

**COMMUNITY GOALS
ELEMENT**

02





COMMUNITY GOALS

Introduction

The vision statement and goals that emerged through the Plan 2040 comprehensive planning process represent the voices of the community as expressed in virtual meetings, pop-up events, and a survey conducted during 2020 and 2021.

The following results describe our community vision and goals for the next twenty years

PLAN 2040

VISION & GOALS

Introduction

The Vision and Goals are the product of public involvement and identify Plan 2040's direction for the future and are intended to serve as a guide to unincorporated Chatham and Savannah officials in day-to-day decision making. They are the product of public involvement and the following components:

Each of these components was previously established in the county and city's prior Comprehensive Plan; however, through the Plan 2040 update process, community members were given an opportunity to revisit and update each component.

The Vision

The Vision paints a picture of what Chatham County and Savannah desire to become. The vision statements being offered were refined through discussions with the MPC subcommittee, stakeholders, and participants.

The vision statements are supported by the goals created to help shape Chatham County and Savannah's future development.

Goals

Goals are long-term outcomes the county and city hope to achieve by implementing the Comprehensive Plan. They are aspirational, expressing Chatham and Savannah's collective desires and values for the future.

The community identified a number of goals to achieve in order to make Chatham and Savannah's vision a continuing reality. The following goals represent the recurring themes, and like the vision statement, were derived from a review process involving county and city staff, the community advisory committee, and members of the public.





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah are anchors to a thriving, business-friendly, regional economy in which all workers are prepared for quality jobs, and residents feel empowered to attain a high quality of life

GOALS:

1. Using accurate and reliable data, link current and projected needs of employers through the development of apprenticeship and vocational programs for the placement of individuals with quality employment leading to self-sufficiency
2. Foster a positive environment that provides opportunities for all businesses
3. Increase economic mobility by reducing barriers and creating opportunities for quality employment for young adults, the economically disadvantaged, justice involved, and individuals with behavioral health needs
4. Implement outreach and programming that lead to economically inclusive entrepreneurial growth and innovation through the enhanced presence of small business support services and collaboration among local businesses
5. Become a community with economically vibrant, safe neighborhoods and commercial centers



LAND USE

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah are healthy and safe places to live, work, play and raise a family, and have social and economic values that integrate the area's history, natural resources, efficient government, and public mobility system

GOALS:

1. Establish growth policies for the city of Savannah that seek to guide development and redevelopment in a responsible manner, encouraging compact development, walkable neighborhoods, increased connectivity, and open space preservation
2. Identify and prioritize future annexations that are regionally coordinated and promote responsible growth
3. Utilize small area and corridor plans as a means to protect the character of existing areas and ensure new development is compatible
4. Continue to create innovative ways to connect people with places
5. Enhance the character and image of major corridors by implementing the design and construction of safe, attractive, vibrant, and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes that project a positive image while encouraging walking



TRANSPORTATION

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah prioritize safe mobility for all users; offer efficient mobility options to support economic vitality; provide infrastructure that is sensitive to unique local characteristics; connect neighborhoods to education, employment, and services; and sustain environmental quality with clean mobility modes

GOALS:

1. Support safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation designs and improvements that enhance neighborhood connectivity for all modes of travel including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists
2. Improve accessibility to employment centers, institutions, commercial corridors, and recreational facilities equitably through multi-modal connections, bikeways, trails and greenways
3. Maintain and preserve transportation infrastructure in a manner that protects unique regional characteristics, quality-of-life, and the environment
4. Maintain and enhance transportation infrastructure that supports and enables local, regional and global economic vitality and competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency
5. Promote and provide equitable neighborhood connectivity and built environments that encourage active and healthy lifestyles through the strategic placement of bicycle and pedestrian pathways, public parks, enforcement of road regulations, and education about health benefits



HOUSING

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah achieve affordable, diverse and safe housing for their residents through efficient and effective policies and programs

GOALS:

1. Improve neighborhood stability where all residents, regardless of income, can occupy, maintain, and improve their homes without undue financial hardship
2. Increase supportive housing for special needs populations, such as individuals who are homeless, mentally ill, disabled, and residents in drug recovery
3. Increase affordable housing stock
4. Decrease homelessness





NATURAL RESOURCES

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah are enhanced by the protection and maintenance of natural resources and ecosystems

GOALS:

1. Protect the public health, safety, and welfare of residents from flood hazards
2. Enhance water, flooding, and hazard related public education and outreach efforts
3. Monitor projections for changing future conditions and implement plans, policies, and property protection to reduce potential damages
4. Preserve and protect potable water sources to ensure adequate drinking water supplies for existing and future residents
5. Protect and preserve existing tree canopy and require planting of additional native trees during the development process to mitigate negative impacts of stormwater runoff and the heat island effect of large areas of impervious surfaces, in addition to improving air quality
6. Increase communities' adaptive capacity and resiliency
7. Manage the impacts of climate change as it relates to land use and development through mitigation and adaptation measures
8. Proactively manage stormwater runoff
9. Plan for the mitigation and redevelopment of brownfields for productive uses



QUALITY OF LIFE

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah citizens achieve a superior quality of life within a safe, active, and healthy environment inclusive of the area's history, natural resources, public mobility, and efficient government



HISTORIC RESOURCES



EDUCATION



COMMUNITY HEALTH



PUBLIC SAFETY



BROADBAND & FIBER OPTICS



HISTORIC RESOURCES

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah as historical and emerging cultural resources provide unique advantages to balance preservation with development and economic growth

GOALS:

1. Survey culturally, historically, and architecturally significant sites, buildings, and structures in unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah
2. Incorporate affordable housing strategies into current and future preservation plans
3. Identify and address community health issues that impact historic preservation efforts and encourage healthy communities through historic preservation
4. Identify and address climate resiliency strategies and incorporate them into a climate resiliency plan for unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah's historic and cultural resources
5. Broaden historic preservation efforts to highlight and include historically underrepresented stories, sites, and communities
6. Create new and support existing heritage tourism programs in unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah in order to highlight their cultural and historic heritage
7. Promote the preservation and public awareness of culturally and archaeologically significant sites in unincorporated Chatham County and Savannah



EDUCATION

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah are innovative and inclusive educational systems, and are a model of academic excellence that enables students to have the knowledge, skills, and ability to succeed at chosen pathways

GOALS:

1. Ensure equitable access of critical life skills including soft skills, financial, social, and conflict resolution skills are available to parents/legal guardians and taught to all students through the use of technology, community partnerships, and counseling
2. Implement career track, internship, and mentorship programs between employers and students while increasing leadership development programs between community organizations, businesses, and public schools to prepare students for employment and promote upward mobility
3. Plan for changing populations, capacities, and overcrowding and increase the quality of education and academic performance at SCCPSS
4. Incentivize and promote parental involvement in schools by teaching parents to advocate for their child(ren), facilitating better communication between parents and school leadership, and eliminating barriers to parent engagement
5. Ensure families and community members have the ability to promote and reinforce literacy and numeracy instruction that takes place in a student's learning experience





COMMUNITY HEALTH

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah have a culture of health including equal access to quality and affordable healthcare, chronic disease prevention, health inclusive policies, and healthy environmental design

GOALS:

1. Effectively address mental health by educating the public and reducing stigma, increasing early intervention programs, removing gaps and barriers, and increasing access to treatment including returning and detained residents, children, adolescents, and the homeless
2. Invest in community-based health resources to increase health equity by providing access to preventive health services, health education, and strategies to encourage individuals and families to adopt healthy behaviors
3. Instill healthy practices in schools by providing comprehensive health education, nutrient-rich foods, opportunities for physical activity, and prevention education including, but not limited to, violence prevention
4. Increase access to healthy food for populations that are most likely to be food-insecure such as older adults, children, those in poverty, and those who live in food apartheid



PUBLIC SAFETY

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah provide a community that is a safe place to live, work, and raise a family, and within which protection of residents is considered an integral part of its social and economic values

GOALS:

1. Ensure better quality of life through multifaceted strategies of public safety. The strategies include reducing crime by focusing on asset building; meeting community needs; expanding visibility and capacity of resources and programs provided by first responders; and building trust between law enforcement and residents
2. Develop local and regional collaboration among organizations to improve the delivery of social services and to expand resources including, but not limited to, behavioral health and public health services
3. Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency



BROADBAND & FIBER OPTICS

In 2040...

Unincorporated Chatham County & Savannah have closed the digital divide to ensure access to fast affordable, and reliable broadband while acquiring world class broadband network capabilities to accelerate high-tech business development

GOALS:

1. Ensure all of Chatham County has access to broadband service

