

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Rebecca Keefer, AICP  
**Date:** August 25, 2014  
**Subject:** **Discussion of Sustainability Plan adoption**

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### **ITEM DESCRIPTION**

Since incorporation, the City has completed a Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Comprehensive Transportation Plan, two Sub-area Master Plans, and a Parks and Green Space Plan. Each of these efforts called for a more in-depth analysis and visioning effort to ensure the long-term environmental, social, and economic sustainability of the City. Most specifically, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan identifies the need for the creation of a sustainability plan in the short term work program. The purpose of the Sustainability Plan is to synthesize the sustainability focus from each of our existing plans and implement them. This Sustainability Plan, for review and adoption, develops strategy areas to focus efforts, identifies initiatives and prioritizes actions, and establishes an implementation plan to facilitate tracking progress and to inform future plan updates. Encouraging decisions that positively impact the longevity and thoughtful use of our environmental, social, and economic resources is the driving force behind the plan.

### **BACKGROUND**

The public input phase of the Sustainability Plan began in fall 2012 with a series of four public meetings to define and set goals for the City's sustainability initiatives. The results of those meetings are manifest in the draft Sustainability Plan in the form of current reality and assets, descriptions of success, and ultimately, the goals and actions that support the overall vision. The Sustainability Plan includes approximately ten (10) years of actions, with a five (5) year short term work plan (STWP) for the purpose of specific staffing and funding estimations. *While the City Council is not committed to these figures as a function of adoption of the plan*, they provide a roadmap to future budget requests and action items to work toward a more sustainable future.

The STWP identifies staffing responsibilities, funding sources, and annual timing of proposed projects. There are a number of recommendations that require interdepartmental collaboration, as the City's efforts in sustainability transcend individual departments. The Sustainability Committee is committed to driving the implementation of the plan and intends on reviewing items of the STWP at their annual retreat to ensure meaningful progress and timeliness of the recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Plan has been amended to reflect the feedback at the August 11 Work Session related to the increased staffing proposal. Additionally, recommendations in the STWP have been clarified to be more explicit about the regulatory intent (e.g.: bicycle parking policy is intended to be implemented on City-owned property). The Sustainability Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the Sustainability Plan.

**STATE OF GEORGIA  
CITY OF DUNWOODY**

**RESOLUTION 2014-XX-XX**

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CITY OF DUNWOODY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

**WHEREAS,** the City of Dunwoody's Comprehensive Plan (2010-2030) references sustainable practices and calls for the creation of a separate Sustainability Plan; and

**WHEREAS,** Dunwoody's natural resources contribute to a clean, healthy environment, preserving and enhancing quality of life for present and future generations; and

**WHEREAS,** natural resources are a vital component of the infrastructure for the City of Dunwoody, providing economic, environmental, and social benefits; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Dunwoody seeks to prevent detriment to its ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS,** economic longevity and sustainability are critical considerations for all City projects; and

**WHEREAS,** the adoption of the Sustainability Plan provides a framework that will assist City employees and elected officials in making more sustainable policy decisions; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Dunwoody, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the City Council, that the City of Dunwoody Sustainability Plan as attached hereto and incorporated herein, is hereby adopted.

**SO RESOLVED AND EFFECTIVE** this 25<sup>h</sup> day of August, 2014.

Approved:

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Michael G. Davis, Mayor

Attest:

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Sharon Lowery, City Clerk

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# Dunwoody Sustainability Plan

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City of Dunwoody

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2014

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## Executive Summary

The City of Dunwoody cares deeply about the future of our community. With a bright future containing plentiful resources in mind, city employees, in concert with citizens and advisory groups, such as the City Sustainability Committee, have spent the past two years developing a Sustainability Plan for Dunwoody. The Plan is a tool, both to envision what our ideal city looks like and a roadmap to work towards that vision. As such, we have included a work plan with measurable goals and objectives based upon community feedback that support and implement the City's vision for a sustainable future:

Dunwoody models integrity, sustainable practices, and community spirit. Sound public policy and informed citizen and stakeholder actions can achieve an attractive quality of life, a robust economy, a thriving natural environment, healthy living, efficient government, and an engaged and informed citizenry.

This Plan is broken up into five main sections: an introduction, which describes the background, purpose, and principles that guided the formulation of the plan; a section describing the process of developing the plan; a description of the public engagement process; the Sustainability Plan itself; and finally, the Sustainability Short Term Work Plan, which breaks down plan initiatives on a year-by-year basis for a five year period, including budgeting, roles and responsibilities, and timeframes. The Plan is a dynamic, living document; it will be updated on a scheduled timeline to ensure that when new or unforeseen opportunities arise, the City is able to take advantage of these prospects.

Four categories of projects arose from participatory sessions, including: Resource Conservation & Waste Reduction; Ecology, Biodiversity, and Health & Wellness; Outreach and Education; and Economic Prosperity. Dunwoody believes that sustainability can only be addressed from a holistic level, hence the need for focusing not only on sustaining the environment, but also the economy, social interactions, and community education. Education--keeping citizens informed and involved--is a critical component of all sections of the plan. In keeping with this philosophy, the Plan calls for many different departments of the City to work together, including but not limited to Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Economic Development, Marketing, and the Dunwoody Police, to ensure that projects address the sustainability needs of every department affected. Many action items fit under more than one heading, but for the sake creating a concise document have been assigned to the most relevant category, with responsibility for the items shared by multiple departments.

We hope that this plan will serve not just as a roadmap but as a catalyst for our community to take sustainable actions in their day-to-day lives. Sustainability is a community concept—the Sustainability Plan is a first step in uniting our community towards preserving our resources and creating new resources for future generations. A Sustainable Dunwoody will serve the interests of our residents, our businesses and our children by integrating environmental stewardship, social connectedness, and economic development into a holistic management approach to our City. Done right, the results of a well-implemented Sustainability Plan will be enhanced economic, environmental, and social well-being for all our citizens and a stronger, more resilient city.

## I. Introduction

Since Dunwoody's incorporation in December 2008, the City of Dunwoody has completed a Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Comprehensive Transportation Plan, two sub-area Master Plans, and a Parks and Green Space Plan. Each of these efforts has incorporated the broad concept of sustainability, but each has also called for a more in-depth analysis and visioning effort. Specifically, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan identifies the need for a separate sustainability plan in the Short Term Work Program. This Sustainability Plan process will determine the sustainability focus of the City moving forward. The basic goals of the planning process are refined from previous planning processes:

- Reflect on established community values
- Synthesize values into a vision statement
- Develop strategy areas to focus efforts
- Identify goals and prioritize actions

The expected outcomes of the plan and its subsequent implementation are to achieve:

- Community well-being
- Good governance
- A vibrant local economy
- Efficient services and infrastructure
- A healthy natural environment

The City of Dunwoody's Sustainability Plan will help develop a robust, complete sustainability strategy that leads us toward environmental, equitable, and economic sustainability. The process and recommendations for the City of Dunwoody Sustainability Plan are outlined herein and take into account the local context and state of the community.

## II. Developing the Plan

One of the Mayor and Council's first actions following incorporation was to create an advisory board for sustainability-related matters, the Sustainability Committee (formerly the "Sustainability Commission"). Beginning in 2009, the Sustainability Committee's first goal was to pursue the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Green Communities Program Certification, with an aggressive schedule to advance certification levels. ARC's Green Communities awards points in 10 categories covering different areas of sustainability. This program encourages local governments to reduce their environmental impact through incremental, organizational policy and procedure changes. The City was awarded Bronze Certification in December 2010 and Silver Certification in December 2011. Gold status, the highest level achievable, was awarded in January 2014.

While pursuing the Green Communities Certification, the Sustainability Committee began recommending direction for City policies, allowing the City to lead by example and show Dunwoody's citizens our commitment to implementing sustainable practices. Policies adopted for Bronze Certification include No Net Loss of Trees; Green Purchasing; Lights-Off, Power Down; and No Idling. In the second phase of certification, the City began amending ordinances and creating programs related to zoning and development in the City. During this time, the City Council adopted a Dark Skies Ordinance, amended the parking and pavement regulations to allow the use of pervious pavement, and added incentives for utilizing green building techniques.

Though advising on policy and incentives is important to our work, the Sustainability Committee focuses the majority of its efforts on public outreach and education. These efforts are showcased by a program launched in 2012, the Living and Learning Campaign: Smart Choices for the Dunwoody Citizen. The Committee was branded in 2011 with the rest of the City's "Smart City—Smart People" campaign; the "Smart Phrase" selected by the Committee was "Smart Choices." The Committee felt this phrase embodies the current and future path sought after by its members.

The Living and Learning Campaign capitalizes on existing projects hosted by the Committee, such as Rain Barrel Workshops and Recycling Events by establishing monthly and/or quarterly sustainability themes with three functions: citizen science, community events, and educational resources. From several years of outreach in the community, our experience in policy and sustainable certifications, and our directive from the Comprehensive Plan to formulate a Sustainability Plan, we have reached an ideal time to move forward with a Sustainability Plan that will address the community's environmental, economic, and equity needs.

### A. Plan Purpose

The Plan process assesses the City's current sustainability policies and programs and ties them to future goals, creating a vision for a development framework for long-term sustainability. The City of Dunwoody Sustainability Plan—a recommendation of the adopted 2010 Comprehensive Plan—will serve as a framework and work plan to protect our existing natural resources and accommodate for a balance between future development and preserving quality of life. The plan will combine public input, staff knowledge and experience, and the expertise of Sustainability Committee members to provide direction for our city's future.



A primary focus of the Plan is to determine how Dunwoody citizens and stakeholders define sustainability and how it should be addressed in the realm of the local government. The Comprehensive Plan set out goals for the Sustainability Plan process as follows:

Undertake a **Sustainability Plan that builds upon the Green Community certification** to integrate economic, environmental, and social sustainability goals, milestones, and performance measures specific to the City of Dunwoody's opportunities and challenges.

