

City of Thomasville

Comprehensive Plan Review/Update

Planning for Citizens with Citizens

What is the Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan provides an assessment of existing conditions and future needs.

It considers anticipated growth and changes that will affect the health, safety, and welfare of present and future community residents.

The intent of the plan is to serve as a policy guide regarding the future needs, limitations and opportunities facing the community.

Goal of Comprehensive Planning:

To advance the coordination of land use, transportation planning, and provision of infrastructure and services, to support sustainable economic development, the protection of natural and cultural resources and the provision of adequate housing for the entire community.

Under the state's new Local Planning Requirements effective May 2005 comprehensive plans are divided into three parts:

- 1. Community Assessment**
- 2. Community Participation Plan**
- 3. Community Agenda**

Community Assessment

Provides an objective and professional analysis of the current state of the community and presents anticipated future trends.

Concentrates on eight areas:

1. Population
2. Economic Development
3. Housing
4. Natural & Cultural Resources
5. Community Facilities
6. Transportation
7. Land Use
8. Intergovernmental Coordination

Culminates in:

The identification of potential issues and opportunities the community may wish to take action to address during the planning period.

An analysis of existing development patterns and the identification of current and potential character areas.

Evaluation of the community's current policies, activities and development patterns for consistency with Quality Community Objectives.

A technical appendix of data analysis and information to validate the evaluations and assertions.

Community Participation Plan

Outlines the strategy for ensuring meaningful public and stakeholder involvement in the preparation of the Community Agenda portion of the plan.

The document will:

- Identify Key Community Stakeholders
- Outline Participation Techniques that will be employed to engage the public
- Provide a schedule for completing the Community Agenda

Preliminary Engagement Methods Identified:

- Citizen Advisory Panels
- Community Assessment Presentations and Issue & Opportunity Open Houses
- Community Visioning Sessions
- Community Design Workshops
- Community Agenda Open House

Other methods that will be considered:

- Stakeholder Interviews
- Traveling Presentations
- Web Page
- Articles in local newspapers

All meetings will be held in multiple sessions at numerous locations around the community.

Community Agenda

This is the most important part of the plan as it includes the city's vision for the future and the strategy for achieving this vision.

This component of the plan has three parts:

- **Community Vision**

Intended to paint a picture of what the community desires to become.

Future Development Map: shows the boundaries of the communities major character areas.

Defining Narrative: a description of what uses, styles and patterns of development are encouraged in each character area and the implementation measures needed to achieve the desired development.

- **Community Issues & Opportunities**

The final, locally agreed upon list of issues and opportunities the community will address during the planning period. The list will be refined through the community participation and stakeholder .

- **Implementation Program**

Overall strategy for bringing the plan to fruition, it identifies specific measures to be undertaken to address each identified issue and opportunity and includes the traditional Short Term Work Program. The STWP gives a description, time frame, responsible party, estimated cost, and funding source of each implementation activity.

The Next Step

Become an active participant in the Public Process.

It is through these meetings, summits, and workshops where you the citizen become the planner.

Input from these forums will help the City in developing a comprehensive plan that truly meets the needs and desires of our citizens.

Help make the plan the citizen's plan.

For more information or to offer input on the plan please contact our staff.

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