Elected Officials Present:
Chairman John Daniell
Commissioner Chuck Horton
Commissioner Mark Thomas
Commissioner W.E. "Bubber" Wilkes
Commissioner Mark Saxon

Oconee County Staff Present:
Justin Krouac, County Administrator
Kathy Hayes, County Clerk
Sandy Weinel, Planning & Code Enforcement Assistant Director
Lisa Davol, Parks & Recreation Director

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Staff Present:
Justin Crighton, Planner
Eva Kennedy, Project Specialist
Jordan Shumake, Project Specialist

Media Present:
Michael Prochaska, The Oconee Enterprise
Lee Shearer, Athens Banner Herald

Overview of Plan Recommendations:
Justin Crighton, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, reviewed the findings of the subcommittees for Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure and Parks, Recreation and Greenspace. Mr. Crighton, Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Shumake have evaluated the discussions of these groups and the full committee to create a draft revision of the County Land Use Map and recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan Update.

(A PowerPoint presentation was given by Mr. Crighton and is attached to the minutes.)

Land Use:
The draft Land Use Map is shown as character areas within three categories: Agricultural/Conservation, Residential and Activity/Industry. Mr. Crighton explained that the character areas each have unique traits and/or special attention to unique circumstances within the character areas.

Mr. Crighton reviewed the revised map legend for the new/existing character areas. The Agriculture & Conservation category presented by Mr. Crighton included the Character Areas of Parks/Recreation/Conservation, Agricultural Preservation and Rural Places. The Residential category included Character Areas of Country Estates, Suburban Neighborhood, Traditional Neighborhood, and City Living. The Activity & Industry group encompasses multiple Character Areas of Country Crossroads, Neighborhood Village Center, Community Village Center, Historic Main Street, Downtown, Gateway Corridor, Mixed-Use Office, Corridor Commercial, Civic Center, Technology Gateway Regional Center, Workplace Center and Public Institutional.

The update of the Comprehensive Plan regarding Land Use includes several recommendations: Character areas as the primary source of guidance for land use/zoning; concentrated growth
within established or identified nodes; appropriate areas for infrastructure investment; cooperative planning with the Board of Education for school locations; accommodate senior living within multi-aged communities; identify nodes within the residential uses of the Civic Center Character Area to offer smaller lot sizes for housing diversity; encourage multi-family in areas of denser development within municipalities; and remove R-3 zoning designation in Suburban Living Character Area.

**Transportation Improvements:**
Mr. Crighton displayed the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation System (MACORTS) map to view road classifications. The Comprehensive Plan Update will include the following recommendations: Truck route to lessen traffic congestion; upgrade major roadways; sidewalk network; road improvements to accommodate cyclists; multi-use trail or network of trails; strategy to acquire broadband internet county-wide; follow Water and Wastewater Strategic Plan; consider qualitative/quantitative factors when considering expansion locations.

**Parks, Recreation, Greenspace:**
Mr. Crighton discussed recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan Update in the area of Parks, Recreation and Greenspace: Master Plan for all park facilities; multi-use trail network; encourage neighborhood parks and, when funding is available, large park expansion; evaluate inventory of public/semi-public spaces; continue/complete 2007 Long Range Plan and Heritage Park Phase II; and focusing park improvements to enhance quality of life and connectivity between destinations.

After Mr. Crighton’s presentation, he asked the group if there were items that should be incorporated into the plan that was not addressed in the presentation. The next Public Forum of the Committee will be held in March at the Planning Commission Meeting.

Mr. Crighton asked that those in attendance proceed to visit each table representing Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure and Parks, Recreation and Greenspace.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Kathy Hayes, County Clerk
OCONEE COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
OVERVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS
AGENDA

3. Adjourn
   a. Transportation & Infrastructure
   b. Land Use
   c. Parks & Greenpace

2. Breakout Groups for more in depth discussion:

1. Overview of Plan Recommendations by NEGC Staff
LAND USE

All land is classified into character areas. A character area is a unique area within a unique section of the community that has unique or special characteristics to be preserved or enhanced. Has potential to become a unique area with more through planning and implementation of future development of development concerns.

Requires special attention due to unique development concerns.
Agriculture & Conservation

- Parks/Recreation/Conservation
- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Places

Residential

- Country Estates
- Suburban Neighborhood
- Traditional Neighborhood
- City Living

Activity & Industry

- Country Crossroads
- Neighborhood Village Center
- Community Village Center
- Historic Main Street
- Downtown
- Gateway Corridor
- Mixed-Use Office
- Corridor Commercial
- Civic Center
- Technology Gateway
- Regional Center
- Workplace Center
- Public Institutional

LAND USE
In order to provide a more legible and logical document, character areas will be grouped into three overarching categories.
The update of the Comprehensive Plan will recommend:

LAND USE
The Update of the Comprehensive Plan Will Recommend:

TRANSPORTATION

- Location of expansions
- Take into consideration both qualitative and quantitative factors when considering
- Follow the recommendations of the Water & Wastewater Strategic Plan
- Develop strategy to address lack of broadband Internet service in Rural Oconee Co.

Water, Sewer, Telecom

- Work towards developing a large scale multi-use trail or network of trails
- Safety improvements on rural and urban roads to accommodate cyclists are needed
- Prioritize building of sidewalk network

Bike, Pedestrian, and Other Networks

- Prioritize safety improvements and upgrades on major thoroughfares (Hwy 15, ex.
- Designate truck route to lessen congestion through downtowns—specifically downtown

Road Network
Parks, Recreation, Greenspace
For connectivity between destinations.

- Focus of park improvement is to bolster the quality of life, and increasing options
- Heritage Park Phase II
- 2007 Long Range Plan
- Completion of ongoing initiatives
- Portion of the demand:
  - Elementary school or other existing playgrounds that might be used to serve a
  - Include in inventory currently underutilized public and semi-public spaces such as
  - (arise)
  - Neighborhood parks and large park expansion as needs and finding opportunities
  - Encourage diversity of scales in new parks and open spaces: (Encourage)
  - Networks within the county and the region should be developed.
  - A plan for a multi-use trail network to connect green spaces, parks, and with other trails
  - Population and a growing population overall.
  - Programming needed to accommodate both the needs and desires of the current
  - Master Plan that can provide guidance on the physical space, staffing, and

The Update of the Comprehensive Plan Will Recommend:

PARKS, RECREATION, GREENSPACE
CONTACT

NORTHORSE GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

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Please sign in