



Meeting Report

An Envision 2030 vision meeting was held Friday, November 17, 2006 at North Forsyth High School. Approximately 137 people attended. In the course of one hour, 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.

Meeting Process

Participants were welcomed by Jay DiPasquale, who also served as the meeting facilitator. Jay 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. Jay 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.

The first question Jay 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 Jay posed to the groups:

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

Jay gave the groups 30 minutes to work on this question.

In the remainder of the meeting, Jay 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.

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:

- Skate park
- Chuck E. Cheese
- Public pool
- Ice rink
- Amphitheater
- 4-year college
- More schools
- Smaller classes
- School stadiums and pools
- Slower development
- Video survey
- Different grading scale
- Better teachers
- Too many immigrants
- Thug life
- Better place to graduate
- Better roads
- Ocean

- Military base
- Apartments
- Preserve woods
- Mall
- Hunting areas
- Park
- Zoo Mini golf
- Best Buy
- Fry's
- Waterfall
- Something like Callaway Gardens
- Less Government interaction
- More trees
- Lower state taxes
- More jobs
- Raise minimum wage
- Clean up lake
- Build around trees
- Cancer research
- 65+ retake drivers test
- Own suicide hotline
- Birds

Small Group 2:

- Better houses
- Ice skating
- Make roads bigger
- More teams at parks and recreation
- More malls
- More schools
- Cleaner jails
- Too many neighborhoods
- Sidewalks
- Fair tax rates - everyone should pay taxes
- Dog searches in schools
- Expand roads
- Nice place to graduate
- Road safety
- Raise ages on driving
- Schools are too small
- Larger business - higher quality
- More pep rallies
- Improve sports team

- Good restaurants
- Keep apartments out
- Traffic lights at bigger intersections
- Closer college
- Bigger / more parks
- Closer police station
- Better rules
- Stop clear cutting
- Sports treated
- Lower prices of houses
- Better teachers
- Better SS Plan
- Heat in schools
- Help with diseases
- Cleaner environment
- Raise minimum wage
- Higher punishment on DUI
- Spread out houses
- Better safety equipment
- Make drug security better
- Two houses per acre

Small Group 3:

- Slow down housing
- Hockey rink
- Ice skating
- Save land for agriculture
- Dirt track
- Teen hangout
- MARTA
- Keep facilities clean
- Fix roads
- Widen roads
- More jobs
- More tech jobs
- Reduce police
- Support fair tax
- Sidewalks
- Clubs
- Mall
- College
- Airport
- Olive garden

- Red Lobster
- Apartments
- Power plants
- Concert hall
- Higher speed limits
- Autobahn
- Cancer research center
- Slaughter house
- Indoor pool
- YMCA
- County gym
- Better hospitals
- Lower drinking age
- Homeless Shelter
- Buggy insurance policy
- Saloon
- Diversity
- No hotels
- Hotels
- 6 Flags
- More businesses
- Skyscrapers
- Wider roads
- Less animal killing
- No disturbing the peace law
- Hydroplants
- Trolley system
- Preserve land
- Preserve graveyards
- No strip clubs
- Pool hall
- Raise minimum wage
- Taxi
- Lower taxes
- Zoo
- Aquarium
- Parks
- Balloon Rides
- Smart cars
- More field trips
- Library
- Electronic stores
- No tourists

- Better school busses
- Domain service with no charge
- More music stores
- Shuttle busses
- Hooters
- Less tree cutting
- No county change
- Later curfew
- Cloning facilities
- Glue factory
- Museum
- Fernbank

Small Group 4:

- Teen club
- Skating rink
- Waterpark
- Expand Roads
- Block scheduling
- More restaurants
- Less neighborhoods within 10 miles
- More locker rooms
- Another airport
- Better security at airports
- Dairy Queens
- MARTA
- Bigger stadium for sports
- Girls football
- Boxing team
- Badminton team
- Higher minimum wage
- Malls
- Olive Garden
- Open campus schools
- Better school food
- Less pollution
- Zoos
- Closer theme parks
- Rec center on lake
- Raise lake level
- Italian restaurants
- Convention centers
- Courtyards to eat outside at school

