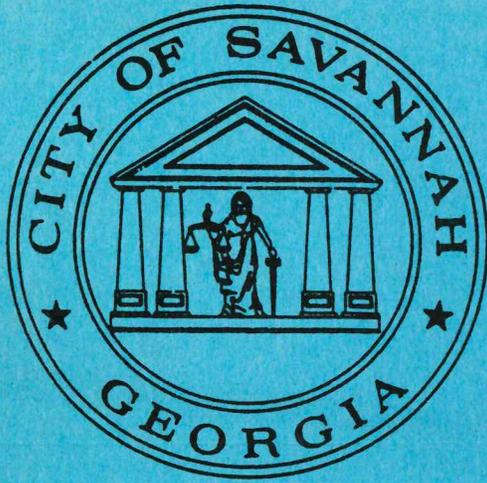


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ANNUAL  
REPORT:

1980

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**MAYOR**

**JOHN P. ROUSAKIS**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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**Mayor Pro-Tempore**

**W. Brooks Stillwell**

**Roy Jackson**

**Harris Lentini**

**H.C. Morrison**  
**Chairman of Council**

**Leo Center**  
**Vice-Chairman of Council**

**Creighton Rhodes**

**Leon Chaplin**

**CITY MANAGER**

**Arthur A. Mendonsa**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO THE**

**Mayor & Aldermen**

**1980**



CITY OF SAVANNAH  
office of the city manager  
p.o. box 1027, savannah, georgia 31402

April 16, 1981

Mayor and Aldermen  
Savannah City Hall  
Savannah, Ga. 31402

Dear Members of Council:

The year 1980 is now history. By all measures, the year was one of success and forward progress for City programs. This **ANNUAL REPORT: 1980** outlines and highlights our accomplishments for you. A number of these projects deserve particular attention.

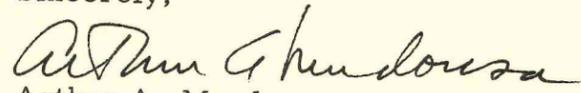
Our continuing efforts to improve the livability of this community have involved a variety of projects. Among those completed this year were the revitalization of Dixon Park, Richards Street Community Center, the rehabilitation of the Bacon Park Golf Course, and the completion of nearly twenty miles of street paving. Projects to improve Forsyth Park and Crawford Square moved closer to reality with construction planned for 1981. Improvements were also made to the water and sewer system, the drainage system, and to the street sweeping program.

We have continued to move forward with the improvement of the condition of the housing stock within the central city through the utilization of several HUD programs which represent a total expenditure of over \$2 million. This is exclusive of substantial loans to Savannah Landmark and the Beach Institute Neighborhood Association to help secure restorable housing stock.

These and the other major projects and programs discussed in this report illustrate our continuing commitment to improve the livability of this community and to provide effective and efficient services to our citizens.

In closing, I would like to commend our Bureau Heads, Department Heads, and all City of Savannah employees for their fine efforts and initiative in developing and monitoring these programs and in providing services during this year.

Sincerely,

  
Arthur A. Mendonsa  
City Manager

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

During 1980 the Savannah Police Department continued to provide an excellent level of police services to the residents of this community. This includes crime control, criminal investigations, and emergency services.

This year saw an increase in Part I crimes of approximately 1%; from 14,866 for 1979 to 14,950 for 1980. Larcenies constituted 59% of all Part I crimes during this period. Burglaries accounted for 25%, aggravated assaults 6%, auto thefts and robberies 4%, rape 1%, and homicides 0.2%. The Part I crime rate per 1000 was 106.8 in 1980, as compared to 106.2 in 1979.

Although overall crime figures increased by 1%, crimes against persons decreased by 13% from 1979. Crimes against property increased by 3% for same period. The most significant decreases occurred in aggravated assault, 28%; and auto thefts, 14%. The most significant increases were recorded for homicides, 23% and rape, 41%. Other increases occurred in robberies, 4%; burglaries, 1%; and larceny, 5%.

To increase the Police Department's effectiveness in combating crime, existing operations were carefully studied and reviewed to determine what personnel and equipment needs were. This study determined that the addition of twenty new police officers and the reassignment of several officers was necessary. This improvement, at a cost of \$406,000, was approved as part of the 1981 Budget by the Mayor and Aldermen. These new officers began training in January, 1981.

## WATER AND SEWER

This year's water production figures reflect the impact of the summer's drought. Although the 8.8 billion gallons of water pumped during this period was above the 1978 and 1979 levels, it was substantially below the 9.89 billion gallons pumped for 1977.

