



**2007-2027 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
UPSON COUNTY, THE CITY OF THOMASTON
AND THE TOWN OF YATESVILLE**

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN

**Prepared By:
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JUNE 2008

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Community Participation Program is to ensure that the 2007-2027 Comprehensive Plan for Upson County and the Cities of Thomaston and Yatesville reflects the full range of community values and desires, by involving a diverse spectrum of stakeholders in development of the Community Agenda. This participation will also help to ensure that the Community Agenda will be implemented, as individuals in the community are involved in its development, and thereby become committed to seeing it through. This program is also intended to supplement key meetings and not replace them.

The Community Participation Program will involve three (3) steps which are identified as follows:

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

CHAPTER 2 IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

2.1 - Stakeholders

The Stakeholders are those representatives of the community who have an active voice in the development of the Community Agenda. During the development of the *Vision Summary Report for Upson County, Georgia and the Cities of Thomaston and Yatesville – April 28, 2006*, a number of individuals were identified as Stakeholders. The services of these individuals were solicited to assist in the development of the 2007-2027 Comprehensive Plan for Upson County and the Cities of Thomaston and Yatesville which is an update to the previous Comprehensive Plan as developed in 1996.

Those Stakeholders involved in the update process include:

Joe Allen, Habitat for Humanities
Hays Arnold, Mayor of the City of Thomaston
Jimmy Aaron, Gilmore Center
Luke Balding, Citizen
Debbie Black, Thomaston Times Newspaper
Joe Blevins, First Presbyterian Church
Samuel Brewton, Retired Physician
Danny Brinks, President Bank of Upson
John Brodnax, Executive Director of Upson Electric Membership Corp.
Otis Broom, Citizen
Dan Brown, Brown Insurance Agency
Mary Brown, Citizen
Ray Brown, Zoning Administrator, Thomaston-Upson County
David Boyt, Citizen
Penny Cliff, Archivist/Director, Thomaston-Upson Archives
Glenn Collins, Chairman, Upson County Board of Commissioners
Jerry Colwell, Cedars & Pine, LLC
Patrick Comiskey, City Manager, City of Thomaston
Shelley Daniel, Adams-Harvey and Associates Realtors
Albert Edmonson, Citizen
Jim Edwards, President, United Bank-Thomaston Branch
Ralph Ellington, Citizen
Harvel Estes, Upson County Farm Bureau
Wanda Dozier, Town of Yatesville
Robert Fallin, Fallin State Farm Insurance
Jim Fletcher, Pasley-Fletcher Funeral Home
Phyl Gatlin, Photographer, Yatesville
Charles Gee, Pine Mountain Regional Library
Dan Greathouse, Chief, Thomaston Police Department
Howard Hendley, Retired Superintendent, Upson County Schools

George Hightower, Jr., Businessman
Neil Hightower, Community Enterprises, Inc.
Thomas Howell, District Engineer, Georgia Dept. of Transportation
Wesley Hunt, Upson County Ministerial Association
Mary Hutchins, Citizen
Steve Hudson, Businessman
Lankston Johnson, Emancipation Proclamation for Thomaston-Upson Co.
Willie Kendall, Thomaston Rotary Club
Kay King, Director of Community Dev., City of Thomaston
Chris Laborde, Executive Director, Thomaston-Upson Industrial Dev. Authority
Craig Logan, Lion's Club
Kathy Love, President, Flint River Technical College, Thomaston
Leita McCard, Citizen
Suzi McIntyre, Snider-Killingsworth Insurance Agency
Jeff Manley, The Rock Ranch
David Millen, Moore and Millen Land Surveying
Billy Mitchum, Thomaston-Upson County Emergency Management
Cecil Moncrief, Mayor, Town of Yatesville
Robert Nash, Cattleman/Businessman
Don Peacock, Upson County Sheriff's Department
Patsy Perdue, Chairperson, Families, Youth and Children's Alliance
Joel Pitts, Citizen
Reesa Price, Upson County Department of Family and Children Services
Maurice Raines, Georgia State Patrol Officer
Sherry Rawls, First United Methodist Church
Eddie Rogers, President, West Central Georgia Bank
Keith Rohling, Chairman, Upson County Board of Education
Gary F. Self, Citizen
Dr. Maggie Shook, Superintendent, Upson County School System
Allison Smith, Thomaston Junior Woman's Club
Lori Smith, President, Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce
Randy Smith, Upson County Environmental Health
Wes Smith, Upson County Extension Agent
Mark Sollenberger, M & W Builders
Dianne South, Citizen
Anthony South, Businessman
B. C. Standard, Chairman, Thomaston-Upson Co. Planning Commission
Scott Swafford, Kiwanis Club of Thomaston
David Tyler, Architect, David Tyler Architect
Barbara Tyson, Plant Manager, Quad-Graphics, Inc.
Lynn Walls, Upson County Health Department
Lawrence Weill, Gordon College
Henry Wilder, Thomaston-Upson Co. Concerned Citizens Coalition
James White, Upson County NAACP Branch
Joe White, Citizen
Gene Wright, CEO, Upson Regional Medical Center
Henry Wright, Pastor, Pleasant Valley Church
Robert Zellner, County Manager, Upson County

