

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

HARRISON COUNTY 2030

Draft Harrison County Comprehensive Plan Goals for Discussion Purposes Only

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LAND USE GOALS AND STRATEGIES

GOAL 1. ENSURE THAT HARRISON COUNTY PREPARES FOR GROWTH.

STRATEGY A. Use the Harrison County Comprehensive Plan as a guide for future growth and development.

STRATEGY B. Promote growth as specified in the designated zones of the Future Land Use Map.

GOAL 2. MAINTAIN THE RURAL CHARACTER OF THE COMMUNITY.

STRATEGY A. Promote low density uses in designated rural residential areas.

STRATEGY B. Preserve the quiet residential areas and scenic nature of appropriate portions of Harrison County.

STRATEGY C. Encourage the preservation of open space within new residential developments.

GOAL 3. ENHANCE AND PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT.

STRATEGY A. Protect the natural features in Harrison County.

STRATEGY B. Encourage the remediation of previous industrial sites.

STRATEGY C. Retain and improve wooded areas.

GOAL 6. PROVIDE QUALITY HOUSING CHOICES FOR ALL RESIDENTS.

STRATEGY A. Support multi-family residential housing in the Intended Growth (G-3) sector in close proximity to employment centers and services.

STRATEGY B. Rehabilitate residential housing to get the community to work together, increase property values, and improve the appearance of the area.

GOAL 7. PROMOTE PRINCIPALS OF NEW URBANISM AND GREEN DEVELOPMENT.

STRATEGY A. Advocate the creation of ordinances that incorporate the principles of New Urbanism.

ECONOMIC VITALITY GOALS AND STRATEGIES

GOAL ONE A ROBUST ECONOMY RETAINING THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST

STRATEGY A: Protect and enhance the economic value of areas with significant natural or cultural character.

STRATEGY B: Improve the aesthetics of gateway corridors to enhance or preserve their economic value to the local place-based economy.

STRATEGY C: Support the enhancement of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport and the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport.

GOAL TWO: AN INCREASING LEVEL OF DIVERSE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

STRATEGY A: Support the current and future economic development strategies of economic development organizations

STRATEGY B: Facilitate the formalization and/or development of five year economic development strategies for industry, international trade, small business, tourism, technology-based, and commercial development.

STRATEGY C: Enhance the climate for increased business investment.

STRATEGY D: Help create a climate for increased entrepreneurship and small business growth and development.

GOAL THREE: A WELL-PAID, SKILLED LABOR FORCE ABLE TO COMPETE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

STRATEGY A: Support local workforce development efforts

STRATEGY B: Help prepare the workforce of the future

STRATEGY C: Increase the average wage across industries.

STRATEGY D: Create an environment for all workers to meet basic family needs

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES GOALS AND STRATEGIES **Goals and Strategies**

Recreation

Goal

- 1. *Improve and create additional recreational opportunities.***

Supporting Strategies

- A. Maintain and expand public facilities and parks.
- B. Create new community parks and open-space areas.
- C. Promote the development of recreational connections.
- D. Encourage increased recreational opportunities along the rivers to implement a Blueway system.
- E. Improve access to natural features.
- F. Increase awareness of recreational opportunities available in the Desoto National Forest for residents.

Walkability

Goal

- 1. *Promote health through walkability.***

Supporting Strategies

- A. Create bike paths and sidewalks that link residential and commercial areas.
- B. Conduct a roadway assessment for bike lanes and sidewalks.
- C. Establish bicycle storage at commercial and employment centers and town centers.
- D. Build connectivity between green and blue trails to enhance physical activities throughout Harrison County.
- E. Improve safety through enhancements to pedestrian routes.
- F. Promote walkable communities and healthy activities.

Food Access

Goal

- 1. *Enhance healthy food options.***

Supporting Strategies

- A. Promote county farmers' markets.
- B. Promote community gardening.
- C. Develop partnerships between county food producers, restaurants and retailers.
- D. Improve accessibility to food through better public transportation to food retailers and food distribution centers.
- E. Increase grocery stores and food stands in underserved and rural areas.

