In 2014, Planning staff created a series of Development Opportunity Map books to show potentially developable properties that are supported by adopted land use plans (Legacy 2030 and area plans) and that were properly zoned to allow these uses. Specific land use types that were considered in the Development Opportunity Maps included commercial, industrial, and multifamily residential/mixed-use development. Additionally, properties were evaluated by their acreage and their status as either vacant or underdeveloped.

Recently, staff completed an updated set of Development Opportunity Maps which expand on the initial study by including sites that meet all the aforementioned requirements, but that need to be rezoned to be development-ready. The expanded opportunity maps should help streamline the site selection process for developers looking to invest in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

In February 2016, the City-County Planning Board recommended approval of the Southeast Suburban Area Plan Update. This plan includes land area in Winston-Salem, as well as unincorporated Forsyth County. The area (generally south of Business 40/US 421 and West Mountain Street, north of the Forsyth County/Davidson County boundary, east of Thomasville Road and the Southeast Winston-Salem Plan Area and west of the Southeast Forsyth Plan Area) continues to experience steady growth, while maintaining a suburban community feel. Residents have expressed interest in maintaining this character, albeit adding some additional commercial and service development.

Although the plan area has experienced some change since the previous plan was adopted in 2009, it does stand to be significantly impacted by transportation changes in the area including recent improvements to Union Cross Road and the construction of the future I-74 Beltway. Future public investments in the area also include a gymnasium and spray ground addition to Sedge Garden Park Recreation Center and a marina at Salem Lake Park.

Plan recommendations were developed with citizens to reflect community desires and to prepare for the changes to come. The City Council and County Commissioners are expected to consider the plan in the coming months.
Mark your calendars! The 2016 Community Appearance Awards will be held Wednesday, June 8th, at 4:30 p.m. in the Gray Auditorium at the Old Salem Visitor Center. The biennial awards program is sponsored by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Community Appearance Commission to honor businesses, organizations, and individuals who have had a positive impact on the appearance of the community. The keynote speaker for the event is Dr. Katherine Loflin, an internationally recognized, award-winning consultant and speaker on place making.

**City-County Public Art Commission to be Appointed**

This month, the Winston-Salem City Council and Forsyth County Board of Commissioners will appoint members of the new City-County Public Art Commission. The formation of the commission is the central recommendation of the City-County Public Art Plan, which was developed by Planning staff in collaboration with local arts professionals. The plan was adopted by the City, County, and most of Forsyth County’s towns and villages last year.

Public art includes any work of art that exists in the public realm. Whether it’s on private or public property, if it can be seen from public spaces like sidewalks, streets, courtyards, parks, even parking lots, it’s considered public art. Public art can be created in any medium, whether it’s sculpture, painting, or fountains. Even artfully created benches or bus stops can be public art.

There are four principle components when creating public art: ideas, artists, funding, and public space. The Public Art Commission will work to assemble these components to create a more beautiful, thoughtful and innovative public realm. The Public Art Commission’s objective will be to expand the City and County’s public art offerings beyond the Downtown Arts District and bring public art to the rest of Downtown, city and county neighborhoods, parks, greenways, and beyond.

**Want more information?**

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