Chapter 7. Community Facilties Element

The most basic and essential services are provided through community facilities. Collectively known as community infrastructure, these facilities include the buildings, facilities, lands and services that support the public health, safety and welfare of Oconee County residents. These assets help shape daily living and work environments, provide the physical framework for the attraction of new businesses and employment opportunities, and provide a foundation for new growth and development. While many community facilities are provided or administered by the local government, others are offered by utilities, hospitals, school systems, and nonprofits.

The Community Facilities Element provides an inventory and assessment of the facilities and services available in Oconee County and its municipalities. The Element profiles community functions including: local government, water and sewer service, utilities, solid waste collection, fire and emergency medical services, police, education, health care, recreation, and libraries.

A. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Governmental facilities house activities, persons, and records used in government operations - whether local, county, state or federal. The need for new or expanded public facilities is directly related to the growth of a community, since the addition of more people, more homes, and additional businesses and industries prompt the need for new and expanded governmental services. In some cases, increased services can be accommodated using existing space. However, in many cases, a substantial increase in the level and scope of services requires additional operational space or access points.

1. Oconee County

Oconee County was created in 1868 from the western half of Pickens Township. It is the only county in the State that borders on two other states – Georgia and North Carolina. The County is governed under a council-administrator form of government, with a five-member council elected by district. The County Administrator is appointed by the Oconee County Council. Management of the County is carried out through a number of departments, each headed by elected or appointed officials. Oconee County employs 497 full-time staff and 24 part-time employees.

Oconee County owns and maintains public properties throughout the County. The locations of major facilities owned by Oconee County are listed in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1. Major Oconee County Facilities*

Facility	Location
Agriculture/Clemson Extension	W. South Broad Street, Walhalla
Airport Buildings	Airport Road, Seneca
Animal Control Facility	Sandifer Boulevard, Seneca
Brown's Square Building	Brown's Square Drive, Walhalla
Chau Ram Park Buildings	Chau Ram Park Road, Westminster
Cheohee Valley Emergency Substation	Cherokee Lake Road, Tamassee
Coroner's Office and Morgue	Memorial Drive, Seneca
County Administration Offices	Pine Street, Walhalla
DSS, VA and Facilities Maintenance	Kenneth Street, Walhalla
Foxwood Hills Emergency Substation	Blackjack Road, Westminster
High Falls Park Buildings	High Falls Road, Seneca
Holly Springs Emergency Substation	Long Creek Highway, Westminster
Cliffs Emergency Substation	Cliffs South Parkway, Salem
Lakeview Rest Home	Camp Road, Walhalla
Law Enforcement Center/Sheriff's Offices/ Emergency Services Facility Expansion	S. Church Street, Walhalla
New Courthouse Building	W. Main Street, Walhalla
New Detention Center	S. Church Street, Walhalla
Oakway Community Center	School House Road, Westminster
Old Courthouse Building	West Main Street, Walhalla
Probation and Parole Offices	Booker Drive, Walhalla
Roads and Bridges Department Facility	Wells Highway, Seneca
Rock Building	Short Street, Walhalla
Rock Quarry Buildings	Rock Crusher Road, Walhalla
Rosa Park Clinic	S. Oak Street, Seneca
Seneca Health Department	N. Townville Street, Seneca
Seneca Library	E. South 2nd Street, Seneca
Shiloh Road Emergency Substation	Shiloh Road, Seneca
Solid Waste Complex	Wells Highway, Seneca
South Cove Park Buildings	South Cove Road, Seneca
Vehicle Maintenance Facility	Wells Highway, Seneca
Walhalla Library	W. South Broad Street, Walhalla
Walhalla Magistrate's Building	Booker Drive, Walhalla
Westminster Emergency/Fire Services Building	Emergency Lane, Westminster
Westminster Library	W. North Avenue, Westminster
Whetstone Emergency Substation	Whetstone Rd., Mountain Rest
Workforce Center Building	Keowee School Road, Seneca

* Additional facilities are discussed throughout the Element

2. Oconee County Municipalities

There are five municipalities in Oconee County, including the cities of Seneca, Walhalla, and Westminster, and the Towns of Salem and West Union. The *City of Walhalla* is the second

largest municipality in terms of size and population and is the county seat of Oconee County. The City operates under the council/administrator form of government in which the City Council acts as the governing body, while the City Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day municipal operations. The Council is comprised of six members and the Mayor, all elected at-large.

The *City of Seneca* is Oconee County's largest municipality in both size and population. The City operates under the mayor/council form of government in which the Mayor has administrative powers, but the legislative function rests with the Council as a body. The City Council is comprised of eight members and the Mayor, all elected at-large.

The *City of Westminster* is the County's third largest City, only slightly smaller than Walhalla in area but with 1,780 fewer residents than the County seat. The City is governed by a council/administrator form of government, with the Mayor and six council members elected at-large.

The *Town of West Union* is the County's smallest municipality at less than one square mile in size, but is larger in population than the Town of Salem. The Town is governed by a mayor/council form of government, with the Mayor and three council members elected at-large.

The *Town of Salem* is the smallest in terms of population, but slightly larger in land area than West Union, although still less than one square mile in size. Salem is governed by a council/administrator form of government, with the Mayor and three council members elected at-large.

3. County Boards and Commissions

All jurisdictions in South Carolina that regulate land use, including Oconee County, must have a planning commission and a board of zoning appeals. Members of both bodies are appointed by the governing body (county, city, or town council) of the jurisdiction covered.

The duty of the planning commission is to develop and carry out a planning program for the physical, social, and economic growth, development and redevelopment of the community. The planning commission directs the development and update of the comprehensive plan and advises the governing body on the adoption of the plan. It also directs the preparation and update of land use regulations, including the zoning ordinance and land development regulations, and provides recommendations on the adoption of such regulations to the governing body. The *Oconee County Planning Commission* is comprised of seven members appointed by County Council.

The role of the *Oconee County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)* is quasi-judicial and includes considering appeals to determinations made by the Zoning Administrator and special

exceptions. The Board also conducts hearings and rulings on variance applications from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. The Oconee County BZA includes seven members who are appointed by County Council.

B. UTILITIES

Like all communities, the vitality, growth and development pattern of Oconee County depends on a reliable and accessible network of public and private utilities and infrastructure. Utilities include the provision of water, wastewater disposal, solid waste disposal, and electricity. Not only are these services essential for individuals, they are also vital to businesses and service providers and impact the long-term growth and development potential of the County and its municipalities. The availability of water and sewer is a factor in the suitability of an area for future development. Ready access effects the location and affordability of residential development and is a key factor weighed by business and industry in site selection.

1. Water Service, Treatment and Distribution

Access to water service plays an important role in the development pattern of a community. Residential development outside of water service areas must utilize wells, adding to the initial cost of each residential unit. Many businesses and industries require the reliability and access to water that only a public utility can provide. Water service is provided to Oconee County residents by 22 community water systems, including seven public water systems and 15 private systems (Table 7-2 and Map 7-1). Community water systems serve the same population year-round. More individualized systems serve only for a portion of the year (such as a school) or serve transient populations (rest stops, campgrounds, gas stations, etc.).

Water treatment is primarily provided by four plant The *City of Seneca Water Treatment Plant* has a capacity of 20 million gallons per day (MGD), with an average daily demand of 6.5 MGD and current peak demand at 11 MGD. The Plant obtains its water from Lake Keowee. The *City of Walhalla Coneross Creek Water Treatment Plant* has a capacity of 3 MGD, an average daily demand of 1.9 MGD, and peak demand of 2.3 MGD. Water treated at the Plant is drawn from Coneross Creek. The City broke ground on a new water treatment facility in January 2019 that will have a capacity of 4 MGD. It will draw water from the Cane Creek branch of Lake Keowee, with completion anticipated in fall 2020. The *City of Westminster Water Treatment Plant* has a capacity of 4 MGD, with an approximate average daily demand of 2 MGD. The Plant draws water from the Chauga River. Pioneer Rural Water District's new *Robert J. Stevenson Water Treatment Plant* was completed in May 2019. The Plant draws water from Lake Hartwell, with an initial capacity of 2.5 MGD that is upgradeable to 5 MGD. Water treatment at a smaller scale is also provided by several individual systems.

Table 7-2. Community Water Systems in Oconee County, 2019

Water System Name	Population Served	Primary Water Source Type
Public Water Systems *(general area served)*		
Seneca Light and Water *(Greater Seneca)*	33,374	Surface water – Lake Keowee
Pioneer Rural Water District *(Greater Westminster)*	16,236	Surface water - purchased
City of Walhalla *(Greater Walhalla)*	15,740	Surface water – Coneross Creek
City of Westminster *(Greater Westminster)*	7,582	Surface water – Chauga River
Town of Salem *(Greater Salem)*	2,278	Surface water - purchased
Town of West Union *(West Union)*	468	Surface water - purchased
City of Clemson *(Small area along U.S. Hwy. 123/76)*	17,953	Surface water - purchased
Private Water Systems *(location)*		
Keowee Key Utility System *(Salem)*	3,602	Surface water - purchased
TESI-Foxwood Hills *(Westminster)*	1,226	Surface water - purchased
The View at the Pier *(Seneca)*	864	Surface water - purchased
Port Bass I *(Westminster)*	590	Ground water
Harts Cove and Tory Pointe *(Seneca)*	560	Surface water - purchased
Chickasaw Point *(Westminster)*	490	Surface water - purchased
Timber Lake I *(Westminster)*	202	Ground water
Port Bass II *(Westminster)*	178	Ground water
Keowee Bay Subdivision *(Salem)*	115	Ground water
Timber Lake II *(Westminster)*	96	Ground water
Bay Ridge Subdivision *(Salem)*	62	Ground water
Isaqueena Point Utility System *(Salem)*	36	Surface water - purchased
Camp Ghigau *(Tamassee)*	35	Ground water
Turtlehead Subdivision *(Salem)*	32	Ground water
Cherokee Boys School *(Westminster)*	26	Ground water

Source: U.S. EPA, Envirofacts, Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS), 2019

