

YOUR Plan for Growth in Lee County!

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Planning is an important component of everyday life. We plan our day, our finances, our children's education; we plan for ways to improve our future. Lee County also proactively formulates plans for the county's future growth, development, and preservation of our natural resources. Recently, we have been evaluating our current plan for growth and will be taking the next important step in that process on Monday, April 22.

The County's Local Planning Agency, the committee responsible for making comprehensive plan recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners, will begin its review of proposed updates to the Land Use chapter and map in the county's comprehensive plan. Changes include:

- Reclassifying existing neighborhoods to more appropriate land use categories to protect them from incompatible uses,
- Identifying areas for infill redevelopment and higher density to create vibrant urban centers,
- Enhancing protection of the County's rural communities.

The last major planning effort by Lee County was in the mid-1980s around the time the State mandated planning by all counties and municipalities. At the start of this new planning update, we held 12 Visioning Sessions throughout the county to ask residents what they want the future to look like. Common themes centered on protection of natural resources, creation of active urban centers, and preservation of the character of existing neighborhoods. That vision is now being incorporated into the county's blueprint for the future – the Lee Plan, our comprehensive plan. A wide array of staff from all facets of local and regional government worked together with residents to propose this vision statement:

Lee County will be a highly desirable place to live, work and visit – recognized for its commitment to a sustainable future characterized by a healthy economy, environment and community. Because of its commitment, Lee County will be a community of choice – valued for its quality of life; varied natural environment; unique sense of history and place; distinct urban, suburban and rural communities; diverse economy and workforce; and varied travel options.

We continue to ask for public input as we modernize and update our vision. Comments and questions are encouraged at the meeting Monday, April 22 at 8:30 a.m. in Commission Chambers, 2012 Main St., Fort Myers. In addition, another round of presentations to the public will be held in communities across Lee County in morning and evening sessions during April and May. See the current schedule of presentations at www.leegov.com/dcd/ear2011. Additional locations will be added. Please let us know if you'd like to schedule one for your community or group.

Those who can't make it to a presentation can comment online at www.leecountytownhall.com. To review the entire planning process and read the completed drafts for 14 chapters of the Lee Plan, go to www.leegov.com/dcd/ear2011.

Remember, this is YOUR plan for growth for the community where you live, work and play. This is the time to speak up!

**Lee Plan Update
Presentation Schedule**

Community	Meeting Information
Boca Grande	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, April 10, 2013 10:00 a.m. Boca Grande Community Center 131 First Street West, Boca Grande</p>
Lehigh Acres	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, April 10, 2013 6:30 p.m. Lehigh Acres Sheriff's Office 1301 Homestead Road N, Lehigh Acres</p>
Whiskey Creek	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, April 10, 2013 7:00 p.m. Whiskey Creek Country Club 1449 Whiskey Creek Dr., Fort Myers</p>
Estero	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, April 15, 2013 5:00 p.m. Estero Community Center 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero</p>
Bayshore	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, April 15, 2013 6:30 p.m. New Hope Christian Church 17181 Tarpon Way, North Fort Myers</p>
Caloosahatchee Shores	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, April 16, 2013 6:30 p.m. Olga Community Center 2325 South Olga Drive, Fort Myers</p>
North Olga	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, April 18, 2013 6:00 p.m. Bayshore Fire Department 17350 Nalle Road, Fort Myers</p>
Tice	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, April 23, 2013 6:00 p.m. Tice Fire Department 4871 Lexington Ave., Fort Myers</p>
College Parkway	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, April 23, 2013 6:00 p.m. Rutenberg Community Park 6500 South Pointe Blvd., Fort Myers</p>
North Fort Myers	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, May 07, 2013 6:00 p.m. Community of Christ Church 368 Herron Road, North Fort Myers</p>
Captiva	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, May 07, 2013 9:00 a.m. South Seas Island Resort 5400 Plantation Road, Captiva</p>
Alva	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, May 13, 2013 7:00 p.m. Alva Community Center 21471 North River Road, Alva</p>