

## **B. INTRODUCTION TO THE PLANNING JURISDICTION**

### **1. Organization and Planning Structure**

The planning jurisdiction for this solid waste management plan is Lamar County, including the towns of Purvis, Sumrall and Lumberton and excluding those areas incorporated into the City of Hattiesburg (West Hattiesburg). In 1990, Lamar County opted to become part of the Pine Belt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority through an interlocal agreement with the cities of Hattiesburg, Laurel, Petal and the counties of Covington, Jones and Perry. On December 20, 1993, Lamar County, as evidenced by order of the Board of Supervisors presented in Appendix A, withdrew from the Pine Belt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority and concurrently rescinded its approval of the Pine Belt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority's Master Plan. In July of 1996, Lamar County presented to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) the Lamar County Solid Waste Management Master Plan which included the Municipalities of Lumberton, Purvis and Sumrall and excluded those portions of the county which were included in the city limits of Hattiesburg at the time. This 1996 plan has served as the solid waste management plan of record for Lamar County to date; however, significant changes in how Lamar County handles its non-hazardous solid waste have occurred in the last 14 years without update or modification of the existing plan.

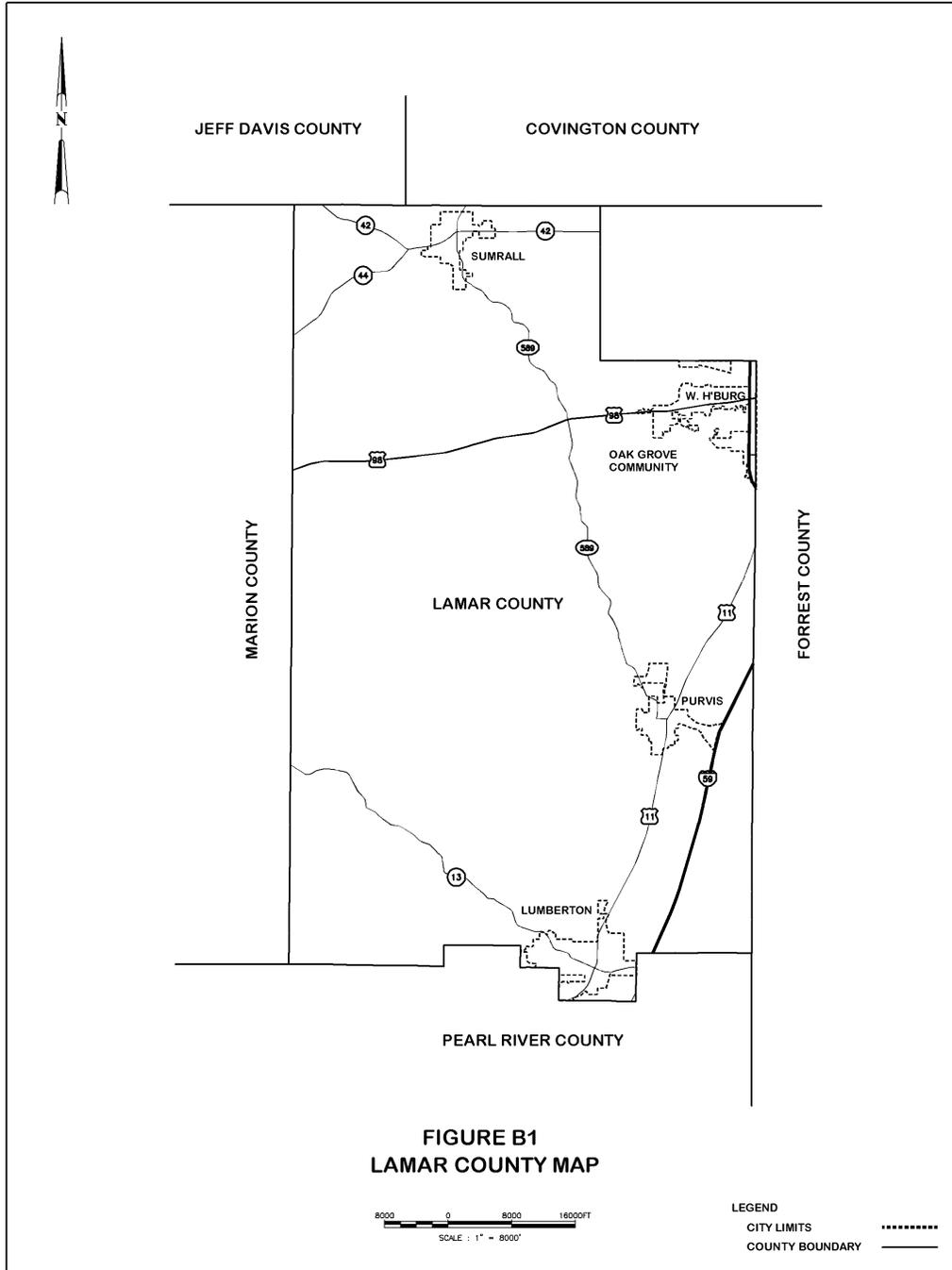
Upon initiation of the development of the plan presented here, the towns of Lumberton, Purvis and Sumrall were contacted to determine whether they wanted to continue as part of the Lamar County Solid Waste Management Plan. Copies of the letters sent to each municipality inviting their participation in the plan are presented in Appendix B. Each of the municipalities contacted agreed to continue to be part of the Lamar County Solid Waste Management Plan and the letters from each stating their desire to continue to participate in the Plan are presented in Appendix C. That portion of Lamar County which falls within the city limits of Hattiesburg is not part of this plan and is covered by the Pine Belt Regional Solid Waste Authority Plan document.

