



## Meeting Report

An Envision 2030 vision meeting was held Thursday, December 7, 2006 at South Forsyth High School. Approximately 133 people attended. In the course of one hour, participants worked in small groups of five or more on a series of questions that helped them think about the kind of community they would like Cumming-Forsyth County to be in 25 years.

### **Meeting Process**

Participants were welcomed by Jay DiPasquale, who also served as the meeting facilitator. Jay explained that participants would work in small groups or “circles” of five or more people and they would be asked to think about, discuss and come to consensus on several questions. Jay also covered a few suggested ground rules. Each group had a “moderator” who acted as recorder and group facilitator, and wrote the group’s comments.

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

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

Here’s the question Jay posed to the groups:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Small group 1:

- Less trailers
- More parking
- More lunch variety
- Picnic tables for lunch / class use
- More interactive learning
- Longer lunches
- Larger mentor program
- Study hour
- Half days for finals
- Locker breaks
- More class learning - less homework
- More time between classes
- Different school hours
- Earlier and later classes offered - 2 segment days (day / night classes)
- More electives
- Flowers in spring on campus
- Music on intercom before and after school
- More roads

- Newly paved roads
- Widen roads for traffic
- Wider shoulders on roads
- Ridges on shoulders of back roads for safety
- Family centers
- Teen centers
- More shopping
- "Battle of the bands" at fairground
- Music performances at fairgrounds because downtown is too far
- Teens working at teen store (Old Navy)
- Adjust labor hours for more hours
- Teacher recommendation allowed on job application for your first job
- Leave more trees
- Bigger lots
- More parks
- More recreation parks (even if single sport)
- More upscale apartments
- Get high schools together to do sports and other events
- More sidewalks
- Greenway bike and walking trail in Alpharetta connected to Forsyth County
- Wider variety of restaurants
- Outlet mall
- Minor league sports teams
- More flexibility with driving hours
- Business / organization partnerships
- County-wide tutoring program
- Battle of the bands committee - Monthly performance at fairgrounds
- County park with wide range of activities (tennis, lacrosse) where teens could be very involved (jobs, coaching, hanging out)
- Community promenade with shopping, food, activities, movies, etc. all in walking distance

Small Group 2:

- Traffic - better roads
- Teenage hangouts - places we don't get trouble, night club
- Value - historic
- Trailers - parking deck - greenhouse - more schools
- Entertainment
- Mandatory classes to improve child safety
- More recreation areas
- Amusement park
- More alternatives (?)
- Police system "drive"
- More options for teachers

- Welfare look at
- Fair tax
- Outside classroom learning experience
- Fun classroom environment
- Better use of white boards
- All high schools offer same courses
- Value of neighborhoods
- Bring in urban life
- Kid meetings with county board
- Being more involved with government
- Good deed class
- No 7 period classes
- Longer break for summer

Small Group 3:

- Paintball team offered in school
- More places to hang out after school
- Healthier school lunches - have a "subway" style counter
- Better road system - more lanes
- More schools
- More space for sports - esp. practice field
- More space for the arts / dance company
- More books so there could be class sets
- Schools should get more involved in the community
- Graduation requirement
- More malls and shopping centers
- Teen clubs
- Bigger school parking lots
- Nicer football stadium - new score board and sound system
- Swimming pool in school
- More classes - career / tech
- Longer lunch hours
- More space available for lunch - place outside to eat
- Stop all the site blockings on the Internet
- Laptops for students
- Better school equipment
- Nicer and more restaurants
- Public transportation through Forsyth County
- More sidewalks
- Nicer fair grounds
- Wildlife center
- Concert hall
- Community centers

