

Section 1 Background Information

1.1 Plan Purpose

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires all local governments to have a hazard mitigation plan in place in order to receive mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The DMA 2000 (Public Law 106-390) indicates that as of November 1, 2004 any local government that does not have a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan in place is not eligible to receive federal pre- or post- hazard mitigation funding.

FEMA defines hazard mitigation as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event. Mitigation planning is defined as a process for systematically identifying policies, activities and tools that can be used to implement those actions. This process has four steps: organizing resources, assessing risks, developing a mitigation plan, and implementing the plan and monitoring progress.

The Autauga County Hazard Mitigation Plan will examine the County's resources, identify hazards, determine risks and losses develop mitigation goals and strategies, and create an implementation and monitoring process for these strategies. The plan will develop plans and actions for preventive measures and effective response to preserve life and property in areas vulnerable to the effects of natural hazards.

This is a Plan up-date and a comprehensive review of the previous Hazard Mitigation Plan by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC). It was determined by the Committee, that a complete restructuring of the previous plan was necessary to address all aspects of these important issues, and to make the plan more user friendly, easier to read, and to follow the format of the State of Alabama Hazard Mitigation Plan. At the result, the plan format has been completely restructured and formation modified.

This is a multi-jurisdictional plan and covers the county and all municipalities within the county:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Autauga County | Town of Autaugavile |
| Town of Billingsley | City of Prattville (to include the Elmore County portion) |

There is a partition of the City of Millbrook within Autauga County; this municipality will be addressed under the Elmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Plan Section Review and Analysis

During the 2009 plan update, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) updated, modified or created new sections of the previously approved plan to include new information and improve organization and formatting of the plan’s contents. The HMPC analyzed each section using FEMA’s local plan update guidance (July 2008) to ensure that the plan met requirements. The committee determined that every section of the plan would need revision due to the integration of the 2004 FMA plan, the removal hazards, the inclusion of new hazards, and the need to align the plan with the latest FEMA planning guidance and requirements. Thus the 2009 plan has been significantly revised from the 2004 version. A concerted effort was made to make the plan more concise and tighten the original verbiage of the 2004 plan. More detailed documentation on the update methodology and process is provided at the beginning of each plan section. Notes of how various sections of the plan were improved or altered during the update are noted where appropriate in the narrative.

Table 1.1 Summary of Plan Updates (Section 1)

| Section | | Modifications |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1.2 | Community Background | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New maps, chart and tables • Updated information on schools and employers |
| 1.3 | Hazard Vulnerability Analysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New |

1.2 Community Background

Autauga County is located in the south-central region of the State of Alabama. Autauga County is situated in the Ridge and Valley portion of the Appalachian Mountains and the coastal plains. It is bordered by Chilton County to the north, Dallas County to the west, Elmore County to the east, Montgomery County to the southeast and Lowndes County to the south. Its southern border is the Alabama River. Because of this abundance of waterways Autauga County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program to make flood insurance available for its citizens that reside in flood-prone areas.



Autauga County was established on November 21, 1818 by an act of Alabama Territorial Legislature (one year before Alabama was admitted as a State). As established, the county included present-day Autauga County, as well as Elmore County and Chilton County. At the time, Autauga (aka, Tawasa) Indians lived here, primarily in a village named *Atagi* (meaning "pure water") situated on the banks of a creek by the same name (called "Pearl Water Creek" by settlers). Autaugas were members of the Alibamu tribe. They sent many warriors to resist Andrew Jackson's invasion in the Creek War. This county was part of the territory ceded by the Creeks in the Treaty of Fort Jackson in 1814. The first county seat was at Jackson's Mill, but the

