





By 2026, I want Greenville to be... full of parks

🔄 Horizons 2026

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### Horizons 2026: Workshop for Our Future

The Workshop for Our Future was held on September 14, 2015 at the Greenville Convention Center between 6:00 and 8:00 PM. It provided an important public engagement opportunity for members of the Greenville community. Attendees learned about current trends voiced their concerns, aspirations, and ideas for the Horizons 2026 Plan.

Horizons 2026 develops a vision and blueprint for enhancing the urban character, economic vibrancy, and environmental stewardship in Greenville by identifying needed public services, desired physical development, and economic development opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations.

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1.	Introductory Comments	Mayor Allen Thomas	6:00 pm
2.	Workshop Agenda	Merrill Flood, Assistant City Manager	6:05 pm
3.	Greenville, Trends and Conditions	Leigh Anne King, Clarion Associates	6:10 pm
4.	<b>Development Possibilities</b>	Jim Earnhardt, Bryan Properties	6:20 pm
5.	Polling Exercise	Leigh Anne King, Clarion Associates	6:45 pm
6.	Community Visioning	Self-paced exercises	7:00 pm
7.	Adjourn		8:00 pm

Mayor Allen Thomas and Assistant City Manager Merrill Flood provided introductory comments and presented the workshop agenda for the evening. Following this, Leigh Anne King presented information about the comprehensive planning process and the trends and conditions that are impacting Greenville. Jim Earnhardt, a private-sector real estate developer with Bryan Properties, reviewed different development possibilities, providing examples of existing developments from throughout North Carolina and the urban design characteristics that made them successful. Community members then had the opportunity to answer polling questions using keypads provided at the beginning of the workshop.

The meeting was advertised through a variety of platforms. The city advertised through email listserves, social media outlets, and flyers. Local media were also supplied with a news release. Additionally, members of the Comprehensive Plan Commission were supplied with business cards containing meeting details and were encouraged to reach out to community members.



The business card and flyer were used to help market the workshop.

## WORKSHOP FOR OUR FUTURE

Public Kickoff Meeting for Greenville's New Community Plan

Where do we want the next 40,000 Greenville residents to live, work, and play?

Monday, September 14 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Greenville Convention Center 303 SW Greenville Blvd.



Horizons.GreenvilleNC.gov

Contact: Tom Weitnauer, Chief Planner Community Development Department City of Greenville, NC tweitnauer@greenvillenc.gov Phone 252-329-4511





### Who Came

113 people attended the Workshop for Our Future. Additionally, City of Greenville staff and Comprehensive Plan Commission (the steering committee for the project) volunteers helped greet members of the public and provide information and guidance at each station.

- 60% of Workshop attendees live and work in Greenville
- 32 % either live or work in Greenville
- 8% neither live nor work in Greenville

For those living in Greenville,

- 43% have lived here for more than 20 years
- 54% have lived in Greenville between one and 20 years
- 4% have just recently moved to the city

Workshop attendees live throughout Greenville, helping to provide representation from across the study area. Meanwhile, most attendees generally indicated that they work closer to the core of the city, and within city limits.

Consistent with common trends in public meeting attendance, a large percentage of the attendees were over the age of 50, while populations below the age of 30 were underrepresented. This occurs for a variety of reasons and it is important to be cognizant of representation during the planning process. For this and other reasons, input is also gathered through other forms of public outreach, such as online surveys.



### Age Representation

This chart compares Greenville's population by age (including students at ECU) with the representation of workshop participants.



At Station 1, attendees were asked to indicate on the map where they live (red dots) and work (blue dots) on this board.

### What They Did

Workshop stations play an important role in providing individualized and small group engagement. Each station was supported by volunteers from the Comprehensive Plan Commission and city staff, who provided information, instructions, and assistance. Station 2: About Horizons 2026 and Station 3: Influences on Greenville's Future offered information about the Horizons 2026 process as well as key trends and conditions impacting the city.



This Station 2 board provided information about the Horizons 2026 Community Plan.

