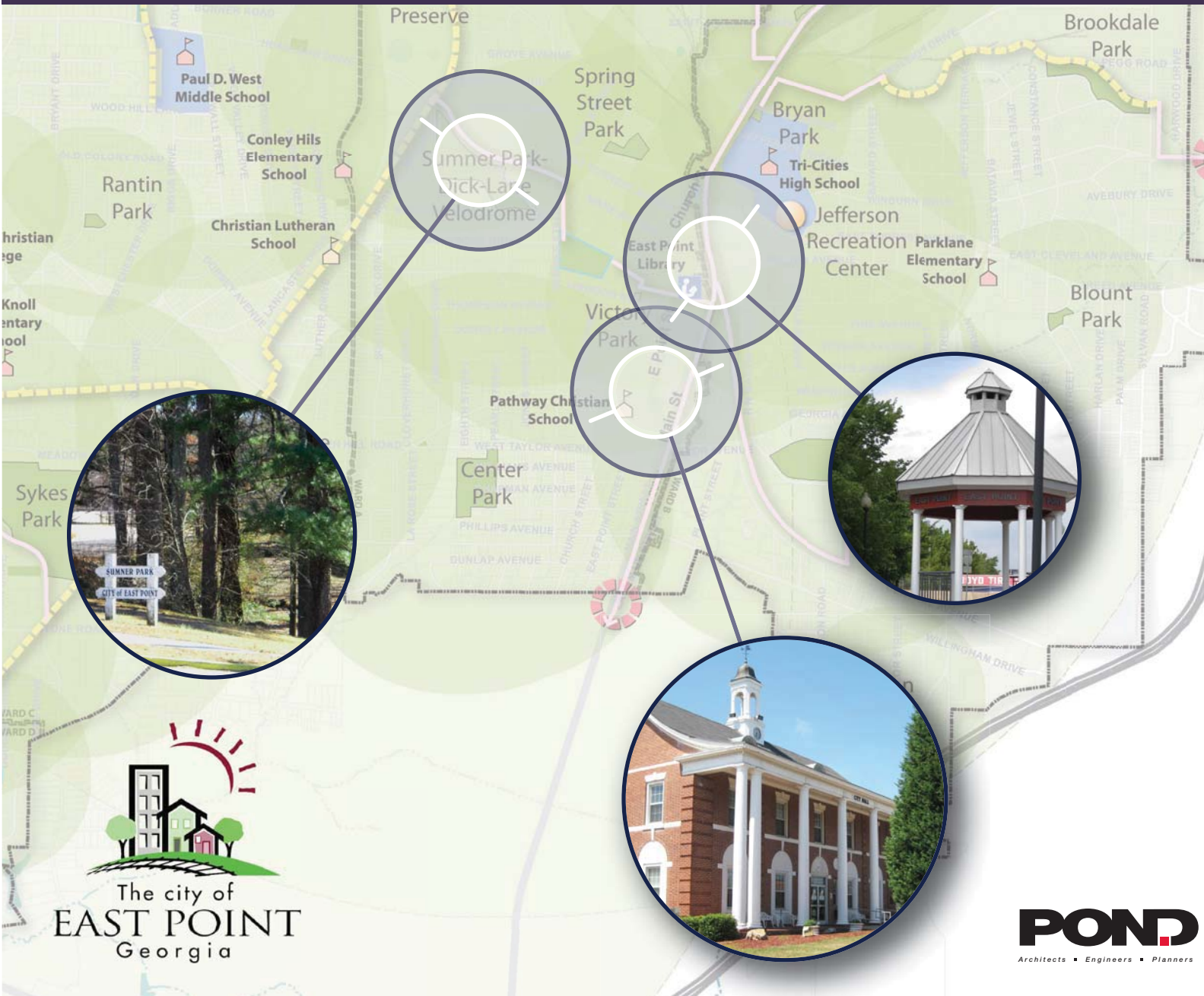




# CITY OF EAST POINT: MISSION 2036

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



# Community Participation Plan

## Introduction

Imagine the year 2036 and the different needs you, your parents, your children and neighbors will have. What kind of city do we as a community want East Point to become by 2036? What real options do we have for becoming the city we envision? What steps will get us there?

During 2011, the City of East Point will update its Comprehensive Plan, and wide reaching representative community involvement is needed to make the project a success. This is why a *Community Participation Plan* is created. It's our shared future!