Among other objectives, the Sustainability Plan will explore:

- Green economic development, i.e. an economic outlook that values both present day financially prudent decisions and avoidance of long term costs (life cycle analysis)
- Innovative low impact development practices
- Improving residential quality of life
- Reducing costs and increasing efficiency within public facilities
- Increasing energy independence
- Increasing local food security
- Increasing quality and promoting innovation in handling the waste stream
- Reviewing and improving existing sustainable programs to increase efficiency
- Marketing implications of achieving sustainable development objectives (Comprehensive Plan, 2010)

## B. Guiding Principles

Each public meeting of the Sustainability Plan process built upon the concept of creating a sustainability vision for the City in order to establish a community definition of sustainability. Several community meetings helped to develop the following guidelines for the Sustainability Plan:

- The City of Dunwoody strives to be a national leader in education, with an innovative and progressive community that fosters citizenship and supports continued progress through green infrastructure improvements and innovative policies to encourage sustainable choices.
- The City of Dunwoody will be a City that is known for "smart choices": making efficient decisions that account for the impact on economic, social, and natural capital of our community. These choices will ensure that Dunwoody will continue to be a top city to live, work, and play.
- The City of Dunwoody aims to protect natural resources and help restore our global ecosystem, foster healthy living, and reduce the City's impact on the local environment. To that end, the City is committed to working with residents in order to create a self-sufficient community that benefits from food and fuel security, enhanced community involvement, and resource-efficient public and private facilities.

The City's sustainability vision statement is as follows:

- Dunwoody models integrity, sustainable practices, and community spirit. Sound public policy and informed citizen and stakeholder actions can achieve an attractive quality of

life, a robust economy, a thriving natural environment, healthy living, efficient government, and an engaged and informed citizenry.

Moving forward, these principles serve as guidelines for decision-making and success.

## **C. Current Conditions Analysis**

### *City Staff*

There are currently two City staff members who provide support to the Sustainability Committee and contribute to the overall sustainability program for the City of Dunwoody. Both are team members of the Community Development Department—Rebecca Keefer as the City Planner/Director of Sustainability and Drew Cutright as the Development Coordinator/Sustainability Staff. Current staff commitment to the Sustainability Committee is around 15 hours per week, total.

Part-time staff responsibilities include but are not limited to: maintaining the website, staffing the Sustainability Committee (which includes preparing for and running meetings; developing agendas, minutes, and summaries; communicating with Committee members; etc), managing the social media campaign, planning and managing events, applying for grants and awards for the City as they relate to sustainability, pursuing and maintaining ARC's Green Communities Certification, and reviewing, drafting, and implementing sustainable policies and procedures.

### *Sustainability Committee*

The Sustainability Committee currently meets on a monthly basis from 7:45 a.m. until 9 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Their mission is to:

Enable smart choices for our community and its residents by promoting, through education, outreach, and awareness efforts, the conservation of energy, water, and fuel; investment in renewable energy; reduction of waste; and protecting and restoring the community's natural resources. To advise and assist the City of Dunwoody to develop sustainable measures, practices, buildings, and fleets that are environmentally, economically, and socially responsible.

The Committee serves in an advisory role rather than a decision-making role, and the majority of business is conducted during the monthly meetings. Staff generates the meeting agenda based upon items added at Committee members' request, presentations, or reports from the public, and staff project direction. Members of the Committee have been appointed by the Mayor and City Council based upon their content knowledge of aspects of sustainability, their affiliation with a specific group whose mission or goals include sustainability, and/or interest in the topic of sustainability. The role of the Sustainability Committee throughout this process will be to garner community input by informing others about the planning process, to inspire community members to attend public meetings, and to assist with the content and editing of the Plan.

## **D. Public Engagement**

Public input and support is integral to guiding the City's policymakers as well as the success of the Plan. This section details the public participation plan, which harnessed engagement

in the Sustainability Plan process. The result of the participation plan and the input gleaned from its participants is incorporated throughout the Plan.

The public engagement process consisted of a kickoff meeting and subsequent meetings, which each covered two category areas. Each meeting benefitted the plan by allowing citizens to learn about the planning process itself and communicate their priorities for the Plan. The input is compiled into brief summaries based on the category areas.

In addition to public meetings, particular effort was made to reach out to students in the community. The opinions expressed during the public engagement meetings and student outreach were synthesized by staff into goals and actions to be taken by the City to pursue desired outcomes. The goals are organized into the same category areas as discussed above. Refined components of those areas have been highlighted and addressed by the goals and recommendations that follow.

## **1. Sustainability Plan Kickoff Meeting**

The Sustainability Plan Kickoff Meeting established a baseline for the community, educated them on where we have been, and assessed the direction in which we should go. Members of the community participated in activities to synthesize the City's vision of sustainability. While there are many definitions of sustainability, it is important to determine what is right for this community as we develop a Sustainability Plan.

Activities at the kickoff meeting included envisioning the City at least 10 years in the future, running smoothly and accomplishing goals. The task was to imagine what a local reporter would write about Dunwoody's success. What are the headlines? What vocabulary is used? What does the article convey?

After everyone reported what they would like to see in the paper and recorded it for all to read, they received green dots to identify their priorities among the ideas listed. Some of the top priorities are:

- Revitalize Parks and Recreation with gardens, bike racks/routes, paths, nature
- Water reclamation in schools, government, and apartments-stormwater collection
- Model for neighborhood agriculture, model for green retrofits, clean air, and water

Next, the group identified categories the Plan should address that would help the City achieve the vision concepts from the previous exercise. Staff reviewed those category ideas and developed a list to inform the future Plan meetings and the overall structure of the Plan. The ideas for these areas were grouped as follows: Neighborhood Agriculture, Energy, Green Building, Recycling, Hazardous Waste, Transportation, Education, Local Sourcing, Water, Air, and Preservation of the Natural Environment. While transportation and green space were focuses for the community, it is important to not rely solely on current input but to also refer to the Comprehensive Transportation and Parks Plans, as discussed in the Plan's Synergies section. The topics that inform the rest of the Plan and incorporate the ideals of the community are as follows: Synergies with Other Plans; Resource Conservation & Waste Reduction; Ecology, Biodiversity, and Public Health (later amended to Health & Wellness); Education & Outreach; and Economic Prosperity.

## 2. Category Area Meetings

After determining the direction and focus of the Plan, staff categorized meetings into relevant topics. Doing so enabled staff to invite members of the public to attend meetings related to their particular areas of interest. Members of the community gathered to discuss individual topic areas that would serve to assist the City in assessing current conditions, identifying assets that already exist, and defining a description of success moving forward. Three components of each topic were discussed during these meetings to gather input: current reality, assets, and definitions of success. Worksheets for each of the assessment areas were distributed and discussed as a group. Some of the public sentiment expressed in each category meeting is detailed below; however, public input is reflected throughout the plan.

### *Public Input-Resource Conservation & Waste Reduction*

Members of the community discussed their perception of the current state of Resource Conservation and Waste Reduction in the City at the second meeting. Several respondents indicated that there was a lack of regulations and bylaws in the City that have “teeth” in protecting these resources. An additional concern is the negative impact of changing weather patterns, as well as associated stormwater issues. Many citizens in the City have seemingly conflicting concerns regarding sustainability and the preservation of natural resources. They believe actions to accommodate these issues potentially infringe on property rights. There is a fine line, but the City of Dunwoody would like to marry these concepts for people to enjoy their land without causing a detriment to the greater community, understanding that with rights comes responsibility. Thoughtful application of policies and ordinances and variance procedures will foster this dynamic.

### *Public Input- Ecology, Biodiversity, and Health & Wellness*

The Ecology, Biodiversity, and Health & Wellness category was discussed at the third public meeting. Citizens were very passionate about their concerns for this topic, and a rich discussion ensued regarding what the ideal vision for Dunwoody would be. While not everyone agreed on the methods, citizens did concur on a priority to sustain and improve their current quality of life.

### *Public Input-Economics*

While many participants in the economic prosperity discussion were content with the growth promoted by the City, some citizens disagreed with the current development initiatives and favored funding maintenance issues over capital improvements. There is a significant amount of discourse over this topic because, while there is no disagreement that the City should be economically sustainable and not spend more than it takes in, the implementation phase of many plans has begun. As a result, the decisions that are being physically realized have stirred debate over what makes the City economically sustainable. There is also the strongest evidence of the resource conflict from sustainability theory where individual values guide those opinions.

### 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**.

### III. The Plan

The following sections outline how the City's Sustainability Plan goes from input and ideas to actionable items. Sections A-D comprise the bulk of the plan and include: Resource Conservation & Waste Reduction; Ecology, Biodiversity, and Health & Wellness; Education & Outreach; and Economic Prosperity. Each category includes a description of what the community vision of success looks like and Goals and Actions that will help the City move toward this vision of success. Section E, Organizational Structure, also includes a goal and actions but relates to the staff and internal resources necessary to complete the actions in Sections A-D.

#### A. Resource Conservation and Waste Reduction

##### ***Current Reality & Assets***

There are a plethora of assets related to Resource Conservation and Waste Reduction in Dunwoody, as the Dunwoody community is a testament to sound policy, access to resources, and other assets that preserve and protect the quality of life in the community. The most frequently cited were: the Dunwoody Nature Center and all it has to offer (location with natural resources, dedicated staff, and a master plan of their own); access to a number of community recycling drop-offs, as well as free recycling from DeKalb County; the community gardens; intellectual capital (libraries, internet, and environmental blogs); numerous community organizations (e.g.: the Dunwoody Homeowners Association, Eagle Scouts, etc); Dunwoody Sustainability Committee; and policy and leadership from City Council. Dunwoody has opened parts of the Brook Run Trail and increased community food options with the introduction of the Dunwoody Green Market (farmers market).

##### ***Descriptions of Success***

To conserve resources and reduce waste, community members and visitors must act as stewards of the natural environment. The City should provide continual learning about natural areas and species to inform appropriate restoration and protection efforts and the broad applicability of sustainability-focused ordinances.

