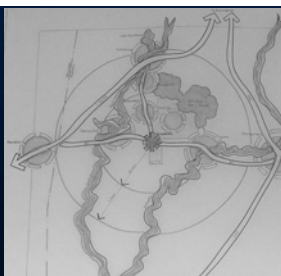


# COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DESIGN



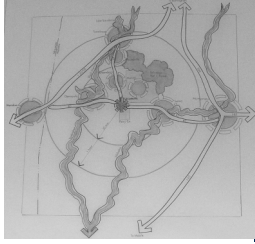
## General Community Planning and Design

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## Geographic and Geological Resources

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# GENERAL COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DESIGN

## ALABAMA COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE (ACE)

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Web: <http://www.alabamacommunitiesofexcellence.org>

### MISSION

The ACE program is a comprehensive three-phase approach to economic and community development for cities with populations between 2,000 and 12,000. With the mission of helping Alabama's smaller communities to plan, grow and prosper, ACE partners from the private sector, governmental agencies, and universities work with each community to successfully achieve the vision and goals created during the ACE program.

### OVERVIEW

ACE is a coalition of partners working together to provide Alabama communities with the community development programs and tools needed to ensure their long term success. It is a 501 (c)(3) organization with partners including:

- Alabama Association of Regional Councils
- AL Department of Economic and Community Affairs
- Alabama Development Office
- AL Historical Commission
- AL League of Municipalities
- AL Municipal Electric Authority
- Alabama Power Company
- ALACOM Finance
- Alagasco
- AU Economic & Community Development Institute
- Bradley Arant Rose & White
- EDAA
- Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood
- Merchant Capital
- PowerSouth Energy Cooperative
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- UA Center for Economic Development
- USDA Rural Development

### WHAT ACE DOES

ACE provides technical assistance to select communities in order to strengthen their long-term economic success. Its comprehensive three-phase approach targets communities with populations ranging from 2,000 to 18,000. Communities are selected based on the level of local commitment to the ACE program and the community's capacity to support the ACE program.

#### Phase I: Assessment

Includes application process, selection process and detailed community assessment by ACE team members. A comprehensive "report card" detailing community assets, weaknesses and recommended strategy and actions is prepared.

#### Phase II: Leadership Development and Strategic Planning

Includes creation of ongoing Leadership Development Program and development of strategic plan.

### Phase III: Implementation and Comprehensive Planning

Addresses comprehensive planning, commercial business development, education enhancement, infrastructure, health and human services, retiree attraction, tourism, economic development, and quality of life/recreation issues.

### Graduation

Upon completion of all three phases, communities are designated an “Alabama Community of Excellence” and receive a grant for further community/economic development efforts.

## AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION – ALABAMA CHAPTER (AAPA)

Johnny Blizzard, AICP, CFM  
President  
Chief Planner, City of Madison  
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Web: <http://www.alaapa.org/>

### MISSION AND GOALS

The purposes of the Chapter are to carry out the purposes and objectives of the American Planning Association (APA); to consider, confer on and make recommendations to the Association on matters of National Association policy; and, more specific to the Chapter area, to help residents of the State improve the quality of their lives through a rational and comprehensive approach to physical, economic and human resource planning. This mission is accomplished by:

- Promoting planning approaches in response to developmental and social opportunities and challenges facing the State
- Increasing awareness of the planning process, the planning profession and the benefits that both can bring to the State of Alabama
- Supporting planning education and fostering the growth of professional planners’ knowledge and skills
- Encouraging the exchange of planning information and experience in Alabama; and
- Working with other organizations in the State to foster common goals.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- The *Alabama Planner* is the AAPA newsletter. This quarterly publication highlights Chapter activities, job postings, and planning related articles. AAPA members receive the newsletter via postal service as part of their membership privileges. Anyone may view the *Alabama Planner* online.
- The *Jobline* is available to all visitors of our website. Planning job postings should be submitted via email to the webmaster, as indicated on the instructions available at the AAPA website.
- The “On the Web” section of the AAPA Web site includes hyperlinks to “all things planning.”
- The “Planning Legislation” section of the site contains information about new planning legislation.
- The AAPA Web site includes information about and a link to the Alabama Planning Institute.
- The “Kidstown, Alabama” portion of the website is designed with children in mind and provides information about what a planner is and what planners do, as well as links to other planning sites.