Social Service

Goal

- 1. *Support social services through the built environment.***

Supporting Strategies

- A. Improve communication among different social services.

- B. Improve infrastructure for senior citizens and physically disabled through American Disabilities Act standards.
- C. Create and improve transportation opportunities for all vulnerable populations.
- D. Pursue mixed income housing.

SAFE COMMUNITIES GOALS AND STRATEGIES

GOAL 1. ENSURE RESILIENT GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY A. Encourage growth in appropriate locations, with appropriate siting to minimize risk.

STRATEGY B. Encourage developers to contribute to the expansion of infrastructure.

STRATEGY C. Encourage increased public safety services.

GOAL 2. FOSTER INDIVIDUAL AND PUBLIC PREPAREDNESS

STRATEGY A. Reduce criminal activity and perceived criminal threats.

STRATEGY B. Work with emergency management agencies to regularly update the emergency management plan and hazard mitigation plan, including updated evacuation procedures, as populations change and development occurs.

STRATEGY C. Educate homeowners and developers on fire safety techniques to reduce wildfire risk.

STRATEGY D. Educate residents on ways to reduce the effects of development and pollution on stormwater runoff.

STRATEGY E. Foster public awareness of pedestrian and bicycle safety issues.

STRATEGY F. Ensure the safety of Harrison County residents and visitors in the event of a hurricane.

STRATEGY G. Foster partnerships between residents and organizations to provide education about natural hazards, safety issues, and mitigation strategies.

GOAL 3. ENCOURAGE SAFE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS

STRATEGY A. Improve roadway safety for the community.

STRATEGY B: Promote safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists.

GOAL 4. REDUCE DISRUPTIONS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES DURING AND AFTER HAZARD EVENTS

STRATEGY A. Enhance rapid restoration of systems and services.

STRATEGY B. Reduce services disrupted due to debris.

GOAL 5. PROTECT AND ENHANCE NATURAL RESOURCES TO INCREASE THEIR FUNCTION IN MITIGATING HAZARDS.

STRATEGY A. Establish measures to restore the function and quality of wetlands, bayous, floodplains, and forests to mitigate future flood and wind damage.

STRATEGY B. Provide property owners financially viable alternatives to rebuilding when their damaged homes are located in environmentally sensitive areas.

GOAL 6. PROMOTE THE REDUCTION OF SOLID WASTE

STRATEGY A. Encourage appropriate disposal and recycling of solid waste.

GOAL 7. ENSURE CONNECTIVITY THROUGH OPTIMAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

STRATEGY A. Promote efficient, reliable, and aesthetically-pleasing telecommunication facilities.

GOAL 8. CREATE MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY A. Develop methods to reduce dependency on energy sources.

TOURISM GOALS AND STRATEGIES

GOAL 1. ENHANCE NATURE-BASED TOURISM THROUGH HIGH QUALITY AMENITIES AND FACILITIES.

STRATEGY A. Develop policies to ensure support facilities for visitors at access points to nature-based activities.

STRATEGY B. Adopt policies to maintain scenic character and minimize clutter around tourism activities.

STRATEGY C. Support the development of a network of walking trails in Harrison County.

STRATEGY D. Support the development of nature-based education and recreation facilities.

STRATEGY E: Develop maintenance codes to ensure quality standards for nature-based activities.

STRATEGY F: Create a docking site for visitors arriving in Harrison County by boat.

STRATEGY G. Establish natural parks and recreational opportunities

GOAL 2. ENSURE A VISITABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR TOURISTS BY PROVIDING EASY AND ATTRACTIVE ACCESS TO NATURE-BASED ACTIVITIES

STRATEGY A. Adopt policies to ensure access to existing nature-based activities that cater to various users.

STRATEGY B. Establish an attractive and uniform signage system at access points to tourism activities.

STRATEGY C. Ensure safe access points to tourism activities.