## **Influences on Greenville's Future**

### **Key Trends Impacting** Greenville

#### The city's population is growing and diversifying. White Black Other Race 1980 2010 31% 37% 1%

Greenville is consuming land at a greater rate than the city's population growth.



Greenville's economy is diversifying. Greenville's largest industries are growing both locally and nationally, a good indicator of a healthy economy



#### The city is losing young professionals.



### Trends Impacted by Greenville's **Built Environment**

Station 3



#### Walking and biking are not safe and efficient modes of transportation in most parts of the city.

Though the city as a whole is car-dependent, Greenville is more walkable in areas that contain a mix of uses, narrow and highly connected streets, sidewalks, parking in the rear of buildings, and other pedestrian amenities. Similarly, places with wide roads, few connections, big parking lots, and few pedestrian amenities are less walkable



#### The cost of transportation (most households' 2nd largest expenditure) varies depending upon location, land use, and the built environment. But location affects transportation costs and

Housing is affordable in most of Greenville. Housing Affordability



increases the burden on households

Housing + Transportation Affordability

Can Afford Housing & Tran (Housing & Transportation of Are Cost Burdened (Housing & Transportation costs > 45% income)

Pitt County ranks highest for car crashes in the state and exceeds state and national obesity rates.

Pitt County Ranked Most Dangerous For Collisions Statewide 1045 Thy 6:47 AM, Aug 08, 2013

Are Cost Burdened (Housing payment > 30% income)

AAA ranked Pitt County's streets the most dangerous in the state for six consecutive years.



The built environment plays an important

role in encouraging physical activity through access to recreational opportunities and options for utilitarian exercise: being able to reach destinations on foot or by bike

Percent Adults with Body Mass Index > 30



The Station 3 board presented key trends impacting the community.



### **Greenville's Great Ideas**

Station 4 offered attendees an open-ended question: What do you think are the great ideas for Greenville's future? This station allowed attendees to provide their own ideas for Greenville, as well as capture any topics that might need deeper consideration. There was no shortage of ideas and 150 responses were recorded. Responses ranged from small localized issues to broad long-term goals for the city. The subject matter ranged from economic development policies to quality of life initiatives to environmental protections. A complete list of recorded responses is provided in the appendix to this report.

A desire for multimodal transportation options was the most common theme, followed by a desire for more active spaces, a vibrant downtown, more green infrastructure, compact development, safer streets, an activated river, more creative amenities, economic vibrancy, accessible government, and a bridge connection to River Park North.



This large board lay flat on a table and allowed participants to write ideas that they would most like to see implemented in Greenville.

### **Great Places, Weak Places**

Every city has great places - places within the community that people value and hold dear - and weak places - places where people would rather not be or would not want to replicate elsewhere in their community. Station 5 offered attendees an opportunity to identify those great and weak places within Greenville. People placed blue stickers on places that they believe are great and red stickers to indicate weak places. There were many places where participants had differing opinions and did not agree, however a few locations were overwhelmingly deemed great or weak.

Station 5 included a large map where attendees indicated the great places (blue dots) and weak places (red dots) within the community.

In addition to providing insight into the community's most and least valued places, participants had the opportunity to provide written comments with more specific information about what makes a great place or a weak place. These comments are provided in the appendix of this report.

#### Some great places and weak places in Greenville

Participants agreed that Greenville Boulevard between the Memorial Drive and Arlington Boulevard intersections is a weak corridor.

Many participants labeled the Uptown Greenville area, Dickinson Avenue near Uptown, and greenways as great places in Greenville.



### **Making Great Places in Greenville**

After offering their opinions on the great places and weak places in Greenville, workshop attendees provided their ideas about what they think are great built environments from places outside of Greenville. At this station people were provided 15 photos of different types of high quality developments (five corridors, five destinations, and five neighborhoods) and asked a simple question: Would you like to see this place in Greenville or would you not like to see this place in Greenville? Attendees voted one time per image, indicating their answer to this question. The average response per photo was slightly over 18 votes, with a range of 9 to 27 votes. The charts on the followiong three pages illustrate the findings from this station.



