Chatham County – Savannah
Comprehensive Plan

Community Participation Program

November, 2005
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In 2001 and 2002, Chatham County and the City of Savannah held a series of three workshops for the purpose of discussing the Comprehensive Plan update and considering an update of City and County zoning ordinances. Elected officials concluded the process by directing staff to prepare a unified work program for both updates. A Program Manual was prepared by staff outlining a work program, advisory committee structures, consultant roles, and a public participation process.

This document contains information from the extensive public involvement that occurred during the four-year update process of preparing the comprehensive plan and associated zoning recommendations. Public participation will continue in 2006 as the zoning recommendations are implemented.

Public participation has occurred in several forms, including:

- Broad-based advisory committees
- Community Survey
- Town Hall Meeting
- A widely distributed Executive Summary
- An information video prepared for local cable television
- Community leadership training
- A four-month intensive public participation program
- Public Hearings
- A Community Open House
- On-line availability of draft documents

While records of survey results, meeting notices and agendas, meeting proceedings and comments, document revisions based on public comment, public hand-outs, and other materials are too extensive to include in this report, most significant material substantiating the public participation process is included.

2.0 ADVANCE PLANNING

The series of three workshops held by the City and County and facilitated by the MPC in 2001 and 2002 included discussion of essential forms of public participation to achieve a successful outcome. Discussion at the workshop was formalized by MPC staff into a Program Manual. A draft of the manual was presented to the elected officials in the final workshop. In reviewing it, elected officials gave special attention to public participation, especially in the context of the Steering Committee (see later discussion). Steering committee membership was expanded to include 10 representatives from neighborhood associations throughout the City of Savannah and unincorporated Chatham County.
The Program Manual contained a Public Participation Plan that called for a Community-wide Survey, a Town Meeting, and establishment of two Advisory Committees. It also detailed a program for involving the public at various stages of the process.

The Program Manual envisioned a process that included the following elements: 1) a Communitywide Public Opinion Survey; 2) a Town Hall Meeting; 3) a broad-based Steering Committee; public meetings and formal Public Hearings.

The public participation program was later expanded to include the following additional element: 1) a high quality Executive Summary printed for wide distribution; 2) an education video for use in community venues and on cable television; 3) community leadership training; and 4) a greatly expanded public meeting schedule.

Figure 1 contains the chart from the Program Manual illustrating the public participation process.

3.0 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance update process requires a high level of public participation, accomplished through an advisory committee structure as well as through general public hearings, meetings, and surveys. The following advisory committees were established for the update process:

- Executive Committee (the MPC)
- Steering Committee
- Community and Neighborhood Advisory Committees
- Technical Advisory Committee and Subcommittees

See Figure 2 for a description of committee processes, structure, and interrelationships as established in the Program Manual. Further information is available in Figures 8.1, 8.2, and 8.3 of the Program Manual.

The Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee were formed in mid-2002, worked through 2003, and submitted their formal recommendations in early 2004. The committees were kept informed of progress during subsequent phases of drafting and public meetings.

The committees also participated in a Community Open House on October 27, 2005. This event was designed to present final recommendations to the public prior to submitting them to the Metropolitan Planning Commission.

See Appendix A for information on advisory committee meetings and membership.
FIGURE 1. THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Adoption and Implementation of Comprehensive Plans and Zoning Ordinances following RDC review and approval

Adoption of strategy and guidelines for the update, as detailed in the Program Manual program

Comment from public during readings of Comprehensive Plans and Zoning Ordinances

Public Hearing on proposed Comprehensive Plans and Zoning Ordinances

Review by Technical Committee and approval by Steering Committee of draft Comp Plans and Zoning Ordinances

Presentation to public of interim draft Comp Plans and Zoning Ordinances Public meetings

Review of interim drafts by Technical Committee and approval by Steering Committee

Presentation of initial draft Comprehensive Plans and Zoning Ordinances at public meetings

Announcement of Initial Public Hearing and intent to update Comprehensive Plans and Zoning Ordinances

Formation of Advisory Committees and delineation of responsibilities

Survey of Leadership and the general public to obtain public input for initial goals setting

Scoping and public input through Town Meeting and Community and Neighborhood Advisory Committees.

Preparation by MPC staff of background materials and draft documents based on initial input

Initial Technical Committee review and Steering Committee Approval of drafts
**FIGURE 2.**

**ROLE AND COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

**Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall be the Metropolitan Planning Commission or a committee of the MPC. The role of the Executive Committee is to review progress, provide guidance to staff, and provide general oversight.

**Steering Committee.** The role of the Steering Committee is to establish a broad base of community involvement and advocacy for the update process. The Steering Committee will offer formal comment on policy decisions proposed by staff and consultants and provide advocacy for those decisions to the Metropolitan Planning Commission, the County Commission, and the City Council. Elected and appointed officials may designate an appointee. Organizations shall designate their own representative. The MPC shall designate non-organizational appointees. Meetings will be scheduled on a quarterly schedule.

