

# CITY OF DACULA, GEORGIA

## MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

### Geography/History

The City of Dacula (City) is located at 33°59'15"N, 83°53'31"W (33.987598, -83.891926). The City has a total area of 5.399 square miles (13.98 km<sup>2</sup>), all of which is land.

The City of Dacula began as the Town of Chinquapin Grove. When it was founded, the name was changed due to the fact that no chinquapin trees actually existed in the City. The name Dacula was formed by letters found in Decatur and Atlanta. Those two cities were near Dacula and were already prospering during the time of Dacula's founding.

There was a train station on a CSX line in Dacula, and though it closed in the mid-1950s, the City experienced immense growth. Formerly a small, one-light town in the early 80s, the City of Dacula now has nearly 10 public schools from both the Dacula and Mill Creek clusters of Gwinnett County.

### Significant Characteristics

With its 3,850-seat auditorium, Hebron Baptist Church is one of the largest Southern Baptist churches in the Southeast United States.

The City has several beautiful parks suitable for weddings, picnics, and other small outdoor functions.

Little Mulberry Park is a park that encompasses 485 acres of an 890-acre park. It features five miles of trails, including two paved multi-purpose trails and a handicap-accessible trail, and more than two miles of woodland foot trails. The park also offers many picnic pavilions, restrooms, a playground, and an observation terrace.

Dacula is also known for its large Memorial Day parade, as well as its professional and collegiate athletes.

Approved in 2020, Rowen is a new 2,000-acre development bordering Dacula to the east. It is being promoted as Georgia's hub for environmental, agricultural and medical innovation. Gwinnett County has committed to the project as demonstrated by the \$125 million Eastern Regional infrastructure Project that provides sewer upgrades and trail amenities in the area.

### Population and Demographics

In 2023, the estimated population of the City of Dacula was 8,101, representing a 82% increase from 2010. The growth rate in Dacula was significantly higher than for Gwinnett County and the state of Georgia. The population density is 1,333.0 people per square mile. The racial makeup of the City is 46 percent White, 28 percent African American, 10 percent multiracial, 4 percent Asian, and 11 percent from two or more races.

There are 2,057 households, of which 35.2 percent include children under the age of 18. Approximately 21.4 percent of all households are made up of individuals, while 7 percent have someone living alone who is 65 or older. The average household size is 3.26.

The median age of a Dacula resident is 33 years old. In the City, the population is spread out, with 35.2 percent under the age of 18, 6.9 percent from 18 to 24, 29.3 percent from 25 to 44, 32.6 percent from 45 to 64, and 9.6 percent who are 65 or older. For every 100 females, there are 93.6 males.

The City’s population has grown more than 39.4 percent since 2020.

## Economy

The median income for a household in the City is \$87,666. The per capita income for the City is \$23,686. About 5.2 percent of families and 8.2 percent of the population are below the poverty line.

The most common industries are retail trade, health care and social assistance, and manufacturing.

Dacula-area historical tornado activity is slightly above the Georgia state average. It is 94 percent greater than the overall U.S. average.

On November 22, 1992, an F4 tornado with maximum wind speeds of 207-260 miles per hour (mph) struck 33.3 miles away from the City center, injuring 46 people and causing between \$5 million and \$50 million in damages.

On April 3, 1974, an F4 tornado struck 36.4 miles away from the City center, killing six people and injuring 30 others. Damages were estimated between \$500,000 and \$5 million.

**Table 1**  
**Single-Family New House Construction Building Permits**

| Year | Permits | Average Cost |
|------|---------|--------------|
| 2013 | 84      | \$107,800    |
| 2014 | 111     | \$132,674    |
| 2015 | 96      | \$146,408    |
| 2016 | 187     | \$128,466    |
| 2017 | 42      | \$103,030    |
| 2018 | 39      | \$110,939    |
| 2019 | 55      | 121,984      |
| 2020 | 44      | 162,457      |
| 2021 | 159     | 151,396      |
| 2022 | 82      | 148,414      |
| 2023 | 105     | 200,383      |

## Infrastructure

The East Precinct of the Gwinnett County Police Department serves Dacula.

