



CHAPTER TEN

CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

presented to

MADISON COUNTY COMMISSION

by

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF HUNTSVILLE/MADISON COUNTY**

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TENNESSEE VALLEY REGIONAL GROWTH COORDINATION PLAN

DISCLAIMER

This study was prepared under contract with the Madison County Commission, Alabama, with financial support from the Office of Economic Adjustment, Department of Defense. The content does not necessarily reflect the views of the Office of Economic Adjustment.

This report is intended as an aid to planners, managers, elected officials, and other decision makers in the Tennessee Valley/Redstone Arsenal region. Our aim is not to dictate what should be done, but to assist in ongoing efforts to achieve goals and objectives identified and valued by the residents of the region. The recommendations presented in this report are suggestions for how the region could work towards those goals and objectives, based on best available information and current understandings.

The information, projections, and estimates in this report are based upon publicly available data and have been prepared using generally accepted methodologies and formulas. The projections and needs presented in this report are based upon best estimates using the available data. It is important to note that currently available information and understandings are incomplete and cannot account for the inevitable, but unpredictable, impacts of unexpected global, national, state, and/or local events. Actual results and needs may differ significantly from the projections of this report due to such unforeseen factors and conditions, as well as inaccuracy of available data, and/or factors and conditions not within the scope of this project. Persons using this information to make business and financial decisions are cautioned to examine the available data for themselves and not to rely solely on this report.

Neither the Madison County Commission, the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, nor its subcontractors guarantee or warrant that the projections set forth in this report will, in fact, occur. The Madison County Commission, the Tennessee Valley Regional Growth Coordination Plan Advisory Committee and Task Forces, and the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County and its subcontractors disclaim any liability for any errors or inaccuracies in the information, projections, and needs analysis, regardless of how the data is used, or any decisions made or actions taken by any person in reliance upon any information and/or data furnished herein.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Limestone, Madison and Morgan counties in north Alabama offer a rich diversity of cultural and recreational opportunities to its residents and visitors. The region has carefully protected its natural beauty and resources, while adding cultural amenities usually reserved for much more densely populated areas. Ample cultural and recreational facilities and resources exist on- and off-post to support additional population growth resulting from BRAC 2005.

On-post, Redstone's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) program has been recognized as one of the best MWR programs in the U.S. Army. Department of the Army civilians, Redstone/NASA contractors, Military Retirees, National Guard and Military Reserve soldiers and their families are welcomed and encouraged to use Redstone Arsenal's MWR facilities and programs. These MWR facilities include the Child & Youth Services (nationally accredited childcare facilities and a "Child Youth Program" that is ranked "Third Best" in the U. S. Army), the new \$7 million Redstone Lanes Bowling Center, the Golf Course, MWR Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Equipment Rentals, the new 148-unit Storage Facility, the MWR Library (ranked the Best U. S. Army Library at a medium-size facility), the Auto Skills Center, the Arts & Crafts Center, the Flying Activity, Swimming Pools, Fitness/Wellness Centers, Restaurants (Soldatenstube; Firehouse Pub; Post Restaurant) Challenger BINGO!, Overnight Lodging Facilities (Redstone Lodging; Rustic Lodge), Army Community Services (one of the Premier Programs in the U. S. Army) and the Redstone Officers & Civilians' Club (ROCC). MWR activities and programs are open to anyone who can legally access Redstone Arsenal. These memberships provide Redstone workers and family members with some of the most affordable and convenient recreation in North Alabama. Redstone also offers several camping and RV sites on-post to anyone who can legally access the Arsenal.

The region surrounding Redstone boasts a nationally acclaimed quality of life. Huntsville has been recognized as one of the top 100 places to live, according to *Relocate America.com*, and *Family Digest* ranks Huntsville as the top community for Black Families. *National Geographic Adventure* named Huntsville as one of the country's top adventure towns and Huntsville was named one of the "Top 50 Best Places to Raise Children in the U.S." by *Business Week* in November, 2008.

The City of Decatur and Morgan County are located on the banks of the Tennessee River, less than 30 minutes from Redstone Arsenal. Morgan County offers big city conveniences with the warmth and charm of a smaller community and has recaptured the spirit of true Southern Hospitality.

The City of Hartselle was identified in the book "The 50 Best Small Southern Towns," by Gerald W. Sweitzer and Kathy M. Fields, and in the book "The Best 100 Small Towns in America," by Norman Crampton. Rand McNally's 2006 *The Best of the Road* names Hartselle as one of the greatest places to visit along a route.

Athens, the Limestone county seat, is uniquely located on Interstate 65 in a triangle of prosperity formed by Huntsville to the East and Decatur to the south. The commute from most of Limestone County to Gate 9 on Redstone Arsenal is 15 to 30 minutes and not much more from the most distant communities.

Each community in the PSA offers a wide and attractive assortment of recreational and cultural opportunities for its residents and visitors to enjoy.

Recommendations include:

1. Additional study of the region's hospitality industry is needed.
2. Further development of the entertainment district in downtown Huntsville, along with attractive and affordable housing that is proximate to this entertainment district should be pursued.
3. Develop a web site listing the cultural and recreational opportunities in the Tennessee Valley, indexed by interests, dates, and location. An email service associated with this database would be a welcome addition.

BACKGROUND

The **Madison County Commission (MCC)** issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop the **Tennessee Valley Regional Growth Coordination Plan (TVRGCP)**. Funding for this study was provided by the **U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA)** to prepare the Tennessee Valley for the impact of **Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005** at **Redstone Arsenal (Arsenal)**.

The **Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County (Chamber)** submitted a proposal in response to MCC's nationwide search for a consultant as addressed in RFP P-2007-01. This proposal identified the Chamber as the lead consultant with Wadley-Donovan GrowthTech, LLC (WDG) serving as a subcontractor. After completing a competitive bid process, MCC awarded the contract to the Chamber with a Notice-to-Proceed date of October 29, 2007.

