



CIRCULATION & OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK PLAN

The Circulation and Open Space Framework Plan outlines key community green/open space and pedestrian, bicycle, and roadway improvements developed in conjunction with the land use and market goals established during the planning process. Outlining transportation improvements in conjunction with land use goals and objectives is vital to maintaining and enhancing the character of the Dunwoody Village. The Circulation and Open Space Framework Plan places emphasis on community goals to create additional open space and gathering areas, enhance walkability, and expand potential for alternative transportation modes to be utilized in and around Dunwoody Village.

The following sections outline key green space initiatives and recommended roadway, pedestrian, bicycle, and multi-use trail enhancements.



Circulation and Open Space Framework Plan



DUNWOODY VILLAGE CIRCULATION & OPEN SPACE INITIATIVES

-  **OPEN SPACES:**
 - "Town Green" - 1.5 to 2.0 acres (NOTE: location and layout TBD)
 - "Civic Green" - 0.5 to 1.0 acres
 - Farmhouse Green
 - Chamblee Dunwoody Road & Womack Pocket Park (if property is renovated/redeveloped)
 - The Shops at Dunwoody Plaza (private)

-  **PEDESTRIAN PATHS / TRAILS:**
 - 12-15 feet wide
 - Multi-use for pedestrians and recreational bikers (not bicycle commuters)
 - Some in public right of way, some on private property (with easements)
 - Potential trailheads connecting to adjacent neighborhoods (secured access to be further explored) (NOTE: Will require detailed discussions with affected neighborhoods and existing property owners to determine feasibility and exact locations)

-  **STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS:**
 - Sidewalks, decorative lighting, street trees, mast arms, access management, landscaping, and on-street bike routes (dedicated lane on Dunwoody Village Parkway)
 - Chamblee Dunwoody Road
 - Mount Vernon Road
 - Dunwoody Village Parkway
 - Ashford Center Parkway

-  **INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS:**
 - Decorative Pedestrian Crossings
 - Pedestrian Signalization if warranted
 - Operational Improvements (Chamblee Dunwoody Road signalization changes associated with change to Nandina Lane)

-  **NEW VILLAGE CENTER STREET GRID:**
 - New roads to break up super block (associated with new development) (NOTE: location and layout TBD)
 - Roads may be public or private (TBD)
 - Pedestrian oriented streets
 - Operational Improvements

-  **ACCESS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS:**
 - Operational & access improvements to Chamblee Dunwoody Road north of Mount Vernon Road
 - Potential signal timing, reduced / consolidated curb-cuts, interparcel connectivity enhancements, etc. (requires additional detailed study)

-  **NANDINA LANE RECONFIGURATION:**
 - Conversion of Nandina to one-way (southbound)
 - Requires adjustments to operation of Chamblee Dunwoody Road & Mount Vernon Road intersection (requires additional detailed study)
 - Consider long-term removal

Dunwoody Village Master Plan

Urban Collage, Inc. | Houseal Lavigne Associates | RCLCO | Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. | Market + Main, Inc.



OPEN SPACE

As detailed in the Village Center description in the last section, the centerpiece of the proposed, walkable Village Center is a Village Green Space. The primary goal is to create an appropriately scaled community gathering space as a focal point of the Village Center. The Planning Team's recommended 1.5 to 2 acre open space would accommodate community gatherings of up to 10,000 or more if adjacent streets are designed in a manner that they can be closed for larger events.

The Village Green should be visible from and/or linked to each of the Village's major streets (Mount Vernon Road, Chamblee Dunwoody Road, and Dunwoody Village Parkway) through sidewalks, multi-use trails, and significant landscaping. The Green should also be linked to the Farmhouse via a pedestrian path and enhanced landscaping.



The most significant design challenge for the space is to create an open space that is large enough to accommodate community gatherings without feeling oversized and empty when not in use. To best meet this challenge, the green space must be designed in conjunction with surrounding redevelopment and utilize a variety of materials to create sub-areas. The space should include a combination of hardscape plazas and open green spaces to provide variety and flexibility to comfortably accommodate a variety of groups (from small gatherings to large events). The space is intended to be passive in nature and not a location for active recreation (playgrounds, athletics, etc.).

Other open space opportunities within the Dunwoody Village include maintaining and enhancing green spaces and mature trees that surround the Farmhouse, a more formal "civic green space" of ½ to 1 acre that should accompany the development or relocation of any civic facility into the Dunwoody Village, and encouraging enhanced community green space as a part of major, private redevelopment/improvement projects.