By activating a number of wells to keep a full storage tank in the Windsor Forest area, low pressure complaints which usually accompany a long, dry spell were reduced. With the completion of a new well at Coffee Bluff, we now have twenty-six operational wells to provide water to Savannah residents.

To insure that our water retains its purity, quality is constantly monitored. A total of 1,862 water samples were collected, analyzed, and found safe by both the Chatham County and State Water Laboratories. Water samples are also tested for trihalomethane (THM) content. In substantial volumes THM is carcinogenic. Reports have indicated that our artesian supplies, and the I & D system are well below the maximum acceptable levels for THM. A State EPD study has further confirmed these findings.

In order to increase the I & D water supply, two raw water lines, running from the Abercorn Creek, were cleaned and a fifth raw water pump was activated. We now plan to replace the existing pumps at a rate of one pump per year.

Sewer maintenance activities accounted for the construction of 62 new manholes and the repair and alteration of 180. Over 2,200 of the sewer lines were repaired and sixty miles of sewer lines were cleaned. Sewer maintenance personnel also assembled a hydraulic, submersible pump, used in their operations, for a savings of nearly \$8,000 over purchase price.

Several areas in Savannah have an unusually high level of acid in the soil which damages galvanized service laterals. This soil type has been found in Cloverdale, Lamarville, and Hudson Hills. The City has been replacing these existing laterals, which in many instances have failed, with polyethylene or polybutylene laterals. Nearly 700 old laterals were replaced with PVC this year. Since this program was initiated in 1978, over 1,500 new laterals have been installed.

Improvements to the chlorine handling system and the aeration units at the President Street Pollution Abatement Plant were completed during 1980. As a result of an engineering study of the performance of the aeration and solids handling system at the plant, it was determined that the equipment was defective and the design deficient. Legal actions were initiated against the project engineer and the contractor to collect for the cost of correcting these deficiencies. At the same time work was initiated to install a supplemental aeration system.

One of the basic problems discovered was that sufficient oxygen was not being provided for the aeration system. A jet air system was determined to be the most cost-effective system to meet the oxygen needs, both for present loads and for projected loads. In October, 1979 grant funds were made available to finance these improvements. The total project cost was approximately \$587,000.

with the City's share being \$164,000.

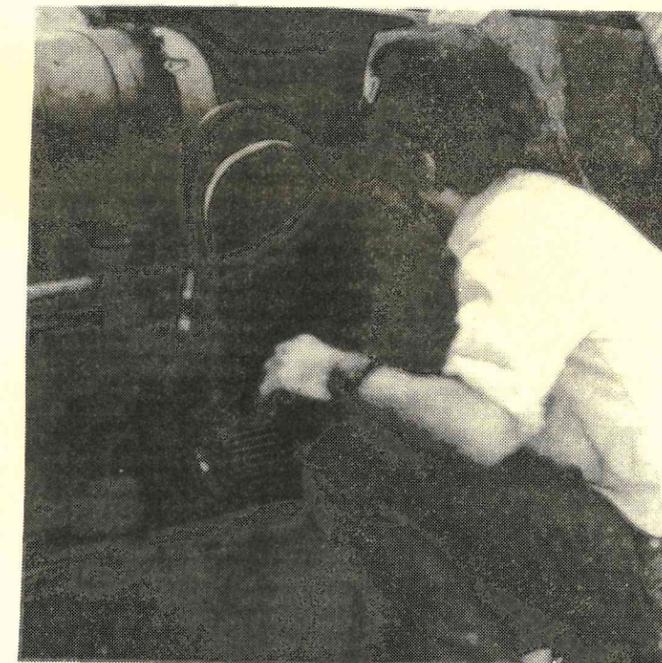
The new jet air system has raised the dissolve oxygen levels in the aeration basins to desired levels, but this has not completely solved the problems.

Improvements were also made in the chlorine handling facilities and the chlorination control equipment. This project increased the storage capacity of the chlorine containers, increased safety, and has improved the control of chlorine feed at the chlorine contact tanks. This improvement cost \$86,850.

A further study, focusing on the Plant's sludge handling capabilities, has indicated the need for the installation of supplemental equipment and the modification or replacement of existing equipment in order for the system to handle the present solids loading of 27,000 lbs. per day. The present system can only handle 13,000 pounds per day, far below the actual load. These surplus solids cannot be handled, and are creating problems throughout the plant.

The projected cost for the necessary improvements to the solids system is approximately \$1.2 million. An application for a grant of \$54,940 for the development of plans and specifications has been forwarded to the EPA and EPD and a decision is pending. Once plans and specifications are developed, then an application will be made for \$824,250 to fund the construction. The City's cost for this project will be approximately \$294,000.

of excessive storm and ground water in the sewage collection and outfall system serving the facility. During periods of heavy rainfall, the system becomes overloaded and washouts of solids occur. This problem is being addressed by a \$600,000 Sewer System Evaluation Survey to determine the exact source of the problems. When completed, this will provide data necessary to request grant funds to eliminate combined sewers and to reduce infiltration into the system. The study will be complete in March, 1981.



## VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

The Vehicle Maintenance Department is responsible for the maintenance and repair of some six hundred vehicles and pieces of operating equipment. Inflation, which has strained the City's operating budget, has had a particularly severe impact on vehicle operations primarily because of the high cost of fuels and replacement parts. Efforts have continued to be made to help reduce the cost of operations for vehicles. To better control the use of gasoline and diesel fuel, an automated fuel dispensing system will be installed in 1981. Propane is now being tested in a number of police vehicles to determine if this is a possible alternative to gasoline.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Savannah Fire Department responded to a total of 2,491 fire-calls during 1980. Actual fires accounted for 1,286 of these calls for service while 60 of these calls were for rescue service. An additional 683 calls were for Public Services and 462 calls were false alarms. The Southside Fire Department, under contract to the Savannah Fire Department for fire protection services to the southside area of the City, responded to 285 fire calls, 96 Public Service calls, and 67 false alarms, for a total of 448 calls for service.

The total City-wide fire loss for the year was \$2,282,866. Losses in the old City accounted for \$1,699,217, while the area served by the Southside Fire Department reported losses of \$583,699. During 1979 losses for the old portion of the City totalled \$3,771,275. Therefore the 1980 figure represents a decrease in fire losses by some 55%. The total value of property saved, which represents the value of property directly jeopardized by these fires, was \$135,584,338 for the old City area and \$55,839,256 for the annexed area. Arson and suspicious fires accounted for \$634,100 of the total fire loss for this year.

The Savannah Fire Department's Home Inspection program continued with 5,171 individual residences being inspected. Through this program Savannah firemen inspect the homes of consenting persons and advise the residents if any potential fire hazards are found to exist. This program has been targeted to those neighborhoods which have a high incidence of residential fires. During 1980 a total of 58 fires occurred in buildings which had been inspected. Investigations have revealed that only two of these fifty-eight fires were caused by reportable defects which were not corrected by the residents.

In order to maintain the professionalism of the Savannah Fire Department, all firefighters are required to have and maintain State Certification. During 1980 nearly forty-four thousand hours of instruction and training was received by members of this Department.



Savannah News-Press photo by Steve Bisson

The Clean Communities Program continued working to create a cleaner community. The Advisory Council developed a promotional program to inform citizens of the causes and problems created by litter. A number of slide presentation, and workshops were also provided for various civic organizations. These program were instrumental in this program receiving the 1980 Keep America Beautiful Merit Award.

The "Super Clean Team", animated characters, will lend their full support to the Clean Communities Program during 1981. Public Service announcements featuring these characters will be aired on local television and radio stations. This program should help to increase the awareness of the public of the problems litter can create.

While these efforts continued, attention was also devoted to reducing expenses and providing services. The redesign of our Commercial Refuse collection system resulted in the reduction of the number of routes from six to five, and an annual savings of \$126,000.

While this adjustment made this operation more cost efficient and effective, it does not reduce the amount of garbage collected. Until alternative methods of disposal can be developed, the ultimate home for waste is the municipal landfill. This year a 66,000 lb. trash compactor, purchased with a \$50,000 EPD matching grant, began helping to dispose of 400 tons of garbage per day. Greater compaction will allow for better land use efficiency and thus a longer life for the sanitary landfill site.

## STREETS AND TRAFFIC

The Streets and Traffic Division is responsible for the maintenance of paved and unpaved streets and lanes, right-of-way maintenance, barricade placement, street inspections, traffic signal maintenance, signs and markings, street lighting, and parking meter maintenance.

Due to the widening of DeRenne Avenue, the traffic control systems at Habersham, Paulsen, Waters and Skidaway Roads had to be relocated. This involved the setting of proper poles, the relocation of traffic signal controllers, the installation of new detectors, and the reinstallation of traffic signal heads. This project will be completed at the same time the DeRenne widening is finalized.

Major repairs were completed on the lighting system on Interstate 16. Several underground cables were replaced to place 90% of the system into operation. Lighting within the City was further improved with the installation of 256 new residential street lights. Fifty-one existing lights were removed after the relocation and adjustment of a number of existing lights.

## INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT

The Inspections Department administers the codes and ordinances as they relate to zoning, building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, fire prevention, and housing. This department insures that new construction, repairs, and alterations comply with the applicable codes; that substandard properties are in compliance with minimum standards; and that all codes are kept current.