The Tennessee Valley **Study Area** for this project includes thirteen counties in northern Alabama and southern Tennessee within an eighty-mile-radius of the Arsenal. The **Primary Study Area (PSA)** includes the three Alabama counties of Limestone, Madison, and Morgan. The **Broader Impact Region (BIR)** includes the additional six counties in Alabama (Colbert, Cullman, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, and Marshall) and four counties in Tennessee (Franklin, Giles, Lawrence, and Lincoln). A map of the Study Area is shown in Figure 10-1.

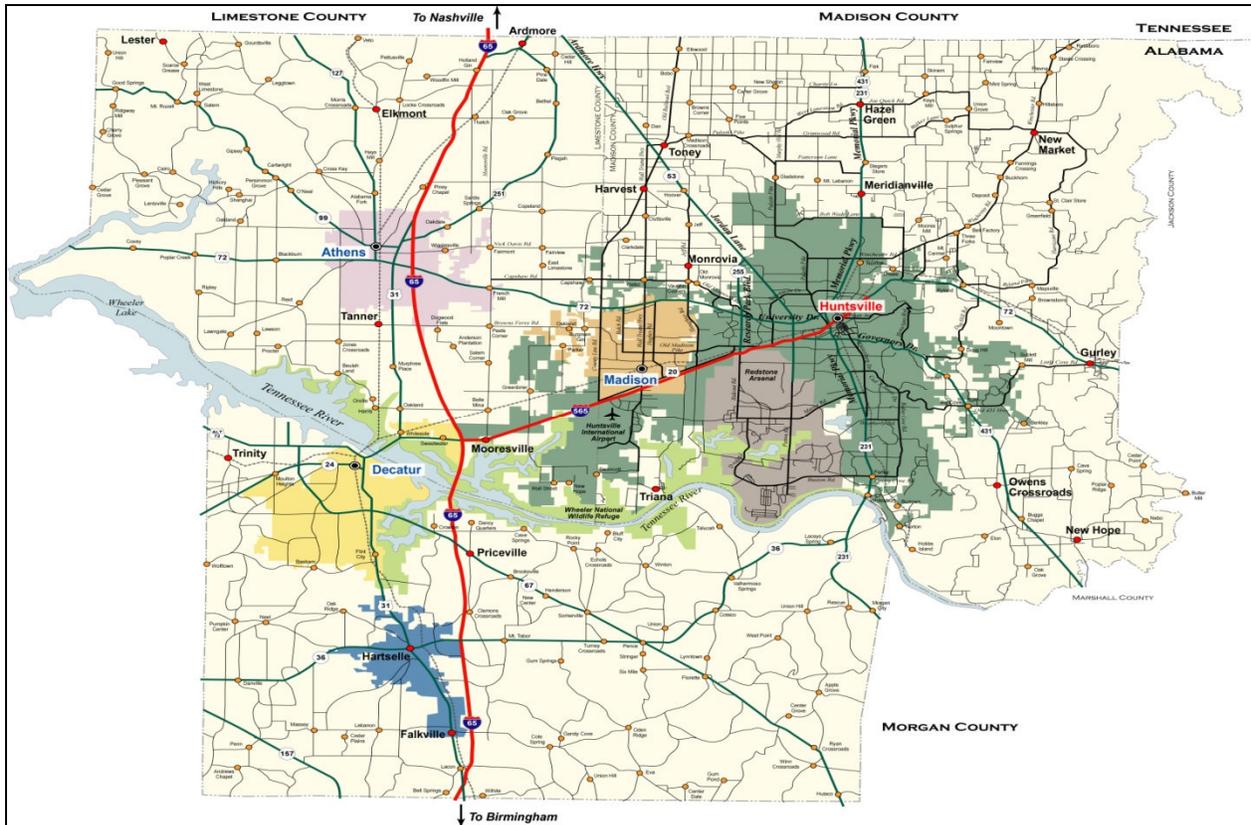
Figure 10-1
Tennessee Valley Regional Growth Coordination Plan Study Area



PRIMARY STUDY AREA

The Primary Study Area (PSA) consists of three counties in Alabama, Limestone, Madison, and Morgan, surrounding Redstone Arsenal (Arsenal). Figure 10-2 shows the relationship of the Arsenal to the three counties and primary cities.

Figure 10-2
Area Surrounding Redstone Arsenal



Source: City of Huntsville Planning Division and the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments

The PSA contains numerous incorporated areas, both large and small, as summarized below:

County	Large Municipalities	Small Municipalities
Madison	Huntsville, Madison	Gurley, New Hope, Owens Cross Roads, Triana
Limestone	Athens	Ardmore, Elkmore, Lester, Mooresville
Morgan	Decatur	Hartselle, Priceville, Trinity

The PSA includes a large amount of unincorporated area in all three of its counties. Alabama State Law allows the annexation of portions of a county by a municipality located in an adjacent county. Thus, the Cities of Huntsville, Madison, and Decatur have annexed portions of Limestone County; this is particularly the case along the I-565/Alabama Highway 20 corridor in the vicinity of I-65 (although this is not the only location).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to assess the cultural and recreational assets of the PSA. The RFP requested an analysis and catalog of these resources and activities within the 3 county study area and an assessment of areas for future development and regional facilities to accommodate population growth.

METHODOLOGY

The City of Huntsville supplied information for a Tennessee Valley Regional BRAC Fact Book during the community's 2005 BRAC campaign. That information was updated in 2008-2009 and is included here. This database was supplemented with additional data from the Decatur/Morgan County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce. Other data sources included the local publication *52 Weeks in the Tennessee Valley* and web sites for local governments.

Several focus groups were conducted with Department of the Army civil servants and Missile Defense Agency personnel who have recently relocated here as a part of BRAC. A survey of local residents was also conducted, with 188 completed surveys.

CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PRIMARY STUDY AREA

The following pages provide summary lists of cultural and recreational opportunities in the PSA. For more detailed information on any of these locations or organizations, see the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County's website:
http://www.huntsvillealabamausa.com/newcomers/parks_recreation.html

I. Museums and Other Facilities Promoting Cultural, Regional, and Educational Awareness

A. Huntsville/Madison County

1. Huntsville Museum of Art
2. Huntsville Botanical Garden
3. Early Works Museums
4. U.S. Space and Rocket Center
5. US Space and Rocket Center - Space Camp
6. Sci-Quest
7. Veteran's Museum
8. Burritt on the Mountain - A Living Museum
9. North Alabama Railroad Museum
10. Weeden House
11. State Black Archives Research Center and Museum
12. Von Braun Astronomical Society Observatory and Planetarium
13. Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

B. Decatur/Morgan County

1. Cook's Natural Science Museum
2. Carnegie Visual Arts Center
3. Point Mallard Park
4. Morgan County Archives
5. Old State Bank
6. Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

C. Athens/Limestone County

1. Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives
2. Houston Memorial Library and Museum
3. College Inn Museum
4. Athens State University
5. Limestone County Archives
6. Donnell House
7. Ardmore Museum
8. Historic Mooresville
9. Historic Elkmont

II. Organizations Dedicated to Promoting the Arts and Quality of Life

A. Huntsville/Madison County

1. The Arts Council

The Arts Council also provides information concerning a wide variety of educational programs for children through adults. Arts-related camps for children are available as well. More information concerning each group's activities can be found at The Arts Council web site at: www.artshuntsville.org.

2. Arts Organizations

A sampling of arts-oriented organizations follows:

- Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell
- Alabama Hispanic Association
- Alabama Youth Ballet
- American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- American Guild of Organists
- American Institute of Architects, North Alabama Chapter
- Ars Nova School of the Arts
- Broadway Theatre League
- Burritt on the Mountain
- Community Ballet Association
- Dance Theatre of Huntsville
- Delta Zeta Alumnae
- Earlyworks Museum Complex
- Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater
- Hawthorne Conservatory
- Huntsville Art League (HAL)
- Huntsville Chamber Music Guild
- Huntsville Community Chorus Association
- Huntsville Concert Band
- Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society
- Huntsville Literary Association
- Huntsville Museum of Art
- Huntsville-Madison County Botanical Garden
- Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society
- Huntsville Master Chorale
- Huntsville Music Study Club
- Huntsville Photographic Society
- Huntsville Pilgrimage Association
- Huntsville Symphony Orchestra
- Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild
- Huntsville Youth Orchestra

Independent Musical Productions
Jill's Studio of Dance
Junior League of Huntsville
Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment
Merrimack Hall Performing Arts Center
Meridian Arts
Monte Sano Art Show Association
National League of Pen Women
NEEMA International Performing Arts Center
North Alabama Railroad Museum
North Alabama Woodcarvers Association
North East Alabama Craftsmen Association (NEACA)
Renaissance Theatre
SPEBSQSA/Rocket City Barbershop Chorus
Tennessee Valley Jazz Society
The Brass Band of Huntsville
Theatre Huntsville
Therapy Partners, Inc.
Twickenham Historic Preservation District
UAHuntsville-College of Liberal Arts
Whole Backstage Theatre
Windham Entertainment
Women's Guild of Huntsville Museum of Art

3. The Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center

The Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center offers a unique combination of enrichment programs and care services for people 60 years of age or better. The goal of the Senior Center is to foster community involvement, enhance dignity, and support independence for all participants; as such, it is highly successful, and provides a high quality of services for the area's senior population. The Center's nationally recognized programs and facility place them among the best Senior Centers in the United States.

B. Decatur/Morgan County

1. Princess Theatre Center for the Performing Arts
2. Carnegie Visual Arts Center
3. *Hartselle Fine Arts Center*
4. *Concerts by the River*
5. Decatur Youth Symphony
6. Music in the Park at Earth Park
7. *Art in our Public Schools*

C. Athens/Limestone County

1. Art on the Square
2. Footlights Theater
3. Indian Artifact Show

D. City of Madison

1. Madison Art League
2. Madison Community Band
3. Church-sponsored dinner theater
4. Madison Arts Council
5. Madison Community Chorus
6. Arts Wire
7. Madison Street Festival

E. Redstone/Defense Contractor Support for the Arts

The arts community receives much support from the area's Redstone Arsenal and NASA affiliated employees and defense contractors. Seven major arts organizations in particular receive a tremendous amount of funding and volunteer support from these groups. For example:

1. Huntsville Heritage Foundation:
 - At least 30% of volunteers work for or have retired from the Army, NASA or a defense contractor.
 - Financial support comes from dues and donations from persons who work for/retired from these companies.
 - Received \$7,000 from Boeing during 2003 for a capital campaign effort.
2. Huntsville Community Chorus Association:
 - Teledyne Brown in-kinds their printing needs including posters, programs, newsletters, and normally sponsor one show each season. Sponsorship of a program is \$1,500.
 - Teledyne Brown has a matching Gifts Program, where the company will match an employee's gift of \$50 - \$5,000 per year.
 - Boeing usually sponsors a HCCA production each year ranging from a \$1,000 - \$2,000 sponsorship.
 - Lockheed-Martin regularly contributes \$1,000 each season
 - They also receive support through selling ads in their programs from defense companies.

