

City of Burlington
Office of Public Information
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PRESS RELEASE

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Community Workshop to Create New Vision for Burlington *Community will guide planning efforts toward "Destination Burlington"*

BURLINGTON, NC— The City of Burlington is ready for a fresh vision of the future and is inviting all interested members of the community to engage in this creative effort. Should Burlington have more parks? Better sidewalks? Preserved historic areas? New boulevards? Fun activities downtown? Citizens are encouraged to participate in a Community Visioning Workshop that will guide the City into 2035 as part of its *Destination Burlington* comprehensive planning effort.

The Community Visioning Workshop will be held on Thursday, May 8th from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Kernodle Senior Center, Rooms A & B, 1535 South Mebane Street in Burlington. Residents, business owners, and anyone interested in providing their opinion on what makes Burlington a great place to live and what challenges exist to redevelopment are encouraged to participate. Refreshments will be available, and families are welcome.

During the workshop, participants will be asked to take part in activities to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the community, and to determine a long-term vision for future development and an enhanced quality of life. Following a brief presentation, attendees will work in small groups to map ideas, identify issues, and prioritize goals to achieve the vision. In addition, the project team of City staff and consultants, working with a steering committee made up of local residents, will be available to answer questions, discuss opportunities, and hear comments.

All interested members of the community are encouraged to subscribe to the project at <http://cityofburlingtonnc.mindmixer.com/> to join topic discussions and receive meeting notices, summaries, survey results, and drafts of the plan via email. A short online survey is also available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DestinationBurlington>. The survey will ask you to rate the importance of the City's services, where development should occur in the City, and what natural resources should be protected, among other important issues.

For this planning effort, the City has hired the project team of RATIO, an urban design + planning firm, joined by RKG Associates, Inc., a market and economic development strategy firm, and Stewart Engineering, a civil engineering firm. The effort is being funded in part by a Community Transformation Grant to the City by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information regarding the *Destination Burlington* plan or the Community Visioning Workshop, contact Rachel Hawley, Public Information Officer, at (336) 222-5076 or rhawley@ci.burlington.nc.us; or Paul Lipchak of RATIO at (919) 821-0805 or plipchak@RATIOarchitects.com.

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