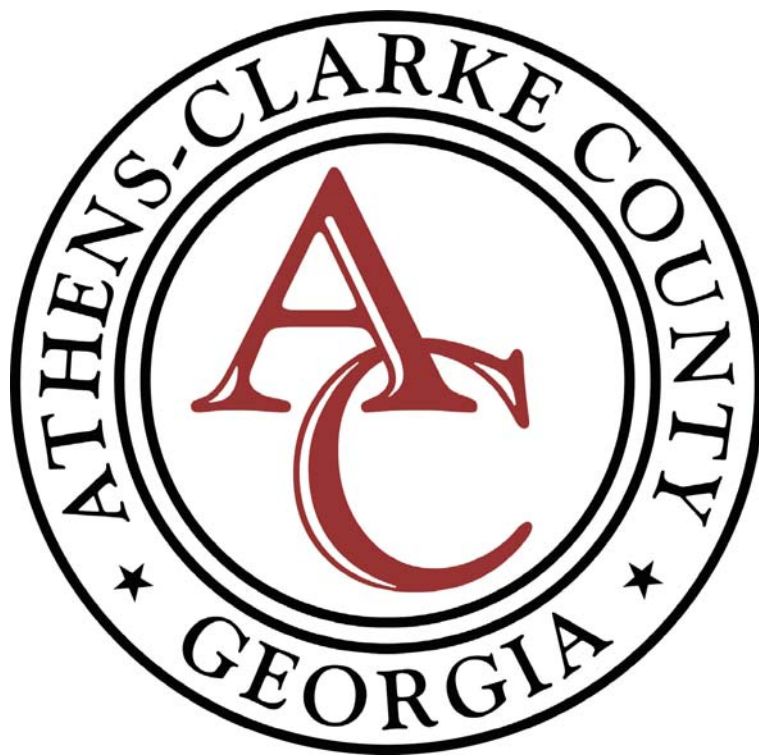


Athens-Clarke County and the City of Winterville Comprehensive Plan

Community Agenda



July 1, 2008

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY AND THE
CITY OF WINTERVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND THE SERVICE DELIVERY
STRATEGY FOR ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, THE CITY OF WINTERVILLE AND THE
TOWN OF BOGART**

WHEREAS, the 1989 Georgia General Assembly enacted House Bill 215, the Georgia Planning Act, requiring all local governments to prepare a comprehensive plan in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures promulgated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Athens-Clarke County and the City of Winterville Comprehensive Plan which includes the Community Agenda, the Community Participation Program, and the Community Assessment was prepared in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures, and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs certified the Athens-Clarke County, the City of Winterville and the Town of Bogart Service Delivery Strategy which is, per the Official Code of Georgia § 36-70-28, required to be revised whenever there is an update to the Comprehensive Plan.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Athens-Clarke County Mayor and Commission do hereby adopt the Athens-Clarke County and The City of Winterville Comprehensive Plan, including the Community Assessment, the Community Participation Program, and the Community Agenda and the Service Delivery Strategy for Athens-Clarke County, The City of Winterville and the Town of Bogart.

The signed original of said documents shall be maintained on file and available for inspection in the office of the Clerk of the Athens-Clarke County Commission, Room 204, City Hall, 301 College Avenue, Athens, Georgia, and in the office of the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department, 120 West Dougherty Street, Athens, Georgia.

Adopted this the 1st day of July 2008

BY:

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk of Commission

Introduction

Introduction

The Comprehensive Plan for Athens-Clarke County and the City of Winterville, Georgia, is an overall guide for the growth and general development of Clarke County, and the two municipalities located within its boundaries, for a twenty-year period beginning in the year 2008 and extending to the year 2028. Athens-Clarke County and the City of Winterville have jointly pursued the preparation of a Comprehensive Plan as mandated by the 1989 Georgia Planning Act.