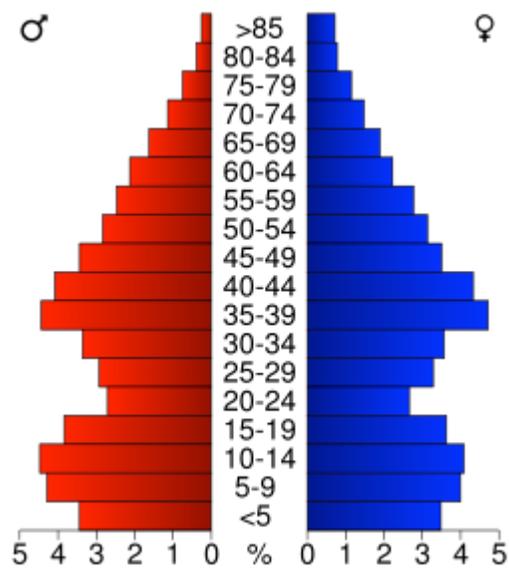
court only met there long enough to select a permanent seat at Washington, built on the former site of Atagi in the southeast corner of the county. In 1830 the county seat was moved to a more central location at Kingston and the town of Washington dwindled until it was completely deserted in the late 1830s.



Daniel Pratt arrived in Autauga County in 1833 and founded the new town of Prattville, north of Atagi on the fall line of Autauga Creek. His cotton gin factory quickly became the largest manufacturer of gins in the world and the first major industry in Alabama. It was at his factory, and with his financial backing, that the Prattville Dragoons, a fighting unit for the Confederacy was organized in anticipation of Civil War. Other units formed in Autauga County included the Autauga Rifles (Autaugaville), The John Steele Guards (western Autauga Co.) and the Varina Rifles (northern Autauga Co.). None of the fighting of the Civil War reached Autauga County and Pratt was able to secure payment of debts from Northern accounts soon after the war, lessening the disabling effects of the Reconstruction period in the county.

Charles Atwood, a former slave belonging to Daniel Pratt bought a house in the center of Prattville immediately after emancipation and was one of the founding investors in Pratt's South and North Railroad. The presence of such a prominent African-American family owning land in an Alabama city as early as the 1860s is exceptional.

In 1866 and 1868, Elmore and Chilton counties were split off from Autauga County, and the county seat was moved to the population center of



Age Pyramid according to 2000 Census

Prattville, where a new courthouse was completed by local builder George L. Smith in 1870. In 1906, a new and larger courthouse was erected in a modified Richardsonian Romanesque style a block north of the older one. The building was designed by Bruce Architectural Co. of Birmingham and built by Dobson & Bynum of Montgomery.

As of the census of 2000, there were 43,671 people, 16,003 households, and 12,354 families residing in the county. The population density was 73 people per square mile (28/km²). There were 17,662 housing units at an average density of 30 per square mile (11/km²). The racial

makeup of the county was 80.65% White, 17.11% African American, 0.44% Native American, 0.46% Asian, 0.03% Pacific Islander, 0.38% from other races, and 0.93% from two or more races. 1.40% of the population was Hispanic or Latino of any race.

There were 16,003 households out of which 39.10% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 60.30% were married couples living together, 13.10% had a female householder with no husband present, and 22.80% were non-families. 19.90% of all households were made up of individuals, and 7.60% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.71, and the average family size was 3.12.

In the county the population was spread out with 28.60% under the age of 18, 8.00% from 18 to 24, 30.70% from 25 to 44, 22.50% from 45 to 64, and 10.20% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 35 years. For every 100 females, there were 94.50 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 90.60 males. The estimated 2008 population is 50,364.

The median income for a household in the county was \$42,013, and the median income for a family was \$48,458. Males had a median income of \$35,168 versus \$22,859 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$18,518. About 8.20% of families and 10.90% of the population were below the poverty line, including 13.60% of those under age 18 and 14.40% of those ages 65 or over.

The county has a total area of 1,566 km² (604 square miles). Nearly 596 square miles (1,544 km²) of it is land, and 8 square miles (22 km²) of it (1.40%) is water.

Autauga County has two local police departments, and county sheriff's department. There are 10 volunteer fire departments and one full time fire department and emergency medical services in the County.

Law enforcement needs are served by the Autauga County Sheriff's Department and two local police departments (Autaugaville and Prattville), and fire services are available to the entire county via ten volunteer fire departments that operate throughout the county, based in Autaugaville, Billingsley, Booth, Independence, Jones, Marbury, Old Kingston, Pentecost, White City and Pine Level.

There is one public school system within the county – Autauga County School System. Autauga County School System has 13 schools and over 9,900 students as of 2007.