This board shows the results of participants' indicated preferences for different types of development. The charts on the following three pages illustrate the findings from this station.

### Corridors



### % Like for Greenville









42%

92%



8%

5%





### **Destinations**



### % Like for Greenville

% Dislike for Greenville

# 100%

# 100%

31% 69%





95%



### Neighborhoods

% Like for Greenville

% Dislike for Greenville



# 38%



# 89%



## 18% 82%

100%

100%

13

### **Getting Around Greenville**

Station 7 collected information about how attendees travel to different destinations, and provided an opportunity to identify how they wished they could travel around the city in the future. A red sticker denoted the mode of travel (located on the x axis) between home and common destinations (as shown on the y axis). A blue sticker denoted the mode of travel between work and common destinations. While the majority of participants travel to destinations by driving, the overwhelming majority of participants would prefer to travel by walking, biking, and taking public transportation. The disconnect between current and preferred travel modes is notable. The charts on the following two pages present the station findings.



This image of the Station 7 board shows the results of voting by workshop attendees. Each participant illustrated their current and preferred modes of transportation.

## CURRENT AND PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL...





ABBRERE

Full of bike lanes and side walks!

C Horizons 2026

### **Aspirations for Greenville's Future**

Station 8 allowed attendees to describe what they dream of for the City of Greenville by 2026. People had the opportunity to choose from two different cards to write down their ideas by completing the following sentences: These cards were then collected and everyone's responses were recorded. A full list of responses is available in the appendix of this report.

- Greenville can attract and retain young professionals by...
- By 2026, I want Greenville to be...



### By 2026, I want Greenville to be...

A national epicenter for pharmaceutical development and manufacturing innovation

Known for its environmental sustainability while it grows!

### More kid friendly

A regional hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and its maker culture

Full of unusual and beautiful buildings

### More walkable

A destination of choice for transitioning veterans and military retirees

### A place to move back to in late retirement

### **Community Polling Exercise**

Following the presentations about the Horizons 2026 planning process, existing trends and conditions in Greenville, and development possibilities in the region, attendees were asked multiple choice questions to which they were able to respond using individual keypads. Keypad polling engaged attendees, providing information about participants' preferences for the future of Greenville.

The following three pages present the results from the keypad polling questions.



# What do you value most about living/working in Greenville?



### Where do you go for recreation?



### Where do you prefer to shop and dine?



## What is most important to you as the community grows and changes?

Attract more high-paying jobs Protect environmental and cultural resources Improve visual appeal of development Improve transportation options Improve lives of impoverished people Something else Improve/maintain household affordability Support development of industrial / business parks Provide more housing and neighborhood options Improve educational opportunities





### What city do you wish Greenville was more like?



### What change would you most like to see in Greenville?



### Media

Multiple local media outlets provided coverage of the Workshop For Our Future. A list of news outlets that provided coverage, along with website URLs is listed below:

- ABC News 12: http://www.wcti12.com/news/greenvillediscusses-future-of-the-city/35274980
- The Daily Reflector: http://www.reflector.com/news/greenvilleplans-growth-2982347
- WNCT: http://wnct.com/2015/09/15/back-to-the-future-city-leaders-citizens-discuss-greenvilles-next-decade/
- WITN: http://www.witn.com/home/headlines/Greenvilleasks-residents-business-owners-to-join-discussion-on-citysfuture-327586131.html





### **Appendix Items**

- Workshop Agenda
- News Release
- Responses from Station 4: Greenville's Great Ideas
- Comments from Station 5: Great Places, Weak Places
- Responses from Station 8: Aspirations for Greenville's Future
- Workshop Presentation

# Workshop for Our Future

Monday, September 14, 2015, 6:00 - 8:00 pm Greenville Convention Center 303 Greenville Blvd. SW