**Membership:**
- Chairman of County Commission
- Affordable and/or Fair Housing Advocate
- Mayor, City of Savannah
- Child/Youth Advocate
- MPC Chairman
- Elderly Advocate
- Homebuilders Assn.
- Historic Savannah Foundation
- Commercial Developer
- School Board
- Chamber of Commerce
- SCAD/SSU/AASU admin. representative
- Tourism Industry
- University Science Expert
- SEDA
- University Policy Expert
- Savannah Board of Realtors
- Technical Committee Liaison
- Large Tract Land Owner
- Neigh./Community Advisory Cmte Chairs
- Savannah Tree Foundation
- Military
- Environmental Forum
- Executive Director of the MPC

**Ex-Officio:** City and County Managers may designate appropriate staff

**Community and Neighborhood Advisory Committees.** These are existing committees appointed by the City, County, and the MPC including County Land Use Advisory Committees and City Neighborhood Advisory Committees. They will review and comment on draft planning documents, and chairs will sit on the Steering committee.

**Technical Advisory Committee.** The Technical Advisory Committee will provide an opportunity for professionals who are involved in development to review update progress and contribute professional perspectives to the process. Meetings will initially be scheduled on a monthly basis; the committee may schedule additional meetings as required. The following organizations and professions will each have one appointee to the committee:

**Membership:**
- American Institute of Architects
- Environmental Engineer
- ASLA
- Geologist or Hydrologist
- Appraisal Institute
- Homebuilders Association of Savannah
- Arborist or Botanist
- Property Development Lender
- Civil Engineer
- Real Estate Development Attorney
- Coastal Resources Scientist
- Real Estate Professional
- Commercial Real Estate Developer
- Executive Director of MPC, Chairman

**Ex-Officio:** City/County Department Head
4.0 COMMUNITYWIDE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

The MPC contracted with the Savannah State University Survey Research Center to conduct a county-wide survey for the purpose of identifying public opinion on a variety of issues related to planning and zoning. The findings of the survey were used to publicize the update program. The findings were reported at the Town Meeting.

The survey helped to bring attention to the process and to make the advisory committees aware of public concerns. Survey findings were reported at the Town Hall Meeting and in local media.

5.0 TOWN HALL MEETING

The Town Meeting was held at the Coastal Georgia Center in September, 2002. The event was hosted jointly by the City of Savannah and Chatham County. MPC staff organized the program.

6.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In early 2005, as preparation for the intensive public outreach program through the spring and summer MPC staff prepared an Executive Summary containing information on the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan, issues and opportunities that it would address, and information for the public on how to participate.

Following the initial phase of public participation, the Executive Summary was revised to reflect comment received to that point. The revised Executive Summary was prepared in a large, four-fold graphic format and contained a draft Future Land Use Map.

A copy of the Executive Summary can be found in the Appendix.

7.0 PUBLIC EDUCATION VIDEO

As part of a summer-long Public Participation Program in 2005, MPC staff produced a digital video on the Tricentennial Plan for use in public meetings and on cable television.

The video emphasized the visioning process and goal-setting aspects of planning with the aim of stimulating viewer interest in major planning issues in the City and the County.

A copy of the digital video disk (dvd) is available upon request.
8.0 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

With assistance from the Neighborhood Coordinator at Historic Savannah Foundation, MPC staff conducted four neighborhood leadership training workshops. The purpose of the workshops was to prepare neighborhood leaders to answer questions about the Tricentennial Plan and to organized committees or boards to review draft existing land use maps for accuracy, and to review draft future land use maps for consistency with neighborhood goals.

9.0 PUBLIC MEETINGS

During the Spring and Summer of 2005, MPC conducted an intensive period of public involvement including meetings with neighborhood associations, larger community areas, and business and professional organizations. In all, 36 meetings were held. Most of the meetings were held in community centers and other central locations during evening hours.

Meetings provided an overview of the Tricentennial Plan, a detailed review of proposed existing and future land use maps, and a process for identification of issues and opportunities facing the neighborhood, the city, or the county as a whole.

A summary chart of meetings can be seen in Figure 3.

10.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS

The initial Public Hearing for the Tricentennial Plan was held on September 10, 2002 as part of the kick-off Town Hall Meeting. The event was attended by over 200 people. Public comment was recorded during an open microphone period and on comment cards.

A second formal Public Hearing was held in the Metropolitan Planning Commission Hearing Room on June 7, 2005. This event was timed to stimulate interest in the final stages of the planning process and to encourage participation in neighborhood meetings during the summer.

A third Public Hearing will be conducted by the MPC during formal review of the draft Chatham County – Savannah Comprehensive Plan by the MPC.

Public Hearings will also be held by the Chatham County Commission and the City of Savannah as required for adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.
11.0 COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

A Community Open House was held on October 27, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. to present the draft Future Land Use Map refined during the public meetings held through the summer. Comments from the Open House were incorporated into the final draft maps prepared for the MPC review process.

12.0 ON-LINE DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The draft Chatham County – Savannah Comprehensive Plan was made available in pdf file format on the MPC website in May 2005. The document was kept up-to-date for subsequent revisions. Information on website access was provided at all public meetings and in all informational documents.

13.0 CONSISTENCY

In order to ensure that public participation in the planning process would result in meaningful implementation through zoning and other administrative mechanisms, a policy of “consistency” was discussed at public meetings. This proposed policy was strongly endorsed by the public.

