

3. Efficient Land Use

Maximize the use of existing infrastructure and minimize the costly conversion of undeveloped land at the periphery of the community. This may be achieved by encouraging development or redevelopment of sites closer to the traditional core of the community; designing new development to minimize the amount of land consumed; carefully planning expansion of public infrastructure; or maintaining open space in agricultural, forestry, or conservation uses.

All local governments reviewed their previous character area maps to ensure their alignment with future goals during the comprehensive planning process. All of the Cities intend to review, revise, and digitize their zoning maps and ordinances. Hahira, specifically, hopes to consolidate duplicate ordinances while Lake Park seeks to add on to their existing ordinance to allow the development of different housing types, and the City of Valdosta intends to determine the feasibility of adding a special district between downtown and VSU.

4. Local Preparedness

Identify and put in place the prerequisites for the type of future the community seeks to achieve. These prerequisites might include infrastructure (roads, water, sewer) to support or direct new growth; ordinances and regulations to manage growth as desired; leadership and staff capable of responding to opportunities and managing new challenges; or undertaking an all-hazards approach to disaster preparedness and response.

Lowndes County and the Cities began their hazard mitigation planning process in the later stages of the comprehensive planning process. All local governments have included relevant hazard mitigation planning activities in their work programs, such as water and sewer infrastructure updates, purchases for emergency signals and generators, renovations to the 911 center, and increased training for police and fire personnel.