This plan will be administered by the Board of Supervisors of Lamar County through the County Administrator. The County Administrator will conduct an annual review of the solid waste management activities occurring within the plan jurisdiction, including contacting those municipalities which are included in the jurisdiction, to monitor implementation of the plan as well as to determine if updates to the plan are required. If any deficiencies are noted, the governmental entity involved (Town, County or County Department) will be contacted via letter with regard to the deficiency with the requirement that the governmental entity involved develop a plan of action to return to compliance with the plan and provide a copy of the plan of action to the County Administrator. The County Administrator will then develop an annual report letter regarding the annual review of the plan, referencing any deficiencies noted and the planned actions to return to compliance, along with providing MDEQ with any updates or changes required in the plan. This annual report letter along with all associated correspondence and documentation required to update or modify the plan shall be provided to MDEQ and added annually to Appendix S of this plan.

## **2. Planning Jurisdiction Description**

Lamar County is located in south Mississippi and encompasses approximately 500 square miles. Lamar County includes the towns of Lumberton, Purvis and Sumrall as well as a portion of the City of Hattiesburg, which has annexed approximately 6.8 square miles of the northeastern portion of Lamar County (West Hattiesburg). Lumberton encompasses approximately 7.3 square miles and is located on the southern border of Lamar County, with a small portion of Lumberton falling within Pearl River County and is located on U.S. Highway 11. Purvis encompasses approximately 3.9 square miles and is located in the east central portion of the county on U.S. Highway 11. Sumrall encompasses approximately 2.2 square miles and is located on the northern border of Lamar County adjacent to Covington County and is located on State Highway 589. A map showing the location of Lamar County in relation to its surrounding counties, its major roadways and

the jurisdictional boundaries of the incorporated cities and towns located within the county is presented as Figure B1.



According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the total population of Lamar County was 39,070. Of this, 2,200 were located in Lumberton, 2,164 were located in Purvis, 1,005 were located in Sumrall and 8,609 were located in West Hattiesburg. Presented in Table B1 are the historic Census populations for each jurisdiction listed above with a calculated percent change in population shown for each decade. The percent change in population for West Hattiesburg is not applicable due to the fact that the increases shown are largely the result of increases in the amount of area of Lamar County incorporated into Hattiesburg and not the number of people who actually live within those areas.