A system to measure productivity and effectiveness for inspectors was developed in 1980. A daily log is now used to collect data and measure the productivity of inspectors. Seventy six municipalities were surveyed to determine methods to determine productivity. The survey responses revealed that no agency used true productivity measures, but some respondents do employ performance indicators. These performance indicators, such as number of inspections, permits issued, miles driven, revenues per permit, and fees collected are now compiled on a monthly basis by this Department.

The composite date for inspections conducted during 1980 is as follows:

New Construction, Repairs, Alterations	
Building Code	9,554
Electrical Code	6,884
Mechanical-Plumbing	5,960
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,398</b>
Housing Code Enforcement	
Housing Code (Inspection and Re-inspection)	18,665
Dwellings brought into compliance	1,197
Dwellings vacated	41
Recommended for condemnation	248
Fire Prevention Code Enforcement	
Inspections	3,974
Zoning Inspections	
Inspections	4,405

## PARK AND TREE DEPARTMENT

Our residents spend many hours enjoying the passive parks and squares of this City. To attractively maintain these areas, the Park and Tree Department developed a priority system for all parks, squares and medians to determine the frequency and level of maintenance for these areas. From this system a regular maintenance schedule was developed to insure that these areas retain their attractiveness.

To further enhance the beauty of Savannah the Park and Tree Commission developed a Master Tree Plan which sets forth the priorities for tree planting within the City and establishes a goal of planting one thousand trees per year. With the City's current tree need identified at 20,000 trees, priorities were developed. The top priority for the Spring of 1981 is the planting of Abercorn Extension and several main arteries on the southside of the City.

Several existing parks were graced with new faces during 1980. Dixon Park was completely renovated with landscaping, irrigation, and lighting. A children's play area now centers this park. Baldwin Park was upgraded with the installation of new sidewalks, park furniture, and landscaping.

Plans for the revitalization of Forsyth Park were completed this year. They call for the restoration of the northern sector of the park with the retention of its passive atmosphere and the improvement of the active recreation facilities at the southern half of the park. Construction will begin in Winter, 1981.

Plans were also finalized for the restoration of Crawford Square, currently used as a neighborhood recreation area. Existing elements include a basketball goal and some playground equipment. Area residents and recreational planners worked closely to develop a plan that would retain a recreational area, while also providing an attractive center-piece for the neighborhood.

The cemeteries also are under the jurisdiction of this department. Large scale improvements were implemented in these facilities several years ago, and the public has continually expressed a desire for better maintenance. The Laurel Grove Cemetery has received a large amount of attention because of its historic value. Additional funds were included in the 1981 budget to initiate a multi-year program to improve maintenance at all cemeteries.

During the summer an apparent blight struck a number of trees in downtown Savannah. Dead growth appeared on several trees, and State and Regional experts were consulted to help determine the cause of the damage. It was found that in some instances a herbicide had contributed to the damages, but the major problem was attributed to the summer drought. The trees were not getting enough water.

## HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Through the use of the Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Program (HRAP), Section "312" loans, Interest Subsidies, and SECTION "8", the City's Housing Department is trying to reduce the number of sub-standard housing units.

In the HRAP program loans and grants were approved for 49 units, representing a 68% increase over 1979. Construction was completed on 37 of these units.

Under the Section "312" program, low interest loans are made available for the revitalization of residential properties. Normally applications must be submitted to HUD for their review and approval. However, Savannah is the second Georgia city to be able to approve these loans prior to submission to HUD. This has resulted in a reduction of the processing time. Eleven single family loans, representing a total of \$258,000, were approved during this year. Approval was also given for one five-unit multi-family project.

The Interest Subsidy/Construction Loan program was instrumental in the release of UDAG funds for the Victorian District. This program approved loans for 34 units for a total private investment of \$850,000. Construction on eight of these projects was completed in 1980.

Applications were submitted to HUD for 265 Section "8" units. This is a significant increase over the four applications submitted in 1979. Twenty-one of these were for "scattered site" projects which are scheduled to begin in early 1981.

Rehabilitation funded totally or partially by the City represents \$1.9 million. This is exclusive of an additional \$393,000 in Section "312" loans.



## ENGINEERING

Though a number of City Departments are involved in various projects, from the planning phases to the identification and securing of funding, Engineering is the department that insures that it is constructed properly. Street pavings, water and sewer improvements, park and recreation projects, and a number of minor improvements rounded out the 1980 calendar for this Department.