Map 7-1. Public Water Systems
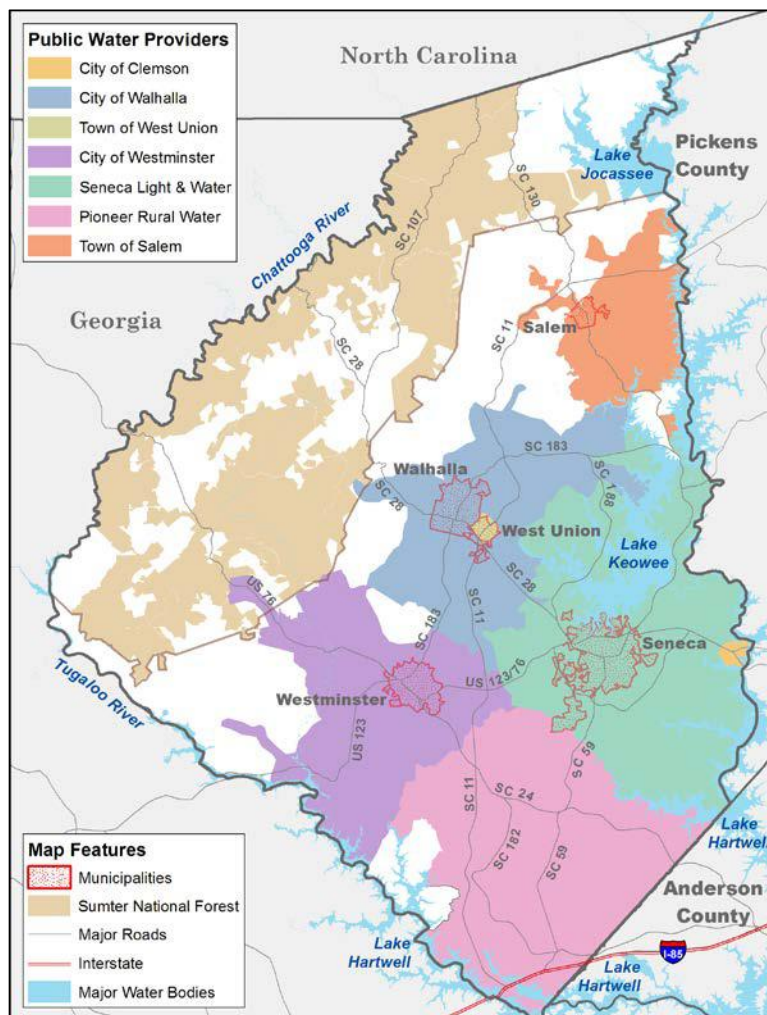
Source: Oconee County GIS Department, 2019
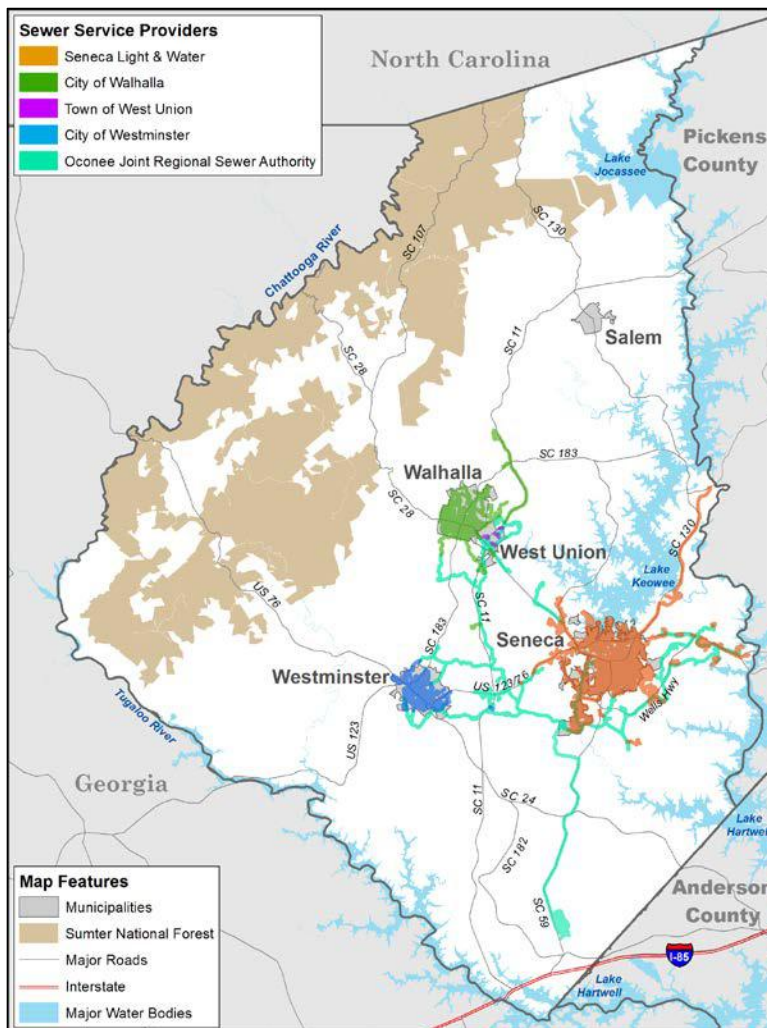
2. Wastewater

The availability of sewer service is critical to supporting higher density residential development, educational and health care facilities, and the location or expansion of business and industry. Residential development outside of sewer service areas must rely on septic systems. State law requires that a parcel of land proposed for a septic system be capable of supporting proper operation of the individual system. Suitability criteria are based on factors including soil type, parcel size, and slope. For most businesses and industries, the availability of sewer service is requisite for new facility location.

Public wastewater treatment in Oconee County is provided by the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority's (OJRSA) *Coneross Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant* (WWTP). The treatment capacity for the Plant is 7.8 million gallons per day (MGD), with an average daily flow of three MGD.

Public wastewater is managed by five providers, as illustrated in Map 7-2. The *OJRSA* owns and operates a wastewater conveyance system that includes approximately 60 miles of gravity sewer, 18 pump stations, 20 miles of force mains, and three permanent flow monitoring stations.

Map 7-2. Major Wastewater Providers

Source: Oconee County GIS Department, 2018

Seneca Light and Water (City of Seneca) collects wastewater from 5,745 customers through a system of 150 miles of sewer lines and 25 lift stations for treatment at the Coneross Creek WWTP. The *City of Walhalla* provides wastewater removal for its 2,000 customers through a system of five miles of gravity lines, four miles of force mains, and three lift stations. The *City of Westminster* conveys wastewater for its 1,091 customers through 28.5 miles of gravity sewer lines. The *Town of West Union* operates and maintains a small system that includes less than one-half mile of gravity sewer lines. Wastewater management is also provided by a number of private providers for residential developments in Oconee County.

3. Energy Sources

Electricity is the primary source of energy for Oconee County residents, followed by natural gas (Table 7-3). Two in three (66.9%) County homes are heated with electricity and 17.7% are heated with natural gas. More than nine percent of homes are heated with bottled, tank or LP gas and 4.1% use wood for heating.

Table 7-3. Heating Fuels for Occupied Housing Units, 2017

Heating Fuels	Oconee County		South Carolina	
	#	%	#	%
All Occupied Housing Units	31,354	100.0%	1,871,307	100.0%
Utility (natural) gas	5,550	17.7%	416,320	22.2%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	2,901	9.3%	74,302	4.0%
Electricity	20,962	66.9%	1,333,368	71.3%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	397	1.3%	17,554	0.9%
Coal or coke	0	0.0%	293	0.0%
Wood	1,283	4.1%	18,243	1.0%
Other fuel	65	0.2%	2,789	0.1%
No fuel used	196	0.6%	8,438	0.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey

a. Electrical Transmission and Distribution

Electrical power is provided to residents and businesses in Oconee County by four providers (Map 7-3). The ***Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative*** has the largest service area, including most of the unincorporated area in western and southern Oconee County. The Cooperative's service area encompasses more than 1,800 square miles that also include areas in Anderson, Greenville, Spartanburg, and Pickens counties. Blue Ridge provides service to 64,890 members and is South Carolina's fourth largest electric cooperative *(Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, 2019)*.

Duke Energy provides electric service to a substantial area of Oconee County that includes the greater Walhalla and West Union area that stretches north from Seneca along Lake Keowee to Lake Jocassee and includes the northernmost area of the County. Duke Energy is one of the largest electric power companies in the United States, serving electricity to 7.6 million electric retail customers in six states. Duke Energy plants that provide electricity to customers in Oconee County and neighboring areas include the Oconee Nuclear Station, the Keowee Hydro Station, and the Jocassee and Bad Creek Pumped-storage Generating Stations. Of particular note is the Oconee Nuclear Station, one of the nation's largest nuclear plants with a generating capacity of 2.6 million kilowatts – enough to power 1.9 million homes.

Seneca Light and Water provides electricity to 6,900 customer meters within the City of Seneca and adjoining areas *(Seneca Light and Water, 2019)*. The City purchases wholesale electricity from Santee Cooper.

The *City of Westminster* provides electricity to 1,501 customers within the City of Westminster and some adjoining areas. The City annually distributes approximately 30 megawatts of energy obtained through Piedmont Municipal Power Agency, a joint action agency that includes nine other cities that collectively own 25% of the output of Unit 2 at the Catawba Nuclear Station in York County, South Carolina.

Map 7-3. Electric Service Providers*
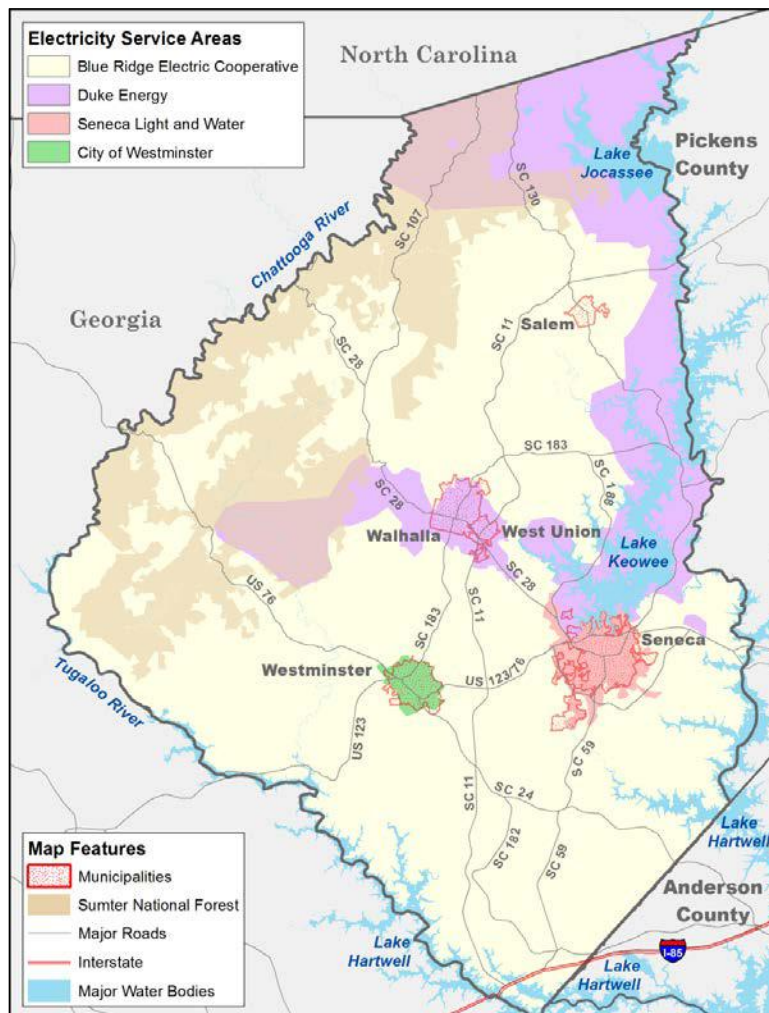
* Map is a general representation, specific locations should be verified with providers
Source: Oconee County GIS Department, 2019

b. Natural Gas

Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority is the sole provider of natural gas in Oconee County. The Authority was established by the South Carolina Legislature in 1952 to serve the municipalities and outlying areas of Oconee and Pickens Counties and portions of Anderson County *(Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority, 2019)*. Fort Hill is one of four non-profit, tax-exempt natural gas authorities in the State. The Authority purchases natural gas on the open market for resale to its approximately 40,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers. Purchased gas is transported to Fort Hill from various sources via interconnects with Williams Gas Pipeline in Anderson County.

