

# **INTRODUCTION**

## INTRODUCTION

All organizations must plan if progress is to be made towards reaching an objective, and those agencies charged with directing the growth of a community are no exception. The interaction of factors causing the growth and development of an area requires careful planning as a prerequisite to orderly growth. Three basic reasons are often given for the need of planning: (1) to meet events which are expected to happen; (2) to accomplish desired objectives; and (3) to avoid unwanted conditions.

In 1985, the Florida Legislature enacted and the Governor signed into law the "Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act." This legislation requires all local governments in Florida to revise and update the comprehensive plan for their respective jurisdictions in conformance with the provisions of the aforesaid Act and the accompanying minimum criteria for plan review and determination of plan compliance contained in Chapter 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code.

This comprehensive planning process involves essentially four basic steps: (1) the collection and analysis of pertinent data concerning the physical and socio-economic characteristics of the study area, which has been accomplished through the preparation of this Data and Analysis document, although not a part of the Comprehensive Plan in that it is not an adopted document with legal status, it serves to provide a foundation and basis for the formulation of the Comprehensive Plan; (2) the formulation of goals for future growth and development, which are contained within the Comprehensive Plan; (3) the development of objectives and policies guided by the goals, which are the essence of the Comprehensive Plan and are also contained within the Comprehensive Plan; and (4) the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan which is accomplished through the preparation, adoption and enforcement of land development regulations as mandated by the above referenced Act, as well as, the construction of capital improvement projects identified within the Comprehensive Plan.

## GENERAL SETTING OF THE CITY OF ARCHER

The City of Archer is approximately 2.0 square miles or 1,290 acres in area. The City is located in the southwest portion of Alachua County, as shown on the following location map.

The City's population was reported as 1,372 persons in 1990, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census. This represents 0.77 percent of the County's total population.

## VISIONS PROCESS

The City of Archer conducted a Visions project in 1989-90. The City received a grant from the Secretary of State's Vision 2000 program.

The project established citizen committees, conducted a citizen survey and held many workshops to discuss, debate and decide upon the future of Archer. Nearly, 50 participants prepared position papers on land use, economic development and housing. They reviewed the 9J-5 provisions of the 1985 Growth Management Act.

Those attending the final 20-hour retreat approved a 20-page consensus document (see Archer Visions Conference Report). The following image statement best summarizes the expectations and aspirations of the community.

## IMAGE STATEMENT

### *The conveniences of the city with the pleasures of the country.*

Archer citizens enjoy tree-lined streets of Oaks which originally were planted by the Quakers in the late 1800's to protect their orange groves. A low population density retains the rural atmosphere; however, grocery and hardware stores, the post office, city hall, cafe, playgrounds and many other city conveniences are at hand. A library is within walking distance of Archerites. Continued agriculture provides adequate green space.

The city is an attractive place to live. It has improved its appearance by creating a visually pleasing entrance to the city. It has enforced its codes on abandoned and substandard housing.

Numerous churches enhance the strong, family-oriented environment here. The city can boast about its outstanding educational facilities including a private school nearby, plus an array of professional services. A ten acre site and some neighborhood parks encourage present and future recreational opportunities. Archer has many jogging and bike paths in and around the city. Professionals and volunteers provide increased public safety — fire, EMS and law enforcement — as well as organized sporting programs. A number of service and fraternal organizations such as the Lion's Club, Mason's, Boy and Girl Scouts offer social and philanthropic opportunities.

Many citizens work in Gainesville which is convenient to Archer. All approaches to Archer have been made attractive and scenic, especially in the spring, when the planted acres of purple, pink and white phlox are in bloom. The new performing arts center, state museum along with other cultural activities in Gainesville are very convenient to Archer residents.

Archer has a growing tourist industry which has encouraged the conversion of some attractive, old two story homes into bed and breakfast places. Some antique trains, automobiles and farm equipment are the centerpiece of a historic depot area as are historic homes which are featured at annual festivals including one centered around a bicycle race.

Archer's improved image has enhanced economic development and the expansion of a commercial corridor from SR 24 down University Avenue and finally down Main Street. The most intense activity is occurring at the crossroad, where a sewage treatment plant can service the businesses. An industrial park offers increased job opportunities to Archer residents. The County landfill is closed and provides a county-funded well landscaped recreational site. Mandatory recycling of waste materials is a success.

