

- **Design Standards or Guidelines** - Community design standards or guidelines can ensure that the physical appearance of new development (or improvements to existing properties) is compatible with the character of a community, is built to a high standard, and has a pleasant appearance.
- **Sidewalk and Pedestrian Network Design** - An effective sidewalk and pedestrian network creates healthy neighborhoods and commercial areas.
- **Heat Island Mitigation** - Reducing heat in developed areas by planting shade trees, preserving open space, using cool roofing and porous paving materials.
- **Traffic Calming** - Physical improvements designed to decrease traffic speed and increase the pedestrian-friendliness of roadways.

### **Rural Residential Character Area**

(Lowndes County and the Cities of Dasher, Hahira, Lake Park, and Valdosta)



#### **Description**

Rural, undeveloped land likely to face development pressures for lower density (one unit per 2.5 acres) residential development. These areas will typically have low pedestrian orientation and access, very large lots, open space, pastoral views, and a high degree of building separation.

#### **Predominant Land Uses**

Lower density residential with limited commercial.

#### **Permitted Zoning:**

Estate-Agricultural (E-A)  
Low Density Residential (R-1)  
Rural Planned Development

Residential Agriculture (R-A)  
Crossroads-Commercial (C-C)

#### **Development Strategy**

The rural atmosphere should be maintained while accommodating new residential developments utilizing rural cluster or conservation subdivision design that incorporates significant amounts of open space. Compatible architecture styles should be encouraged to maintain the regional rural character. “Franchise” or “corporate” architecture should be discouraged. Where possible, there should be connections to regional networks of greenspace and trails, available to pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians for both tourism and recreational purposes.

#### **Quality Community Objectives:**

- Resource Management
- Sense of Place
- Housing Options

#### **Implementation Measures:**

- **Low Impact Development (LID)** - Using various land planning and design practices and technologies to conserve and protect natural resource systems and reduce infrastructure costs.
- **Promoting Environmentally-Sensitive Site Design** - Designing development to protect environmentally sensitive areas and prevent mass grading and clear cutting.