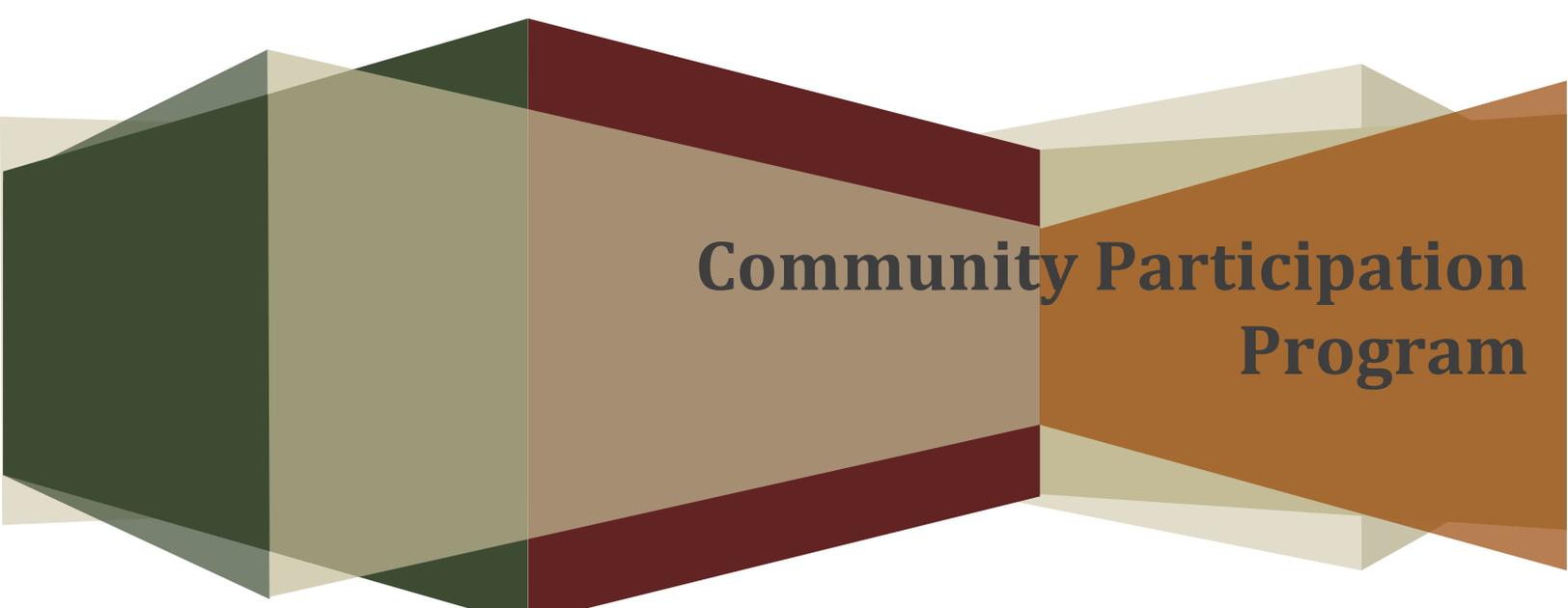


Twiggs County, City of Jeffersonville and Town of Danville Joint Comprehensive Plan



**Community Participation
Program**

2013

TWIGGS COUNTY,
THE CITY OF JEFFERSONVILLE
AND
THE TOWN OF DANVILLE

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

September 2012

Prepared with assistance from

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INTRODUCTION

The Community Participation Program (CPP) is one of the most important elements of the Comprehensive Planning Process. Meant to obtain meaningful public input and stakeholder involvement, the CPP will ensure that the Community Agenda reflects the full range of community values and desires. Twiggs County, the City of Jeffersonville and the Town of Danville seek to ensure that citizens and other stakeholders are aware of the planning process and have the opportunity to be actively involved in shaping their community's future. Local government officials aspire to establish and to maintain an ongoing dialogue with local citizens to ensure that all efforts, initiatives and decisions are understood and supported by the public.

PARTICIPATION TECHNIQUES

Twiggs County, the City of Jeffersonville and the Town of Danville will work in partnership with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to guide and coordinate the citizen participation efforts associated with the Comprehensive Plan. The following methods were decided upon by the Joint Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to aid in the planning, assessment, evaluation and implementation of the Community Agenda. All tasks and methods were selected to encourage participation by a diverse cross-section of the population in order to gain the maximum amount of community input.

PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee members are valuable contributors to the development of the Joint Comprehensive Plan. Appointed by local government officials, members of the Steering Committee include individuals with in-depth knowledge of the community and expertise on a variety of topics, including: economic development; historic and natural resources; transportation, roads and utilities; public safety; parks and recreation; land development/real estate; agriculture/forestry; public/institutional; industrial interests; and housing.

The Steering Committee will provide insight, guidance, and feedback throughout the planning process. Specifically, the Steering Committee will assist Regional Commission staff in identifying issues and opportunities, character areas, and implementation items for all sectors of the community which meet the diverse needs of local citizens, business owners, special interest groups and all other constituencies. Another important role of the Steering Committee will be to function as community liaisons by organizing and participating in public input and education efforts, distributing information about the contents of the Plan, and keeping the community informed about the Plan's process.