There are three parks located within the City of Dacula. Two are managed by the city and one is managed by Gwinnett County.

Fire services are provided to Dacula by the Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

There are several public schools and private schools within the City Limits. Private schools include: Harbins Preparatory School, and Hebron Christian Academy.

### Capital Improvement Projects

The City of Dacula maintains stormwater and roads within the city rights-of-way to mitigate and prevent infrastructure failures and accommodate growth.

**Table 2  
Dacula School Infrastructure**

| School | Type       | Enrollment |
|--------|------------|------------|
| Dacula | Elementary | 1,188      |
| Dacula | Middle     | 1,811      |
| Dacula | High       | 2,487      |

### Land Usage

The City has a total area of 5.37 square miles (13.8 km<sup>2</sup>), all of which is land.

### Legal and Regulatory Capabilities

The Legal and Regulatory Capability survey documents authorities available to the jurisdiction and/or enabling legislation at the state level affecting planning and land management tools that support local hazard mitigation planning efforts. The identified planning and land management tools are typically used by states and local and tribal jurisdictions to implement hazard mitigation activities.

**Table 3  
Legal and Regulatory Capability**

| Regulatory Tools/Plans    | Regulatory Type:<br>Ordinance<br><br>Resolution<br>Codes<br>Plans, Etc. | Reference<br>Number | Date<br>Adopted | Local Authority | State Prohibited | Higher Authority |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
|                           |   |                     |                 | Y               | N                | N                |
| Building Codes            |   |                     |                 | Y               | N                | N                |
| Capital Improvements Plan | Referenced in the 2050<br>Comprehensive Plan                            |                     |                 | Y               | N                | N                |

| Regulatory Tools/Plans  | Regulatory Type:<br>Ordinance<br><br>Resolution<br>Codes<br>Plans, Etc. | Reference<br>Number | Date<br>Adopted | Local<br>Authority | State<br>Prohibited | Higher<br>Authority |
|---|---|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Comprehensive Plan  | 2050 Comprehensive Plan   |                     | 2/1/2024        | Y                  | N                   | N                   |
| Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government (COOP/COG) Plan | County COOP/COG Plan  |                     |                 | N                  | N                   | Y                   |
| Community Rating System   | County Rating   |                     |                 | N                  | N                   | Y                   |
| Economic Development Plan   | County Plan   |                     |                 | N                  | N                   | Y                   |
| Emergency Management Accreditation Program Certified              |   |                     |                 | N                  | N                   | Y                   |
| Emergency Response Plan   | County EOP  |                     |                 | N                  | N                   | Y                   |
| Flood Management Plan   | Chapter 10, Article II –<br>Floodplain Management / Flood<br>Damage     |                     | 3/5/20          | Y                  | N                   | N                   |
| Growth Control Ordinance  | Referenced in the 2050<br>Comprehensive Plan                            |                     |                 | Y                  | N                   | N                   |
| Hazard Setback Regulations  |   |                     |                 |                    |                     |                     |
| Historic Ordinance  | Referenced in the 2050<br>Comprehensive Plan                            |                     |                 | Y                  | N                   | N                   |
| National Flood Insurance Program Participant                      |   |                     |                 | N                  | N                   | Y                   |
|   |   |                     |                 |                    |                     |                     |
| Post-Disaster Recovery Plan                                       | County Emergency Operations<br>Plan (EOP)                               |                     |                 | N                  | N                   | Y                   |
| Real Estate Disclosure  | Real Estate Commission  |                     |                 | N                  | N                   | Y                   |
| Site Plan Requirements  | Referenced in 2050<br>Comprehensive Plan                                |                     |                 | Y                  | N                   | N                   |
| Subdivision Regulations   | Referenced in 2050<br>Comprehensive Plan                                |                     |                 | Y                  | N                   | N                   |
|   |   |                     |                 |                    |                     |                     |

| Regulatory Tools/Plans | Regulatory Type:<br>Ordinance      | Reference<br>Number | Date<br>Adopted | Local Authority | State Prohibited | Higher Authority |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
|                        | Resolution<br>Codes<br>Plans, Etc. |                     |                 | Y               | N                | N                |
| Zoning Ordinances      | Zoning Ordinance                   |                     |                 | Y               | N                | N                |

