

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
CITY OF CUMMING, GA, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROGRAM DEFINED

“Community Participation Program” means the portion of the comprehensive plan (see diagram below) that describes the local government’s program for insuring meaningful public and stakeholder involvement in the preparation of the Community Agenda portion of the plan.



**Local Comprehensive Planning Documents
Required by Georgia Rules**

According to local planning requirements of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Community Participation Program is prepared in conjunction with the Community Assessment part of the comprehensive plan, then submitted along with the Community Assessment, after public hearing, for regional and state review (see “review process” below).

There are three required components of the community participation program:

- (a) Identification of Stakeholders
- (b) Identification of Participation Techniques
- (c) Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda

OBJECTIVES

The program seeks to obtain meaningful involvement of stakeholders and the general public in the preparation of the comprehensive plan. This community participation program describes the city’s strategies for ensuring meaningful public and stakeholder involvement in the preparation of the Community Agenda *portion* of the comprehensive plan. It is important to emphasize here that this means little if any active involvement in preparing and conducting the Community

Assessment part of the plan, other than what is obtained through the required public hearing for the Community Participation Program and the Community Assessment.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR STAKEHOLDERS:

1. Discuss and provide comment on the preliminary “Issues and Opportunities” list developed and adopted during the partial update process (2009).
2. Discuss and provide feedback on draft Future Development Map (Character Areas) 2030; discuss and provide feedback on the future land use plan map developed and adopted during the partial update process (2009).
3. Discuss and offer feedback for the Short-Term Work Program developed and adopted during the partial update process (2009), and any proposed updates.
4. Review and remark on the draft Community Agenda; attend scheduled public hearing as appropriate (2012).

STAKEHOLDERS

This section of the program reviews those stakeholder types suggested in the State Planning Recommendations and their Applicability in the City of Cumming. The State Planning Recommendations provide a list of almost fifty suggested stakeholders. For simplicity, they have been grouped into like or similar interests below – along with comments as to their applicability in Cumming.

A list of stakeholders and persons suggested to receive communications is provided in this program. Defined broadly, a stakeholder is anyone who has a stake in an outcome of the comprehensive planning process. Based on the suggestions in the State Planning Recommendations, an initial list of stakeholders has been identified and compiled by the city’s planning consultant (included in this program) and refined as necessary by the City of Cumming Planning and Zoning Department. The Forsyth County Community Participation Program has also been consulted in the identification of stakeholders.

Private Business and Related Interests

Stakeholder Segment	Comment
Agricultural and forestry interests	Generally not applicable in the city
Banks	Optional – specific participation could be sought
Business owners, managers	Georgia Traditional Manufacturers Association; others
Chamber of commerce	Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce
Developers, for-profit	Stakeholder; large land owners should be contacted
Employers – major	Optional – specific participation could be sought
Entrepreneurs	Optional – specific participation could be sought
Homebuilders association	Greater Atlanta Homebuilders Association
Insurance companies	Optional – specific participation could be sought
Media – local and regional	Identified; Mail notices, materials, and press releases
Real estate professionals	Georgia Association of Realtors
Schools and universities -- private	None identified
Utilities -- private	Sawnee EMC

Non-Profits and Community/Environmental Organizations

Stakeholder Segment	Comment
Bicycle, hiking clubs	Unknown at this time
Churches, ecumenical councils	Optional – specific participation could be sought
Community development corporations	Unknown at this time
Community service organizations	Unknown at this time
Developers, non-profit	Habitat for Humanity North Central Georgia (Lanier Area)
Downtown or area business people	See business owners above
Environmental organizations	Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper; others
Ethnic and minority groups	Unknown at this time
High school / college students	Optional – specific participation could be sought
Historic or preservation society	Forsyth County Historical Society
Immigrant groups	Unknown at this time (see ethnic and minority)
Land trusts	Georgia (formerly Chattowah Open) Land Trust
Low-income groups	Unknown at this time (see ethnic and minority)
Neighborhood organizations	Unknown at this time
Under-represented/marginalized groups	Unknown at this time