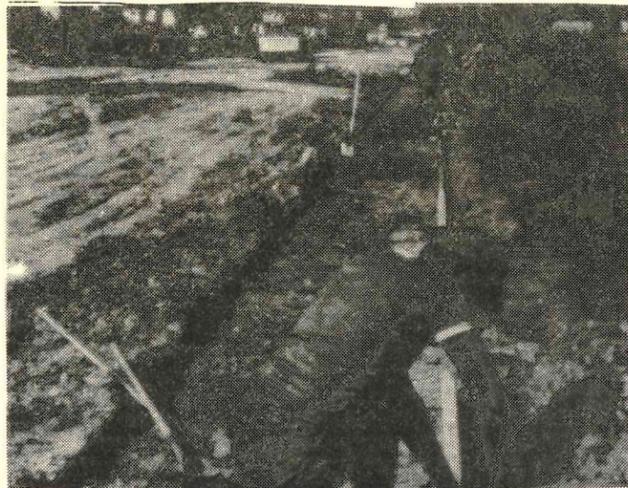
While Savannah has two separate types of street paving projects, both are supervised by this Department. If 50% or more of the property owners adjoining a street request paving, it is termed "petition paving". If the City determines that the general welfare will be served by a paving project, then it is a "public necessity" project. Property owners share the cost for both types of paving projects at a rate of \$7.00 per foot of property frontage. This amount generally represents less than 20% of the total cost. These paving projects include curbs and gutters, storm sewers, and water and sewer improvements.

Petition projects are selected on a first-come, first-served basis while General Obligation Bond funds are available. The following streets were paved in 1980 under petition paving for a cost of \$710,000:

Bolling Street (Treat to Georgia)  
Utah Street (Nevada to Oregon)  
43rd Street (Skidaway to Lecy)  
Hawthorne Street (Pennsylvania to Nevada)  
Shawnee Street (Middleground to Apache)  
Wessels Avenue (40th to 43rd)  
Cedar Street (Victory to 34th)  
Utah Street (Oregon to dead end)

Community Development paving projects represent the City's policy of paving all streets in the Community Development Block Grant target areas, excepting a number of non-residential streets. Nearly twenty miles of paving was completed at a cost of \$5,827,000 during 1980.

Fifteen miles of streets were resurfaced 1980 under the State's Local Assistance Road Program. LARP projects are funded by the State with a minimal City contribution and are selected from a priority list provided by the City's Engineering Department. The State also resurfaced Skidaway Road from DeRenne to Victory Drive and Montgomery Street from 52nd Street to Bay Street.



Over \$2 million was expended during 1980 for improvements and expansion to the Water and Sewer System. The following projects were completed:

Rehabilitation of Pump Stations #24, 25, 26, 27, 34, & 65  
Emergency Repair of Pump Station #23  
Thomas Avenue Water Line Extension  
Sandfly Water and Sewer Improvements  
Well #26 at Coffee Bluff  
Various Water Improvements in Planning Unit #10  
Feiler Terrace Sewer System  
Depford Tract Sewer Outfall Replacement  
President Street Air Conditioner  
Betty Drive Sewer Relief Line  
Overhead Door Replacement - President Street Plant  
Chlorination Improvement - President Street Plant

Water Line Replacement on West Bay Street  
President Street Aeration System Improvement  
Flatman Village Water Line Replacement  
Woodville Area Water Improvements  
Oakdale Area Water Improvements

Various improvements to the City's parks and recreational facilities were completed during 1980. The following projects were completed at a cost of \$859,000:

Cloverdale Tennis Court Lighting  
Repairs to Ballfield Lighting  
Park Improvements at Rogers Street  
Dixon Park Revitalization  
Tompkins Recreation Center - Parking Lot Paving  
Richards Street Community Center  
Softball Field Lighting - Eisenhower #4  
Bacon Park Golf Course Rehabilitation  
Tompkins Recreation Center - Lighting Improvements.

Other improvements complete during 1980, at a budgeted cost of \$348,000, were:

Scarborough House Improvements  
School Sidewalks - various locations  
Renovation of Battlefield Park Buildings  
Handrails on Factors Walk  
Civic Center Roof replacement  
City Hall Dome Restoration  
Handicapped Access to the Gamble Building

With the assistance of the Management Analysis staff, this department has worked to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operations. Numerous improvements were made with the result of better project scheduling, better management control, improved cohesiveness, communications, and feedback, the development of rigid guidelines, for consulting firm relations, and the development of a construction inspection report system.

## MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Management Services Bureau works to improve the efficiency and functioning of the operating departments of the City. With the move of the Finance Department to the Management Services Division, all Management, Finance, and Budgeting functions are now within one Bureau. This will help improve the financial control over the receipt and disbursement of City funds.

