

THE LEGACY

2030 Update



2014-2015 Status Report

The *Legacy 2030 Update* is the comprehensive plan adopted by Forsyth County and all its municipalities and is centered around the themes of fiscal responsibility, sustainable growth and livable design. A large and diverse group of citizens was involved in the creation of the plan. Successful implementation of plan recommendations will result in keeping our rural areas rural, providing a diversity of residential options, improving accessibility and livability, and helping our community thrive in the new economy.

This is the second of what will become biennial reports to the community on progress in achieving the goals of *Legacy 2030*. This report summarizes accomplishments since the first report in 2014 through 2015.



Major Accomplishments in Implementing Legacy 2030

Twelve major goals were identified in *The Legacy 2030 Update*. Following is a summary of the progress made in positively addressing the goals of the plan.

Growth Management

Goal: Make efficient use of limited land capacity
Accomplishments

- Growth Corridor recommendations have been included in the updated area plans.
- Growth management principles are included in area plan updates and staff zoning reports.
- *Piedmont Together*, the Triad's regional sustainable communities plan, was completed and efforts to implement key recommendations are underway.

Land Use

Goal: Offer a variety of housing choices and convenient access to services
Accomplishments

- The development opportunity maps were updated and a residential opportunities site study is now available.
- Unified Development Ordinances (UDO) amendments were made to facilitate the application of *Legacy 2030* land use principles.
- Presentations geared to citizens as well as developers were made illustrating more compatible and attractive designs for multifamily housing.



Transportation

Goal: A balanced, sustainable, multimodal transportation system
Accomplishments

- The *2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan* was adopted.
- New parking regulations were adopted requiring bicycle parking and improved pedestrian access in new developments.
- A comprehensive transit study was completed. A new WSTA route system was approved to take effect in January 2017.
- A section of the Eastern Leg of the Northern Beltway is under construction and funding has been secured for the entire Eastern Leg.
- The Salem Creek Connector is under construction and the Macy Grove Road Extension and interchange has been completed.

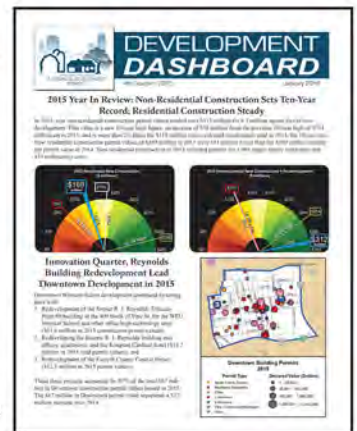
- Planning and public involvement for the Business 40 Improvement Project has taken place and design enhancements included.
- A multi-use path in the Business 40 corridor has been approved and some funding secured.
- Much more emphasis is being given to public sidewalk construction.



Economic Development

Goal: Attract new and expand existing businesses
Accomplishments

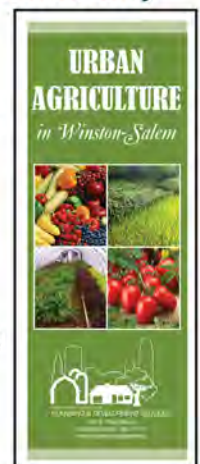
- Potential locations for future business parks in the city and county have been identified.
- Renovation and reuse of former R.J. Reynolds manufacturing facilities is creating additional employment opportunities.
- Quarterly Forsyth County *Development Dashboard* reports provide construction activity snapshots.



Environmental Quality and Sustainability

Goal: Preserve, enhance, and protect our environmental resources
Accomplishments

- Community Roots Day events were held in 2014 and 2015.
- Revised parking regulations include recommended reduction of impervious surface parking areas from the Sustainable Zoning Practices Report.
- Provisions to allow and encourage Urban Agriculture were added to the UDO.



Healthy, Complete and Equitable Communities

Goal: Improved health and well-being

Accomplishments

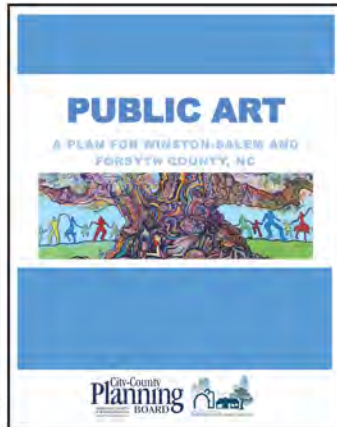
- The Safe Routes to School program identified infrastructure improvements to facilitate more walking and biking by students.
- Major improvements are scheduled for a number of Winston-Salem parks, along with additional greenways.
- A report identifying methods of incorporating healthy design into future development was prepared.

