

# Community Participation Program

## Introduction and Purpose

The “Community Participation Program” portion of the Greater Dooly Comprehensive Plan is an important part of the local planning process prescribed by the State of Georgia. It is the second main element in the process; it follows the Community Assessment, and it precedes the Community Agenda. It is designed to help ensure that the Comprehensive Plan reflects the full range of community values and desires by involving a broad spectrum of local stakeholders in the development of the Community Agenda portion of the Plan. Meaningful participation by stakeholders will help ensure that the Community Agenda is better understood and that it will indeed be implemented more effectively.

This Community Participation Program is prepared in compliance with the “Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning” as set forth by the rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (Georgia DCA), effective May 1, 2005. It is prepared as part of a multi-jurisdictional (countywide) Comprehensive Plan for Dooly County and its six (6) municipalities of: Byromville, Dooling, Lilly, Pinehurst, Unadilla, and Vienna. Throughout these planning documents, the term “Greater Dooly” is used, and this is defined as “countywide Dooly” or all 7 of these communities/governments collectively. This Community Participation Program is prepared through a collaborative effort of various staff and officials from each local government, planners from the Middle Flint Regional Development Center (MF-RDC), and special assistance from Planning Edge, Inc. Data used and referenced in this Community Assessment are derived from numerous data sources.

## Identification of Stakeholders

Stakeholders in this process are those persons or entities that have a stake in the outcome or implementation of the Greater Dooly Comprehensive Plan. To help ensure broad representation of the Greater Dooly community, the listing of stakeholders is intended to be wide-ranging and as inclusive as possible. The following is a general listing of stakeholder persons or groups whose involvement has been deemed important to the development of the Community Agenda. This is a broad list but it is not all-inclusive in that all interested persons of the Greater Dooly community are encouraged to participate in this planning process.

Bank	Lake Blackshear Regional Library System
Big Pig Jig Advisory Council	Little League Association
Brannen Motors	Mediacom
City of Lilly Mayor, Council and staff	Middle Flint Council on Aging
City of Pinehurst Mayor, Council and staff	Middle Flint Regional Development Center
City of Unadilla Mayor, Council and staff	Middle Georgia EMC
City of Unadilla Downtown Development Authority	Middle Georgia Regional Solid Waste Mgmt Authority
City of Unadilla Housing Authority	Nature Conservancy
City of Vienna Mayor, Council and staff	Norfolk-Southern Railroad
City of Vienna Development Authority	Pinehill Nursing Center
City of Vienna Downtown Development Authority	Plant Telephone Company
City of Vienna Housing Authority	Public Housing Authorities (Unadilla and Vienna)
CSX Railroad	Public Safety
Dooly Campground	Southwest Georgia United Empowerment Zone

Dooly County Board of Commissioners and staff Dooly County Board of Education – members and staff Dooly County Board of Realtors Dooly County Chamber of Commerce Dooly County Health Department Dooly County Hospital Authority Dooly County Industrial Development Authority Dooly County Planning Commission Dooly Crisp Unified Transit System (DCUTS) Faith Christian School Flint River Nursery Flint River Wildlife Management Area Fullington Academy Georgia Department of Community Affairs Georgia Dept of Corrections (Dooly State Prison) Georgia Department of Family & Children Services Georgia Department of Labor Georgia Department of Natural Resources Georgia Department of Transportation Georgia Forestry Commission Georgia-Pacific Corporation Georgia Power Company John Bleakley Motor Homes Keep Dooly-Vienna Beautiful	Town of Byromville Mayor, Council and staff Town of Dooling Mayor, Council and staff Turkey Creek Festival Tyson Foods Unahealth University of Georgia Ag Extension Service US Postal Service (local postmasters) USDA NRCS Vienna Historical Society  <u>OTHER GROUPS:</u>  agricultural/farming community business community churches civic organizations development community health care providers historical organizations land owners and residents media (local) minorities state delegation students
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**Community Participation Techniques**

During the early part of 2006 (January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup>), Georgia DCA conducted a special training workshop in Vienna entitled “Planning for Quality Growth in Dooly County”. Attendees included more than a dozen staff from Georgia DCA, more than 30 regional planners from each of Georgia’s RDC’s, and several hired planning consultants to help facilitate the workshop. The main purpose was to provide a real-life training opportunity for DCA and RDC staff members who would be involved in the preparation and review of Comprehensive Plans from around the state, using the new planning standards adopted in May 2005. Dooly County was selected as the *subject community* to be used in the workshop training. Local staff and community participants were invited as local stakeholders to participate in this 4-day workshop with the emphasis on the actual Dooly County planning process occurring during the final days. Attendance and participation from local stakeholders was very good, and there was much discussion about local planning issues, future vision, and real goals for the communities. Several different participation techniques were used at the DCA workshop in order to receive better input from the stakeholders. Much of the work done at this workshop is now being continued and carried over into the preparation of this new Greater Dooly Comprehensive Plan.