The Finance Department includes the City's accounting, revenue, and purchasing functions which are responsible for the proper receipt and disbursement of approximately \$50 million in operating and capital funds annually. In 1980 this Department developed a program to reduce the backlog of service requests, increase operating revenues from water and sewer billings, and researched and implemented 1981 increases in property taxes, liquor taxes, insurance premium taxes, business licenses, golf course fees, inspection fees, residential refuse fees, and selected recreational fees.

The Research and Budget Department is responsible for the compilation and monitoring of the City's budgetary expenditures during the year. Because of the pressures of inflation and the desire of the City to address new service needs, this task was particularly difficult in 1980. Sufficient funds were made available to provide necessary services while increasing the City's basic budget at a rate far below current inflation. The increased use of the data processing system for compiling and producing the budget, projecting and controlling expenditures, and reducing the cost of goods and services has improved fiscal control.

## DATA PROCESSING

The City Data Processing Department provides information processing for management and financial functions of the City. They also provide services to Chatham County and the area-wide criminal justice information network. During the past three years, this Department has expanded its processing capability and provided users with direct access to the computer. During 1980 new computer hardware enabled improved communications to be offered to various departments. A data system was also developed to allow departments to receive services without extensive programming. In addition, better safety measures were implemented to insure the reliable storage and retrieval of needed information.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City is continuing to promote downtown economic development. During 1980 we were successful in receiving the preliminary approval of two Urban Development Action Grants totaling \$1.4 million. However, neither the \$700,000 grant for the TPA project nor the \$700,000 grant for the Mulberry Inn project have been awarded. The TPA grant has received an extension until April 30, 1981 for a final commitment to be made. The Mulberry Inn project has changed hands and it is apparent that this UDAG grant request will be withdrawn.

The Advisory Council on Downtown Economic Development continues to meet on a regular basis to provide guidance on the downtown development and to make recommendations to the Mayor and Aldermen. Attention has been devoted to fundamental planning and coordination. A Downtown Economic Market Analysis and Development Plan, focusing on the Northwest Quadrant, will identify a five to ten year development plan which will include up to six private/public projects for which there is demonstrable demand. This plan, being developed by the consulting firm of Economics Research Associates, will be presented to the Mayor and Aldermen in mid-1981.

A Downtown Staff Coordination Group composed of staff members of all agencies concerned with the future of the downtown area was formed. Their purpose is to assure a coordinated approach is taken to all development efforts.

Based on the rehabilitation of 59 housing units, representing a total investment of \$1.3 million, HUD released \$325,000 in UDAG funds for the Victorian District. Two pilot projects for sidewalk and lighting improvements will precede a master plan for improvements to the entire district. During 1981 an additional \$700,000 in private investments in the Victorian district must be generated in order to receive the remaining \$325,000 of UDAG funds.

## LABOR RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Two significant trends became apparent during 1980 to affect the activities of the Labor Resources Department in carrying out its function of administering programs under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). The swing from public activities to programs aimed at the private sector, increased emphasis on "on the job training", your programs, and significant decreases in subsidized jobs programs are expected to continue throughout 1981.

Over four thousand individuals participated in CETA programs during 1980. These included vocational training (571), on-the-job training (647) work experience (1,487), public service employment (1,256), and other activities (168).

To improve the productivity of the program an Assessment Center is proposed to be established in 1981 so that each participant will be reviewed for aptitude, attitude desires, etc. The purpose will be to determine how the participant can most benefit from the CETA program.

In 1981 a survey will be completed to determine what emphasis should be placed on youth program activities. In addition, a new on-the-job Training Market Program will be established at the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce to contract with private employers to train program participants.

### POPULATION SERVED BY CETA:

Male	1,891	White	509
Female	2,238	Black	3,549
		Other	71
Handicapped	275	Veterans	541
Ex-offenders	251	Language Barriers	34
Displaced Homemakers	15	School Dropout	1,154
Income below poverty level			4,129



## LEISURE SERVICES

Participation in Leisure Services activities continued to increase in 1980 with over 6,000 individuals involved in team sports alone. League baseball, Slowpitch Softball, volleyball, soccer, and football accounted for 371 teams.

The first phase of renovation at the Bacon Park Golf Course neared completion at the end of the year. Six holes were remodeled, three new holes were built, and a computerized irrigation system was installed. Portions of the unrenovated course will be upgraded and also placed on this automated irrigation system. Most of the drainage problems were eliminated with the renovation, thus allowing for an additional 15 days of golf per year.

Recreational programs continued to attract senior citizens to our Adult Day Care Centers. The Golden Age Centers continued to provide arts and crafts activities, exercise programs, field trips, and educational programs to senior citizens.

The Therapeutics program expanded its activities and services for the physically and mentally handicapped. Programs now include supervised games, swimming instruction, and a summer camp. Three trainable mentally retarded adults who had received the American Red Cross Beginning Swimming Certificates served as swimming aides for this program.