The policy of consistency requires that policy adopted in the Chatham County – Savannah Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed and amended prior to amending zoning or other implementing ordinances. In other words, official policy established in the Comprehensive Plan will become the basis for zoning amendments.
FIGURE 3. TRICENTENNIAL PLAN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE

2005 PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tricentennial Plan Visioning Announcement and Public Hearing
June 7, 5:00 p.m., MPC Conference Room

Neighborhood Association Training Workshops
May 25, 9:00 a.m., MPC Hearing Room
May 26, 5:30 p.m., MPC Hearing Room
May 31, 7:00 p.m., MPC Hearing Room

Business and Other Organization Workshops
July 13, 8:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce
August 17, 12:00 p.m., Homebuilders Association
August 29, 4:00 p.m., United Way Board of Directors
(Special presentations will be scheduled for other business groups and organizations.)

Community Planning Workshops (workshops are from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)
April 26, 5:30 p.m., Historic Neighborhood Council – Historic Savannah Foundation
June 9, 6:00 p.m., AASU – Southside Neighborhoods
June 21, 6:00 p.m., JEA – Neighborhoods between DeRenne Ave and Montgomery Cross Rd
June 23, 6:00 p.m., MPC Hearing Room – Historic Neighborhoods (South)
July 12, 6:00 p.m., MPC Hearing Room – Historic Neighborhoods (East of Bull Street)
July 14, 6:00 p.m., MPC Hearing Room – Historic Neighborhoods (Downtown Area)
July 28, 6:00 p.m., MPC Hearing Room – Historic Neighborhoods (West of Bull Street)
August 2, 6:00 p.m., Herman Hesse Elementary School – Southeast Chatham
August 4, 6:00 p.m., Southwest Middle School – West Chatham (Unincorporated)
August 9, 6:00 p.m., Islands Community Center – Islands Area
October 27, 6:00 p.m., MPC Hearing Room – Community Open House

Neighborhood Association Meetings
February 9, 6:30 p.m., Victorian Neighborhood
March 7, 7:00 p.m., Parkside Neighborhood
March 10, 6:30 p.m., Ardsley-Chatham Crescent Neighborhood
March 16, 6:00 p.m., Benjamin Van Clark Neighborhood
May 10, 7:00 p.m., Gordonston Neighborhood
June 14, 6:30 p.m., Baldwin Park Neighborhood
June 14, 6:00 p.m., Eastside Concerned Citizens
June 15, 6:00 p.m., Ogeecheetown Neighborhood
June 16, 10:00 a.m., Windsor Forest – MPC Conference Room (neighborhood committee)
July 11, 6:00 p.m., Carver Heights Neighborhoods
July 13, 6:00 p.m., Liberty City Neighborhood
July 14, 1:30 p.m., Colonial Village board members
July 18, 6:00 p.m., Tatamsville Neighborhood
July 27, 2:00 p.m., West Savannah Advisory Committee, Moses Jackson Center
August 1, 7:00 p.m., Colonial Village Neighborhood
August 9, 6:00 p.m., Feiler Park Neighborhood
August 17, 6:00 p.m., Benjamin Van Clark Neighborhood
September 6, 6:30 p.m., Cuyler-Brownsville Neighborhood
September 12, 6:00 p.m., Live Oak Neighborhood
October 20, 5:00 p.m., Tatamsville Neighborhood
( Neighborhood presentations will be scheduled continuously through the summer as requested or needed to supplement regularly scheduled Community Planning Workshops ).
APPENDIX A