- Improve public safety - biking, walking
- More apartments and town homes
- Better landscaping
- Improve building designs for major stores - example: wal-mart
- Better school transportation
- Improved wages for teens
- Improved availability for internships
- Parking deck for schools
- More drivers ed - don't pair up with SAT prep.
- Keep block scheduling
- Better and more qualified teachers
- Study hall
- More stores closer to school
- Take out early release
- Get out early on exam days
- Start school early and get out earlier, like Gwinnett County - 7:30-2:10
- Powderpuff tryouts - get all grades involved
- Bigger cafeterias and less lunch periods
- Allow upperclassmen to leave for lunch
- School year starts in September and ends in June
- Bigger gym
- Better preparation for school events
- Either get classroom set of text books or more lockers
- Orchestra
- Multiple stories for school buildings
- Better graduation dates
- Improved ESOL programs
- Improve schedule
- More appealing to different ethnic groups
- More field trips
- Host scientific and historic exhibits

Small Group 4:

- Pools in schools
- Enclosed campus (no outside)
- Teen club
- More apartments
- Recreation center
- More parking
- Mall
- Wider roads
- Public transportation
- Buildings / skyscrapers

- Fuel-efficient cars
- Study hall in school
- Less trailers - bigger schools
- More student opinion
- More lunchrooms / time in lunch
- More periods per day
- Open campus (school)
- Change pizza sauce
- Fast food in cafeteria
- Zoo
- Closer movie theater
- Ice skating
- Better salary for younger kids (teens)
- More opportunity to shadow career choice
- More field trips
- Longer breaks (vacation)
- No year-round school
- Longer breaks between classes
- More school functions: pep rallies, dances (Sadie Hawkins, Winter Formal, Valentines)
- More career choice classes
- More SAT / ACT prep classes
- More exciting SAT class
- Better grading scale
- Photography class
- If "A" in class, no final
- Better communication with students - school message board
- Less strict computer blocking
- Clean up campus
- Better storage for school equipment
- Student information website
- Leave announcements on in class
- Live school news broadcasting
- Better traffic control
- College level book store
- Better books
- Dress code - less strict
- Morning - be able to sit in car (if parked at school)
- School store - better hours
- Arcade
- Putt-putt
- Clean up community
- Closer DMV
- School spirit

- Cosmetology class
- Shop class
- Hands-on classes: auto class
- More money for school programs - musical arts
- Elementary: band
- Foreign language - more
- More funding for school functions - prom fashion show
- Neighborhood recs.
- Gyms - more
- "Open gym" - more availability
- Intramural sports - flag football, baseball, soccer
- ROTC
- Drive-in movies

Small Group 5:

- Traffic
- Pollution
- Bigger roads
- More schools
- Teen club
- Too many trailers / students
- Classes are too long
- Another hospital
- Restaurants
- More parks
- More sidewalks
- Law enforcement
- A more central movie theater
- Dave & Busters (sports entertainment)
- Mall
- More jobs for students
- Amphitheater - for concerts and events
- More parking for students
- Student government for county
- Spas
- Bowling alley
- Homeless shelter
- Best buy
- Athletic store - Dick's
- Interracial activities
- Bass Pro Shop
- College / University
- Amusement park

- More land
- More homes / less town homes
- Rehab center
- Doctors offices / dentist
- More churches
- Big stadium / arena
- Another DMV
- Bigger school campuses
- Day care centers
- Banks
- Public transportation
- Recycling center
- Race track
- Vet offices
- More gyms
- Airport
- Coffee shops
- Wild Bill's / dance club
- Skate parks
- Summer camp
- Camping sites
- Public golf course
- ATV activities
- Car dealerships
- Ice skating rink
- Skyscrapers
- Hotels
- Blockbusters
- Swimming pools / in school
- Sky diving
- Minor league teams
- More bars / adult hangout

Small Group 6:

- Night clubs
- Bigger jails
- Hospitals
- Zoo
- Central city place
- Cute square
- Theme parks
- Rodeos
- Monster truck shows