2.2 - Steering Committee

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee was a broad-based advisory committee whose members were created from the Stakeholder Organizations for Upson County, the City of Thomaston and Town of Yatesville. The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee is responsible for guiding the preparation of Comprehensive Plan for Upson County, the City of Thomaston and the Town of Yatesville. The Steering Committee consists of approximately thirty-five individuals including citizens, city and county officials, civic group representatives, educational representatives, planning officials, professionals, business owners, and some state department officials. It was the belief of the local governments in Upson County that the individuals serving on the Steering Committee are committed to the community and would provide broad policy direction on the future development and quality of life for Upson County and its municipalities. The Steering Committee has been a significant source for public comment and an informational resource as the plan has progressed.

Those individuals who make up the Steering Committee for the 2007-2027 Comprehensive Plan for Upson County, the City of Thomaston and Town of Yatesville include the following:

Hays Arnold, Mayor of the City of Thomaston
Danny Brinks, President Bank of Upson
John Brodnax, Executive Director of Upson Electric Membership Corp.
Samuel Brewton, Retired Physician
Debbie Black, Thomaston Times Newspaper
David Boyt, Citizen
Sidney L. Beach, Citizen & Upson County Planning Commission
Patrick Comiskey, City Manager, City of Thomaston
Glenn Collins, Chairman, Upson County Board of Commissioners
Lee Coleman, Thomaston Times
Larry Derico, Director of Federal Programs, Thomaston-Upson Co. Schools
Jim Edwards, President, United Bank-Thomaston Branch
Phyl Gatlin, Photographer, Yatesville
Gene Goins, Citizen & Upson County
Thomas Howell, District Engineer, Georgia Dept. of Transportation
Howard Hendley, Retired Superintendent, Upson County Schools
George Hightower, Jr., Citizen and Businessman
Steve Hudson, Businessman
Kay King, Director of Community Dev., City of Thomaston
Kathy Love, President, Flint River Technical College, Thomaston
Chris Laborde, Executive Director, Thomaston-Upson Industrial Dev. Authority
David Millen, Moore and Millen Land Surveying
Cecil Moncrief, Mayor, Town of Yatesville
Tom Queen, Georgia Department of Transportation – Thomaston, GA
Maurice Raines, Georgia State Patrol Officer
Eddie Rogers, President, West Central Georgia Bank
Keith Rohling, Chairman, Upson County Board of Education
Marguerite V. Shook, Superintendent, Thomaston-Upson Co. Schools

Wes Smith, Upson County Extension Agent
Anthony South, Businessman
B. C. Standard, Chairman, Thomaston-Upson Co. Planning Commission
Barbara Tyson, Plant Manager, Quad-Graphics, Inc.
Gene Wright, CEO, Upson Regional Medical Center
Joe White, Citizen
Robert Zellner, County Manager, Upson County

CHAPTER 3

IDENTIFICATION OF PARTICIPATION TECHNIQUES

3.1 - Visioning Report

In an effort to establish the foundation for the update of the Comprehensive Plan for Upson County and the Cities of Thomaston and Yatesville, the consultant firm of Jordan, Jones and Goulding (JJG) was contracted to conduct a visioning process and provide the local governments with a summary report of the findings. This process was commenced in October 2005 and provided an excellent opportunity for citizen input which ultimately generated dialogue, enthusiasm, and excitement in the community.