## ALABAMA PLANNING INSTITUTE

Ms. Lavonne Gatlin

Acting Director

Phone: (256) 765-4862

Toll-free: (800) 825-5862

Web: [http://www.una.edu/conted/planning\\_zoning.htm](http://www.una.edu/conted/planning_zoning.htm)

University of North Alabama

UNA Box 5036

Florence, AL 35632

E-mail: [lgatlin@una.edu](mailto:lgatlin@una.edu)

### PURPOSE

The Alabama Planning Institute serves the municipalities and counties of Alabama, providing training and professional development programs in the broad area of planning and urban development. The Institute was established in the mid-1980's as a collaborative effort of the Alabama League of Municipalities and the Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association. In 2001 its 21 seminars and workshops offered at numerous locations across the state served more than 750 planning commission members of boards of adjustment, council persons, mayors, local and regional planning staff and others. The Institute is administered by the University of North Alabama on behalf of the two co-sponsors.

## AUBURN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN STUDIES (URBAN STUDIO)

Cheryl Morgan, Interim Director

Gresham Professor of Architecture

Auburn Urban Studio

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Phone: (205) 323-3592

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Web: [www.cadc.auburn.edu/soa/urban-studio](http://www.cadc.auburn.edu/soa/urban-studio)

### OVERVIEW

The Urban Studio (more formally known as the Auburn University Center for Architecture and Urban Studies) was founded in 1991 by Associate Professor Franklin Setzer as a teaching and outreach venue for Auburn's School of Architecture. Setzer, along with CADC Dean Daniel Bennett conceived a place for students of architecture to be immersed in an urban environment, in direct and engaged contact with practicing professionals and in active pursuit of the design of great places.

The Urban Studio has an ongoing commitment to teaching, intern partnerships with local architects, and studio work focused in the city of Birmingham. In addition, the Urban Studio maintains an ongoing commitment to work with communities to identify those positive assets that can be the basis of a sound master plan for physical and economic vitality - creating distinctive opportunities for building a higher quality of life, broader prospects in the community and a better place to live.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- **Small Town Design Initiative:** <http://www.yourtownalabama.org/smalltown.htm>: Through its Small Town Design Initiative, the Urban Studio partners with small towns and communities across the state to help them recognize their potential and establish a vision for the future. The Studio's founder also founded the Small Town Design Initiative in 1998 to assist civic leaders and

citizens in small towns in preserving those things that made their towns special while preparing for revitalization, growth and improved quality of life. Since that time, the Studio has worked with over 40 communities to develop long-range visions and strategic plans for revitalization.

- Your Town Alabama (<http://www.yourtownalabama.org/>): The Urban Studio also played a key role in founding YourTownAlabama, an organization that provides leadership training workshops for citizen leaders across the state. To date, YourTownAlabama has held 16 workshops for citizen leaders across the state. To date, Your TownAlabama has held 16 workshops with more than 500 citizen leaders from 100 towns and counties. The organization's goal is to cultivate leadership that understands the value of planning, knows where and how to find technical assistance and expertise and has the confidence to take action on a local level. Urban Studio continues to be an active partner in this effort.
- Projects Around Birmingham: Urban Studio students have also worked on several projects around Birmingham, including in the Ensley, Woodlawn and Rosedale communities, as well as the Birmingham Historical Society's Buddy-Up Program. Midtown Housing, Railroad Reservation Park, Sloss Furnaces Master Plan, Lakeview and Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard in-fill are a few of the other projects the Urban Studio has been involved with through the years.

## DESIGN ALABAMA, INC.

Gina Glaze Clifford

Executive Director

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 241263

Montgomery, AL 36124

Physical Address

410 North Hull Street (36104)

Phone: (334) 549-4672

Web: <http://www.designalabama.org>

E-mail: [designalabama1@bellsouth.net](mailto:designalabama1@bellsouth.net)

## MISSION

Design Alabama, Inc. works to increase awareness and the value of the design disciplines that influence our environment. Their work is based on a belief that the quality of life and economic growth of Alabama are enhanced through attention to and investment in good design.

