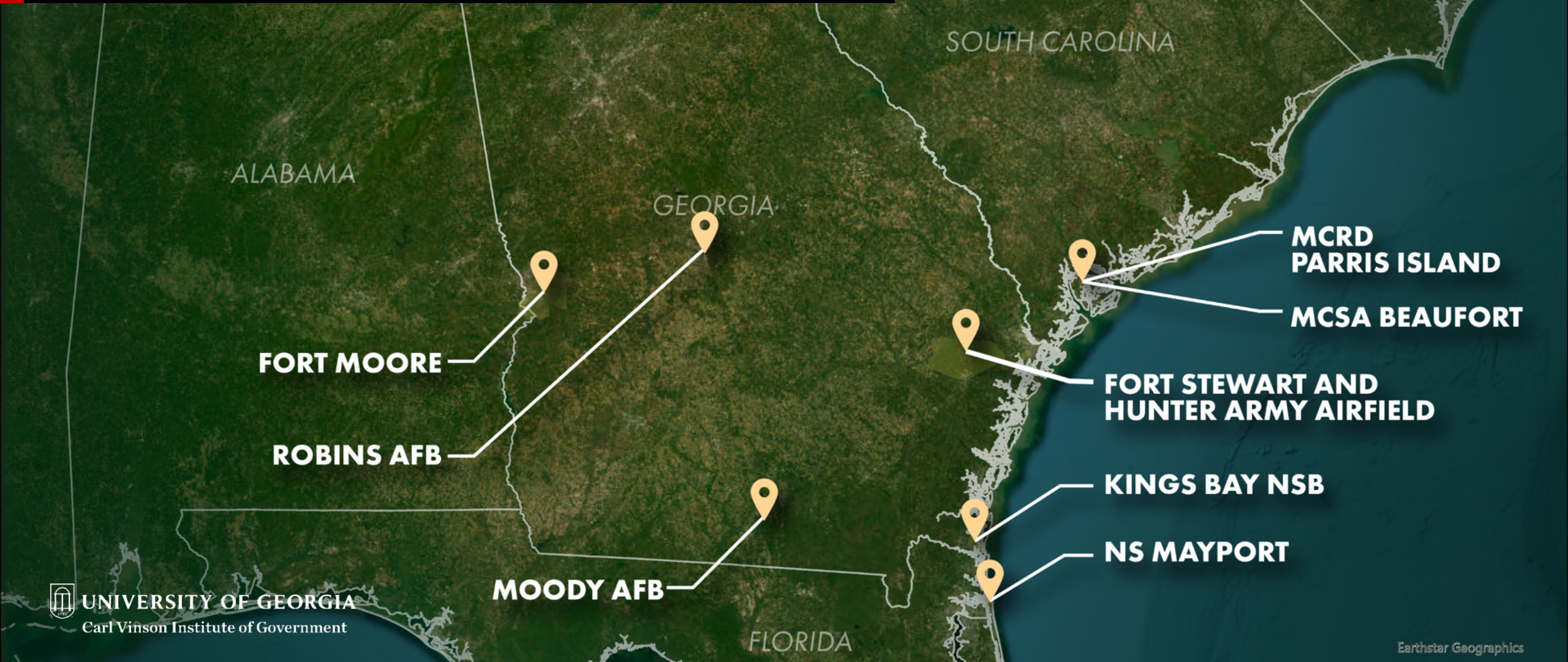
Sentinel Landscape
Fall Line Region

The Nature Conservancy



Earthstar Geographics

WHERE WE ARE WORKING WHAT WE ARE DOING



Georgia Sentinel Landscape



UGA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT
DEFENSE COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE
— PROGRAM —

FORT BENNING

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE

FORT GORDON

FORT STEWART

HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD

MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE ALBANY

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE

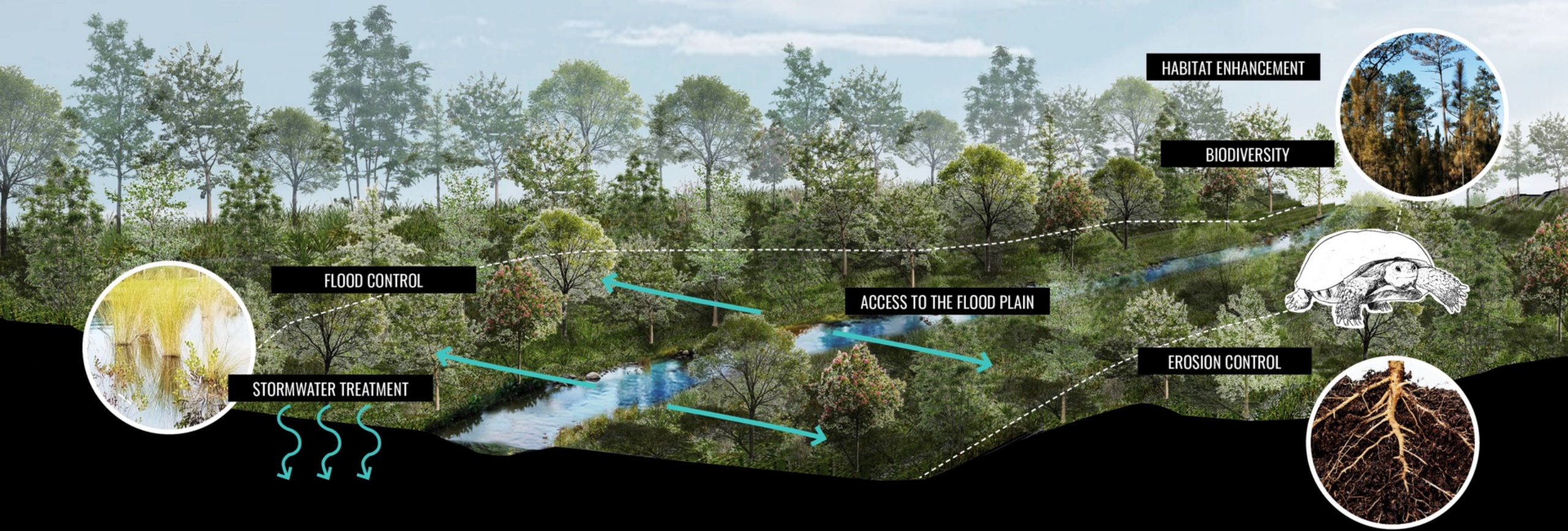
TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE

KINGS BAY NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE

- National Park Service Lands
- Department of Defense Lands
- US Fish and Wildlife Service Lands
- State Owned and Private Protected Lands
- REPI Partner Boundaries
- At Risk Species Habitat
- Sentinel Landscape Boundary (as of February 2021)



0 15 30 60 MILES



BENEFITS OF STREAM ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION TECHNIQUES



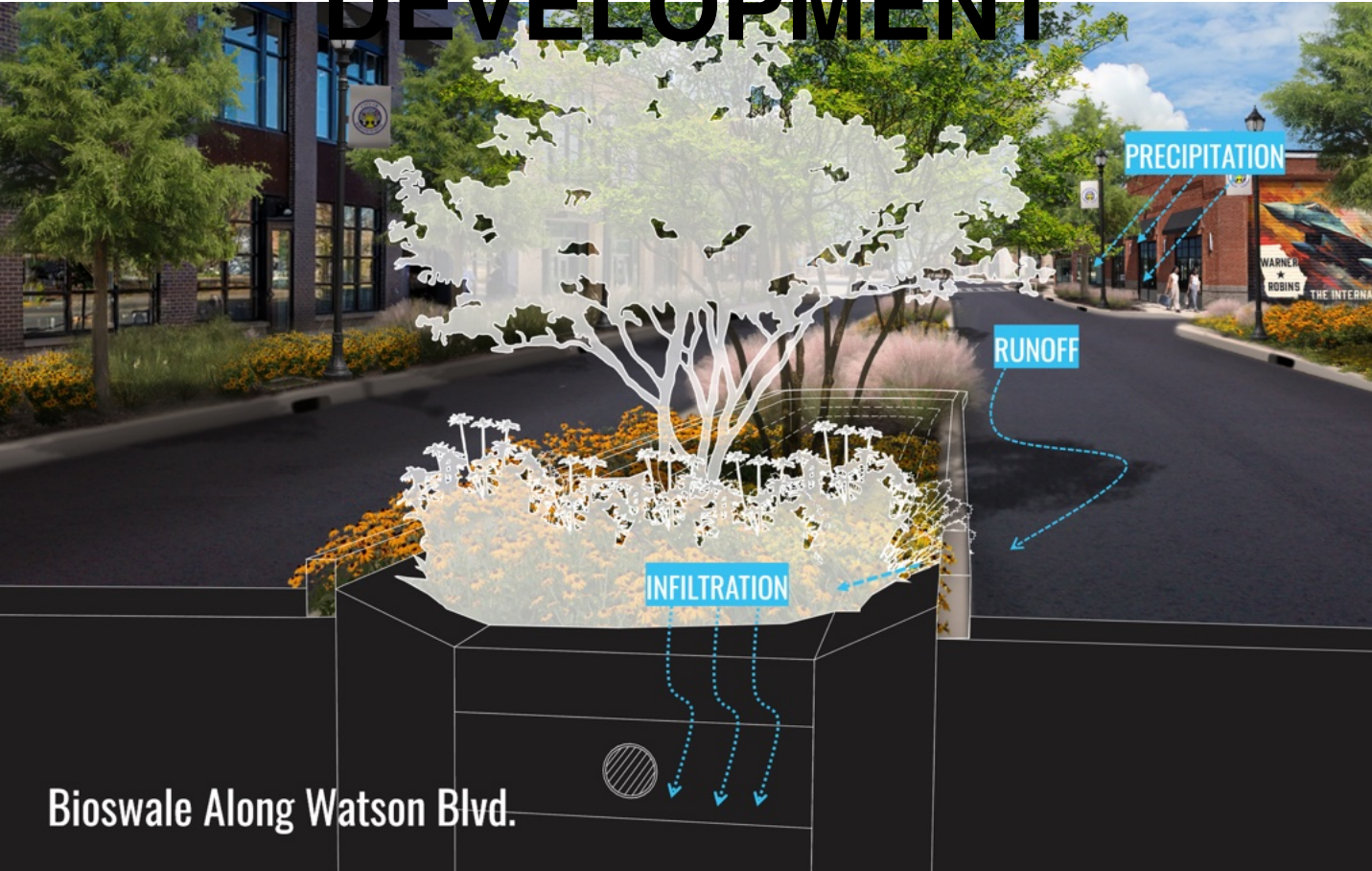
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Carl Vinson Institute of Government