1.	Introductory Comments	Mayor Allen Thomas	6:00 pm
2.	Workshop Agenda	Merrill Flood, City of Greenville	6:15 pm
3.	Greenville Trends and Conditions	Leigh Anne King, Clarion Associates	6:30 pm
4.	Building Walkable Places	Guest Speaker: Jim Earnhardt	6:45 pm
5.	Citizen Polling Exercise	Leigh Anne King, Clarion Associates	7:15 pm
6.	Small Station Feedback		7:30 pm
7.	Adjourn		8:00 pm

Visit the stations to learn more and contibute your ideas

- Station 1 Where do you Work? Where do you Live?
- Station 2 About Horizons 2026
- Station 3 Influences on Greenville's Future
- Station 4 Greenville's Great Ideas
- Station 5 Great Places, Weak Places
- Station 6 Making Great Places in Greenville
- Station 7 Getting Around in Greenville
- Station 8 Attracting Young Generations to Stay in Greenville



## **News Release**

### City of Greenville Invites Citizens to Engage in New Community Plan at "Workshop for Our Future"

**Greenville, NC (August 31, 2015)** - The City of Greenville is hosting the public kickoff meeting for the city's new community plan, *Horizons 2026*. The Workshop for Our Future will be held at the Greenville Convention Center located at 303 SW Greenville Blvd. on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 6:00 pm. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend the two hour event and provide their input on Greenville's future.

During the meeting, citizens will have the opportunity to learn about current trends and conditions affecting Greenville from business and government leaders, city planners, and other members of the community. Citizens will also have multiple opportunities to engage in the process with electronic polling questions and at small group stations. The objective of the meeting is to educate citizens and gain important public feedback. Input on issues and values will help lead to the development of a twenty year vision, along with policies and strategies that will help the city achieve it.

Horizons 2026 develops a vision and blueprint for enhancing the urban character, economic vibrancy, and environmental stewardship in Greenville by identifying needed public services, desired physical development, and economic development opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations.

Members of the public may also learn about the project, provide feedback and ideas, and sign up for project updates on the Horizons 2026 website. For information about the planning process, please email the city's Chief Planner, Tom Weitnauer at tweitnauer@greenvillenc.gov, or refer to the City's website at <u>Horizons.GreenvilleNC.gov</u>.

#### Comment

Live music Stop filling in flood plains I want a less frenetic, noisy, cacephonic lifestyle than we have today Need performing arts center Utilize the riverfront. More concerts, development Ordinances to support busking in specific areas Larger mall Riverfront dev'mt How do we propose to improve GREAT so that it saves the consumer time when using? How can we improve it to impact on where people live? Find a way to gate off town commons so we can have ticketed events Frequent bus service - and more lines. No more one-way loop lines Food/Music establishment. Lunch/Dinner "Club" The Built Environment: Think and plan before we build and approve ideas A greenway connection with a pedestrian bridge that crosses the tar river Limit size of municipality Sidewalks and bikepaths. Wide and go everywhere More shade trees on major thoroughfares Ordinances to perform. More pedestrians. Less Cars. Downtown safety Better roads Have more bicycle resources in town. Bike/ped bridge from town commons to river park north Bring West Greenville up from dire poverty without displacing current residents More activities for young professionals Pedestrian bridge across tar river Water park High density mixed use development Truna becoming commercial and residential Keep the green area near the greenway as is-people enjoy it in diverse ways, don't "develop" it! Clean up bank of Tar River. Make it like Potomac in northern VA This convention center...downtown! Apts for retirees similar to the boundary Link the neighborhood through greenways or "green pocket parks." Public art should be key, as should artists. Build UP. Not out! Smaller grocery stores near the grid Improvements in all of West Greenville City-ECU have "one" comprehensive vision Develop housing, groceries, entertainment downtown Keep us sorta small. Not more, more, more! Move convention center! Council to support city staff Crosswalks with pedestrian lights at intersections More infill between 5th and Town Common, after Evans and Reade. Increased Development Density Greenville City Rec. Center More bikes and pedestrian friendly spaces More downtown retail--food and hardware Biking needs to be possible along 10th or a parallel street More greenways! Dickinson corridor Include artists in an intentional way into this vision process Stop selling our city to...walmart Live music for adults Trader Joes a diverse downtown consumer experience Dutch style separated cycle tracks on both sides of Evans from 1st to Greenville Blvd Make Greenville transportation hub of eastern NC Revive the attic KAYAK rental on the river Less wal-marts! Performance venue similar to carolina theatre in durham

