

1. Introduction

Purpose

The Community Agenda is the most important part of the City of Snellville Comprehensive Plan. Based on the findings of the Community Assessment completed earlier in the planning process and input gathered from the Public Participation Program, this document provides a vision for the community's future and a plan to implement that vision. It also identifies key issues and opportunities that the community wishes to address during the next 20 years, a list of policies to be followed in making day-to-day decisions, and a detailed Short-term Work Program that outlines what actions the community will focus on over the next 5 years.

Scope

This document was prepared following the Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Chapter 1110-12-1-.05, Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning, "Local Planning Requirements," effective May 1, 2005. It includes the three basic requirements for a Community Agenda:

- (1) A Community Vision that is comprised of a vision statement and Future Development Map;
- (2) A list of the Issues and Opportunities that the community intends to address over the next 20 years (see Chapter 5, "Translating the Vision into the Plan"); and
- (3) An implementation program for achieving that vision, the heart of which is a Short-Term Work Program that identifies specific actions the community will take over the next five years.

This document also includes some background information that is not required of a Community Agenda, but does describe the context within which the community is planning for its future. The chapter entitled "Context for Change" provides a high level overview of the demographic trends that will influence the community's future, and the chapter entitled "The Community's Vision for the Future" describes the extensive public involvement effort that was undertaken to craft the community vision statement and the Future Development Map. In some respects, these additional elements are summaries of the other two components of the Comprehensive Plan, the *Community Assessment* and *Community Participation Program*, completed earlier.

Use of the Plan

City of Snellville staff, the City Council, and local community leaders should use this Community Agenda, or plan, in three ways. First, the Future Development Map should be referenced in making rezoning and capital investment decisions. It provides a representation of the community's vision and indicates character areas where various types of land uses should be permitted. It takes into consideration the land use patterns illustrated in the City's Existing Land Use Map, the current zoning map, topographic

characteristics, natural resource sensitivity, the availability of existing and proposed infrastructure, and the needs of anticipated population and employment growth.

Second, the plan provides policies that will help guide day-to-day decisions. These policies are a reflection of community values and are in keeping with the basic goals of the plan. They, too, will be used as guidelines in the analysis of rezoning decisions.

Third, the plan includes an Implementation Plan that will help direct public investment and private initiative. Plan implementation is carried out through the application of regulations such as zoning and development codes and through projects and programs outlined in the Short-term Work Program. This plan outlines recommended changes in land use regulations and codes to be consistent with the community's vision; and, after plan adoption, it will be up to City staff and the City Council to consider these code changes and revise if necessary. It should be noted that a Comprehensive Plan is a living document. In accordance with the DCA Local Planning Requirements, it should be updated regularly to reflect changing conditions and shifts in public policy.