## Administrative and Technical Capabilities

The City of Dacula has a number of administrative and technical capabilities. City departments include Administration, Planning and Development, Inspections, the Planning Commission, Public Works, Marshal’s Office, Elections, and the Municipal Court. The City government includes a Mayor and four city council members. The Planning Commission makes recommendation to the City Council on rezoning, permits, special exemptions, etc. The Planning Commission is composed of five members and are appointed by the Mayor and City Council at the beginning of every calendar year.

## Mitigation Actions

Each jurisdiction participating in this Plan is responsible for implementing specific mitigation actions as prescribed in the adopted mitigation action plan. In each mitigation action plan, every proposed action is assigned to a specific local department or agency in order to assign responsibility and accountability and increase the likelihood of subsequent implementation. This approach enables individual jurisdictions to update their unique mitigation strategy as needed without altering the broader focus of the countywide Plan. The separate adoption of locally specific actions also ensures that each jurisdiction is not held responsible for monitoring and implementing the actions of other jurisdictions involved in the planning process. A complete list of countywide mitigation strategies and additional action information is provided in Section 5 of the Gwinnett County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Table 4  
Mitigation Actions**

| Action   | Action/Project Description | Jurisdiction | Responsible | Estimated Cost | Est. Benefit | Funding Sources | Timeframe | Status | New/ Existing Infrastructure | Additional action information |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|--------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Goal 1: Reduce Gwinnett County’s risk and vulnerability to severe winter storms</b>                                     |                            |              |             |                |              |                 |           |        |                              |                               |
| <b>Objective 1.1: Increase citizen severe winter storm awareness, preparedness, and response</b>                           |                            |              |             |                |              |                 |           |        |                              |                               |
| <b>Objective 1.2: Improve first responder capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from severe winter storms</b> |                            |              |             |                |              |                 |           |        |                              |                               |

**Objective 1.3: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from severe winter storms**

|       |   |                       |                              |           |  |                     |         |                   |          |  |
|-------|---|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------|--|---------------------|---------|-------------------|----------|--|
| 1.3.9 | Identify and bury utilities lines in densely populated and commercial areas in the City of Dacula | <b>City of Dacula</b> | City Officials, Public Works | \$250,000 |  | City Budget, Grants | Ongoing | Ongoing from 2020 | Existing |  |
|-------|---|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------|--|---------------------|---------|-------------------|----------|--|

**Goal 2: Minimize losses of life and property due to high winds from severe thunderstorms and windstorms in Gwinnett County, including all municipalities. \*These actions also can apply to Hurricane(s) and Tropical Storms**

**Objective 2.1: Increase citizen severe thunderstorm/windstorm awareness, preparedness and response**

**Objective 2.2: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from severe weather events, including thunderstorms and windstorms**

|       |   |                       |                |          |           |                     |         |                   |          |  |
|-------|---|-----------------------|----------------|----------|-----------|---------------------|---------|-------------------|----------|--|
| 2.2.2 | Purchase and install a generator for Dacula City Hall | <b>City of Dacula</b> | City Officials | \$55,000 | \$100,000 | City Budget, Grants | Ongoing | Ongoing from 2020 | Existing |  |
|-------|---|-----------------------|----------------|----------|-----------|---------------------|---------|-------------------|----------|--|

**Goal 3: Minimize the impacts of tropical storms and hurricanes in Gwinnett County, including municipalities**

**Objective 3.1: Enhance advance warning and preparedness capabilities**

**Goal 4: Reduce the loss of life and property caused by tornadoes in Gwinnett County**

**Objective 4.1: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from severe weather events including tornadoes**

**Goal 5: Reduce Gwinnett County's risk and vulnerability to lightning.**

**Objective 5.1: Increase citizen lightning awareness.**

**Objective 5.2: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from severe weather events involving lightning and its effects**