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
 Carl Vinson Institute of Government

—★— **UGA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT** —★—
DEFENSE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAM

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT



COMMUNITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

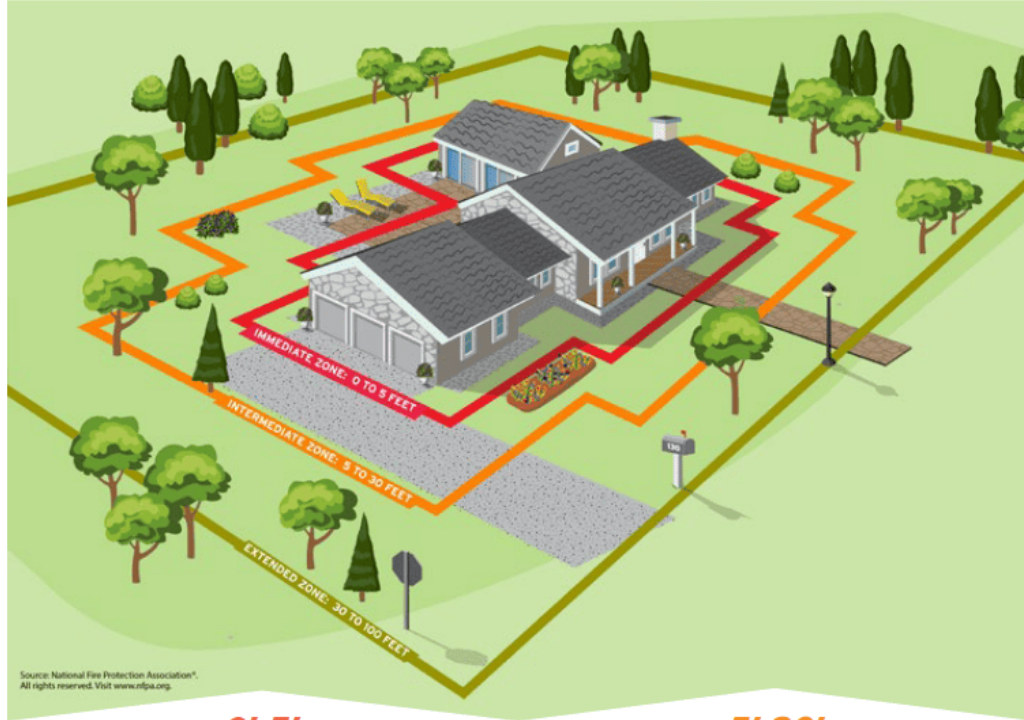




- # PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: WILDFIRE RESILIENCE
- Wildfires are increasing in frequency, intensity, and scale across the U.S. They threaten lives, property, ecosystems, and critical infrastructure.
 - Wildfires are a national security concern.
 - 2021 analysis of 145 DoD installations found that: Fort Benning, Fort Gordon, and Fort Stewart were assessed at high, moderate, and low. *This does not include fueling potential of recent downed debris from storms.*

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:

- **WILDFIRE RESILIENCE** Div. installations employ many wildfire mitigation practices, but vulnerabilities remain.
- Need for more forward-thinking, collaborative strategies:
 - Fuel reduction through prescribed burning and mechanical treatment
 - Focus on wildland-urban interface (WUI), defensible space, and installation-community buffers
 - Workforce training



0'-5'

Immediate Zone

- ✓ Remove all dead leaves, needles, flammable debris and vegetation from roofs, gutters and the area within 5' of your home.
- ✓ Move any flammable material—like mulch, flammable plants, leaves, needles, and firewood piles—away from exterior walls.
- ✓ Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.

5'-30'

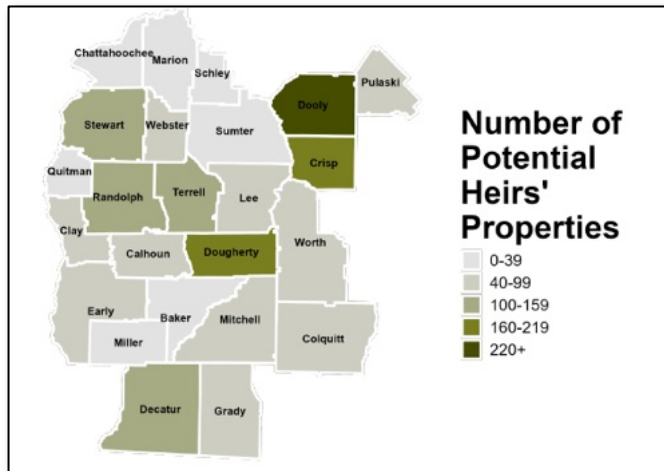
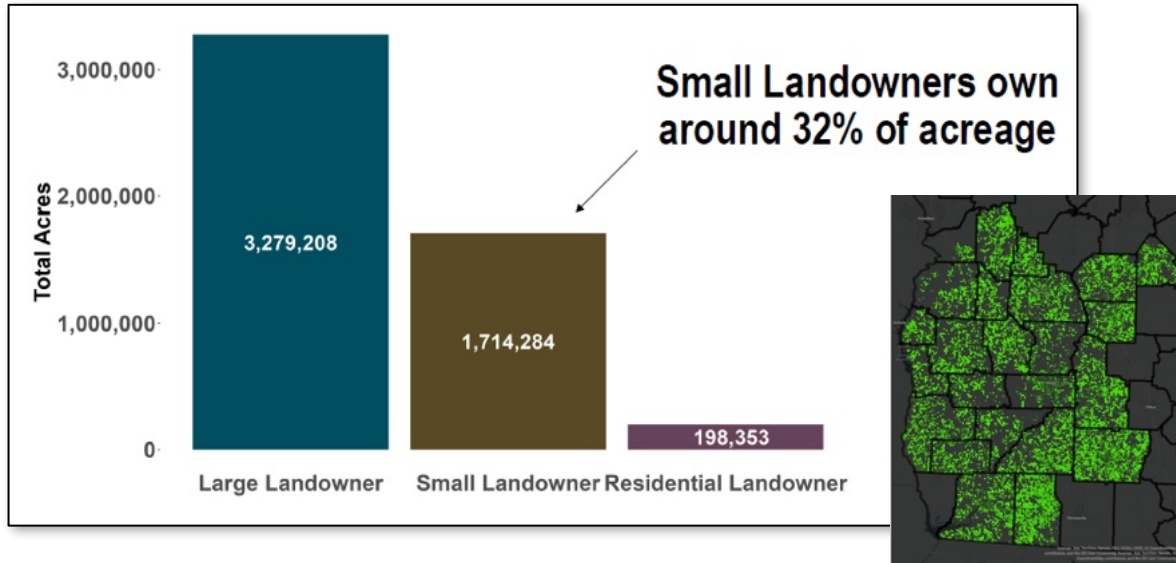
Intermediate Zone

- ✓ Thin out dense groups of trees.
- ✓ Remove vegetation under trees and prune trees 6-10' feet from the ground.

30'-100'

Extended Zone

- ✓ Remove heavy accumulations of ground debris. Break up continuous fuels.
- ✓ Remove dead plants and trees. Remove small trees growing between or under mature trees.



Most Potential Heirs' Properties are owned by small landowners are wooded areas smaller than 25 acres and valued one-third price lower than non-heirs' properties.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: LANDOWNERS AND HEIRS' PROPERTIES

- Partners: Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Heirs Property Law Center
- Purpose: Conduct geographic analysis of small and underserved timber landowners
 - Population and land ownership demographics for 20 counties in Southwest Georgia
 - Identified potential heirs' property



Disaster Resilience across the Chattahoochee Valley Region: Community Preparedness

Ileeia A. Smith, Ph.D.



Emergency Management Overview

- Organized effort to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the impacts of disaster or emergencies—whether natural, technological, or human caused.
- The overall goal is to protect lives, property, and the environment ensuring communities can remain resilient.
- Core phases of emergency management include mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.



Core Phases

- Core phases of emergency management include:
 - Mitigation: Actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk
 - Preparedness: Planning, training, and resource allocation to ensure readiness
 - Response: Immediate action efforts during and after an emergency
 - Recovery.



Disaster Resilience Overview

- The ability of individuals, communities, organizations, and systems to withstand, adapt to, and recover from disasters while minimizing damage and maintaining essential functions.
- Disaster resilience goes beyond immediate response, focusing on long-term strength and sustainability.
- Key components of disaster resilience include risk awareness, adaptability, community engagement, collaboration, and sustainability.



Community Engagement

- Collaboration
- Participation
- Communication
- Trust & Relationships
- Capacity Building



Georgia Alabama Partnership for Sustainability Taskforce

- Fort Benning has a goal to have a 14-day supply of “needs” to continue operations and business in case of a catastrophic event.
- By 2026, the potential for unforecasted catastrophic events has increased, enhancing the necessity for a plan to ensure the installation and surrounding areas can be operational due to a loss of power, communications, and infrastructure.

