

II. Plan Elements

1. Vision and Goals

Community Vision

Greater Lowndes will be a resilient community where partnerships and coordination promote regional success in economic development, education, infrastructure and a high quality of life. The community's quality of life will be sustained through preservation of its natural resources; facilitation of active living through an interconnected system of parks, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; and enhancement of its vibrant cultural resources. Overall, the community's attractive family-oriented structure will be protected through a continued spirit of cooperation and open communication among the governing bodies and significant community engagement.

Goals

1. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – Meet the needs of an expanding local economy by supporting workforce training, education, and small business development.
2. **EDUCATION** – Prepare students for high-skilled, high wage careers through advanced training and community support.
3. **COMMUNITY WELLBEING** – Promote safe, healthy, and active lifestyles utilizing local community resources encompassing social, environmental, physical, and mental wellbeing.
4. **HOUSING** – Support affordable housing options that revitalize family-friendly neighborhoods.
5. **LAND USE** – Protect community resources through efficient and compatible uses of land that promote opportunities for investment and growth.
6. **NATURAL RESOURCES** – Promote and protect natural resources and opportunities for recreation through public access and conservation. A key component of this goal is the desire for community beautification of public and private land through behavior change to reduce littering and through an increased focus on landscaping maintenance of property.
7. **CULTURAL RESOURCES** – Preserve the community's rich cultural heritage and local character with the many cultural and recreational amenities and events available throughout the community.
8. **TRANSPORTATION** – Encourage reliable funding for a safe and efficient regional transportation system that includes public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, highways, railroads, and airports. A key component of this goal is the desire to attract a second airline to Valdosta Airport.

9. **COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES** – Ensure that adequate community facilities and services such as water, sewer, broadband, solid waste, police, fire, and EMS, are provided in an efficient, environmentally sound, safe, and cost-effective manner to meet the existing and future needs of the community.
10. **INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION** – Support and improve the community by prioritizing effective, collaborative communication between public and private entities within the County and the region.