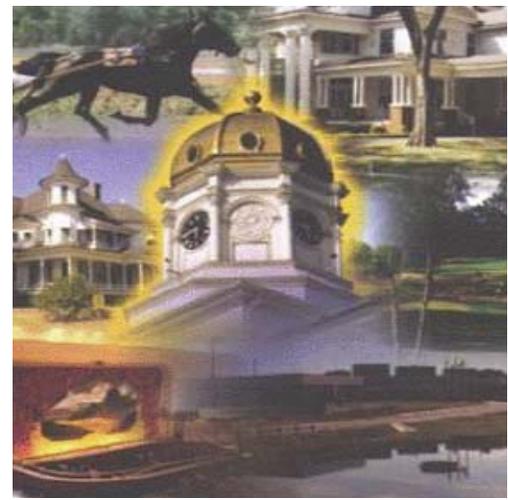


Pulaski County and City of Hawkinsville

Joint Comprehensive Plan



Community Participation Program

FY 2011

PULASKI COUNTY AND THE CITY OF HAWKINSVILLE

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

February 2011

Prepared with Assistance from



175 Emery Highway, Suite C

Macon, Georgia 31217

T: 478-751-6160

F: 478-751-6517

www.middlegeorgiarc.org

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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. Pulaski County and the City of Hawkinsville 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

The City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County 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 progress.

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
Brooks Bailey, Sole Commissioner	Pulaski County
Jerry Murkerson, City Administrator	City of Hawkinsville
Shelly Berryhill, City Commissioner	City of Hawkinsville
James Colson, City Commissioner	City of Hawkinsville
	Archway Professional
Mark Alexander	CFO Elite Sports and Spine
Karen Bailey	Hawkinsville Better Hometown/Downtown Development Authority
Ronnie Barrentine	UGA County Extension Coordinator
Dr. John Bemby	Hawkinsville Resident / Retired Superintendent of Dooly County Schools
Dr. Johnny Bemby	Veterinarian / Governor’s Board for Land Conservation
Vonnie Berryhill	Family Connections
Darrell Brown	Local Contractor / HPC
Greg Chasen	Elite Sports and Spine – Physical and Occupational Therapist
Drew Cravey	Hollingsworth and Vose Company – Production Manager
John Cravey	IntegriScripts, LLC / Batts Drug Company

Public Partnership

Jerry Davis	Heart of Georgia Peanut and Gin
Scott Fisler	VP with SunMark Bank
John Follett	Hollingsworth and Vose
Brandy Gordon	Manager of Kid's Stuff Children's Boutique / Chair, BHT Promotions Committee
Jeff Hair	Coley Insurance
Lorraine Holmes	Director of Certified Literate Community Program
Sonya Jones	UGA 4-H Program
R.G. Lamar	Lamar Pecan Company
Barbara Lawson	Hawkinsville-Pulaski Arts Council / BHT Board of Directors
Harley Lawson	Chair, Pulaski Tomorrow Adult Leadership Steering Committee
Brent Lowe	Pulaski County Board of Education
Dan Maddock	Hospital Administrator, Taylor Regional Hospital
Mike McClain	CFO ComSouth
Jill Nibblett	Kimberly's Antiques / Chair, BHT Board of Directors
Michael Penn	Vice President Marketing and Sales, ComSouth
Rachel Pitts	Director, Hawkinsville Housing Authority
Joe Sapp	Owner of Elite Sports and Spine Physical Therapy
Lee Slade	Hawkinsville-Pulaski Chamber of Commerce / United Pulaski
Chuck Southerland	Owner-Editor Hawkinsville Dispatch & News / Chair, Pulaski County Rivers Alive / Georgia Rivers Alive Board Member
Julie Stewart	Hawkinsville-Pulaski Arts Council
Charles Stone	Director of Sam Way Learning Center – Middle Georgia Technical College
Bill Wall	Chair of Hawkinsville Urban Redevelopment Agency (HURA); Re- tired GBI
Kenny White	Director, Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Recreation Department.
Dorothy Williams	Chair, GICH

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 2012-2016 STWP.

Public Education, Input and Interaction

County Leadership Organizations

Pulaski County has two community leadership organizations, Pulaski Tomorrow and Ocmulgee Order. Pulaski Tomorrow is a local leadership development initiative open to all members of the community. Ocmulgee Order is an organization dedicated to fostering professionals aged 45 and younger in Hawkinsville and Pulaski County. The organization aims to identify, recruit and train an incoming wave of informed, committed community members who can take ownership in the future positive growth in Hawkinsville and Pulaski County.