Regular swimming activities continued to attract record crowds. Over Seven hundred swimming instruction sessions and two thousand free swim sessions helped make Savannah's public pools the most active in Georgia.

Playground also continued to be popular recreational areas. While sessions in arts and crafts, supervised games, and field trips were offered to the children, one of the highlights of the summer playground program was the First Annual Sidewalk Art Show. Kids of all ages made chalk drawings on a local shopping center sidewalk.

The Cultural Arts Program increased citizen participation by offering programs such as mime, art, and creative movement at an increased number of locations. Additional programs were offered in dance, batik, art history, painting, Chinese cookery, and creative writing. Through this program the City also provided for a number of free public performances by the Savannah Ballet, Ballet South, the Savannah Symphony, and the Little Theatre. Programs were also offered to the public at the Telfair Academy, Old Fort Jackson, and the Savannah Science Museum. For its outstanding performance in Arts and Humanities programming, this program was presented a first place award by the Georgia Recreation and Parks Society.

But all is not fun and games. Leisure services crews are also involved in maintaining a number of buildings, 270 acres of parks, and 8 swimming pools. This department was responsible for improvements to Grayson Stadium, including the renovation of the concession stand, home locker room, and the playing field. Herty Grove Park, located on the eastern side of the Stadium was improved with the installation of picnic tables and parking areas.

This Department has also implemented an energy conservation management program resulting in energy use reductions and savings in both electricity and fuel.

## COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Community Planning and Development administered several major programs during 1980. These included Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) paving projects, the submission and subsequent approval of three Urban Parks grants, and the issuance of major loans to Savannah Landmark, Inc. and to the Beach Institute Neighborhood Association.

The surfacing of 20 miles of streets was completed this year under the CDBG paving program. Construction on an additional 15.4 miles of paving was initiated as part of the fourth and fifth year CDBG paving program.

With the completion of most of the CDBG sponsored drainage studies, a number of areas with potential flooding problems have been identified. To correct one problem, a \$400,000 project to install a new 54" storm outfall to the Placentia Canal and rebuild the storm drainage system in the Glynwood area was begun.

Improved drainage and paved streets contribute to the well being of the community. Recreational facilities have also proven to be necessary elements to insure a healthy neighborhood. Three major recreational projects were completed in 1980. Construction of the Richards Street Center, the Tompkins Center Parking Lot, and the revitalization of Dixon Park provided facilities utilized by residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Further renovation on the May Street Center, the Tompkins Center, Live Oak Park, and Crawford Square was initiated during 1980.

While a facility may be the direct responsibility of a specific department, the restoration and renovation of that facility or area may be handled with the assistance of Community Development. The revitalization of the 37th Street Median is a prime example of this arrangement. The design of the restoration was developed by a contracted architectural firm, under the direction of the Park and Tree Department and the Department of Community Planning and Development. This median will have a sprinkler system installed and will be landscaped. Once completed, maintenance will be the responsibility of the Park and Tree Department.

A more complicated situation is represented with Forsyth Park. Although the restoration of this park will be supervised by both the Engineering Department and CPD, the finished product will fall under the auspices of both the Department of Leisure Services and the Park and Tree Department. Although the planning for Forsyth Park, involving local citizens, recreational planners, and elected officials, was completed in 1980, the revitalization of this facility will not be begun until the first portion of 1981.

Another major recreational project is the Bowles C. Ford Park. Named after Savannah's first black Alderman, this park is to be located on the site of an old municipal landfill. Planning for the first phase of this project is complete, with construction planned for mid-1981.

To further upgrade and improve recreational facilities, grant funds have been sought from numerous sources. Savannah was the only southern City to be awarded grants in both the first and second funding round; for the Urban Parks and Recreational Recovery Program.

The first grant of \$13,475 was to fund a position in the Leisure Services Department to coordinate the use of existing recreational facilities with the Board of Education. The second and third grants, worth \$322,217 and \$250,627, respectively, were to fund improvements to existing facilities at the May Street Center, the Tompkins Center, the Tompkins Swimming Pool, Live Oak Park, Crawford Square Davant Park, Wells Park, and Cann Park.

To insure that recreational facilities are located where they can provide the most community good, this Department has worked closely with the Department of Leisure Services to develop a Comprehensive Recreation Plan. This plan includes an analysis of new facility needs and existing facility repair needs throughout the City. It also includes a plan to meet these needs. This plan will be finalized in 1981.

