

Fort Gordon Regional Growth Management Plan Newsletter

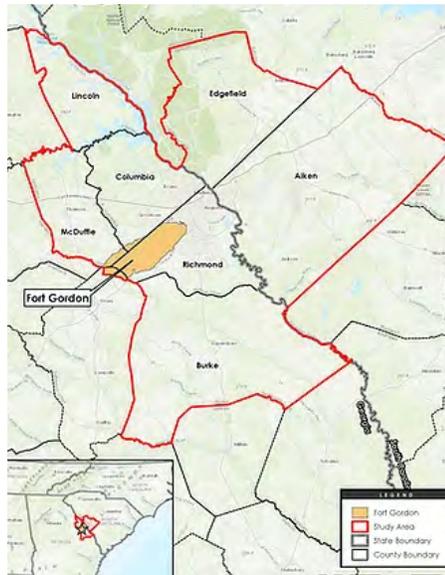


CSRA - RC
CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA
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Work on the Fort Gordon Regional Growth Management Plan is Complete

The Fort Gordon Regional Growth Management Plan (GMP) is complete. The report consists of several topical areas organized in chapters examining the effects continued growth at Fort Gordon will have on the Augusta metropolitan area. These chapters cover population projections, transportation, public services, economic and workforce development, education, health care, housing, child care, public infrastructure, and implementation. Since 2012, the Installation has added 8,449 new service members and an additional 894 are anticipated through 2024. In addition, family members, contractors, and other support jobs will translate into thousands of new residents to the area. The purpose of the GMP is to address both the challenges and opportunities resulting from increased activity and personnel at Fort Gordon. The challenges consist of ensuring the region develops sufficient infrastructure and service capacities to accommodate growth while maintaining a



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high quality of life for military personnel and area residents. The opportunities relate to increased economic activity and capitalizing on economic development opportunities to sustain the region's vibrant economy. With the recommendations contained within the GMP, communities around Fort Gordon have a roadmap to prepare for continued growth while maintaining their quality of life.

Three major goals are part of the planning process:

- 1 Provide a comprehensive assessment of potential infrastructure, service impacts and needs associated with growth at Fort Gordon to **enable area communities to prepare and plan for growth.**
- 2 **Develop a collaborative public involvement process** which enables and facilitates the coordination of the region's various stakeholders and focuses on sustaining quality of life benefits and opportunities for both military and civilian communities.
- 3 Sustain the region's focus as a **military supportive community and integrate economic development opportunities** as part of this focus.

In order to accomplish these goals, the following topics and themes, central to growth management planning, will be addressed as part of the GMP process:

- Demographic & Growth Profile
- Transportation
- Public Services
- Public Infrastructure
- Employment, Workforce Development and Economic Development
- Education
- Housing
- Health Care Services
- Child Care Services

This effort will culminate into a plan to assist surrounding communities in making informed decisions regarding growth management and include an implementation strategy for communities to use as a guide.

Implementation is the Key to Future Success

The final chapter in the GMP, Chapter 11, Implementation, collects all of the recommendations from the previous subject-specific chapters in one place and provides a description of other elements to a successful implementation of the GMP. Based upon prioritization by the project Advisory Group, consisting of members of the CSRA Regional Commission and the Alliance for Fort Gordon, the recommendations have been collected into three priority groups. The first priority group includes those recommendations that the Advisory Group felt were the most achievable and important. Tackling these recommendations first will create some forward momentum and will provide beneficial results for future efforts. After the implementation of recommendations in this group has begun, implementation of recommendations in

the second and third priority groups will follow.

The Implementation chapter also includes information on the costs of implementation, potential funding sources, and performance metrics to measure implementation success.

Establishing an Implementation Group is the most important first step in implementing the GMP. The Implementation Group will provide oversight of the entire implementation process as well as the collection of data for both recommendation and plan metrics.

For additional information on the recommendations and implementation plan, please see the draft chapter on the project website.

[Click here to read the Chapter](#) ➔

Public Input Still Needed Moving Forward

As the GMP moves into the implementation phase, public input will continue. Public participation has been an integral part of the GMP planning process and has helped to ensure that the recommendations and decisions being made consider and benefit public needs. Public involvement brings diverse viewpoints and values into the decision-making process and builds mutual understanding and trust among stakeholders and the public. This input is continually needed to ensure that the implementation of the GMP occurs successfully.

As part of public outreach efforts for the GMP, a list of key stakeholders, including elected officials, other stakeholders, the public, and the media was created. This list was used to keep stakeholders informed and to gather information for the report. A variety of communication tools were used to facilitate this and other outreach to the community. The list will also be used to reach out to stakeholders and the public and keep them informed on progress, upcoming meetings and events related to the implementation of the plan.

A project website, at fortgordongmp.com, was developed to provide the public with information regarding the project. Information about public meetings, draft reports, press releases, information sheets, project newsletters, and recordings of public meetings were all posted to the website for the public to access. The website also served as a location for the public to submit comments and join a mailing list. At the completion of the project, plan implementation information will migrate to the [CSRA Regional Commission website](#).