- ATV trail
- Places closer together / less driving
- Dave & Busters
- Sewage
- Social events
- Foam clubs
- Wild life preserves
- Gas prices
- Dunkin Donuts
- Law enforcement - less hardcore on teens
- Recreational places
- Nursing homes
- Funeral homes
- Theatrical places (Fox, Roxy)
- Government (better)
- Congress center
- Private schools
- Road improvements
- Concert center
- Lawn area
- More spas
- Hockey rink
- Civic center
- Car dealerships
- Drive through gas stations
- More teenage jobs
- Raise minimum wage
- Taxes
- Aquarium
- Outside eating
- Food court
- More parks
- YMCA
- Lakes - campsites
- Ice skating
- Skate parks
- Clubs
- More shopping
- More entertainment
- Drive-in movies
- Cemetery space
- Four-lane roads
- Movie theaters

- Bigger schools
- More parking
- Parking garage / decks
- Historic Cumming - preserve
- Horse farms
- Farm land
- More school electives
- Wood shop
- More time between classes
- Recess
- Picnic tables
- Rock climbing walls
- Deer hunting
- More sports
- UFC rink
- Big pumpkin patch
- More haunted houses
- Corn fields
- Doctor offices / medical practices
- Golf courses
- More colleges / universities in area
- Beach
- Water parks
- Fewer trailer parks
- Higher class society
- Metro / subway system
- Escalators in schools
- MARTA
- Underground Forsyth
- Better hair cutters / salons
- More candy shops
- Baseball / football stadiums
- More computer technology advancements
- Better cafeteria food
- More flat-screen tvs
- Fry's (not the food)
- Starbucks in school
- Vending machines
- School store open 24 / 7
- In-school jobs
- Less school hours
- Fix the water - cleaner - purified water
- More daycares / nicer daycares

- More animal hospitals
- More therapy places / drug rehab
- AAA meetings
- Smaller neighborhoods
- Bigger city
- Horse-drawn carriages
- Five-star restaurants
- Hybrid cars
- Preserve lake
- Trout farms
- Tubing / canoeing
- Skydiving
- More waterways / rivers
- Indoor pools
- More gyms

Small Group 7:

- No drugs
- Less trailers
- Bathroom doors on stalls
- Bigger lunch rooms
- Cleaner schools
- More parking
- More unimportant classes
- Life skill classes
- Text books on CDs
- Too much football
- Better cafeteria food
- No speed bumps
- No text books
- Laptops in schools
- More parks
- Keep trees
- Keep roads / less construction
- Things to do / nothing here
- More courts - tennis, basketball
- Community pools
- Less neighborhoods
- More movie theaters
- Amusement parks
- Local stadium
- Music venues, concerts
- Night clubs

- No entertainment / boring
- Laser tag / paintball
- Pinball / game room
- Nothing in Forsyth
- Mall in Forsyth
- Hockey - cooler, ice skating
- Professional sports
- Zoo
- Roads too small
- Small business building
- No skyscrapers
- More parks
- Water towers / supply
- Race track / andretti
- More job opportunities
- More restaurants
- Too low - \$7 minimum wage
- Teenage internships at businesses
- No marta / more busses
- Underground transportation
- More country environment
- Cheap big houses
- No cheap houses / quality better
- No neighborhood speed limits
- Parks in neighborhood / playgrounds
- No gated neighborhoods
- No SSN
- Eliminate tax, but 25% sales tax
- No IRS
- Lower alcohol age / 18
- Legalize drugs - medical use
- Harder driving test
- No enforcement on curfew
- More attention to cell usage / driving
- More censorship
- Changed not rewritten
- More organized clubs in school
- Easier to get into sports
- More organization in community
- Needs to be more inviting to ethnicities
- Too many people
- More hotels
- Restaurants - more

- More activities
- Indoor / outdoor activities
- More theaters, like Fox theatre
- Give rights to students in school
- More common sense in faculty
- Smoking rooms in school
- Bigger football stadium
- More seating at stadium
- More seats in performing arts theatre
- Fix theatre floor
- More maintenance
- Less students in classrooms
- Swimming pool in school
- Build more schools
- Want block schedule
- Homeroom (some)
- Too short lunches
- Leave for lunch / outdoor seating
- Opportunity for night school
- Walk-in clinics - 24/7
- Teenage doctor offices
- Charging dock for electric cars
- Start meeting courses / personal
- Too many strip malls
- Study hall / nap
- Automotive elective
- Mechanics
- Drop out from school - license revoke privileges
- ROTC in school
- Promote more clubs
- More pep rallies
- Stop band playing outside in mornings
- Coffee shop in school / hot cocoa
- Shorter school days
- No year-long school
- Straight roads (older) - don't change names

