

- ❖ There are not enough properties listed and recognized as historical, so many are lost, and not preserved.

Opportunities

- ❖ The Historical Society is active and can provide valuable resources, through knowledge and information about buildings and land.
- ❖ Identify historic unique places and events to encourage visitors and tourism.

Economic Development

Needs

- ❖ There are not enough restaurants in the County, which causes loss of income and sales tax because residents and visitors leave the community to eat.
- ❖ There is a lack of retail in the county; as a result, residents drive to Valdosta for shopping. We need to attract more businesses to the area.
- ❖ Commercial sales taxes are lost to Lowndes County due to lack of businesses in Echols County.
- ❖ Need to install signs for the Alapaha Water Trail.

Opportunities

- ❖ The tree stock throughout the County is worth well over 100 million dollars, and the Pine Tree industry is thriving; this can be utilized to create more business opportunities for the County such as fuel pellet industry and potential sawmills.
- ❖ The school system is a significant employer for the County. The school is also a State recognized school for the highest APR could be used as an attraction for new residents and businesses
- ❖ The County is a prime location for a centralized processing center (Hub) for recycling that could service the counties surrounding Echols.
- ❖ Continue to update the County website to raise awareness and promote the county.
- ❖ Promote the boat landing at the Alapaha River.
- ❖ There are nature trails, fishing, and kayaking that can be developed for tourism.
- ❖ There are a lot of Flatwoods for hunting.

Housing

Needs

- ❖ The quality of housing stock has been degraded due to a few illegal /non-permitted mobile homes parks that have created blighted areas.
- ❖ There is no public assisted housing in the County, and there is a lack of affordable stick-built housing such as apartments or condos for the elderly and the low-to-moderate income.
- ❖ Building Codes need to be adhered to as a safety Need – houses are not maintained.
- ❖ Need a local bank so more people can be attracted to build their homes in the community.