4. Internet

High-speed internet service is available within Oconee County from a number of providers including AT&T, Charter Spectrum, Northland Communications, Onetone Telecom, Viasat Internet, and HughesNet. In addition, mobile wireless services are available in the Oconee area from a wide range of carriers including AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon. A number of local businesses and public facilities also have wireless internet (Wi-Fi) connection capabilities for their customers and employees, including the Oconee County Library and local businesses, restaurants, and motels.

On August 18, 2010, Oconee County received $9.6M in Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to construct a 250-mile broadband fiber optic network under the project name Fiber Optics Creating Unified Solutions (FOCUS). The first phase of the project set out to support the School District of Oconee County, emergency services, E-911 service, and local, state, and federal government locations. The second phase of the FOCUS project focused on connecting business and residential customers. However, in 2012 South Carolina legislative bill H3508 was enacted, requiring FOCUS to modify the original business model used to sell service to customers. FOCUS instead entered into a wholesale arrangement with local Internet Services Providers to provide services to customers. In the 3rd and final phase of the FOCUS project, Oconee County issued an RFP to lease the network out to an operator to maintain and grow the network. OneTone Telecom, Inc., was awarded the contract and continues to maintain the network. The company has expanded the network to 330 miles, adding thousands of customers.
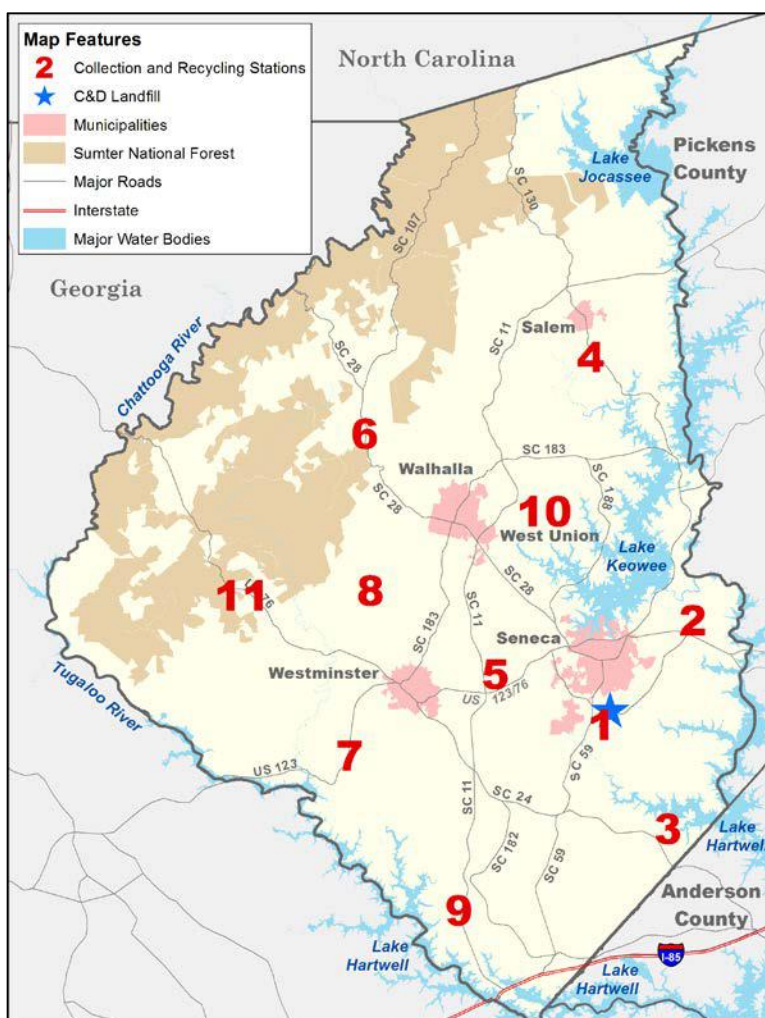
5. Solid Waste

The Oconee County Solid Waste Complex on Wells Highway in Seneca houses the main office, a material recovery facility for recyclables, and a transfer station for loading shipments of municipal solid waste for landfill disposal. Because Oconee County does not operate an active landfill, all municipal solid waste is transported to the Waste Management landfill in Homer, Georgia. However, two closed landfills in the County are managed and monitored.

Oconee County also operates a Class 2 Construction and Demolition (C&D) landfill, mulching facility for storage and sale of ground yard waste, and a concrete, block and asphalt grinding operation located across from the Solid Waste Complex on Wells Highway.

While the County does not provide solid waste collection, it operates eleven manned collection and recycling centers located throughout the County (Map 7-4) and two unmanned centers in the cities of Westminster and Walhalla. The recycling centers are for household trash and recyclables only and do not accept commercial waste. Total managed waste in 2018 was 82,056 tons, including 43,591 tons of waste through the transfer station and 3,355 tons of recyclables *(Oconee County Budget Document, 2018-2019).* The Solid Waste Department has 35 full-time positions and one part-time position, including administration, equipment operators, a recycling coordinator/educator, and clerks.

Map 7-4. Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Stations and C&D Landfill

Source: Oconee County GIS Department, 2018

Because collection and recycling centers 2, 4, 5, and 6 are located in the major growth areas, Solid Waste Department staff anticipates the need for future expansion to help alleviate traffic, expedite drop-off, and better facilitate recycling and disposal services. The need to upgrade or expand the County's transfer station to accommodate an increased waste stream is also expected within the next three to five years.

C. EDUCATION

Education is a lifelong process that consists of two components. The first is a high quality foundation of basic education through the PK-12 system that is followed by an on-going individualized pathway of higher education and advanced career training opportunities. Communities that promote a philosophy of lifelong learning among residents are better positioned to successfully compete in a global economy. Access to advanced workforce training programs is an integral component of community and individual economic sustainability.

The Oconee Campus of Tri-County Technical College (TCTC) provides County residents with a greater level of access to workforce development programs, facilities, and advanced training and continuing education opportunities. In addition, a number of public and private postsecondary institutions are located within commuting distance for County residents, including Clemson University, Southern Wesleyan University, and Anderson University. The locations of PK-12 schools and the Tri-County Technical College campus are shown on Map 7-5 and profiled in the following sections, along with private schools.

1. School District of Oconee County

The Oconee County School District provides educational services to 10,495 students *(S.C. Dept. of Education, 2019)*, with an annual budget that exceeds $107 million *(School District of Oconee County, Fast Facts, 2019)*. As the largest employer in the County, the District employs 1,591 administrators, teachers and support staff. South Carolina Department of Education headcount data for 2018-2019 indicate the District has the 22nd largest enrollment among the State's 83 districts. The District spent an annual average of $11,069 per pupil in school year 2017-2018. The School District operates ten elementary schools, three middle schools, and three high schools (Table 7-4 and Map 7-5).

Table 7-4. Oconee County Public Schools and Enrollment, 2018

| School	Enrollment
Elementary Schools	5,170
Blue Ridge Elementary School	621
Fair-Oak Elementary School	579
James M. Brown Elementary School	625
Keowee Elementary School	396
Northside Elementary School	656
Orchard Park Elementary School	408
Ravenel Elementary School	597
Tamassee-Salem Elementary School	247
Walhalla Elementary School	576
Westminster Elementary School	465
Middle Schools	2,375
Seneca Middle School	791
Walhalla Middle School	898
West-Oak Middle School	686
High Schools	2,950
Seneca Senior High School	1,006
Walhalla High School	1,063
West-Oak High School	881
District Total	10,495

Source: S.C. Department of Education, School Report Cards, April 2019

In addition to these schools, the District's *Hamilton Career Center* offers more than 20 career and technology education programs that support over 1,000 students from the District's three high schools as they prepare for transition to institutions of higher education or skilled careers. A new Career Center is planned for co-location in the Oconee County Industry and Technology Park with the new Tri-County Technical College Oconee Campus. Development of the Career Center is a cooperative effort between the School District, Oconee County, businesses, industries, and Tri-County Technical College and is intended to match the needs of the County's current and potential industries.

The District's *Oconee Academy* is an alternative program for middle and high school students who have been identified as interfering with the learning of other class members and/or refusing to follow the District's Discipline Code. Enrollment is decided by the administration of the student's home school and the Director of Student Services. Students normally attend the program for a minimum of one semester, with transportation and lunch provided. The District also offers *Adult Education* in the form of a diploma program, High School Equivalency (HSED) classes, literacy programs, and career readiness instruction and testing.