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3. Theatre Huntsville:
 - Many individual and family donors work for defense companies. CAS, Inc. has supported Theatre Huntsville through show sponsorships running from \$1,000 - \$2,500.
 - Intergraph has also supported this group through in-kind donations for printing.
 - Of Theater Huntsville's approximately 75-person volunteer membership, approximately 35% work for defense contractors and another 25% are actually employed directly by the government and work in the defense industry. There are also additional 150 non-Theater Huntsville members who volunteer to work or participate with Theater Huntsville productions and are employed by defense contractors and/or the government in the same ratio.
 - Again, of the approximately 75-person volunteer membership, approximately 15-20 people are employed either by NASA's MSFC or the Army on Redstone. Of the 150 non-member volunteers 35-40 people are employed by NASA, or the Army on Redstone with another dozen or so at the Space and Missile Defense Command or the Army Corp of Engineers.
 4. Fantasy Playhouse:
 - Teledyne Brown is a major sponsor. Also, in-kind printing is provided to the organization.
 - Boeing has made past contributions of \$15,000.
 - Majority of technical support volunteers are working for defense contractors.
 - Major volunteers are all retired NASA or contractor employees.
 5. Huntsville Symphony Orchestra:
 - 19 defense companies have contributed to HSO for the 2003-2004 season, for a total of \$34,485.
 - Of the 300 volunteers of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild, 240 are associated with defense contractors.
 6. Broadway Theater League:
 - Teledyne Brown is a major sponsor.
 7. Botanical Garden:
 - Defense contractors provide significant financial and volunteer support to the Botanical Garden.
 - 14 different companies supported them during 2003, for a total of \$114,000.
 - In the past, 5 additional companies have supported them, for a total of \$136,500.
 - They have over 1000 active volunteers. Approximately 80 are employees of Redstone or NASA and about 100 are retired from Redstone or NASA.
 - Two retired former Commanding Generals are on the Botanical Garden Board of Directors and Advisory Board.

8. Other:

- Teledyne Brown also sponsors events and programs for the Symphony Orchestra, Broadway Theater League, Huntsville Museum of Art, Renaissance Theater, and Fantasy Playhouse. The amounts vary by organization and seasons. A Symphony Orchestra sponsorship may run about \$5,000. The support of these individuals and companies are a tremendous asset to the community, and contribute themselves to the high quality of life that is enjoyed throughout the region.

III. Recreational Opportunities

In addition to cultural and other activities, there are many recreational activities in which persons may participate. The Tennessee Valley Region is geographically diverse and has rivers, lakes, mountains, and valleys. The nature of the area presents many opportunities for a variety of recreational participation.

A. Facilities and Natural Features

1. Monte Sano State Park
2. Ditto Landing
3. Tennessee River
4. Wheeler Lake
5. Joe Wheeler State Park
6. Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge
7. Lake Guntersville State Park
8. Marinas
 - a. Ingalls Harbor
 - b. Brickyard Landing
 - c. The Pirate's Chest Marina & RV Park
 - d. Bayhill Marina
9. Point Mallard Park
10. Municipal Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Centers
 - a. The City of Huntsville
There are more than 50 park and playground facilities located in the City of Huntsville. The City of Huntsville maintains over 1400 acres of parkland and the facilities located thereon. Appendix 10-A at the end of this Chapter lists these parks and facilities.
 - b. The City of Madison
A listing of 33 Madison neighborhood and municipal parks is included in the Appendix 10B.
 - c. The City of Decatur
The City of Decatur has more than 10 parks and 4 recreational centers, as noted in Appendix 10-C

- d. The City of Athens
 - Athens Recreation Center
 - Athens Sportsplex
 - Cowart Softball Field Complex
 - Neighborhood parks are listed in Appendix 10-E

11. Conservation Lands

Local leaders realize there must be a balance between developing land and conserving properties that have a regional and natural significance. The most notable areas in the Huntsville area are the Hays Preserve, the Goldsmith- Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary, and the properties of the Land Trust of Huntsville and North Alabama.

12. The Land Trust of Huntsville and North Alabama

The Land Trust of Huntsville and North Alabama is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving lands for public use to enhance recreation, education, conservation and prosperity in the North Alabama region. Known as the community's "Other Space Program," the Land Trust has contributed greatly to the area by preserving 5,064.93 acres of land that is open to the public's recreational use including:

- Cowford Landing
- Lucy's Branch
- Mill Creek Park
- Sportsman's Park
- Swan Creek Park

13. Greenways

The City of Huntsville recently adopted an updated master plan to guide the development of greenways throughout the community. When complete, the system will include over 130 miles of interconnected trails, including canoe trails, pedestrian/bike trails, and hiking trails. Currently, five greenways are open to the public: Aldridge Creek, Big Cove Creek, Indian Creek, Flint River Phase I, and Wade Mountain.

The City of Madison also operates a greenway system. Madison Greenway & Trails, Inc. is a nonprofit organization representing the interests of people wanting greater access to walking and hiking trails, bicycle paths, preservation of natural areas and resources, preserving access to historical sites, and planning related to community land use and development. The Bradford Creek Greenway is under development.

The City of Athens operates two greenway trails:

- Greenway Trail - New .6 mile Greenway trail that connects the Sportsplex to the Athens Recreation Center
- Swan Creek Trail - New 1.2 mile Greenway trail that goes from Swan Creek Park to Hwy 72 (follows Swan Creek).

14. Bike Routes

The City of Huntsville has addressed the needs of bicyclists in the community by developing and adopting the City of Huntsville Bikeway Plan. The updated plan, approved by the Metropolitan Planning Organization in August 2006 and further amended in 2007, identifies 39 different, yet interconnecting, bike routes to be placed throughout the city within a four-year period.

15. Volksmarch

The Decatur Volksmarch is a new walking trail through the Old Decatur and New Albany Historic Districts, offering both a 5K and a 10K.

16. Geocaching

Participate in a modern day treasure hunt with the Geocaching Passport. Caches located at some of Decatur's favorite attractions.

17. Madison County Lake

The Madison County Lake is a 105-acre lake located 11 miles east of Huntsville. It is a public fishing lake, and no other aquatic activities are allowed.

18. YMCA of Huntsville & North Alabama

The YMCA of Huntsville and North Alabama opened a new \$6 million, 54,000-squarefoot facility in south Huntsville during the end of 2003, opened a new state-of-the-art facility in downtown Huntsville in June 2008, and plans a facility for the City of Madison in 2009.

19. Benton H. Wilcoxon Municipal Ice Complex

The Benton H. Wilcoxon Municipal Ice Complex in Huntsville, Alabama is a relatively new facility, offering two NHL size rinks, a fully stocked concession stand, four party rooms, and arcade games for the entire family.