A sustainable Dunwoody is balanced. It preserves and values the natural resources it has while reducing its waste. It preserves property rights and the necessary aspects of beneficial growth and development while conveying the responsibility of property owners and developers to their greater community. The following categories break down a few of the many actions that will be taken to move towards this vision of success in conservation and reduction of waste.

##### **1. Energy**

The City of Dunwoody is pursuing initiatives to reduce energy consumption by the City through adopting an outdoor lighting ordinance and a sustainable building policy for municipal buildings. In order to further promote increased energy efficiency, the City strives to:

Goal 1: Amend city actions/purchasing policy to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- Action 1: Complete an audit of government buildings to determine where future energy costs can be avoided/produce report and implementation plan.
- Action 2: Create timeline/funding goals and locate funding sources for energy efficiency investments by the City.
- Action 3: Develop a demonstration renewable energy project on city-owned property.

Goal 2: Amend city policy to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- Action 1: Develop a City clean energy policy for municipal buildings and facilities, with a specific focus on the impact of energy usage on water and air and a preference for renewable energy. [ARC](#)
- Action 2: Amend the municipal sustainable building policy to require that specific energy savings and renewables are used when economics prevent the City from pursuing certification.
- Action 3: Pursue PACE financing, Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), and ways of working with non-governmental agencies through partnerships to promote commercial and residential renewable energy.
- Action 4: Evaluate and pursue incentives for new construction to incorporate educational renewable energy projects (LEED® innovation credits, development incentives, etc.).
- Action 5: Pursue funding for City to install and use renewable energy generating equipment on city property for city use.

Goal 3: Create educational campaign for city staff and public on renewable options/energy efficiency.

- Action 1: Create educational materials, partner with local schools to adopt similar policies of energy efficiency, lights off/power down, and create and utilize other educational resources.
- Action 2: Create educational materials for community about renewable energy, energy efficiency, and related energy incentives, have materials available on City website, and distribute.

## 2. Green Building

In order to be competitive, portions of the commercial real estate market would benefit from green building techniques. Especially within the Perimeter office market, tenants often seek LEED certified or energy efficient buildings that set these spaces apart from competing buildings or communities. While entitlements exist for new buildings, there has not been much large-scale development activity in many years. Developments such as Sterling Pointe and the State Farm regional headquarters bring opportunity. Dunwoody office space is being compared to newer buildings in Atlanta, Buckhead, and Sandy Springs that offer LEED certified buildings and energy efficient products. Dunwoody can be a leader in green building by setting up meaningful policies that guide development and retrofits.

Goal 1: Incentivize green building through policy change.

- Action 1: Review/audit existing ordinances and code to incentivize green building standards.
- Action 2: Investigate existing systems in nearby cities that fast-track developments with sustainable improvements and adopt an amended version. [EPA](#)
- Action 3: Develop ordinances that accommodate additional green building certifications.

Goal 2: Develop partnerships in green building.

- Action 1: Research and develop contacts/partnerships with other certifying organizations: Energy Star, Earth Craft (SouthFace), Living Buildings Challenge, and other certifiers.
- Action 2: Pursue Earthcraft Neighborhood Development for new subdivision developments. [MP](#)

Goal 3: Provide education and outreach for builders and developers on green building. [EPA](#)

- Action 1: Create green building resource page on website.
- Action 2: Provide annual green building training for developers and builders.

### 3. Recycling

The City of Dunwoody will continue its tradition of high recycling participation because of its importance to reducing the waste stream and promoting resource reuse. In summer 2012, DeKalb County removed the \$30 initiation fee for residential recycling to increase participation. The City can capitalize on this decision through increased education and awareness of the program and its ease of use. The Sustainability Committee underwent a school recycling initiative that began at the end of the 2011 school year. That initiative wrapped up in 2013 after the program was introduced in each Dunwoody school. Commercial sector recycling is not tracked the same way as residential; therefore, it is difficult to determine the current level of participation. The Committee has now initiated a business recycling program to inform businesses of recycling carrier options and the materials they accept. Additional actions to address the goal of increased participation are enumerated below:

Goal 1: Increase recycling infrastructure.

- Action 1: Increase recycling and reduce littering by installing trash and recycling receptacles along streetscapes.
- Action 2: Review any changes to City municipal sanitation when intergovernmental agreement with DeKalb County expires in 2015, and ensure that continued agreement or new contract results in increased participation.
- Action 3: Work with multi-family developments to provide recycling services and require it in any new developments through an ordinance amendment.
- Action 4: Work with commercial developments to provide recycling services and require it in any commercial buildings through an ordinance amendment.

Goal 2: Educate public/commercial businesses about recycling options.

- Action 1: Audit participation for residential recycling and increase households participating in recycling program by 10 percent before 2020.
- Action 2: Develop recycling education initiative for institutional uses when business recycling initiative is complete.
- Action 3: Establish a relationship with DeKalb County schools and develop a tracking program to ensure recycling programs continue as students graduate and their parent/guardian volunteers move on.

#### **4. Composting**

While adding infrastructure and developing a recycling educational program helps decrease the waste stream, it does not address a central component of waste in our city: food waste. Food waste accounts for over 27% of waste, and handling it in an environmentally responsible manner can greatly reduce our waste stream, thus lessening the burden on landfills and providing a valuable resource for agriculture and gardening by creating compost.

Goal 1: Educate homeowners/renters and commercial food production facilities about benefits of composting.

- Action 1: Investigate any ordinances/measures prohibiting or hampering home composting efforts and perform outreach to neighborhoods about benefits and new technology.
- Action 2: Develop a “how to” program in partnership with Dunwoody Nature Center.

Goal 2: Provide resources for homeowners for home composting.

- Action 1: Develop educational materials.
- Action 2: Develop a kitchen counter bin giveaway.

Goal 3: Initiate commercial composting pilot project by 2025.

- Action 1: Evaluate potential partner facilities, potential drop-off/aggregation facilities, and suitable size for pilot project.
- Action 2: Create partnerships with the haulers and 5-10 restaurants, hotels, etc.
- Action 3: Pursue funding and necessary infrastructure for project.

#### **5. Government Operations & Resources**

The City’s purchasing policy was adopted by ordinance in 2010 and stipulates a responsibility, wherever practical, to purchase the highest percentage of post-consumer recovered material, the highest percentage of total recovered material available in the marketplace, and a reduction of waste in the manufacture and use of products and packaging purchased by the City. The policy contemplates the consideration of life cycle assessments for purchases such as office materials, vehicle fleets, electronics, and fixtures. While many beneficial actions have been made as a result of the policy, it can be better integrated into City processes to maximize its effectiveness. Strategies for the integration are as follows:

Goal 1: Develop action strategy for ensuring all existing purchasing policies are followed.

- Action 1: Conduct annual trainings and audits to remind staff of those policies and incorporate into new member training.
- Action 2: Amend purchasing policy to include review and enforcement of purchases over a certain threshold by sustainability staff to ensure compliance with applicable policies (threshold to be determined and defined in policy research).
- Action 3: Work with Police, Public Works, and Community Development to consider alternatively-fueled vehicles.

Goal 2: Implement traceable standards and tracking systems.

- Action 1: Track municipal printing and implement a department printing reduction competition to reduce printing by 25% within the first year.
- Action 2: Develop an Environmental Management System to track municipal consumption and adopt reduction goals.

Goal 3: Adjust paper usage policy for city meetings.

- Action 1: Adopt a paper reduction policy for all official public meetings.

Goal 4: Implement a participatory budgeting policy.

- Action 1: Develop a written policy and implement annually.
- Action 2: Request a budget amount to be set aside for participatory budgeting purposes.
- Action 3: Develop and publish a list of projects to be considered for participatory budgeting. Conduct the democratic process to determine prioritized projects by the community.
- Action 4: Complete prioritized projects identified by community.

## **6. Trees**

Trees are integral to Dunwoody's identity and landscape. During the Comprehensive Land Use Planning process, the City recognized the need to complete a tree inventory and assessment of the urban forest and to create and implement a best management plan to promote the long-term survivability of this valuable natural resource. The Comprehensive Tree Inventory and Assessment Plan, adopted in September 2012, provides recommendations for individual trees and woodland management or improvement, control of invasive plant material, removal of hazard trees, pruning of limbs for safety or clearance, plant health care treatments, soil amendments, pest management, and other actions to improve the health, safety, and survivability of the trees. The consultants assessed the existing public tree canopy and determined it to be in good health. A maintenance plan has been implemented as a result of that assessment. Trees are a renewable resource that can be replaced if a careful plan is followed when they are removed for meaningful development. Additional actions to maintain and revitalize the canopy are as follows:

Goal 1: Assess existing tree conditions on a timeline.

- Action 1: Conduct tree inventory assessments of public property every five years, beginning 2020.
- Action 2: Conduct a citywide, voluntary canopy assessment of trees within the City.
- Conduct GIS remote sensing analysis of city-wide tree canopy.

Goal 2: Set tree canopy cover standards by number or percentage.

- Action 1: Analyze results of inventory to identify deficiencies in canopy and set goal for increase of tree cover percentage.
- Action 2: Develop educational materials for tree planting, care, and preservation.

## 7. Water-Conservation and Green Infrastructure

2013 brought over 66 inches of rainfall to the Dunwoody area, but just 5 years prior, Dunwoody and the entire state of Georgia experienced record draught. It is important not to let one “good” year erase the valuable lessons learned in previous years when water supply was short.

Though the plan is broken up into distinct categories, it is important to continually emphasize the interconnectedness of those categories. For instance, electricity production, the primary source of air emissions in Georgia, could not occur without massive amounts of water. Power, utility fuel processing, cooling, materials handling, combustion, and environmental control all require water. Thermoelectric power, power generated from a heat source such as coal, oil, or steam, accounts for over 40% of water withdrawals in the U.S. Much of this water is never returned to its source or evaporates in the process of cooling; at Georgia’s Plant Scherer, around 8,000 gallons of water are lost per minute to evaporation during the cooling process. Renewable energy technologies, such as solar, do not use water to produce energy, and, at a time when water supplies and quality are constantly in question, are gaining more and more popular and policy support.