- Wider/bigger hallways
- Skate park
- Longer breaks between classes
- Longer summer break
- Less school
- More field trips
- IMAX Theatre
- BINGO Night
- More electives (career related)
- Better programs for teens with babies
- Better foods in hospitals
- Sporting stores
- More DMVs
- Bigger school parking lots
- Cheaper hospital bills
- Less trailers
- More outside malls (not outlets)
- More schools
- Public swimming pools with diving boards
- More dentist offices
- More recreation parks
- More mountain bike trails
- Dirt bike parks
- Better sewage systems
- Contain chicken plants
- Clean lake lanier
- Stock lakes more often
- Wake boarding teams in schools
- Lower taxes
- Increase disability pension
- Social security for senior citizens
- Let kids voter on school-related stuff
- Adult clubs
- Better retirement plans
- More bowling alleys
- Huge music store
- Save the environment
- Get rid of chicken plants
- Pep rallies
- Ski slopes

Small Group 5:

- Spencer's - More store variety
- Boxing
- Frisbee
- Ping pong
- Shooting range
- School parking lots
- Better roads
- Extend 75
- Less chicken plants
- Venues
- Clean up the lake
- More office buildings
- MARTA / CARTA
- More apartments
- Control growth
- Gun control
- Motocross track
- Ice rink
- Community / convention center
- Ice rink for hockey team
- Tourism - advertise
- Better court system
- North pole?
- Sporting - arctic sports
- Local hospital
- Seal clubbing
- Dinosaurs - Museum
- Avenues
- Guitar center
- Intramurals
- Save paper
- Legalize fireworks
- Indoor swim facilities
- James Euringer memorial
- School ice hockey team
- Ice cream trucks
- School dance class
- Chinese buffet
- International restaurants
- Temples
- Synagogue
- Educational museum

- Chairs
- Student center at schools
- Shorter school days with more breaks
- Autobahn
- Electives - shop, music, crafts, hunting
- Immigration control
- Lower gas prices
- E85
- Paintball facilities
- Tyler Durden memorial
- Parks
- Lacrosse fields
- Monument
- Asylum
- College near high school - available classes
- Grow a continent
- Theme / amusement park
- Zoo
- Sewer system
- Night club
- Semi-local mall of Cumming
- Trees (preserve)
- More entertainment
- IMAX
- Bass Pro
- Airport
- Harder license requirements
- Subway

Small Group 6:

- Mall
- MARTA
- County indoor pool
- Smaller class sizes
- Traffic lights
- Wider roads
- Easier volunteering access
- Hospital
- More schools
- More local jobs
- Better water treatment
- Better recreation program
- Community center

- Children's hospital
- Performing arts center
- Ice skating rink
- State parks
- More restaurants
- Stricter zones - housing zones
- Stricter alcohol laws
- Better state patrol posts
- More police officers
- Quicker EMTs
- Community college
- Dual enrollment opportunities
- More apartments
- More sidewalks
- More community areas
- More recycling
- More bicycle lanes
- Better city clean up
- More / better jails
- Better juvenile centers
- Amphitheater
- Amusement / theme park
- Drive-in theater
- Better energy conservation
- More bigger businesses
- Public transportation
- Use of Ethyl gas
- More qualified teachers
- More classes outside of school
- Resort on lake lanier
- Expansion of lake lanier islands water park
- More restaurants on the north side of 400
- Health food stores
- Museums
- Fresh food market
- Habitat for humanity
- Cheaper housing
- More industry
- Better nursing homes
- Better childcare facilities
- More natural landscape
- Better life insurance
- Zoo

- Military base / facilities
- Homeless shelters
- More abuse clinics
- Teen help center
- Better postal service
- Stricter business codes
- Humane society - larger
- Better / faster HTS
- Start schools earlier - time of day
- School year between labor day and memorial day
- Professional sports teams
- Promote parks and recreation better
- Repair / remodel sports parks
- More vocational classes at North
- More cultural classes
- More sports classes
- Healthier / tastier food in school system
- Disease control / prevention (CDC)
- Bigger house lots
- Better pay for teachers
- More school sports teams
- Better crime prevention
- "Underground Cumming" (Atlanta)
- Arcade
- More cultural-based restaurants
- Monkey farm
- Another indoor sports facilities
- Big community playgrounds
- More equestrian facilities
- Less fast food restaurants
- Bigger library
- More libraries
- Student - direct contact with government
- Harsher crime sentences