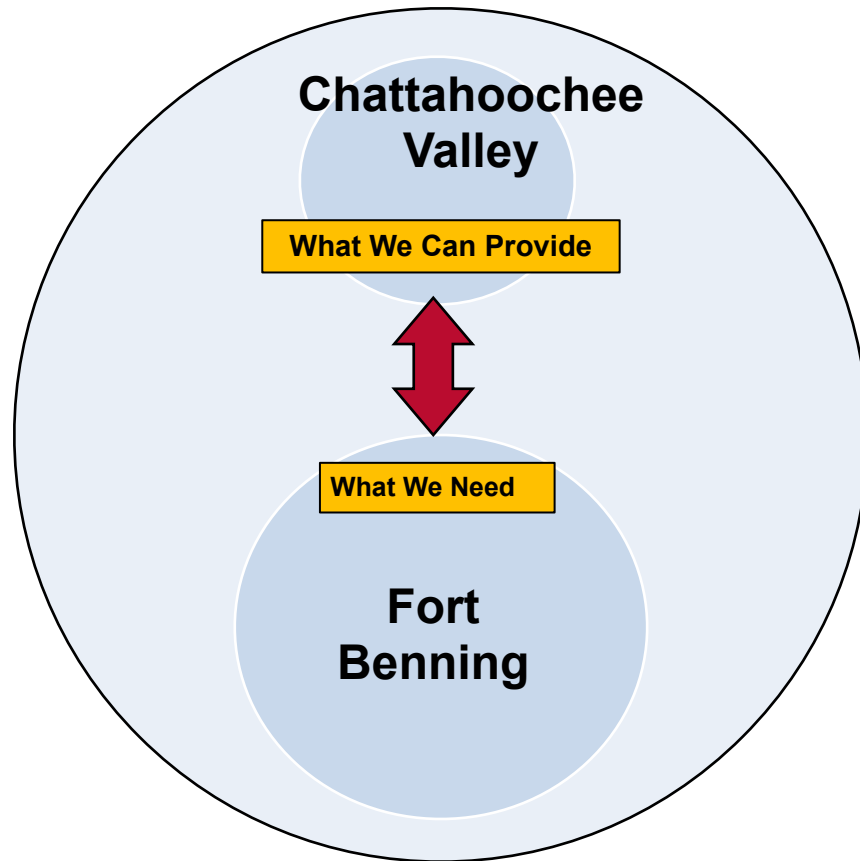


Taskforce Purpose

- Ensure planning initiatives in support of installation critical missions.
- Achieve goal to maintain a 14-day supply of resources to continue operations in case of a catastrophic event.
- Develop an emergency response plan for sustainability across Fort Benning and the surrounding areas.



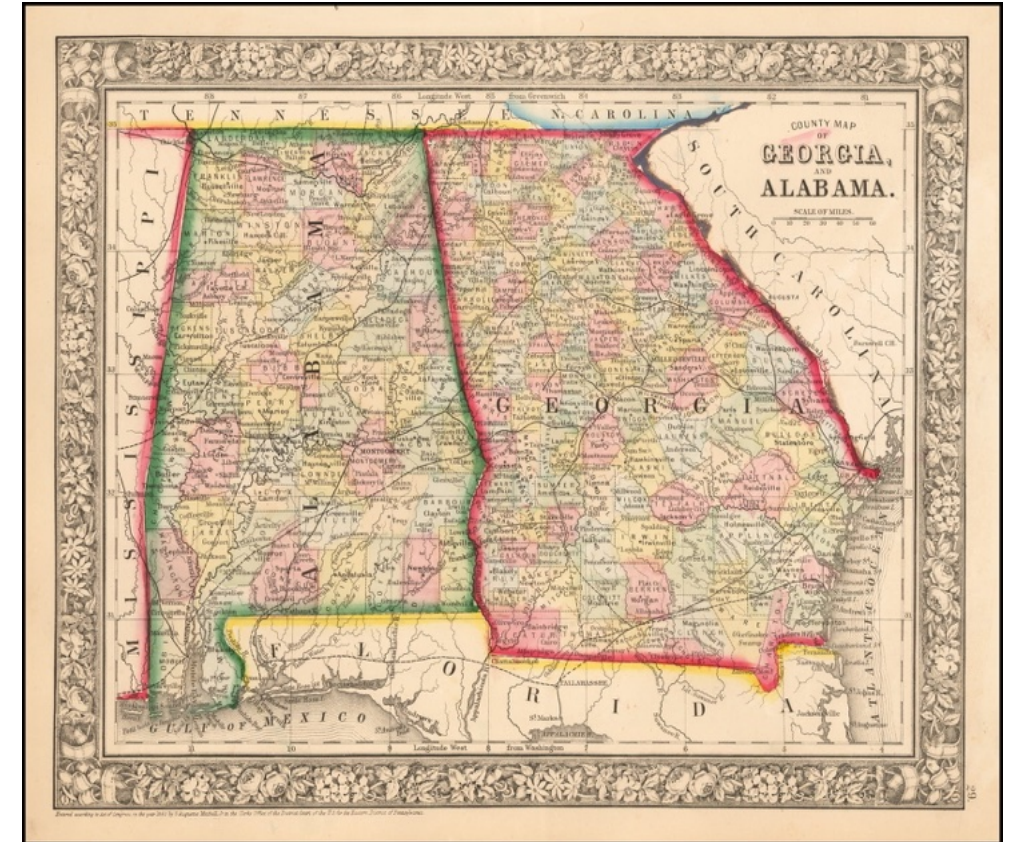
Fort Benning & the Chattahoochee Valley



- Proactively plan & prepare for a variety of natural/manmade disasters by identifying potential threats, reduce vulnerabilities, minimize consequences and hasten response and recovery. efforts related to critical infrastructure failures.
- Mutually beneficial for readiness and resiliency for Fort Benning and the surrounding area.

Fort Benning & the Chattahoochee Valley

- Columbus-Muscogee
- Harris County
- Chattahoochee County
- Marion County
- Talbot County
- Stewart County
- Taylor County
- Smiths Station
- Phenix City
- Russell County
- Lee County



Taskforce Members

- Fort Benning (Emergency Management/DPW/PAIO/Garrison Commander)
- Local Emergency Management Agencies (Directors/Staff)
- Local Government Officials (Commissioners)
- Law Enforcement (Sheriff's Office/Fire)
- Public Safety
- Public Schools
- Health and Human Service Agencies
- Community Stakeholders (Nonprofits/Civic/Social/Faith-Based)



GAPS Conference 2025

- The GAPS Taskforce has previously hosted held workshops and trainings to advance emergency preparedness strategies since 2018.
- Composed primary in smaller, more informational environments for military personnel and first responders.
- Conducted as tabletop exercises, presentations, and small panel discussions.
- As a next step in advancing sustainability initiatives, this annual/semi-annual emergency management conference is being held.



Target Audience

- Local, state, and federal government officials and staff
- Emergency management personnel
- Utilities
- First responders
- Public safety personnel
- Law enforcement
- Community partners



Topics

- Mutual Aid Agreements
- Incident Command
- Energy Partnerships
- Water Resource Management
- Response Coordination
- Emergency Communication
- Manmade Threats
- Mass Casualty Incidents



Panel Discussions

- Recent Disaster Response in Georgia and Alabama
- Building Resilience: Foundations of Emergency Preparedness, Response, & Recovery
- Advancing Energy Resilience through Regional Partnerships & Planning
- From Triage to Transport: Managing the Complexities of Mass Casualty Incidents
- The Right Message at the Right Time: Coordinating Emergency Communication and Response



Outcomes

- **Strengthen Regional Collaboration:** Connect with emergency managers, public officials, and community leaders from across the Chattahoochee Valley regions to build partnerships that are unified in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
- **Acquire Knowledge of Best Practices in Disaster Resilience:** Gain insights from expert-lead sessions on disaster resilience, emergency management protocols, community preparedness, and long-term recovery efforts.
- **Amplifying Shared Experiences:** Hear directly from those affected by past disasters and engage in inclusive discussions about responsive preparedness approaches.



Outcomes Continued...

- **Gain Awareness of Preparation Needs:** Staying informed is essential. This conference prepares attendees to proactively secure resources and lead resilient planning efforts in their communities.
- **Enhanced Access to Research and Tools:** Discover the latest innovations in disaster modeling, resilience frameworks, and practical tools that help communities adapt emergency preparedness strategies.



Future Action

- Conduct GAPS quarterly meetings to identify and establish regional policies and Mutual Aid Agreements.
- Ensure information can be disseminated and communication is not Interrupted
- Develop installation/community disaster conference framework that could be replicated across other installations in the Southeast
- Create lessons learned, best practices, and training initiatives in support of emergency preparedness efforts



