Land Use Planning—Colquitt County lacked a land-use plan for the county, but faced unprecedented growth as new businesses were moving into the area and attracting new citizens. The county’s leadership recognized that they needed a comprehensive land-use plan in order to facilitate all of this new growth in a way that was sustainable for the community. The local Archway Professional facilitated meetings with a citizens’ work group, appointed by local officials, to draft a land-use plan that everyone could agree on. Previous plans had failed to build a consensus between leaders, but thanks to Archway’s role as a neutral third-party, Colquitt’s leaders were able to agree on a land-use plan that filled Colquitt County’s impending growth needs.

Wastewater Treatment—Tasked by the Georgia Environmental Protection Department to develop a land application system for wastewater treatment, the City of Moultrie knew that developing and installing a completely new system would be very expensive. Archway Partnership staff, along with faculty from Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Engineering Outreach, Warnell School of Forestry, and Carl Vinson Institute of Government, helped officials map and document prospective sites for a land application wastewater system as well as develop environmentally sound and cost-effective alternatives. Archway and Moultrie presented the EPD with an alternate plan that updated Moultrie’s current wastewater treatment plant and maintained a high level of water quality. By convincing the department to allow Moultrie to update their current system instead of installing a completely new and expensive land application system, the community saved over $10 million. This collaboration helped the community improve an old wastewater treatment facility that can serve the coming growth.

Developing a College Town—Seeking to develop a more “college town” atmosphere, leaders in Americus and Sumter County consulted with the Archway Partnership on the best ways to improve the connections between Americus and the two local colleges – Georgia Southwestern State University and South Georgia Technical College. The Archway Professional connected a UGA graduate student in Public Administration with community leaders to research other partnerships between towns and colleges, identify Americus’s resources and learn what citizens want for their community. Building on the marketing campaign “Two great choices – one great community,” this research has drawn new attention to the town and has given local leaders and businesses insight into how to transform Americus into a vibrant and dynamic college town.

New Model for Industrial Park—Hart County, seeking to diversify its local economic base, is developing an industrial park that can serve a variety of high-tech and competitive businesses. In order to make this park more appealing to businesses seeking to move to Hart County, the industrial building authority turned to the Archway Partnership, who connected the community with students from UGA’s College of Environment and Design. These students looked to other communities and current design trends for progressive ideas on how to design an industrial park that appeals to the higher-end and high-skills businesses that leaders sought to bring to Hart County. The design creates an industrial park that is both functional and friendly and promotes interaction between businesses in the park with the hope that this communication will foster informal connections.

Utilizing Natural Resources—The Ocmulgee River is a precious resource for Hawkinsville and Pulaski County, and as Pulaski County grows, local leaders have been seeking ways to preserve the river’s historical significance. The City of Hawkinsville began the Riverfront Park Project as a way to highlight this natural resource and provide leisure opportunities, first with the city’s Uchee Shoals Riverfront Boat Landing. Through Archway, two graduate students from UGA’s College of Environment and Design are working with community partners to develop a design proposal for the park that is complimentary to the existing project. The project will benefit the entire community by promoting eco- and heritage tourism, economic development, and sustainable community development, serving as a launching board for future projects of this kind.