

Charting a Course for Ponce Inlet

Community Visioning Report

Adopted by Town Council

12/18/2002

Vision

- Ponce Inlet is and will be a residential haven for those persons who value nature, quiet, privacy. It offers a small town lifestyle where people feel safe and should have easy access to small scale businesses serving their needs. The community will continue to be particularly distinguished by its natural beauty and its access to nature. It has ensured that its built environment is of high quality and appropriate scale while protecting historic features. The community will be recognized for the professionalism and integrity of its government and the high level of citizen involvement and participation in the life of the community.

Community Values

- As a community we value:
 - Quiet and privacy
 - Safety
 - Access to nature and open space through parks, bikepaths, sidewalks
 - The small town character and civic activities of our community
 - Our history

Recommendation

- Continue to provide the current high level of public safety services that the community values. Specifically ensure that Ponce Inlet:
 - Maintains response times;
 - Provides a highly visible police force;
 - Invests in new public safety technologies, traffic calming tools, and public education on safety;
 - Increased coordination with the County on public safety issues in County-managed areas in the evening and night hours;
 - Provides EMT/ALS services; and
 - Has adequate fire suppression capacity coordinated with the County on county-managed properties.

Recommendation

- Develop neighborhood based residential development policies and regulations that would fit the house to the property, maintain property and public health standards, and respect the character of the community and neighborhood.

Recommendation

- Update and consistently apply all code enforcement policies to ensure the quality of life in the community. Specifically ensure policies are enforced that prevent Ponce Inlet from becoming a rental community with high turnover in our residential neighborhoods.

Recommendations

- Review and update commercial land development and commercial zoning regulations to encourage:
 - The development of small scale, quiet businesses that serve residents; and
 - The creation of a historic district overlay for appropriate commercial and residential areas.

Recommendation

- Establish an open space acquisition program including:
 - An oversight committee;
 - A site prioritization system;
 - A financing mechanism; and
 - Mechanisms to receive gifts, donations and grants.

Recommendation

- Create a Pedestrian Walkway and Bike-path Network Master Plan that will provide adequate capacity and access to all areas of the community with features such as:
 - Adequate safety features such as low impact lighting
 - Minimal impact on the natural environment including pervious and impervious surfaces; and
 - Alternative routes to reduce road congestion by providing other means of transportation throughout the community.

Recommendations

- Ensure an adequate water supply while protecting the aquifer by taking actions such as:
 - Develop inter-local agreements and a funding plan to implement the water supply plan;
 - Establish a public awareness and communication program regarding the status of the water supply master plan; and
 - Develop a sewer plan for existing homes currently served by septic tanks.

Recommendation

- Establish a Historic Preservation Implementation Program which includes:
 - Development of a Historic Preservation Plan that includes community involvement and public education;
 - Identification and pursuit of funding sources; and
 - Strategies for use of Historic Preservation as a growth management tool.

Recommendation

- Continue the community's tradition of support and fostering of active civic clubs and participation.

Recommendation

- Enhance the physical appearance of the Town through:
 - Increasing the Town's government commitment and investment in beautification, signage, and tree canopy protection and expansion; and
 - Creating a consistent town image via signage, logos and the look of other public amenities.