



Meeting 1 Report

The first Envision 2030 vision meeting was held Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2005 at Otwell Middle School in Cumming. Approximately 130 people attended. In the course of two hours, participants worked in small groups of five or more on a series of questions that helped them think about the kind of community they would like Cumming-Forsyth County to be in 25 years.

By the end of the evening, they had recorded 688 ideas, which are listed later in this report, but some of the most common themes of this meeting seemed to be:

- A desire for **different kinds of development** in Cumming-Forsyth County, including support for “mixed-use” (residential, offices, entertainment and retail close to one another), town-center types of developments and greater connectedness among developments.
- Strong support for **environmental protection and green space preservation**. There was interest in water conservation (things like using gutter systems for watering lawns), recycling programs and protecting Lake Lanier, but there was also support for preserving undeveloped areas of the county.
- Strong support for maintaining Cumming-Forsyth’s **high-quality public schools and family orientation**. One of the small groups said its strongest images of Cumming-Forsyth County in the future were of people “living, working, playing as a family, as a community,” and another of “schools that were built for the future.” Another group said it wanted the Forsyth County School System to “continue to be one of the best in the state and country” in 2030.
- A need for **greater economic development** to preserve the tax base. Several groups mentioned “balancing the tax digest” between residential and commercial land uses as important. One group said it would like to see corporate headquarters in Cumming-Forsyth County in the future. Another said it would like to see the county “develop commercial and industrial areas into campus-type centers and technology parks.”

- An interest in **developing the cultural assets** of Cumming-Forsyth County. Several groups mentioned the need for a “cultural arts/performing arts center” in the county.

Meeting Process

Participants were welcomed by Carter Barrett, co-chair of Envision 2030, who turned the program over to Jon Abercrombie, the meeting facilitator. Jon explained that participants would work in small groups or “circles” of five or more people and they would be asked to think about, discuss and come to consensus on several questions. Jon also covered a few suggested ground rules. Each group had a “moderator” who acted as recorder and group facilitator, and wrote the group’s comments on a large flip-chart pad.

The first question Jon asked was part of a scenario. Its purpose was to help the groups imagine what an ideal Cumming-Forsyth County would look like. Here’s the scenario:

It is 2030. Time magazine is sending a reporter to Cumming-Forsyth County to do a cover story on how this community came to be regarded as the “model” or “ideal” mid-sized community in the country – the community other mid-sized communities around the country want to be like.

Here’s the question Jon posed to the groups:

What will Time magazine say in its 2030 article makes Cumming-Forsyth County such an ideal community?

Jon gave the groups 50 minutes to work on this question. As they were finishing, Jon asked the groups to look over the ideas and images they had listed and highlight the ones they felt most reflected the rough consensus of the group – and also place a mark next to the one or two that they thought might be their most visionary ideas.

In the remainder of the meeting, Jon asked the groups to consider two other questions:

- *What do we need to preserve among things that already exist in Cumming-Forsyth County today for the Time magazine article (and our vision of the future) to come true?*

These things could include physical assets, organizations or institutions, public policies or decisions, or positive traits or skills of the people who live here now that will be needed if Cumming-Forsyth County were to become an ideal community.

- *What do we lack in Cumming-Forsyth County today that we would need for the Time magazine article (and our vision of the future) to come true?*

These things could include physical assets, organizations or institutions, public policies or decisions, or positive traits or skills of the people that are missing today but will be needed in the future, if Cumming-Forsyth County were to become an ideal community.

The results of these three group discussions (a general vision for Cumming-Forsyth County, the assets that should be preserved and those that should be developed) are in the following three

sections of this report. (Note: The small groups were assigned numbers before the meeting, but the numbers may not be sequential. As a result, you may find some gaps in the numbering, but be assured that the results of all the small groups are produced below.)

Small-Group Results: A Vision of Cumming-Forsyth County in 2030

Here are the vision ideas – the things that participants felt Time magazine would focus on, if it were writing about Cumming-Forsyth County as the ideal or model mid-size community in 2030.