Steering Committee meetings are held on a regular schedule that coincides with project benchmarks and deliverables and are facilitated by two (2) staff members from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
NAME	REPRESENTING
Donald Floyd, Commissioner	Twiggs County
Shannon Hart, Mayor	City of Jeffersonville
Charlene Kipe	City of Jeffersonville Planning and Zoning
Jimmy Smith, Mayor	Town of Danville
Judy Sherling	Twiggs County Development Authority/Chamber of Commerce
Sandra Williams	Twiggs County Development Authority/Chamber of Commerce
Willie Blackshear	Citizen
Sarah Hawthorne	City of Jeffersonville DDA, Chair

Local Government Official Meetings

While the Steering Committee will provide input and assist with the development of the Short-Term Work Program (STWP) portion of the Community Agenda, it will be necessary to consult with local government officials who are not members of the Steering Committee. Regional Commission staff will coordinate meetings with key local government officials to discuss the action items for the 2013-2017 STWP.

PUBLIC EDUCATION, INPUT AND INTERACTION

Open House

The Steering Committee, with the assistance of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, plans to hold an Open House on October 30, 2012 to discuss the Comprehensive Plan. The Open House will have a designated time for stakeholder and citizens to drop in at their leisure to speak with Steering Committee members, ask questions, and provide input.

At the Open House, drafts of planning documents will be available for review, as well as various maps associated with the Comprehensive Plan, including maps of Character Areas and current and future land use. Desired outcomes of the meeting include an increased awareness and knowledge by the public about the Comprehensive Planning Process and to gain meaningful input on current initiatives and their vision for the future. Comment cards will be made available at the Open House, and all attendees will be encouraged to complete one.

Harvest Festival Booth

The City of Jeffersonville is hosting its first annual Harvest Festival October 26-28, 2012 in Downtown Jeffersonville. The Steering Committee will utilize this event to gain community input for the Comprehensive Plan through the use of a booth. The booth will contain an overview and highlights of the Comprehensive Plan and will display the associated maps. Comment cards will also be made available to collect citizen input on the Plan and to better understand the vision of residents for their County's future.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OUTREACH

Availability

The following venues will be employed to notify the public of the availability of the Comprehensive Plan documents and information.

Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority

The Twiggs County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority will have copies of the Comprehensive Plan documents available for public review.

Churches

There will be fliers posted in major area churches informing citizens of the Comprehensive Planning process and an invitation to the Open House.

Local Government Websites

Twiggs County, the City of Jeffersonville, and the Town of Danville websites will be used to disseminate information about the availability of the Comprehensive Plan documents for public review as well as information about the Open House.

Local Businesses

Fliers will be posted at local businesses in Twiggs, Jeffersonville and Danville to inform citizens of the Comprehensive Planning process and public hearings, as well as an invitation to the Open House. Suggested businesses include Piggly Wiggly, various Gas Stations, 57 Short Stop, Subway, Huddle House, A&A Restaurant and local banks.

Media

The *Twiggs Times New Era* will be used to advertise the various community education, interaction, and input events including: general information about the comprehensive planning process, Open House, public hearings, and availability of electronic and hardcopy documents for public review.

Public Hearings

Two public hearings will be held to fulfill the requirements of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning. The first public hearing will be held September 20, 2012, to present the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program portions of the Joint Comprehensive Plan Update. The second public hearing will be held on November 27, 2012, to present the Community Agenda portion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan Update. Both Public Hearings are intended to inform citizens, stakeholders, and other interested parties of the findings and information contained in the planning documents as well as to offer an additional forum in which to provide comment and input.

STAKEHOLDERS

LOCAL

- Twiggs County Board of Commissioners
- City of Jeffersonville Council
- City of Danville Council
- Twiggs County Board of Education
- Twiggs County Chamber of Commerce
- Twiggs County Development Authority
- Jeffersonville Downtown Development Authority
- Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)
- Public Works
- EMA Director
- Jeffersonville Planning and Zoning
- Twiggs County Planning and Zoning
- Twiggs County Senior Center
- Twiggs County Family Connections
- Garden Club
- Richland Restoration Historical Society
- Danville Masonic Order
- Four-County Exchange Club
- Spring Valley Youth Recreation Association

- Real Estate Professionals
- Scout Troops
- All Churches
- All Local Businesses
- All Major Employers

REGIONAL

- Historic Heartland Tourism Representatives
- Middle Ocmulgee Water Planning Council
- Central Georgia Joint Development Authority
- Ocmulgee River Blueway Partnership
- Middle Georgia Economic Alliance
- I-16 Corridor Alliance

STATE

- UGA Cooperative Extension
- Georgia Farm Bureau/Twiggs County Farm Bureau
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
 - Environmental Protection Division (EPD)
 - Historic Preservation Division
 - Fish and Wildlife Management
 - Land Conservation
 - Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites

SCHEDULE OF COMPLETION – COMMUNITY AGENDA

	2012				
	August	September	October	November	December
TASK					
Form Steering Committee/Kick-Off Meeting					
Develop Community Assessment					
Present Assessment, Edit and Finalize					
Develop Community Participation Program					
Conduct Public Hearing					
Transmit Assessment and CPP to DCA					
Develop Community Agenda and STWP					
Conduct Public Hearing					
Transmit Community Agenda to DCA					