



## OUTREACH KIOSK SUMMARY

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### OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Foster Forsyth outreach kiosks was to create more opportunities to interact with community members. Kiosks, staffed with consulting project team members and volunteers from the Steering and Visioning Committees, were held at four times and locations during the visioning phase of the planning process.

These booths featured input activities designed to broaden the reach of the plan and to provide input from those who may not otherwise engage with the planning process. Each kiosk included a display promoting the Foster Forsyth Comprehensive Plan, which described the plan update process and the need for public input. It also included an input board engaged people with the County's greatest assets and hurdles.

The kiosk also had two fliers for distribution, one with the project's schedule and one that promoted the Design Workshops. Business cards with the Foster Forsyth website on them, and water bottles with Foster Forsyth branding, were also distributed to passers-by. Interested individuals could also sign up for inclusion on the email outreach list.

### KIOSK LOCATIONS AND COMMENTS

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 8 AM TO 10 AM, BIG CREEK GREENWAY TRAILHEAD IN FOWLER PARK

This kiosk event coincided with a run/walk charity event and was intended to publicize Foster Forsyth as widely as possible to attendees. The kiosk was set up at the finish line for maximum visibility. Hundreds of race participants and viewers saw the booth and its distinctive Foster Forsyth branding.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 7, 10 AM TO NOON, CENTRAL PARK

Visitors to this kiosk took time to chat with staffers. Topics of interest included:

- Developers bearing additional responsibility for additional infrastructure
- Narrow subdivision roads were too narrow for parking
- Long drives for short distances
- Growth brings rising home values, but also more traffic
- Many residents plan to sell and move as county changes character
- Fears of the highly-concentrated rental areas bringing decline versus the need for affordable homes for workers
- Frustrated with the appearance of reactive instead of proactive planning
- Schools should be located at or near community/neighborhood centers
- Hope for improved land use plan to lessen political favors with developers
- Road capacity increase after population growth creates dangers
- Targeted retail growth is a reassuring concept for addressing traffic
- Trip time to the grocery store has grown from 10 minutes to 30 over past ten years

## **SATURDAY, MAY 14, 10:30 AM TO 12:30 PM, SAWNEE MOUNTAIN PRESERVE VISITOR CENTER**

This kiosk event did not coincide with a special event. It was intended to meet people during their regular Saturday activities. Forsyth County's lovely parks are a regional draw, as it turns out, and so many of the people who dropped by the kiosk were not Forsyth County residents. All the same, staff at this kiosk distributed fliers and business cards to about 30-40 Forsyth people, some of whom interacted with the input board.

Topics of interest at this kiosk were:

- Value of quality amenities in the County like parks
- Concerns about tax money going to shared amenities – visitors from other counties
- Importance of seeking quality growth over growth-at-any-cost
- Need for family-friendly venues and activities

## **MONDAY, MAY 23, 5 PM TO 7 PM, LANIER TECH'S FOOD TRUCKS N' FORSYTH**

The final kiosk was erected at the food truck rally sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The event got off to a late start and many people were in line for food instead of at the kiosk. Approximately ten people come by the kiosk, chatting with the staff and participating in the engagement activities.

Of interest to those who visited the kiosk:

- Retirees and young folks want smaller homes that require little to no maintenance
- Desire for slow growth or no growth
- Concerns about the safety and ongoing availability of water in Forsyth County and the region

## **INPUT FROM BOARD**

Participants noted additional comments in response to two prompts stated on input boards posted at the event kiosks. Key themes from input board content included:

### **Our County's biggest hurdles to overcome in the next years...**

- Growth outpacing infrastructure
- Spot zoning
- Old zoning that makes no sense now
- Maintenance of current public facilities – parks
- Clean, safe, affordable water
- Uncontrolled growth
- Lack of corporate commercial development
- Control multi-unit housing
- Scale up [increase depth of] government
- Traffic congestion
- Roads

### **In 2037 I won't want to live anywhere but Forsyth County because...**

- Hyperdevelopment
- Destruction of the natural environment
- Increased greenspace
- No high res development
- A responsive comprehensive plan County officials abide by
- Affordability