Small group 1:

- High-tech school system
- Good mix (density) of residential and commercial
- Multi-storied development (above 3) - Atlantic Station-like in construction
- Greenspace as a priority
- Pleasant architecture for businesses (controls), like John's Creek
- Development of Lanier's shoreline (recreation, shopping, entertainment)
- Judicial center
- Service-oriented government, seamless
- Expanded "Vickery" concept for development with balance for living spaces
- City of Cumming (square) with parking, little traffic, pedestrian friendly with shopping, restaurants, gathering places
- Community center (focus point) with amphitheater
- Cooperative community is evident
- Partnership with the arts (performing arts)
- "Bridge" traffic congestion with creative bypass
- Heliport to metro Atlanta
- Light rail connections for commuting (within county and outside)
- Significant water recycle plan / plants
- Cooperative deep water intake for future needs identified
- Lots of trees
- Regional solution to water needs

Small Group 2:

- Long Term
- Smart planning / Zoning integrity / Architectural standards
- Architectural standards
- Community and 4-year college
- Adequate number of K-12 schools
- Cultural arts
- Preserved/planned greenspace
- Vickery on steroids: Business, culture, entertainment, shopping, education, residential all in one area (Think Naperville, IL; Greenville, SC)
- Government officials were responsive and supportive of vision
- Roads

- Schools
- Culture (Fine arts, etc.)
- Water / sewer
- Corporate headquarters
- Selective / upscale business
- Parks
- Senior / retirement "communities"
- Teen centers
- Fire / safety / medical
- Partnership: Technology business / Public education (Technical schools, incentives for High Tech business to come to Forsyth County)
- Partnership: Business and Community
- Partnership: County / City government working off the same vision / growth plan / common standards

Small Group 3:

- Cultural arts center / facility
- Friendly / welcoming / very inviting downtown area
- Quality growth planning
- Preserving green space, existing trees
- Preservation of community history
- Increase / diversity of housing (choices)
- Family oriented community
- First rate education
- City bypass / road system
- MARTA Extension
- Commitment to commercial expansion
- Roads with bike paths, walking paths
- A downtown with a square or unique area with shops, park, no cars, walking
- Interconnecting development: family friendly sidewalks, alternative transportation, easy to get around, kids walk to school or get an ice cream
- Tree / green land / water preservation / Neighborhoods, business have original existing tree lines
- Water preservation / conservation: use of gutter system to water lawns; water reuse / rainwater reuse
- Underground utilities
- Wireless Internet communications
- Airport
- Partnership: University systems integrated with businesses
- Partnership: Merger / partnership of city and county government and services (water / police)
- Partnership: County / corporate businesses
- Partnership: University satellite schools / Public school systems
- Partnership: City of Atlanta & Forsyth County
- Partnership with cultural community: University, City of Atlanta, Forsyth County

Small Group 4:

- Families
- Quality of life
- Alternative transportation / multi-purpose paths to shopping, schools, churches, cultural areas, etc.
- Safety
- Neighborhood atmosphere
- Cultural development - local scale (like Chastain, not GA Dome)
- Riverwalk
- Community activities / children oriented parades, events
- Town centers concept / community centers (not buildings, but neighborhoods)
- Community values
- Interconnectedness of communities and facilities
- Paths
- Transportation
- Trolley, golf carts
- Signage, architectural controls / Development & Design standards, partnerships, environmentally consistent, expand Hwy 141 design overlay to include residential

Small Group 5:

- Revitalize downtown Cumming
- Cultural arts / performing arts center (Cultural unification)
- Moderate density of development / Rate of growth in sync with infrastructure
- Industries to support jobs and taxes
- Computerization of traffic lights
- No traffic gridlock
- Co-op with Cherokee County with better air transportation (with their airport! :))
- Clean and fill Lake Lanier
- Crack down on illegal use and production of drugs / use
- Forsyth county a safe place to live and work
- Need new courthouse and jail
- Community that nurtures our children to become better / productive citizens
- Preserving and integrating our green space
- Keep our parks
- Better environment to attract good quality teachers
- More firehouses to reduce insurance rates
- Indoor aquatic center
- The city and county need to cooperate together
- An atmosphere to promote free worship
- Get rid of the "good 'ol boy" network - require education and experience
- Wireless Internet service for the whole county

Small Group 6:

- Universities
- Art, Music, and Drama
- Performing arts center
- Recreation trails throughout county
- Parks (family-oriented, rather than sports)
- 5-star restaurants
- Ethnic diversity
- More hotels (of various levels)
- Performing arts education
- Equestrian trails
- Lake Lanier Islands-type facility
- Improved transportation
- Conference Center
- Transit (?)
- Wi-Fi
- Infrastructure that supports telecommuting
- More jobs (professional): technology, bio-tech, agricultural
- Limits on apartments
- Thriving downtown (mixed-use) with ample parking
- Pedestrian-friendly areas
- Public safety facilities throughout county
- One-stop information source / web site
- Mixed use throughout county
- Houses on bigger lots
- Improve road infrastructure (including traffic circles)
- Water fountains
- More trash cans
- Minor league team / facility
- Alternative fuel support (for transportation)
- Enhanced sense of community / family-oriented
- More sidewalks
- Ice skating rink
- Outdoor (ATV) trails
- Bike paths near roadways
- Underground utilities
- Architectural design standards
- Consolidated government
- Welcome center
- Indoor swimming pools

