

COMMUNITY VISION for the CITY of MOUNTAIN PARK GEORGIA

2011

Mountain Park is a small community of over 500 persons living in an eclectic variety of more than 245 houses dotted along narrow roads in a half square mile of forest in the Appalachian foothills of North Georgia. It is surrounded on three sides by the much larger City of Roswell, with unincorporated Cherokee County to the west. Much of the town is wrapped around two small lakes with a City Hall, Fire Department, Community Building and Green, swimming pool, lakeside pavilion, fishing bridge, and a protected shore along one of the lakes. Other small plots of city-owned property are scattered throughout the town. Established in 1927 as a seasonal resort, it is entirely residential, with no zoning for commercial activity. The citizens of the City frame their vision for the future of the community grounded on the foundation of its past, and the experiences of its present.

Based on the results of a city-wide survey distributed in January of 2011, and two community meetings in February, the citizens have identified the following issues and opportunities for the future. These subjects fall into two main categories: Shared Property and Governance. These are intertwined realities to be approached together.

The **issues** for Shared Property center around questions of how to maintain and improve city assets, and how to expand their benefits for citizens of the town, but still maintain the unique atmosphere that drew the people of Mountain Park to call this place home.

The **issues** for Governance are centered on the development of capable leadership from within the citizenry, adept financial management, and communication within the citizenry and with surrounding jurisdictions.

The **opportunities** that these issues make possible are as follows:

- Create structures to assure the maintenance of community property and lakes, and improve the general aspect of the town.
- Explore the use of these assets to help support the community financially through their occasional use for art shows, festivals, and the like. Some openness is expressed for the possibility of limited commercial use.
- Improve the intrinsic value of city property through physical changes to the pool, the green, and the possible use of city property such as a community garden or walking trails.
- Improve communications throughout the community, and between the city government and citizens.
- Explore opportunities to strengthen citizen involvement in the government and other civic institutions. This is expressed in the determination to maintain the essential character of the community and to strengthen the volunteerism that has allowed Mountain Park to prosper.

The citizens of Mountain Park are united in their determination to preserve the unique, intimate, physical qualities of their heavily forested town, to maintain and improve social interactions, and to create a strong foundation for the future. This general vision for the future of the City of Mountain Park will be expressed more specifically in the individual items of the Short Term Work Program.