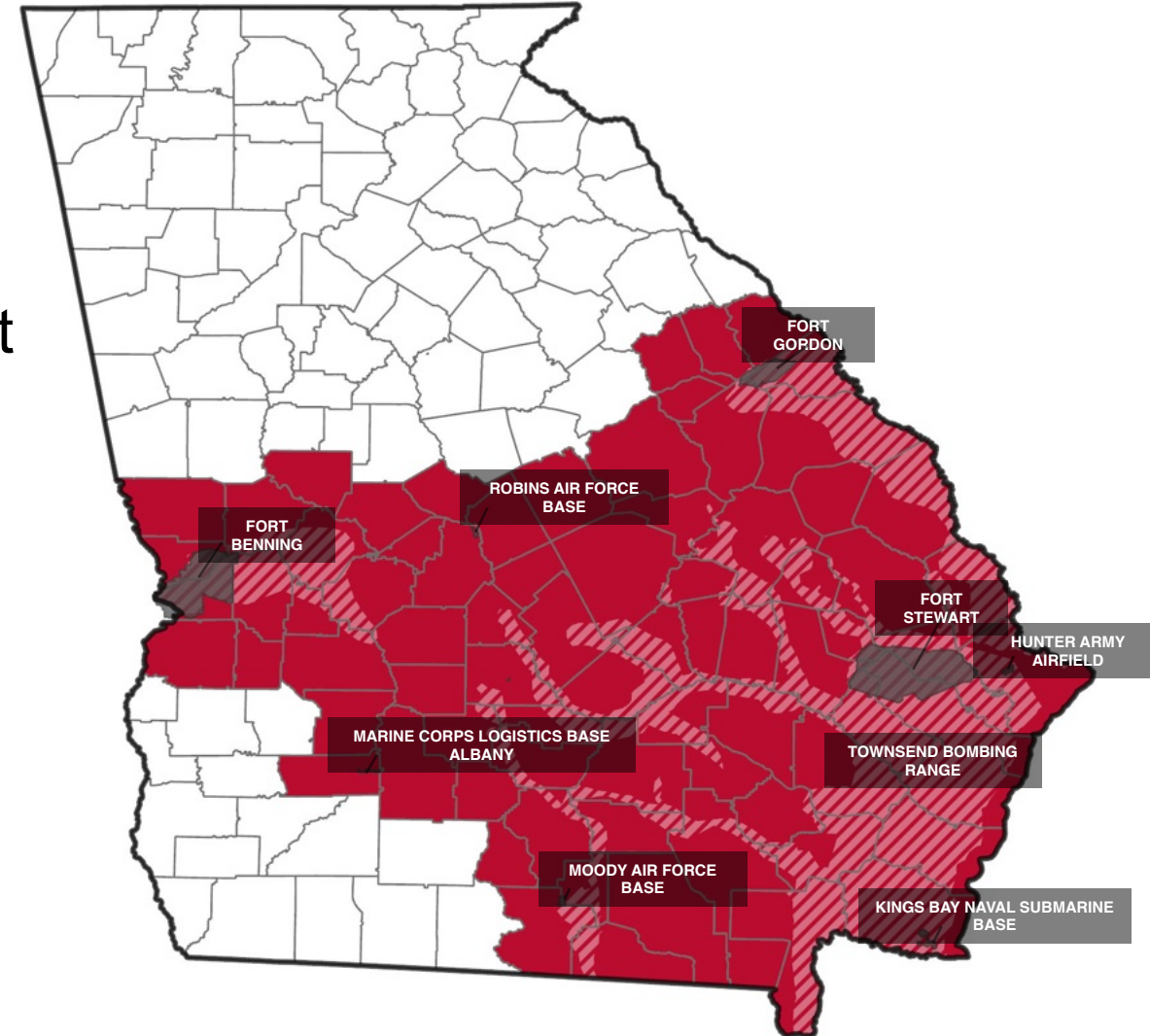
Enhancing Community Resilience and Military Readiness

Ben McGarr, AICP



Community—Installation Connection

- **70%** of the military population lives off-post
- Military has **\$22 billion** economic impact in the state, and on average, installations account for **30%** of their neighboring community's GDP.
(*Georgia Chamber of Commerce, 2024*)
- Department of Defense (DoD) is largest employer in Coastal Georgia
(*Savannah Economic Development Authority, 2024*)



THE **GOAL** OF DCRP

is to bolster capacity for
resilience planning
by connecting university
resources to military
installations and
defense communities.

**BOLSTER CAPACITY FOR
RESILIENCE PLANNING**

**BY CONNECTING
UNIVERSITY RESOURCES**

**TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
AND DEFENSE COMMUNITIES**



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

UGA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT
DEFENSE COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE
—★— PROGRAM —★—

FORT STEWART AND HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD

FOCUSED REGION READINESS STUDY



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

Carl Vinson Institute of Government
College of Engineering
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

PROJECT TEAM

Carl Vinson Institute of Government

(PI) **Scott Pippin, JD, MEPD,**
CFM, *Defense Community Resilience Program (DCRP) Manager*

Kesley Broich, MLA, *Creative Design Specialist*

Ben McGarr, MCP, MPA, AICP,
Military Community Resilience Manager

Eleonora Machado, MLA,
Creative Design Specialist

Leigh Elkins, MLA, *Senior Public Service Faculty*

Emily Schattler, MS, *Program Manager*

Shana Jones, JD, *Associate Director, Infrastructure and Community Resilience Division*

Danielle Dankner, BA,
Administrative Manager

Sydney Williams, PhD, *Resilience Specialist*

Taylor Hafley, PhD, *Applied Demographer*

Ashlee Tziganuk, PhD,
Postdoctoral Research Associate

Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

Nate Bibbelink, PhD, *Professor, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources; Associate Vice President for Strategic Research Growth, UGA Office of Research*

Alec Nelson, PhD, *Postdoctoral Research Associate, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources*

College of Engineering

Matt Bilskie, PhD, *Assistant Professor*

Dong-Hyuk “Easton” Kim, PhD,
Postdoctoral Research Associate

Sung-hee “Sonny” Kim, PhD, PE,
Professor

Lina Cardenas Caro, MS, *PhD Student*

Jidong Yang, PhD, PE, FITE, *Associate Professor*

Jintong Han, *Graduate Research Assistant*

Lynn Abdouni, PhD, *Associate Research Scientist*

Hao Zhen, *Graduate Research Assistant*

Aditya Gupta, PhD, *Research Scientist*

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield

**FOCUSED
REGIONAL
READINESS**



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**

Carl Vinson Institute of Government
College of Engineering
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

FS/HAAF Focused Regional Readiness Study

- Funded by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC)
- Goal: Provide military and community leaders with additional information on the project's three components.
- Components:
 - Flood Risk and Transportation
 - FS/HAAF Workforce Housing Assessment
 - Natural Infrastructure Identification and Prioritization