## OVERVIEW

Design Alabama works from the capitol city of Montgomery, Alabama and works as a statewide partner of the Alabama State Council on the Arts to deliver a variety of design programming across the state. Led by one employee, Gina Clifford, Executive Director, the organization continues to be the lead organization for design arts in Alabama.

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Mayor's Design Summit
- *Design Alabama Journal*
- Small Town Design Initiative
- Other Projects and Programs

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA), PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Bob Dennis  
Program Specialist  
401 W. Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1820  
Atlanta, GA 30308 -3510

Phone: (404) 730-3020  
E-mail [bdennis@eda.doc.gov](mailto:bdennis@eda.doc.gov)

### **PURPOSE**

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The Planning and Technical Assistance division of the EDA works to enhance community success in attracting private capital investment and lucrative job opportunities. In fulfilling its mission, EDA is guided by the basic principle that distressed communities must be empowered to develop and implement their own economic development and revitalization strategies.

### **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

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Based on these locally- and regionally-developed priorities, EDA works in partnership with state and local governments, regional economic development districts, public and private nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes. EDA helps distressed communities address problems associated with long-term economic distress, as well as sudden and severe economic dislocations including recovering from the economic impacts of natural disasters, the closure of military installations and other Federal facilities, changing trade patterns, and the depletion of natural resources.



# GEOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

## ALABAMA MAPS

*The University of Alabama*

Dr. Gerald R. Webster  
Chair, Cartographic Research Lab  
Department of Geography (Farrah Hall)  
Box 870322  
The University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0322

Phone: (205) 348-1536  
Email: [alabama.maps@ua.edu](mailto:alabama.maps@ua.edu)  
Web: <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/>

### OVERVIEW

Alabama Maps is an ongoing project of the Cartographic Research Laboratory, which operates under the auspices of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Alabama. Alabama Maps is a large collection of maps from the University of Alabama's Cartographic Research Laboratory.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

This web site is divided into three sections: the Contemporary Map Index, the Historical Map Archive, and the Aerial Photography Index.

- Contemporary Map Index: features maps generated by the Laboratory. The Cartographic Research Laboratory (CRL) has been creating computer generated maps since the early 1990s. Rather than maintaining these maps in digital archives, CRL felt that it would be more useful to itself and the public if it made these maps freely available on the Internet. CRL believes that the maps will be particularly valuable to educators and the business community while, at the same time, allowing CRL a means of communicating its services to potential clients.
- Historical Map Archive: a digitized collection of selected map holdings from the University of Alabama Map Library, the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library, the Rucker Agee Collection of the Birmingham Public Library, the Geological Survey of Alabama, and the Alabama Department of Archives and History. These maps are not necessarily limited to Alabama, but from Alabama-based collections)
- Aerial Photography Index: contains a digitized selection of historic aerial photography found at the Geological Survey of Alabama and the University of Alabama Map Library. The photos found in this index are but a small part of the total collection of nearly 150,000 photographs housed in these facilities.

## NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

Consistent means to share geographic data among all users could produce significant savings for data collection and use and enhance decision making. Executive Order 12906 calls for the establishment of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure defined as the technologies, policies, and people necessary to promote sharing of geospatial data throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community.

The goal of this Infrastructure is to reduce duplication of effort among agencies, improve quality and reduce costs related to geographic information, to make geographic data more accessible to the public, to increase the benefits of using available data, and to establish key partnerships with states, counties, cities, tribal nations, academia and the private sector to increase data availability.

The NSDI has come to be seen as the technology, policies, criteria, standards and people necessary to promote geospatial data sharing throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and academia. It provides a base or structure of practices and relationships among data producers and users that facilitates data sharing and use. It is a set of actions and new ways of accessing, sharing and using geographic data that enables far more comprehensive analysis of data to help decision-makers choose the best course(s) of action. Much has been accomplished in recent years to further the implementation of the NSDI, but there is still much to be done to achieve the vision of current and accurate geographic data being readily available across the country.

## GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ALABAMA (GSA)

Yvonne Massey  
Executive Assistant  
420 Hackberry Lane  
P.O. Box 869999  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-6999

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Web: <http://www.gsa.state.al.us>

### MISSION

The Geological Survey of Alabama, established in 1848, provides service and information to Alabama and its citizens as a natural resource data gathering and research agency. As part of its mission, GSA explores and evaluates the mineral, water, energy, biological, and other natural resources of the State of Alabama and conducts basic and applied research in these fields.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

#### GSA Programs:

- Geologic Investigations Program conducts basic geologic and coastal research, monitors and investigates geologic hazards, and directs the geologic mapping program. It also maintains and manages the core and well sample warehouse and sample viewing facility, the paleontology collection, the library, the Publications Sales Office, and publishes Geological Survey of Alabama and State Oil and Gas Board reports. The program includes three sections:
  - Coastal Resources Section: [http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/coastal/coastal\\_resources.html](http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/coastal/coastal_resources.html)
  - Geologic Mapping and Hazards: [http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/geo\\_mapping.html](http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/geo_mapping.html)
  - Resources Information: [http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/res\\_info.html](http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/res_info.html)

- The Water Investigations Program of the Geological Survey of Alabama conducts basic water resource investigations of ground- and surface-water quantity and quality. The Water Investigations Program consists of four groups:
  - Hydrogeology: <http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/hydrogeology/hydrogeology.html>
  - Biological Systems: <http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/biological.html>
  - Geochemical Laboratory: <http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/h20nfo.html>
  - Water Information Section: <http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/h20nfo.html>
- Energy Investigations Program: Geologists at the Survey are currently evaluating the distribution and quality of deep coal resources in the Black Warrior basin. Identifying prospective areas for future development will aid Alabama's mining industry. Survey geologists study the coalbed methane reserves in the Black Warrior basin, Cahaba coal basin, and Coosa coal basin and the use of carbon dioxide to enhance methane production in conjunction with carbon sequestration research. These studies help identify new areas for development and help the industry produce gas more efficiently and practically. Oil and gas research at the Geological Survey focuses on characterizing the petroleum reservoirs in Alabama. The research above falls into the following categories.
  - Coal Systems & Technology: [http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/coal\\_sys.html](http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/coal_sys.html)
  - Petroleum Systems & Technology: [http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/petro\\_sys.html](http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/petro_sys.html)
  - Carbon Sequestration: <http://beta.gsa.state.al.us/programs.html##>

### 3 Major Operational Divisions:

- Hydrogeology Division
- Economic Geology Division
- Environmental Geology Division

Each of these divisions has unique areas of responsibility that together facilitate the ability of the survey to successfully achieve its mission of service to the state of Alabama.

### Other Programs and Services:

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Educational Outreach Efforts | • Publications Group       |
| • Geochemistry Lab             | • Publication Sales Office |
| • Library                      |                            |

## USGS GEOLOGIC INFO ABOUT THE SOUTHEASTERN STATES

Mark Myers  
 USGS Director  
 U.S. Geological Survey Headquarters  
 John W. Powell Federal Building  
 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
 Reston, Virginia 20192

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 Email: [mmyers@usgs.gov](mailto:mmyers@usgs.gov)  
 Web: [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)

### OVERVIEW

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

## **MISSION**

As the Nation's largest water, earth, and biological science and civilian mapping agency, the USGS collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems. The diversity of USGS's scientific expertise enables it to carry out large-scale, multi-disciplinary investigations and provide impartial scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers.

## **PROGRAMS**

"Geologic Information about the Southeastern States" highlights selected research on the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee and offers links to other online resources for each State.

### **USGS Offices in Alabama**

#### **1. Water Science Center - Montgomery**

Athena Clark  
Director  
AUM TechnaCenter  
75 TechnaCenter Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36117  
Phone: (334) 395-4120  
Web: [http://pubs.water.usgs.gov/al\\_water](http://pubs.water.usgs.gov/al_water)

#### **2. National Spatial Data Infrastructure Partnership Office**

(Liaison for: AL, FL, GA, MS, PR, VI, Gulf Coast)  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Florida Mapping Partnership Office  
2010 Levy Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32310  
Phone: (850) 942-9500 x3034

#### **3. USGS Alabama Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit**

108 White Smith Hall  
Auburn University  
Auburn, AL 36849-5418  
Phone: (334) 844-4796