



# The WaterSpout

## Comprehensive Plan Update

You might be asking yourself “What is a comprehensive plan?” and “Why is it important to me?” Simply put, a comprehensive plan is a document designed to help guide a community by providing a vision of the future. It is an all-inclusive, or “comprehensive”, approach to addressing the issue of a community’s growth in the future. The final, official document serves as a policy guide for staff, appointed officials, and elected officials in their decision making process as growth and development issues come before them. Our local comprehensive plan should be important to each and every one of us because it will shape how our community will grow and evolve.

It’s once again time to review and update our existing Comprehensive Plan originally completed in 2006, with revisions made in 2009 and 2012. Now is the time to reflect on what has been completed, identify what still needs to be done, and determine if priorities have changed requiring any adjustments in the course we are headed. Please follow us on Facebook or check our website ([www.thempc.org/Dept/Comp](http://www.thempc.org/Dept/Comp)) for updates and opportunities to be involved in providing input for this important document. This document will help shape our community by identifying issues, opportunities, and priorities and allocating resources accordingly.

## Find us on the Web, Facebook & Twitter!!!

Find us on the Web:

[www.mpcnaturalresources.org](http://www.mpcnaturalresources.org)  
[www.thempc.org](http://www.thempc.org)

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## Only Rain Down the Drain

Summer time in the Southeast means afternoon thunderstorms. Those rains can sometimes be a welcome reprieve from the summer heat, as they cool us down a bit and give our trees and lawns a much needed drink of water. But where does all the water go that does not make its way onto our lawns or other impervious surfaces? It goes into our storm drains, directly to our streams and rivers without any treatment to filter out the trash and other pollutants.

Check out this short video that reminds us all why we should never litter and why we should always pick up litter that we see, even if it is not ours:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhIBSOITYdQ&feature=youtu.be&utm\\_source=May+2016&utm\\_campaign=May+2016&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhIBSOITYdQ&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=May+2016&utm_campaign=May+2016&utm_medium=email)

## Water Restrictions are Still in Effect

It is important to remember that there are permanent outdoor watering restrictions for unincorporated Chatham County, the Cities of Savannah, Bloomingdale, Garden City, Pooler, Port Wentworth, Tybee Island and the Town of Thunderbolt. These restrictions will continue to remain in effect during both a declared drought and non-drought period.

The following outdoor watering schedules apply for all of Chatham County:

- **Odd-numbered addresses** may use outdoor water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays;
- **Even-numbered** and **un-numbered addresses** may use outdoor water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays;
- The use of outdoor water is not permissible between the hours of **10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**; and
- No watering is allowed on **Fridays**.



Thanks to Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation's *Live Well. Be Well.* initiative, Forsyth Farmers' Market has created **Farm Truck 912**, a mobile farmers' market that brings local fruits and vegetables to Savannah neighborhoods with the least access to healthy food.

Farm Truck 912 both *accept* and *double* SNAP/EBT benefits and offer health and nutrition opportunities!

The current Farm Truck stops include:

- **Department of Family & Children Services**
  - **Monday: 10am-11:30am**
- **Savannah Gardens**
  - **Monday: 3pm-4pm**
- **Sustainable Fellwood**
  - **Tuesday: 1pm-2pm**
- **WW Law Community Center**
  - **Thursday: 3pm-4pm**
- **Sheppard's Gas and Food Mart**
  - **Thursday: 5pm-6pm**
- **Memorial Health**
  - **One Friday of each month: 11am-1pm**

## Energy Vampires

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average American household owns 25 consumer electronic devices. You may wonder what the relevance is of knowing that information. On its face, that really probably isn't that much of a surprise when you think of all the cell phones, tablets, and other such devices that we all are tuned into 24 hours a day. But what about all the energy those items are using, even when you're not actively using them? Don't think those little things use up "that" much energy? You might be surprised to find out how much energy they are sucking up!

For example, cellphone chargers...it doesn't seem like it would be a big source of wasted energy, but consider how many you have and how many times you've left them plugged in with nothing connected. These devices are constantly drawing power, even when nothing is connected. On average, they consume .26 watts of energy when not in use and 2.24 watts when a fully charged device is connected to it. Multiply that by the number of cellphones in your house, plus other similar devices and they are often responsible for adding 10% or more to your monthly utility bill.

Another example, cable boxes that we have hooked up to each of our TVs...even when they are powered off, they consume an average of 17.83 watts. A cable box with DVR capabilities more than doubles that. That means that even if you simply left your cable box plugged in it is costing you money.

Thankfully the U.S. Department of Energy has come up with some simple suggestions that can help you "drive a stake through these energy vampires":

- Unplug devices that you don't use often. This probably won't work for items you regularly use but for those that you only use from time to time, you should unplug them completely until the next time you need to use them.
- Use power strips. Power strips allow you to toggle the power flow on and off. This will allow you to control the power usage of clusters of devices so that they're not consuming electricity needlessly.
- Curb idle time on devices such as computers and video game consoles. Setting your computer to sleep mode or saving a game and powering down instead of leaving it paused for a prolonged period can actually save more than \$100 a year in many cases.
- Make smart upgrades. When it comes time to replace your old items, consider ENERGY STAR devices. They have a lower standby consumption than your average device and generally use less energy in all their functions- a savings you should take into account when comparing similar products.

Want to know how much energy other devices typically use? Check out this table created by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory: <http://standby.lbl.gov/summary-table.html>

## Comprehensive Plan Survey

### WE NEED YOU!!!!

We need your input on how you think we (the City, County, and collective community) are doing and where we should be headed. Please take five minutes to answer a few questions to assist us with this process: [TAKE THE SURVEY](#). Tell your family and friends to take the survey too!

You are also invited to attend our two **Public Open House meetings** on this topic:

- **When:** Thursday, July 14, 10:00 am – noon & 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- **Where:** Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, 110 East State Street, Savannah, GA 31401

**CHATHAM COUNTY –  
SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

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# We Want To Hear From You

The Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) is updating the community's Comprehensive Plan. This plan is a guide for future land use and public policy. Your input is valuable and important.

Go to [www.thempc.org](http://www.thempc.org) to take the survey.  
Responses are due before July 15, 2016.

Two Public Open House meetings will be held  
**When:** Thursday, July 14, 10:00 am – noon & 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
**Where:** MPC Hearing Room, 110 East State Street, Savannah, 31401



Paper copies of the survey are available at our office: 110 East State Street, Savannah, GA 31401. Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

## Forsyth Farmers' Market

Every Saturday at the south end of Forsyth Park 9 a.m.  
to 1 p.m.



Support local farmers, and improve your health by shopping at the Forsyth Park Farmers Market. Select from a variety of fresh, regional produce sold by farmers, and take advantage of nutritional information and demonstrations offered at the health pavilion. EBT cards are accepted. Please visit [www.forsythfarmersmarket.org](http://www.forsythfarmersmarket.org) for more information.