Map 7-5. Public Education Facilities
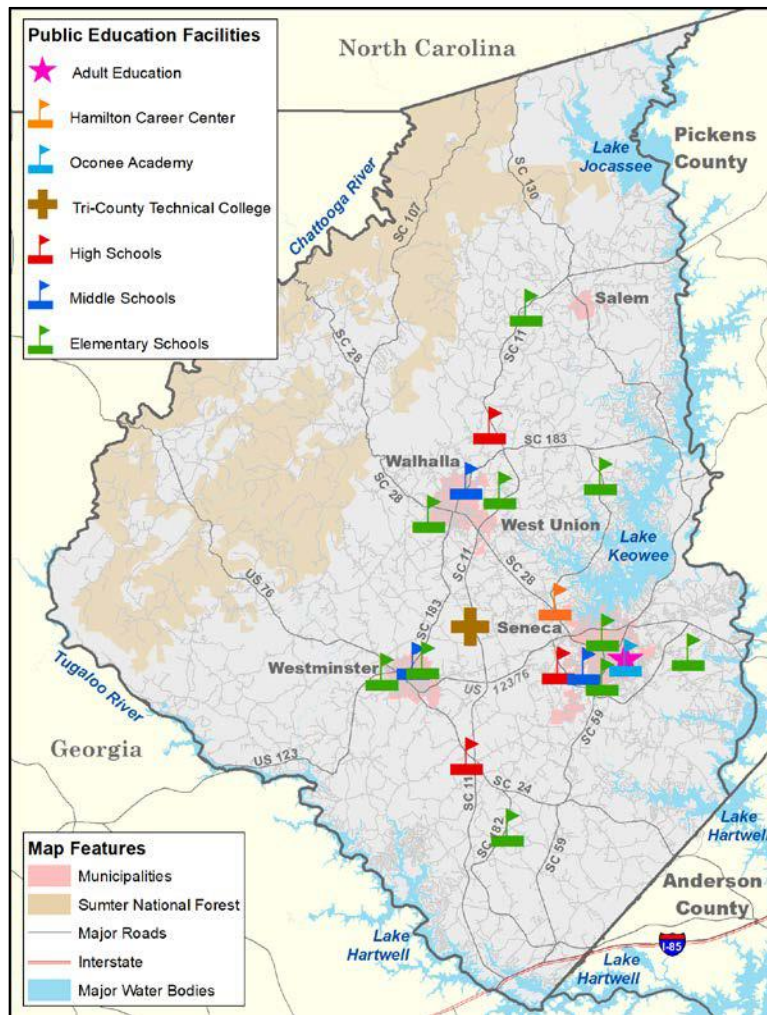
Source: Oconee County GIS Department, 2018

2. Private Schools

There are a number of private schools in Oconee County that range in size from 158 pupils at the Oconee Christian Academy to fewer than ten students at the Poplar Springs Adventist School and New Haven Christian School (Table 7-5). These non-public enrollment numbers do not include the homeschooled students in the County.

Table 7-5. Private Schools in Oconee County*

School and Location	Grades	Enrollment
Oconee Christian Academy, S*eneca*	PK-12	158
Foothills Christian School, *Westminster*	1-12	84
Faith Christian School, *Walhalla*	PK-12	15
Cherokee Creek Boys School, *Westminster*	5-10	42
Fair Play Christian School, *Fair Play*	1-12	23
Poplar Springs Seventh-Day Adventist School, W*estminster*	1-6	7
New Haven Christian School, *Walhalla*	3-6	7

* Table may not include a complete listing of existing private schools
Sources: Private School Review, April 2017

3. Tri-County Technical College

Established in 1962, Tri-County Technical College (TCTC) has the fifth largest enrollment among the 16 two-year colleges that comprise the South Carolina Technical Education System. The College serves its three-county service area from its main campus in Pendleton and through four satellite campuses in Anderson (Anderson), Oconee (Westminster), and Pickens (Pendleton and Easley) Counties. The Oconee County campus opened as TCTC's newest campus in 2018. The campus includes a new $5.5 million, 37,000 square foot building. Program offerings at the campus support manufacturing in the region and also include university studies and transfer certificates, business administration, and a high school dual credit program with the School District.

The College enrolls more than 6,000 students annually in 70 associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs *(TCHC, 2019)*. The average age of TCTC students is 22.1 years, with more than 55% of students attending full time. Oconee County residents comprise more than 14% of the total TCTC enrollment.

D. LIBRARIES

The Oconee County Public Library was established in 1948 in Walhalla, with subsequent branches open in Westminster in 1950, Salem in 1952, and Seneca in 1953. New facilities were built for the Walhalla and Westminster branches in 1979 and an expansion of the Seneca branch was completed when the library joined the County system in 1983. The Salem branch began sharing space with the Salem Town Hall in 1981. The Library also provides bookmobile service to communities that are more than 1.5 miles from a public library facility. Table 7-6 lists the current Library locations and sizes.

The Walhalla Library serves as the headquarters and main branch and is the largest facility in the Oconee County Public Library system. The system employs 19 full-time and 12 part-time workers. The collection includes 147,047 books, 4,401 audio books, 207 print periodicals, and 11,218 DVDs. Also included are downloadable audio books, e-books, and magazines. Annual

visits to all four branches totaled nearly 225,160 in 2018, with a total circulation of 317,126. Total collection uses at the Oconee County Public Library ranked 14th highest and the number of cardholders ranked 18th highest among South Carolina's 42 public libraries in 2017.

The main library and its branch locations are an important resource for County residents who lack personal access to a computer and internet. The Library's 33 public computers were used by County residents more than 25,740 times in 2018, while many others used the Library's Wi-Fi access to the internet with their personal devices.

Table 7-6. Oconee County Public Library Locations

Library	Size	Location
Walhalla Headquarters	22,500 sq. ft.	501 W. South Broad St., Walhalla
Seneca Branch	9,000 sq. ft.	300 E. South 2nd St., Seneca
Westminster Branch	5,300 sq. ft.	112 W. North Ave., Westminster
Salem Branch	1,025 sq. ft.	5B Park Ave., Salem

Source: Oconee County Public Library, April 2019

E. PUBLIC SAFETY

A safe and secure environment that projects a climate of health, vitality and community spirit among residents of all ages is integral to building a strong community. The personnel, facilities, equipment, and services dedicated to protecting the safety and property of the public are among the most essential community resources.

1. Oconee County Emergency Services

Oconee County Emergency Services is headquartered on Emergency Lane in Westminster and employs 35 full-time staff, including the fire chief; four deputy chiefs - Emergency Manager, Emergency Medical Director, Fire Marshal, and Special Teams Coordinator; training officer; shift supervisors; firefighters; radiological operations planner; administrative staff; a logistics technician; and seven part-time employees. A team of 620 dedicated volunteers provide day-to-day service delivery across Oconee County, supported by career personnel assigned to each station. The Emergency Services team is responsible for fire protection, medical first response, Hazardous Materials mitigation, technical rescue, SCUBA Dive Rescue, emergency management and public safety education.

a. Emergency Management

Although rare in occurrence, Oconee County is vulnerable to various natural and technological hazards. Advance planning and preparation for such emergencies is essential in preparing community leaders, response staff, and the general public to make rapid and informed decisions that will save lives and quickly restore infrastructure and services when manmade or natural disaster strikes. The County's ***Emergency Management*** (EM) team provides planning,

training, and event coordination between municipal, county, and state agencies for manmade and natural disaster events. A great deal of planning and training is committed to support Duke Energy's Oconee Nuclear Station emergency response plan. The EM staff continuously provides public information and support for special events and incidents as they occur including storms, ice and snow events, and public health concerns.

b. Special Teams

Specialized response services in Oconee County are provided through three teams: *Dive*, *Special Rescue*, and *Hazardous Materials (Hazmat)*. Each of these teams is comprised of volunteers with specialized training on equipment needed to effectively deal with situations that may occur. Examples of specialized skills used by these teams include high-angle rescue, wilderness search, confined search, dive rescue, and swift-water rescue. Demand for these services is increasing as the popularity of boating, climbing, hiking, and camping in the remote areas of the County continues to grow.

c. Fire Service

As one of the most fundamental and valuable services provided by local government, fire protection and prevention is of vital importance to every citizen and visitor in Oconee County. There are 18 fire districts in Oconee County, including 14 all-volunteer fire departments, four municipal departments, and the Keowee Fire Special Tax District (Map 7-6). All departments operate under a countywide automatic aid agreement to ensure proper responses to each incident, regardless of the location.

The *Oconee County Fire Division* is headquartered on Emergency Lane in Westminster and employs 35 full-time staff, including the fire chief, deputy fire chief, fire marshal, training officer, captains, firefighters, radiological operations planner, and administrative staff, and seven part-time employees *(Oconee County, SC Budget Document 2018-2019)*. A dedicated team of 450 volunteers provide day to day service delivery across the County, supported by career personnel assigned to each station.

The fire station of the *City of Seneca Fire Department* is on West South Fourth Street in Seneca. The Department operates three shifts, with each shift consisting of a captain, lieutenant, and seven full-time firefighters *(City of Seneca Fire Department, 2019)*. In addition to providing fire service within the City, Seneca has an agreement with Oconee County to provide fire service to the unincorporated area within a five-mile radius of the City. The Seneca Fire Department also provides emergency medical services within its service area, with ambulance transportation provided by the Oconee Medical Center.

The *City of Walhalla Fire Department* is located at East North Broad Street in Walhalla, and employs ten paid firefighters, including the fire chief, six full-time firefighters, and three part-time firefighters, assisted by 37 volunteer firefighters *(City of Walhalla Fire Department, 2019)*.

The Fire Department also provides coverage within the City, for the Issaqueena Falls-Stumphouse Tunnel Park, and within a five-mile radius of the incorporated area based on a contract with Oconee County. The Fire Department also operates as an Emergency Medical Responder.

The *City of Westminster Fire Department* is co-located in the Oconee County Fire Station Headquarters on Emergency Lane in Westminster, where they lease two bays and office space from the County. Department staff includes the chief, fire marshal, three firefighters, and 27 volunteers *(City of Westminster Fire Department, 2019)*.

The *Keowee Fire Department* provides service in the Keowee Fire Special Tax District. The District encompasses a 30-square mile area on and near Lake Keowee and includes the Oconee Nuclear Station and approximately 5,000 residences. The District is governed by five elected commissioners. The Keowee Fire Department is headquartered on Maintenance Road, with a substation on Doug Hollow Road. Department staff includes a full-time fire chief, four fire captains, 22 firefighters, seven volunteers, and six support staff *(Keowee Fire Department, 2019)*.

The *Town of Salem Fire Department* is located on East Main Street in Salem. The Department employs one part-time driver who is available 12 hours a day, seven days a week, joined by 25 volunteers *(Oconee County Fire Division, 2019)*.

Oconee County fire stations are listed in Table 7-7. Map 7-6 provides the location of fire stations in the County.