STRATEGY D. Encourage the creation of public access points to waterways.

STRATEGY E. Improve access to nature-based recreation activities.

STRATEGY F. Enhance gateways to communities

GOAL 3. BUILD RESOURCES TO EDUCATE TOURISTS AND RESIDENTS ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF NATURE-BASED ACTIVITIES

STRATEGY A. Promote available tourism activities using effective marketing techniques.

STRATEGY B. Increase awareness of existing tourism activities in Harrison County.

STRATEGY C. Incorporate education about environmental protection in conjunction with tourism activities.

GOAL 4. ENCOURAGE TOURISM THAT SUPPORTS THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND ENHANCES THE HEALTH OF THE COUNTY'S NATURAL RESOURCES

STRATEGY A. Create green development standards for resort commercial development

STRATEGY B. Protect and enhance the coastal ecosystem from increasing development pressures

STRATEGY C. Assure development of tourism activities which are not detrimental to the natural rural character of Harrison County

STRATEGY D. Obtain grants for purchase of land for conservation

STRATEGY E. Preserve wildlife habitats to reduce habitat loss and mitigate negative consequences of wildlife/human interactions

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION GOALS AND STRATEGIES

OVERALL INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

GOAL 1: INCREASED COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IN HARRISON COUNTY.

STRATEGY A: Provide forums for intergovernmental communication and information exchange.

STRATEGY B: Encourage cities to share with the County any plans for major developments that may affect County plans, roadways, services, or other countywide systems.

GOAL 2: ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION AMONG ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT WITHIN HARRISON COUNTY AND THE LARGER REGION.

STRATEGY A: Develop methods for sharing information with local officials to assist in making regional decisions.

STRATEGY B: Support opportunities to address issues of limited administrative capacity in order to make cooperation more accessible for local governments.

ECONOMIC VITALITY GOALS

GOAL 1: INFORMED LEADERS COMMITTED TO THE ECONOMIC VITALITY OF THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST.

STRATEGY A: Increase the capacity of Harrison County government to support economic development.

STRATEGY B: Support economic development regional efforts to improve access to economic information.

STRATEGY C: Serve as visible champions of place-based economic development.

STRATEGY D: Work cooperatively to strengthen major industry sectors.

GOAL 2: INFORMED CITIZENS COMMITTED TO THE ECONOMIC VITALITY OF THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST

STRATEGY A: Provide citizens opportunities to engage in economic development discussions.

SAFE COMMUNITIES GOALS

GOAL XX. ENCOURAGE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION TO FOSTER A SAFER HARRISON COUNTY

STRATEGY A. Coordinate efforts to educate residents about hazard risks in the area.

STRATEGY B. Cooperate with the Harrison County Utility Authority and other governmental units to meet infrastructure needs.

STRATEGY C. Coordinate intergovernmental resources to meet the needs of all roadway users.

STRATEGY D. Coordinate state and local protection of water quality.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES GOALS

GOAL 1. INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WALKING AS A REGIONAL ACTIVITY IN HARRISON COUNTY

STRATEGY A. Develop and implement a comprehensive sidewalk plan in Harrison County

STRATEGY B. Develop a Harrison County Trail Task Force.

STRATEGY C. develop a comprehensive blueway/greenway master plan that services Harrison County

GOAL 2. INCREASE ACCESS TO REGIONAL HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS IN HARRISON COUNTY

STRATEGY A. Develop a Harrison County Land Bank office to bring tax-reverted, vacant and abandoned properties back into productive use.

TOURISM GOALS

GOAL 1. COLLABORATE WITH ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE REGION TO BUILD A COMPREHENSIVE NATURE BASED RECREATION SYSTEM.

STRATEGY A. Ensure individual community efforts put toward ecotourism and outdoor recreational activities confirm to a broader regional plan or vision for outdoor recreation in Harrison County.

STRATEGY B. Create regional partnerships and opportunities for cooperation for establishing and promoting tourism activities in Harrison County.