Small Group 7:

- Preserving greenspace by balancing density and protecting property rights

- Calculate density by not granting more than 2 units an acre based on entire county acreage (= 325,000 people)
- More progressive planning tool
- Intelligent water and sewer plan
- Better planning for roads
- Creative thinking and innovation
- Cultural centers and performing and visual arts
- Indoor aquatic center
- Learning oriented facilities: schools, colleges, literacy centers, libraries
- Cultural diversity
- Education with variety
- Greenspace with balance
- Economic stability
- County wide water and sewer service
- Arts
- Parks and recreation
- Service to all: senior citizens and children
- Preserving of lake and protecting it
- Clean and healthy environment
- Public safety
- Committed to being a beautiful community
- Infrastructure
- Roads: Creative thinking and planning / With trees and sidewalks / Alternative mobility (bike paths, walking trails, etc.)
- Water / Sewer: Quality and quantity / Stormwater management - creative visioning
- Intellectual infrastructure: Attracting quality businesses and employees and entrepreneurs / Higher education
- Cultural infrastructure
- Health infrastructure
- Public safety infrastructure
- Recreation and parks and greenspace
- Social infrastructure: homes, jobs, recreation for all ages and socioeconomic levels and races
- Partnership with city and county government: citizens, Chamber of Commerce, Council for Quality Growth
- Partnership: Not-for-profits / For profits
- Communication between development community and schools and government and park and recreation and greenspace to communicate needs
- Regional cooperation
- All areas of county
- Private property rights protected
- Partnership: Environmentalists and developers

Small Group 8:

- Cultural arts center

- County planning / zoning / development
- Keep more of Forsyth's money in the county (commercial / retail; industrial development; create more businesses in county)
- Develop higher level jobs - better pay
- Better balance of different types of development (residential, commercial)
- Develop a better identity of Forsyth
- Upscale retail, diversity in types of activities, like Atlantic station
- Greater emphasis on planning, not just development
- Slow down growth
- Maintain the quality of life: small rural town atmosphere, good amenities in a community environment, low crime rate, safe/secure atmosphere, family friend oriented, good education system, maintain greenspace
- Community that is good for seniors: safe, comfortable
- Better health care assets
- Senior centers, activities
- Maintain high level of service and quality of the parks system
- Strong government leadership
- More investment in public transportation system
- More sidewalks and pedestrian facilities
- Separation between Forsyth and Atlanta in regards to public transportation
- Long-term planning for all public infrastructure - future view
- Conference center, hotels, civic center, arts and cultural center
- Creation of public meeting space
- More proactive government
- Government: better balance between city / county, different form, better definition of the existing structure, who does what (what does government provide, what do others provide)
- Countywide plan and initiative to help direct community desires and needs / Government divisions to follow plan and initiatives
- More investment by government in the preservation of green space
- All utilities placed underground
- Stop growth

Small Group 9:

- Commit to senior citizen communities: affordable, active, subsidized
- Rapid rail to Atlanta "Europath" / Not MARTA "Too slow"
- More Vickery "Smaller community development"
- Environmentally sound water and sewer - utilizing grey water
- Better planning (planners and developers working together)
- Indoor / outdoor amphitheater
- Resort on lake
- Keep the integrity of what is here (Sawnee Mountain and lake)
- Keep public parks public
- More activities for children
- School system utilizing parks more

- More nightlife and culture in downtown area (like Dahlonega)
- Continue growth of hospital
- Broaden partnership with universities
- Continue expansion of Lanier Tech
- Power generation from waste material
- More incentives for A-Z recycling
- Developers should preserve more trees (old growth where possible)
- More walking paths and bicycling paths that connect downtown to a park
- Playgrounds with trees for kids (picnic tables, wildlife, ducks)
- Continue to expand mentoring programs and non-profits / more knowledge in the community (involvement)
- Police force solving small crimes (i.e. burglaries)

Small Group 10:

- Organized growth (smart managed growth)
- Respect for the community
- Environmental concerns for growth
- Keep residential and commercial space apart
- Superior educational system
- Standardized architectural guidelines
- Develop commercial and industrial areas into campus type centers and technology parks
- Good senior facilities and care programs
- State of the art infrastructure
- Good lighting on roadways
- Aesthetically pleasing signage on roadways
- Cultural arts center support of the community arts programs
- Small alley boutiques and shops / food
- Planned cluster subdivisions
- Lake front park areas
- Safe / easily travel roads
- Rapid development of new roads in new growth areas
- Advanced medical facilities
- Waste management / recycling
- Safe / clean / easily accessible / affordable public transportation
- Well-equipped fire and police services
- Continue our excellent libraries
- Safe buses with aides for schools
- More funding for school programs
- More funding for teacher supplies
- More funding for school nutrition programs
- Attract more and better paying businesses
- Wireless Internet connectivity throughout the county
- Good after-school programs not run by teachers (parks and recreation)

- Strong pollution regulations

Small Group 11:

- Cultural arts center - downtown destination: shops / food / arts / historical preservation / conference center - Increase tourism: Lake Lanier should be a vacation destination / Sawnee Mtn Preserve / Downtown
- Greenspaces with bike and walking trails
- Sawnee Mountain preserve
- Clean (no litter)
- Pedestrian friendly spaces (mixed use)
- Improved roads and transportation
- Mixed-use retail and living spaces
- Education
- Better communication between planning and builders (more honesty)
- Checks and balances between commissioners and planning board
- Elected county executive officer
- Revamp county government
- Cooperation between county and city / get rid of city government
- Keep the county green by minimum lot sizes and larger set backs / No spot zoning / tighten and overhaul UDC-land use map and live with it for 20 years / Make a plan and stick to it
- Hire visionary planners and stick to it
- Improve health care / top ranked medical facilities
- Remove billboard / add underground utilities
- Safe / improve and add to parks / Mixed use: sports / walk / bike / picnic
- Embrace and improve multicultural environment: education center / arts center / employment services
- Affordable quality housing / Mass transit
- Assisted living
- More high-end white collar jobs
- Retirement communities

Small Group 12:

- More recreational activities / bike paths / hiking, etc.
- Education - Magnet schools
- Cultural arts
- Growing a well-themed / planned downtown
- K-12 and College Campuses (education wise)
- Excellence in health care
- Keeping Cumming's history / identity alive (4th of July, Fair, Antiques, etc.)
- Infrastructure resources / maintaining
- County-wide sewage system
- Balancing the tax digest (residential vs. commercial)
- As population grows, a large enough jail system / court / government buildings
- Strict development rules

- Incentives for property owners to provide land for corporate business development
- Preserve the green space
- Low density development
- Bedroom community
- Partnerships: City/county
- Partnerships: public/private partnerships that benefit both
- Partnerships: Landowners / government (to maintain water sheds and floral fauna / native species)
- Partnerships: Business / education
- Partnerships: Corporate / education center / botanical garden to provide greenspace and proved jobs / education - like Johnson & Johnson in Tampa, FL
- Partnerships: State / federal / county government, concerning roads
- Partnerships: Revamp local development authority

Small Group 13:

- Moderate residential growth
- Build commercial growth
- Maintain greenspace
- Bring industrial companies / manufacturing
- Recruit companies that "want to be here" (don't require too many incentives)
- Recruit hi-tech, possibly medical or bio-medical industry
- Maintain a high quality standard of living
- Try to move to an average density of 1 per acre for new developments (remaining undeveloped land)
- Roads / transportation infrastructure (if we don't improve this, recruiting industry is very tough)
- Water supply / sewer treatment
- Schools K-12 (if we don't improve this, recruiting industry is very tough)
- Expansion of offerings in Forsyth of North GA College / Gainesville College (satellite campus)
- Suggest / require mixed-use, inclusive of employment opportunities and/or schools, as a "trade" for any high density residential
- "Consider" merging city government and county government (e.g. Athens-Clarke County)
- Partnership: businesses in the county and the school system (skills taught to reflect needs of businesses)
- Partnership: school system and county government to control sediment, run-off, etc.
- County government needs to be more proactive in targeting specific types of employers / industries to recruit through a partnership between the county government and Chamber / private sector
- County government needs to be more proactive, period
- Develop a "target" residential growth rate to allow school-building to catch up
- Implement tools that will allow the target rate above to be met
- Cultural arts facility