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
AND MEETINGS
**CHATHAM – SAVANNAH TRICENTENNIAL PLAN**

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/Association</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Tony Abbot</td>
<td>West Chatham Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Charles Belin</td>
<td>Armstrong Atlantic State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Diane Berryhill</td>
<td>Savannah Board of Realtors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Mark Bouy</td>
<td>Bouy Brothers Builders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Susan Bragg</td>
<td>Family Independence Program - DFACS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Rob Brannen</td>
<td>Homebuilders Association of Savannah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Michael Brown</td>
<td>Marley Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Dian Brownfield</td>
<td>Downtown Neighborhood Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Will Burgstiner</td>
<td>The Braniger Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Richard Collins</td>
<td>Housing Authority of Savannah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Wayne Dawson</td>
<td>Fair Housing Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Jacqueline Elmore</td>
<td>Youth Futures Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Martin Pretty</td>
<td>Department of Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Shirley Geiger</td>
<td>Savannah State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>LTC Jeffery Goble</td>
<td>Hunter Army Airfield</td>
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<td>Mr. Hugh Golson</td>
<td>Chatham County School Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Lee Grimes</td>
<td>Savannah Economic Development Auth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. BI Hubbard</td>
<td>Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Ms. Jean Iaderosa</td>
<td>Chatham Area Transit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Ernestine Jones</td>
<td>Liberty City Community Association</td>
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<td>Mr. Scott Lansing</td>
<td>Chatham Area Transit</td>
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<td>Mr. Ernest W. Lee II</td>
<td>Savannah College of Art and Design</td>
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<td>Mr. Jerry Lominack</td>
<td>Technical Committee Liaison</td>
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<td>Mr. Hector Lopez</td>
<td>Lopez Construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Patti Lyons</td>
<td>Senior Citizens of Savannah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Doug Marchand</td>
<td>Georgia Ports Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Patricia Mason</td>
<td>Reed Stover, P.C.</td>
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<td>Mr. Mark McDonald</td>
<td>Historic Savannah Foundation</td>
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<td>Ms. Patricia McIntosh</td>
<td>The Georgia Conservancy</td>
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<td>Mr. W. John Mitchell</td>
<td>New Legacy Community Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Sid Nutting</td>
<td>Southeast Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>Mr. Freddie Patrick</td>
<td>Eastside Concerned Citizens</td>
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<td>Mr. James Polychrones</td>
<td>Savannah College of Art and Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Kenneth Sadler</td>
<td>City Council - District 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Helen Stone</td>
<td>Chatham County Commission- Dist 1</td>
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<td>Ms. Lise Sundrla</td>
<td>Savannah Development &amp; Renewal Auth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Olivia Swanson</td>
<td>Cuyler/Brownsville Neighborhood Assoc.</td>
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<td>Ms. Jeanne Valentine</td>
<td>Islands Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>Mr. Jack Wardlaw</td>
<td>Wardlaw Construction</td>
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<td>Mr. Randy Weitman</td>
<td>Georgia Ports Authority</td>
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<td>Mr. Charles W. Williams</td>
<td>JRW Development</td>
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<td>Mr. Larry Wimpy</td>
<td>Landlords Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Steve Wohlfeil</td>
<td>Hussey, Gay, Bell &amp; DeYoung</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Ardis Wood</td>
<td>Ardsley Park Neighborhood Association</td>
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<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Russell Abolt</td>
<td>Chatham County Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. James Blackburn</td>
<td>City of Savannah, Attorney</td>
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<td>Mr. Michael Brown</td>
<td>City of Savannah, City Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Diane Cantor</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity</td>
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<td>Mr. Ellis Cook</td>
<td>City Council – District 3</td>
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<td>Mr. Jeff Felser</td>
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<td>Mr. David Gellatly</td>
<td>Chatham County Commissioner – Dist 6</td>
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<td>Dr. Billy Hair</td>
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<td>Mr. Jonathan Hart</td>
<td>Chatham County, Attorney</td>
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<td>Ms. Marianne Heimes</td>
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<td>Mr. Tim Holbrook</td>
<td>City of Port Wentworth, Mayor</td>
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<td>Mr. James Holmes</td>
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<td>Mr. James R. Hungerpiller</td>
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<td>Ms. Edna B. Jackson</td>
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<td>Ms. Melissa Jest</td>
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<td>Mr. Otis Johnson</td>
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<td>Mr. Van R. Johnson, II</td>
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<td>Mr. J. P. Jones</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Mr. Clifton Jones, Jr.</td>
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<td>Mr. Dean Kicklighter</td>
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<td>Mr. Mike Lamb</td>
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<td>Mr. Pete Liakakis</td>
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<td>Mr. Andy Quinney</td>
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<td>Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas</td>
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<td>Mr. Patrick K. Farrell</td>
<td>Chatham County Commissioner – Dist 4</td>
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</table>
Economic Development Subcommittee

Participants
Susan Bragg                              Dept of Family and Children Services
Will Berson                             The Georgia Conservancy
Kendra Carter                           Community Planning & Development
Jacqueline Elmore                       Youth Futures Authority
Del Ferguson                            City of Bloomingdale
Jane Feiler                             Metropolitan Planning Commission
Lee Grimes                              Savannah Economic Development Auth.
Jean Iaderosa                           Chatham Area Transit Authority
Alex Ikefuna                             Community Planning & Development
Ernestine Jones                         Liberty City Community Association
Julie Lamy                               Economic Development Department
Bridget Lidy                            Savannah Development & Renewal Auth.
Anne Roise,                              Economic Development Department
Bill Saxman,                             Consultant
Lise Sundrla                             Savannah Development & Renewal Auth.
Charles Williams                        JRW Development
Randy Weitman                           Georgia Ports Authority
Brian White                             Community Planning & Development
Ardis Wood                              Ardsley Park Neighborhood Association

Guest Presenters
Steve Stevens                           Stage Front Presentation Systems
Peggy Jolley                            Savannah Economic Development Auth.

Staff to the Subcommittee
Dennis Hutton                            Planner, MPC
Alan Bray                                Planner, MPC
Transportation Subcommittee

Susan BraggDept of Family and Children Services
Suzanne DonovanPrivate Citizen
Jean IaderosaChatham Area Transit Authority
Julie LamyEconomic Development Department
Frank McIntoshSavannah Tree Foundation
Patty McIntoshThe Georgia Conservancy
Ruth PowersChatham County Engineering Dept.
Jeannne ValentineIslands Advisory Committee
Randy WeitmanGeorgia Ports Authority
Charles WilliamsJRW Development
Ardis WoodArdsley Park Neighborhood Association