Public Agencies and Organizations

Stakeholder Segment	Comment
Agricultural and forestry interests	Cooperative Extension Service
Board of Commissioners	Contact via county planning and development department
Cities in County – planning depts.	Inapplicable
City agencies – others not listed	Rely on Cumming city planner to distribute as appropriate
Convention and Visitor's Bureau and/or Local/regional tourism officials	Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce
Federal agencies with local jurisdiction	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Health – public	Forsyth County Health Department
Library boards	Forsyth County Library System (facility assessment)
Military base planners	Inapplicable
Public utilities	City and county
Planning commission (city)	Cumming Planning & Zoning Commission
Regional agencies	Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (RDC)
Safety – public	City Police Chief; County Sheriff
Schools – public	Forsyth County Board of Education
State agencies with local jurisdiction	Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA); Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Zoning board of appeals (city)	Inapplicable – city council serves this function
Universities -- Public	North Georgia College and State University

IDENTIFICATION OF PARTICIPATION TECHNIQUES

During the process of preparing a work scope, the consultants considered various community participation techniques. The work scope was written to meet the city's specific needs for public involvement while also considering budget limitations. The following techniques were considered and as applicable included in the Community Participation Program.

Community Participation Techniques Considered

Participation Technique	Included in Program?	Explanation/Elaboration
Kiosk/Lobby displays	No	Limited effectiveness; opt for web site dissemination
Speaker's Bureau – briefings, presentations to civic clubs	No	City planner may speak to clubs on invitation
Kick off public information meeting	No	Initial public hearings will serve this function
Printed public information	Yes	City will rely on electronic media (web page) but may distribute printed information as needed
Website – information only	Yes	Central communication tool – City
Website – interactive	Maybe	Questionnaire may be posted
Website – e-mail response capability	Yes	City planner will reply to e-mail inquiries; field to consultant as appropriate
Cable TV information	Maybe	TV Forsyth Public Service Announcements
Radio Stations	Maybe	City planner may speak on invitation
Press Releases	Yes	City Planner and Consulting Planner may prepare press releases at strategic intervals as appropriate
Posters, fliers, brochures, mailouts	Probably not	Budget suggests use of website as primary dissemination media
Direct mail surveys	No	Budget limitations preclude this option
Visioning exercises, workshops and charrettes, and community preference meetings	Yes	One or two community meetings will be held prior to plan preparation to confirm vision, refine character areas, and identify additional issues and opportunities
Student programs	No	Not planned, budget is limited; timing is an issue as school will not be in session during part of public participation period
E-mail blasts	Yes	Notices of meetings, drafts, etc. will be sent to all e-mail addresses compiled
Technical advisory committee	No	However, information will be distributed or notice of all drafts available for download and comment
Steering committee	No	City Planning & Zoning Commission serves this function
Stakeholder meetings and interviews	Yes	Planner and/or Consulting Planners will interview selected stakeholders
Intergovernmental partnerships	No	County is planning separately; but coordination is ongoing
"Facebook" communications	No	Opt for city website use instead
Electronic Advertising	Maybe	Electronic Bulletin event notices on public electronic message displays

SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

**Calendar by Major Component of the Comprehensive Plan
City of Cumming, GA**

Month	Community Assessment	Community Participation	Community Agenda
June 2011	Document complete	Plan complete	
July 2011	Public Hearings	Public Hearing	
July 2011	Transmit for regional/state review		
August 2011		Implement: hold public workshop(s)	
September 2011			
October 2011 – December 2012			Consultant prepares and completes draft
January 2012			Review Period
Feb. – March 2012			Public Hearings: Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council
March 2012			Submit for Regional and State Review
May 2012			Revisions as needed
June 2012			Adoption of Plan by City Council

Recertification Deadline: June 30, 2012

REVIEW PROCESS

The Community Participation Program is submitted along with the Community Assessment to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission for review, after holding a public hearing. Within seven (7) days of receipt, the RC will determine whether the Community Participation Program meets or does not meet the standard of completeness as determined by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Upon determination of completeness, the RC transmits the participation program to DCA. DCA will review the program for its adequacy in identifying specific mechanisms to ensure meaningful involvement of the community in the development of the Community Agenda. DCA will transmit a complete report of its findings and recommendations for addressing such findings to the RC for inclusion in its Report of Findings and Recommendations.