Safer ECU campus **Cleaner streets** Uptown improvements More underpass/overpass for bike/ped, including across railroad tracks at ECU stadium & 14th St. More cultural amenities More parks/recreation surrounding neighborhoods (like Elm St) Uptown-style development all over greenville, not just limited to downtown areas. More attractions @ river 10th St. from Portetown to Evans is too fast and dangerous Trader Joes, live music facility, uptown theater, more concentration to the young professionals Car shows. Antique and sports, and restorred cars. More sidewalks Walkable mixed use developemt at E 10th and Greenville Blvd. Pro A,AA,or AAA baseball stadium and team Need better street signs posted overhead at intersections and on posts. Business and neighborhood districts More neighborhood supermarkets, a downtown supermarket, bike lanes and sidealks that lead to shopping and restaurants. Competative advantage and give businesses a reason to locate here. Manditory dedications for parks More friendly walkable for blind people and people who need to (illegible) More bike paths. More live music venues Attractive public spaces Jazz concerts. Trader Joes. Redo old buildings, restore and refurbish. A park like millenium chicago. Large planters, flower planters clean up and develop river Integrated walkable infrastructure Look at implementing policies at ECU that will make the use of renewable energy sources more attractive As population increases we need to increase the police-force numbers Greater attention to preserving older trees in areas that are to be developed. Growth and development of greenville north rivers Move entertainment and recreational destinations for kids as well as young adults. Especially young adults. Performing arts center with excellent parking Culture center More nodes of mixed use, walkable development, along Greenville blvd and Memorial, connected by dutch style cycle tracks Is the ultimate goal to make all university towns in NC the same w/out regards to its history, residents, who were part of its history?

The official Pirate National Heritage Center and Museum - Pirate love, pirate history, pirate film, pirate games. Keep greenville green

More activities for young people

#### **Greenville's Great Ideas**

town commons Dickinson Development ASAP to Memorial Dr. More pocket parks and bike lanes Transportation for all children to attend events Improve transportation and install bus shelters everywhere. Put for sale signs on brick blvd Combine GREAT and ECU buses Transportation from convention Center District to Uptown Greenville Public transportation. Hi speed rail system (nc initiative). Sidewalks Walkable indoor/outdoor shopping Decrease or narrow the streets and put in greenways, sidewalks, and parks. More health related programs Embrace cultural diversity that university brings 4 year council terms Student housing by campus Public art installations Fewer chain restaurants Tram/skylift from town commons to River Park The ability to walk to the grocery store daily Increase in arts and culture outside of ECU Revitalized Dickinson Ave. retail/entertainment district Rowing venue on the river More development downtown Christian Video Production studio for "live" productions for local producers to partner with television stations to air on a local producer's budget Planted medians in lieu of center turn lanes Use the river as an opportunity, like wilmington Biking/Walking accessibility An invigorated dickinson avenue Streetscapes Interconnected neighborhoods Riverfront development (walkable/retail and restaurants) More sidewalks and safer intersections for walkers and bikers Permanent Trolley. Uptown tours. foot bridge over 10th st to campus Structure downtown to "look" and "feel" more like New Bern East Carolina Research Innovation Campus Mountain Bike Trail More employment opportunities for young professionals More walkable areas Sidewalks Love Willow Road concept but it is contiguous to anything Honesty Increased pedestrian connections Wide spread mixed use development and support more density More greenspaces Trader Joes (x4) Segways on Bike lanes More front porches citywide bus system by integrating ECU and city systems All streets must have bike lanes