Community Character

Goal: A distinctive image

Accomplishments

- A public art master plan was adopted and a Public Art Commission is being created.
- The list of view corridors has been expanded prohibiting new billboards along designated roadways.
- The 14th Community Appearance Awards program was held in June 2014.
- *Winston-Salem's Architectural Heritage* is now available. Community presentations by the author were given.
- Four historic markers were installed, two Local Historic Landmarks were designated, and five buildings were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.



Downtown and the Center City

Goal: A vibrant, exciting Downtown and Center City

Accomplishments

- The new Central Library is now under construction.
- Adaptive reuse and renovations of buildings are adding jobs, residences, restaurants, and hotels to Downtown Winston-Salem.
- Two new parks have been added downtown.
- An Alternatives Analysis for an Urban Circulator was approved recommending a modern streetcar as the preferred technology and a potential route.

Neighborhoods and Towns

Goal: Enhance neighborhoods and towns

Accomplishments

- Recommendations and illustrations for enhancing neighborhoods were included in all area plan updates.
- A new Neighborhood Business Zoning District was created.
- A strategic revitalization plan for the Waughtown Neighborhood was developed.
- Design illustrations have been included in all new area plans showing how *Legacy 2030* recommendations could be incorporated into new or revitalized development.



Rural Character

Goal: Preserve, protect, and enhance the Rural Area

Accomplishments

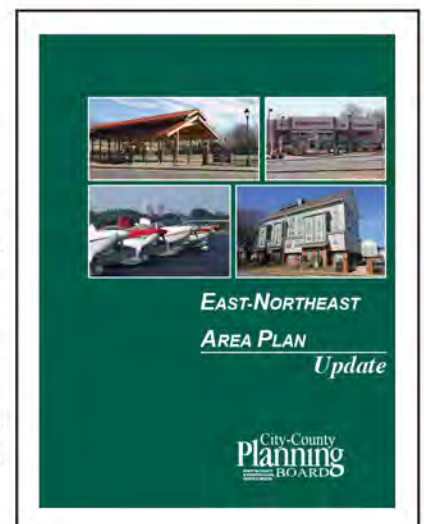
- Forsyth County received a grant to complete a Farmland Preservation Plan for the county.
- The Forsyth Community Food Consortium has been created to facilitate the production of local food.
- The Rural Historic Resource Preservation Report has been completed.

Area Plans

Goal: Translate *Legacy 2030* on a community level

Accomplishments

- Four area plan updates were adopted: *South Central Winston-Salem*, *North Central Winston-Salem*, *Southwest Suburban*, and *East-Northeast Winston-Salem*.
- An Area Plan Implementation Status Report to evaluate the status of area plan recommendations was completed for use by departments, budget offices, and managers.
- An Area Plan Trends Report was completed allowing comparisons between individual planning areas.



Key Public Investments

Goal: Use public improvements to catalyze investment.

Accomplishments

- Infrastructure, public safety and park facilities, and park improvements are being funded by \$139.2 million in city bonds approved by voters in 2014.
- Funding for an interconnected network of sidewalks, greenways, and bike paths is also included in the bonds.
- Additional funding is available for public improvements in designated Revitalizing Urban Commercial Areas (RUCAs) and to revitalize neighborhoods with blighted housing conditions through the Transforming Urban Residential Neighborhoods program (TURN).



Celebrations and Awards

- Fourth Street attained the “Great Main Street” designation as part of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association’s Great Places in North Carolina program.
- The Wake Forest Innovation Quarter was a statewide finalist for a People’s Choice Award in the category of Great Historic Rehabilitation sponsored by the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Moving Forward

Progress continues in implementing the national award-winning *Legacy 2030 Comprehensive Plan*. Initiatives were undertaken to move forward in all the different goal areas. Progress has been slower in some areas than in others. Particularly challenging is coming to grips with some of the new issues addressed in the plan concerning healthy design, food access, equity, age-friendly communities, alternative energy, complete streets, and fiscal responsibility. These issues and others will be further studied and addressed in the coming years and reported biennially. We look forward to continued active citizen involvement in creating a more livable community.

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