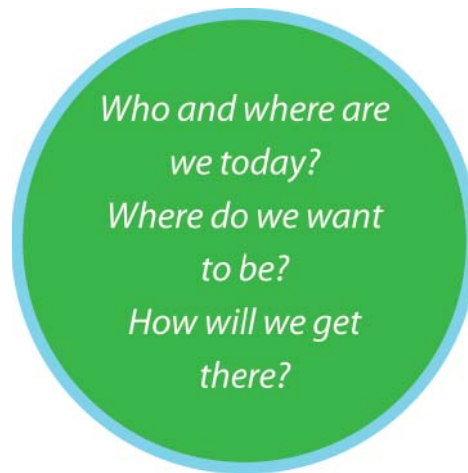
The *Community Participation Plan* explains the overall planning process and presents the plan for engaging citizens, business members and other stakeholders with varying interests and perspectives. Following community participation, the City will have developed a *Community Agenda*. The *Community Agenda* will express the City's vision, short- and long- term actions to achieve that vision, and the policy commitments to make this great City of East Point even better over the next twenty years. Creating a great city takes decades of planning and investing, as we know from the wonderful historic, cultural and community amenities we enjoy about our City today.

East Point was named for its location to the Railroad where the Atlanta and West Point railroad tracks end on the East. Although the City of East Point was chartered August 10, 1887, it was busy long before this date. From 1820 to 1930, the City grew from an Indian territory with few people to a manufacturing city that housed 10,000 people.

Early history shows that East Point was prosperous due to its location and marriage to various transportation modes. From the railroad, to the horse and carriage, to the automobile, East Point has always been recognized for its location and accessibility. Even today, the commercial downtown area relies heavily on their attraction from the MARTA station located on Main Street.

After the depression, East Point experienced the same type of struggles as any southern city. Times were hard for everyone and little development activity took place. In 1947, the City experienced the largest building boom since the pre-Civil War movement. New structures began to align the streets again. Today these early roots are still a tremendous asset for the city.

Like many cities in Georgia, the City of East Point has gone through and continues to undergo great transitions; the City is at point where a common vision generated with and through intensive citizen involvement is needed. Taking advantage of the need to update the Comprehensive Plan, there is the opportunity to actively engage the East Point's citizens and leaders in this process. As constituents, however, we all have a right and responsibility to have informed opinions, with facts and data to add to our



experiences and our realities and make a strong, realistic 2036 plan of action. The Comprehensive Plan includes a *Community Assessment* document to arm community members with data as they join the public discussions and debates. The City of East Point invites the community to join your neighbors and recommend the best path to take toward our shared future.

## Purpose

As mentioned, the Comprehensive Plan includes: a *Community Assessment*; the *Community Participation Plan (CPP)*, this document; and a *Community Agenda*. The purpose of this piece, the *Community Participation Program*, is to ensure that the final Comprehensive Plan reflects the full range of community values and desires, by involving a diverse spectrum of stakeholders in development of the *Community Agenda*. This broad-based participation in developing the Community Agenda will also help ensure that it will be implemented, because many in the community are involved in its development and thereby become committed to seeing it through. The methods for which the public will be engaged are outlined below in the *Community Participation Program*, which includes:

- Structure of Participation Process;
- Identification of Stakeholders;
- Identification of Participation Techniques; and
- Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda.

## Structure of Participation Process

The following chart shows the organizational structure and roles for the planning process.

The City's Department of Planning & Zoning and the contracted Consultant lead a Project Management Team that incorporates input from other department staff including Administration, Environmental/Public Works, Finance, Fire Department, Police Department, Recreation and Parks, and Transportation, along with a consultant team with expertise in land use, public finance, transportation, infill and design controls. The plan will only be a success if all departments participate because the vision can only be achieved through cooperation. Each department has a uniquely important role to the community's overall success. The Planning & Zoning Department serves as Project Manager over the project.

The City Council and Mayor hold ultimate responsibility and authority to approve and direct the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan documents, and, as the body that must deliberate budget constraints and competing priorities, may modify the recommendations that they receive.

