



THRIVE NATURALLY. PLAN PURPOSEFULLY.

VISION STATEMENT

By 2050, Citrus County will be a thriving Nature Coast community where responsible growth, environmental stewardship, and economic opportunity are in balance. Connected neighborhoods, protected natural systems, and expanded recreation will support a high quality of life and a strong sense of place.

INTRODUCTION TO CITRUS 2050

With the extension of the Suncoast Parkway and continued population growth placing new development pressures on the County, Citrus County leadership recognized the need to reevaluate and update the Comprehensive Plan to guide the community's future. The process began with an extensive public engagement program focused on understanding residents' priorities, concerns, and aspirations for how Citrus County should grow and evolve over the coming decades.

The engagement effort was designed to reach residents through a variety of accessible and interactive formats. Activities included four stakeholder meetings with community leaders, three public workshops held throughout the County, and three pop-up events that brought the planning process directly into the community. To broaden participation, the County also launched an interactive project website featuring a public survey and additional online engagement tools. Printed surveys were made available at five libraries, the Lecanto Government Building, and the Board of County

Commissioners office in Inverness to ensure residents without reliable internet access could also participate in shaping the County's vision for the future.

The County organized the workshops to answer three big questions:

01 WHERE IS CITRUS NOW?

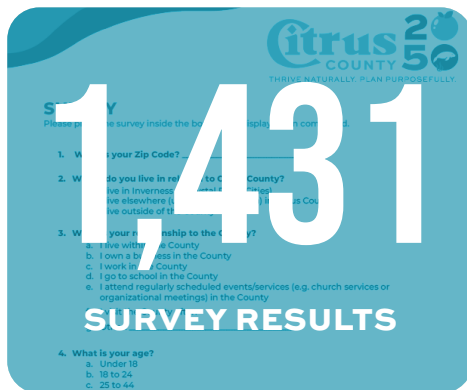
02 WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

03 HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Each workshop was designed to build off the input received from the previous feedback, culminating in an implementation focused public engagement session.

Four focus areas emerged from the public engagement process and website input. These topic areas include the issues that were identified along with potential strategies to address these issues.

ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS:



TOPIC AREAS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



KEY ISSUES:

Limited job diversity and high-wage employment opportunities

Underutilized Land

Untapped tourism potential

Insufficient employment land uses on the Future Land Use Map

Workforce pipeline gaps

Limited access to high-speed internet

STRATEGIES:

Expand high-speed internet access countywide

Strengthen connections between employment opportunities, training, and the labor force

Promote the Citrus Advantage website and provide supporting materials that highlight the positive aspects of the County, vacant sites, and incentives to attract companies

Establish more job supportive future land uses (commercial, office, mixed use, and industrial) on the City's future land use map

Cultivate and capitalize on industry clusters unique to the Tampa Bay region

Highlight regional location and access to transportation hubs

Expand tourism opportunities and industries

COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE /SERVICES



KEY ISSUES:

Need to expand septic to sewer conversions

Drainage & flooding concerns

Limited recreation opportunities (young & senior population)

Limited east west connectivity

Gaps in bicycle/ pedestrian connectivity

Minimal transportation alternatives

Road conditions & maintenance needs

Limited reclaimed water availability

STRATEGIES:

Accelerate connections to potable water and wastewater systems

Develop a parks and recreation master plan

Study new or expanded east-west corridors

Prepare a bike and pedestrian connectivity master plan

Expand transportation options and accessibility

Increase use of reclaimed water, especially for large users

RURAL CHARACTER & CONSERVATION



KEY ISSUES:

Preservation of rural character

Need for county-owned conservation lands

Pressure to expand development

Protection of natural resources

STRATEGIES:

Create a farmland conservation program

Establish a land acquisition program for conservation.

Encourage higher densities and increased building heights in developed areas to preserve remaining agricultural lands and open space.

Adopt and enforce stronger tree preservation regulations

Enhance pesticide/herbicide/fertilizer regulations and penalties around natural areas

Provide incentives to redevelop properties

HOUSING



KEY ISSUES:

Housing Affordability

Shortage of workforce / affordable/senior housing

Limited housing diversity

Housing Resiliency

STRATEGIES:

Establish incentives to encourage workforce/affordable/senior housing

Require a mixture of housing types for large developments

Align housing supply with economic growth needs

Improve resilience of existing housing to natural hazards

Encourage green building practices in new developments and redevelopment

NEXT STEPS:

The goals, objectives, and policies will be updated to reflect the issues and strategies identified during the public engagement process. Once a draft is finalized, an open house will be held to allow the public to review the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan. Stay tuned!



To continue providing input on the project and stay up to date on the latest developments with the Citrus Comprehensive Plan Update, please visit **bit.ly/plancitrus** or scan the **QR code** above.

If you have any questions or comments about the comprehensive plan update, please contact the Citrus County Growth Management Department at **citrus2050@citrusbocc.gov**

