

Workshops planned for public input

Athens-Clarke County

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Athens residents interesting in planning the county's future will get a chance to do it Saturday.

The Athens-Clarke County Planning Department is hosting an all-day slate of workshops for residents who want to help craft the county's comprehensive land-use plan. The once-a-decade update of the document will guide development through 2019.

Planners want as many people as possible to participate in seven one-hour workshops Saturday at W. 120 Dougherty St.

"Hopefully, it'll draw a broad spectrum of people who want to change the community in a positive manner," county planner Leah Graham Stewart said.

The workshops will function as signup and introductory meetings for seven subcommittees that will measure the 1999 land-use plan's effectiveness and recommend changes. A 17-member executive committee appointed by Athens-Clarke Mayor Heidi Davison divided into subcommittees in December and planned the Saturday session to gather more volunteers into their ranks.

The subcommittees will tackle issues like health, social services, the arts, economic development, agriculture, the environment, historic preservation, education, housing and transportation. Residents can attend as many workshops and join as many subcommittees as they want.

Not being able to attend a workshop Saturday doesn't mean residents can't join a subcommittee down the road, Stewart said.

Later in the year, subcommittees will hold more workshops in various parts of the county to get input on the land-use plan. They also will conduct charettes - intensive planning sessions where residents draw what they want their neighborhood to look like - in several communities.

The land-use plan must be turned into the state Department of Community Affairs by 2009.

Future land-use plan

The Athens-Clarke County Planning Department will host seven one-hour public workshops Saturday at 120 W. Dougherty St. to help craft the county's new comprehensive plan. County residents are invited to attend any or all of the workshops.

Population - 9-10 a.m.

Economic development - 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Environmental and cultural resources - 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Facilities and services/Intergovernmental cooperation - 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Housing - 2:45-3:45 p.m.

Land use - 4-5 p.m.

Transportation - 5:15-6:15 p.m.

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