### East Point Stakeholders and Citizens

Who: Anyone with an investment and interest in East Point's success  
 Process data from the Community Assessment  
 Provide input and express preferences for developing vision and recommendations

### City Staff and Consultant Team

Prepare Community Assessment documents  
 Facilitate community participation  
 Prepare Community Agenda documents

### Planning & Zoning Board

Provide input and express preferences for developing vision and recommendations  
 Conduct public hearings  
 Make recommendations to Council regarding draft documents

### City Council and Mayor

Receive input and recommendations for developing vision and action plan  
 Provide leadership when considering recommendations; consider documents, direct refinements and modifications as appropriate, and adopt drafts

## Identification of Stakeholders

Each person who lives, works or serves in East Point has a stake in its success and plans for the future. To effectively manage a broad range of viewpoints, it will be effective to rely on existing networks and stakeholder groups. As part of targeted public outreach efforts, the Comprehensive Plan effort will engage existing networks including community organizations, businesses, service providers and small groups to serve as a source of input, information and recommendations. These groups will also be asked to distribute meeting notices, posters, and agendas to broader groups; they will also be tapped to provide feedback on how to improve the outreach process and shape the content of meetings and presentations so that they meet a variety of needs.

The City already has access to contact information (email, telephone and leadership) for a number of groups and businesses, as well as a series of Homeowners Associations (HOAs). The City considers it important for the stakeholder list to be a living document to allow for additional participants throughout the process. As such, the City Planning & Zoning Department will update the participation list with additional stakeholders identified through the Planning & Zoning Board, City Council and community members over the following months to ensure that a "snowball" method of expanding outreach will occur.

To ensure the broadest representation of the City, community meetings will also include an opportunity for participants to add stakeholder representative names and contact information should participants identify gaps. Along with other documentation regarding public engagement activities and efforts, the final list of stakeholders will be attached in an Appendix to the final Comprehensive Plan documents when the *Community Agenda* is completed. The attached list identifies potential stakeholders.

## Participation Techniques

The Planning Team will conduct two (2) community meetings, as well as stakeholder interviews covering planning elements consisting of land use, transportation, design controls, natural and cultural resources, housing, economic development and visioning. In addition to the above referenced community meetings, an Open House will be held. The City plans to conduct two (2) public hearings and two (2) work sessions.

The City of East Point will engage the community using a variety of techniques, depending upon the purpose of achieving community involvement. The following section identifies different techniques and organizes them by purpose. The meeting schedule, agenda and minutes will be posted on the City's website: [www.eastpointcity.org/index.aspx?NID=1262](http://www.eastpointcity.org/index.aspx?NID=1262).

### Public Education/Information

**Website/Media:** A web link ([www.eastpointcity.org/index.aspx?NID=1262](http://www.eastpointcity.org/index.aspx?NID=1262)) has been created on the City web page to post draft documents, video podcasts, fact sheets, meeting notices, and minutes. The Planning Team will prepare materials for updates to the website on a regular basis throughout the public participation process and will provide copies of draft documents for public review as they become available.

**Lobby Displays:** Maps and information will be posted at City Hall.

**Printed/E-mail bulletins:** Flyers and newspaper information will be distributed.

**Media/Press Releases:** The City will contact local newspaper(s) to advertise meetings and/or status of the plan to the community. The *South Fulton Neighbor* Newspaper will receive press releases and announcements. Example: Public Hearing on *Community Participation Plan/Community Assessment* and *Community Agenda*.

**Mailing Lists:** Email blast to stakeholder groups will be used by the City of East Point. This resource will keep the public informed of proposed meetings, changes to dates and schedules, and public review periods for draft documents.

### Public Input

**Official Hearings:** Two (2) to three (3) public hearings will be held: one (1) to present the *Community Participation Plan* and *Community Assessment* and one (1) to present the *Community Agenda*. An Open House will also be held. The community will have the opportunity to discuss the *Community Assessment*, *Community Participation Plan* and the *Community Agenda* with the City Council prior to transmittal to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

**Community Meetings:** Three (3) community events are planned for the overall Comprehensive Plan:

- Community Meeting #1 will cover Wards A & B
- Community Meeting #2 will cover Wards C & D
- Open House for all of the City

**Select Interviews:** Select stakeholders and City Staff will be interviewed in order to gain more detailed information on certain topics, such as housing, economic development and local industry, population diversity, growth and needs, etc. In addition, the consulting team will interview each City Council member individually.

**Survey:** Certain topics may require additional input to clarify the results of community meetings. A survey may be prepared. The results will be analyzed, a report submitted, and the information will be incorporated into the report.

**Workshops/Work Sessions:** The consulting team and City Staff will hold workshops and work sessions with the City Council during the Comprehensive Planning process.