Small Group 14:

- Quality education
- Balanced tax digest
- Housing for different income levels
- Quality government agencies (police, fire, etc.)
- Employment opportunity to stay in Forsyth County
- Have "green space"
- Efficient use of utilities (water, gas, electric - conservation and good planning)
- Continue work on road structure
- Children's Activities
- Recreation for everyone
- Maximize city-county efforts in government (eg. Parks/recreation, planning, etc)
- Draw for tourism (e.g., convention center)
- Remain "family friendly"
- Reconsider the waiver of paying (or not) after a homeowner turns 65 years of age
- More emphasis on cultural arts
- Nature center
- Better utilization of natural resources (e.g., expanded waterway much as San Antonio, Texas)
- Create "Lake Walk," much like "Riverwalk" in Columbus and Savannah
- Pedestrian and bike friendly community
- Better opportunity for higher education (Lanier Tech, et. al.)
- Increase youth leadership
- Photo 1: Indian Seats
- Photo 2: Living/working/playing as a family, as a community
- Photo 3: New "Lake Walk"
- Photo 4: That we maintained the "future land use plan"
- Photo 5: Schools that were built for the future (little or no trailers)

Small Group 15:

- Diversified Tax Base
- At least two more "John's Creek"
- Housing for all incomes
- Affordable Water
- Well-funded schools
- "Alive" downtown - housing, shops, etc. (include a botanical park)
- Free bus within county and walkable community (county funded)
- Nationally recognized culture / arts festival
- County and city work and plan together
- Lots of opportunities for physical fitness / outdoor activities
- Build up, not out to preserve greenspace
- Well-planned, efficient road system
- County buy golf course on Buford Dam Rd.
- Focus on infrastructure (ie, roads, etc.) first

- Need airport in this area (not necessarily FoCo)
- 4-year university or college
- Maintain entire friendly status
- Access roads on each side of 400 for safety
- Continue more lanes on 400
- Create industry in FoCo
- Good alternative / public transportation
- Need Class A office space
- Cohesive, attractive "look and feel" to development
- Our children have come back to live here because we have a lot to offer
- FoCo schools continue to be one of the best in the state/country
- Water and sewer throughout county
- Immigration laws enforced
- We are a diverse community with all parts of our community involved in making this a good place to live

Small Group 16:

- Low crime (meth)
- Controlled smart growth (develop and follow the land use plan! Really!) (residents have a voice)
- Higher education (4-year college) and lower education
- Diverse population (color, religion, national origin, etc.)
- Affordable housing / all price ranges / owners, not renters
- Green space! Parks / outdoor recreation
- Resources for retirees
- Revitalize downtown: safe, walkable, park benches, old town feel, Buford, Vickery, cultural arts (co-op, sell art) venue for large events (large ballroom)
- Traffic that moves
- Low taxes
- Lake with water
- Infrastructure
- Roads, roads, and roads. Did I say "roads"?
- Education (overplan for population growth)
- Water - after you fill the lake, let's drink
- Traffic planning / lights / public transportation
- High-speed communication (inter & intranet)
- Sewer
- Medical care / services
- Partnerships
- Education / business
- Planners / Developers / Citizens
- Citizens / government
- City / County! Come on, guys!

- Sheriff / city police
- Natives / newcomers

Consensus Ideas

Here are the ideas, from those listed above, that the groups felt reflected a consensus of their thinking:

- Multi-storied development (above 3) - Atlantic Station-like in construction
- Expanded "Vickery" concept for development with balance for living spaces
- City of Cumming (square) with parking, little traffic, pedestrian friendly with shopping, restaurants, gathering places
- Smart planning / Zoning integrity / Architectural standards
- Vickery on steroids: Business, culture, entertainment, shopping, education, residential all in one area (Think Naperville, IL; Greenville, SC)
- Corporate headquarters
- Cultural arts center / facility
- Preserving green space, existing trees
- Family oriented community
- Interconnecting development: family friendly sidewalks, alternative transportation, easy to get around, kids walk to school or get an ice cream
- Water preservation / conservation: use of gutter system to water lawns; water reuse / rainwater reuse
- Quality of life
- Safety
- Town centers concept / community centers (not buildings, but neighborhoods)
- Interconnectedness of communities and facilities
- Signage, architectural controls / Development & Design standards, partnerships, environmentally consistent, expand Hwy 141 design overlay to include residential
- Revitalize downtown Cumming
- Cultural arts / performing arts center (Cultural unification)
- Moderate density of development / Rate of growth in sync with infrastructure
- Recreation trails throughout county
- Underground utilities
- Preserving greenspace by balancing density and protecting property rights
- More progressive planning tool
- Cultural centers and performing and visual arts
- Maintain the quality of life: small rural town atmosphere, good amenities in a community environment, low crime rate, safe/secure atmosphere, family friend oriented, good education system, maintain greenspace
- Conference center, hotels, civic center, arts and cultural center
- Commit to senior citizen communities: affordable, active, subsidized
- Power generation from waste material
- More walking paths and bicycling paths that connect downtown to a park

