

Gordon County
Comprehensive Plan 2007-2027

*JOINT
COMMUNITY
PARTICIPATION
PROGRAM*

Prepared for:
Gordon County
City of Calhoun
City of Fairmount
City of Plainville
City of Ranger
Town of Resaca

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Community Participation Program is to ensure that the City of Calhoun and the Gordon County Comprehensive Plans reflect the full range of the community's values and desires, by involving a diverse spectrum of stakeholders in development of the Community Agenda. This broad-based participation will help ensure that the plan is implemented because many are involved in its development and thereby become committed to seeing it through. The Community Participation Program provides a concise schedule to guide the development of the Community Agenda, including planned community participation events or meetings at key points during the process. This document includes three required steps described in sections below:

- Identification of Stakeholders
- Identification of Participation Techniques
- Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda

1.2 Scope

State law requires the City of Calhoun (City) and Gordon County and its municipalities (County) to update their Comprehensive Plans by June 30, 2009. As prescribed by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the update of the Comprehensive Plans follows the Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning effective May 1, 2005.

The following sections describe how the City and County plan to involve the public in the creation of their respective Community Agendas.



2 Identification and Participation of Stakeholders

2.1 Identification

Coordination and oversight are very important parts of the overall work effort for this project. This approach, to ensure proper management of the process, includes oversight by the Gordon County Board of Commissioners, Calhoun City Council, County and City departments, various boards and other civic and business related organizations. Groups participating as stakeholders are listed below.

Gordon County Board of Commissioners

- Alvin Long, Chairperson
- Judy Bailey, Vice Chairperson
- Phil Garner
- Richard Gordon
- Rebecca Hood

Gordon County Staff, Departments and Representatives

- Randy Dowling, County Administrator
- Shane Hendrix, Environmental Health
- Jeff Champion, Buildings and Grounds
- Mike Satterfield, Fleet Management
- Barry Hice, Public Works Director
- Brian McClellan, Information Technology Director
- Joey Jordan, Gordon County Fire Department
- Courtney Taylor, Emergency Management Director
- Richard Cooper, Emergency Management Assistant Director
- Kathy Cox, Code Enforcement
- Judy Howerton, Health Department
- April Harkins, Health Department
- Sheila Reno, Purchasing
- Sue Henson, Animal Control
- Wayne Walters, Tax Assessor
- Tom Burgess, Building, Planning and Development
- Derrick McDaniel, Parks and Recreation
- Suzanne Hutchinson, County Attorney
- Garah Childers, Human Resources
- Annette Berry, County Clerk
- Kelli Wallraven, Director of Senior Center
- Dianne Cronon, Gordon County Library

Calhoun City Council

- Jimmy Palmer, Mayor
- Lorene Potts, Mayor Pro Tem
- George R. Crowley
- Ray M. Denmon
- David Hammond



City of Calhoun Staff, Departments and Representatives

- Cathy Harrison, City Administrator
- Eddie Peterson, Director of Public Works
- Dr. Michele Taylor, Assistant Superintendent, Calhoun City schools
- Kelly Cornwell, Director of Utilities (Water/Sewer)
- Don Hood, Director of Finance, Calhoun City Schools
- Lenny Nesbit Chief, Calhoun Fire Department
- Garry Moss Chief, Calhoun Police Department
- Sharon Jolley, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police
- Ronnie Reeves, Director, Parks and Recreation

Municipalities of Fairmount, Plainville, Fairmount, Ranger and Resaca

- Steve Brannon, Mayor of Fairmount
- Billy Lowell, Fairmount City Council
- Sally Johnston, Mayor of Plainville
- David Charity, Mayor of Ranger
- Joe Don Griffith, Mayor of Resaca

Gordon County and City of Calhoun Organizations

- Calhoun Revolving Loan Commission
- Downtown Development Authority
- Gordon County Planning Commission
- Gordon County Historic Preservation Commission
- Gordon County Development Authority
- Gordon County Chamber of Commerce
- Gordon County Board of Education
- Gordon County Airport Authority
- Gordon County Arts Council
- Gordon County Historic Preservation Commission
- Gordon County Historical Society
- Gordon County Homebuilders Association
- Lions Club
- New Echota Rivers Alliance
- Red Carpet Cattlemen's Association
- Tallatona Community Action Partnership

2.2 Participation

City of Calhoun

A meeting was held with the City of Calhoun elected officials and several department representatives on March 24, 2006. Phone interviews were conducted with Directors from other City departments during April, May and June 2006.