20. Von Braun Center

The von Braun Center, named for rocket pioneer Dr. Wernher von Braun, hosts over 600 events per year and brings in almost a million people in its 170,000 square foot facility. Most of these events occur in the von Braun Center's Playhouse, Arena, and Concert Hall. The von Braun Center is the home of several local sports teams, including the Huntsville Havoc Hockey Team and the University of Alabama in Huntsville Hockey Team.

21. Joe W. Davis Stadium

Joe W. Davis Stadium, a 10,200-seat multi-purpose stadium, is located on four acres on South Memorial Parkway between Drake Avenue and Airport Road at Leeman Ferry Road. The stadium is home to the Huntsville Stars, a AA professional baseball team that plays 70 home games each year. The Stars are a member of the Southern League.

B. Sporting Events and Available Activities

1. Spectator Sports

There is an opportunity to attend sporting events in the city of Huntsville. The city is home to several professional sports teams, and has two universities that provide collegiate sports.

- a. Baseball
The Huntsville Stars, a Class AA baseball affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers
- b. Hockey
The Huntsville Havoc play at the von Braun Center. The team is affiliated with the Southern Professional Hockey League.
- c. Arena Football
The Tennessee Valley Vipers is Huntsville's team for arena 2 football.
- d. College Sports
University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAHuntsville)
Alabama A&M University
Calhoun Community College
- e. Sports Festivals
The City of Huntsville has its own Huntsville Sports Commission to recruit, organize, and stage amateur sporting events.
- f. Tractor Pulls/Shows
Ardmore Tractor
Piney Chapel Antique Tractor & Farm Equipment Show
Alabama Championship Tractor and Truck

2. General Participatory Sports

The Huntsville area has a multitude of recreational opportunities available for adults and youths. Available activities include:

- a. Biking/Mountain Biking
- b. Walking Trails/Hiking
- c. North Alabama Birding Trail
- d. Running Courses and Racing
- e. Adult Softball
- f. Adult Volleyball
- g. Adult Basketball
- h. Golf
The PSA provides many golfing opportunities through both public and private courses.

Public Golf Courses

Colonial Golf Course
Fox Run Golf Course
Hampton Cove Golf Course
Harvest Hills Golf Course

Becky Peirce Municipal Golf Course
Redstone Arsenal Golf Course
Richland Golf Center
Sunset Landing Golf Club
Point Mallard Golf Course
Cedar Ridge Golf Course
Quail Creek Golf Course & Conference Center
Limestone County Golf
Chriswood Golf Course
Southern Gayles Golf Course

Private Golf Courses

The Ledges
Huntsville Country Club
Valley Hill Country Club
Cherokee Ridge Country Club.
Athens Country Club
Canebrake at Piney Creek

- i. Putt Putt - Miniature Golf
- j. Hockey
- k. Figure Skating
- l. Swimming
- m. Water Aerobics
- n. Frisbee Golf
- o. Ultimate Frisbee
- p. Rugby
- q. Volleyball
- r. Water Skiing
- s. Snow Skiing
- t. Hunting/Fishing
- u. Spelunking
- v. Fencing
- w. Canoeing and Kayaking
- x. Rowing
- y. Horseback Riding and Equestrian Activities
- z. Roller Skating
- aa. Bowling
- bb. Rocket City Raceway
- cc. Spring City Triathletes
- dd. Dance
- ee. Basketball
- ff. Tennis
- gg. Shooting Sports and Archery
- hh. Martial Arts
- ii. Radio Controlled Flying
- jj. Hang Gliding

- kk. Soccer
- ll. Yoga/Pilates

3. Youth Sports

a. Municipal Sponsored Sports

Organized recreational sports sponsored by local governments are available through recreational programs managed by the Madison County Commission and by the local Parks and Recreation Services in the City of Huntsville, the City of Madison, the City of Decatur, and the City of Athens. The Parks and Recreation Services provides the following activities for its youth

- Football
- Basketball
- Baseball/Softball
- Volleyball
- Recreational Soccer
- Club Soccer (competitive level)

- b. Soccer
- c. Basketball
- d. Baseball Camps and Training Centers
- e. Extreme Skating
- f. Skateboarding
- g. Rollerskating
- h. Wrestling
- i. Competitive Swimming
- j. Dance
- k. Gymnastics
- l. Cheerleading and Dance Team

IV. Community Festivals and Events

The PSA communities offer many cultural and recreational activities and community events that contribute to the high quality of life in the area. These activities and events are fully supported by the community through participation and financial support. The contributions made by Redstone Arsenal and NASA employees, as well as defense contractors have had a positive direct impact on the community. The cohesiveness of the community and the various activities and amenities available make the Tennessee Valley a remarkable place to live.

Communities in the Primary Study Area provide many festivals and annual events that have proven popular with both residents and tourists. This section focuses on the major festivals and special events that are held every year:

A. Huntsville/Madison County

- 1. Panoply of the Arts
- 2. Big Spring Jam
- 3. Whistle Stop Festival

4. Concerts in the Park
5. Veterans Day Parade
6. Spring Festival of Flowers
7. Pilgrimage/Cemetery Stroll
8. Blues Festival
9. Historic District Strolls
10. Black Arts Festival
11. City Fireworks Festival
12. Old Fashioned Trade Day
13. Sorghum Festival
14. Indian Festival
15. Galaxy of Lights
16. Christmas Parade
17. Rocket City Marathon
18. Parade of Lights
19. Historic Homes Tour, Twickenham Historic District

B. City of Madison

1. Madison Street Festival

C. Decatur/Morgan County

1. Alabama Jubilee Hot-Air Balloon Classic
2. *Racking Horse Spring Celebration*
3. Wings of Thunder Charity Ride and Poker Run
4. Daikin Festival
5. Trinity Car Show and Spring Festival
6. *Spring Garden Tour*
7. Free Historic Walking Tours
8. Spirit of America Festival
9. Wet Dog Triathlon
10. Battle for Decatur Civil War Reenactment
11. Riverfest
12. Racking Horse World Celebration
13. Hartselle Depot Days Festival
14. *Eva Frontier Days*
15. Alabama Charity Horse Show
16. Southern Wildlife Festival
17. *Christmas Open House and Taste of Hartselle*
18. Cotton Cluster Dog Show
19. Boat Parade of Lights
20. *Christmas Open House and Tour of Homes in Decatur*