**Goal 6: Minimize losses of life and property in Gwinnett County due to wildfires**

**Objective 6.1: Protect critical facilities and vulnerable populations from the effects of wildfires.**

**Objective 6.2: Encourage the protection of residential and commercial structures.**

**Goal 7: Reduce Gwinnett County's risk and vulnerability to flood events.**

**Objective 7.1 Improve Gwinnett County's flooding information distribution and warning to citizens.**

|       |   |                       |                |         |           |             |         |         |          |  |
|-------|---|-----------------------|----------------|---------|-----------|-------------|---------|---------|----------|--|
| 7.1.5 | Maintain NFIP status for flood mitigation | <b>City of Dacula</b> | City Officials | \$5,000 | \$100,000 | City Budget | Ongoing | Ongoing | Existing |  |
|-------|---|-----------------------|----------------|---------|-----------|-------------|---------|---------|----------|--|

|       |  |                       |                |             |           |                     |         |         |          |                       |
|-------|--|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------|---------|---------|----------|-----------------------|
| 7.1.6 | Improve the city stormwater infrastructure to manage older, undersized systems and | <b>City of Dacula</b> | City Officials | 1.3 Million | 2 Million | City Budget, Grants | Ongoing | Ongoing | Existing | Completed and ongoing |
|-------|--|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------|---------|---------|----------|-----------------------|

|  |                              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | mitigate runoff from growth. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Objective 7.2: Improve Gwinnett County’s capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flood events.

Goal 8: Minimize agricultural and property losses in Gwinnett County resulting from drought conditions.

Objective 8.1: Protect critical facilities and vulnerable agriculture form effects of drought conditions

Goal 9: Reduce Gwinnett County’s risk and vulnerability to earthquake events.

Objective 9.1: Improve Gwinnett Conty’s earthquake information distribution and warning to citizens.

Goal 10: Reduce Gwinnett County’s risk and vulnerability to dam failure events

Objective 10.1: Improve Gwinnett County’s capabilities to prepare for and respond to a dam failure

Goal 11: Reduce Gwinnett County’s risk and vulnerability to cyber security attacks.

Objective 11.1: Reduce Gwinnett County’s risk and vulnerability to cyber security attacks.

Goal 12: Reduce Gwinnett County’s risk and vulnerability to hazardous materials events.

Objective 12.1: Increase citizen hazardous materials event awareness, preparedness, and response.

Objective 12.2: Improve first responder capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazardous materials events.

Objective 12.3: Improve Gwinnett County’s capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazardous materials events.

Goal 13: Reduce Gwinnett county’s risk and vulnerability to pandemic/epidemic events

Objective 13.1: Improve Gwinnett County’s pandemic/epidemic information distribution and warning to citizens

Objective 13.2: Improve Gwinnett County’s first responder capabilities to prepare for and respond to pandemic/epidemic events

Objective 13.3: Improve Gwinnett County’s capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from pandemic/epidemic events

Goal 14: Reduce Gwinnett County’s risk and vulnerability from domestic and international terrorism incidents

Objective 14.1: Increase citizen knowledge on domestic and international terrorism awareness, preparedness, and response

Objective 14.2: Improve first responder’s capability to prepare for and respond to terrorism incidents.

Goal 15: Improve Gwinnett County’s capability to reduce risk and vulnerability to all-hazards events.

Objective 15.1: Improve Gwinnett County’s information distribution and warning capabilities to citizens

Objective 15.2: Improve Gwinnett County’s first responder capabilities to

Objective 15.3: Improve Gwinnett County’s capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all-hazard events.

|        |   |                       |                |             |             |             |         |         |          |                       |
|--------|---|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|----------|-----------------------|
| 15.3.1 | Improve the city road infrastructure to prevent deterioration and | <b>City of Dacula</b> | City Officials | 3.7 million | 5.5 million | City Budget | Ongoing | Ongoing | Existing | Completed and ongoing |
|--------|---|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|----------|-----------------------|

|  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | asphalt failure,<br>and redesign<br>roadways to<br>accommodate<br>growth. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|



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