The schools are located in the communities of Billingsley, Pine Level, and Marbury, and the cities of Autaugaville and Prattville.

School Sites

Autaugaville

- Autaugaville School -enrollment 525 (Grades K-12)

Pine Level

- Pine Level Elementary - enrollment 1,200 (Grades K-6)
- New School (under construction)

Marbury

- Marbury School - enrollment 650 (Grades 7-12)

Billingsley

- Billingsley School - enrollment 750 (Grades K-12)

Prattville

- Prattville Kindergarten – enrollment 480 (Grade K)
- Daniel Pratt Elementary School – enrollment 1,330 (Grades 1-6)
- Prattville Primary School - enrollment 660 (Grades 1-2)
- Prattville Elementary School – enrollment 620 (Grades 3-4)
- Prattville Intermediate School – enrollment 650 (Grades 5-6)
- Prattville Junior High School – enrollment 1,075 (Grades 7-8)
- Prattville High School – enrollment 2,100 (Grades 9-12)
- Autauga County Technical Center

Map 1-A shows the municipalities and primary service areas in the County. Autauga County also has available to its residents: city and county governments; city and county engineering and road departments; utilities including electricity, natural gas, water and sanitation; an emergency management agency; telephone, mobile and long distance communications service providers; post offices, newspapers, radio stations and cable television. There are also hospitals, doctors, clinics and dentists. Autauga County has motels, restaurants, auditoriums, churches and an airport.

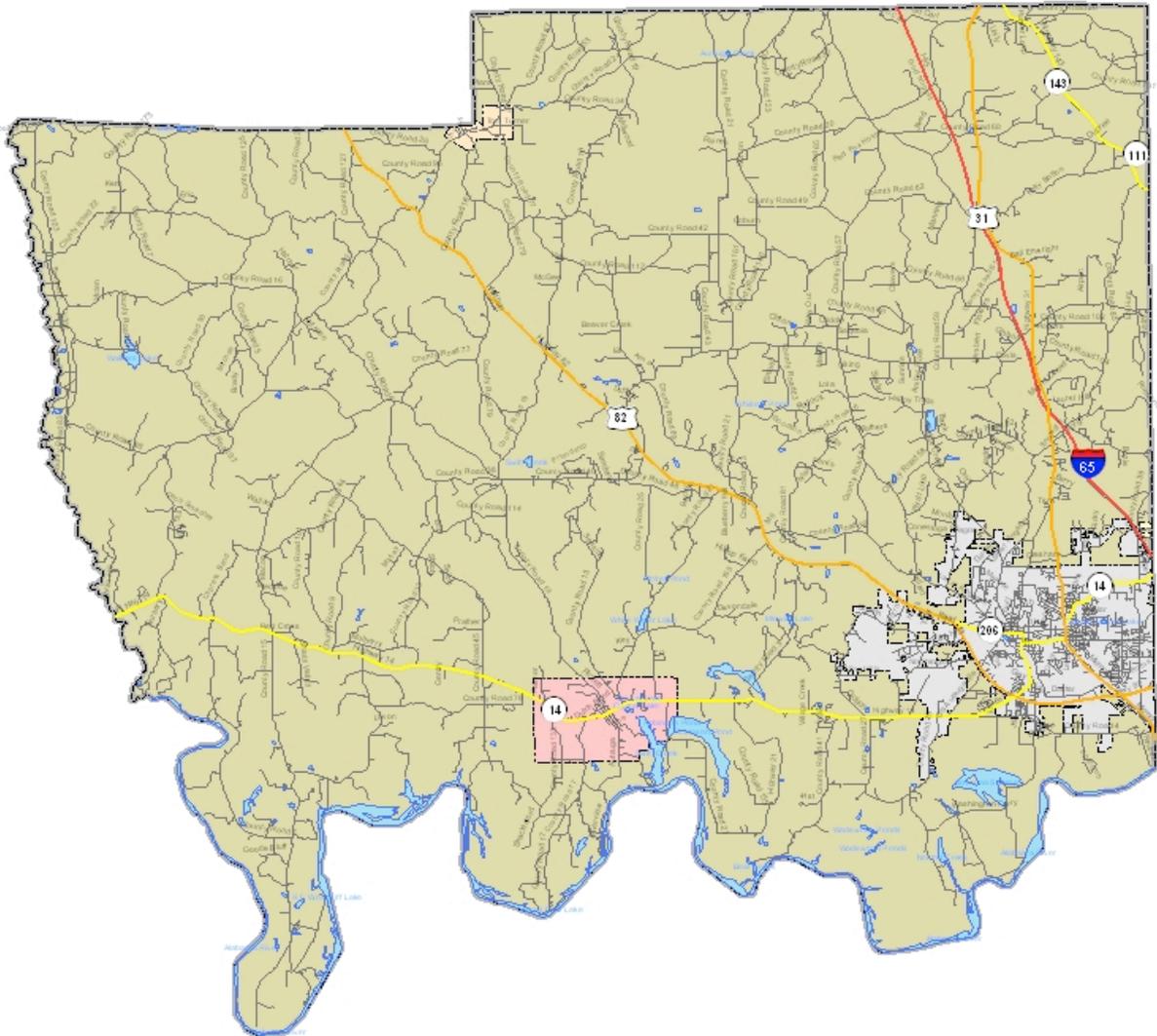
Autauga County offers a wide variety of services, conveniences, entertainment, historical areas, industry, and natural resources. There are many rural farm areas with cattle, cotton and other crops, as well as urban areas with the latest in technological advances, and social and retail outlets. Emphasis is placed on maintaining the rich southern heritage, as evidenced by the Historic Prattville Redevelop Authority, and the Autauga Heritage Association. While continuing to progress with technology, this growing community strives for preparedness for all its citizens, property and business. In accomplishing this goal through its hazard mitigation plan, the community will sustain its capability of withstanding disasters while working to mitigate future damage.