D. Athens/Limestone County

1. Saturday Walking Tours
2. Antebellum Trail
3. Athens Historic Walk
4. Step-Back-In-Time
5. Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention
6. SoulStock
7. HomeSpun
8. Mooresville Biennial Olden Days
9. Limestone County Sheriff's Reserve Rodeo
10. Ardmore Police Department Rodeo
11. Clements Rodeo
12. Trinity School Reunion
13. Reliance Bank Fire Cracker Festival
14. Art on the Square
15. Ardmore Crape Myrtle Festival
16. Kids' Day in the Park
17. Delmore Days
18. Singing on the Square
19. Athens Storytelling Festival
20. Annual Greater Tennessee Valley Antique Car and Harley Davidson Show
21. Car Show on the Square
22. Ardmore Annual Quarterback Club Car Show
23. Southern Crossroads Best Buckin BBQ Cookoff
24. Polk Salley Follies
25. Doggie Fun Fest
26. Festival of Trees

CONCLUSIONS

1. The PSA's cultural and recreational resources are well positioned to accommodate growth resulting from BRAC 2005. Ample museums, parks and recreational opportunities exist in the areas surrounding Redstone Arsenal.
2. The region has done an excellent job of protecting large areas of undeveloped property for recreational purposes. As the region faces continued growth, this will become increasingly important since such property once lost, is difficult to reclaim for these purposes.
3. Communicating the variety of cultural and recreations opportunities, especially to the young professional market is problematic. Very few of the people in this demographic subscribe to or read newspapers and, according to surveys and focus groups, the existing web sites often miss this market.

4. Although not discussed in detail in this report, professional sports in the PSA appear to be a potential area for upgrade. Currently, major league professional sports fans drive to Nashville or Atlanta to enjoy professional football, and major league baseball and basketball. As the region grows, one would expect to see more support for a wider variety of professional sports in the PSA.
5. There were no cultural or recreational deficiencies identified in this assessment.
6. The relocation of the Army's Materiel Command to Redstone Arsenal will increase the demands on the Officer's Club facilities. New facilities may be required to support this increased demand.
7. On-post, Redstone's MWR is evaluating several new potential offerings to include a Brew Pub, covered truck rentals, an indoor track & pool center and pet care & grooming facility.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. An assessment of the region's hospitality industry was not included in the scope of the Tennessee Valley Regional Growth Coordination Plan. This could be an area for further study, as this industry will be significantly impacted by the realignment of the Army's Materiel Command, the Army's Security Assistance Command and the Missile Defense Agency's operations to Redstone Arsenal. The Officer's Club on post will be impacted. Studies of the regional hotel and restaurant markets, with special attention to the cultural requirements of visiting foreign dignitaries, and the expected demands on the Officer's Club are suggested.
2. An entertainment district is developing in downtown Huntsville. The further development of this cluster of restaurants, clubs, and other venues that support social networking will be increasingly important as the community attempts to attract young professionals. The development of attractive and affordable housing that is proximate to this entertainment district is also important to the young professional market.
3. Develop a web site listing the cultural and recreational opportunities in the Tennessee Valley, indexed by interests, dates, and location. An email service associated with this database would be a welcome addition.