Table 7-7. Oconee County Fire Stations, 2019

Station #	Station Name
--	Oconee County Emergency Services Headquarters
1	Oakway
2	Salem
3	Corinth-Shiloh
4	Mountain Rest
5	Walhalla
7	Seneca
8	Fair Play
9	Long Creek
10	Cleveland
11	Keowee-Ebenezer
12	Friendship
13	Crossroads
14	Pickett Post Camp Oak
15	South Union
16	West Union
17	Keowee Key
19	Camp Road
20	Cliffs
23	Foxwood Hills
24	Holly Springs
25	Whetstone
26	Village Creek
27	Cheohee Valley
30	Shiloh Road

Source: Oconee County Fire Services Division, April 2019

While the provision of adequate, state-of-the-art firefighting equipment and trained personnel is vital to the preservation of life and property, it also significantly impacts the cost of individual fire insurance premiums in a community. Insurance companies use a classification system provided by the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) to determine the level of fire protection for each home they insure. Classifications range from 1 to 10, with Class 1 representing the best public protection and Class 10 indicating no recognized protection. Factors that contribute to the classification assignment include the effectiveness of the fire department in receiving and dispatching fire alarms, the number of fire stations, the availability and amount of water needed to fight fires, training provided to local fire fighters, maintenance and testing of equipment, and the distribution of fire stations and service throughout the community. Areas served by municipal or other water services benefit from lower ISO ratings and ultimately, lower insurance ratings.

ISO ratings in Oconee County are 2 in Walhalla, Seneca, and Westminster; 3 in the Keowee Fire Special Tax District, 4 in Salem, and 4 in the unincorporated areas of the County. These ratings are for areas within five road miles of a fire station, which in Oconee County includes approximately 97% of all homes and businesses *(Oconee County Fire Division, 2019)*. ISO ratings for areas beyond five miles of a fire station are higher, with these areas in the unincorporated areas of the County rated 10.

Map 7-6. Fire Districts and Fire Station Locations
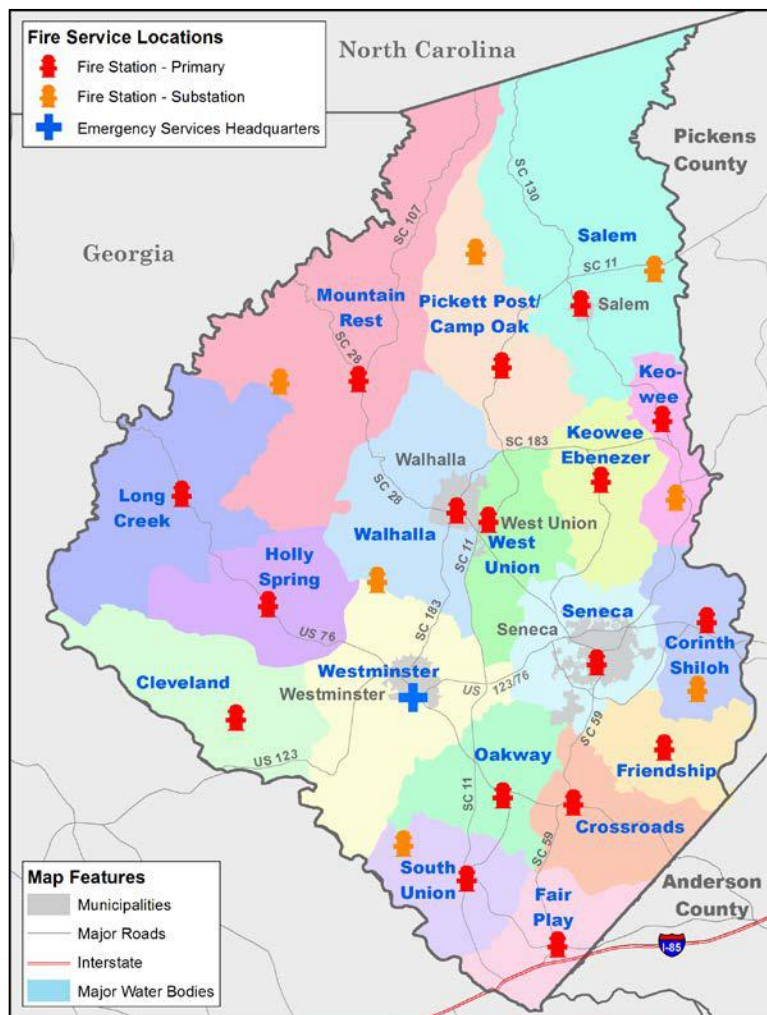
Source: Oconee County GIS Department, 2018

4. Law Enforcement

Efficient and effective law enforcement is essential to the quality of life in a community. Law enforcement in Oconee County is provided by the Oconee County Sheriff's Department and the police departments of the cities of Seneca, Walhalla, and Westminster and the towns of Salem

and West Union. The locations of the Sheriff's Department headquarters and of municipal police departments are shown on Map 7-7.

A total of 2,331 index crimes were reported in Oconee County in 2017 – a 1.6% decrease from the 2,369 index crimes reported in 2016. There are seven index offenses: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, larceny, and arson. Index offenses are categorized either as violent crimes (murder, sexual battery, robbery and aggravated assault) or property crimes (breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, larceny, and arson). Violent crimes account for 8.8% of all index crimes in the County – lower than the 2016 percentage of 9.5%. The most prevalent violent crime in the County was aggravated assault, accounting for 70% of violent crimes. Only four murders were reported in Oconee County in 2017. Nearly 70% of property crimes and 63.4% of all index crimes were categorized as larceny, which is the unlawful taking of property and includes offenses such as shoplifting, pocket-picking, purse snatching, and thefts from motor vehicles and of motor vehicle parts.

The index crime rate (rate per 10,000 residents) in Oconee County is lower than the statewide rates for similar crimes, with the exception of arson, which is slightly higher. The overall index crime rate for violent crimes in the County is nearly half that of the State rate.

Map 7-7. Public Safety Locations
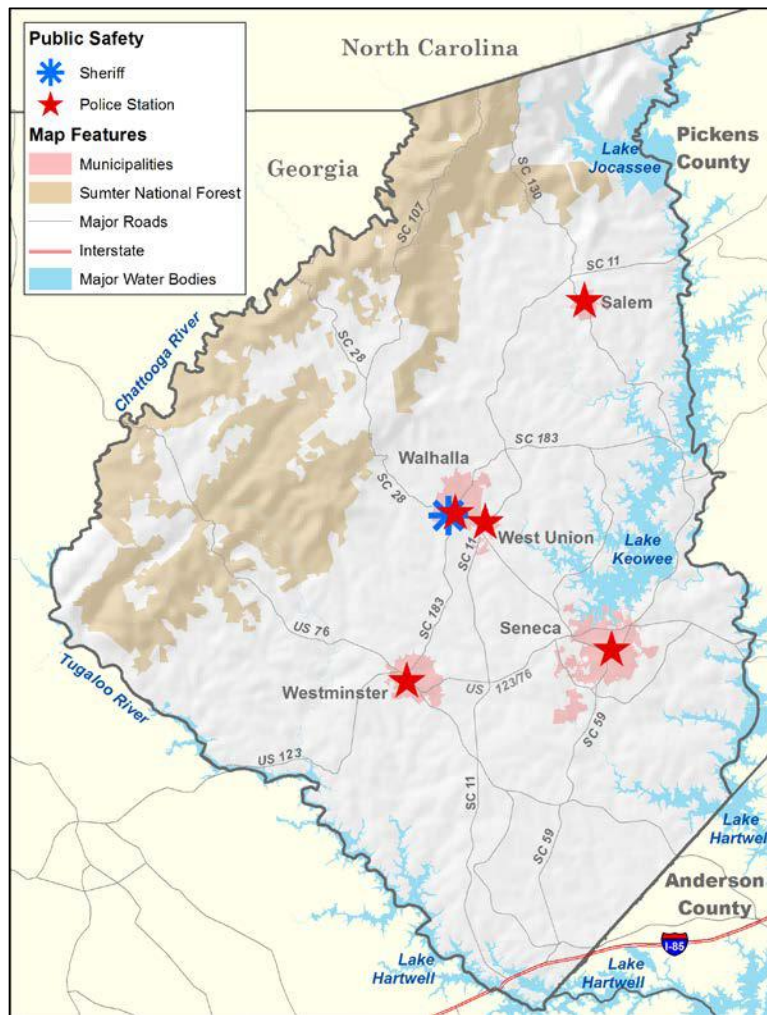
Source: Oconee County GIS Department, 2018

a. Oconee County Sheriff's Office

The Oconee County Sheriff's Office (OSCO) provides law enforcement for the unincorporated areas of the County and within the Town of Salem. The Sheriff's Office is headquartered in the Oconee County Law Enforcement Center on South Church Street in Walhalla. The OSCO also operates from four additional locations, the Seneca substation on Memorial Drive, the Oakway substation on School House Road in Westminster, the Long Creek substation on Long Creek Highway in Westminster, and the Keowee/Salem substation on Maintenance Road in Salem. The Office has 196 employees in a variety of roles, organized within five divisions – detention (47 employees), special operations (36 employees), road patrol (44 employees), criminal investigations/community services (42 employees), and communications (22 employees). Each deputy is assigned a patrol vehicle. The OSCO is assisted by 13 reserve officers and chaplains. The Sheriff oversees a wide range of activities, including law enforcement patrol, criminal investigation, traffic enforcement, animal control, a K-9 support unit, school resource officers,

civil process, court security, and management of the Detention Center. In addition, the OSCO answers calls for the City of Westminster and the towns of Salem and West Union when they do not have officers on duty. In FY 2017-2018, the Sheriff's Office served 3,375 warrants, answered 48,978 calls for service, and the Road Patrol made more than 1,000 arrests *(Oconee County Budget Document 2018-2019).*

b. Oconee County Emergency Communications/E911

The Emergency Communications/E-911 Division of the Sheriff's Office is located in the Law Enforcement Center. The Division provides emergency dispatch and radio services for the Sheriff's Office, local law enforcement agencies, emergency medical services, Oconee County Rural Fire Control, and Oconee County Emergency Services. The Communications Center provides dispatching for all emergency services in the County except for the City of Seneca, which has its own E-911 dispatching center for services within its jurisdiction. Both the County and Seneca communications centers provide mutual backup as needed. Emergency Communications is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the County where all E-911 calls are answered and dispatched and also serves as the Disaster Warning Point for Oconee County. Staffing for the Division includes 22 employees in a number of positions including director, 18 dispatchers, database administrator, and office manager. Emergency Communications received 37,000 calls in FY 2018-2019 *(Oconee County Budget Document 2018-2019).*

c. Oconee County Detention Center

The Oconee County Detention Center is located on South Church Street in Walhalla. The Detention Center is the only such facility in Oconee County and houses arrestees for all County, municipal, and state agencies having jurisdictional authority in the County. Completed in 2015, the Detention Center provides 111 cells with 192 beds. The Center operates under the Oconee County Sheriff's Department, with 47 full-time employees, including 24 correctional officers. The Detention Center booked 3,700 inmates in FY 2019, with an average daily population of 178 *(Oconee County Budget Document 2018-2019).*

d. Municipal Police Departments

Headquartered on East North Depot Street in Seneca, the ***City of Seneca Police Department*** has a total staff of 47 that includes 34 police officers, ten dispatchers, two records clerks and an administrative assistant that provide 24-hour police coverage for their jurisdiction *(City of Seneca, 2019).* The Department has four locations that include the main office; an office for narcotics and investigations; one for training, the SWAT team, warrants unit, and victim's services; and one that focuses on downtown and community police services. The Department also operates a K-9 unit and a forensic crime scene unit. Seneca's Police Department operates a total of 48 vehicles that include patrol vehicles, a mobile command unit, transport van, three

heavy duty four-wheel drive units for inclement weather and an armored vehicle for the SWAT team.

