Robert Barr, Chairman
Carroll County Board of Commissioners
Carroll County has a population of 101,577 as of the 2004 Census estimate.
• Natural and Historic Resources Element Goals:
  – Preserve 20 percent of the county’s land in Greenspace
  – Utilize effective storm water management and subdivision design
  – Implement a Purchase of Development Rights Program to preserve rural/environmentally sensitive areas
  – Allow Conservation Subdivisions in Rural Areas to cluster development
• An assessment was completed on all the significant streams located within Carroll County.

• 70 monitoring stations were set up along the streams to measure 21 physical, chemical, and microbiological parameters.

• A water quality benchmark for each stream was developed from the results.
• The Trust for Public Land selected Carroll County’s Upper Little Tallapoosa Basin as one of 4 pilot demonstration projects for source water protection.
• The University of Massachusetts identified critical areas within the basin (steep slopes, soils, etc.) that would benefit from protective measures.
• TPL met with a Local Stakeholder Committee to identify important land use issues present in the basin.
• A team of experts visited the watershed and advised the county on these land use issues, which included wastewater, agricultural BMPs, and greenspace protection.
• A charter participant in the Georgia Greenspace Program, the Board of Commissioners set a goal to preserve 20% of the county’s total area in greenspace.
• During 2001-2002, the county received nearly $400,000 from the program to purchase greenspace.
• Greenspace funds were used along with SPLOST to purchase 270+/- acres on the Little Tallapoosa River in an area identified by TPL as critical to protecting the watershed.
Carroll County voters approved a SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) that appropriated $19 million to water quality protection, greenspace preservation, and recreation, 36% of the total SPLOST.

- Greenspace acquisition and development, $10,000,000;
- Assist cities as matching funds for greenspace acquisition and retaining agricultural character, $3,000,000;
- Acquisition for new recreation and expansion of existing facilities, $6,000,000;
The total amount of passive recreation greenspace includes an existing 463 acre park at McIntosh Reserve, 292 acres on the Little Tallapoosa River, 354 acres featuring the highest peak in the county at Blackjack Mountain, and 150 acres at Oak Mountain. In all 1,259 acres have been preserved.

With acquisition of three large tracts of land in the past four years, the county recognized the need to complete a comprehensive master plan for all of its passive recreation sites.

A conceptual master plan is currently being drafted by Jordan, Jones, and Goulding, based on considerable public input.
• The county worked with the Chattahoochee Hill Country Alliance, Path Foundation, and neighboring counties to draft a 4-county Greenway Trail Master Plan along the Chattahoochee River.

• A resolution supporting this master plan was adopted by the Board in November 2003.
• The county has pursued funding under the 1997/2002 Federal Farm Bill to acquire agricultural easements, using SPLOST for matching funds.

• Three applications that protected 721 acres of farmland were funded in 2004. The county received $1.4 million in federal funds, the entire allotment for Georgia.

• For 2005, three additional applications protecting 1,005 acres of farmland were funded with approximately $1.3 million from the federal program.

• In all, 1,726 acres of farmland have been protected.