**Appendix 10-A
 Huntsville City Parks**

ZONE	PARK	LOCATION	ACREAGE	LEAGUE	SOCCER	FOOTBALL	BASEBALL CONCESSIONS	SOFTBALL	LIGHTED FIELDS	TENNIS COURTS	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS	CONCESSIONS	BASKETBALL	PAVILION
4	Aldridge Creek	1100 Mt. Gap Road	35	National	PASSIVE WALKING TRAIL										
1	Archer	3315 Archer Drive	3.12	Southern			X	X		X	X				X
3	Beirne Avenue	330 Beirne Avenue	1.56	Civic			X	X		X	X				
4	Bell Mountain	2560 Redstone Road	29.78	Patriot	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
1	Bicentennial Park	315 Fountain Circle	.3		PASSIVE GREENSPACE										
3	Big Cove Creek Greenway	Old Highway 431	30.02	Eastern	PASSIVE WALKING TRAIL										
3	Big Spring	200 Church Street	15.25	Metro	PASSIVE GREENSPACE										
1	Brahan Spring	500 Drake Avenue	174.8	Southern	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
4	Buchanan	10044 Fielding Drive	4	Patriot	X					X	X			X	X
3	California	708 California	2.99	International						X	X	X		X	X
3	Cavalry Hills	2800 Poplar Avenue	6.91	Metro	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
1	Chelsea	2851 Chelsea	3.4								X			X	X
3	Cove Park	834 Old Highway 431	100	Eastern	X		X	X	X			X	X		
2	Creekwood (Proposed)	Slaughter Road	76.35		PASSIVE GREENSPACE										
2	Creekwood Park	360A Harvestwood Ct	71.88	Continental	PASSIVE GREENSPACE										
2	Dr. Richard Showers Sr.	4600 Blue Spring Road	16.95	Lakewood	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X
1	Fern Bell Rec Center	6900 Whitesburg Dr.	20.81	American	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
3	Goldsmith Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary	Taylor Rd & Terry Drake Rd	375.7		PASSIVE GREENSPACE										
3	Greenwch Village	520 Toney Drive	1.4	American	PASSIVE GREENSPACE										
3	Halsey Park	435 White Street	.2		PASSIVE GREENSPACE										
3	Hastings	2801 Hastings Road	.37								X				
3	Hays Nature Preserve	Highway 431 South	538	International	PASSIVE GREENSPACE										
3	Hermitage	915 Kennamer Drive	14.37	International						X	X				
2	Hillendale	2811 Holmes Avenue	.81	Metro							X				X
3	Holmes Avenue Park	Holmes Ave	2.59	Metro				X			X			X	X
2	Indian Creek Greenway	Slaughter Road	35		PASSIVE WALKING TRAIL										
2	James C. Crawford	3915 Melody Lane	8.77	Lakewood			X				X	X		X	X
1	John Hunt	2151 Airport Road	432	Southern	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X
4	Jones Farm Park	Carl T. Jones	33	National	PASSIVE GREENSPACE										
4	Ken Johnston	1100 Mt. Gap Road	11.6	National											X
1	Kent Robertson	7620 Logan Drive	14.98	American	X		X	X		X	X	X		X	
1	Kids' Space	210 Airport Road										X			X
1	Kiwanis Soccer Park	Bob Wallace Avenue	3	Southern	X				X						
2	Knox Creek Park	180 Greenbank Dr	26.76								X			X	X
2	Lakewood	2225 York Road	4.33	Lakewood	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
3	Lewter Park	1501 Wellman	.52	Civic							X			X	
3	Maple Hill	1351 McClung	8.64	Civic				X			X				X
2	Maplewood	4943 N. Memorial	10	Lakewood			X				X	X		X	X
2	Mastin Lake	3315 Watson Drive	31.6	Northern			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3	Mayfair	550 Thornton	9.2	International			X	X	X		X	X	X		
4	McGucken	13020 Bailey Cove	39.78	National	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2	Meadow Hill	Medaris	1.5	Lakewood	PASSIVE GREENSPACE										
1	Merrimack Soccer Plex	3501 Triana Blvd.		Southern	X										
1	Metro Sportsplex	3590 Patton Road	41.54	Southern				X	X		X	X	X		
3	Oak	2250 Oakwood Ave.	10	Civic			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
2	Oakmont	2224 Euclid	3.72	Northern				X			X				
1	Ogden Martin	5251 Triana Blvd.	2.5	Southern				X			X				
3	Optimist	703 Oakwood Avenue	8.55	Civic	X		X	X	X			X	X		
3	Philpot	1211 Philpot Avenue	3.99	Civic						X	X				X
1	Pine	3951 Pine Avenue	2.79	Southern							X				X
3	Robert "Bud" Cramer Jr Park	600 Meridian St SE	2.8	Civic							X				

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**Appendix 10-A, continued
 Huntsville City Parks**

ZONE	PARK	LOCATION	ACREAGE	LEAGUE	SOCCER	FOOTBALL	BASEBALL CONCESSIONS	SOFTBALL	LIGHTED FIELDS	TENNIS COURTS	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS	CONCESSIONS	BASKETBALL	PAVILION
4	Sandhurst	2928 Green Cove	15.66	Patriot	X		X		X						
2	Scenic View	2705 Scenic View	5.1	Northern	X						X			X	X
2	Sherwood	325 Town & Country	5.14	Continental	X			X			X			X	
3	Skate Park	200 Cleveland Avenue	.66	Civic											
2	Stoner	3715 Bragg Street	71.45	Northern	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2	University	4419 Sandra Lane	10.54	Continental			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1	Veteran's Park	200 Monroe Street	2.64	Metro	PASSIVE GREENSPACE										
2	Wade Mountain Preserve	Spragins Hollow Rd	559		PASSIVE GREENSPACE										
4	Willow	1928 Aftonbrae	7.74	National	X		X	X		X	X	X			X
2	Windsor Manor	6500 Pisgah	5.04	Lakewood				X		X	X			X	X

Source: www.hsvcity.com/recreation/HsvRecGuide.pdf

**Appendix 10-B
 Madison City Neighborhood and Municipal Parks**

Abbingtion Downs	135 Manningham Dr.	1.52 acres
Ashley II	1025 Shelton Road	1.3 acres
Ashley VI	121 Wellington Dr.	1.9 acres
Brass Oak	122 Jay Dr.	
Cambridge	696 Cambridge Dr.	0.539 acre
Carter	450 Carter Dr.	2.53 acres
Cedars	121 Shadow Ridge Dr.	1.48 acres
Chadrick	521 Brenda Dr.	4.3 acres
Colinwood	232 Jarrett Lane	1.+ acres
Dublin Park	8324 Madison Pike	59 +/- acres
Edgewater	105 Edgewater	5.6 acres
Fieldcrest	102 Brandon Dr.	4 acres
Governors	101 Bibb Dr.	0.58 acre
Home Place	130 Shorter St.	2.26 acres
Homestead	201 Prairie Dr.	5.28 acres
Leathertree	225 Gillespie Rd.	5.07 acres
Madison Point	139 Whisperwood Ln.	
Madison Trace	127 Progress Ln.	0.91 acre
Mandolin	208 Thomas Dr.	0.525 acre
Mill Creek	141 Teal Park Ln.	2.75 acres
Palmer Park	574 Palmer Rd.	(256) 772-9300
Rainbow Mountain	250 Carter Rd.	1.52 acres
Rickwood	481 Mose Chapel Rd.	2.507 acres
Rollingwood	163 Liberty Dr.	1.716 acres
Roy Tate	186 Roy Dr.	2.124 acres
Shelton Park	1025 Shelton Rd.	2.98 acres
Silver Creek	108 Donash	
Circle		2.772 acres
Stavemill	386 Sienna Vista Dr.	4.98 acres
Stewart	100 Stewart Street	0.22 acres
Stoneridge	190 Stoneway Trail	65 acres
Sweetbriar	144 Steele Drive	3.96 acres
Westgate	276 Pine Ridge Rd.	3.05 acres
Woodland	100 Highland Drive	2.76 acres