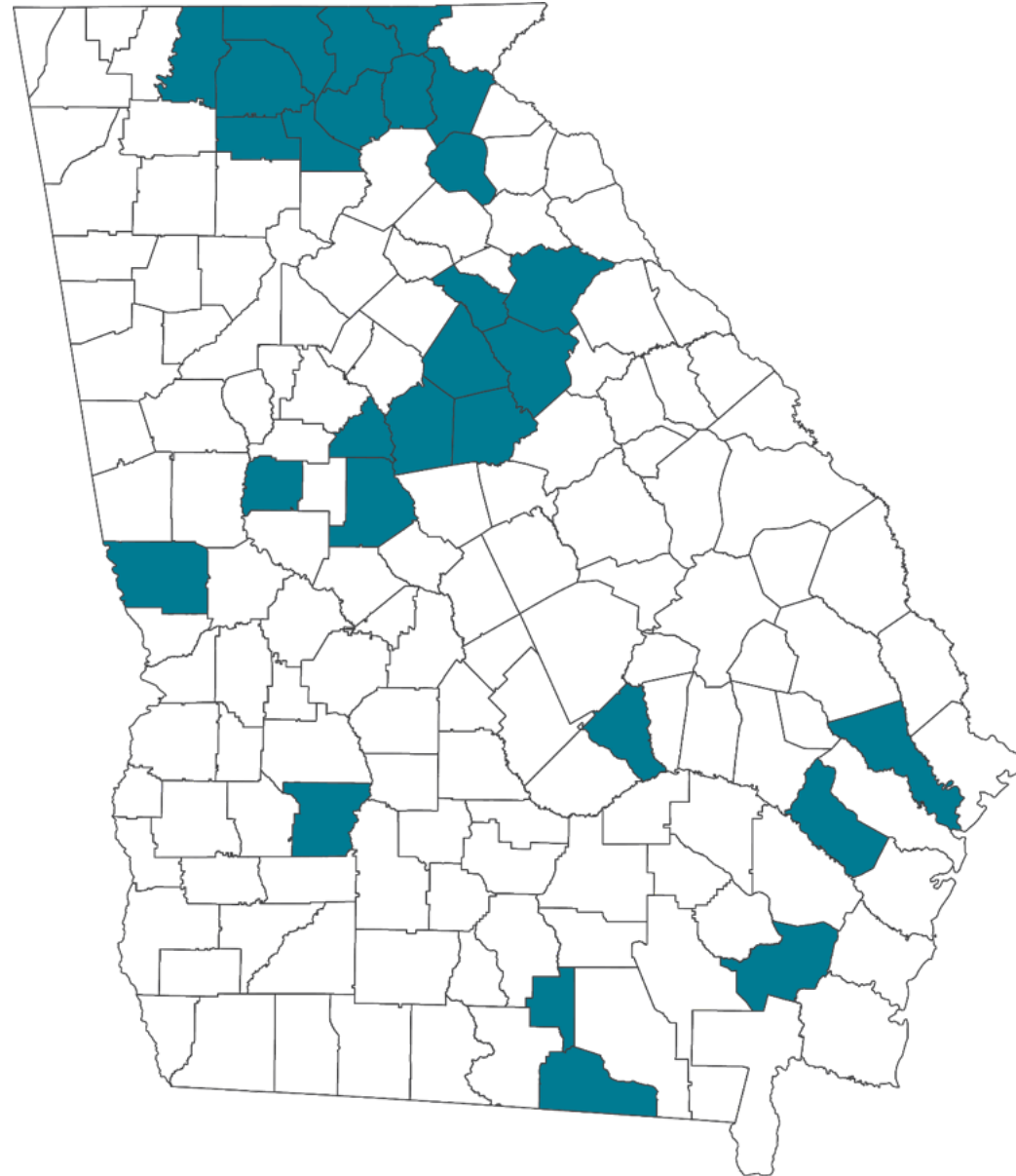


Photo Credit: Chatham Emergency Management Agency



Georgia's Rural Growth

**28 rural counties have
experience population
increase of more than 50%
since 1990**

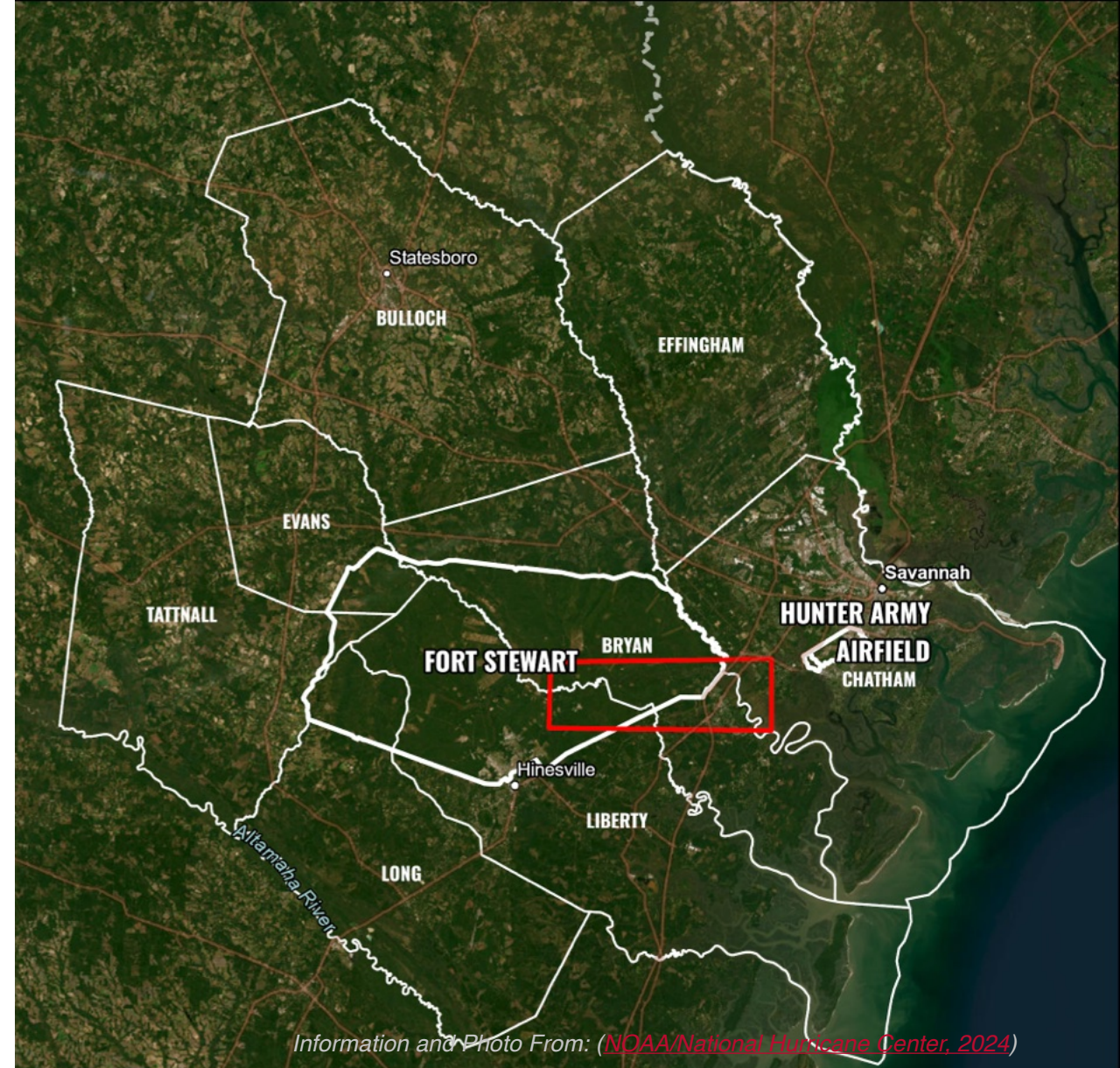
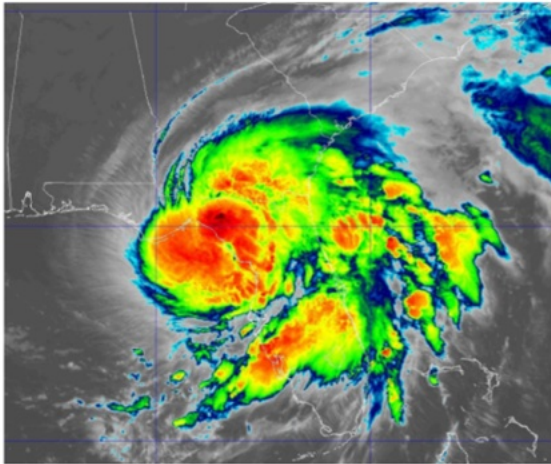


Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Source: US Census Bureau, NHGIS, Minnesota Population Center

REGIONAL IMPACTS FROM DEBBY

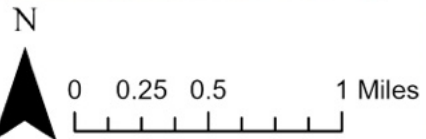
- 10-15 inches of rain across eastern Georgia
- 14.85 inches recorded in Effingham County
- Nearly 100 roads damaged in Bulloch County
- About 30 homes destroyed in Evans County
- 69,000 customers lost power



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Carl Vinson Institute of Government

—★— UGA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT —★—
DEFENSE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAM

07-31-2024



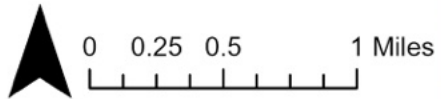
Imagery Source: Copernicus Browser/
European Union