The following list of community participation techniques has been contemplated for possible inclusion in this Community Participation Program. Techniques have been included or excluded for various reasons, and these are indicated below. The overall intent is to ensure meaningful communications and participation in the Comprehensive planning process, with involvement from as wide a range of interested persons as possible. However, the shortness of time in order to meet specified deadlines for preparation of the Community Agenda, has necessitated the exclusion of some techniques that might otherwise have been beneficial. However, this planning process is not intended to be a “one time” event

and it is fully anticipated that additional techniques will be utilized as the Comprehensive Plan is amended and updated in the future.

<b>Participation Technique</b>	<b>Included in CPP ?</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Technical Advisory Committee	No	Local governments have decided to forego the formal appointment of committees for the Plan Update process. Local government staff will be reviewing all draft materials before they are presented to the public and will by default serve as an ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee.
Steering Committee	No	Local governments have decided to forego the formal appointment of committees for the Plan Update process. Local government elected officials will be involved throughout the process and will serve as an ad hoc Steering Committee.
Stakeholder Interviews	<b>YES</b>	Key stakeholders will be contacted and given the opportunity for a one-on-one brief interview that is independent and outside the realm of the public hearings. It is believed that many of them will feel more free to express their thoughts and ideas without the hindrance of possibly being watched or scrutinized by others in the community.
Kiosk / Lobby Displays	No	In such a predominantly rural community, there are no busy “lobby” type places that would be effective or worthwhile in setting up a special display for the planning process. Even government places such as the respective City Halls or the County Courthouse have relatively few visitors.
Design Charettes or countywide Visioning Workshops	<b>YES</b>	These already occurred with the DCA special workshop in Vienna in February 2006. Many ideas about the community were expressed in terms of potential issues and community vision. These ideas have all been recorded. No additional such charettes or “countywide” workshops are deemed necessary.
Local Visioning workshops	<b>YES</b>	As follow-up to the DCA workshop, local workshops will be held in each of the respective municipalities and communities of Greater Dooly to gain concurrence for the ideas expressed at the DCA workshop as well as gain direct input for the Community Agenda.
Intergovernmental Partnership meetings	No	There are no specialized multi-government “planning summits” or similar type meetings scheduled as a part of this process other than the two required public hearings.
Kick-off Information Meeting	<b>YES</b>	This is incorporated into the first advertised public hearing scheduled for April 18, 2006 whereby a general introduction to this entire planning process will be presented to all those in attendance.
Printed Public Information	<b>YES</b>	Executive summaries and other printed materials and relevant handouts will be used as appropriate throughout the planning process.
Direct Mail Surveys	No	This has been deemed too costly and time-consuming.
Press Releases, Media Contacts	<b>YES</b>	At key intervals throughout the planning process, press releases will be prepared and distributed to various forms of local media.
Website Displays & Interaction	No	There are very few governmental websites in Greater Dooly and most of these are not updated very often, nor are they believed to have very many visitors on a weekly basis.
Email “blast”	No	Email addresses will be compiled as part of the Stakeholders contact information, and meeting notices (& reminders) will be sent out by email as appropriate. However, there will be no spam-like blasts of email used to promote this planning process.
Cable TV information	No	There are insufficient numbers of cable customers to make this an effort that is worth the time and expense that would be needed.
School Program (students)	No	Most of the Community Agenda preparation period will be during the school’s summer recess.
Speakers Bureau	No	There are insufficient numbers of local experts who can adequately speak to civic groups and effectively respond to questions. There are insufficient funds in the allotted budget to delegate such speaking activities to outside planning consultants. However, if there are specific requests from such local groups who want a speaker to address this topic, efforts will be made to secure one.