Guest Presenters

Bill JohnsonLive Oak Public Library
Mark WilkesMetropolitan Planning Commission

Staff to the Subcommittee

Dennis HuttonPlanner, MPC
Courtland HyserPlanner, MPC

Housing/Historic Preservation Subcommittee

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Diane CantorHabitat for Humanity
Earline DavisHousing Authority of Savannah
Jane FeilerMetropolitan Planning Commission
Kim GarciaDepartment of Housing
Hugh GolsonChatham County School Board
Alex Ikefuna,Community Planning & Development
Stephanie JackelDowntown Neighborhood Association
Bridget LidySavannah Development & Renewal Auth.
Hector LopezHomebuilder Association of Savannah
Mark McDonaldHistoric Savannah Foundation
James PolychronesSavannah College of Art and Design
Kristin HyserDepartment of Housing
Bill SaxmanConsultant
Helen StoneMetropolitan Planning Commission
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Brian WhiteCommunity Planning & Development

Staff to the Subcommittee

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Lee WebbHistoric Preservation Planner, MPC
Tom WilsonDirector of Comprehensive Planning, MPC
Alan BrayPlanner, MPC
## Natural Resources Subcommittee

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Jerry Lominack</td>
<td>American Institute of Architects</td>
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<td>Hector Lopez</td>
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<td>Patty McIntosh</td>
<td>The Georgia Conservancy</td>
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<td>Tara Merrill</td>
<td>EMC Engineering</td>
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<td>Sid Nutting</td>
<td>Southeast Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>Dale Thorpe</td>
<td>Savannah Tree Foundation</td>
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<td>Jean Valentine</td>
<td>Islands Advisory Committee</td>
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## Staff to the Subcommittee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Jackson</td>
<td>Environmental Planner, MPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtland Hyser</td>
<td>Planner, MPC</td>
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## CHATHAM – SAVANNAH TRICENTENNIAL PLAN
### TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Clark Alexander</td>
<td>Skidaway Institute of Oceanography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Mark Boyles</td>
<td>Saussy Engineering</td>
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<td>Mr. Dan Fischer</td>
<td>EMC Engineering</td>
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<td>Mr. Don Lindner</td>
<td>Appraisal Institute</td>
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<td>Mr. Jerry Lominack</td>
<td>American Institute of Architects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Phillip McCorkle</td>
<td>McCorkle Pedigo &amp; Johnson LLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Patricia McIntosh</td>
<td>The Georgia Conservancy</td>
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<td>Mr. Jim Oosterhoudt</td>
<td>RETEC</td>
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<td>Ms. Ruth Powers</td>
<td>Chatham County Engineering Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Ryan Schneider</td>
<td>Armstrong Real Estate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Helen Stone</td>
<td>Chatham County Commission- Dist 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Harold Yellin</td>
<td>Hunter MacLean Exley &amp; Dunn PC</td>
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### INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY MEMBERS

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Bray</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Ikefuna</td>
<td>Community Planning &amp; Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne Roise</td>
<td>Economic Development Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Reiter</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridget Lidy</td>
<td>Savannah Development &amp; Renewal Auth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryan White</td>
<td>Community Planning &amp; Development</td>
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<td>Charlotte Moore</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Clyde Wester</td>
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<td>Courtland Hyser</td>
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<td>Dennis Goldbaugh</td>
<td>Chatham County Engineering Dept.</td>
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<td>Chrlan Owens</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Gary Plumbley</td>
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<td>Helen Stone</td>
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<td>Jackie Jackson</td>
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<td>John Howell</td>
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<td>John Hutton</td>
<td>Savannah Development Services</td>
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<td>Julie Lamy</td>
<td>Economic Development Department</td>
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<td>Kristin Hyser</td>
<td>Department of Housing</td>
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<td>Lee Webb</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Lise Sundrla</td>
<td>Savannah Development &amp; Renewal Auth.</td>
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<td>Mark Wilkes</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Martin Fretty</td>
<td>Department of Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Sebek</td>
<td>Chatham County Zoning Administrator</td>
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<td>Ruth Powers</td>
<td>Chatham County Engineering Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teresa Concannon</td>
<td>Coastal Ga Regional Development Center</td>
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<td>Tina Bockhold</td>
<td>Chatham County Engineering Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Thomson</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Tom Todaro</td>
<td>Savannah Inspections Department</td>
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<td>Tom Wilson</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Vince Grevemberg</td>
<td>Chatham County Engineering Dept.</td>
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<td>FULL COMMITTEE</td>
<td>JOINT MEETING WITH TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE</td>
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APPENDIX B

SAMPLE MATERIALS FROM THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
Press Release

The Metropolitan Planning Commission is working on a comprehensive plan for the future. This plan involves members of the community as well as experts in land use, transportation, architecture, engineering, planning, development, and other related fields. It includes a Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and Community Advisory Groups.

One important first step is to gauge community opinion about future growth and development. To this end, the MPC has engaged the Survey Research Center at Savannah State University. They will administer a community opinion survey to about 400 randomly selected households. The community is urged to express their views if their household is randomly selected to participate. The staff of the Survey Research Center indicate that the interview is not difficult but that it will take about 15 minutes to complete. Most of the questions are related to the quality of life in Savannah and Chatham County.

The results of this study will be shared with the community later in July and with expert planning consultants who have been hired to work with the MPC to update the City and County Comprehensive Plan.