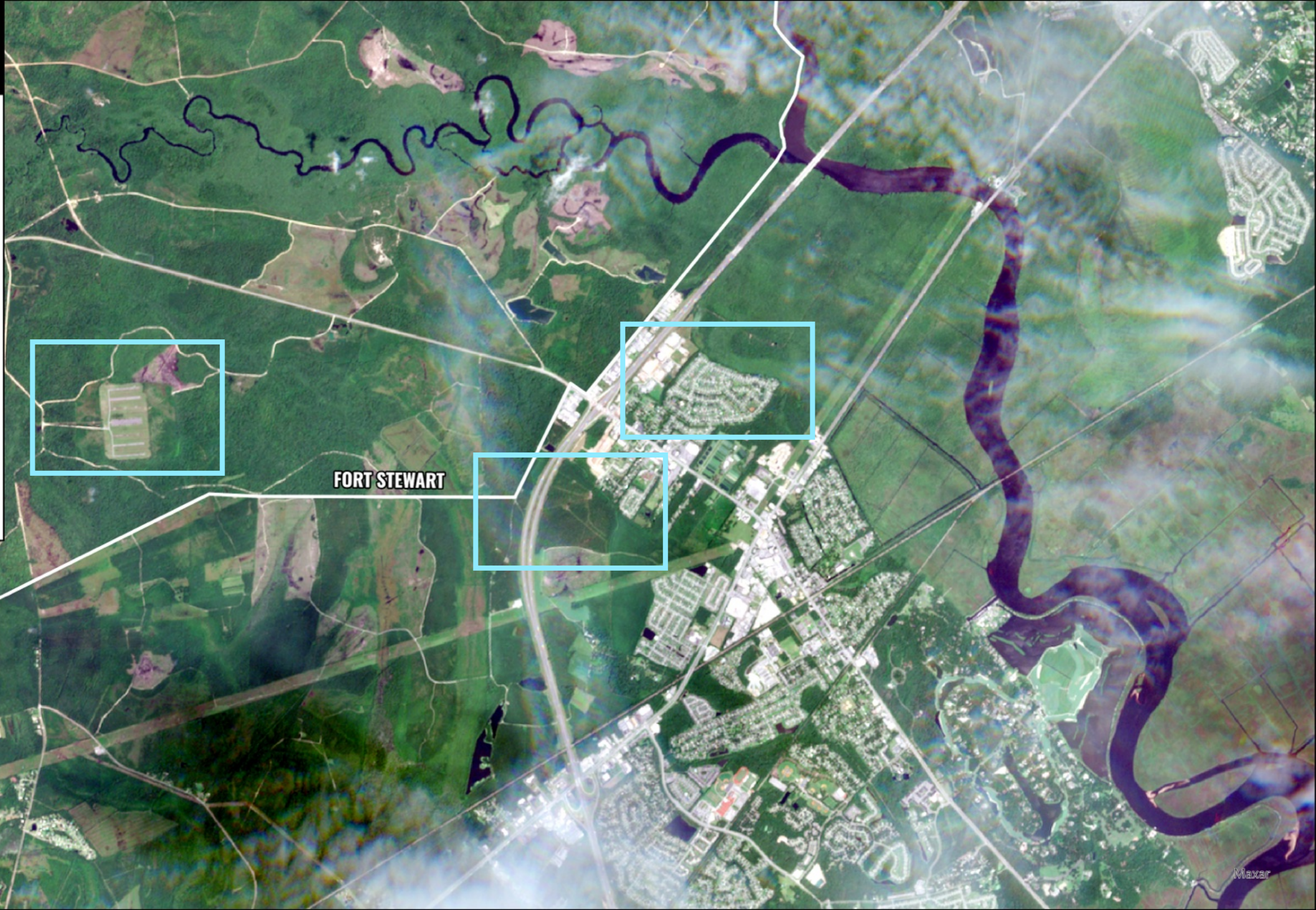
07-31-2024



N



Imagery Source: Copernicus Browser/
European Union



08-10-2024

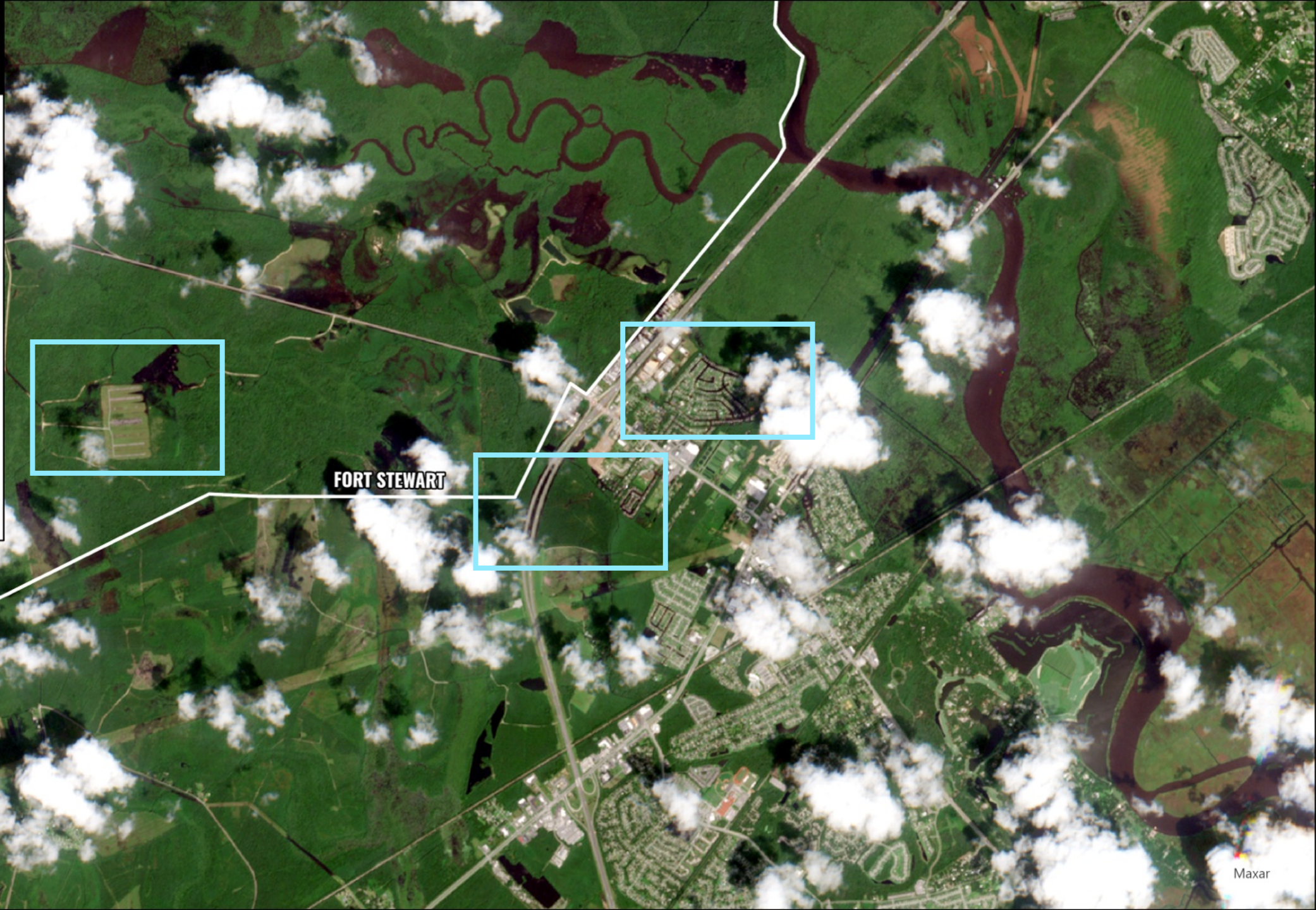


N



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Imagery Source: Copernicus Browser/
European Union



08-15-2024

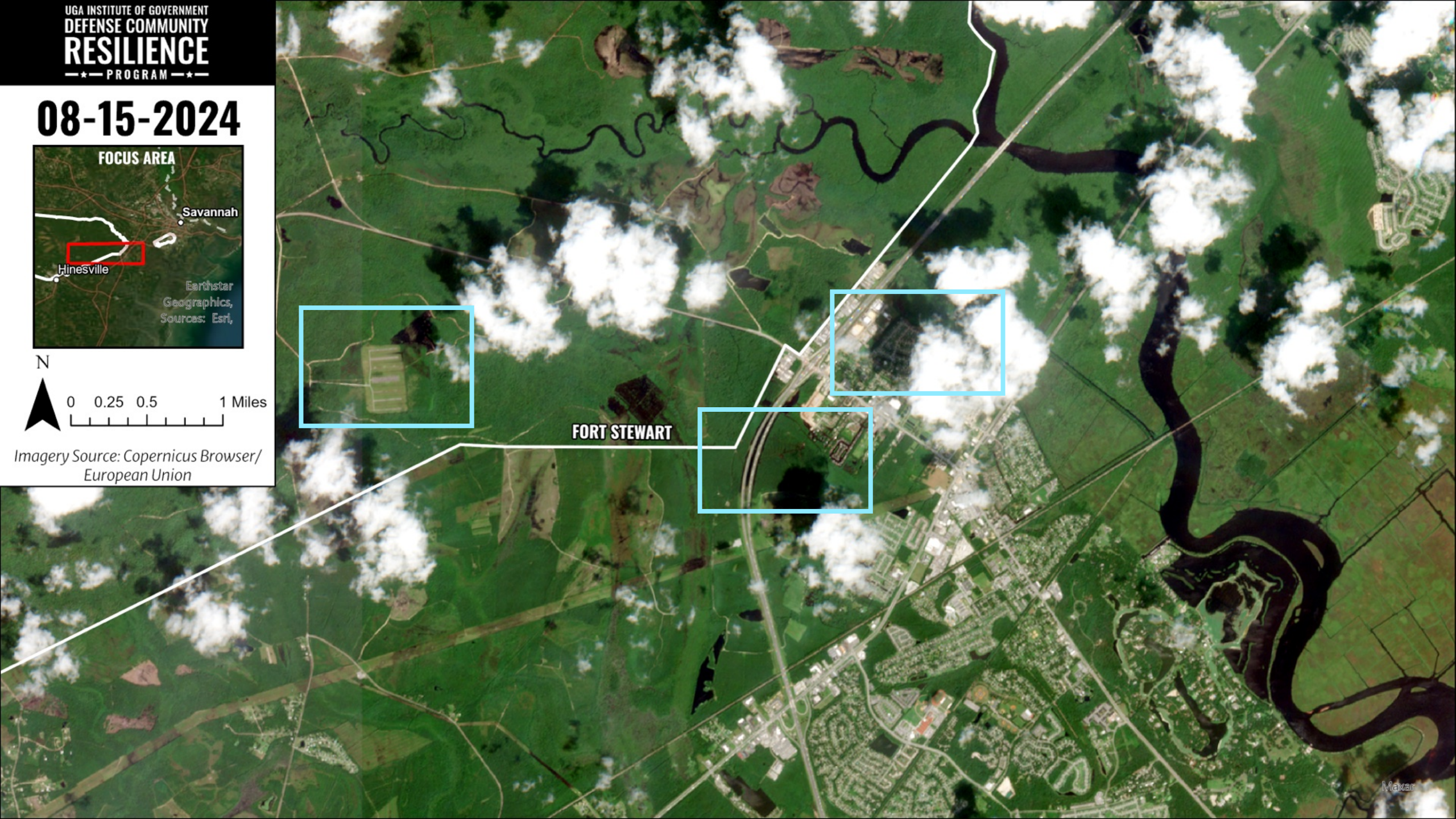


N



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Imagery Source: Copernicus Browser/
European Union