Cities and towns

- Town of Autaugaville
- Town of Billingsley
- Booth (unincorporated)
- City of Millbrook (part – most of Millbrook is in Elmore County) This municipality will be reviewed fully under the Elmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- City of Prattville (part - some of Prattville is in Elmore County) This municipality will be reviewed fully under this Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Marbury (unincorporated)

Base Map

Autauga County, Alabama



Legend

- Interstate Highway
- United State Highway
- Alabama State Highway
- Other Roads
- Water
- City of Millbrook
- City of Prattville
- Town of Autaugaville
- Town of Billingsley
- Autauga County



May 2009

Map 1-A

ALABAMA INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Top Manufacturing Employers – Autauga County

| Employer | Type of Business | Number of Employees |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| International Paper Company | Boxboard | 600 |
| Continental Eagle | Cotton Gin Machinery | 200 |
| Kinedyne Corporation | Cargo Control Equipment | 130 |
| M-Tek, Inc. | Plastic Injection Molding | 125 |
| Crystal Lake Mfg Company | Brooms, Mops | 95 |
| LoneStar Plastics | Polyethylene Film | 91 |

Autauga County has over 40 major manufactures with products ranging from pottery to magnetic card locks, brooms to glassware, church furniture to plastics.

Top Non-Manufacturing Employers – Autauga County

| Employer | Type of Business | Number of Employees |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Autauga County Board of Education | Education | 1,000 |
| Wal-Mart | Retail Sales | 480 |
| City of Prattville | City Government | 385 |
| Prattville Baptist Hospital | Health Care | 235 |
| Autauga County | County Government | 165 |
| Prattville Health and Rehab., LLC | Health Care | 154 |

1.3 Hazard Vulnerability Analysis

The Autauga County Emergency Management Agency completed a Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) in January 2009. The purpose of the analysis was to:

1. Develop a common awareness among emergency service agencies, public officials, and the public of the major hazards existing in Autauga County
2. Identify the locations, the number of persons and the major facilities that may be vulnerable to each type of hazard
3. Encourage cooperative management of emergency situations based on a common understanding of hazards and their impact
4. Enhance our emergency and disaster response and recovery capabilities for all hazards
5. Encourage plans and actions for preventive measures and effective response to preserve life and property in areas vulnerable to effects of natural hazards

The HVA profiled the County's resources and identified natural and man-caused hazards that could potentially affect the County.