

PURPOSE

As a document that reflects the shared vision, goals and objectives of an entire community, a comprehensive plan must be based on extensive public involvement. Only through the input of local leaders and the general public can any comprehensive plan be embraced as the community’s guide to long-term health and sustainability. The level of community ownership of a comprehensive plan is tied directly to the degree of public input that is incorporated into the planning effort. Only by conducting a comprehensive planning process that creates this public sense of ownership will the community make a conscious decision to work toward its implementation. Without active citizen involvement, it is unlikely that a comprehensive plan will do more than sit forgotten on a book shelf. A comprehensive plan that is based on public input, however, will continue to serve as a dynamic policy guide that benefits the community well into the future.

The *Community Participation Plan* ensures that public input is incorporated into the comprehensive planning process for Grovetown. To obtain this input, stakeholders are targeted to focus attention to key issues and opportunities that must be addressed through the creation of Grovetown’s *Community Agenda*; and, to provide an understanding of community-wide priorities in advance of the *Agenda* preparation. Through workshops, the general public will refine and revise community issues and opportunities. The general public will also generate the ideas that will ultimately form the implementation policies of the *Grovetown Comprehensive Plan*.

STAKEHOLDERS

Planning/Advisory Committee

The *Community Participation Plan* proposes the continued use of a planning/advisory committee appointed by Grovetown City Council. The Grovetown Advisory Committee will meet intermittently to provide direction to *Community Agenda* preparation based on input received through public workshops and surveys.

The Grovetown Advisory Committee was actually formed soon after *Community Assessment* data collection was initiated. The Advisory Committee is composed of a broad cross-section of Grovetown community leaders including citizens and local officials. As with any data collection effort, a plan preparer must take into account quantitative and qualitative information. The support of the

| Grovetown Comprehensive Plan Planning/Advisory Committee | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Name | Organization |
| Todd Baldwin | Grovetown Water and Sewer Dept. |
| David Daughtry | Grovetown City Council |
| Barry Davis | Citizen |
| George James | Grovetown City Council |
| Horace G. Kitchens | City of Grovetown |
| Del Licht | Citizen |
| Sony McDowell | Citizen |
| Wayne Newman | Grovetown Public Works Dept. |
| Jim Nicholson | Citizen/Pastor |
| Al Robinson | Grovetown Public Safety Dept. |
| Bruce Stoddard | Grovetown City Council |
| Dale Stoddard | Citizen |
| Dick Taylor | Grovetown Planning & Zoning Dept. |
| Dennis Trudeau | Mayor, City of Grovetown |
| Mary Ann Trudeau | Citizen |
| Michael Woods | City of Grovetown |



Advisory Committee during the data collection effort was essential – both in fulfilling many primary data requests; and, in providing the necessary feedback to better understand statistical information.

Additional Stakeholder Identification

With the assistance of the Advisory Committee during the *Community Assessment* process, additional stakeholders have been identified. During preparation of the *Community Agenda*, it will be important to offer stakeholder organizations and individuals the opportunity to provide feedback and direction through a variety of options. In addition to the principal public participation techniques proposed in this document, many community stakeholders will have the opportunity to participate in individual interviews and/or future Advisory Committee discussions. Stakeholder groups and organizations include the following:

| Grovetown Comprehensive Plan, Stakeholders | |
|---|--|
| Augusta Regional Transportation Study | CSRA Business Lending Corporation |
| Augusta Technical College | Development Authority of Columbia County |
| Augusta-Richmond County Planning and Zoning Department | Fort Gordon |
| Augusta-Richmond County Utilities Department | Georgia Department of Natural Resources |
| Columbia County Board of Education | Georgia Department of Transportation |
| Columbia County Chamber of Commerce | Grovetown City Council |
| Columbia County Community and Leisure Services Division | Grovetown Museum |
| Columbia County Construction and Maintenance Division | Grovetown Planning and Zoning Dept. |
| Columbia County Engineering and Environmental Services Division | Grovetown Public Safety Dept. |
| Columbia County Planning and Development Division | Grovetown Public Works Dept. |
| Columbia County Rural Public Transit | Grovetown Water and Sewer Dept. |
| Columbia County Water Utility | John Deere |
| CSRA Area Agency on Aging | |

PARTICIPATION TECHNIQUES

Planning/Advisory Committee Meetings

Community Assessment

Meetings of the Advisory Committee began in January, 2006. The initial committee meeting focused on a description of the comprehensive planning process and the importance of a comprehensive plan in establishing long-term community policy. Committee members also provided initial input on Grovetown’s issues and



opportunities. Subsequent committee meetings focused on presentations and discussions that revolved around data sets and information that are required in order to adhere to the “Supporting Analysis of Data and Information” section of the “Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning.”