Contact:

Dr. Barbara Bart, Director
Survey Research Center
Savannah State University
912 256-2244

or

Dr. George Williams, Dean
Graduate Studies and Sponsored Research
Savannah State University
Same number
NEWS RELEASE

The Metropolitan Planning Commission will hold a Town Meeting on September 10 at 5:00 p.m. in the Coastal Georgia Center auditorium. The MPC is updating comprehensive plans and zoning for the City of Savannah and unincorporated areas of Chatham County. The Town Meeting is being held to inform the public about the planning update process and to provide a forum for public comment.

The MPC has termed the comprehensive plan and zoning update process the Tricentennial Plan. Savannah was established in 1733 and the plans now being written will be presented in 2003 with a 30 year planning horizon. This means that goals, policies, and zoning standards will be written to accommodate growth anticipated through 2033.

This effort by the MPC is the first major update of zoning since it was first adopted in 1960. City and County comprehensive plans were adopted in 1993, however updating the zoning ordinances requires updating the plans for consistency. Under current state requirements the plans are scheduled for a review in 2003 and a complete overhaul in 2008. The Tricentennial Plan will not only update the plans to meet state requirements, but will bring zoning and comprehensive planning into full alignment.

City and County residents may speak at the Town Meeting on any subject encompassed by comprehensive planning. Topics include zoning, housing, transportation, economic development, historic preservation, natural resources, community facilities, and recreation.

The MPC has arranged for a panel of distinguished speakers to present their observations about what is essential to good planning in the 21st Century. Panelists include: Mr. Egbert Perry, President of Integral Group and chairman of the Atlanta Affordable Housing Task Force; Dr. Reid Ewing, Research Profession, Rutgers University, one of the nation’s leading experts on transportation and land use; Mr. Gary Garchynski, president of the National Association of Homebuilders; and ...

Dr. Barbara Bart, director of the Survey Research Center at Savannah State University, will report on the recent MPC public opinion survey at the Town Meeting. Preliminary results of the survey show strong public concern about many of the issues being addressed by the Tricentennial Plan. The full report will be released at the Town Meeting.

Planning and zoning consultants assisting the MPC with the Tricentennial Plan will be present at the Town Meeting. The consultants, distinguished speakers, and MPC staff will be available to answer questions from the public.
A “comprehensive plan” is a plan that contains growth projections and establishes goals, objectives, and strategies to efficiently and effectively accommodate that anticipated growth. Comprehensive plans normally look at least 20 years into the future and are reviewed on a five year basis. Georgia and over 20 other states require local governments to have comprehensive plans.

A “zoning ordinance” establishes districts where compatible types of development may be constructed. It also contains development standards for each of those districts (such as building height and setbacks). The provisions of a zoning ordinance have the force of law, whereas a comprehensive plan is a policy document. A zoning ordinance is a means of implementing comprehensive plan goals and objectives.

Some Highlights from the MPC Public Opinion Survey

- Employment was cited most often as an important factor drawing people to the Savannah area. Other highly ranked reasons were affordability and attractiveness of the area.
- Price and security were the foremost reasons for selecting a neighborhood in which to live. Proximity to employment and to parks and open space were also highly ranked for their importance.
- Parks and tree protection ranked higher than other City/County services: 62.6% of respondents support acquisition of more greenspace and 59.2% favoring use of LOST funds for this purpose.
- Drainage canal conditions were a source of concern, with 56% of respondents reporting that they were dissatisfied with these facilities.
- Rezoning requests are too easily approved according to many respondents.
- Better design guidelines were favored by four to one ratio -- not only in historic areas, but also in commercial areas and new neighborhoods.
- Traffic congestion was cited as the most serious problem. Unplanned growth and loss of community character were also cited often as concerns.

WHY THE UPDATE?

- Good management requires sound planning
- Sound public planning requires community goal setting
- Community goal setting creates a shared vision and greater cohesiveness within the community
- Plans and zoning ordinances currently in effect were developed in different eras
- Current process is an opportunity to bring plans and zoning laws into alignment
- Zoning in effect now has accumulated many “short term fixes” that have produced confusing and inconsistent language

HOW DOES PLANNING AND ZONING AFFECT ME?

- Helps maintain public services and infrastructure as the community grows
- Guides growth efficiently for best use of the tax dollar
- Establishes and addresses priorities identified by the community (e.g., special needs housing)
- Ensures that development is compatible in mass, scale, and appearance to its surroundings
- Improves community appearance
- Adds value to property by raising overall quality and standard of development
SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY

TRICENTENNIAL PLAN
TOWN MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2002, 5:00 P.M.
COASTAL GEORGIA CENTER

PROGRAM

5:00 – 5:10 p.m. Welcome and Introductions
Ms. Helen Stone, Chair, Metropolitan Planning Commission
Mr. Floyd Adams, Mayor, City of Savannah
Dr. Billy Hair, Chairman, Chatham County Commission

5:10 – 5:30 p.m. Background, Purpose, Expectations, and Vision for the Tricentennial Plan
Mr. Floyd Adams, Mayor, City of Savannah
Mr. Frank Murray, Chatham County Commission
Mr. J.B. Blackburn, City Attorney
Mr. Milton Newton, Executive Director, MPC

5:50 p.m. Report on the MPC Public Opinion Survey
Dr. Barbara Bart, Director, Survey Research Center, Savannah State University

5:50 – 7:00 p.m. Distinguished Guest Panel
Mr. Thomas Wilson, Director of Comprehensive Planning, MPC, Moderator
Mr. Egbert Perry, President, The Integral Group, Atlanta
Mr. Keyvan Izadi, Land Use Planner, National Association of Homebuilders
Dr. Reid Ewing, Research Professor, Rutgers University
Ms. Jackie Martin, South Carolina Coastal Conservation League

7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Public Question and Comment Period
Mr. Thomas Wilson, Moderator
MPC Staff, Consultants, and Distinguished Speakers will respond to comments and answer questions posed by the public.