Water quality is equal in importance to quantity. Dunwoody currently conducts a program to install storm drain markers discouraging dumping and holds workshops for residents on setting up and operating rain barrels for re-use of rain in landscaping. By encouraging reduced individual usage, reuse of greywater, and thoughtful disposal of materials that could run-off into nearby streams, Dunwoody can do much towards preventing and preparing for future shortages and protecting our water supply. For City projects we focus on incorporating best practices in green infrastructure into new and retrofitted City developments.

Goal 1: Develop resources and promote policies that assist residents in conserving water.

- Action 1: Pool existing resources and develop resources for homeowners and renters on how to conserve and reuse water and the economic and environmental benefits associated. Make the information available online and in print.
- Action 2: Investigate existing state and/or local regulations on greywater lines and potential for a future installation program.

Goal 2: Evaluate/Implement low-impact and green infrastructure in Public Works projects.

- Action 1: Consider bioswales or other green infrastructure in public projects (combats stormwater requirements and provides for aesthetic solutions in accordance with MS4 permit regulations.) **T**
- Action 2: Perform analysis and assessment on stormwater system and design guidelines for low impact development solutions for City projects. **T**



- Action 3: Investigate incidence of infrastructure in flood-prone areas to alleviate flooding.

Goal 3: Obtain informational materials and make decisions based on water quality.

- Action 1: Work with DeKalb County to make drinking water quality tests available to the public.
- Action 2: Consider education and action depending on the results of the water quality tests.

## **B. Ecology, Biodiversity, & Public Health**

### ***Current Reality & Assets***

As the City moves forward with projects such as the Dunwoody Village Parkway complete streets initiative and the multi-use Brook Run trail, it is critical to observe a healthy balance between development and preservation. Moving forward, this section will serve as a set of guidelines for preserving and protecting our existing natural resources while promoting a healthy level of development.

One of the primary assets related to this category is the presence of community groups that either foster other organizations or directly promote ecology, biodiversity, and health & wellness—student organizations, homeowners associations, Dunwoody parks, Dunwoody Woman’s Club, community gardens, and other cultural organizations like Spruill Center for the Arts and the Stage Door Players. Trees and treed areas are priority assets.

### ***Descriptions of Success***

The community defines success in the area of Ecology, Biodiversity, and Health & Wellness where City ordinances expressly allow neighborhood-scaled agriculture and promote policies that protect existing plant and animal habitats and encourage responsible use of public resources such as water, air, and green space.

#### **1. Neighborhood-Scaled Agriculture**

In 2009 community members organized the development of a community garden at Brook Run Park. Since then, there have been educational, philanthropic, and health benefits that have fostered a renewed interest in local food production. The city sees local food as a way to create community, beautify public space, and provide access to basic resources. Below are some ways in which the city will promote community agriculture.

Goal 1: Promote and develop neighborhood-scaled agriculture.

- Action 1: Develop a sustainable grounds (sustainable landscaping and education) plan with the potential for a community garden on the site of City Hall when it is moved from Perimeter Center East.
- Action 2: Inventory and assess vacant public land for agricultural potential.
- Action 3: Generate a GIS map of public, edible plants and fruiting trees that identifies fruiting schedule.



Goal 2: Promote and develop policy/events that encourage neighborhood-scaled agriculture.

- Action 1: Foster a farmer's market on City park property and break down obstacles to acceptance of WIC payments.
- Action 2: Evaluate policies that would allow local restaurants to grow food on site.
- Action 3: Develop policies to incorporate edible plants into City projects.
- Action 4: Conduct public input process to determine feasibility of removing barriers for the keeping of backyard chickens and other neighborhood-scaled livestock.
- Action 5: Conduct public input process to consider allowing neighborhood-scaled agriculture as a primary use when applying for a special land use permit in any R-district. Consider permitting the primary use-by-right in any multi-family residential or commercial district.

## **2. Open Space/Plant & Wildlife**

Preserving and restoring green space and planning for diversity of plant and animal life is critical, not only to our community's ecosystem but also in providing well-balanced and enjoyable recreation spaces for residents. Below are a few ways that both the City and residents can promote responsible open space management.

Goal 1: Ensure that biodiversity, a variety of native plant and animal life, is a consideration and part of acquisition of new park land and landscaping in existing parks.

- Action 1: Incorporate elements of patch design that can be implemented in the City parks landscape.
- Action 2: Incorporate multiple, continuous, wide wildlife corridors between patches through the use of green infrastructure.

Goal 2: Encourage residents to promote a variety of native plant and animal life, also known as biodiversity.

- Action 1: Provide resident educational materials on native plantings and creating habitats for beneficial animals and insects.

## **3. Water (Streams and Stormwater)**

Water is crucial to our city's infrastructure, natural beauty, and environmental well-being. Numerous streams run throughout the City, and years of development around and on top of those streams have caused detrimental effects of flooding and degradation that should be managed to restore and protect the stream habitats and their neighboring properties.

Some strategies to continue protecting our local waterways are as follows:

Goal 1: Restore and preserve existing streams and buffers.

- Action 1: Undergo a stream quality and quantity inventory of all streams and develop a maintenance and action plan for those located on City property.
- Action 2: Install "Drains to Stream" plaques on all City storm drains.

- Action 3: Develop a policy to evaluate each City project to determine the feasibility of bio-engineering, pervious pavement, or rain gardens to manage stormwater.
- Action 4: Create incentives for the installation of water quality devices on projects where not already required by ordinance.
- Action 5: Install regional stormwater management solutions for identified communities. **MP**

#### 4. Air

Air is a public resource with little local regulation or policy. Air is primarily regulated on a regional and national level through the Clean Air Act. Although these regulations can be highly technical, the intent can be translated. Additionally, our actions as individuals, through government, and as local businesses can make a great impact in the air quality in Dunwoody.

The primary source of air emissions (pollution) in Georgia and the United States comes from the process of generating electricity. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency attributes 67% of sulfur dioxide emissions and 23% of nitrogen oxide emissions to this process. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide are directly linked to smog, acid rain, illness, and death rates. For further information and more detailed breakdowns of individual power plants' emissions, the EPA provides its online eGRID reports. As effects of these emissions multiply, policymakers have taken greater interest in renewable energy technologies, such as solar and wind energy, which have significantly lower emissions, as a preventive measure.

The City should work to protect the air quality in the following ways:

Goal 1: Address vehicle usage and fueling.

- Action 1: Investigate alternatively fueled vehicles for City vehicle acquisition, ensure there is access to alternative fuel, and create plan for ensuring use of alternative fuel.
- Action 2: Work with DeKalb County to expand the no idling policy to refer to County properties, including schools, where students can benefit from cleaner air.
- Action 3: Partner with electric or other alternatively fueled vehicle services to provide charging/fueling stations on City property to establish a workable infrastructure.
- Action 4: Sign up City officials for Clean Air Campaign's smog alert service and relay alerts through City website.

Goal 2: Research/Implement employee commute program.

- Action 1: Work with existing programs at the Perimeter Transportation and Sustainability Commission (PTSC) and the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts (PCIDs) or similar organizations to implement an employee commute program to incentivize carpooling or alternative modes of transportation to reduce smog levels at peak times.
- Action 2: Develop an employee match program to assist coworkers in finding carpooling matches within the City's employees and contractors.

## 5. Health & Wellness

While the quality of air and water, as discussed in this category, affect public health, there are some additional strategies the City of Dunwoody can incorporate to promote a healthier population:

Goal 1: Provide education and access to public health resources.

- Action 1: Develop walking/biking guides for the City of Dunwoody in partnership with PTSC and PCIDs or similar organizations.
- Action 2: Provide access to and education regarding youth physical fitness, healthful nutrition, and mental well-being programs-work with DeKalb County Health.
- Action 3: Provide access to and education regarding aging populations' physical fitness, healthful nutrition, and mental well-being programs (work with DeKalb County Health).
- Action 4: Provide education regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety on and near roadways.

Goal 2: Consider the impact development on public health.

- Action 1: Conduct feasibility study on new and existing developments regarding necessity of health impact assessments. **T**
- Action 2: Encourage new developments to incorporate connectivity to current and planned multi-modal transportation options, with a particular focus on aging and younger populations with support of ordinances.

## 6. Transportation

Transportation behaviors and systems play a major role in the long-term well-being of the ecology, biodiversity, and health of the City, region, and beyond. Earlier plans have studied and made recommendations for transportation improvements; many of those recommendations are included below. As stated in the Synergies Section of this plan, transportation planning today must not seek to accommodate just the automobile but recognize that a holistic approach to transportation provides citizens choice among the most common methods of transportation—the automobile, public transportation, the bicycle, and our own standard equipment--our feet.

A sustainable transportation plan includes plans to enhance not only the flow and utility of automobile use but accommodate the growing market demand for walkable and bikable cities. This approach to transportation is often referred to as "multi-modal" transportation and is the hallmark of today's livable city. The overarching aspiration of the transportation portion of this plan is to create well-balanced transportation options that serve the needs of Dunwoody businesses and residents for commuting, recreation, or the performance of daily in town functions.

Study after study shows that enhancing the transportation options in a city result in greater economic benefit to the citizens and the city. A higher walk score translates to higher home value estimates, and one only has to visit the smaller commercial centers in Dunwoody on weekends to see the number of citizens choosing to bike or walk around town. The City

strives to work with the Perimeter CIDs, BikeWalk Dunwoody, and other similar organizations to offer more transportation and recreational options to Dunwoody citizens.