A public presentation was made before City Council on August 14, 2006, providing the public with an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments regarding the Assessment and the Issues and Opportunities that were presented.

Additional stakeholder phone interviews or surveys will be conducted to identify issues and opportunities in order to receive a thorough understanding of public opinions, ideas and concerns.



Stakeholders will be invited to attend the joint Visioning Workshop to be held on October 25 and 26, 2006.

Gordon County

County meetings were conducted with the Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Committee on April 10, 2006. On April 11th, a meeting with County department managers was held to discuss issues and opportunities.

An informal "Drop In" meeting was scheduled on April 18th, 2006 for all Mayors and City Council members from the cities of Resaca, Plainville, Fairmount, Ranger and with the members of the Board of Commissioners, The County Board of Education, the Sheriff's Department and all other departments that were unable to attend the April 11th meeting.

A presentation will be given to the County Commissioners at the monthly public meeting on June 6, 2006. The citizens in attendance were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments regarding the Assessment and the Issues and Opportunities that were presented.

Additional stakeholder phone interviews or surveys will be conducted to identify issues and opportunities in order to receive a thorough understanding of public opinions, ideas and concerns. In particular, representatives from the cities of Fairmount, Plainville, Ranger and Resaca will be regularly consulted throughout the creation of the Community Agenda for their input.

Stakeholders will be invited to attend the joint Visioning Workshop to be held on October 25 and 26, 2006.



3 Identification of Participation Techniques

3.1 Outreach

A variety of techniques will be used to promote the plan updates and opportunities for public participation:

Website

The City and County websites will be used to display press releases, the draft Community Assessment, Community Participation Program and Community Agenda as well as other information pertaining to the project.

Organizational E-mail Lists

The various City and County organizations and officials mentioned previously have contact lists that will be used to supply a network of outlets for distribution of meeting notices via e-mail. The same network may be used to coordinate the posting of notifications in public spaces.

Local Media

Notices and press releases will be provided to the *Calhoun Times* newspaper, which is distributed county-wide. It is expected based on communication with the newspaper staff that articles will be written that describe the planning process and outline the opportunities for the public to participate. Local radio stations will broadcast public service announcements detailing the opportunities for residents to participate in the planning process.

Signage

The City and County will prepare large banners to post along major thoroughfares and intersections throughout the county. These banners will include the date and time of the visioning workshops.

3.2 Public Hearings

The Calhoun City Council and the Gordon County Board of Commissioners will hold public hearings to solicit public comment during the planning process. Draft plan documents will be made available to the public in advance of each, and the public will be invited to provide comment. These hearings will be held prior to transmittal of the Community Assessment, Community Participation Plan and, later in the process, the Community Agenda. Public hearings to review the draft Community Assessment portion of the plan were held on September 5, 2006 (Gordon County Board of Commissioners) and on September 11, 2006 (Calhoun City Council). Transmittal and adoption hearings for the Community Agenda will be held in 2007.

3.3 Visioning Workshops

A joint Visioning Workshop will be held in October 2006. The Consultant will work with the City and County to publicize and organize the event. The goal of the workshop will be to establish a Community Vision for the City and County, which will reflect the type, intensity, and location of desired development. Participants will be asked to share their preferred vision for the area's future, as well as how that vision correlates to the recommended character areas. Large display maps and/or aerials will be provided for reference and for mark-ups during small break-out sessions.



4 Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda

4.1 Outreach

Below is a summary that shows the schedule for completion of the Comprehensive Plan updates. Major upcoming milestones in this schedule include:

Public Hearing for Transmittal of the Community Assessment and Community Participation Plan – County Board of Commissioners and City Councils

September 2006

Joint Visioning Workshop

October 25 and 26, 2006

Public Hearing for Transmittal of the Community Agenda – County Board of Commissioners and City Councils

August 2007

Plan submittal to Coosa Valley RDC

September 2007

Adoption of the Community Agenda

December 2007