7:30 p.m. Closing Comment and Adjournment
Ms. Helen Stone
NEWS RELEASE

The Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) has prepared a draft Comprehensive Plan for the City of Savannah and unincorporated Chatham County. The draft plan, which is in three volumes, is now available for public review. Interested parties may learn more about the draft in the following ways:

- Through neighborhood leadership training sessions¹
- At public meetings scheduled throughout the summer (see back for schedule)
- In the Public Libraries, where draft plans can be found at the Reference Desk
- On the MPC website: www.thempc.org
- On Cable TV Government Channel segments throughout the summer

The public comment period will run from June through August. Following the public comment period, MPC staff will prepare a final draft for review by the Metropolitan Planning Commission board. Additional public comment will be taken during the MPC deliberations. The MPC will then vote to submit a recommendation on the plan to County Commission and City Council. The Comprehensive Plan will then be forwarded to those bodies for additional public hearings, discussion, and adoption.

Once the Comprehensive Plan is adopted and new land use policies are in place, work on an updated Chatham County – Savannah Zoning Ordinance will proceed at an accelerated pace. It is anticipated that the new Zoning Ordinance will be available for public review by June, 2006.

Attachments:
1) FAQ Sheet
2) Executive Summary

¹ Neighborhood association leaders were invited to attend training sessions scheduled for May 25, 26, 31.
PUBLIC HEARING

CHATHAM COUNTY – SAVANNAH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on June 7, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in the MPC Hearing Room, 112 East State Street, Savannah, Georgia for the purpose of taking public comment on the update of the City-County Comprehensive Plan. A three month period of community meetings will follow during which interested parties will have an opportunity to comment.

The Chatham County – Savannah Comprehensive Plan is being updated in two phases. Phase I encompasses an update of the following components: Community Vision, Demographics, Land Use, Economic Development, Housing, Historic and Cultural Resources, Natural Resources, and Transportation. Phase I is scheduled for completion by December, 2005. Phase II encompasses an update of the following components: Community Facilities, Intergovernmental Coordination. Phase II is scheduled for completion by October, 2008.

Comment may be directed to: Comprehensive Planning Department, Metropolitan Planning Commission, 110 East State Street, Savannah, GA 31401. Telephone: 912-651-1440.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Comprehensive Plan?
A Comprehensive Plan is a document that the State requires cities and counties to prepare every ten years. The Plan establishes community goals and strategies to accomplish the goals. Most Plans have the following minimum content:

- Population
- Land Use
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Natural Resources
- Transportation

A Comprehensive Plan is a roadmap for development based on how the residents envision their community and a policy formation for zoning.

What is zoning?
Zoning provides for the orderly development of land in a way that protects existing landowners. Zoning laws prohibit activities by one citizen that could be harmful to other citizens.

Zoning provides the legal basis for regulating the location of uses and provides standards for development.

What is a zoning ordinance?
All zoning ordinances contain the same basic elements and must be consistent with the Georgia Zoning Procedures Law:

- **Use Tables** define what activities are permitted in various zoning districts.

- **Development Standards** establish requirements such as setbacks and height limits so that development patterns within zoning districts will be consistent. Development standards are measurable.

- **Criteria** provide a consistent basis for issuing permits within a zoning district. Criteria differ from standards in that they are not measurable. A standard may require a certain number of parking spaces for a use whereas criteria may require that the use not create excessive additional traffic.

- **Nonconforming Uses** are activities that existed within zoning districts before current zoning was instituted. Generally, a nonconforming use is one that would be detrimental to the neighborhood if were permitted throughout the district or if it were permitted to expand.
- **Procedures** determine how applications for permits, variances, and appeals will be handled and who will make the decision regarding approval.

- **Definitions** are included to ensure that everybody who reads the ordinance understands exactly what the terms mean.

- **Official Zoning Map** identifies the boundaries of each zoning district.

**What is land use?**
Land use is the activity on a specific parcel of land (residential, commercial, industrial, etc).

**What is mixed use development?**
Mixed use development includes two or more uses on a tract of land. Mixed use zoning districts are more challenging to administer than single use districts because not all uses can co-exist compatibly (for example, industrial and residential uses). Therefore, special care must be taken to ensure that all allowable uses in a mixed use district are compatible with each other.

**What is density?**
Density as applied in land use and zoning is a measure of dwelling units per acre.

**What is Smart Growth?**
The principles of Smart Growth suggest ways to foster growth and development without the detrimental side effects of sprawl. For more information on Smart Growth and its guiding principles, visit [http://www.smartgrowth.org/](http://www.smartgrowth.org/).