## Schedule

### Review Process

In Georgia, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) determines the rules and regulations local governments must follow when preparing the Comprehensive Plan. Prior to the development of a *Community Agenda*, DCA requires that the local jurisdictions transmit the *Community Participation Plan* along with a *Community Assessment* for review. The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the regional arm of DCA that reviews these two documents to determine whether or not they are complete; upon this verification, ARC in turn transmits these documents to DCA. DCA conducts a report of findings and recommendation, and ARC issues the local government a final report that includes DCA's comments. Similarly, once the *Community Agenda* is prepared, ARC and DCA review the document for approval.

## Comprehensive Plan Schedule of Activities

The City has prepared the attached schedule for community meetings, workshops, events and public hearings. While several target dates remain to be finalized, the City will adhere to this schedule and post it in local media outlets, along with periodic updates as dates and venues are determined. The schedule was reviewed by the city's Planning & Zoning Department and aims to provide for numerous opportunities for public involvement, in a variety of locations with different formats.

ACTIVITY	DATE/TIME	VENUE
Present PowerPoint at City Council Work Session (Community Assessment/Public Participation Plan) – Overview and Update	August 8 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
Planning & Zoning Work Session – (Community Assessment/Public Participation Plan) – Overview and Update	August 11 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 100
Planning & Zoning Work Session: Community Assessment/Public Participation Plan	September 8 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 100
City Council Work Session: Community Assessment/Public Participation Plan	September 12 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
Planning & Zoning Public Hearing to transmit Community Assessment/Public Participation Plan	September 15 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
City Council Public Hearing to transmit Community Assessment/Public Participation Plan	September 19 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
Stakeholder Interviews	September - October	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
East Point Citizens Academy	October 6 6:30pm-8:00pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
Community Meeting #1: Wards C & D	October 25, 6:30-8:00pm (tent.)	Mt. Olive Baptist or Mt. Olive 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventist
Community Meeting #2: Wards A & B	October 27 6:30-8:00pm (tent.)	Jefferson Park Recreation Center
Open House	November 3 6:30-8:00pm (tent.)	Jefferson Park Recreation Center
First draft of Community Agenda made available to public	December 5	-
Planning & Zoning Commission Work Session	December 8 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 100
City Council Work Session	December 12 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting	December 15 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
City Council Meeting: Public Hearing to transmit Community Agenda to DCA	December 19 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400

Updated: September 16, 2011\*

\* Updates made periodically; please consult web page for most current schedule and activity reports ([www.eastpointcity.org/index.aspx?NID=1262](http://www.eastpointcity.org/index.aspx?NID=1262)) or contact the Planning & Zoning Department at 404-270-7029.

## Stakeholders

Name	Group/Company
Barbara Carroll	Arrowood Drive Area Community Club
Nanette Saucier	Briarwood Blossom Lane
Michael Moody	Center Park Neighborhood Association
Bonnie Askew	Cherry Blossom Community Organization
Greg Smith	Church Street Neighborhood Association
Tony Roberts	Colonial Hills Neighborhood Association
Joan Macaluso	Conley Hills Social Club
Beverlyn Grant	DeLowe Connally Estate Neighborhood Association
Charles Barlow	East Washington Neighborhood Association
Day Ramphal	Frog Hollow Neighborhood Association
Cassandra Wells	Grant Estates Homeowner's Association
Patrick C. Patterson	Hagger Hills Homeowner's Association
Queen Jackson	Hayden Drive
Phillip Beslow	Headland Forest
Jean Wilson	Headland Subdivision Community Group
Victor Freeney	Heritage Park Neighborhood Association
Darin Topham	Highwood Park Condominium Association
Isabel Jeffares	Historic Conley Hills Neighborhood Association
Patricia Berry	Idlewood
Brian Frey	The Jefferson Park Neighbor's Association
George Sneed	Lakeside Preserves Neighborhood Association
Shonda Lyons-Golden	Marion Park Neighborhood Association
William Bryant	Meadow Lark Estates Homeowner's Association
T.L. Mukenge	Oak Forest Neighborhood Association
Doc Edwards	Oak Knoll Neighborhood Association
Daniel Morris	Pine Needle Drive - Court Community Association
	Pine Valley/Glendale Neighborhood Association
Roosevelt Winfrey	Piney Woods Neighborhood Association
Jackie Johnson	River Park Neighborhood Association
Lisa Garcia	Semmes Park Community organization
Carolyn Conyers	Sun Valley
Deb Aziz	Village of Egan Park Neighbors Association
Mark Fields	Washington Road Neighbor's
George Robinson	
Threet Brown	Williamsburg Area Development Association
Herbert Bridgewater	Windsor Forrest
Amanda Maldonado	South Fulton Medical Center
Debra Stanley	BPS Companies
Vivian Driscoll	C F Property's
Cy Wright	PPG Industries
Corey Richardson	Duke Realty
Howard LeVasseur	SSC Industries
Kelly Jones	Kroger/Atlas Logistics
Lisa Minor	CFI Lakeside Reserve/ Central Park
Frank Goulding	Newell Recycling
Jean Russell	East Point Building and Industrial Development Authority