First St. promenade restaurants, open dining, botiques, penthouses, etc. Overlooking greenville's "central park" i.e. the

Great Places	Weak Places	
Freshmarket Shopping Center: Bonefish,	Trashy intersections - debris not cleaned up after	
Cheddars, Kohls, Dicks	accidents / no city trash recept	
Great Harvest Bread	More pedestrian crosswalks	
Arlington Village	Expand airport / State Roads*	
Artisans Crafters - Plaza Drive	Continue / accelerate cleanup of West Greenville	
Sculpture Garden on Dickenson	To many fast food establishments	
Greenways	Too many Wal Marts	
Better and more resources for bike transportation Need performing arts center Keep up extending the greenway	10th Street Greenway Crossing Dangerous! Unsafe pedestrian crossings at intersections Poverty in West Greenville	
Farmers market / umbrella market	Architecture is blank - cookie-cutter new development	
	Apartments are on black top parking lots with nowhere	
Events in the Park - Uptown (more needed)	s in the Park - Uptown (more needed) to go but highways	
Downtown restaurants like The Scullery, Starlight,		
Cinnamon's, and Thai 360	You can't cross streets without risking your life	
Create transportation between ECU and City of	The greenway is the only halfway safe place to walk -	
Greenville	forget living here if you can't sprint!	
	More upscaled department stores	
	Health Food stores - Trader Joes	

	Greenville can attract and retain young
By 2026, I want Greenville to be	professionals by
A national epicenter for pharmaceutical development and	
manufacturing innovation	cultural amenities
	more jobs, other than retail, but decent paying positions
have more culture events to bring in visitors out of Greenville	that are upwardly mobile not a minimum wage haven
modern and have decent roads, especially on Dickenson and 10th	
Street	having attractive entertainment and dining venues
	growing targeted economic clusters to support career
using organic practices in our parks and playgrounds	progression and resiliency and fulfillment
ECU Football National Champions	keeping our old trees
	offering affordable, attractive housing close to
Known for its environmental sustainability while it grows!	downtown shops and restaurants
	better establishing a walkable urban core (with a grocery
more kid friendly!	store!)
Full of young professionals	making Greenville more walkable
miles of safe bicycle paths, extended greenway, increased support of	More independent coffee shops, restaurants, nightspots
independent businesses, revitalization of West Greenville WITHOUT	for gathering. I relocated from Nordolk and walk to go
displacing residents	back. As parents more splashparks or YMCA
a place to move back to in late retirement. I am moving away in early	
retirement because there is nowhere for active single retirees and not	Providing more entertainment and housing downtown
much to do.	(cafes, bars, a theater, cinema)
Beautiful (get the artists involved). Lots of public art - scultpures,	
murals, etc. Lovely buildings (unusual and beautiful).	Creating high quality interesting jobs
green, renewable, ecological, energy efficient, novel, versatile, life	Building quality of life choices such as parks, trees, bike
respectful, lovely, evolving	paths
	Greenways, safe well designed streets where traffic
Full of young professionals	flows, cultural activities
Diversified: young and old, professionals and creatives, green and	Recreation, medical facilities and an education system
walkable	for a diverse population
	Bike friendly, Tar River activities (kayakers), extended
encouraging neighborhood get-togethers	Greenways, a Trader Joes would hurt!
	Having great jobs within train/walk/bike distance,
	greenways, parks, shops, amenities, where all
full of bike lanes and sidewalks	ages/socioeconomic groups also thrive/live/coexist
make sure we increase police numbers as population increases; more	
activities for young professionals; safer for walkers and bikers	
More walkable	
More safe	
Mixed use walkable	
Easer to get around without a car, i.e. bike/walk	
Not too much bigger!	
A contemporary, upward community that's a hub of activity for	
busines, entertainment and culture. But retain a small town feel.	
Free from the frenetic noisy cacaphonic lifestyle we endure today	
A destination of choice for transitioning veterans and military retirees	
Known as a regional hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and its	
maker culture	
full of parks	
Vibrant, growing smart, diverse, a destination city	