Any public or private redevelopment or major improvement property improvement project should be accompanied with landscape and green space improvements. The Planning Team recommends that the district's zoning classification be reviewed to encourage the creation and enhancement of smaller green spaces, provide street trees along major roadways and entries, and provide landscape islands and trees within surface parking areas. Generally these smaller open spaces should be used to create focal points within redevelopment projects and be bordered on at least one side by a public roadway where reasonable to enhance visibility and safety. If the City were to reposition the current Library/Arts Center site at Chamblee Dunwoody Road and Womack/Ashford Center Parkway, a landscaped area or pocket park should be considered on the northeast corner of the intersection as a gateway into the Dunwoody Village.

NEW ROADWAYS

Integral to enhancing the character of and enhancing walkability in the Dunwoody Village is breaking up the superblock bounded by Mount Vernon Road, Chamblee Dunwoody Road, and Dunwoody Village Parkway. The Dunwoody Village Master Plan calls for two new east-west connections between Chamblee Dunwoody Road and Dunwoody Village Parkway and one north-south connection through the block. These internal roadways should be local, low-speed streets with shared bicycle lanes on-street, on-street parking, landscape buffers (4-6 feet recommended), street trees, lighting and wide pedestrian sidewalks (8-12 feet in width recommended).

The internal street grid is proposed to enhance access, visibility, and walkability providing multiple options for cars, bicycles, and pedestrians alike. These roadways would also alleviate some pressure on the Mount Vernon Road/Chamblee Dunwoody Road intersection and Chamblee Dunwoody Road between Mount Vernon Road and Dunwoody Village Parkway as they would provide options for low circulation. Internal streets will reduce the opportunity to have the “back side” of buildings exposed to public right-of-way and reduce expanses of surface parking lots.





TRAFFIC ENHANCEMENTS

Congestion at the Mount Vernon Road and Chamblee Dunwoody Road intersection, in combination with Nandina Lane, inhibits travel to and through the Village on a daily basis. Particularly during afternoon peak hours, delay at the intersection can back traffic for expansive distances in all directions. Roadway expansions to improve capacity are not supported by the community and would not reinforce the character of the Dunwoody Village. Adjustments are necessary however, to better manage the intersection and enhance safety.

While some inventive concepts have been proposed for the intersection (two-lane roundabouts, bypasses, etc.), the Planning Team recommends a series of more modest improvements including modifications to Nandina Lane and enhanced traffic signal timing of this and all nearby traffic signals.

Left-turn movements onto and out of Nandina Lane create operational and safety conflicts due to their close proximity to the major intersection of Chamblee Dunwoody Road and Mount Vernon Road. This project would involve operationally changing

the intersections at both ends of Nandina Lane to become right-in-right-out only. This may result in needing turn lane reconfigurations at the primary intersection (to be determined by a future traffic study); however, the net result will yield better efficiency and safety within the proximity of this area. This project will also include replacing the existing span wire signals with decorative mast arms and utilizing countdown pedestrian signals and well-marked crosswalks. Over the long-term, Nandina Lane should be further studied as a one-way southbound street or eliminated.

One of the largest challenges for the Dunwoody Village is the high volume of traffic passing through the area along the major corridors of Mount Vernon Road and Chamblee Dunwoody Road. Much of this traffic is regional in nature resulting from traffic patterns that extend well beyond the district. It is unlikely that this traffic can be rerouted, so improving operational efficiency along the major corridors is paramount. Operational improvements can be made by evaluating signal timings and linking signals together to coordinate timings and achieve positive progression. This effort would involve a more detailed traffic study that evaluates the network of signals in and around the Dunwoody Village.

As part of any improvement project, access management along Chamblee Dunwoody Road and all major roadways in the Dunwoody Village area should be considered. Part of the traffic congestion problem in the area is the number of curb cuts and potential conflict points along major roadways. Any future redevelopment and/or streetscape project should consider reducing the number of curb cuts and directing as many turning movements as possible into a limited number of intersections and access points.



STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

To enhance walkability within Dunwoody Village pedestrian facilities (sidewalks, ramps, crossings) and the pedestrian environment (storefronts, lighting, benches, trash receptacles, etc.) must both be improved. Four significant streetscape (sidewalk, landscape, and lighting) projects are recommended for the Dunwoody Village.

Enhancements to Dunwoody Village Parkway are under design as part of a Transportation Enhancement Grant awarded to the City. Elements of the plan include:

- Reduction in the number of travel lanes from 2 in each direction to 1 northbound and 1 southbound lane
- On-street bicycle lanes
- Landscape buffers 6-feet in width between travel lanes and sidewalks
- Street trees, pedestrian lighting, and roadway lighting within the landscape buffer
- 6-foot wide sidewalks in the short-term with potential to widen to 12-feet as part of future improvements and/or redevelopment
- Flexibility to add on-street parking on the west side of Dunwoody Village Parkway as part of future park development and/or private redevelopment

With future enhancements, efforts should be made to reduce the number of curb cuts along the roadway to limit potential conflict points between motorized vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians.