- Superior educational system
- Develop commercial and industrial areas into campus type centers and technology parks
- State of the art infrastructure
- Cultural arts center - downtown destination: shops / food / arts / historical preservation / conference center - Increase tourism: Lake Lanier should be a vacation destination / Sawnee Mtn Preserve / Downtown
- Improved roads and transportation
- Keep the county green by minimum lot sizes and larger set backs / No spot zoning / tighten and overhaul UDC-land use map and live with it for 20 years / Make a plan and stick to it
- Keeping Cumming's history / identity alive (4th of July, Fair, Antiques, etc.)
- Balancing the tax digest (residential vs. commercial)
- Incentives for property owners to provide land for corporate business development
- Moderate residential growth
- Roads / transportation infrastructure (if we don't improve this, recruiting industry is very tough)
- County government needs to be more proactive in targeting specific types of employers / industries to recruit through a partnership between the county government and Chamber / private sector
- Maximize city-county efforts in government (eg. Parks/recreation, planning, etc)
- Remain "family friendly"
- Photo 2: Living/working/playing as a family, as a community
- Photo 5: Schools that were built for the future (little or no trailers)
- Diversified Tax Base
- Well-planned, efficient road system
- FoCo schools continue to be one of the best in the state/country
- Controlled smart growth (develop and follow the land use plan! Really!) (residents have a voice)
- Revitalize downtown: safe, walkable, park benches, old town feel, Buford, Vickery, cultural arts (co-op, sell art) venue for large events (large ballroom)
- Education (overplan for population growth)
- Water - after you fill the lake, let's drink
- Traffic planning / lights / public transportation
- Education / business
- Citizens / government
- City / County! Come on, guys!

Visionary Ideas

Here are the ideas, from those listed above, that the groups felt were their most visionary or “out of the box” ideas:

- Heliport to metro Atlanta
- Wireless Internet communications
- Wireless Internet service for the whole county

- Minor league team / facility
- Government: better balance between city / county, different form, better definition of the existing structure, who does what (what does government provide, what do others provide)
- Environmentally sound water and sewer - utilizing grey water
- Create "Lake Walk," much like "Riverwalk" in Columbus and Savannah
- Build up, not out to preserve greenspace

Small-Group Results: Existing assets that should be preserved

Here are existing community assets that participants felt should be preserved, if Cumming-Forsyth County is to become the ideal or model mid-size community in 2030. These things could include physical assets, organizations or institutions, public policies or decisions, or positive traits or skills of the people who live here now.

Small Group 1:

- Lake Lanier's resource
- Standard of living - no undesirable business
- Safety and security
- High educational standards
- Low taxes
- Church-oriented community "Faith-based"
- Welcoming attribute
- Parks, greenspace
- Rodeo / Community (City) fair

Small Group 2:

- Lake
- Park lands / recreation facilities
- Sawnee mountain: No residential development on mountain / Leave mountain alone except for nature center
- Ambience of country community
- Low tax base
- Farms / meadows
- Cumming as the county seat
- Historical sites
- Sense of safety / security
- Preserve the senior tax break
- Higher education community
- Minimal billboards on roads

Small Group 3:

- Green space: Lake, mountain
- Sense of humor
- Education system

- Public safety
- Quality building
- Sense of friendly community
- Medical facilities - continue to improve
- Sports / Parks / Recreation
- Community dedication / pride

Small Group 4:

- Greenspace
- Lakes
- Family / Community atmosphere
- Historical buildings preservation
- Sawnee Mountain
- Education system
- Parks - not ballfields
- Equestrian atmosphere and facilities

Small Group 5:

- Continue to improve our school standards
- Lake Lanier
- Our hometown feeling - small town atmosphere / country like atmosphere
- Low taxes

Small Group 6:

- Trees
- Traditional activities for sense of community (parade, rodeo)
- Lake (shoreline)
- Schools
- Fairgrounds
- Hospital
- Low millage rate / taxes
- Parks system
- Equestrian lifestyle
- Sawnee Mountain
- Kindness
- Safety
- Humpus Bumpus bookstore
- History / Heritage (personal history of residents)
- Water

Small Group 7:

- Sawnee Mountain
- History and historical buildings / heritage
- Community feel

- Greenspace / parks
- Quality of life
- Educational system
- Natural assets: Lake Lanier / River
- Intellectual memory
- Choice

Small Group 8:

- Sawnee Mountain / Greenspace
- Quality of life
- Steam engine parade
- Local historical assets / structures: Pooles Mill, Fair Grounds, Lake Lanier
- Community involvement
- Peaceful / country atmosphere
- Safe environment

Small Group 9:

- Lake and greenspace
- Cumming Fair
- Steam engines
- Playhouse
- Preserve work ethic and involvement
- Preserve camaraderie between residents in the county (work together)
- Community day (away from the fair)

Small Group 10:

- Sawnee Mountain
- Pooles mill park
- Recreation use of the lake
- Green space
- Small town feel
- Clean air
- Historical sites / homes
- Trees / flowers along roads
- Farmland
- Horse stables
- Good school system
- Quality of life

Small Group 11:

- Green space / rural environment / existing topography
- Top rated law and fire (low crime rate)
- Top ranked schools
- Lake community

- Small town / community feel
- Springs / streams / water sources

Small Group 12:

- Sawnee Mountain
- Lake (Water purity)
- Lake parks
- Rivers
- Fair grounds
- History / 4th of July parade / Rodeo
- Historic Buildings
- Cleanliness
- Moral character of the community
- Superior education standards

Small Group 13:

- Greenspace (Sawnee Mountain)
- Fairgrounds
- Mountain - Sawnee - prevent development
- Current courthouse
- Parks and recreation offerings (preserve and expand)
- Preserve open space / greenspace within HOAs (don't allow HOAs to sell designated open space)
- Agricultural skills
- Preserve "sense of community" that will extend beyond the boundaries of individual subdivisions

Small Group 14:

- Higher Education
- Lake Lanier (full pool)
- Sawnee Mountain
- Existing Rivers and creeks
- Green space (trees, etc.)
- Existing parks
- Heritage (American Indian, Pioneer, Historic Structures)
- Cumming Playhouse
- Preserve our Youth
- Maintain Family values and moral character
- Maintain positive relationship with State Government
- Civic organizations
- Christian heritage
- "Small town" atmosphere
- Accessibility to local officials
- Continuity of community

Small Group 15:

- Positive direction of schools
- City as a separate entity
- Etowah River and Lake Lanier and Chat. River
- Rural / farmland
- Sawnee Mountain
- Trees and land / open spaces
- Safety / low crime rate
- County parks and lake parks

Small Group 16:

- Clean environment
- Steam engine parade
- Horse farm / pasture land (transportation plan?)
- Sense of community
- Cumming country fair
- Historical sites
- Trees / greenspace
- Clock tower
- High standards for education
- Safe / religious community (moral)
- Low taxes
- Lake

Small-Group Results: Assets that will be needed

Here are community assets that participants felt are missing now and will be needed, if Cumming-Forsyth County is to become the ideal or model mid-size community in 2030. These things could include physical assets, organizations or institutions, public policies or decisions, or positive traits or skills of the people.

Small Group 1:

- Healthcare opportunities
- Senior Centers / Services
- Government cooperation - "service oriented"
- Affordable living areas to be a part of the community (value / acceptance)
- More Windwards - business and industry of size
- Cracker Barrel / Red Lobster

Small Group 2:

- Cooperation between city and county / County master plan includes city
- Cleanliness
- Vision

- World-class medical facility
- Water solution

Small Group 3:

- Airport
- Roads
- Public transportation
- Water conservation
- Natural gas
- Quality employment (corporate)
- Affordable housing
- Cultural centers
- Alternative fuels - transportation
- Envision 2030 - master plan
- Education partner / University with school system
- Sports centers

Small Group 4:

- Highway 20 bypass around Cumming
- Additional 400 crossing facilities (additional bridges, foot bridges, paths crossing GA 400)
- Cultural facilities and activities
- Senior adult "living" standards

Small Group 5:

- Adequate water supply and conservation
- Better cooperation and fairness between city and county officials
- Better preparation for disasters and emergency situations, manmade or natural
- More unity toward stated goals

Small Group 6:

- Water
- Policy to protect greenspace and old growth trees
- Increase in community services and public safety
- Professional / economic development
- More community involvement / participation
- Improved building codes
- Long-range plan with milestones and reviews
- Improved relationships between life-long residents and newcomers
- Places for kids / teens to go

Small Group 7:

- Common vision and goals with clear communication
- Cooperation for implementation
- Ensure economic stability

- Ability to pay for our "wants" (greenspace, parks and recreation, protect property rights)
- Water - exploration of other sources / Sensitivity to environment (pollution, air quality)
- Variety of transportation
- Roads - bonds
- Affordable housing - work force housing
- Senior housing and care facilities
- Cultural arts centers
- Variation in community services
- College / university

Small Group 8:

- Cultural arts center
- Constructive planning
- Water / sewer infrastructure
- Public transportation in the county
- More roads / better roads / traffic management
- More all-purpose trailways
- Increase our independence from the city / other counties (our own water tap into lake; create reservoir)
- Improve our educational system - the best schools in the country
- Improve our higher education opportunities
- Maintain the high quality level of our educational system

Small Group 9:

- Envision 2030 in the paper every couple of months / continue to expand the vision / "Spread the word!"
- City-county government start working together for the better good of the overall community
- Continuity in the community
- Keep the plan no matter who is elected

Small Group 10:

- Parks and recreation sites
- Aesthetic guidelines
- Aquatic center
- Youth entertainment facilities
- Small airport / heliport
- Adequate senior center / care programs
- Water resources
- Drug treatment facilities / prevention programs
- New Court facilities
- More police and fire facilities / equipment
- Larger jail space
- Cultural arts programs / facilities
- Commercial and industrial parks

- Community service groups
- Large outdoor performing arts pavilion
- Better roads for easier / faster commutes
- Higher education facilities / technical education facilities that teach state of the art technologies

Small Group 11:

- Cultural arts center
- Court house and jail
- More parks under county control
- Renovation of old buildings and homes
- Improve education / SAT scores
- Roads and transportation: Integrate transportation and retail and living space into one large plan / Sequence lights to improve traffic flow
- Improve water quality of Lake Lanier
- Office buildings / clean industry / white collar jobs
- Chamber of Residents / HOA / Neighborhood watch liaisons / voice to county government
- New form of transportation

Small Group 12:

- Roads (consistency in road names)
- Sewers
- Water
- True visionary plan: all-county encompassing
- Historical education for Cumming / Forsyth
- Consensus visionary planning between the citizens and politicians
- Create the place / hometown that our youth and future leaders / citizens will come back to to live, work, play, thrive and give back
- Control drug use

Small Group 13:

- Real planning / Smart growth
- Additional recreational facilities
- Cultural arts facilities
- Encouragement of commercial center (restaurants, entertainment) in North / Northwest Forsyth
- Need to plan for increased public safety / law enforcement today for growth that will come tomorrow
- If we could encourage preservation of agricultural uses
- Larger-scale outdoor performance / concert venue
- Conference center / ability to host larger meetings
- Need to address day labor community with services and/or physical structures

Small Group 14:

- Cooperation between city and county government
- Discourse with Corps of Engineers

Small Group 15:

- Leadership
- Water / sewer
- A vision / plan
- Good roads
- Diverse tax base / places for people to work
- New thinking on conservation - recycling, water conservation, building materials, light pollution, energy efficiency
- Alternative transportation
- New way of thinking about alternative transportation and networking
- Involved, caring citizens who are part of the solution
- Effective government
- City / County partnership
- Business-friendly environment with easy process and incentives
- Improved downtown square

Small Group 16:

- Saloon
- Transportation plan
- More schools
- Town square traffic plan
- Traditional family values (too much divorce) (assist unwed mothers)
- Boys & Girls club
- New venue for entertainment

What Is Envision 2030?

Envision 2030 is a year-long, citizen-led community planning initiative to envision – and plan for – Cumming-Forsyth County’s development over the next 25 years.

It begins with eight vision meetings in fall 2006 and will continue as a strategic planning process in early 2007. At every stage, citizens will be invited to join Envision 2030 meetings and planning groups – and to critique its reports and work products. Every document will be available on the Envision 2030 web site, www.envision2030.com.

Envision 2030’s final report will be available in June 2007.