

3. Youth Engagement Meeting

This is quite possibly the most important discussion related to public participation and outreach because the sustainability effort is done, in large part, for younger generations. The City partnered with local schools to provide education about the Plan and an opportunity for students to contribute to the discussion. Staff met with fifth grade students at a local elementary school, Austin Elementary, and performed a series of activities to determine what they found important in their community and what they thought should be present in their community in 20 years. Though sentiment varied from favorite eateries to athletic fields and parks, it is clear there is a quality of life the students value as a result of the amenities available in Dunwoody. Likewise, the students indicated a number of uses and services they hoped to have available to them in the next 20 years. While specific recommendations were not sought in these exercises, the sentiment will certainly be expressed throughout the document.

E. Synergies with Other Plans

Synergies with other plans gives a brief overview of plans previously developed by the City of Dunwoody, DeKalb County, and the Atlanta metro region in order ensure that the Sustainability Plan works cohesively with other planning initiatives to be pursued by the City. Many actions throughout the plan are both direct and indirect suggestions from these previously developed plans; these items are identified throughout with abbreviations, shown in each plan description's heading. Expanding upon the work that has already been completed by the community through other plans and integrating these ideas into the sustainability program is key to ensuring the Plan's success. In addition to the plans completed by our community, including the Transportation Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, the Parks Plan, and two sub-area Master Plans, other plans with local, County, and regional impact contain many tools for making sustainability a driving force in our City decisions. The intent of this process is to synthesize the sustainability focus from each of the plans and implement them throughout Dunwoody.

1. Dunwoody Comprehensive Land Use Plan (LU)

Adopted in 2010, the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan is the preeminent legal document guiding future development in Dunwoody. The short term work program of the Comprehensive Plan calls for the development of a Sustainability Plan. In addition to this call to action, multiple other measures in the Comprehensive Plan address sustainability. Items throughout the plan address pedestrian access and signage, promoting local business, and providing education and outreach on land use changes. Items that are direct recommendations or a result of recommendations in the Dunwoody Comprehensive Land Use Plan are labeled as **LU** (Land Use) throughout the plan.

2. Master Plans for Dunwoody Village and Georgetown/North Shallowford (MP)

As a result of the comprehensive planning process, two sub-area Master Plans were subsequently completed and adopted. The Dunwoody Village Master Plan and the Georgetown/North Shallowford Master Plan were integrated into the Comprehensive Plan in March 2011. Both plans focus heavily on pursuing connectivity of streets for walking, biking, and other pedestrian transportation. Georgetown's plan includes the beginning plans for Project Renaissance, two sites, 16 and 19 acres, of mixed used development that are

currently in development. Other areas addressed in both plans include local economic development and stormwater management, both of which are addressed throughout the Sustainability Plan. Items that are direct recommendations or a result of recommendations in either one or both of these two plans are labeled as **MP** (Master Plan) throughout the Sustainability Plan.

3. City of Dunwoody Comprehensive Transportation Plan (T)

Since the City's Transportation Plan was adopted in 2011, a Complete Streets Policy was adopted by City Council. As a function of this policy, the City Council requested that the Public Works Department consider the addition of bike lanes and sidewalks for all repaving projects. This directive from Council allows the staff to act in the interest of implementing the Transportation Plan. The Comprehensive Transportation Plan recommends:

- "Increased connectivity, enhanced transportation options, including bicycle and pedestrian, expanded functional green space and park ownership designed to improve the health, vitality, and recreational enjoyment of our City's businesses and residents and long-term sustainability of our City."
- Bicycle projects: connectivity to major destinations, existing or planned facilities in neighboring jurisdictions, and connectivity to other bicycle networks
- Pedestrian projects: sidewalk network gaps and opportunities for connectivity enhancement; crosswalk improvements (refuge islands, signs and signals, adding or relocating crossings)
- Consideration of (in all projects):
 - Mobility, public input, connectivity, constructability
 - Streets
 - Pedestrian
 - Bike
 - Multi-Use Trails
 - Transit

The following recommendations from the Transportation Plan have been completed:

- Adopt a Complete Streets Policy
- Install over 5 miles of Bike Lanes, including Roberts Drive, North Shallowford Road, Perimeter Center East, and Mount Vernon from Layfield to Ashford Dunwoody Road
- Construct 5 miles of sidewalks on Valley View Road, Mount Vernon Road, and Happy Hollow Road

The following Transportation Plan implementation recommendations are in progress:

- Centralized Traffic Management Center for PCIDs
- Signal timing and communication improvements Citywide
- Fiber Optic Connections for improved signal coordination
- Tilly Mill at North Peachtree intersection improvement
- Dunwoody Village Parkway road diet, streetscape, sidewalk, and bike lanes
- Womack/Vermack intersection improvement
- Chamblee Dunwoody at Spalding intersection improvement
- Chamblee Dunwoody Multimodal Improvements
- Over 2 miles of new sidewalk construction
- One mile of bike lane and sidewalk installation on Chamblee Dunwoody Road between Cambridge and Valley View

The Transportation Plan includes a focus on increased bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. Moving forward, Transportation Plan recommendations will be incorporated into the Land Development Ordinance to integrate those decisions with land use changes in the City. Additional actions that are direct or indirect recommendations of the Transportation Plan are labeled as **T** throughout the Sustainability Plan.

4. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (REC)

In 2011 the City developed a plan projecting the next 10 years of parks, recreation, and open space management. Public meetings, demographic analysis, department research, and design charrettes resulted in a plan which addresses the community's wishes and the future financial and administrative needs of the department. Among other objectives, the Parks Plan explores facility assessments and recommendations for parks, recreation facilities, greenways, and conservation. The Brook Run Park multi-use trail is currently in development as part of a larger planned system of trails to connect the community's open spaces.

Since the adoption of the Parks Plan, the following objectives have been accomplished:

- Grading of an area in the backfield at Brook Run for open play
- Renovation of the greenhouses and Barn in Brook Run
- Stabilization of the Barn at the Donaldson Chestnut House, repair of HVAC, and mold removal in the Farmhouse
- Filling in of the pool at Donaldson Chestnut House to create event space
- Partnering with the Community Garden at Brook Run to expand the garden area, including the addition of an orchard
- Cutting trails at Windwood Hollow and Perimeter Center East park

The following Parks Plan implementation recommendations are in progress:

- Relocation of the dog park
- Multi-use trail loop at Brook Run Park
- Clearing of invasive understory at parks using sheep to graze the area
- Multi-use trail within and beyond Project Renaissance development
- Connectivity between Brook Run Park, Pernoshal Park, and Georgetown Park

Implementation of the Parks Plan is well under way. Most notably, the City broke ground on two signature parks in the Project Renaissance development at the beginning of 2013. The entirety of this mixed-use project provides more than 20 acres of new parkland and multi-use paths. The path brings pedestrian accessibility by linking multiple developments and parks into a greater greenway system. Additional actions that are direct or indirect recommendations of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan are labeled as **REC** throughout the Sustainability Plan.

5. Zoning/Land Development Code

Dunwoody's Zoning and Land Development Code differs from other plans addressed in the Synergies section; it is the guiding mechanism for implementation of all plans. Just as a zoning code can enable innovative design in development, it can unknowingly hinder unforeseen developments. The City's code must be evaluated prior to undergoing sustainability plan actions to make sure that the ideas and innovations suggested by this plan are indeed allowed in city limits. Therefore code reviews and potential minor

amendments are suggested throughout the plan in areas where the code could potentially hinder their enactment. There are a few action items throughout the plan which directly address our Zoning and Land Development Code; however, whether specified or not, with all action items, issues or opportunities within the code will be addressed.

6. Bicycle Friendly Communities (BFC)

Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) is a designation of the League of American Bicyclists, a national non-profit promoting “safer roads, stronger communities, and a bicycle-friendly America,” according to their website. Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) is a nationally-recognized status; Becoming a BFC re-enforces both Dunwoody’s commitment to and our actions encouraging cycling in the community. Cycling has public health benefits, provides greater access to transportation for individuals and families who, either by choice or not, do not currently own a vehicle, and can promote social interaction. Businesses with bicycle access have also seen economic benefits. The goals and associated actions that will help the City of Dunwoody move towards becoming a Bicycle Friendly Community are labeled as **BFC** throughout the plan.

7. Walk Friendly Communities (WFC)

Similar in concept and execution to BFC, Walk Friendly Communities (WFC) is a national program sponsored by FedEx and the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration promoting walkability of communities based on policies and regulations; enforcement; facility design, frequency, and use; amenities and other land use patterns; and education. The national certification program promotes safety, mobility, access, and comfort in walking and provides a program of metrics for evaluating and improving the walkability of a community. The goals and associated actions that will help the City of Dunwoody move towards becoming a Walk Friendly Community are labeled as **WFC** throughout the plan.

8. Perimeter Community Improvement Districts Livable Centers Initiative (LCI)

A recipient of Atlanta Regional Commission LCI funding, the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts (PCIDs) encompass the central business district of the City. PCIDs are an important stakeholder in City decision-making. The City played a role in updating the LCI Plan; therefore, the Sustainability Plan and the LCI update have many overlapping goals. Goals and actions that address the areas listed as Livable Centers by the PCIDs program are labeled throughout as **LCI**.

9. DeKalb Comprehensive Plan (DeK)

As a part of the larger DeKalb County community, Dunwoody will make every effort to incorporate sustainability goals previously identified by DeKalb in their Comprehensive Plan. Though DeKalb’s plan does not have a primary focus on sustainability, as sustainability will be addressed in an independent sustainability plan currently in development, there are a few key points that can be used as guidelines. The actions that sync up with DeKalb’s Comprehensive Plan are labeled as **DeK** throughout.

10. ARC (Atlanta Regional Commission) Plan 2040 (ARC)

Sustainability is the primary theme of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Plan, incorporating economic, social, and environmental sustainability with the Plan vision and recommendations at the forefront. The City can position itself within the region by aligning itself with the components of the 2040 Plan that also fulfill the City's individual vision and goals. Aligning with the ARC's goals also puts us on track to receive funds, assistance, or awards through ARC managed programs like Livable Centers Initiative (LCI), Lifelong Communities, Green Communities, Community Choices, and other various accolades. ARC-related actions are labeled **ARC** throughout.

11. EPA Technical Assistance Report (EPA)

A number of recommendations were made through the EPA Technical Assistance Green Building Toolkit Workshop held in summer 2012. The Workshop was held concurrently with the Code Rewrite process, and recommendations of each process were synthesized to augment the final Code. Many of the EPA recommendations have been addressed through the Rewrite, but there are a few actions, particularly in green building and in outreach, yet to be addressed that will further the sustainability program for the city; those actions are labeled **EPA**.