**TABLE B1**  
**Population Data for Lamar County**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>1980 Census Population</b>	<b>1990 Census Population</b>	<b>2000 Census Population</b>	<b>% Change 1980 to 1990</b>	<b>% Change 1990 to 2000</b>	<b>Average % Change for 20 Year Period</b>
Lamar County	23,821	30,424	39,070	27.7	28.4	28.0
City of Lumberton	2,217	2,121	2,228	-4.3	5.0	0.3
City of Purvis	2,256	2,140	2,164	-5.1	1.1	-2.0
Town of Sumrall	1,197	903	1,005	-24.6	11.3	-6.7
West Hattiesburg	N/A	2,144	8,609	N/A	N/A	N/A

Population projections for Lamar County in its entirety are straight forward as it has shown a rather steady population increase on the order of 28 percent per decade for the past two decades. However, population projections for the municipalities which fall within Lamar County are not as straight forward for the following reasons:

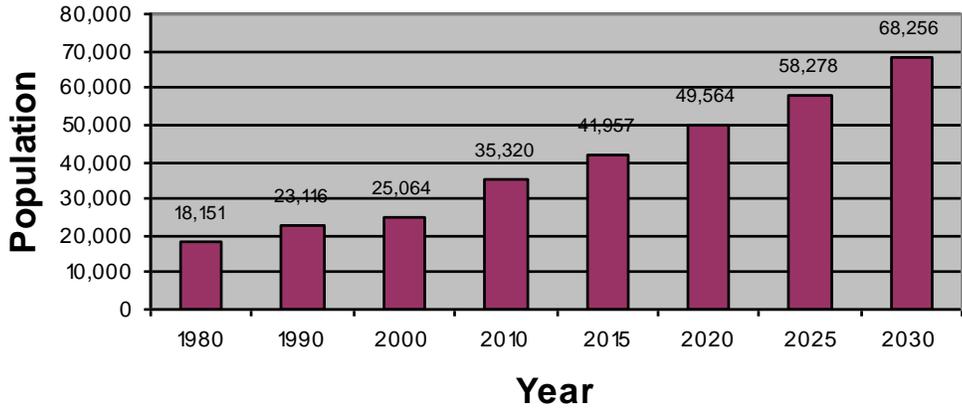
1. These cities and towns may incorporate more land into the municipality thus increasing population for the city or town in question at the cost of the net population for the County.
2. The amount of *available*, developable land currently within the boundaries of these cities and towns is unknown. If all the developable property within a town's boundary is already developed, this hinders the capacity for growth.

In fact, as seen from Table B1, Lumberton, Purvis and Sumrall all showed population decreases from 1980 to 1990 with only Lumberton regaining its 1980 population by the year 2000. Taking into account that the majority of the growth currently being seen in Lamar County is in the northern portion of the County between Purvis and Sumrall along Highway 589, along Old Highway 11 between Purvis and Hattiesburg and along Highway 98 heading west from Hattiesburg, the following population growth assumptions were made for Lumberton, Purvis, Sumrall and West Hattiesburg:

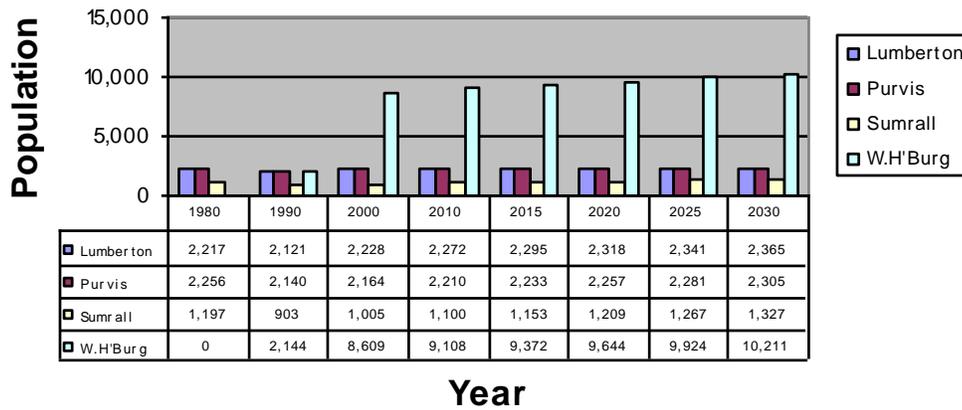
1. Lumberton, having already regained its 1980 population will grow at a two percent per decade rate.
2. Purvis and Sumrall will grow at rates which will allow them to regain their 1980 population by at least 2020. These rates were calculated to be 2.13 percent per decade for Purvis and 9.55 percent per decade for Sumrall.
3. West Hattiesburg, which is located easterly between Purvis and Sumrall, will grow at a rate which is the average for Purvis and Sumrall. That rate is calculated to be 5.80 percent per decade.