Community Agenda

Advisory Committee meetings will continue during the preparation of the *Community Agenda* portion of the *Grovetown Comprehensive Plan*. The committee will retain their role as a focus group – helping to translate community input into measurable goals and priorities. The committee will also assist in the initial development of *Plan* implementation strategies. Finally, the committee will serve as the primary vehicle for soliciting public participation in the *Community Agenda* process. It will be the Advisory Committee’s responsibility to educate residents on the need to participate in the planning process; and, to inform the community of upcoming opportunities to participate. The number and frequency of Advisory Committee meetings during the *Community Agenda* process is illustrated in the comprehensive plan schedule within this document; but, is subject to change based on public input.

Public Workshops

Community Assessment

The initial public workshop for the *Grovetown Comprehensive Plan* was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2006. Through the initiative of Advisory Committee members, Grovetown residents and property owners were invited to participate in the workshop through the distribution of flyers, announcements at City Council meetings and public hearing notices posted in the *Columbia County News-Times*. Newspaper postings advertising the workshop were prepared in large block format so that they would be conspicuous to readers.

Workshop attendees listened to a presentation explaining the comprehensive planning process and detailing how they would be able to participate in *Plan* preparation during the *Community Agenda* portion of the planning effort. After questions and answers, attendees were offered the opportunity to participate in future Advisory Committee meetings. An attendee information/survey card was distributed that included basic questions soliciting citizens’ opinions on positive and negative attributes of Grovetown. These responses supplemented information received from prior Advisory Committee meetings and augmented recommendations contained in the *Community Assessment* document.

Community Agenda

At least 2 additional public workshops will be held for the general public during preparation of the *Community Agenda*. Unlike the formal presentation format of the initial *Community Assessment* workshop, *Community Agenda* workshops will be held in a “drop-in” format. As with an open house, drop-in workshops allow members of the public to attend at any point during an identified block of time and stay for the period of time they feel comfortable with. Drop-in workshops also will provide individual staff members with the opportunity to speak one-on-one with attendees.



At the first workshop, attendees will be able to walk among displays that highlight issues and opportunities related to all topics addressed in the *Community Assessment*. For each topic, attendees may complete a survey form that allows them to rank the information presented in order of priority. The surveys will also allow attendees to suggest revisions and options to the preliminary recommendations that are being presented. Project staff will be available throughout to answer questions and provide clarification. All information will be compiled and utilized to revise community goals and objectives.

The second workshop will be conducted in the same format as the first; except, participants will focus on suggesting and prioritizing implementation policies.

Stakeholder Interviews

Many of the stakeholder groups identified herein were contacted for input during preparation of the *Community Assessment*. As previously suggested, stakeholder groups will have the opportunity to provide input on the draft *Community Assessment* document. Stakeholder groups expressing interest will have the opportunity to participate in individual interviews and attend *Community Agenda* public workshops.

Public Hearings

Public hearings will be held in accordance with the “Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning.”

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN

COMMUNITY AGENDA SCHEDULE

The *Grovetown Comprehensive Plan* is being prepared according to the schedule below. This schedule was approved by the Grovetown Advisory Committee at their initial meeting in January, 2006. The number of Advisory Committee meetings and public workshops illustrated on the schedule is a minimum and may increase.

**City of Grovetown, Georgia Comprehensive Plan Update
Project Schedule***

| Task | Community Assessment | | | | | | | | | | | | Community Participation/Agenda | | | | |
|---|----------------------|------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-------|------|------|------|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| | Jan. 2006 | Feb. | March | April | May | June | July | August | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. 2007 | | | | |
| Planning/Advisory Committee meetings. | X | | X | | | | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Community Assessment/Participation Plan Drafts Complete. Distribute. | | | | X | | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community Assessment/Participation Plan draft report presentation by RDC. | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community Assessment/Participation Plan transmitted by local government. | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community Assessment/Agenda public workshops | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Community Assessment/Participation Plan DCA/RDC review period. | | | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Community Agenda draft report presentation by RDC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Community Agenda transmitted by local government. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | |
| Community Agenda DCA/RDC review period. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X |
| Community Agenda Final product adopted by local government. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |

*Project schedule approved by Grovetown Advisory Committee, January, 2006.