The Comprehensive Plan for Athens-Clarke County and the City of Winterville, Georgia, as presented in this document, is the result of a cooperative effort involving the residents and officials of Athens-Clarke County and the City of Winterville. The Comprehensive Plan respects the separate authorities of each local government, but also recognizes the interdependence of the entire County, and the effect long range plans have on the community as a whole.

The Comprehensive Plan consists of three principle documents: The Community Assessment, The Community Participation Program and the Community Agenda, including the Short Term Work Plan. The Service Delivery Plan is included as a supportive element of the Comprehensive Plan.

This document furthers the vision for our county presented in the Athens-Clarke County and the City of Winterville Comprehensive Plan adopted in March of 1999.

Planning Authority

This Comprehensive Plan was prepared and reviewed under the authorities of the governing bodies of Athens-Clarke County and the City of Winterville.

Study Area

The study area for the Comprehensive Plan includes Clarke County in its entirety. The majority of Clarke County is incorporated as the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, with the exception of that portion of the County that is incorporated as the City of Winterville. A very small portion of the Town of Bogart is located in Clarke County. For the purposes of the Comprehensive Plan, that portion of Bogart located in Clarke County is also considered as a part of the study area and the resulting recommendations for that area will be forwarded to Bogart City officials for their information and

review. However, as the majority of the population of the Town of Bogart resides in Oconee County, the Department of Community Affairs has integrated Bogart's Comprehensive Plan process and recertification schedule with Oconee County.

Community Assessment and Community Participation Program

Athens-Clarke County

The Athens-Clarke County Planning Department prepared and submitted for review the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program for Athens-Clarke County. The Mayor and Commission reviewed the documents and on July 5, 2007 held a public hearing on the Assessment and Participation Program. These documents were forwarded by resolution to the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center for official review.

Community Agenda

The purpose of the Community Agenda is to lay out a road map for the community's future, developed through a public process of involving community leaders and residents in making key decisions about the future of the community. The Community Agenda includes the community's vision for the future, key issues and opportunities it chooses to address during the planning period, and its implementation program for achieving this vision and addressing the identified issues and opportunities.

Public Participation in the Community Agenda

Athens-Clarke County

The required public hearings, as mandated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Chapter 110-12-1 Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning "Local Planning Requirements" have been held. The public involvement described in the adopted Community Participation Program was solicited and meetings were held to inform the public and solicit their input on the Comprehensive Plan. The Steering Committee, a citizen group appointed by the Mayor and Commission to facilitate the preparation and periodic review of the Comprehensive Plan oversaw the work of groups devoted to reviewing the Issues and Opportunities for Clarke County associated with Population, Economic Development, Environmental Resources, Cultural Resources, Athens-

Clarke County Facilities and Services, Intergovernmental Coordination, Housing, Land Use and Transportation. These groups met throughout the spring and summer of 2007 and provided the Athens-Clarke County Planning Commission with concrete and substantive recommendations regarding Issues and Opportunities in Athens-Clarke County.

Additionally, the Steering Committee oversaw a survey of Clarke County residents. Athens-Clarke County commissioned the Survey Research Unit at the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) to conduct a random general population survey of ACC residents and to allow any resident the opportunity to respond to the survey questions in a non-random attempt to hear from as many citizens as possible. Initially, 2000 surveys were mailed out to a random selection of ACC households, based on sample drawn by Market Systems Group in Ann Arbor, Michigan. 11,000 survey forms were sent home with elementary public school students in both English and Spanish. 13,880 inserts entitled "Shaping Your Community" were distributed with the Athens Banner Herald newspaper and included both information on the Comprehensive Plan and a survey form. The Survey also appeared online, and e-mails were sent out to 1142 addresses announcing the web-survey.

Finally, workshops were held focusing on various corridor types currently facing development pressures. Three workshops were held during the summer of 2007. The topics of these workshops, the corridor types and project area selection were based on direction from the Steering Committee and drew upon the Corridor Management Program Strategy previously adopted by Athens-Clarke County. Each workshop focused on two corridors of the same corridor type. The goal of this format was to develop recommendations for land use, street design and other design objectives that would be applicable to similar corridors throughout the county.