Small Group 7:

- Chuck E. Cheese
- More restaurants
- DMVs
- Go Carts
- Fireworks
- More gyms (workout)
- Fair more often - 3 times a year

- Increase field trips
- Zoo
- More jewelry stores
- Ice cream trucks / shops
- More bike trails
- More vending machines
- Better / cheaper lunches
- More campsites
- More golf courses
- Water parks
- Putt-Putt course
- Ski ramps
- Homeless shelter
- No MARTA
- Graduation center
- Aqua center
- Multi-purpose center
- Quilting class
- More service stations
- Mall
- YMCA
- Keep MA Park
- 6 Flags
- University
- Drug enforcement
- Dance clubs
- More stoplights
- Road expansion
- Hospitals
- Smaller class sizes
- Bigger recreation center
- Revoke private dock laws
- Reduce neighborhood growth
- Increase subdivisions
- Indoor soccer
- More movie theaters
- 20-minute break (like central's)
- Link county sports programs
- Skate park
- Concert park
- Wider roads
- More schools

Small Group 8:

- Dance clubs (Wild Bill's)
- Closer malls
- More places to eat
- Roads
- Fair Tax
- No taxes
- Sidewalks
- Big college
- Theme park (huge)
- Better police force
- Tall buildings
- Gas stations
- Hospitals
- Building restrictions
- Trailer parks
- Hotels
- More water in lake
- NASA
- More jails
- Aquatic center
- Skating rink
- Drive-thru movies
- Gyms
- Funeral homes
- Robots
- Flying cars
- Monkey butlers
- Another zoo
- Race track
- BMX places
- Casinos
- Homeless shelters
- Graduation places
- Higher education
- Cheaper food
- Waterfall / monument
- More churches
- More farming
- Military
- More fire stations
- Arena (multipurpose)
- Boxing center

- Video stores
- Rehab centers
- Mental institutions
- DMVs
- Legalize fireworks
- Nice Wahos
- More money for teachers
- Ice cream places (Baskin Robbins)
- Breakfast places
- Sports bars
- More Best Buys
- Ice cream trucks
- Rodeos
- More tech classes
- Go carts
- Airports
- Pet stores
- Chuck E. Cheese
- Italian restaurants
- Recycling place
- Underground utilities
- Resting rooms
- No speed limits
- Red light districts
- Move chicken plant
- Solid gold statue
- More camels
- Band camps
- Electric cars
- Older recreation sports
- Bomb and storm shelters

Small Group 9:

- Electronics store
- Swimming pools
- Golf courses
- Sidewalks
- Bigger school parking lot
- Hackey sack team
- More areas for bands to play
- Tall buildings
- Movie theatres
- More restaurants / fast foods

- Fair tax
- Zoo
- YMCA
- Homeless shelters
- MARTA
- Better job opportunities
- Subways
- Make the fair grounds more useful
- Control water level on lake
- Cheaper houses
- Sports arenas
- Amphitheatre
- Comedy club
- Legalize gambling and fireworks
- Ice cream trucks / places
- Italian restaurants
- Recycling center
- More vending machines
- Better school lunches
- Lower school lunch price

Consensus Ideas

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

- Public pool
- 4-year college
- Slower development
- Thug life
- Better place to graduate
- Better roads
- Ocean
- Too many neighborhoods
- Road safety
- Raise ages on driving
- Larger business - higher quality
- Improve sports team
- Sports treated
- Help with diseases
- Slow down housing
- Keep facilities clean
- Widen roads
- More tech jobs
- Support fair tax

