

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In 2008, staff members of the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners, the Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WREC), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development, as well as community leadership assembled in the executive conference room at the WREC offices to discuss a Visioning Day for the Lacoochee-Trilby-Trilacoochee (LTT) area. Earlier in the year, WREC had applied for a nationwide grant through the USDA, and was told they did not have a vision for the community. The need was there, but without a plan in place, they could not proceed with making necessary improvements to this once dynamic community in Northeast Pasco.

The timeless roots of the Lacoochee, Trilby and Trilacoochee communities are reflective of traditional community values. Lacoochee, Trilby and Trilacoochee are small towns alive with the “small town feel”. The majority of residents of these towns have lived there for their entire lives. The area is deeply affected by poverty, 95 percent of elementary students are receiving free or reduced lunches at school, a large portion of the population is living in public housing, and a significant portion of students are underachieving. Yet residents choose not to leave this area. Why? Residents report that they remain in the LTT area because it is their home. The traditional community values are reflected in the neighborhood and are evident to visitors. The LTT community created the foundation for the revitalization that is being proposed. It is through the partnerships that have been developed by the people meeting in the WREC conference room that the vision of the community will be realized.

In the seven years that have ensued, not only has the LTT area identified a vision for itself, but it has made significant strides to restore its historic prominence not only in Pasco County, but also regionally, throughout the State of Florida, and throughout the United States as a whole.



**The People Plan** provides goals, objectives, and action strategies that support educational, social service, and economic development goals for the Lacoochee-Trilby-Trilacoochee community. This plan allows residents living in the LTT community the opportunity to thrive in the community one individual, or one family, at a time. Assistance will be offered through an early childhood learning center; primary, secondary, and post-secondary educational opportunities, and vocational

and remedial adult education opportunities. Additionally, through the services provided by Premier Community Healthcare Group, Inc., and its large network of wellness partners, primary and specialty wellness services will be provided to residents. Economic Development will be a primary focus in the community, providing necessary job training classes as well as economic development programs for businesses and individuals. The introduction of a second chance program for individuals that have been incarcerated will provide essential opportunities for residents seeking a fresh start after encounters with the criminal justice system.



**The Neighborhood Plan** is the heart and soul of the LTT Transformation Plan. It combines essential infrastructure improvements and public safety concerns with the enhancement of unique assets that strengthen the LTT community. The boundaries established for the LTT Transformation Plan are identical to boundaries used for previous planning efforts, including the establishment of the Tax Increment Financing District, a dedicated funding source for infrastructure improvements in the community.

**The Housing Plan** provides a comprehensive strategy to address needs for residents living in the Pasco County Housing Authority (PCHA) communities as well as the larger LTT community.

Specifically, the housing plan provides strategies to reduce PCHA resident dependency on welfare, low-income housing, or any other Federal, State, or local rent subsidies through a family self-sufficiency opportunity model. Additionally, the plan provides a comprehensive rehabilitation strategy for each of the four Pasco County Housing Authority communities in the LTT area. The plan also provides strategies for the retention and stability of residents during the rehabilitation process. For residents living in the greater LTT area, the housing strategy provides architectural guidelines that preserve the historic nature of the LTT area, including building design and landscaping recommendations. The housing strategy also addresses the needs of residents seeking to become homeowners in the area, as well as residents seeking to preserve their homes through rehabilitation programs.

**The Community Engagement Plan** is the backbone for the LTT Transformation Plan, providing strategies for the continual and successful engagement of residents in the transformation planning efforts. This includes the development of a governance structure for the implementation of the LTT Transformation Plan; capacity building of residents and resources; and communication of the message, especially to residents living in the PCHA communities.