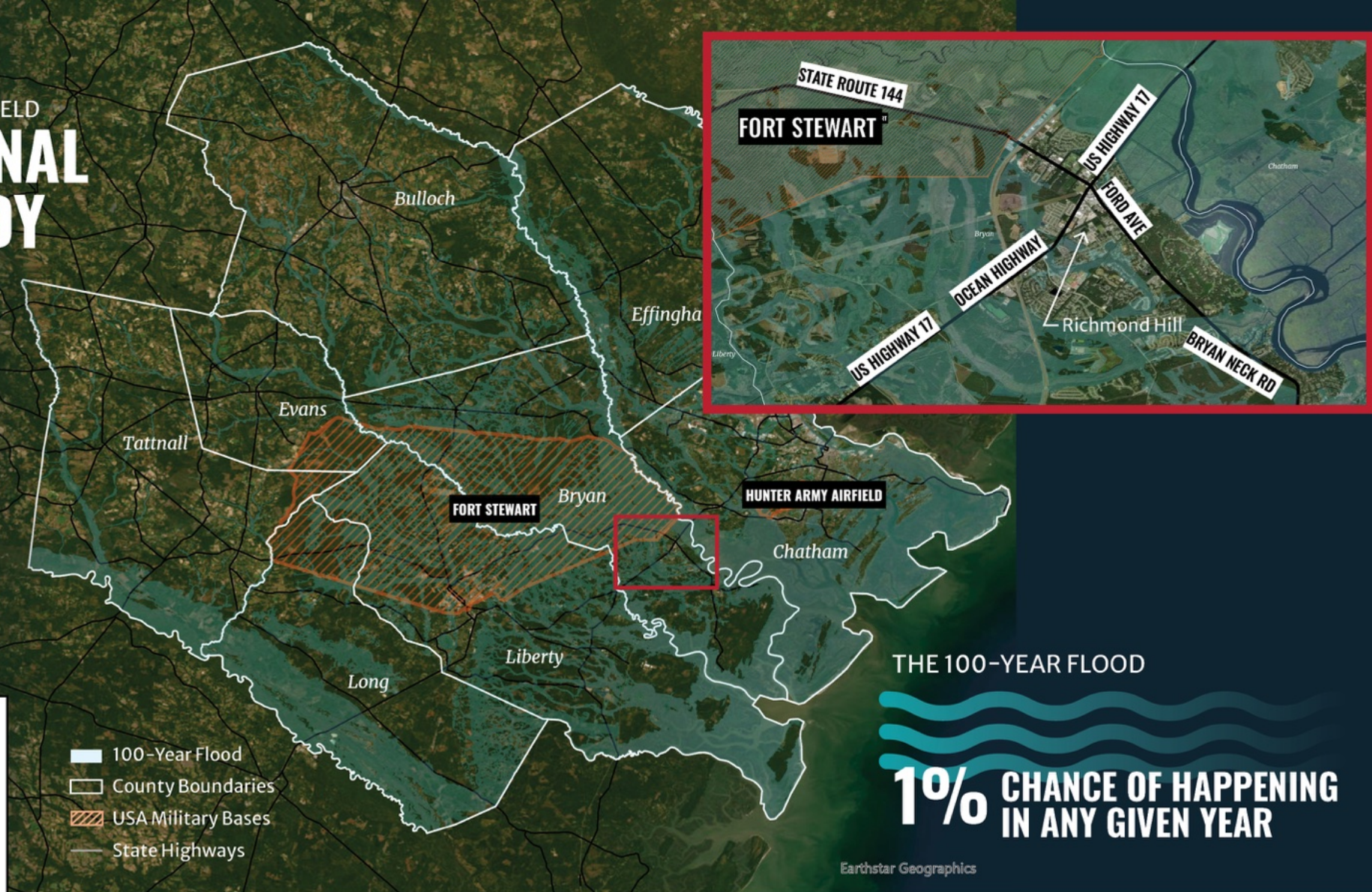
FORT STEWART

FORT STEWART AND HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD

FOCUSED REGIONAL READINESS STUDY

THE 100-YEAR FLOOD

The two maps represent the 100-year flood, which is a flood that has a 1% chance of happening in any given year and a 26% chance of occurring in a given 30-year period. The zoomed in area highlights the impacts of flooding on buildings and roadways that are critical to surrounding communities and military operations. Mapping, assessments and planning play an important role in becoming more resilient against natural hazards and increasing regional readiness.



**FLOOD RISK AND
TRANSPORTATION**



**FS/HAAF WORKFORCE
HOUSING ASSESSMENT**



**NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE
IDENTIFICATION AND
PRIORITIZATION**

Map provided by Matt Bilskie and Lina Cardenas, UGA College of Engineering, Coastal Ocean Analysis and Simulation Team
Designed by Kelsey Broich, UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**

Carl Vinson Institute of Government
College of Engineering
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

Compatible Use Guidance Toolkit

- Fort Benning Installation Readiness Grant
- Funded by OLDCC
- Aims to help defense communities implement compatible use policies to prevent encroachment
- Promotes community resilience and installation readiness

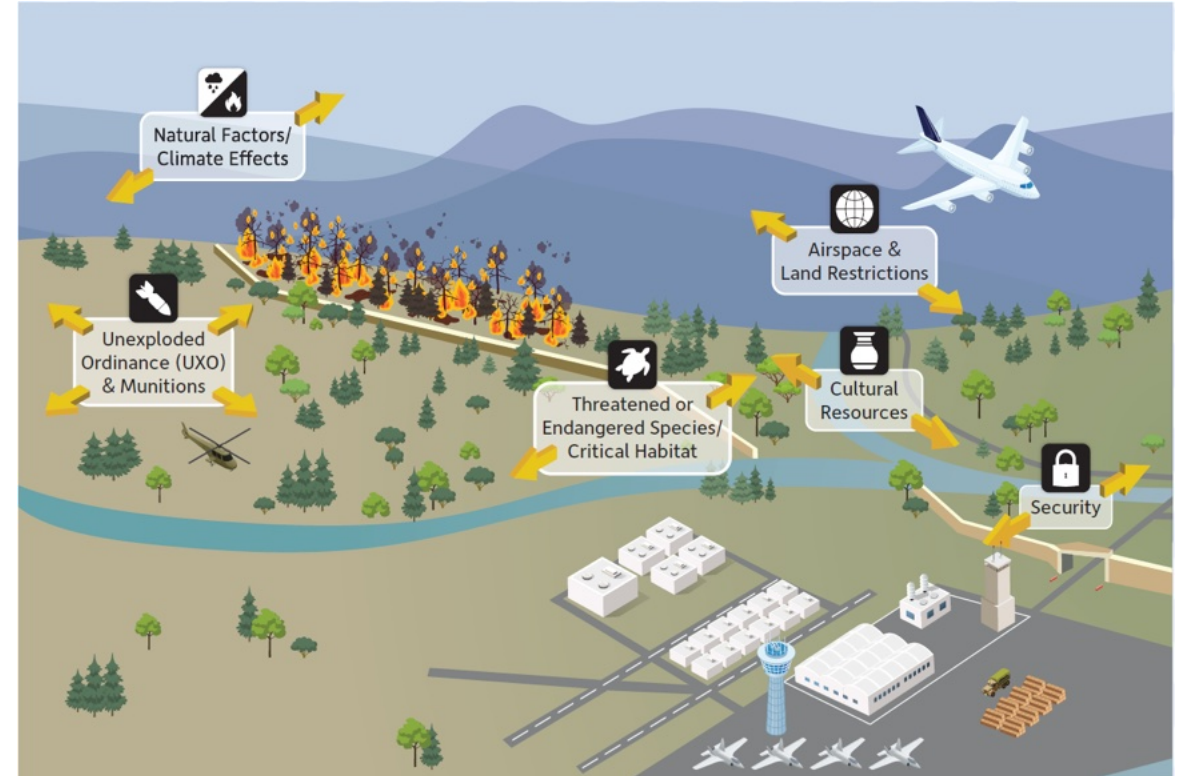


Photo Credit: (OLDCC, 2022)



Compatible Use Guidance Toolkit

- Aligns with common Planning themes
 - Walkable Cities
 - Smart Growth
 - Transit-Oriented Development
 - Resilience and Hazard Mitigation
 - Preservation of Rural Character
 - Regional Collaboration



Credit: (Smart Growth America and National Complete Streets Coalition, 2025)





**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**

**Carl Vinson
Institute of Government**

Since 1927, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government has been an integral part of the University of Georgia. A public service and outreach unit of the university, the Institute of Government is the largest and most comprehensive university based organization serving governments in the United States through research services, customized assistance, training and development, and the application of technology.

Questions?



Taylor Hafley, Ph.D.

Applied Demographer

Taylor.hafley@uga.edu



Dessa Benson, Ph.D.

Military Community
Resilience Manager
dessabenson@uga.edu



Ileeia Smith, Ph.D.

Public Service Faculty

Ileeia.Smith@uga.edu



Ben McGarr, AICP

Military Community
Resilience Manager
Benjamin.mcgarr@uga.edu











Georgia Alabama Partnership for Sustainability Taskforce (GAPS)

Ilecia A. Smith, Ph.D.



Emergency Management Overview

- Emergency management is the organized effort to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the impacts of disaster or emergencies — whether natural, technological, or human caused.
- Protect lives, property, and the environment ensuring communities can remain resilient.
- Core phases of emergency management include mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Core Phases

- Core phases of emergency management include:
 - Mitigation: Actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk
 - Preparedness: Planning, training, and resource allocation to ensure readiness
 - Response: Immediate action efforts during and after an emergency
 - Recovery.

Georgia Alabama Partnership for Sustainability Taskforce

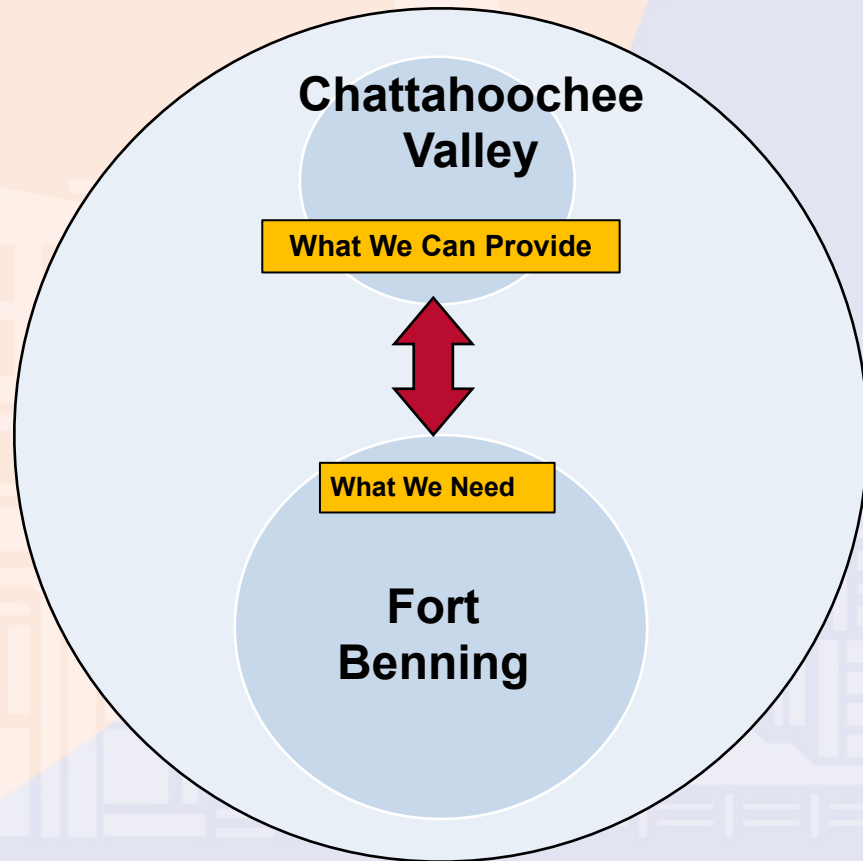
- Fort Benning has a goal to have a 14-day supply of “needs” to continue operations and business in case of a catastrophic event.
- By 2026, the potential for unforecasted catastrophic events has increased, enhancing the necessity for a plan to ensure the installation and surrounding areas can be operational due to a loss of power, communications, and infrastructure.