The *Town of Walhalla Police Department* is located on East Main Street in Walhalla. Department staff includes 13 patrol officers and one administrative staff in a variety of roles including administration, investigations, K-9, road patrol, and school resource officer *(City of Walhalla, 2019)*. The Department provides 24-hour police coverage with a vehicle fleet that includes 14 patrol cars.

The *Town of Westminster Police Department* is headquartered on East Windsor Street in Westminster. The Department employs seven full-time officers and one part-time code enforcement officer in roles including investigations, training, patrol, K-9, narcotics, records, and evidence *(City of Westminster, 2019)*. Officers utilize 13 vehicles including seven active patrol cars and four spare patrol cars.

The *Town of Salem Police Department* is located on Park Avenue in Salem. The Department employs three full-time officers and one part-time officer who utilize four patrol cars to provide law enforcement services within the Town *(Town of Salem, 2019)*.

Located on West Main Street in West Union, the *Town of West Union Police Department* has a staff of three that includes two full-time police officers and one part-time reserve officer *(Town of West Union, April 2019)*. The Police Chief serves as one of the full-time officers and also as the K-9 officer.

F. HEALTH CARE

Access to quality health care is an essential component of community well-being. Building a healthy community ensures an acceptable quality of life for all residents and the prevention of many costly problems that inhibit the realization of full individual and community potential. The health care system encompasses a broad continuum of care that begins with preventative care and progresses through end-of-life care. Public health is negatively impacted when service gaps are present in this continuum. The number of practicing health professionals serving Oconee County is detailed in Table 7-8.

The locations of Oconee Memorial Hospital – Prisma Health Upstate, EMS, rescue stations, and the Rosa Clark Free Health Clinic are shown in Map 7-8. These and additional health care services are profiled in the following sections.

Table 7-8. Practicing Health Professionals in Oconee County, 2016

Health Profession	Primary Practice	Secondary Practice
Physicians	**124**	**12**
Family Practice	30	3
Internal Medicine	11	3
Obstetrics/Gynecology	7	0
Pediatrics	8	1
General Surgery	4	1
All Other (Specialists)	64	4
Nurses	**597**	**32**
Registered Nurses	440	20
Certified Nurse Midwifes	1	0
Nurse Practitioners	33	2
Nurse Anesthetists	10	5
Licensed Practical Nurses	113	5
Other Health Professions	**185**	**16**
Dentists	31	9
Pharmacists	52	1
Physical Therapists	44	0
Occupational Therapists	18	1
Physician Assistants	16	1
Optometrists	6	1
Respiratory Care Practitioners	18	3

Source: South Carolina Health Professions Data Book,
S.C. Office for Healthcare Workforce, 2016

1. Oconee County Emergency Medical Services and Rescue Squad

Oconee Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responds to E-911 and other emergency medical calls within Oconee County. Oconee EMS is operated by Oconee Memorial Hospital - Prisma Health and is headquartered at the Emergency Medical Services building on the Oconee Medical Campus on Memorial Drive in Seneca. EMS services are available 24 hours a day to respond to 911 medical or trauma-related emergencies, transports to other facilities, and medically necessary transports such as for dialysis or physician appointments. The Department utilizes five advanced life support ambulances and employs more than 45 medics who are certified to provide both basic and advanced levels of care under the medical direction of the Oconee Memorial Hospital's emergency department physicians *(Oconee EMS, 2019)*.

Emergency Medical First Response is provided throughout Oconee County by seven non-transport rescue squads and multiple fire departments. The rescue squads are staffed by a pool of 170 volunteers, who provide a SCDHEC licensed emergency medical responder base level of service, with multiple units working at the emergency medical technician level. The mission of the first response program is to supplement and support the response of the advanced life support ambulances provided by Oconee EMS - Prisma Healthcare. Oconee County Emergency

Medical First Response responded to more than 3,200 calls for medical service in FY 2017-2018. Oconee County EMS and Rescue Squad locations are listed in Table 7-9 and shown in Map 7-8.
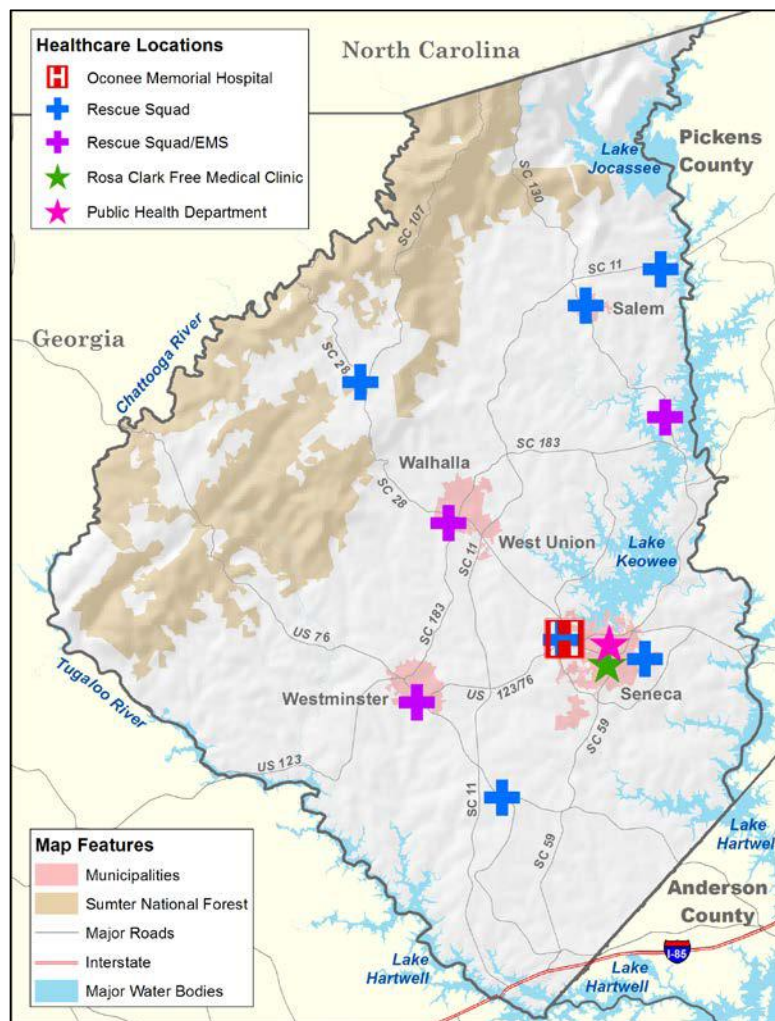
Table 7-9. Oconee County EMS and Rescue Squads, 2019

Stations	Location
Oconee EMS	
Oconee EMS Headquarters	*Memorial Dr., Seneca*
Keowee (co-located with Fire Department)	Maintenance Rd., Salem
Westminster (co-located with Rescue Squad)	Emergency Ln., Westminster
Walhalla (co-located with Rescue Squad)	S .Church St., Walhalla
Oconee County Rescue Squads	
Oconee Rescue Squad Headquarters	*Emergency Ln., Westminster*
Salem (Cliffs) Rescue Squad (Substation)	Cliffs South Parkway, Salem
Mountain Rest Rescue Squad	Verner Mill Rd., Westminster
Oakway Rescue Squad	W. Oak Hwy., Westminster
Salem Rescue Squad	W. Main St., Salem
Seneca Rescue Squad	Goddard Ave., Seneca
Keowee Rescue Squad	Maintenance Rd., Salem
Westminster Rescue Squad	Emergency Ln., Westminster
Walhalla Rescue	S .Church St., Walhalla

Source: Oconee County Emergency Services, 2019

Map 7-8. Public Healthcare Locations

Healthcare Locations
- H Oconee Memorial Hospital
- ✚ Rescue Squad
- ✚ Rescue Squad/EMS
- ★ Rosa Clark Free Medical Clinic
- ★ Public Health Department

Map Features
- Municipalities
- Sumter National Forest
- Major Roads
- Interstate
- Major Water Bodies

Source: Oconee County GIS Department, 2018

2. Oconee Memorial Hospital – Prisma Health Upstate

Oconee Memorial Hospital – Prisma Health Upstate has cared for Oconee County residents since 1939. The Oconee Medical Campus includes a 169-bed hospital that provides a range of inpatient and outpatient services, a long-term nursing care facility, and a residential hospice house. The Hospital includes a 24-hour emergency services department with 20 beds, a breast care center, critical care unit, a multidisciplinary cancer institute, laboratory, pharmacy, radiology, surgical services, and a women's center.

Prisma Health Upstate recently began construction of a 14,500 square foot facility on its Oconee campus in Seneca that will house a doctor residency program designed to address the need for primary care physicians in Oconee County and other rural Upstate areas. The facility, which is scheduled to open in 2020, is intended to house six faculty and 18 residents by 2022. The three-year program seeks to alleviate the shortage of doctors by providing training for

primary care in a rural-based practice. Evidence cited by Prisma Health Upstate indicates that physicians tend to stay and practice in the community where they receive residency training

3. Services for the Elderly

The nation's aging population affects every segment of the social, political, and economic landscape, as significant changes in living patterns and conditions often accompany the aging process. The health and mobility of senior residents is of growing interest due to implications for public policy, healthcare, and long-term care costs. The increasing number of frail elderly is accompanied by a growing demand for home care and for institutional and community-based acute care and long-term care. The segment of the population suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's disease will continue to rise in the coming decades, while the costs of care will rise well above current levels. The financial and time demands on informal family and friend caregivers will also continue to rise. These changing responsibilities will shape housing, employment, and support service needs at the local level, where Oconee County residents aged 65 or older now comprise 21.5% of the population. This is higher than the 15.8% of individuals in this age group statewide *(American Community Survey 2013-2017)*.

a. Senior Services

Most aging services are federally funded through the *1965 Older Americans Act*. To that end, the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging has divided the State into ten planning and service districts. The Appalachian Regional Council of Governments (ACOG) is the designated ***Area Agency on Aging*** (AAA) and ***Aging and Disabilities Resource Center*** (ADRC) for Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg counties. The role of the AAA is to plan, coordinate, administer, and assess a comprehensive and coordinated system of quality support services for older citizens. ACOG provides information, referrals, and assistance to older adults and caregivers, and operates a number of related programs. As an ADRC, they subcontract with local service providers for the delivery of services at the local level. Among the services given funding priority are transportation, adult day care, in-home and group respite care, congregate dining, home-delivered meals, insurance counseling, wellness and prevention, information and assistance, outreach, physical fitness, health promotion, and nutrition education and screening.

