PIEDMONT AREA PLAN

Who?

GREENVILLE COUNTY LONG RANGE PLANNING, IN COLLABORATION WITH ANDERSON COUNTY, IS DEVELOPING AN AREA PLAN FOR THE PIEDMONT COMMUNITY. IF YOU LIVE, WORK, OR HAVE INTEREST IN PIEDMONT, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PARTICIPATE.

What?

AN AREA PLAN IS A STRATEGIC DOCUMENT THAT GUIDES THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF A SPECIFIC COMMUNITY. IT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS, HOPES, AND NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND SERVES AS A ROADMAP FOR MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS REGARDING LAND USE, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY FACILITIES, AND NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. IT IS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT THAT INVOLVES INPUT FROM VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING CITIZENS, BUSINESSES, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AMONG OTHERS. THE FINAL DOCUMENT, WHILE NON-BINDING, WILL SERVE AS A GUIDE TO ANDERSON AND GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS WHEN MAKING DECISIONS AFFECTING THE PIEDMONT COMMUNITY, CREATED BY THE PIEDMONT COMMUNITY.

Why?

PIEDMONT, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, IS A TOWN. THERE IS EVEN A SIGN TO PROVE IT. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT INCORPORATED AS A CITY OR TOWN WITH ITS OWN SELF-GOVERNING CAPABILITIES LIKE OTHER NEARBY COMMUNITIES SUCH AS SIMPSONVILLE OR PELZER. THROUGHOUT THE PAST CENTURY AND A HALF, NO SUCH EFFORTS WERE ACCOMPLISHED IN PIEDMONT. INSTEAD, THE COMMUNITY IS GOVERNED BY TWO SEPARATE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS, DIVIDED BY AN ARBITRARY, INVISIBLE LINE THAT LIMITS ITS ABILITY TO EVOLVE COHESIVELY WITH A UNIFIED VISION AMONG ITS PEOPLE.

Throughout its history, the bridge has been an important symbol to the Piedmont community. Since 1886, a footbridge spanning the lengths of the Saluda River has connected the community in more ways than one. In 2020, the footbridge was destroyed during a storm, chipping away at an already dwindling list of remaining historic structures. The community, brought together in its devastation, honored the footbridge by placing ribbons along the highway 86 bridge. This moment in Piedmont’s history, while somber, should also be remembered as a moment of strength as it reflects a history of the community’s resilience in spite of hardships. This planning process aims to be just that—a bridge—connecting the Piedmont community in order to actualize its vision.

Who?

GREENVILLE COUNTY LONG RANGE PLANNING WILL HOST A SERIES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS IN SUMMER 2023. THE MEETINGS WILL PROVIDE STAKEHOLDERS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH THE TEAM GUIDING THE PLAN AT GREENVILLE COUNTY, GET UPDATES ON PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS, PARTICIPATE IN INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES AND POLLS, AND PROVIDE VALUABLE FEEDBACK. THESE INCLUDE:

CHALK PIEDMONT EVENT

THIS EVENT, PRIMARILY TARGETING FAMILY AND YOUTH STAKEHOLDERS, WILL PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH CHALK OR OTHER METHODS TO ENCOURAGE CREATIVE EXPRESSION, SUCH AS DRAWING OR WRITING MESSAGES OR ARTWORK ON SIDEWALKS OR PUBLIC SPACES. THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ATTRACT ATTENTION, SPARK CONVERSATION, AND INVOLVE YOUTH AND CAREGIVERS IN SHAPING THEIR COMMUNITY.

TALK PIEDMONT EVENT

PARTICIPANTS WILL MEET IN AN INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE, SUCH AS A LOCAL COFFEE SHOP, RESTAURANT, OR OTHER PUBLIC GATHERING SPACE, TO HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT PIEDMONT. THIS INFORMAL GATHERING WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STAKEHOLDERS TO ENGAGE IN OPEN AND HONEST CONVERSATIONS, SHARING THEIR PERSPECTIVES AND IDEAS RELATED TO THE COMMUNITY. THE GOAL IS TO FOSTER DIALOGUE, BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, AND GATHER VALUABLE INPUT FROM DIVERSE VOICES IN AN APPROACHABLE ENVIRONMENT.

WALK PIEDMONT EVENT

PARTICIPANTS WILL EXPLORE A NEIGHBORHOOD OR SPECIFIC LOCATION ON FOOT OR VIRTUALLY WITH GOOGLE MAPS STREET VIEW, OBSERVING THE SURROUNDINGS FIRSTHAND AND IDENTIFYING AREAS THAT COULD BENEFIT FROM IMPROVEMENTS OR CHANGES. THIS ON-THE-GROUND ASSESSMENT HELPS GATHER PRACTICAL INSIGHTS AND FACILITATES A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMUNITY’S NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES. THE EVENT MAY BE HELD AT A LOCAL ESTABLISHMENT WITH AMPLE OUTDOOR SPACE FOR WALKING AROUND.

When? Where?

ALL MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 3 MAIN STREET IN PIEDMONT, UNLESS NOTED BY AN ASTERISK.

Chalk Piedmont.................................6/27 at 10:00 AM
Public Meeting #1............................6/29 at 6:30 PM
Talk Piedmont*.................................7/10 at 6:00 PM
Public Meeting #2............................7/12 at 4:30 PM
Walk Piedmont.................................7/25 at 10:00 AM
Public Meeting #3............................7/31 at 2:30 PM

*TALK PIEDMONT DOES NOT YET HAVE A DESIGNATED MEETING SPACE. IF YOU OWN AN ESTABLISHMENT IN PIEDMONT THAT IS CAPABLE OF HOSTING A GATHERING, AND ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE E-MAIL THE PROJECT MANAGER, AUSTIN LOVELACE, AT: ALOVELACE@GREENVILLECOUNTY.ORG

We need to have a conversation about Piedmont.

We look forward to your participation!!!

Take the Survey

Printable survey is available by request or online. Learn more at greenvillecounty.org/planning.