Small Group 8:

- Racing arena
- Wider / more roads
- 141 = 4 lanes
- More ways (new) roads
- Job opportunities

- Safe, suburban area
- More property
- Fewer neighborhoods
- Less speed bumps
- Motivating counselors with college
- More counselors, more info on college, visit classes more
- School clinic
- Doctors office 24/7
- More local transportation
- Real driving course in school
- J.C. Popeyes
- Car shows
- Eat in class
- Off campus for lunch
- Forsyth civic center - concerts, plays
- County forum
- Amusement parks
- Kids counseling center
- Shelter for kids in need
- More retail in strip malls
- Open to ideas government
- Outdoor parks
- 24/7 rec. center for anyone
- High school sports - crew, rugby, poker/card club, letter in hockey
- Study hall
- ROTC
- Talent shows
- Plays during school day
- Putt-putt course
- 18, can't take phone
- At least Junior and Senior parking lot
- More 2-story schools
- More libraries in schools
- Seatbelts and more comfortable bus seats
- Bus babysitter / camera
- Bigger cafes with more variety, sweet tea
- Guided nature walks
- Petting zoo
- Better schools
- Better, cleaner bathrooms in schools
- Fewer trailers in schools
- Nicer school buildings
- Teacher-controlled A.C.

- More teacher training
- Auto classes in schools
- More sports fields, maintenance
- Bigger parking lots at schools
- Longer lunches in schools
- Real foods and good vegetables in schools
- Discuss class scheduling (block)
- Teen club - to dance, music
- Skating rink
- Park (playground, walking)
- Mall
- Forsyth playhouse
- Zoo
- More sit-down restaurants
- Laser tag
- Chuck E. Cheese
- More hotels
- Nature trail for public
- More things to do in downtown Cumming (rebuild)
- More water sources
- Tubing
- Movie theatre
- Fewer drugs and crime
- University / community college

Small Group 9:

- Ban on population
- Wrestling rooms for wrestling teams
- Less subdivisions
- Bigger parking lots for schools
- Less trailers
- Less construction
- Student lane at certain time on the road
- Theme park
- Recreation center
- Mall
- More parks
- Cosmetology classes
- Same classes at all Forsyth County schools
- More foreign language classes
- Portuguese class
- Italian class
- Fast food at school

- More schools
- Bigger school campuses
- 2-story schools
- Longer lunches at school
- More transportation - buses, subway
- Leave for lunch
- Polo
- Rugby
- Water polo
- Less strict dress code
- Boxing team
- More challenging school system
- More lakes
- Pavement at trailers - more handicap accessible
- More clubs
- Advance the fairs / fairgrounds
- Work vending machines the whole day
- Add on to school instead of trailers
- More hospitals
- Zoo
- Keep the trees
- Advanced technology
- Better libraries
- More school dances
- Different construction hours - more convenient
- More restaurants
- Absents from schools
- More jails
- Drinking age lowered
- Civic center
- IMAX Theater
- Turf (artificial) field
- More colleges
- Lower gas costs
- Closer gas stations
- A place to hang out
- Government give more money to schools / sports
- More field trips
- Online classes (free)
- Better trained traffic cops
- Nicer policemen
- Night school / morning school
- Outdoor store

