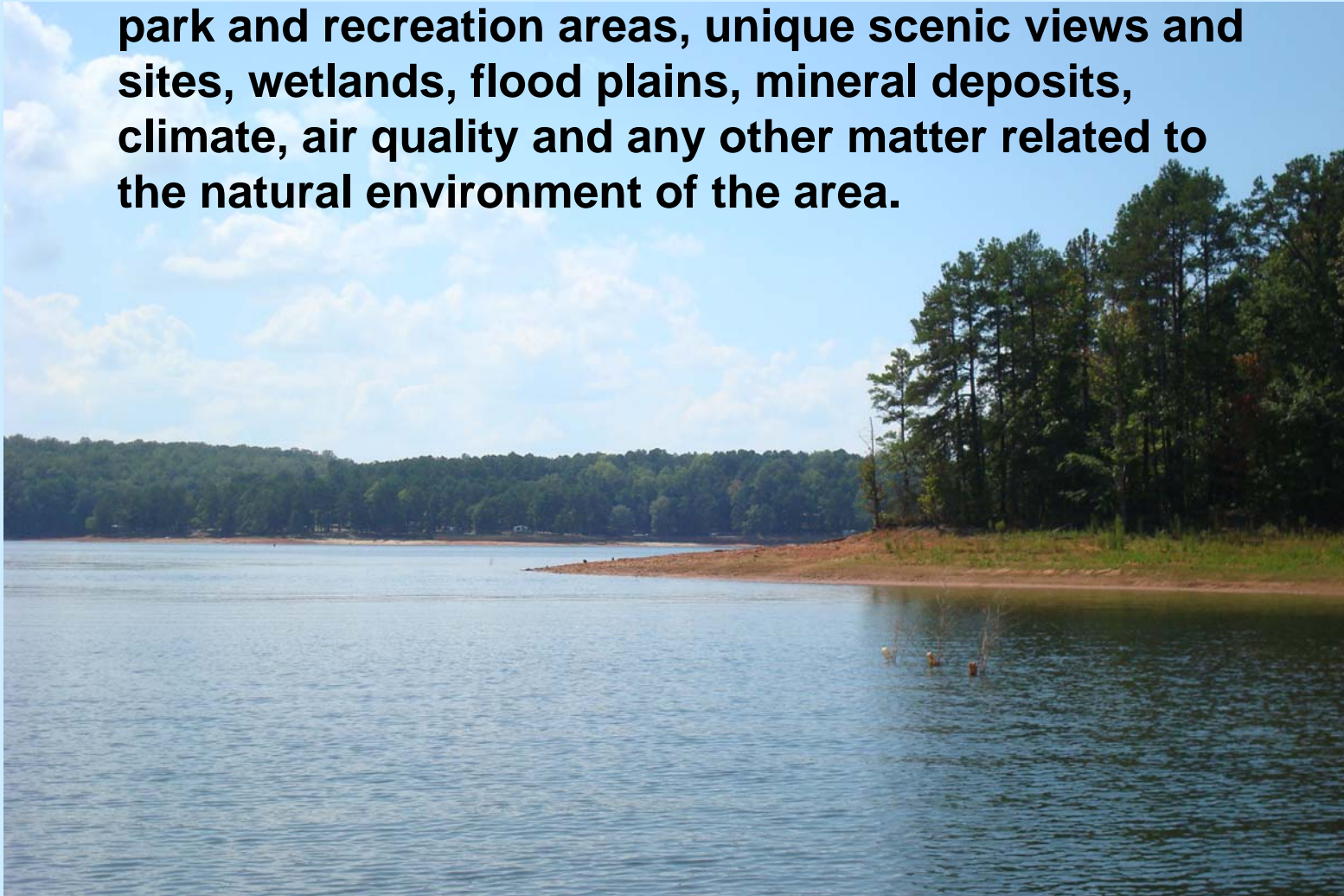


Natural Resources Element



This Element Considers:

Soils and slope characteristics, prime agricultural and forest lands, plant and animal habitats, unique park and recreation areas, unique scenic views and sites, wetlands, flood plains, mineral deposits, climate, air quality and any other matter related to the natural environment of the area.



Goals

1. Preserve, protect, and enhance the quality and quantity of Oconee County's groundwater and surface water.

Implementation Strategies:

Adopt Infrastructure Master Plan

Implement Steps to Expand Wastewater Treatment System as Put Forth in Infrastructure Master Plan

Develop and Adopt Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations

Develop and Adopt Vegetative Buffer Requirement to Protect Sensitive Natural Features

Support Regional Efforts to Protect Watersheds

Goals

2. Preserve, protect and enhance Oconee County's environmentally sensitive lands, unique scenic views, agrarian landscapes, and topographic features

Implementation Strategies:

Review and Amend Land Development Regulations to Encourage Development in Less Sensitive Areas

Establish Greenspace Requirements for Regulated Subdivisions

Promote Stabilization of Agricultural Land Acreage

Monitor Support for Establishing a Countywide Greenway System

Goals

3. Manage natural assets in a manner that ensures the resources continue to enhance Oconee County's lifestyle and provide increased economic opportunities.

Implementation Strategies:

Evaluate, Amend and Implement Recreation Plans as Necessary

Support Economic Development Commission Efforts to Increase Nature-based
Tourism

Goals

4. Continue to ensure reasonable access to and use of Oconee County's natural amenities for both residents and visitors.

Implementation Strategies:

Evaluate, Amend and Implement Recreation Plans as Necessary

Upgrade County Maintained Parks and Recreational Facilities as Necessary

Goals

5. Work to expand the utilization of accepted best management practices in all agricultural and forestry activity in Oconee County.

Implementation Strategies:

Support Efforts to Educate Public in Use of Best Management Practices

Develop and Implement Appropriate Local Regulations as Necessary

Develop and Implement Regulations Limiting Damage to County Owned and Maintained Lands

Goals

6. Complete and properly maintain Oconee County's Geographic Information System (GIS).

Implementation Strategies:

Complete Digitization of Parcel Data

Expand Public Access to GIS

Goals

7. Evaluate and address the threat of radon across Oconee County as necessary.

Implementation Strategies:

Monitor Results of Current and Future Radon Research

Amend Building Codes to Require Protective Measures Against Radon in New Construction

Goals

8. Evaluate the need for the county to begin a program to control storm water runoff and sediment.

Implementation Strategies:

Conduct Study to Determine Scope of Impact from Storm Water Runoff

Adopt Regulations Based on Results of Above-Referenced Study

Goals

9. Explore and evaluate the need for a program of development fees. This would involve the paying of upfront fees by developers to offset the impact of the new development on schools and infrastructure.

Implementation Strategies:

Conduct Study to Determine Cost of Development on Taxpayers

Adopt Regulations Based on Results of Above-Referenced Study

Goals

10. Continue as an active partner in the South Carolina Early Action Ozone Reduction Compact, adopting and maintaining ozone-causing emission reduction strategies as necessary.

Implementation Strategies:

Continue to Meet Requirements Agreed to in the Early Action Ground-level Ozone Reduction Compact

Amend the Oconee County Ground-level Ozone Reduction Plan as Necessary to Maintain Compliance with the Clean Air Act

Additional Issues to Consider

Water Quantity

Incentives for Conservation

Litter