**What is the Tricentennial Plan?**
The Tricentennial Plan is the name that has been chosen for Savannah and Unincorporated Chatham County's joint comprehensive plan and zoning update. It is called the Tricentennial Plan because it has a planning horizon of 2033, the 300th anniversary of the founding of Savannah.

**Why update the existing comprehensive plan with the Tricentennial Plan?**
Georgia state law requires periodic updates to local comprehensive plans. The existing comprehensive plan must be updated to ensure that Savannah and Chatham County remain eligible for a range of state assistance programs. Beyond that, comprehensive plan updates are a good idea because comprehensive plans form a foundation for policies that help guide development decisions on a day-to-day basis. Updating the plan helps to keep it relevant, and also helps to ensure that the community grows in an orderly and desirable manner.

**What are the next steps in the Tricentennial planning process?**
- Complete Technical Work on the Comprehensive Plan (Spring, 2005)
- Present the Draft Plan in a Series of Public Meetings (Spring-Summer, 2005)
- Refine Draft Plan Based on Public Comment (Summer-Fall, 2005)
- Present Draft Plan to MPC—Additional Opportunity for Public Comment (Fall, 2005)
- Present Draft Plan to City Council and County Commission for Adoption—Additional Public Hearings (Fall-Winter, 2005)
- Prepare New Zoning Ordinance Consistent with the Draft Land Use Plan (2006)
Are there opportunities to improve your neighborhood through the Tricentennial Plan?

_____________________________________________________________________
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_____________________________________________________________________

Are there problems in your neighborhood that should be addressed by the Tricentennial Plan?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Are there land use and zoning issues in your neighborhood that need to be addressed?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

What changes would you like to see in your neighborhood in the next 5 to 10 years?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
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If you have any other comments please send them to: Metropolitan Planning Commission
P.O. Box 8246
110 East State St.
Savannah, GA 31412-8246
Attn: Tom Wilson, Director of Comprehensive Planning

Telephone: 912-651-1449
email: wilsont@thempc.org
VISION COMPETITION

ON THE FUTURE OF CHATHAM COUNTY AND SAVANNAH

CATEGORIES

**Essay Competition**

1. Essays should describe the writer’s vision of the future of Savannah and Chatham County at the Tricentennial in 2033;
2. They should relate the past and the future by describing the founding of Savannah in 1733;
3. They should mention the community’s many assets, such as its diversity, historic and cultural resources, and environment;
4. They should not exceed 500 words (two double spaced pages in 12 point type).

**Artistic Competition**

1. Artistic renderings should represent the future of Savannah and Chatham County at the Tricentennial in 2033;
2. They should creatively relate the past and the future of the City and County;
3. They should capture the essence of the community’s many assets, such as its diversity, historic and cultural resources, and environment;
4. They should be in the form of paintings, drawing, or computer images on paper or canvas.

**AWARDS**

Anyone who is a resident of the City of Savannah or unincorporated Chatham County is encouraged to submit entries in one or both of the categories. Cash awards of $250, $150, and $50 will be provided for first, second, and third place in each category. A framed award certificate will be given to all placing contestants.

**DEADLINE**

Entries must be received no later than September 2, 2005. They should be addressed to: MPC Vision Competition, 110 East State Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401
A New Vision

The engraving and excerpts below represent an artistic and written vision statement for the new Georgia colony published in 1732 in "Some Account of the Designs of the Trustees for Establishing the Colony of Georgia in America." The Tricentennial “Vision Competition” seeks a new vision statement for the Savannah area at the Tricentennial.

The Trustees’ Vision of the Founding of Savannah and the Georgia Colony

“The Trustees intend to relieve such unfortunate persons as cannot subsist here, and establish them in an orderly manner, so as to form a well regulated town.... By such a Colony, many families, who would otherwise starve, will be provided for, and made masters of houses and lands; the people in Great Britain to whom these necessitous families were a burthen, will be relieved; numbers of manufacturers will be here employed, for supplying them with clothes, working tools, and other necessaries; and by giving refuge to the distressed Salzburgers, and other persecuted Protestants, the power of Britain, as a reward for its hospitality, will be encreased by the addition of so many religious and industrious subjects.

The Colony of Georgia lying about the same latitude with part of China, Persia, Palestine, and the Madeiras, it is highly probable that when hereafter it shall be well-peopled and rightly cultivated, England may be supplied from thence with raw Silk, Wine, Oil, Dyes, Drugs, and many other materials for manufactures, which she is obliged to purchase from Southern countries. . . .

All human affairs are so subject to chance, that there in no answering for events; yet from reason and the nature of things, it may be concluded, that the riches and also the number of the inhabitants in Great Britain will be increased, by importing at a cheap rate from this new Colony, the materials requisite for carrying on in Britain several manufactures. For our Manufacturers will be encouraged to marry and multiply . . . and also many people will find employment here. . . ."
APPENDIX C

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE
ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE PHASE
Land Use Plan – Zoning Ordinance Development
Flowchart

ELUM = Existing Land Use Map\(^2\)  FLUM = Future Land Use Map\(^3\)  SP = Strategic Plan\(^4\)

\(^2\) An “existing land use map” is an inventory of current land use.
\(^3\) A “future land use map” is a map that reflects official policy about future development patterns.
\(^4\) The strategic plan consists of a vision statement, goals, objectives, and implementation strategies.