PUBLICATION OF THE APPROVED PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Once reviewed, the Community Participation Program and Community Assessment must be publicized by the local government for public information. This requirement may be met by providing notice in a local newspaper of general circulation identifying where complete copies of the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program may be reviewed.

**LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS
CITY OF CUMMING GA, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
(refine/add to as city determines appropriate)**

Economy, Business, and Real Estate

Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce
James McCoy, President & CEO
212 Kelly Mill Road, Cumming, GA 30040
Phone: (770) 887-6461 Fax: (770) 887-6461
E-mail: cfccoc@cummingforsythchamber.org

Regional Business Coalition of Metro Atlanta, Inc.
P.O. Box 1740, Atlanta, GA, 30301
Phone: 404-223-3310 Fax: 404-223-3332
E-mail: info@rbcatlanta.org

Georgia Traditional Manufacturers Association
50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 985, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Phone: 404-688-0555 Fax: 404-584-0720
Website: info@gtma.org

Greater Atlanta Homebuilders Association
David Ellis, Executive Vice President
P.O. Box 450749, Atlanta, GA 31145
Phone: 770-938-9900 Fax: 770-934-8363
E-mail: dellis@atlantahomebuilders.com

Georgia Association of Realtors
Deb Junkin, RCE, Chief Executive Officer
3200 Presidential Dr., Atlanta, GA 30340
Phone: 770-451-1831 Fax: 770-458-6992
E-mail: djunkin@garealtor.com

Council for Quality Growth
Phone: 770-813-3381
Website: <http://www.councilforqualitygrowth.org>

Northeast Atlanta Metro Association of Realtors
Tom O'Rourke, CEO/Executive Vice President
2145 Duluth Highway, Duluth, GA 30097
Phone: 770-495-7300 x 6410 Fax: (888) 516-7044
Email: tom@namar.org
Website: <http://www.namar.org/>

Koch Foods Inc.
221 Meadow Drive, Cumming, GA 30040
Phone: (770) 844-8416

Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation (EMC)
P.O. Box 266, Cumming, GA, 30028-0266
Phone: (770) 887-2363 Fax (678) 947-3368
E-mail: customerservice@sawnee.com
Website: www.sawnee.com

Environment and Natural Resources

Georgia Land Trust
Mark Pentecost, Deputy Director
428 Bull Street, Suite 210, Savannah, GA 31401
Phone: (866) 656-5263 Fax: (888) 876-3883
E-mail: katherine@galandtrust.org
Website: www.galandtrust.org

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Inc.
Sally Bethea, Executive Director and Riverkeeper
Headwaters Office: 615F Oak Street, Suite 1000, Gainesville, GA 30501
Phone: 770-531-1064 Fax: 770-531-1503

Lake Lanier Association, Inc.
615F Oak Street, Suite 100, Gainesville, GA 30501
Phone: 770.503.7757
Website: lakeinfo@lakelanier.org

UGA Cooperative Extension, Forsyth County Office
875 Lanier 400 Parkway, Cumming, GA 30040
Phone: (770) 887-2418
Website: <http://www.ugaextension.com/forsyth/>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Lake Sidney Lanier – Natural Resource Manager, Chris Lovelady
P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628-0001
Phone: 251-690-2505

Upper Chattahoochee River Soil and Water Conservation District
G.B. Belflower, NRCS District Conservationist
Phone: 770 781-2148 Fax: 770 781-2147

1071 Coalition
P.O. Box 6059, Gainesville, GA 30504
Phone: 770.458.6311
E-mail: contact@1071coalition.org
Website: <http://www.1071coalition.org/home.asp>

Intergovernmental Coordination

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission
Danny Lewis, Executive Director
1310 W. Ridge Road, Gainesville, GA 30501
Phone: (770) 538-2606
E-mail: dlewis@gmrc.ga.gov