- Sidewalks
- Mall
- College
- Concert hall
- Indoor pool
- Better hospitals
- Homeless Shelter
- Pool hall
- Raise minimum wage
- Lower taxes
- More field trips
- Electronic stores
- More restaurants
- Badminton team
- Higher minimum wage
- Open campus schools
- Better programs for teens with babies
- More DMVs
- Cheaper hospital bills
- Better sewage systems
- Lower taxes
- Adult clubs
- Get rid of chicken plants
- Spencer's - More store variety
- Boxing
- School parking lots
- Better roads
- Ice rink for hockey team
- Theme / amusement park
- Wider roads
- Better recreation program
- Community center
- Homeless shelters
- School year between labor day and memorial day
- Student - direct contact with government
- Fair more often - 3 times a year
- Ice cream trucks / shops
- YMCA
- University
- Dance clubs
- Hospitals
- Smaller class sizes
- Bigger recreation center

- More places to eat
- Fair Tax
- Theme park (huge)
- Better police force
- Gas stations
- Hospitals
- Hotels
- More water in lake
- Homeless shelters
- Graduation places
- Military
- Arena (multipurpose)
- Swimming pools
- Sidewalks
- Fair tax
- YMCA
- Make the fair grounds more useful
- Control water level on lake
- Sports arenas
- Lower school lunch price

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. (Note: Not all groups listed assets that participants felt should be preserved.)

Small Group 1:

- Trees
- Lake
- Southern hospitality
- Animals
- Land area

Small Group 2:

- Better condition of lake
- Trees
- Graveyards
- History of county
- Forests
- Rebel flag
- More field trips

- Lake water

Small Group 3:

- Trees
- Lake
- History
- Animals
- Court house
- The square
- Bowling
- Land
- Recycle houses
- Southern hospitality

Small Group 4:

- Lake Lanier
- School sports
- Farms
- Environment
- Wildlife
- Fairground
- School spirit

Small Group 5:

- Trees
- Quality education
- Water
- Historical buildings
- Farms, pastures
- Fair
- Wildlife

Small Group 6:

- The lake
- Farms
- Chattahoochee River
- Trees
- Historical buildings / monuments / artifacts
- Wildlife
- Endangered wildlife
- Environment
- State / county parks

Small Group 7:

- Lake
- County parks
- Privacy
- Less houses, more trees
- Recreation centers
- Less pollution
- Wildlife
- Farms
- History sites

Small Group 8:

- Lake
- Trees
- Save animals
- Air
- Ozone layer
- Mountains
- Farms
- Forsyth county
- History
- Tech classes
- Mrs. Marshell

Small Group 9:

- Downtown area
- Lake / maintain lake level
- Sawnee Mountain
- Fast food restaurants
- Ozone
- Trees
- Utilities
- Land

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. (Note: Not all groups listed assets that participants felt are missing now.)

Small Group 1:

- More involved citizens
- Lower gas prices

- Aquatic center
- Better jobs
- Higher workers compensation

Small Group 2:

- Strong economic system
- Better representatives
- Representatives future leaders
- More recreation centers
- Go Cart park
- Amusement park
- Lower gas prices

Small Group 3:

- Money
- Roads
- Better traffic system
- Nursing homes
- Better police
- Another DMV

Small Group 4:

- Better government
- Ears - to listen to teens and consider ideas
- Voice
- Lake Lanier purification
- Restaurants
- Boards of people who formally present ideas
- Volunteers

Small Group 5:

- Smatp
- Student center (with ping pong table)
- CARTA
- Better health care
- Nuns

Small Group 6:

- Money - Bigger, businesses, banks, tourism, better budgeting, leadership, professional sports teams
- Community center
- Better education
- Awareness programs
- Better sewage systems

- Performing arts center

Small Group 7:

- More hunting land
- Higher paying jobs
- Longer lunches
- Recreation center
- Hospitals
- Road expansions
- Better police force and fire
- Water and sewage
- Ice cream truck / Dippin Dots
- YMCA

Small Group 8:

- Varsity
- Education (better)
- Hospitals
- Road expansion
- Homeless shelters
- Better police force
- Fire department
- Water and sewer
- Lake (keep)
- Wild animals
- Weight limit (>300 lbs.)
- More physical education

Small Group 9:

- Sidewalks
- YMCA
- Jobs
- Wider roads

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.