- Finals - turned into half days
- County games on television
- Skating (ice / roller) rink
- Outdoor classes
- Outdoor lunches
- More career people to come in
- More qualified teachers
- Allow visitors to come in to schools
- Eoct for each class
- Be able to control temperatures in class
- Shorter graduation (just walk up), not sitting down and waiting
- More scholarships offered
- Lower the curfew
- More focused on health with young children
- Longer time to get to class
- Easier with giving tardies
- More participation in focus groups for teens
- More students involved with Forsyth County
- More litter control
- More things to do
- More farmers markets
- Starbucks in school
- Eat / drink during class
- Number of students in the classroom
- Larger lunchrooms
- Able to use phones (during times when needed)
- Putt-putt courses / go carts
- Paintball courses
- Able to wear hats in school
- Study hall
- Arcades
- More hotels
- Shorter classes
- More spirit weeks
- Closer hospital for children
- Students more knowledgeable on charities and organizations
- More pep rallies for different sports
- News show in the mornings every day
- More veterinary hospitals

### **Consensus Ideas**

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

- Welfare look at
- Outside classroom learning experience
- Bring in urban life
- No 7 period classes
- Theme parks
- Farm land
- More parking

### **Small-Group Results: Existing assets that should be preserved**

Here are existing community assets that participants felt should be preserved, if Cumming-Forsyth County is to become the ideal or model mid-size community in 2030. These things could include physical assets, organizations or institutions, public policies or decisions, or positive traits or skills of the people who live here now. (Note: Not all groups listed assets that participants felt should be preserved.)

Small Group 1:

- Trees
- Environment even with so many businesses
- Wild flowers on 400
- Parent-school communication (parent portal)
- Booming economy in Forsyth

Small Group 2:

- Lake lanier
- Adopt a cove
- The cities: historic

Small Group 3:

- Trees
- Wildlife / nature
- Clean air
- The "country-ness"
- Low tax and interest rates
- Block schedule
- Suburban

Small Group 4:

- More parks (keep land)
- More / keep farmland

- Keep trees
- Lake for electricity
- Solar energy
- Save the animals - don't destroy homes
- Sidewalks
- Bike trails
- Quicker construction - ex: Hwy 26
- Traffic lights - more control

Small Group 5:

- Lakes
- Land
- Water
- Wildlife
- Veterans memorial
- Trees
- Fair grounds
- Sharon springs park
- All parks
- Churches
- Schools
- Local establishments - stars and strikes
- Nicer restaurants / not fast food
- Southern culture
- Roads
- The air
- Historic Forsyth
- Rivers

Small Group 6:

- Lakes
- Trees
- Historical buildings
- Land
- John's Creek
- Cemetery
- Fields
- Farms
- Wildlife
- Traditional Cumming
- Off roading trails
- Taco Bell
- Southern culture

Small Group 7:

- Fair (longer)
- Back roads
- Education
- Schools
- Coffee shops
- Trees
- Lakes
- Nature

Small Group 8:

- Building schools
- Trees
- Scene roads
- "Fat" trash can (permanent) and compacts out
- Gardens along roads
- County government involvement

Small Group 9:

- Keep county part of Forsyth
- Keep parks / trees
- Keep the fairgrounds
- More natural reserves
- Historical buildings in downtown Cumming
- Keep lake lanier, keep it clean
- Keep memorials
- Keep the schools we have now
- Keep the housing
- Stop building more neighborhoods
- Meth labs (lose)
- Keep the Jewish children center
- Lose the gangs
- Keep the southern culture
- Keep local libraries

**Small-Group Results: Assets that will be needed**

Here are community assets that participants felt are missing now and will be needed, if Cumming-Forsyth County is to become the ideal or model mid-size community in 2030. These things could include physical assets, organizations or institutions, public policies or decisions, or positive traits or skills of the people. (Note: Not all groups listed assets that participants felt are missing now.)

Small Group 1:

- Build up, not out
- Recreation parks
- Teen entertainment
- Outdoor school activities
- School spirit (pep rally, etc.)
- More lenient dress code
- Require teachers to have one activity per lesson
- Indoor pools for schools

Small Group 2:

- More recreational sports options
- More practice fields
- Indoor arenas
- Sidewalks

Small Group 7:

- Entertainment
- Social activities
- Add roads to help traffic (bigger roads)
- Need hotels for vacationers, sidewalks

Small Group 8:

- Roads (141)
- Sidewalks
- Forsyth Civic Center

**What Is Envision 2030?**

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

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

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