Forsyth County Dept. of Planning & Community Development
Tom Brown, AICP, Interim Director
110 East Main Street, Suite 100, Cumming, GA 30040
Phone 770.781.2115 Fax: 770.781.2197
E-mail: lakyle@forsythco.com

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Website: <http://www.northgeorgiawater.com/>

Georgia Regional Transportation Authority
Website: <http://www.grta.org/>

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
<http://www.gadnr.org/>

Services and Community Facilities

Northside Hospital—Forsyth
1200 Northside Forsyth Drive, Cumming, GA 30041
Phone: (770) 844-3200
Website: <http://www.northside.com/locations/forsyth.aspx>

Habitat for Humanity North Central Georgia (Lanier Area)
133 Samaritan Drive, #302, Cumming, GA 30040-2396
Phone: (770) 886-4939
Website: habitat-ncg.org

Education and Community Awareness

Lanier Technical College (Forsyth County Campus)
7745 Majors Road, Cumming, GA
Phone: (770) 781-6800
Website: www.laniertech.edu

North Georgia College & State University
Office of Regional Engagement – Forsyth County Program
82 College Circle, Dahlonega, GA 30597-1001
Phone: (706) 864-1400
<http://www.northgeorgia.edu/>

Historical Society of Forsyth County
P.O. Box 1334. Cumming, Georgia 30028
Phone: (678) 455-7260
E-mail: info@historicrosyth.com
Website: <http://www.historicrosyth.com/contactus.html>

Smart Growth Forsyth County, Inc.
Bob Slaughter, Founder and Managing Director
bslaughter@smartgrowth-forsyth.org
11950 Jones Bridge Road, Suite 115-137, Johns Creek, GA 30005
Phone: 404-403-8886
Website: <http://smartgrowth-forsyth.org/>

Media

Forsyth County News (contact via internet)
<http://www.forsythnews.com/>

Forsyth Herald (Appen Newspapers – contact via internet)
<http://www.northfulton.com/SitePage-25114.114126-Forsyth-Herald.html>

CummingHome.com (contact via internet)
<http://www.cumminghome.com/about/contact/index.shtml>

TV Forsyth (Forsyth County Government)
Website: <http://www.forsythco.com/video.asp>

TV Forsyth (on Comcast channel 23) broadcasts a variety of county meetings as well as original programming focused on informing citizens about the county. The channel also displays electronic bulletin board messages that provide information about government meetings, events, programs and more.

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS FOR STAKEHOLDERS
Suggested Input for Questionnaire on Website and at Public Workshop(s)

Q-1. List the top three things that YOU LIKE MOST about the City of Cumming.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Q-2. List the top three things that YOU DO NOT LIKE about the City of Cumming.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Q-3. The city of Cumming is a unique place with a character that distinguishes it from other places.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/No opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree

Q-4. During the next 20 years, Cumming should strive to include which of the following?
 (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Rural development	<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Auto dealerships
<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Gated communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Commercial recreation (e.g., race track)
<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Residential with golf course	<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Outlet malls/large retailers
<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Single-family subdivisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Distribution center (trucking)
<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Elderly communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Mid-rise campus office parks
<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Apartment communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Regional shopping center
<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Part of the Lanier region	<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Light Industry work place/industrial parks
<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Extension of Atlanta metro area	<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Mixed-use pedestrian centers
<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Home to major institution(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Historic districts
<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Tourism economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Some proportion of all of these is appropriate

Q-5. There is an adequate supply of housing that is affordable in Cumming.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/No opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree

Q-6. The overall quality of the environment (water, air, etc.) in Cumming is excellent.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/No opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree

Q-7. The city is doing enough to protect the aesthetic character of the city.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/No opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree

Q-8. In the City of Cumming, there are adequate job/employment opportunities.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/No opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree

Q-9. Overall, I am satisfied with the services and facilities that the City of Cumming provides.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/No opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree

Q-10. I would characterize overall relationships between the City of Cumming government and Forsyth County's government as "excellent."

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/No opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree

Q-11. What, in your opinion, should be the three highest priorities for improvements in the city?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.