The 2025 Conference is presented by The Georgia Alabama Partnership for Sustainability

Taskforce Purpose

- Ensure planning initiatives in support of installation critical missions.
- Achieve goal to maintain a 14-day supply of resources to continue operations in case of a catastrophic event.
- Develop an emergency response plan for sustainability across Fort Benning and the surrounding areas.

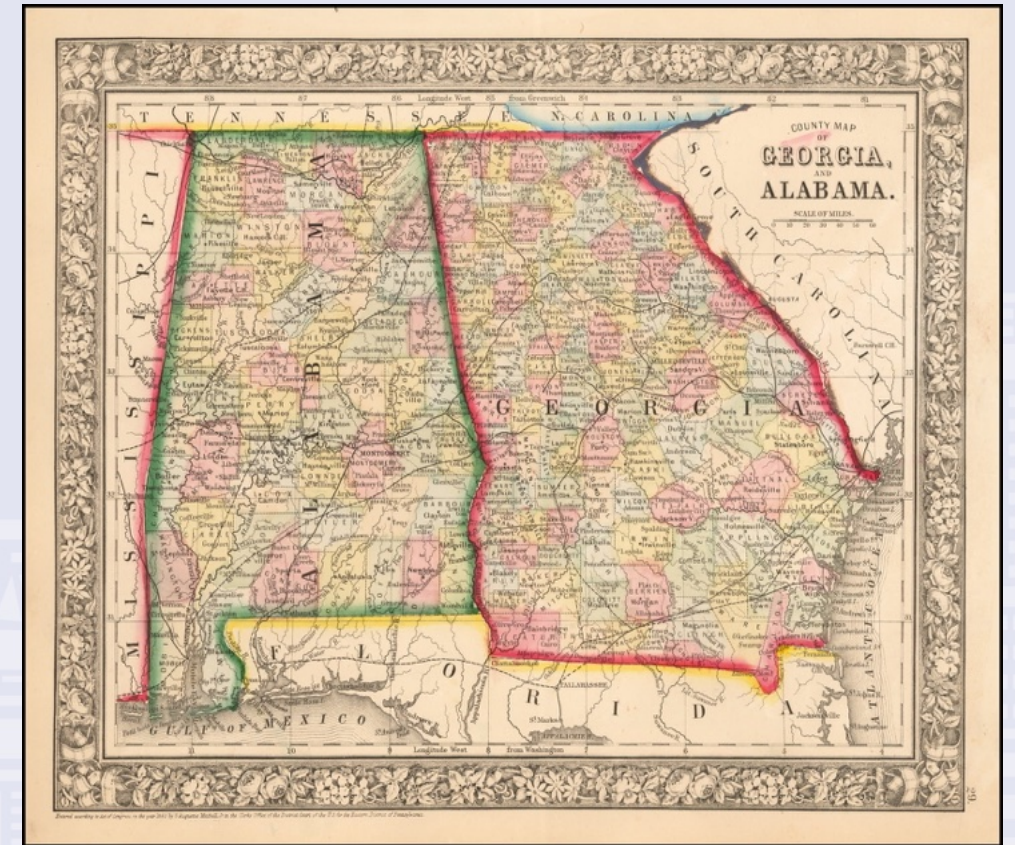
Fort Benning & the Chattahoochee Valley



- Proactively plan & prepare for a variety of natural/ manmade disasters by identifying potential threats, reduce vulnerabilities, minimize consequences and hasten response and recovery. efforts related to critical infrastructure failures.
- Mutually beneficial for readiness and resiliency for Fort Benning and the surrounding area.

Fort Benning & the Chattahoochee Valley

- Columbus-Muscogee
- Harris County
- Chattahoochee County
- Marion County
- Talbot County
- Stewart County
- Taylor County
- Smiths Station
- Phenix City
- Russell County
- Lee County



The 2025 Conference is presented by The Georgia Alabama Partnership for Sustainability

Taskforce Members

- Fort Benning (Emergency Management/DPW/PAIO/Garrison Commander)
- Local Emergency Management Agencies (Directors/Staff)
- Local Government Officials (Commissioners)
- Law Enforcement (Sheriff's Office/Fire)
- Public Safety
- Public Schools
- Health and Human Service Agencies
- Community Stakeholders (Nonprofits/Civic/Social/Faith-Based)

The 2025 Conference is presented by The Georgia Alabama Partnership for Sustainability

Conference Background

- The GAPS Taskforce has previously hosted held workshops and trainings to advance emergency preparedness strategies since 2018.
- Composed primary in smaller, more informational environments for military personnel and first responders.
- Conducted as tabletop exercises, presentations, and small panel discussions
- As a next step in advancing sustainability initiatives, this annual/semi-annual emergency management conference is being held.

The 2025 Conference is presented by The Georgia Alabama Partnership for Sustainability

Target Audience

- Targeted attendees include local, state, and federal government officials and staff, emergency management personnel, utilities, first responders, public safety personnel, law enforcement, and community partners.

Topics

- Mutual Aid Agreements
- Incident Command
- Energy Partnerships
- Water Resource Management
- Response Coordination
- Emergency Communication
- Manmade Threats
- Mass Casualty Incidents

The 2025 Conference is presented by The Georgia Alabama Partnership for Sustainability

Panel Discussions

- Recent Disaster Response in Georgia and Alabama
- Building Resilience: Foundations of Emergency Preparedness, Response, & Recovery
- Advancing Energy Resilience through Regional Partnerships & Planning
- From Triage to Transport: Managing the Complexities of Mass Casualty Incidents
- The Right Message at the Right Time: Coordinating Emergency Communication and Response

The 2025 Conference is presented by The Georgia Alabama Partnership for Sustainability

Outcomes

- **Strengthen Regional Collaboration:** Connect with emergency managers, public officials, and community leaders from across the Chattahoochee Valley regions to build partnerships that are unified in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
- **Acquire Knowledge of Best Practices in Disaster Resilience:** Gain insights from expert-lead sessions on disaster resilience, emergency management protocols, community preparedness, and long-term recovery efforts.
- **Amplifying Shared Experiences:** Hear directly from those affected by past disasters and engage in inclusive discussions about responsive preparedness approaches.

Outcomes Continued...

- **Gain Awareness of Preparation Needs:** Staying informed is essential. This conference prepares attendees to proactively secure resources and lead resilient planning efforts in their communities.
- **Enhanced Access to Research and Tools:** Discover the latest innovations in disaster modeling, resilience frameworks, and practical tools that help communities adapt emergency preparedness strategies.

The 2025 Conference is presented by The Georgia Alabama Partnership for Sustainability

Future Action

- Conduct GAPS quarterly meetings to identify and establish regional policies and Mutual Aid Agreements.
- Ensure information can be disseminated and communication is not Interrupted
- Develop installation/community disaster conference framework that could be replicated across other installations in the Southeast
- Create lessons learned, best practices, and training initiatives in support of emergency preparedness efforts
- GAPS 2026: July 21st and 22nd, 2026

The 2025 Conference is presented by The Georgia Alabama Partnership for Sustainability









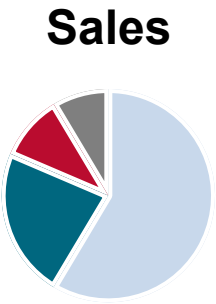
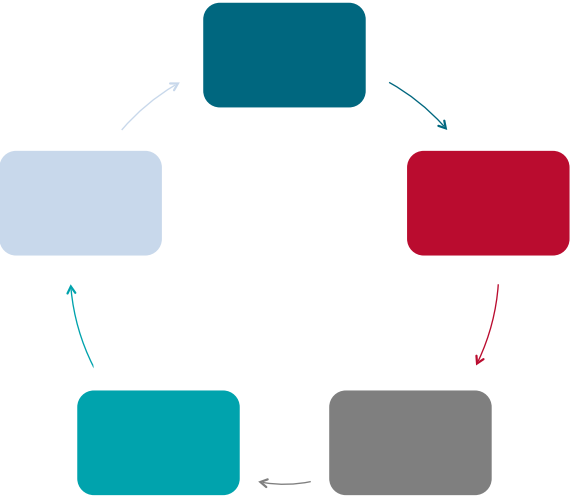




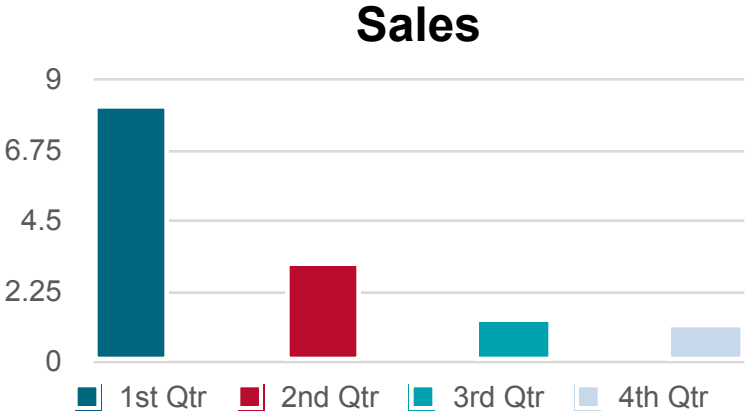




Examples of Data Content and Colors



● 1st Qtr ● 2nd Qtr ● 3rd Qtr ● 4th Qtr



■ 1st Qtr ■ 2nd Qtr ■ 3rd Qtr ■ 4th Qtr



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**

**Carl Vinson
Institute of Government**

Since 1927, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government has been an integral part of the University of Georgia. A public service and outreach unit of the university, the Institute of Government is the largest and most comprehensive university based organization serving governments in the United States through research services, customized assistance, training and development, and the application of technology.

Connect With Us!



**facebook.com
/VinsonInstitute**



**Carl Vinson
Institute of Government**



@CVIOG_UGA



www.cviog.uga.edu