Streetscape improvements should be undertaken for Chamblee Dunwoody Road in two phases. The first phase would improve the roadway from Mount Vernon Road to Roberts Drive (approximately 2,700 linear feet). Elements should include:

- Landscape buffers no less than 4 feet in width and preferably 6 feet in width between the roadway and pedestrian sidewalks
- Street trees, pedestrian lighting, and roadway lighting within the landscape buffer
- Wider sidewalks no less than 8 feet in width, preferably 10-12 feet wide
- Off-street bicycle facility on one side of the street (5-foot dedicated path or as part of a 12-foot multi-use path)
- Intersection enhancements including new mast arm traffic signals, pedestrian signals, high visibility crosswalks, and ADA Ramp improvements where necessary
- Removal of overhead utility lines and replace with underground utility lines
- Access management considerations to reduce and limit curb cuts and potential conflict areas along the corridor



The second phase of streetscape improvements along Chamblee Dunwoody Road (approximately 1,300 linear feet) should include the area from Mount Vernon Road south to Ashford Center Parkway.

- Landscape buffers no less than 4 feet in width between the roadway and pedestrian sidewalks
- Street trees, pedestrian lighting, and roadway lighting within the landscape buffer
- Wider sidewalks no less than 8 feet in width,
- Off-street bicycle facility on one side of the street as part of a 12-foot multi-use path
- Intersection enhancements including new mast arm traffic signals, pedestrian signals, high visibility crosswalks, and ADA Ramp improvements where necessary
- Removal of overhead utility lines and replace with underground utility lines

Multi-modal improvements along Mount Vernon Road from Ashford Dunwoody Road to Wickford Way (approximately 3,500 linear feet) should include:

- Landscape buffers no less than 4 feet in width and preferably 6 feet in width between the roadway and pedestrian sidewalks
- Street trees, pedestrian lighting, and roadway lighting within the landscape buffer
- Wider sidewalks no less than 8 feet in width, preferably 10-12 feet wide adjacent to the proposed Village Center
- Off-street bicycle facility on one side of the street (5-foot dedicated path or as part of a 12-foot multi-use path on the north side of Mount Vernon Road)
- Intersection enhancements including new mast arm traffic signals, pedestrian signals, high visibility crosswalks, and ADA Ramp improvements where necessary
- Removal of overhead utility lines and replace with underground utility lines
- Access management considerations to reduce and limit curb cuts and potential conflict areas along the corridor

Finally, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements on Ashford Center Parkway and/or Womack Road should consider:

- On-street bicycle lanes or shared lanes
- Landscape buffers no less than 4 feet in width between the roadway and pedestrian sidewalks
- Street trees, pedestrian lighting, and roadway lighting within the landscape buffer
- Wider sidewalks along both sides of major roadways no less than 6 feet in width
- Intersection enhancements including new mast arm traffic signals, pedestrian signals, high visibility crosswalks, and ADA Ramp improvements where necessary
- Extension of the Ashford Center Parkway median when and where feasible

BICYCLE ROUTES

A combination of on-street and off-street bicycle routes will be necessary to enhance the ability of bicycles to traverse the area more easily. On-street bicycle routes should be included on Dunwoody Village Parkway and as part of new internal street grid through the Village Center. On-street bicycle lanes should be 5 feet in width to meet AASHTO standards.

Off-street bicycle lanes should be considered as part of multi-use trails on one side of Mount Vernon Road and Chamblee Dunwoody Road due to high traffic volumes, the number of conflicts, and other safety concerns. Multi-use paths are typically 12-15 feet in width on one side of a street and accommodate pedestrians (runners/joggers), recreational bicyclists, and sometimes electric carts and/or other devices. Alternatively, dedicated off-street bicycle lanes between landscape buffers and pedestrian sidewalks should be 8 feet or greater in width.

These bicycle routes should be tied into a Citywide network of bicycle facilities in coordination with the City's Comprehensive Transportation Plan.



MULTI-USE PATHS/TRAILS

To further enhance connectivity to and from the Dunwoody Village, multi-use paths and trails should be considered, if desired by adjacent neighborhoods, to connect surrounding single-family neighborhoods to the Village. These paths would be 12-15 feet wide to accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, and potentially electric-carts (golf carts) or other devices. Trails would require cooperation within the neighborhoods to determine a proper location and property easements for the City to assist with construction of the path. The City of Dunwoody should consider a policy regarding these paths if individual neighborhoods desire their implementation.

Based upon public involvement in the Dunwoody Village Master Plan, potential priority locations for off-street multi-use trails include:

- A dedicated east-west path through the Village Center in conjunction with the realization of one of the recommended east-west roadways
- Potential links to adjacent neighborhoods (if the neighborhoods desire them and assist in defining the appropriate path):
 - The Branches,
 - Wynterhall,
 - Wyntercreek, and
 - Vernon North.