Utilizing the data presented in Table B1 and the assumptions listed above, the projected net population for Lamar County (less the populations of Lumberton, Purvis, Sumrall and West Hattiesburg) for the next 20 years in five year increments is presented in Figure B2. The projected populations for Lumberton, Purvis, Sumrall and West Hattiesburg for the same time periods as Lamar County, utilizing the assumptions listed above, are presented in Figure B3.

**Figure B2  
Lamar County Projected Net  
Population**



**Figure B3  
Projected Population for Municipalities  
Within Lamar County**



From Figures B2 and B3 it can be seen that the total, projected population for Lamar County in 2010 is 50,010 (35,320+2,272+2,210+1,100+9,108). This agrees well with the U.S. Census projected 2008 population for Lamar County of 49,121.

### **3. Local Solid Waste Laws and Ordinances**

Lamar County enacted in 2009 a county wide zoning ordinance primarily for the purpose of land use and development control. However, portions of the zoning ordinance address solid waste issues, i.e. accumulation of debris, rubbish, generation of environmental pollutants including noise, dust, fumes, solid waste, etc. or any other debilitating influence as defined by EPA and as regulated by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Mississippi Department of Health (MDOH) as well as requiring screened garbage collection facilities for any new multiple family residential, manufactured home parks, commercial, industrial or public/quasi-public uses. These items are addressed in Article IV, General Regulations, Section 406 – Miscellaneous General Regulations, Paragraphs 406.03, 406.04 and 406.05. Article IV of the county wide zoning ordinance is presented in Appendix D.

Further, through the County Code Enforcement Officer, an employee of the Planning Department, and the Lamar County Sheriff's office, both Mississippi State Statute 97-15-30 dealing with illegal dumping and Section 17-17-427 of the Mississippi State Code Annotated dealing with waste tire dumping are enforced. Via its web site, [lamarcounty.com](http://lamarcounty.com), Lamar County provides for public awareness of its ordinances and encourages the public's involvement in reporting violations of any of the county ordinances as well as state laws. The Violation Enforcement section of the web site is presented in Appendix E.

Because household garbage and yard/green waste collection within the county is funded via property taxes, it is generally considered "free" by county residents and they therefore have no incentive not to take advantage of the service. Further, accumulation of

household garbage and/or yard/green waste, i.e. not providing it at the roadside for county collection, would place the resident in violation of the County's zoning ordinance.

#### **4. Public Involvement and Outreach**

As required by state law, upon completion of the draft Solid Waste Management Plan and its approval by MDEQ, the plan was presented for public review and comment. The 30 day review period was advertised in the Lamar Times, a newspaper with county wide circulation, and the plan was made available for public review at the Lamar County Planning Department. After the 30 day review period, a public hearing was held to hear any public comments relating to the plan. Written comments were also solicited during the 30 day review period. The comments and the County's response to them, as well as any changes to the plan as a result of addressing the comments, were incorporated as a part of this plan. The specific details of this process are presented in Section H – Administrative Procedural Information of this plan.

#### **5. Environmental Justice Issues**

It is the intent of Lamar County to plan for and provide for solid waste management programs in conformance with EPA and MDEQ regulations for all citizens of Lamar County without regard to race, culture, or income. As the Solid Waste Management Plan presented here does not provide for the construction of any new, publicly owned solid waste handling or management sites, the typical concerns regarding environmental justice issues are not applicable here. Further, the existing, commercial transfer station utilized by the county for disposal of all household garbage collected within the county, the commercial, existing rubbish site utilized by the county to dispose of all non-yard /green waste rubbish and the existing, commercial yard/green waste collection site utilized by the county to process yard/green waste are all located in the most affluent, fastest growing section of the county, that being the Oak Grove Community.