Current active leadership classes and alumni groups for both organizations will play an integral role in informing the larger Hawkinsville/Pulaski community about the Comprehensive Planning Process. There will be a segment about the Comprehensive Plan at a session of the current leadership class. These groups will also host a Town Hall Listening Session for the entire community, with membership providing community outreach and functioning as a conduit for encouraging meeting attendance.

Survey

The Stakeholder Committee all agreed that a survey would be a good way to gain community input. The survey will focus on future growth and other economic development issues as well as to inquire about how the public feels about the progress made on identified Archway priority issues. The survey will be available online and in hardcopy form. To gain the most input, information about the survey and Town Hall Meeting will be sent out through the schools and via a ComSouth mail out. Hardcopies of the survey will be available at City Hall, Pulaski County Administrative offices, Hawkinsville-Pulaski Chamber of Commerce, Hawkinsville Better Hometown, and the Post Office. If required, as a follow-up to the survey and to gain greater citizen input, the Steering Committee members may choose to conduct informational interviews with individuals and focus groups to educate the citizens on the Comprehensive Plan and to gather input on the citizen's ideas, concerns, and desires concerning the future growth and development of the community.

Town Hall Listening Session

The Steering Committee, with the assistance of the Pulaski Tomorrow and Ocmulgee Order leadership organizations, plans to hold a Town Hall Listening Session to discuss the Comprehensive Plan.

The meeting will take a listening session format, similar to the one held in 2009 at the start of the Archway program. Since citizens are very familiar with Archway, the meeting will be used as a forum to educate citizens on the Comprehensive Plan, and how it differs from the Archway initiative. The meetings will serve as a forum for citizens to ask questions and provide input.

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. Hardcopies of the community survey will be made available at the meeting, and all attendees will be encouraged to complete it.

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 Better Hometown

The Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce and Hawkinsville Better Hometown Offices will have copies of the Comprehensive Plan documents available for public review.

Schools

A flier will be sent home with all school children (grades K-12) informing citizens of the Comprehensive Planning process, availability of the survey, and an invitation to the Town Hall meeting.

Churches

There will be fliers posted in major area churches informing citizens of the Comprehensive Planning process, availability of the community survey, and an invitation to the Town Hall meeting.

City/County Websites

The City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County websites will be used to disseminate information about the availability of the Comprehensive Plan documents for public review as well as information about the community survey and Town Hall Meeting.

Media

The *Hawkinsville Dispatch & News* will be used to advertise the various community education, interaction, and input events including: general information about the comprehensive planning process, availability of the community survey, Town Hall Meeting, public hearings and information regarding the availability of electronic and hardcopy documents for public review. The local Archway professional wrote an article about the Comprehensive Planning Process that ran in the August 11, 2010 edition of the *Dispatch & News*. This article will be re-run as precursor to the Town Hall Listening Session.

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 in early 2011, to present the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program portions of the Joint Comprehensive Plan Update. The second public hearing will be held near the end of the planning process around September 2011, 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

- Hawkinsville City Commissioners
- Pulaski County Sole Commissioner
- Archway Partnership
- United Pulaski Economic Development
- Hawkinsville-Pulaski Chamber of Commerce
- Hawkinsville Better Hometown / Downtown Development Authority
- Pulaski County Board of Education
- Pulaski County Middle School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)
- Pulaski County Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)
- GICH Committee
- River Parks Advisory Committee
- Pulaski Rivers Alive
- Hawkinsville-Pulaski Arts Council, Inc.
- Fire/EMA Director
- Public Works Director
- Code Enforcement
- Pulaski County Zoning Board
- City of Hawkinsville Zoning Board
- Pulaski County Historical Society
- Public Safety
- Hawkinsville-Pulaski Garden Club
- Taylor Regional Hospital
- Middle Georgia Technical College / Workforce Development Center
- Real Estate Professionals
- Pulaski County Senior Center

- United Way of Pulaski County
- Pulaski County Extension Office / 4-H
- All Scout Troops (Cub and Boy)
- Hawkinsville Rotary Club
- Hawkinsville Civitan Club
- All Churches
- All Local Businesses
- All Banks
- All Major Employers

REGIONAL

- Magnolia Midlands Regional Tourism Rep.
- Middle Georgia Work Ready Aerospace Partnership (mgWRAP)
- Middle Georgia Regional Development Authority
- Middle Ocmulgee Water Planning Council

STATE

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

SCHEDULE OF COMPLETION - COMMUNITY AGENDA

	2010		2011			
	JULY-SEPT	OCT-DEC	JAN-MARCH	APRIL-JUNE	JULY-SEPT	OCTOBER
TASK						
Form Steering Committee / Kick-off Meeting						
Develop Community Assessment						
Present Assessment, Edit & 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						