Recreational needs are not the only area of City services being closely reviewed. The review of flooding hazards resulted in a project to correct deficiencies, and the CDBG paving program effectively improved many streets. However, a number of additional elements are equally important to the living conditions of our citizens. To adequately review the condition of our neighborhoods, this Department has been updating the Responsive Public Services Program.

The RPSP is a city-wide survey of neighborhood conditions that reviews fire hazard, incidence of crime, water supply, sewer service,

flooding hazard, housing stock, cleanliness, and stray animals. This survey also includes plans for attacking problems identified within the RPSP. Completion is scheduled for early 1981.

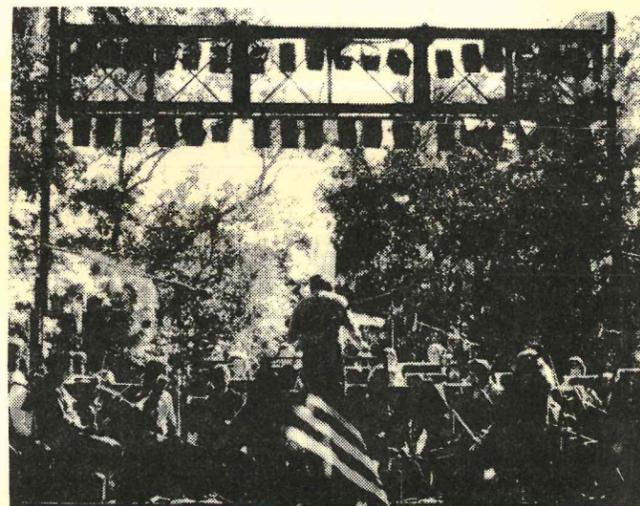
Though the activities of this department are characterized by efforts to improve the livability of certain sections of this community, moves were also made to improve the internal management of the Community Development Block Grant. With the improvement of the CDBG expenditure rate, the improvement of a fiscal monitoring program, and the development of a sub-grantee disbursement program, performance was significantly improved.

The expenditure rate for the CDBG program more than doubled in the 1979-1980 grant year, from \$4 million to approximately \$9.4 million.

During 1980, CPD also administered seven grants and loans to outside agencies. These outlays, totalling approximately \$2.5 million, were made to the following organizations:

Loans: Savannah Landmark  
Beach Institute Neighborhood Association

Grants: S.A.F.E. Shelter  
Georgia Infirmary  
Parent and Child Development Services  
Neighborhood Housing Services (2)



## CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Savannah Arts Commission devoted 1980 to the hiring of a Director and initial work on a comprehensive arts plan. This Comprehensive Arts Plan for Savannah will include goals and objectives for six areas of interest. They are arts education, facilities and environment, cultural arts resources, economic development, and the arts needs of both the general public and special audiences.

In early 1981, a group of Armstrong and Savannah State College students will conduct a telephone survey of approximately five hundred citizens to determine public attitudes, perceptions, levels of involvement, and cultural desires.

A number of public meetings, surveys, and questionnaires have already provided information for the City's first inventory of cultural resources.

The Commission has organized an Artist's Congress. This informal coalition of artists and arts providers will contribute additional information on community arts needs.

A quarterly newsletter has also been published to tell members of the community of various activities of the Commission and of cultural activities within the community.

Two VISTA volunteers will be working closely with the Arts Commission to survey the accessibility of public buildings to the handicapped. Since many arts functions are conducted in public buildings, it is important that these facilities, and thus the functions, be available to all segments of the community.

Plans for 1981 include the completion of the Comprehensive Arts Plan, the development of a master calendar on arts and cultural activities, and the establishment of an "ARTS" telephone. This would provide information on upcoming community cultural activities to the interested public.

## RECEIPTS - DECEMBER 1980

	1980 Received
Property Tax	\$ 5,974,181
Sales Tax	11,277,281
Other Taxes	3,583,063
Taxes, Fees, and Interest	50,279
Licenses and Permits	3,536,489
Fines, Forfeits, and Penalties	876,268
Interest Earned	367,186
Rents - General	106,312
Leisure Services	80,342
Other Agencies	1,056,930
Inspection Fees	221,399
Cemetery Fees	87,412
Refuse Fees	997,357
Interfund Fees	932,396
General Services	127,594
Federal Revenue Sharing Fund	2,224,251
Other Revenue	2,105,714
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$33,604,454</u></b>

## EXPENDITURES - DECEMBER 1980

	1980 EXPENDED
General Administration	\$ 526,790
Finance & Administrative Services	1,455,582
Management Services	654,007
Public Services	8,485,248
Inspections	488,296
Police	7,191,187
Recorders Court	259,181
Fire	4,439,533
Leisure Services	2,146,601
Park and Tree	1,314,652
Interdepartmental	4,200,216
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$31,161,293</u></b>