A total of three (3) visioning workshops were conducted by JJG, including one with the City of Yatesville on October 11, 2005; one with the City of Thomaston/Upson County on October 13, 2005; and one with Upson County October 20, 2005. Community priorities were established in each meeting, and these priorities were more thoroughly discussed during facilitated small group discussions. Those individuals who participated in the workshops participated in a Community Preference Survey which assisted understanding of shared preferences and encourage dialogue on future development possibilities. A Community Visioning Survey was also conducted which focused on important topics not directly presented during the facilitated meetings.

To promote attendance at these workshops, aggressive public outreach techniques were utilized and included direct mailings, newspaper ads, newspaper articles, radio announcements, emails, and billboards. This visioning process was completed in April 2006 by which the summary report, *Vision Summary Report for Upson County, Georgia and the Cities of Thomaston and Yatesville* was developed.

McIntosh Trail Regional Development Center (MTRDC) was contracted to complete the update to the Comprehensive Plan in May 2006. MTRDC met with key staff members for Upson County, the City of Thomaston and the Town of Yatesville in June 2006 to discuss matters concerning the update to the Comprehensive Plan. On August 16, 2006, MTRDC conducted a meeting with the Stakeholders to review the summary report. As a result of this meeting, the Issues and Opportunities that were identified in the report were refined and presented at a Public Forum held on August 21, 2006 to obtain additional input from the local community. Other key meeting dates of the Stakeholders and Steering Committee members are as follows:

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE OF THE STAKEHOLDER/STEERING COMMITTEE

DATE	PURPOSE
Wednesday, August 16, 2006	Lunch meeting for Steering Committee
Monday, August 21, 2006	Meeting for the Public - 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
September, November 17, 2006	Local Governments meet to prepare their respective work plans.
Wednesday, November 29, 2006	Lunch meeting for local government heads and RDC Staff)
Thursday, December 7, 2006	Meeting for the public 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. – Government Complex
Thursday, December 14, 2006	Lunch meeting for Stakeholders/Steering Committee - 12:00 noon Government Complex Meeting Room
Thursday January 11, 2007	Public Hearing for Community Assessment and Public Participation Plan
Thursday, February 8, 2007	Lunch meeting for Stakeholders/Steering Committee – 12:00 noon Government Complex Meeting Room

Regular meetings of the Steering Committee were scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, March 25, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 1, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 15, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 22, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 29, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 6, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 13, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 27, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.

3.2 - Public Outreach

The methods as provided below will be utilized for the remainder of the update process to inform the public, as well as the Stakeholders and Steering Committee for the 2007-2027 Comprehensive Plan for Upson County, the City of Thomaston and the Town of Yatesville:

- ◆ **Media:** Related notices will be publicized in the *Thomaston Times Newspaper* which is circulated throughout the community. Public announcements will also be provided to the local radio stations, WTGA 101.1 FM, WTGA 1590 AM.
- ◆ **Email:** As available, Stakeholder and Steering Committee Members will receive notices of various topics related to the update process via email distribution.
- ◆ **Regular U. S. Mail:** Stakeholder and Steering Committee Members will receive notices of various topics related to the update process via regular U. S. Mail distribution.

CHAPTER 4 SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF THE COMMUNITY AGENDA

The following will facilitate as the schedule by which the update of the 2007-2027 Comprehensive Plan for Upson County and the Cities of Thomaston and Yatesville will proceed until completion:

ACTIVITY	DATE/LOCATION
Public Hearing on the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program	January 11, 2007 - Thomaston/Upson County Complex Meeting Room
Transmittal of the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program to the McIntosh Trail Regional Development Center and Georgia Department of Community Affairs	June 2008
Public Hearing on Community Agenda	July 2008 – Thomaston/Upson County Complex Meeting Room
Transmittal of the Community Agenda to the McIntosh Trail Regional Development Center and Georgia Department of Community Affairs	August 2008
Local Adoption of the 2007-2027 Comprehensive Plan for Upson County and the Cities of Thomaston and Yatesville	September 2008