

## **PREAMBLE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY**

St. Lucie County is a unique Florida community. People who were born here love it and want to stay or return. Non-natives are charmed by its unusually friendly people and its variety of natural beauty.

The following is a partial list of characteristics, some physical and some social, that are special about St. Lucie County at this time and that are of such value that they should guide the Goals; Objectives, and Policies of our Comprehensive Plan. By enumerating these St. Lucie County attributes, we seek to remind ourselves of our treasures so that we will maintain them despite the changes that come with growth. This, we believe, is true growth management and the reason for adopting and implementing a strong County Comprehensive Plan.

### Valued Attributes and Characteristics of St. Lucie County

1. Spectacularly beautiful landscapes enhanced by open space and open sky. Prized features are the ever-changing Atlantic Ocean and its beaches, the tranquil Indian River Lagoon, the beautiful St. Lucie River, the Everglades-like north and south Savannahs, vast citrus groves and ranches.
2. Friendly people, helpful to strangers, who participate in large numbers for community betterment.
3. People of diverse backgrounds and cultures, providing a variety of organizations, customs, foods, festivals and arts.
4. Clean air.
5. Comparatively uncrowded roads.
6. Relatively small population.
7. World-renowned and economically-prized research facilities and affiliated businesses: Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, the Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce, USDA Research Facility.
8. Outstanding educational facilities: public and private K through 12; Indian River Community College; access to courses being offered by Barry College, Florida Atlantic University, Nova University, and the University of Florida; plans for a comprehensive state university; excellent, well-located public libraries.
9. Unique recreation/education facilities at St. Lucie County Historical Museum, UDT SEAL Museum, Manatee Discovery Learning Center, Heathcote Botanical Gardens, Florida Power and Light Energy Encounter Oxbow Environmental learning Center, Tradition Field, the PGA Golf Learning Center, and a number of outstanding golf courses.
10. Excellent cultural opportunities including the Backus and other art galleries; the Treasure Coast Opera Society; the Treasure Coast Symphony Orchestra; several jazz organizations; the St. Lucie Community Theater; IRCC's professional artist series and their student music and drama department presentations; award winning plays, band, and orchestra performances by public schools.
11. Abundant public beach accesses, savannahs, parks and other natural lands, protected through public ownership, which provide opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreation.
12. Increasing support for cooperation by all city and county governments.
13. World-famous recreational fishing; boating and marinas; economically productive commercial fisheries and related industries all made possible because of "the most diverse estuary in North America" and convenient access to near shore and Gulf Stream fisheries.
14. A rapidly growing eco-heritage tourism economy with an awareness of the need for sustainability.
15. A thriving agricultural economy.
16. Finally, and most important, an energized citizenry desirous of maximizing St. Lucie County's opportunities but determined to retain its unique historic and natural resources and its Old Florida, relaxed life style.

## **ST. LUCIE COUNTY OVERALL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL**

The Overall Goal of this Plan is to ensure the best living environment and community possible, built on the needs and desires of the residents of St. Lucie County.

The purpose of this Plan is to protect and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of St. Lucie County's citizens and of our County's natural and man-made resources.

GOAL 1.1 ENSURE THE HIGHEST QUALITY LIVING ENVIRONMENT POSSIBLE, THROUGH A MIXTURE OF LAND USES REFLECTING THE NEEDS AND DESIRES OF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS AND HOW THEY WANT THEIR COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP. THE GOAL SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED BY STRICTLY ENFORCED BUILDING, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT CODES BASED ON OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES THAT WILL ENHANCE ST. LUCIE COUNTY'S NATURAL AND MAN-MADE RESOURCES WHILE MINIMIZING ANY DAMAGE OR THREAT OF DEGRADATION TO THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE COUNTY'S CITIZENS, NATIVE WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT, THROUGH INCOMPATIBLE LAND USES.

Objective: To Improve St. Lucie County's economy while retaining its cultural and natural resources.

Policy 1: Plans for development or re-development shall be consistent with the Overall Plan Goal.

Policy 2: The Local Planning Agency shall conduct an annual workshop to review and revise, if members so decide, the Preamble's vision of St. Lucie County.

Policy 3: Provide for the consistent and predictable application of the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations that will ensure protection of St. Lucie County property owner's investments and their quality of life.

Policy 4: Establish code enforcement on a county-wide basis with proactive efforts on major corridors.