Goal 1: Fulfill the sustainability goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

- Action 1: Support PCIDs or similar organizations' initiatives for last mile infrastructure (efforts to install pedestrian facilities adjacent to transit to reduce barriers) in proximity to MARTA and Walk-Ups. **LU**
- Action 2: Develop (pedestrian-scaled) wayfinding signage program to enhance walkability and a sense of place. **LU**
- Action 3: Pursue connectivity with:
  - Pernoshal Court extension
  - Establish connections between Master Plan areas throughout the Chamblee Dunwoody Corridor. **MP**

Goal 2: Evaluate/Amend parking policies. **T**

- Action 1: Add provisions in the Land Development Ordinance requiring bicycle and scooter parking.
- Action 2: Perform citywide parking analysis to determine if the City is over-parked. If so, reevaluate parking standards.
- Action 3: Create vehicle parking maximums and eliminate parking minimums.
- Action 4: Incentivize alternatively-fueled vehicles by encouraging supply of preferred parking for those vehicles on City-owned properties.

Goal 3: Evaluate/Update/Upgrade infrastructure.

- Action 1: Work with PCIDs or similar organizations to upgrade and synchronize signal timing to reduce commute and idling times.
- Action 2: Satisfy the goals of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan to improve intersections, reducing commute and idling times and improving pedestrian signalization at those intersections. **T**
- Action 3: Install pedestrian improvements at uncontrolled crosswalks as recommended in the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan.
- Action 4: Increase the use of alternatively-fueled vehicles by improving the charging/fueling infrastructure through partnerships and incentives.

Goal 4: Develop a community greenway system to expand multi-modal connectivity. **REC**

- Action 1: Evaluate existing trail network for minor connections that could be made, both via GIS and on-the-ground evaluation.
- Action 2: Evaluate existing resources to connect via trail, bike/ped paths (parks, town centers, major residential centers).
- Action 3: Develop a greenway/connectivity plan, using recommendations from Transportation/Parks Plans.
- Action 4: Provide parks or multi-use paths connected to parks within 1 mile of each resident by 2030.
- Action 5: Evaluate ways to better connect neighborhood commercial centers with their surrounding neighborhoods through the use of walking and biking trails.

Goal 5: Educate the public about trails and resources through a signage program. **WFC**

- Action 1: Develop templates for trail signs incorporating Dunwoody brand, distances/times, and directional information for pedestrians/bikers.
- Action 2: Identify areas for signs and future signs.
- Action 3: Secure funding for signage.
- Action 4: Develop and distribute bicycle and pedestrian maps (available via internet, paper copy, or possibly larger signage in high traffic areas).

Goal 6: Promote multi-modal commuting. **BFC & T**

- Action 1: Evaluate existing facilities, end-of-trip facilities, and bicycle parking on public and private properties.
- Action 2: Promote commuting incentives on City website and in City print materials in conjunction with the Perimeter Transportation and Sustainability Coalition.
- Action 3: Survey bike commuters and use existing survey data to incorporate user experience into connectivity plan.
- Action 4: Educate drivers about bike rights/Georgia state law regarding bicycles/pedestrians.
- Action 5: Develop a bicycle parking policy for City property.
- Action 6: Develop or endorse a bike-share program for multi-modal hubs within the City.
- Action 7: Develop a bicycle parking policy and capital improvement strategy for city-owned properties.
- Action 8: Work with Safe Routes to Schools (or similar organization) to utilize audit data on how many students are walking, biking and evaluate the routes for “holes” and safety issues.

Goal 7: Comprehensive Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan **BFC & WFC**

- Action 1: Develop framework, goals, committee, and public outreach plan for Comprehensive Bike Plan.
- Action 2: Identify and incorporate cross-over from Transportation Plan/Connectivity Plan.
- Action 3: Develop timeline and secure funding.
- Action 4: Develop plan.

Goal 8: Focus the future growth demand around the transit stations, creating high density, mixed use environments to meet the goals of the Perimeter community and the region. **PCID**

- Action 1: Develop a bicycle parking policy and capital improvement strategy for city-owned properties.
- Action 2: Explore Walk Friendly Community designation.

Goal 9: Connect neighborhood centers, recognizing them in area, park, and master plans. **DeK**

- Action 1: Identify Dunwoody Village as neighborhood center, Perimeter Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) as Regional center, and I-285 and Chamblee Dunwoody as a town center in all future plans.

- Action 2: Identify other potential town/neighborhood centers.
- Action 3: Identify existing connections/potential connections between centers.
- Action 4: Make connections between centers a priority in bike/pedestrian plans.

Goal 10: Identify existing work on sidewalks with Public Works Department and develop a map of existing/planned walks. [WFC](#)

- Action 1: Identify high priority areas, in particular areas directly connecting neighborhood centers/ development nodes to residential areas.
- Action 2: Install sidewalks development on all arterials and collectors and within one mile of schools. [DeK](#)
- Action 3: Develop timeline and funding for “filling in holes.”

Goal 11: Enhance walkability from neighborhoods to neighborhood commercial centers. [WFC](#)

- Action 1: Identify existing work on sidewalks with Public Works Department and develop a map of existing/planned walks.
- Action 2: Develop a plan to better connect neighborhood commercial centers with their surrounding neighborhoods through the use of walking and biking trails, focusing initially on Dunwoody Village and the Jett Ferry.
- Action 3: Develop collaboration with the neighborhoods adjacent to and/or served by the neighborhood commercial centers noted in Action 2, above, to explore better multi-modal connectivity to their neighborhood commercial center.
- Action 4: Complete a neighborhood connectivity pilot project.

Goal 12: Collaborate with neighboring municipalities in connecting intra-city, multi-modal trails and greenways:

- Action 1: Engage neighboring cities to explore possible trail or greenway connectivity collaboration.
- Action 2: Complete a multi-city collaboration pilot project.

## C. Education & Outreach

### ***Current Reality & Assets***

There are existing initiatives and organizations that serve the community and greater region related to sustainability education and outreach, and it is important that these opportunities are harnessed and supplemented by the work of the City of Dunwoody and the Sustainability Committee. The Committee currently works closely with the Dunwoody Nature Center, Georgia Perimeter College’s programming (formerly GPC Southeastern Institute for Sustainability), the Sustainability and Environmental Education Coordinating Committee (SEEC), and the Dunwoody Community Garden, among others. With the help of these partners, Dunwoody can become a leader in sustainability education.

Living and Learning, the Sustainability Committee’s education and outreach program, and the above-mentioned partner organizations, are the major assets of Education & Outreach. The ability to utilize staff for outreach opportunities allows the program to be professionally managed and organized by City government itself. Working very closely with staff, the Sustainability Committee’s main charge is to promote the conservation of energy, water, and fuel; investment in renewable energy; reduction of waste; and protecting and restoring

the community's natural resources through education and outreach. The volunteers of the Committee contribute knowledge and volunteer time that could not be duplicated within the government staffing structure.

One of our strongest partners and greatest assets is the Dunwoody Nature Center (DNC), a 501(c)(3) based in Dunwoody Park. Like a number of the City park stewards, DNC operates independently but in partnership with the City. The programs are implemented by DNC staff with only maintenance assistance from the City. The Dunwoody Nature Center's mission is as follows:

Dunwoody Nature Center inspires the love of nature and cultivates environmental understanding and stewardship by:

- Conserving and enhancing Dunwoody Park
- Educating children, families, and adults of all ages about the natural world and our place in it
- Motivating environmental awareness and responsible action

### ***Descriptions of Success***

Education can inspire the behavior change that defines a more sustainable city. Success in education and outreach are interwoven throughout the Sustainability Plan's different focus areas; however, awareness about the plan itself will be critical to its widespread acceptance. Additionally, general guidelines and standards for the outreach and education program ensure consistent, high quality results. Sustainability outreach and education will primarily be a role of the Dunwoody Sustainability Committee, but other City functions will contribute to education in the following manner:

Goal 1: Diversify outreach.

- Action 1: Increase social media participation by 10% from 2015 to 2018, based on followers and average number of monthly posts by administrator.
- Action 2: Translate educational materials into the top three languages spoken in Dunwoody to increase accessibility.

Goal 2: Provide public venues for discussion, education, and service.

- Action 1: Develop outdoor classrooms for use by schools and community groups.
- Action 2: Continue to work with community organizations like SEEC to establish sustainable education initiatives and opportunities that connect with curriculum goals in all Dunwoody schools by 2016.
- Action 3: Develop a training program for City staff and elected officials.
- Action 4: Increase participation in Living and Learning Program.

Goal 3: Develop communication strategy for sustainability efforts. [EPA](#)

- Action 1: Develop/continue Living and Learning Program for citizens.
- Action 2: Hold training session(s) for design professionals.



## D. Economic Prosperity

### ***Current Reality & Assets***

Dunwoody is one of the Atlanta metropolitan area's primary economic hubs. By the numbers, we have:

- 8.1 million square feet of office space
- 4.4 million square feet of retail
- 2,800 licensed businesses
- 93% occupied retail space
- 86% occupied office space
- 1,500 hotel rooms
- 10,154 multi-family units
- Top two professional fields: technical services (17% of jobs within City limits) and retail trade (14%)
- National or Regional headquarters to numerous businesses, including Intercontinental Hotel Group, State Farm, and the Atlanta Journal Constitution newspapers.

Most of these numbers focus on the business sector; however, many identified assets did not focus solely on our workforce. Residents identified other organizations or amenities that contribute to the economic success of the City, like parks, cultural facilities, and the Dunwoody Homeowners Association. This recognizes that being a great place to live and providing natural and cultural resources are the paramount to attracting new residents and businesses.

National research organizations as divergent as the National Association of Realtors and the Urban Land Institute all agree that close to 50 percent of Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials all want some sort of walkable, neighborhood-connected city life. The challenge, and the enormous opportunity, for traditional suburban metropolitan-area cities is to preserve the suburban charms that attracted the early residents, while balancing those characteristics with updated, more "city-like" qualities, amenities, and services that the emerging market for city living values most. This means that to remain economically prosperous, Dunwoody must plan to be more multi-modal, neighborhood-connected, and small-business friendly. The big challenge for a close-in suburban city like Dunwoody is to create and maintain a sustainable local economy by balancing the traditional economic drivers (large national corporations and franchises, well buffered from the traditional cul-de-sac neighborhoods by distances and transportation designs that keep the two very far apart), with the emerging markets' strong desire for local products, businesses, and cultural experiences closely connected to the places they live. It is this balance that this plan seeks to support.

