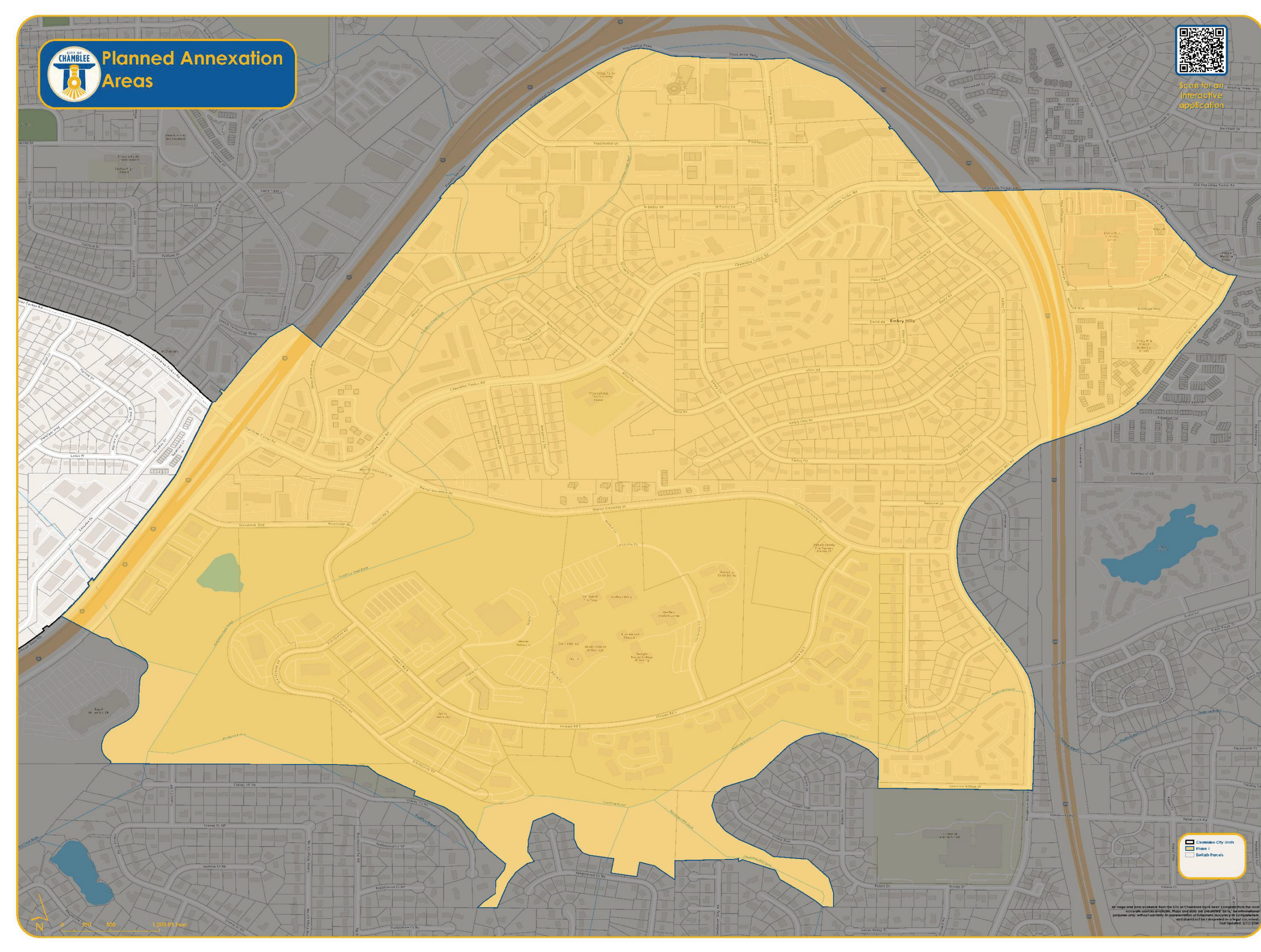


Highlights

- **Chamblee's Millage Rate:** 6.25 mills
- **Annual Budget:** \$28.5 million
- **Original Annexation Method:** 60% method, requiring 60% of registered voters and 60% of landowners to sign an annexation petition
- **Services Provided:**
 - Police
 - Public Works
 - Street Lights
 - Planning and Development



Chamblee's Proposed Annexation Area

Annexation: The City of Chamblee

In this case study, we examine the proposed annexation of Mercer University's Atlanta Campus, the Embry Hills neighborhood, and Belaire Circle into the City of Chamblee. Established in 1908, Chamblee is situated 14 miles north of Downtown Atlanta, bordered by I-285 to the north and I-85 to the southeast. Through various annexations, Chamblee has expanded from 3.1 square miles to 7.85 square miles, now encompassing more than 30,000 residents. The city's annual budget is approximately \$28.5 million. Chamblee has implemented numerous economic development strategies to maintain low and affordable taxes, boasting a current millage rate of 6.25 mills. This rate is potentially attractive to neighboring unincorporated residents considering annexation into Chamblee. This study highlights the City of Chamblee's annexation process involving Mercer University's Atlanta Campus, Embry Hills, and Belaire Circle, with the aim of providing insights for initiating annexation in the City of Stone Mountain.

In late 2023, Mercer University's Atlanta Campus, along with residents of Embry Hills and Belaire Circle, expressed interest in being annexed into the City of Chamblee. According to a press release by the City of Chamblee, this annexation would add approximately 3,500 people to the city. Initially, the annexation was to be executed through the 60% method, requiring 60% of registered voters and 60% of landowners to sign a petition for annexation. Although the City of Chamblee hired a firm to assist with the signature process and accepted the annexation application, technical errors forced Mercer's Atlanta Campus, residents, and business owners to withdraw their application. Subsequently, the Chamblee City Council voted to adopt a resolution requesting the Georgia General Assembly to place a referendum on the November 5, 2024, general ballot.

Services Included in the Annexation

1. **Police:**
 - Addition of ten new officers
 - Purchase of new vehicles
 - A 50,000-square-foot Public Safety Facility housing the Police Department, 911 Communications, Municipal Court, Crime Center, and a Public Community Room
2. **Public Works:**
 - One new groundskeeper
 - Three additional sanitation workers
 - Two stormwater employees
 - Two more employees for transportation
 - Acquisition of one additional sanitation truck to service the annexed area
3. **Planning and Development:**
 - Two additional code enforcement officers

Recommendations

Based on the City of Chamblee's research, the City of Stone Mountain should consider the following steps if it wishes to pursue annexation:

1. Engage with surrounding unincorporated areas to gauge interest in annexation.
2. Assess the services the city can provide to these areas.
3. Develop an economic plan that ensures lower taxes while offering higher-quality services.