Source: www.madisonal.gov/cityparks.html

Appendix 10-C
Morgan County/Decatur/Hartselle Parks

A. C. Banks Park	705 B McCartney St, NW	Decatur
Adventure Park	Central Parkway/Beltline Road/Sandlin Road	Decatur
Aquadome Park	1202 5th Ave SW	Decatur
Austinville Park And Tennis Courts	Lamar S @ Spring Ave, SW	Decatur
Bill J. Dukes Athletic Complex	2900 C Point Mallard Circle	Decatur
Buena Vista Park	11th Ave, SE at end of Buena Vista Circle, SE	Decatur
Carrie Matthews	Memorial Dr/902 6th St, NW	Decatur
Cashin Wheeler	511 Monroe Dr, NW	Decatur
Cedar Ridge Park	2715 B Danville Rd, SW	Decatur
Chestnut Grove Park	3205 Cedarhurst Drive, SW	Decatur
Delano Park	825 Gordon Drive, SE	Decatur
Flint City Park	Austinville/Flint Road	Decatur
Founder's Park	fronting the historic 1833 Old State Bank	Decatur
Frazier Park	309 Cherry St, NE	Decatur
Gale Montgomery Park	4119 Old Hwy 31 S	Decatur
Hospitality Park	US Highway 31 North	Decatur
Ingalls Harbor	701 Market St NW	Decatur
Jessie Lewis Smith Park	102 Somerville Road, SE	Decatur
Julian Harris Park	1922 Mcauliffe Dr. SW	Decatur
Ned Frazier Park/Japanese Gardens	309 Cherry St, NE	Decatur
Parkway Park	Gordon Drive/1 st Street/3rd Avenue/4th Avenue, SW	Decatur
Pines Park	1612 5th Street , NW	Decatur
Point Mallard Park	2901 Point Mallard Drive	Decatur
Pop Oliver Park	Magnolia Street/16th Avenue SE	Decatur
Rhodes Ferry Park	100 Market St NE	Decatur
Sparkman Park	406 Nance Ford Road	Hartselle
Walter Jackson School Park	18th Ave/Birch/20th Ave, SE	Decatur
Wilson/Morgan Adventure Park	Central Parkway/Beltline Road/Sandlin Road, SW	Decatur
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge	2700 Refuge Headquarters Road	Decatur

Source: www.decaturparks.com, www.decaturmorgancounty.com

Appendix 10-D
Madison County Parks (Not Listed in Appendix 10-A)

Madison County Lake	2501 County Lake Road	Gurley
Butler Park	Holmes Ave NW and 14 th St. NW	Huntsville
Chapman Park	Philpot Ave NE	Huntsville
Constitution Hall Park		Huntsville
Ditto Landing Park	293 Ditto Landing Road	Huntsville
Grissom Park		Huntsville
Huntsville Running Park		Huntsville
Joe Davis Stadium	3125 Leeman Ferry Rd SW	Huntsville
Jones Valley Recreation Center	Tannahill Dr. SE and Carl T Jones Dr SE	Huntsville
Logan Park		Huntsville
Madison County Nature Trail	5000 Nature Trail Road	Huntsville
Madison County Par Course	Johnson Road	Huntsville
Milton Frank Stadium		Huntsville
Monrovia Community Center	254 Allen Drake Drive	Huntsville
Pear Tree Park		Huntsville
Piedmont Recreation Area	Eagletree Ln. SE	Huntsville
Robe Park		Huntsville
Thomas Zoo		Huntsville
Whitesburg Park	Sanders Rd. SW	Huntsville
Forrest Park	Forrest Park Ct NW	Madison
Hughs Park	Madison	Madison
Shelton Park	Steele Drive	Madison
University Park	4419 Saundralane Drive NW	Madison
John H Steigerwood Field		Meridianville

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Appendix 10-D, continued
Madison County Parks (Not Listed in Appendix 10-A)

Ka-Lea Park	Kalea Lane	Meridianville
Lakewood Park	2225 York Rd NW	Meridianville
Maplewood Park	4943 Memorial Pkwy NW	Meridianville
Sharon Johnston Park	783 Coleman Rd	New Market
Blue Water Spring Park	1060 Opp Reynolds Rd	Toney
Flamingo Park		Triana
Triana Recreation Area		Triana

Sources: [www.co.madison.al.us /services/otherag/ParkRec.shtml#bo](http://www.co.madison.al.us/services/otherag/ParkRec.shtml#bo),
www.alabama.hometownlocator.com

Appendix 10-E
Limestone County Parks

Athens Sportsplex	270 US Highway 31 N	Athens
Athens Stadium	100 Hwy 31N	Athens
Athens-Limestone Park	Idna Nobbs Rd	Athens
Big Springs Park	Beaty Street	Athens
Robert Allen Tinnon Park (5 th Ave. Park)	5 th Avenue at Hine & Jefferson Sts	Athens
Fitness Park	West Washington St	Athens
Jimmy Gill Park	320 Sanderfer Rd	Athens
Lincoln-Bridgeforth Park	Hine Street at Washington St. and Hwy 72	Athens
Swan Creek Park	next to Athens High School on Hwy 31	Athens
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge	2700 Refuge Headquarters Rd	Decatur
Round Island Recreational Area (Cowford Campground)	CR 41 and Cowford Rd	Jones Crossroads
Decatur Day Use Park	Hwy 31 S	Tanner

Sources: <http://limestoneparks.com>, <http://www.athensal.us/Departments/parks/Parks.htm>
www.alabama.hometownlocator.com

Appendix 10-F
Alabama State Parks within the PSA and Broader Impact Region

Joe Wheeler State Park	201 McLean Drive	Lauderdale County	Rogersville
Elk River State Park	North of US Hwy 72 on east side of Elk River	Limestone County	Cairo
Monte Sano State Park	5105 Nolen Ave SE	Madison County	Huntsville
Lake Guntersville State Park	7966 Alabama Highway 227	Marshall County	Guntersville
Cathedral Caverns State Park	637 Cave Rd	Marshall County	Woodville
Buck's Pocket State Park	393 Co. Rd. 174	Marshall, Jackson and DeKalb Counties	Grove Oak

Sources: www.huntsvillealabamausa.com