Senior Solutions is the leading provider of services to senior citizens in Oconee County. Originally known as the Anderson-Oconee Council on Aging, Senior Solutions is a non-profit agency that has served the needs of County seniors since 1977. The *Oconee Senior Center* on Perry Avenue in Seneca is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offers games, a computer lab, library, a fitness center, and an outdoor walking track. Participants have access to exercise, dance, and educational classes and opportunities for day and overnight trips. Transportation is available to and from the facility. Lunch is provided daily to participants. Senior Solutions also provides home-delivered meals in Oconee County for persons 60 years of age and older who are ill and incapacitated, unable to leave home unassisted except for

essential appointments, unable to purchase or prepare food, or do not have someone in the home who is able to prepare meals on a daily basis.

b. Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

As detailed in the Housing Element, there are two nursing homes in Oconee County. The Lila Doyle facility at Oconee Medical Center in Seneca provides 120 beds and the Seneca Health and Rehabilitation Center provides 252 beds. The County has six assisted living facilities providing a total of 380 beds, with six of the facilities in Seneca and one in West Union (Table 3-22).

4. Public Health

The *Oconee County Public Health Department* is located on North Townville Street in the City of Seneca and is a full service location for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The Department provides a range of health-related services including immunizations, family planning, pregnancy testing, nurse-family partnerships for first-time moms, postpartum/newborn home visits, services for children and teens with special health care needs, immunizations, tuberculosis testing and treatment, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, and teen education and counseling. The Department also administers the *Women, Infants and Children* (WIC) program that provides food products, health screenings, and health information for women, infants, and children five years of age or younger in qualified families.

5. Rosa Clark Free Medical Clinic

The *Rosa Clark Free Medical Clinic* on Memorial Drive in Seneca has provided quality, affordable healthcare services since 1982 for area residents who are unable to pay physician costs for such services and for those who receive Medicaid or Medicare. The Clinic provides primary and preventative care, mental health services, substance abuse screening and prevention, patient education, pharmaceutical services, supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), and health screenings. The Clinic also provides referral services for specialty care as needed. A second location on South Oak Street serves as a dental clinic. The Clinic hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

G. PARKS AND RECREATION

The provision of quality recreational activities and facilities benefits community residents of all ages. Parks and recreation facilities are valuable tools in showcasing the natural beauty of a community, in preserving open space, in attracting visitors, and in providing healthy and safe recreational options for residents.

Oconee County residents and visitors are fortunate to have access to numerous and diverse opportunities for recreation that include state parks, abundant water resources, nature and hiking trails, and a number of parks and recreation facilities. As detailed in the Natural

Resources Element, recreational opportunities in the County are particularly plentiful for outdoor enthusiasts. In addition to the scenic Chattooga and Tugaloo rivers, lakes Hartwell, Keowee, and Jocassee provide miles of shoreline, a number of public and commercial boat landings, and nearly unlimited opportunities for fishing and water sports. Recreation resources in Oconee County are detailed in the following sections and in Table 7-10, with locations of major recreation facilities provided in Map 7-9.

1. State Parks

There are three South Carolina State Parks and one State Historic Site in Oconee County. As profiled in the Natural Resources Element and shown in Map 7-9,

2. Public Parks and Recreation Facilities

Oconee County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department (PRT) is headquartered in the County Administration Offices on Pine Street in Walhalla. The County's recreation efforts are guided by the Oconee County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission that is comprised of seven members appointed by County Council. The Department has 17 full-time staff members that include the director, an operations specialist, park superintendents, park rangers, a curator, the Visit Oconee SC director, and the Visit Oconee SC sales manager.

Table 7-10 lists the parks and associated resources within the County, including size and facilities provided at each site.

As detailed in the Natural Resources Element and provided in the following table and map, Oconee County provides three large public parks that offer a wide range of activities for residents and visitors. The parks are popular with residents and visitors, with an attendance of more than 209,000 visitors in FY 2017-2018, including 13,653 overnight campers *(Oconee County Budget Document, 2018-2019)*. The County also owns and maintains eight public boat ramps on Lake Hartwell.

Table 7-10. County and City Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities

| Facility Name	Acres	Facilities
Oconee County	**368.0**	**Total Acres**
Chau Ram Park *1220 Chau Ram Park Road, Westminster*	198.0	Confluence of Ramsey Creek and Chauga River, 40-ft. waterfall, 3 miles of hiking trails, 160-ft. suspension bridge, 26 tent and RV campsites with water and electricity, shower facilities, playground, 4 shelters, 18-hole disc golf course under construction.
High Falls Park *671 High Falls Road, Seneca*	46.0	On Lake Keowee, 2 boat ramps, 91 campsites (10 waterfront) with water and electricity, fishing pier, 3 shelters, swimming area, miniature golf, horseshoes, playground, softball, volleyball, basketball courts.
South Cove Park *1031 S. Cove Road, Seneca*	48.0	On Lake Keowee, 3 boat ramps, 86 campsites (46 waterfront) with water and electricity, 2 bath houses, a shelter and a recreational building, 4 pickleball courts, 3 tennis courts, basketball court, horseshoes, playground.

Oconee County Boat Ramps:
  Fairplay Recreation Area
  Lawrence Bridge Recreation Area
  Mullins Ford Recreation Area
  Choestoea Boat Access
  Mountain Bay Park
  Port Bass Boat Access
  Seneca Creek Boat Access
  South Union Boat Access
	76.0	On Lake Hartwell, all facilities provide boat ramps and Mountain Bay also provides a courtesy dock. Recreation Areas also provide restrooms, courtesy docks, and picnic areas. Fairplay Recreation Area also offers a picnic shelter, playground, and swimming beach.

City of Seneca	**79.8**	**Total Acres**
Blue Ridge Field *314 Holland Avenue, Seneca*	4.56	0.3 mile walking track, playing field, picnic shelters.
Gignilliat Community Center *621 N. Townville Street, Seneca*	0.08	Indoor basketball court
Gignilliat Football Field *Stadium Drive, Seneca*	5.85	Football field
Gignilliat Picnic Area *Pine Street, Seneca*	4.0	Shelter, nature trail
Kapp Field *415 Quincy Road, Seneca*	1.6	Playing field
Library Park *307 S. 2nd Street, Seneca*	1.56	benches
Monarch Park *Hunter Oaks Drive, Seneca*	1.0	Playing field, playground, 0.15 mile walking trail.
Norton Thompson Park *300 Main Street, Seneca*	3.25	Playing field, playground.
Shaver Complex *698 W. South 4th Street, Seneca*	57.9	Baseball fields, basketball courts, playgrounds, 1.1 mile walking track, disc golf, mud run trail.

Table 7-10. County and City Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Facility Name	Acres	Facilities
City of Walhalla	**63.56**	**Total Acres**
Chicopee Field *205 Branch Street, Walhalla*	7.13	Baseball and softball field (under renovation)
Church Street Field *North Church Street, Walhalla*	9.78	Athletic field
Memorial Field *207 North College Street, Walhalla*	3.27	Soccer and football field
Sertoma Field *272 Tulip Drive, Walhalla*	31.64	5 athletic fields, picnic shelter, 2 playgrounds, 1 mile walking track, 17.11 acre disc golf course
Stumphouse Tunnel/Issaqueena Falls Park	7.13	Pre-Civil War 1,617 foot tunnel, 200-foot waterfall, 0.4 mile hiking trail, lookout platform, picnic shelter, picnic areas
Walhalla City Gym *207 North College Street, Walhalla*	0.61	Indoor basketball
Walhalla City Park *105 N. Maple Street, Walhalla*	3.0	Basketball court, 2 tennis courts, soccer field
Walhalla City Pool *102 N. Maple Drive, Walhalla*	1.0	Pool and splash pad
City of Westminster	**44.23**	**Total Acres**
M.D. Cleveland Civic Center *98 Anderson Avenue, Westminster*	5.0	Indoor basketball courts
Pool Field *211 Lucky Street, Westminster*	6.0	Baseball and softball field, bathrooms, concession
W.P. Anderson Park *109 E. North Avenue, Westminster*	2.5	Playground, restrooms, 2 picnic shelters
Veterans Memorial Park *W. Windsor Street and Westminster Highway, Westminster*	>1.0	Gazebo, memorial markers
Hall Street Complex *351 Hall Road, Westminster*	25.39	Walking trail, playground, restrooms, outdoor basketball courts, 2 tennis courts, 2 baseball, soccer, and softball fields
Owen Stadium *504 Westminster Highway, Westminster*	4.34	Football and baseball fields, restrooms, concession, field house
Town of West Union	**3.9**	**Total Acres**
West Union Town Park *220 N. Highway 11, West Union*	3.9	Playground, picnic tables
Other Public Facilities	**14.0**	**Total Acres**
Foothills YMCA *U.S. Hwy. 123/Sheepfarm Road, Seneca*	14.0	UNDER DEVELOPMENT - Indoor pool, weight room, group fitness rooms, multi-purpose sports fields
Total all Facilities	**571.5**	

Sources: Oconee County Parks and Recreation Dept., City of Seneca Recreation Dept.,
City of Walhalla Recreation Dept., City of Westminster Recreation Dept. January 2019

