

# VISION 2020

## I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Alachua has adopted a vision statement and goals to achieve the vision. The City of Alachua held a Visioning Charrette on May 14, 2011 in order to update the Vision Element. The goals, objectives and policies of the Comprehensive Plan are constructed in an effort to help achieve the long-term vision of the City.

## II. VISION STATEMENT

The City of Alachua will be a vibrant, growing, economically and culturally diverse community, which takes great pride in the fact that it has maintained its strong sense of community, its small-town atmosphere, a strong recreation program, the charm of its downtown, and has preserved and protected its heritage and environment. It is proud of the state of the art educational facilities, which work hand-in-hand with Alachua's employers to make certain that its young people have challenging career opportunities at home. Alachua will become a leader in innovative techniques to ensure quality, well-planned growth and provide for a safe and convenient transportation environment. Alachua will be a place where housing choices are available to meet the needs of all citizens. Alachua will strive to be continually recognized by its peers as an example of what can happen when citizens, business communities, schools, and government work together for the common good.

## III. GOALS TO IMPLEMENT THE VISION

**GOAL 1: Economic Development:** The City of Alachua has a unique business climate. The City is home to corporations, technology incubators, local businesses, and start-up companies. The City will maintain its focus on a welcoming business environment and encourage business development in the downtown area and along the U.S. 441 corridor. Alachua desires to continue to be a home to innovative businesses and an employment center where jobs are provided at every level. The City will continue to encourage the growth and development of established industries, such as biotechnology, and encourage the diversification and expansion of commercial businesses which provide integral services to the City's residents.

**GOAL 2: Community, Cultural and Recreational Development:** The City of Alachua has a very strong sense of community involvement, as evidenced by community events and festivals which promote cultural arts and recreational activities, such as the Spring Arts Festival, Fall Harvest Festival, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and the Girl's Babe Ruth World Series of Softball Tournament. The City will foster the cultural growth and enhancement of the community by supporting cultural arts programs and outreach. The City will maintain its strong recreation program and encourage a diversity of recreational programs to meet the needs of all citizens.

**GOAL 3: Transportation Mobility:** The City of Alachua transportation system includes a heavily traveled U.S. 441 corridor and a walkable downtown Main Street. The City will promote a safe, convenient and aesthetically pleasing transportation environment that provides for various modes of transportation. The City will encourage multi-modal enhancements and trail systems. The expansion of sidewalks and sidewalk continuity will be directed to areas where pedestrian walkability is desirable, with particular focus upon providing greater pedestrian connectivity within and between the downtown commercial and residential areas. The City will continue to pursue the interconnectivity of development in order to reduce negative impacts upon transportation infrastructure.

**GOAL 4: Housing:** The City of Alachua has a variety of housing options, from historic downtown neighborhoods to large lot agrarian developments. The City supports the provision of safe, affordable housing for all income levels. The City will encourage mixed-use development with affordable housing, workforce housing, senior housing, housing for the disabled and enhancements that strengthen and upgrade neighborhoods, thereby maintaining a livable community for all age groups.