Sustaining economic prosperity lies in creating a community that is livable and positioned for future growth. By investing in our community to promote positive growth over time, we create higher value. Investments in walkability, green space, and other citizen amenities position us to hold community value over time.



## ***Descriptions of Success***

Community members define success in economic prosperity as maintaining the current or improved quality of life and maintaining a sustainable budget through sound decisions in the best interest of the public welfare. Too often we demand that our elected official focus solely on the budget year and the short-term bottom line. Cost-based decision-making of this type can lead a city to make poor long-term investment decisions that look like positive short-term decisions because costs were kept low. It is incumbent on the City's leaders to ensure spending on sustainability is treated as long-term investments and not short-term costs--applying appropriate schedules of return on investments and depreciation of costs, and the citizens of Dunwoody must grant their elected officials the latitude to think not only in terms of cost, but also in terms of investment. The sustainable city is one that balances short-term savings with long term return on investment.

As a new government entity, Dunwoody is extremely cautious in its upfront use of public funds. It is equally imperative that the City be vigilant to the danger that a frugality to upfront costs often results in inflated or unnecessary long term maintenance and replacement costs. All projects must be carefully evaluated to ensure economic success. A strong economic infrastructure, detailed in the initiatives below, will help provide low cost, high return solutions to economic and environmental sustainability issues in both business and residential communities for the many factors that play into economic sustainability aside from direct financial concerns.

### **1. Long-term public finance**

Goal 1: Encourage government decisions that consider long-term costs.

- Action 1: Evaluate all proposed city policies for their economic costs, including environmental, social, and external impacts over a minimum five year period from date of adoption.
- Action 2: Require city contractors to provide projected 5-year maintenance budget for all city projects.

### **2. Resources for Business Development**

Goal 1: Connect new and existing Dunwoody businesses to local resources that can help them pursue a more sustainable business model.

- Action 1: Work with PCIDs, PTSC (or similar organizations) and existing business to enhance existing business recruitment process, provide information packets and website on cultural, natural, and other resources available for new businesses and residents
- Action 2: Partner with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage new and existing businesses involvement in the City's sustainability program by providing resources on recycling, multi-modal transportation, and other sustainable incentives available in Dunwoody.

Goal 2: Provide a forum for businesses to discuss sustainability

- Action 1: Partner with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a Sustainable Industry Roundtable for communication among businesses and government regarding environmental regulations and proposed policy to ensure that the City's sustainability

efforts support and enhance the current and future health of the business community.

- Action 2: Provide continuing education, through web, partnerships, or lunch-and-learn formats for marketing, cost savings, and other business concerns.

### **3. Sustainable Business (areas not covered by green building under Resource Conservation section)**

Goal 1: Evaluate resources for energy/water/waste efficiency for existing businesses.

- Action 1: Investigate/pursue participation in the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge, possibly as a partnership with the PCIDs or PTSC or similar organizations.

Goal 2: Develop a strategy and plan for promotion of local, sustainable products.

- Action 1: Develop government purchasing policy-preference for local businesses in food, supplies when within 10% of cost of non-local option. **LU**
- Action 2: Develop website component promoting local businesses and products. **LU**
- Action 3: Develop educational materials and incentives for businesses that locate within the City. **LU**
- Action 4: Support economic development strategy that promotes and encourages local, sustainable businesses. **MP/LU**
- Action 5: Explore feasibility of implementing free Wi-Fi network access city-wide or on city property in partnership with economic development. **T**

Goal 3: Encourage community redevelopment patterns that support the City's vision of sustainability **ARC**

- Action 1: Promote new types of economic development that build on the region's current resources and creative talent in info/nano/bio technology, as well as the entertainment industry.
- Action 2: Develop a redevelopment strategy for the smaller neighborhood commercial centers that are adjacent to the neighborhoods served by them.
- Action 3: Support the neighborhood connectivity strategies outlined in Section C. 6, above, ensuring citizens options to bike or walk to their neighborhood commercial center.
- Action 4: Develop a neighborhood-sensitive redevelopment strategy for the Dunwoody Village and Orchard Park commercial areas.
- Action 5: Initiate a coordinated redevelopment strategy with the City of Sandy Springs regarding enhancement or strategic redevelopment of the commercial area described by the confluence of Mount Vernon Road, Jett Ferry, and Dunwoody Club Drive.
- Action 5: Initiate a coordinated redevelopment strategy with the City of Peachtree Corners regarding enhancement or strategic redevelopment of the commercial area along the City's eastern border, along Winters Chapel Road.

## E. Organizational Structure

The sustainability program is currently managed by two City of Dunwoody staff members. Sustainability is a secondary function of their primary roles; a small fraction of the staff members' time (typically 15 hours a week) can be spent on sustainability-related projects. Our Sustainability Committee, comprised of seven members, dedicates two hours per month in work sessions and varying outside volunteer hours for event staffing and outreach and education. With this minimal, part-time commitment, we have accomplished much: ARC Green Communities Gold Certification, an active education program, and policy review and advice. In order to fulfill this plan wholly, which will establish Dunwoody as a leader in sustainable growth in the metro Atlanta area, more staff resources are required. While the City Council does not currently support the growth of the sustainability staffing structure, the Sustainability Plan goals and actions were developed with the consideration of a full-time, dedicated staff position to manage the multiple projects in this plan simultaneously, record and maximize the output of financial expenditures, and provide sustainability resources to the citizens of Dunwoody. The City of Decatur, Georgia Institute of Technology, the City of Atlanta, and many of Dunwoody's largest companies, such as Intercontinental Hotels Group (IHG), employ full-time sustainability staff with documented success. Since a dedicated staff person is not recommended by this Plan based on the feedback by the City Council at this time, staff will work with the Sustainability Committee annually to revise the Short Term Work Plan into a manageable workload for the current staffing structure. Additional recommendations for an enhanced staffing plan include:

Goal 1: Expand the capability of the staff to increase the reach and impact of the sustainability program:

- Action 1: Develop a standardized procedure for routing decisions from other Departments affecting sustainability through staff for awareness and comment.
- Action 2: Work with a member from City Council when sustainable policies are proposed to provide feedback from staff and Sustainability Committee.

## IV. Short Term Work Plan

The Short Term Work Plan covers a period of five years, from 2015-2019. We carefully reviewed each category and its action items to determine which items were accomplishable in a five year period, who is primarily responsible for their development and success, what funding is required, and where that funding will originate. Action items from the plan that do not appear in the five-year work plan have a timeline of initiation that is longer than five years. As mentioned in the Executive Summary; however, the Plan is a dynamic document. The Plan and the associated Short Term Work Plan will be reviewed by the Sustainability Committee every quarter for the first year (beginning with the date of adoption) and every six months following the first year, with edits taken to the City Council for review.

Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Resource Conservation & Waste Reduction														
1	Energy	Perform audits of governments buildings--make recommended changes		√			√	Parks and Recreation (PR)		\$10,000			\$50,000	General Fund/Grants (PR)
2	Energy	Create timeline/funding goals for government only energy efficiency policy	√	√	√	√	√	Sustainability Committee (SC), Community Development (CD)	Staff: 30 hours					General Fund
3	Energy	Develop incentives for new const. to incorporate renewable energy		√				Sustainability Committee (Community Development)		Staff: 100 hours				General Fund
4	Energy	Develop and implement a plan to install electric vehicle charging stations on City property	√	√	√			Sustainability Committee (Community Development)	\$5,000 Staff: 100 hours	\$10,000 Staff: 20 hours	\$10,000 Staff: 20 hours			General Fund
5	Green Building	Develop energy educational materials for local school and community		√				Sustainability Committee (Community Development)		Staff: 100 hours				General Fund
6	Green Building	Review existing ordianances in other cities that incentivize green building	√					Sustainability Committee, Community Development	Staff: 10 hours					General Fund

Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
7	Green Building	Develop ordinances that accommodate additional green bld certifications				√		Sustainability Committee, Community Development				Staff: 50 hours		General Fund
8	Green Building	Pursue green bld. cert. for Renaissance 19 acres	√					City Manager, Community Development, SouthFace	\$10,000 + Staff: 200 hours					General Fund (CM)
9	Green Building	Create green bld. resource page on website	√					Sustainability Committee, Community Development	Staff: 20 hours					General Fund
10	Recycling	Conduct gap assessment for trash can/recycling bins along street ROW			√			Public Works (PW), Community Development			Staff: 50 hours			General Fund (PW)
11	Recycling	Develop installment plan for trash can/recycling bins along street ROW				√		Public Works (PW), Community Development				Staff: 50 hours		General Fund (PW)
12	Recycling	Install and maintain recycling/trash cans along street ROW					√	Public Works (PW), Community Development					\$10,000 + Staff: 100 hours	General Fund (PW)
13	Recycling	Ensure that any extended contract with DeKalb or new private contract in 2015 ipromotes recycling participation	√	√	√			City Manager (CM), Public Works		\$30,000				General Fund (CM)

Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
14	Recycling	Investigate and develop recycling ordinance for multi-family units			√			Sustainability Committee, Community Development			Staff: 100 hours			General Fund
15	Recycling	Investigate recycling ordinance for commercial blds					√	Sustainability Committee (Community Development)					Staff: 100 hours	General Fund
16	Recycling	Investigate current household participation and demographics	√					Community Development	Staff: 10 hours					General Fund
17	Recycling	Develop educational materials for all industries		√				Sustainability Committee (Community Development)	Staff: 50 hours					General Fund
18	Recycling	Establish relationship with DeKalb schools, initiate tracking program			√			Sustainability Committee (Community Development)			Staff: 150 hours			General Fund
19	Composting	Explore "How to" program in partnership with Dunwoody Nat. Cent.	√					Sustainability Committee (Community Development)	Staff: 100 hours					General Fund/Grants
20	Composting	Launch "How to" program in partnership with Dunwoody Nat. Cent.		√				Sustainability Committee (Community Development)		Staff: 50 hours				General Fund/Grants
21	Composting	Educational materials for homeowners		√				Sustainability Committee (Community Development)		Staff: 50 hours				General Fund

Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
22	Composting	Offer homeowners countertop bins		√	√	√	√	Community Development		\$5,000 + Staff: 5 hours	\$5,000 + Staff: 5 hours	\$5,000 + Staff: 5 hours	\$5,000 + Staff: 5 hours	General Fund (CD)
23	Composting	Research for potential commercial pilot project				√	√	Economic Development (ED), Community Development				Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 50 hours	General Fund
24	Government Operations	Conduct annual trainings/audits for compliance with City policies and for new hires	√	√	√	√	√	Community Development; Human Resources	\$500 + Staff: 20 hours	\$500 + Staff: 20 hours	\$500 + Staff: 20 hours	\$500 + Staff: 20 hours	\$500 + Staff: 20 hours	General Fund (CD)
25	Government Operations	Research amending purchasing policy to require sust. review	√					Sustainability Committee (Community Development)	Staff: 10 hours					General Fund
26	Government Operations	Track printing quantity and set goal to reduce by 25%	√	√	√	√	√	IT, Community Development	Staff: 50 hours	Staff: 10 hours	Staff: 10 hours	Staff: 10 hours	Staff: 10 hours	General Fund
27	Government Operations	Paper reduction meeting policy	√					IT, Com Dev, City Council, Boards	Staff: 10 hours					General Fund
28	Trees	Conduct amended tree inventory on public property				√		Community Development				\$50,000 + Staff: 100 hours		General Fund/Grants
29	Trees	Conduct remote sensing analysis for city-wide assessment		√				Community Development		\$1,000 + Staff: 10 hours				General Fund (CD)
30	Trees	Set goal for additional plantings				√	√	Public Works, Community Development				\$10,000 + Staff: 10 hours	\$10,000 + Staff: 10 hours	General Fund/Volunteer (PW)

Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
31	Trees	Develop educational materials for tree care			√			Community Development		Staff: 20 hours				General Fund
32	Water-Conservation	Develop educ. resources for homeowners/renters		√				Community Development		Staff: 20 hours				General Fund
33	Water-Conservation	Install demonstration green infrastructure project				√		Public Works				\$80,000 + Staff: 200 hours		General Fund/Grants (PW)
Ecology, Biodiversity, & Public Health														
34	Neighborhood-Scale Agriculture	Develop a community garden at site of new City Hall				√	√	Parks and Recreation, Community Development				\$10,000 + Staff: 500 hours	\$3,000 + Staff: 200 hours	General Fund/Grants (CD)
35	Neighborhood-Scale Agriculture	Inventory and assess vacant space for agricultural potential (for potential City purchase)		√				Parks and Recreation, Community Development		Staff: 10 hours				General Fund/Grants (CD)
36	Neighborhood-Scale Agriculture	Generate a map of public edible plants and harvest schedule		√				Community Development		Staff: 10 hours				General Fund
37	Neighborhood-Scale Agriculture	Evaluate potential for farmers' market on City property			√			Community Development			Staff: 10 hours			General Fund
38	Neighborhood-Scale Agriculture	Develop action plan for farmers market on City property			√			Community Development			Staff: 30 hours			General Fund



Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
39	Neighborhood-Scale Agriculture	Evaluate policies allowing local restaurants to grow food on site				√		Economic Development, Community Development				Staff: 100 hours		General Fund
40	Green Space/Plant & Wildlife	Promote biodiversity with patch design--park acquisition/development		√	√	√	√	Parks and Recreation, City Manager, Community Dev		\$ Land + Staff: 200 + hours	\$ Land + Staff: 200 + hours	\$ Land + Staff: 200 + hours	\$ Land + Staff: 200 + hours	General Fund/Grants (PR)
41	Green Space/Plant & Wildlife	Promote connectivity b/w wildlife patches (corridors)-multi-use trail construction	√	√	√	√	√	Parks and Recreation, City Manager, Community Dev	Staff: 50 hours	Staff: 50 hours	Staff: 50 hours	Staff: 50 hours	Staff: 50 hours	General Fund (PR)
42	Green Space/Plant & Wildlife	Develop educational materials for residents			√			Parks and Recreation, Community Development			Staff: 50 hours			General Fund
43	Water	Conduct chemical stream monitoring on City properties						Sustainability Committee, Community Development, GPC						
44	Water	Stream Quality & Quantity Inventory + Maintenance/Action Plan	√	√	√	√	√	Community Development	\$75,000 + Staff: 100 hours	\$5,000 + Staff: 20 hours	\$5,000 + Staff: 20 hours	\$5,000 + Staff: 20 hours	\$5,000 + Staff: 20 hours	General Fund/Grants (CD)
45	Water	Install "Drains to Stream" plaques on all city storm drains	√	√				Public Works, Volunteers	Staff: 50 hours	Staff: 30 hours				General Fund
46	Water	Create residential incentives for storm water quality and quantity devices				√		Community Development				Staff: 50 hours		General Fund

Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
47	Water	Install a regional stormwater management solution (D Village)		√	√			Public Works, Community Development		\$150,000 + Staff: 100 hours	\$150,000 + Staff: 100 hours			General Fund (PW)
48	Air	Develop policy/position paper for alternatively fueled vehicles for city acquisition		√				Sustainability Committee, Public Works, Community Development, Police		Staff: 20 hours				General Fund
49	Air	Work with DeKalb to expand "no idling" policy		√				Community Development		Staff: 50 hours				General Fund
50	Air	Develop action plan to install Electric Charging Station(s) on City property		√				Parks and Recreation, Community Development			\$20,000 + Staff: 100 hours			General Fund/Grants (CD)
51	Air	Identify Employee Commute Program w/ PTSC (survey, analysis) for City employees and contractors	√					Human Resources, Community Development	Staff: 50 hours					General Fund/Grants (HR)
52	Air	Implement Employee Commute Program w/ PTSC for City employees and contractors		√				Human Resources, Community Development		\$5,000 + Staff: 50 hours	\$5,000 + Staff: 10 hours	\$5,000 + Staff: 10 hours	\$5,000 + Staff: 10 hours	General Fund/Grants (HR)
53	Air	Employee Commuter Match for City employees and contractors	√					Human Resources, Community Development	Staff: 50 hours	Staff: 10 hours	Staff: 10 hours	Staff: 10 hours	Staff: 10 hours	General Fund/Grants
54	Health & Wellness	Develop Walking/biking guides for City				√		Community Dev, Marketing (M), PTSC, PCIDs, CVBD				Staff: 40 hours		General Fund

Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
55	Health & Wellness	Develop resources and access to public health resources/youth		√		√		Marketing, DeKalb, Community Development		\$2,500 + Staff: 60 hours		\$2,500 + Staff: 30 hours		General Fund/Grants (M)
56	Health & Wellness	Develop resources and access to public health resources/aging populations		√		√		Marketing, DeKalb, Community Development		\$2,500 + Staff: 60 hours		\$2,500 + Staff: 30 hours		General Fund/Grants (M)
57	Health & Wellness	Investigate health impact assessment requirements for large developments		√	√	√	√	Community Development, Public Works		Staff: 200 hours	Staff: 40 hours	Staff: 40 hours	Staff: 40 hours	General Fund
58	Health & Wellness	Evaluate multi-modal transportation options for new dev.			√			Community Development, Public Works			Staff: 60 hours			General Fund
59	Transportation	Develop way-finding signage to enhance human-scaled activity	√	√				Parks and Recreation, Marketing	\$200,000 + Staff: 300 hours	\$100,000 + Staff: 100 hours				General Fund/Grants (M)
60	Transportation	Conduct Parking Study		√	√			Community Development		\$20,000 + Staff: 60 hours	\$20,000 + Staff: 60 hours			General Fund (CD)
61	Transportation	Traffic signal synchronozation	√					Public Works	Staff: 20 hours					General Fund
62	Transportation	Install pedestrian improvements at uncontrolled crosswalks		√	√			Public Works		\$200,000 + Staff: 200 hours	\$200,000 + Staff: 100 hours			General Fund/Grants (PW)

Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
63	Transportation	Develop citywide greenway system	√	√	√			Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Community Dev	\$ Land + Staff: 200 hours	\$ Land + Staff: 100 hours	\$ Land + Staff: 100 hours			General Fund/Grants (PR)
64	Transportation	Develop educational plaque system in parks			√	√		Parks and Recreation, Marketing, Community Dev			\$20,000 + Staff: 100 hours	\$20,000 + Staff: 100 hours		General Fund/Grants (PR)
65	Transportation	Develop and adopt a bicycle parking policy for City properties	√					Sustainability Committee, Community Development	Staff: 5 hours					
66	Transportation	Evaluate existing facilities, end-of-trip facilities, electric charging stations, and bike parking on public and private properties	√	√				Sustainability Committee, Community Development, Public Works	Staff: 60 hours	Staff: 40 hours				General Fund
67	Transportation	Promote commuting incentives on city website and in city print materials	√					Community Development	Staff: 60 hours					General Fund
68	Transportation	Educate community about bike rights/laws regarding bicycles/peds	√	√	√	√	√	Sustainability Committee, Police, Community Development	Staff: 20 hours	Staff: 20 hours	Staff: 20 hours	Staff: 20 hours	Staff: 20 hours	General Fund
69	Transportation	Develop policy for bicycle parking on city property	√					Sustainability Committee (Community Development)	Staff: 80 hours					General Fund

Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
70	Transportation	Endorse/assist with bike share program		√				Sustainability Committee, Community Dev, Economic Dev, PCIDs		\$150,000 + Staff: 400 hours	\$150,000 + Staff: 100 hours	\$10,000 + Staff: 20 hours	\$10,000 + Staff: 20 hours	General Fund/Grants (ED)
71	Transportation	Develop framework for Comprehensive Ped/Bike Plan		√	√	√	√	Public Works, Community Dev		\$5,000 + Staff 200 hrs	\$5,000 + Staff 200 hrs	Staff 200 hrs	Staff 200 hrs	General Fund/Grants (ED)
72	Transportation	Develop timeline/funding for Comp Ped/Bike Plan		√				Public Works, Community Dev		Staff: 100 hours				General Fund
73	Transportation	Identify/connect neighborhood centers	√	√	√	√	√	See Item 56 for responsibility/funding						
74	Transportation	Identify sidewalk "holes"		√				Public Works, Community Development		Staff: 100 hours				General Fund
75	Transportation	Install sidewalks within one mile of schools			√			Public Works, Community Development		\$300,000 + Staff: 100 hours				General Fund (PW)

Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
76	Transportation	Collaborate with neighborhoods to identify connectivity projects			√			Public Works, Community Development			Staff: 300 hours			General Fund
77	Transportation	Conduct Pedestrian and Bicycle Friendly Assessment	√					Sustainability Committee, Public Works, Community Development	Staff: 100 hours					General Fund (PW/CD)
78	Transportation	Explore Bike Friendly Community designation		√				Sustainability Committee, Public Works, Community Development		Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 60 hours	Staff: 60 hours	Staff: 60 hours	General Fund (PW/CD)
79	Transportation	Explore Walk Friendly Community designation		√				Sustainability Committee, Public Works, Community Development		Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 60 hours	Staff: 60 hours	Staff: 60 hours	General Fund (PW/CD)
80	Transportation	Engage neighboring cities to explore greenway/park connections			√			Public Works, Community Dev, Economic Dev			Staff: 300 hours			General Fund

#### Education & Outreach

Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
81	Education	Develop a routing and sustainability consideration checklist for event and permitting projects		√				Sustainability Committee, Community Development		Staff: 50 hours				General Fund
82	Outreach	Increase social media participation by 10% by 2017			√			Marketing, Community Development			Staff: 50 hours			General Fund
83	ARC Green Communities	Gold Level Recertification		√	√			Sustainability Committee, Community Dev		Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 20 hours			General Fund (CD)
84	Outreach	Translate educational materials and web content to increase accessibility		√	√	√		Marketing, Community Development		\$2,000 + Staff: 20 hours	\$2,000 + Staff: 20 hours	\$2,000 + Staff: 20 hours		General Fund (CD)
85	Education	Develop outdoor classroom for schools/comm. Groups			√	√		Parks and Recreation, Community Development			\$20,000 + Staff: 40 hours	\$20,000 + Staff: 40 hours		General Fund (PR)
86	Education	Sustainability education in all Dunwoody Schools by 2019					√	Community Development, Community Partners					Staff: 300 hours	General Fund
87	EPA Technical Assistance Report	Develop communication strategy for sustainability efforts	√					Sustainability Committee, Community Development	Staff: 50 hours					General Fund



Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
88	Education	Increase participation in Living and Learning	√	√	√	√	√	Sustainability Committee, Community Dev, Marketing	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 100 hours	General Fund
89	Education	Training and networking for sustainability staff and committee	√	√	√	√	√	Sustainability Committee, Community Development	\$1,000 + Staff: 50 hours	\$1,000 + Staff: 50 hours	\$2,000 + Staff: 200 hours	\$2,000 + Staff: 200 hours	\$2,000 + Staff: 200 hours	General Fund (CD)
Economic Prosperity														
90	Long Term Public Finance	Research grant funding opportunities to implement plan	√	√	√	√	√	Sustainability Committee, Community Development	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 100 hours	General Fund
91	Long Term Public Finance	Evaluate City projects for 20 year return on investment	√	√	√	√	√	Economic Development, Community Development	Staff: 40 hours	Staff: 40 hours	Staff: 40 hours	Staff: 40 hours	Staff: 40 hours	General Fund
92	New Business Development	Partner with Chamber for green networking events and business	√	√	√	√	√	Economic Dev	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 40 hours	Staff: 40 hours	Staff: 40 hours	Staff: 40 hours	General Fund
93	Green Business	Investigate/pursue Better Buildings Challenge		√	√			Economic Development, Community Development		\$20,000 + Staff: 300 hours	\$5,000 + Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 80 hours	Staff: 80 hours	General Fund/Grants (CD)
94	Local Business & Sourcing	Explore and develop gov purchasing policy -local options preferred			√			Economic Development, Community Development			Staff: 60 hours			General Fund

Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
95	Local Business & Sourcing	Conduct study to install intelligent infrastructure		√				Economic Dev, Community Dev, Public Works		\$20,000 + Staff: 100 hours				General Fund/Grants (CD)
96	Encourage Infill & Redevelopment	Redev strategy for neighborhood commercial centers		√				Economic Dev, Community Dev, Public Works		Staff: 60 hours				General Fund
97	Encourage Infill & Redevelopment	Work with Sandy Springs on strategy for border commercial areas			√			Economic Dev, Community Dev, Public Works			Staff: 60 hours			General Fund
98	Support Goals of PCIDs	Focus future growth around transit station	√	√	√	√	√	Economic Dev, Community Dev, Public Works	Staff: 60 hours	Staff: 60 hours	Staff: 60 hours	Staff: 60 hours	Staff: 60 hours	General Fund
99	Outreach	Redevelopment Speaker Series	√	√	√	√	√	Economic Dev, Community Dev, Marketing	\$10,000 + Staff: 100 hours	\$10,000 + Staff: 100 hours	\$10,000 + Staff: 100 hours	\$10,000 + Staff: 100 hours	\$10,000 + Staff: 100 hours	General Fund (ED)
Organizational Structure														
100	Policy	Coordinate with other depts. on sustainability-related decisions	√	√	√	√	√	Community Development with remaining depts.	Staff: 200 hours	Staff: 200 hours	Staff: 200 hours	Staff: 500 hours	Staff: 500 hours	General Fund
101	Policy	Collaborate with Council Person on Sustainable Policy	√	√	√	√	√	Sustainability Committee, Community Development	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 100 hours	Staff: 100 hours	General Fund
102	Plan/Study	Update STWP	√	√	√	√		Sustainability Committee, Community Development	Staff: 50 hours	Staff: 50 hours	Staff: 50 hours	Staff: 50 hours		General Fund



Item	Type	Project or Activity	Year(s)					Responsible Party	Cost Estimate					Funding Source
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
103	Plan/Study	Update Sustainability Plan/STWP					√	Sustainability Committee, Community Development					Staff: 500 hours	General Fund

## V. Glossary of Terms

**Anthropogenic** means of or created by human sources.

**Conservation** has many definitions, but in the context of this plan, we use “conservation” to signify the preservation and thoughtful usage of natural resources, including water and air quality.

**Green Building** means the technique of retrofitting or constructing in such a way to reduce waste (energy, water, transportation, materials), source local products, and improve long-term building maintenance and operations to reduce the adverse impacts of the built environment on human health and the natural environment.

**Green Infrastructure** from epa.gov: “Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage water and create healthier urban environments. At the scale of a city or county, green infrastructure refers to the patchwork of natural areas that provides habitat, flood protection, cleaner air, and cleaner water. At the scale of a neighborhood or site, green infrastructure refers to stormwater management systems that mimic nature by soaking up and storing water.”

**Greywater** is wastewater generated on site (at your home or business) that is suitable to be reused for other, non-potable processes, such as landscaping or flushing toilets. Water originally used for toilet flushing, showers, or garbage disposals is considered blackwater and is not recommended for reuse.

**Last Mile Infrastructure** describes creating connections (walking, biking, shuttles) from transportation hubs, such as bus stops and rail centers (MARTA) to users’ final destinations (such as work, home, or shopping).

**MS4** stands for “Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. The City of Dunwoody is responsible to the Environmental Protection Agency for reporting education, clean-up, tracking, and other efforts associated with storm sewers and receiving water bodies under this permit.

**Multi-modal**, in reference to (transportation), refers to providing more than one type of transportation option on a street, corridor, building, or public facility, such as providing lanes for vehicles, bike lanes, and sidewalks on or along a street.

**Participatory Budgeting** from <http://www.participatorybudgeting.org>: “Participatory budgeting (PB) is a different way to manage public money, and to engage people in government. It is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. It enables taxpayers to work with government to make the budget decisions that affect their lives.”

**Patch design** connects “patches,” or wide areas of green space, with wide, wildlife corridors to provide habitats for animals and connections between habitats to facilitate the safe migration of wildlife in and around anthropogenic hazards.

**Refuge Islands** are sections of asphalt or sidewalk that pedestrians can use when crossing roads as a stopover point if flow of traffic is heavy.

**Regional Stormwater Management** means a multi-site solution for containing stormwater runoff to make more efficient use of land and capital through the use of shared facilities.

**Stormwater** is water runoff from a precipitation event that flows over hardscaped surfaces (roads, sidewalks, buildings, etc) into sewer systems or water bodies.

**Sustainable Cities Institute** is a subset of National League of Cities that provides informational and educational resources to cities related to sustainable governance and development.

**Walk-UPs** is an abbreviation for “walkable urban places.” The terms refers to places where pedestrians can easily navigate, based on pedestrian facilities, adjacent land-uses, street network, access to transit, population and daytime density, and other characteristics that factor into a user’s decision to walk.

**Waste** has a double meaning in this plan. It is either used as somewhat of a synonym for “trash,” or is used as a synonym for overuse of resources, such as paper, depending on the context.

**WIC** from <https://dph.georgia.gov/WIC>: “Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program is a federally-funded health and nutrition program for: infants and Children age 1 to 5 years (including foster children), pregnant women breastfeeding mothers (up to 1 year), postpartum women (up to 6 months)” and provides education and support in addition to “special checks to buy healthy foods from WIC-authorized vendors – milk, eggs, bread, cereal, juice, peanut butter, and much more.”

**Wildlife Corridors** are stretches of land that help link two or more larger areas of animal and plant habitat. These links are crucial for wildlife migration and movement and maintaining a healthy ecosystem.