Map 7-9. Major Recreation Resources in Oconee County
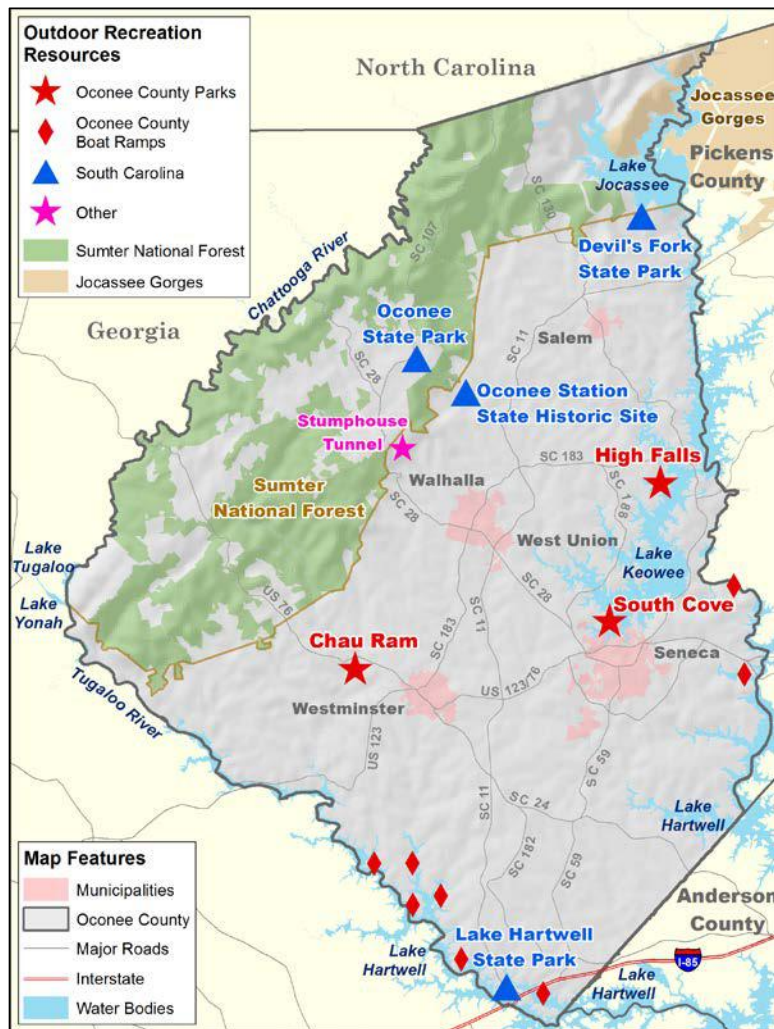
4. Trails

Trails are important recreational resources that can provide opportunities for exercise and experiencing nature. As presented in the Natural Resources Element, Oconee County currently has nearly 193 miles of trails (Table 6-6).

H. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The goals, objectives and strategies for implementation (GOIS) table summarizes the actions that will be undertaken in the coming decade to achieve to achieve the goals and objectives identified in the Community Facilities Element.

Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Evaluation
Goal 7.1. Provide adequate, safe, and efficient infrastructure to support current and projected needs.		
Objective 7.1.1. Work to guarantee adequate water distribution systems for present and future development in Oconee County.		
Strategy 7.1.1.1. Work to facilitate the establishment of a partnership with water providers aimed at expanding service into underserved unincorporated areas of the County and to encourage service providers to share resources where possible.	• Oconee County • Municipalities • Other Water Providers	Annually
Strategy 7.1.1.2. Partner with municipalities and other providers to inventory the current condition of their water infrastructure systems to determine ability to accommodate future growth.	• Oconee County • Municipalities • Other Water Providers	Annually
Strategy 7.1.1.3. Partner with adjacent jurisdictions on comprehensive water studies detailing availability from all sources and usages/outflows.	• Oconee County • Adjacent Jurisdictions	2023
Objective 7.1.2. Improve and expand wastewater treatment within Oconee County.		
Strategy 7.1.2.1. Expand sewer service throughout areas identified by the Land Use Element as potential areas of development, while implementing appropriate measures to avoid negative impacts on sensitive areas.	• Oconee County • Oconee County Joint Regional Sewer Authority (OJRSA) • Other Sewer Providers	2021
Strategy 7.1.2.2. Work with neighboring jurisdictions when possible to establish regional efforts to expand sewer service into prime commercial and industrial locations.	• Oconee County • Neighboring Jurisdictions	Annually
Strategy 7.1.2.3. Partner with municipalities and the Joint Regional Sewer Authority to coordinate efforts to provide sewer throughout high growth corridors.	• Oconee County • Municipalities • OJRSA • Other Sewer Providers	Annually
Strategy 7.1.2.4. Establish partnerships with regional, state, and federal agencies to seek and secure funding for wastewater treatment facility upgrade and expansion needs.	• Oconee County • OJRSA • Other Sewer Providers • Relevant Regional, State and Federal Agencies	Annually

Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Evaluation
Strategy 7.1.2.5. Encourage septic tank and leach field education.	• Oconee County • Duke Energy • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • SCDNR • SCDHEC • Other Potential Partners	2025
Objective 7.1.3. Implement the goals, objectives, and implementation strategies of the Community Facilities Element.		
Strategy 7.1.3.1. Determine staff, facility and resource needs and partnerships to implement the Comprehensive Plan.	• Oconee County	2020
Strategy 7.1.3.2. Regularly update and utilize the County Capital Improvements Plan to systematically construct and upgrade facilities identified in the Community Facilities Plan.	• Oconee County	Annually
Strategy 7.1.3.3. Seek alternative funding sources to taxpayer financing of projects such as private partnerships and user-based fees.	• Oconee County	Annually
Goal 7.2. Manage community facilities, infrastructure, and public resources in a manner that ensures both current residents and businesses and future generations can enjoy the benefits and opportunities that make Oconee County an attractive and affordable place to live.		
Objective 7.2.1. Seek local, state, federal, and community funding support in efforts to expand and enhance educational opportunities for Oconee County residents.		
Strategy 7.2.1.1. Continue to support and enhance advanced job training and work readiness of residents through state-of-the-art training centers.	• Oconee County • School District of Oconee County (SDOC) • Tri-County Technical College (TCTC)	Annually
Strategy 7.2.1.2. Provide appropriate assistance to the School District of Oconee County in efforts to enhance and upgrade education and educational facilities.	• Oconee County • SDOC	2030
Strategy 7.2.1.3. Prioritize expansion and upgrades of libraries through the capital improvements plan and coordinate their location with available infrastructure.	• Oconee County	2025
Strategy 7.2.1.4. Continue cooperative efforts with the School District that optimize resources and result in savings for both.	• Oconee County • SDOC	Annually
Objective 7.2.2. Upgrade solid waste facilities to improve services and allow for needed upgrades and expansion to provide for anticipated growth.		
Strategy 7.2.2.1. Work to reduce the volume of solid waste through increased recycling and composting.	• Oconee County • Municipalities	2023

Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Evaluation
Strategy 7.2.2.2. Seek out innovative and alternative technologies that provide a long-term solution to current and projected solid waste needs and may also be used in the future to mitigate and reclaim closed facilities.	• Oconee County	2025
Objective 7.2.3. Regularly review public safety needs and enhance facilities as required and needed.		
Strategy 7.2.3.1. Review and upgrade existing emergency facilities plans on a regular basis, implementing established goals in a systematic manner.	• Oconee County • Emergency Services Commission	Annually
Strategy 7.2.3.2. Provide local public safety agencies appropriate assistance in obtaining funding to expand and upgrade operations.	• Oconee County • Emergency Services Commission	Annually
Strategy 7.2.3.3. Partner with private entities in the development of emergency satellite facilities and specialized response equipment.	• Oconee County • Emergency Services Commission	Annually
Strategy 7.2.3.4. Continue to conduct regular updates to the County Disaster Preparedness Plan.	• Oconee County • Other Relevant Local Agencies	Annually
Strategy 7.2.3.5. Work closely with local energy and utility providers and emergency management agencies to ensure coordination in the event of major natural or man-made events.	• Oconee County • Emergency Services Commission • Energy Providers • Utilities	Annually
Strategy 7.2.3.6. Work with communications providers to ensure optimum communications access and speed for emergency services, local governments, businesses, residents, and visitors.	• Oconee County • Municipalities • Communications Providers	Annually
Strategy 7.2.3.7. Communicate frequently with citizens of County about emergency plans.	• Oconee County	On-Going
Objective 7.2.4. Ensure access to quality and timely health care for all residents and visitors.		
Strategy 7.2.4.1. Review and upgrade County-owned medical and other healthcare facilities as needed.	• Oconee County	On-Going
Strategy 7.2.4.2. Continue to explore ways to increase the efficiency of emergency medical services throughout the County.	• Oconee County • Emergency Services Commission • Oconee EMS	On-Going
Objective 7.2.5. Strengthen coordination among the County, municipalities, neighboring counties, regional and State agencies, and other public and private organizations.		
Strategy 7.2.5.1. Continue coordination with municipalities, neighboring jurisdictions and the State on matters relating to public safety, homeland security, emergency preparedness, and other matters of regional or statewide importance.	• Oconee County • Municipalities • Neighboring Jurisdictions • State Agencies	On-Going

Goals/Objectives/Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame for Evaluation
<u>Strategy 7.2.5.2</u>. Continue coordination of the provision of water, sewer, and electricity with municipalities and other public and private providers.	• Oconee County • Municipal Utility Providers • Public & Private Utilities	On-Going
<u>Strategy 7.2.5.3</u>. Continue coordination with public and private organizations for the provision of services, programs, and facilities such as those for the elderly, for recreation, and for transportation.	• Oconee County • Municipalities • Other Public and Private Organizations • ACOG	On-Going
Objective 7.2.6. Ensure access to quality, lifelong educational opportunities for all residents.		
<u>Strategy 7.2.6.1</u>. Reduce the high school dropout rate.	• SDOC • SC Dept. of Education • SC Dept. of Social Services	Annually
Goal 7.3. Preserve, maintain, expand, and promote opportunities for recreation.		
Objective 7.3.1. Provide passive and active recreational opportunities to meet the diverse needs of County residents and visitors.		
<u>Strategy 7.3.1.1</u>. Partner with public and private entities to develop a countywide greenway system that will offer opportunities for nature-based recreation in areas where few currently exist and to connect existing parks to enable safe cycling routes.	• Oconee County • Municipalities • Other Recreation Providers	2025
<u>Strategy 7.3.1.2</u>. Upgrade and maintain County parks and recreation facilities to encourage and promote ecotourism opportunities.	• Oconee County	2025
<u>Strategy 7.3.1.3</u>. Evaluate, amend, and implement recreation plans, as necessary.	• Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission • Recreation Task Force	2030
<u>Strategy 7.3.1.4</u>. Seek partnerships to explore ways to increase recreational opportunities for children and families throughout the County, such as access to sports venues and programs.	• Oconee County • Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission • Municipalities • Other Parks and Recreation Providers	2030
<u>Strategy 7.3.1.5</u>. Continue cooperative efforts and seek additional opportunities with the YMCA to provide recreational programs for County residents of all ages.	• Oconee County • SDOC • YMCA	2025