

Vision Statement Provided by Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering

Levy County 2050 Vision Statement

Levy County is defined by its abundant open spaces, clean water, and the unique character of a landscape shaped by natural areas, managed forests, agricultural lands, springs, and rivers. In a state where many communities have been transformed by rapid growth, Levy County remains a place where the heritage of Old Florida endures. We recognize a shared responsibility to conserve and protect this environment and rural way of life, which is the foundation for our future.

Our vision is rooted in stewardship of the County's natural resources, working lands, and existing communities. We are dedicated to preserving the low-density rural and agricultural development pattern that has helped safeguard Levy County's character, water resources, and working lands. We will support the long-term viability of agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, and ecotourism while protecting the quiet beauty, dark skies, and ecological health that make Levy County unique.

When growth occurs, it should be carefully planned, fiscally responsible, and aligned with the County's character and natural systems. Commercial, industrial, and higher-density development should be directed to municipalities, existing communities, and suitable areas with infrastructure, including central water and wastewater treatment where necessary. Throughout all planning decisions, preserving our landscape, springs, rivers, and aquifer will remain a top priority.

By 2050, Levy County will remain a sustainable, resilient, and distinctly rural community, protecting its working and wild lands, safeguarding its water resources and dark skies, and preserving its unique sense of place for future generations.

Planning Commission notes and recommendations for Vision Statement August 10, 2026

After numerous public meetings, and substantial public input, what is abundantly clear is that the citizens of Levy County value it as it is- very predominantly rural and typified by a predominance of undeveloped, or lightly developed, lands. While Florida has an average population density of 435 residents per square mile, Levy County's is 41 residents per square mile. Growth and development should come with a recognition of the ever-increasing value of lightly-populated, natural areas. Increased jobs, income, and population are not necessarily indicators of quality of life or affordability. The citizens of Levy County seek to strike the balance that other Florida counties have missed.

Suggested Vision Statement

We recognize that Levy County is blessed with abundant open space and clean water, unspoiled natural areas and dark night skies. Our landscape, dominated by these natural areas, managed forests, and agricultural lands and nourished by numerous springs and rivers, was once far more common in Florida. To date, largely free from the intense development and growth pressures which have impacted other parts of the state, Levy County remains one of the few, and disappearing, Florida counties in a condition that would be recognizable to our parents, grandparents, and generations before them.

This environment, and its increasing rarity, is what makes Levy County and its communities unique and special. Careful and thoughtful environmental stewardship is not an option; it is a prerequisite, of achieving our vision for Levy County. Whatever else our vision for the future may be, it includes a desire, and a recognition of an obligation, to preserve and protect what we now have. Preservation has been facilitated by the current apportionment of our permitted land uses- with approximately 93% of our lands designated for Natural Resources and Conservation (22.87%), Forestry/Rural Residential (40.38%), or Agricultural/Rural Residential (30.38%) and allowing for very limited commercial or industrial uses and residential densities of, at most, one unit per 10 acres in those designations, - with only approximately 7% designated for more intensive, urban uses. We are comfortable with this apportionment and any substantial change in the same should occur slowly and carefully.

The resulting restriction of intense development to very limited areas has served us well, bequeathed us an asset of increasing rarity and value, and remains consistent with our vision for our future. Where and when growth and development occurs it must be balanced with preservation of our existing landscape and environment. In finding that balance, preservation of that landscape and environment must always be given great, if not dispositive, weight.

Consistent with the foregoing, growth and development, particularly commercial and industrial, are to be directed largely to municipalities and nearby lands. Residential development at a remove from municipalities should be driven to existing historic subdivisions; and ordinances and regulations adopted to facilitate the extension of central water and wastewater to those areas. More intense residential development into the future should be strictly limited to areas with then available central water and sewer or approved only conditioned on the contemporaneous provision of the same, or in situations where density enhancements are offset by appropriate land or water preservation measures.

Also consistent with the foregoing, more intense growth and development should be located to capitalize on connectivity of existing urbanized areas with resources outside our borders. Development, when appropriate, should be directed to the east of Williston with its connectivity to Ocala-Marion County, northeast of Williston and Bronson with their connectivity to Gainesville-Alachua County, north of, and between, Chiefland and Fanning Springs with their access to US 19, and south and east of Inglis-Yankeetown with their connectivity to growing areas of Citrus and Marion Counties. The remaining portions of Levy County, consisting of virtually all of the lands north of, and not within close proximity to SR 40, west of, and not in close proximity to SR 41 or SR 121, and south of and not in close proximity to US 27, excepting lands within municipalities or designated rural development nodes, should be free of all intensive residential development and, with some strictly controlled and limited exceptions, commercial or industrial development that is not directly related to, and appropriate for, agricultural, forestry, or conservation uses, including ecotourism.

This Vision Statement is an integral part of the Levy County Comprehensive plan and is deemed incorporated in each and every Goal, Policy and Objective of the same.