Name	Group/Company
Shean Atkins	Planning and Zoning Commission
Cynthia Inman	Chick-fil-A (Cleveland Avenue)
Lila McClarin	Benjamin's
Gus Thornhill	Gus Thornhill's Funeral Home
Melissa Winkfield	Chick-fil-A (Camp Creek Pkwy)
Shelly Anthony	This is It
Keith Lollis	McDonald's (Camp Creek Pkwy)
Leon Goodrum	McDonald's (Virginia Avenue)
Neal Shah	Airport Developments Inc
Carla Foster	Bristol Hotel Beverage Company
Charles Camp	Spondivit's
Ferazali Delawalla	Malone's Bar & Grill
Leslie Zinn	Arden's Garden
Chris Wiley	Oz Pizza
Quovadis Hershberger	Q's Restaurant
William R. Ramey	Flower Cottage on Main
Yngrid Huff	Fulton County Schools
Gregory T. Floyd	MARTA
Tony Poole	McDonald Development Company
Chris Montesinos	East Point Housing Authority
Kenny Baldwin	Terra Renewal
Jennifer Fine	City of East Point - Economic Development
Agnes Beltran-Goodwine	City of East Point - City Clerk
Alex Mohajer	City of East Point - Public Works
Chief Donald Chase	City of East Point - Police
Ernest Garcia	City of East Point - East Point Power
Jim Schuster	City of East Point - Finance
Nesby Ingram	City of East Point - Contracts & Procurement
Nina Hickson	City of East Point - Legal
Hon. Rashida Oliver	City of East Point - Courts
Regina Butler	City of East Point - Human Resources
Chief Rosemary Cloud	City of East Point - Fire
Seigfried Jones	City of East Point - Parks & Recreation
Angela Montgomery	City of East Point - Deputy City Manager
Dr. Herbert Bridgewater, Jr.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Francine Jones	Planning and Zoning Commission
Dr. Lydia Wares	Planning and Zoning Commission
Eric Friedly	Planning and Zoning Commission
Joel Tucker	Planning and Zoning Commission
Linda Sheldon	Planning and Zoning Commission
Dr. William Bryant	Planning and Zoning Commission
Divita Washington	Planning and Zoning Commission
Velda Simpson	Kairos Development Corporation
Jessica Guinn	The Collaborative Firm
Marshall McLemore	Braden Fellman Group Ltd
Simon Foster	Pinkerton & Laws Inc

Name	Group/Company
Store Manager	Target
Store Manager	Lowe's
Store Manager	BJ's
Reo Pagan	Taco Pete
Nikolaos Lambroa	Landmark Diner
Mayor Earnestine Pittman	City of East Council - Mayor
Hon. Steve Bennett	City of East Point - Ward A
Hon. Lance Rhodes	City of East Point - Ward B
Hon. Jackie Slaughter-Gibbons	City of East Point - Ward D
Hon. Clyde Mitchell	City of East Point - Ward D
Hon. Patricia Langford	City of East Point - Ward B
Hon. Marcel Reed	City of East Point - Ward C
Hon. Sharonda Hubbard	City of East Point - Ward A
Hon. Myron Cook	City of East Point - Ward C
Cleve G. Meredith	William C. Meredith Co. Inc.
Jaunius Simokaitis	City of East Point - Customer Service
Roy Barnes	City of East Point - Water & Sewer
Reuban Thurman	City of East Point - Grants Manager
Mark Hollums	Cawthon-Hollums Properties, Inc.
Dustin Drabot	Ft. McPherson Community Group