

This is a vision by and for the people who care about Gaston County. We asked them to "create an image of our community's future". Across 70 virtual, in-person, and on-line survey opportunities, over

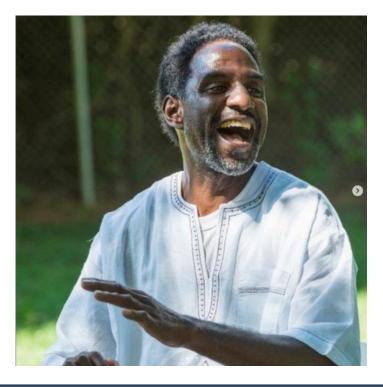
1700 people have made their views known.

We hope that this Vision will be a springboard from which our community – businesses and non-profit organizations and local governments and ALL of us – working together, will create the County we aspire to be between now and 2040. This Vision is a framework for collaboration – for rich dialogue, critical decision–making, innovation, and resourcefulness – and it marks the beginning of the journey.



## **DEFINING TRAITS**

There are a set of traits or characteristics that Gaston County residents aspire to see in the county from now to 2040. These traits provide context and clarity to the vision.





### SENSE OF BELONGING

People will feel welcomed and valued in Gaston County, long-term residents, newcomers, commuters, and visitors alike.





Gaston County has it all: mountains, lakes, trails, parks, farmland, charming downtown districts. These locales will continue to lend character and vibrance to the County.

### **COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT**



Collaboration will be a byword for success in Gaston County, as people and organizations join forces to address community challenges and leverage the benefits of growth.

### **QUALITY GROWTH**



Robust economic growth will be a part of Gaston County's future, bringing investment, jobs, and opportunity, without destroying the things that residents value.

### **INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY**



No one will feel excluded from or overlooked by the community. Everyone will see people who look like them in positions of leadership in the community.

# FRAMEWORK FOR COLLABORATION AND ACTION

## **ONE GASTON CARES**

We are healthy in mind, body and spirit, and our communities work together for quality of life for all.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Collaborate and build coalitions
- Welcome and value diversity
- Promote health and wellness in mind, body and spirit

## **ONE GASTON CONNECTS**

We have convenient access to the internet, and the ability to get around by walking, biking, driving, and using public transit.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Improve mobility, connectivity, and accessibility
- Enable broadband internet access

## **ONE GASTON WORKS**

We have great job and career opportunities, and we are prepared and equipped to succeed.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Strengthen childcare and early childhood education
- Ready students for college and careers
- Strengthen targeted economic development

## **ONE GASTON GROWS**

We achieve quality growth and economic success by using our land and resources wisely.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Maximize housing options
- Provide adequate infrastructure
- Retain character and natural amenities

### **ONE GASTON SHINES**

We will have a sense of pride about all Gaston County has to offer.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Generate pride and positive perceptions
- Leverage arts and culture

VISIT ONEGASTON2040.COM TO LEARN MORE.