

Heartland 2060

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Heartland 2060 will craft a shared regional vision and growth strategy for the future of our seven-county region. This inclusive, participatory process will engage residents and enable decision-makers to address regional challenges and help shape our future.

The Heartland 2060 Regional Vision will guide our region's future. Through a collaborative and creative process we will develop a regional blueprint to guide our growth and development over the next 50 years. We will establish priorities for protecting and enhancing conservation areas, natural resources, recreational areas and open spaces; enhancing regional education and healthcare opportunities; guiding transportation and infrastructure investment and planning future land-use; and building healthy communities through economic development.

Residents will be able to actively participate in envisioning the future of the Heartland. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council will convene, develop, and implement the Heartland 2060 Vision, in association with community and business leaders, and local and state leaders. This multi-year effort will result in a vision statement expressing common values, a regional future growth guide, and action plan to address regional priorities.



Heartland 2060 will address question such as:

- How can we ensure the best possible future for our children and retain our communities' values and independence?
- What can we do to protect our water supply, critical ecosystems, recreational areas, and open spaces for future generations?
- What economic opportunities will provide quality jobs and meet the needs of all residents?
- What educational advantages are needed to ensure our economic strength and children's future?
- How can we plan for transportation infrastructure to allow residents the mobility and choices to link regional centers and connect to other areas?
- How do we proactively plan for growth in the Heartland?
- What private initiatives and government investments are required to achieve our vision for the future?

The Heartland region is composed of the seven counties of Desoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Polk. Promoting economic development, sustaining agriculture, providing educational opportunities and access to health care for our citizens, protecting our natural resources, and providing recreational opportunities along with access and mobility - this truly is the Florida Heartland.

A Regional Vision of the Future

Community, County, and Region

In past years, many Heartland counties completed forward-thinking community visioning or disaster recovery plans. In other meetings, Heartland residents have indicated their core community values, ideas for the future, and priority issues. The Heartland 2060 Regional Vision will build on the valuable input that residents have provided through these efforts. Many of the region's most pressing challenges cross traditional community and county boundaries and require a regional approach to problem solving. This visioning effort is unique in its long term goal: A vision spanning 50 years and beyond allows us an opportunity to put long term action plans in place.

Over the next 30 years, the region is projected to add another 400,000 people, growing from a total of 800,000 in 2007 to a population of over 1.2 million. We have an opportunity to shape our future for the better. We can learn from other regions' experiences with rapid growth and act now to influence how we grow. We will think long-term about the legacy we are leaving for our children and use this visioning effort to provide input on current projects.



Creating a regional vision entails extensive public engagement, community participation, leadership development, technical activities, and intergovernmental coordination.

- Residents will come together and participate in interactive workshops to imagine future growth possibilities.
- Civic, business, and government leaders will dedicate time to confront regional challenges with innovative solutions.
- Population, economic, and land use forecasts will be developed to depict alternative paths the region may pursue.
- Governments at all levels will work together with business and civic leaders to adopt and implement policies.

To become involved in the Heartland 2060 regional visioning, the regional issue task forces, or for more information please contact the Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

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