



**The Town of Micanopy  
Community Vision Statement and Guiding Principles  
May 9, 2024**

**Vision Statement:**

By 2050, the Town of Micanopy aspires to become a thriving, interconnected community that honors its rich history, promotes community pride, and fosters a sense of belonging for all residents and visitors. We will achieve our vision by focusing on our town's character, its people, and the quality of life.

We are focused on achieving a balance between growth and development that promotes our community's unique character, identity, and quality of life.

We advocate for thoughtful historic preservation efforts—creating a sense of continuity to our past and supporting the promise of our future.

We celebrate our eclectic mix of cultures, ideas, and neighborhoods that foster vibrant and dynamic landscapes that reflect the richness of our community.

We strive to promote health and well-being for all community members by ensuring access to quality services, recreational opportunities, and green spaces.

By implementing the town's guiding principles and planning initiatives, the Town of Micanopy will cultivate a thriving community that reflects the vision of honoring its history, promotes a high quality of life, and welcomes residents, businesspeople, and visitors.

**Guiding Principles:**

Community Engagement: Foster a sense of community pride and engagement by actively involving residents, businesspeople, and community stakeholders in decision-making processes and planning initiatives.

Quality of Life: Enhance the overall quality of life by providing access to essential services, recreational opportunities, and maintaining a safe and welcoming community for all.

Smart Growth and Development: Encourage thoughtful and well-planned growth and development that respects the town's heritage, promotes walkability, and minimizes environmental impact.

Promote Historic Community Character: Promote the community's history by supporting historic buildings, landmarks, and cultural heritage sites that contribute to the town's identity and charm.

Connectivity: Improve accessibility and mobility for all community members and visitors by improving transportation infrastructure, promoting alternative modes of transportation, and enhancing pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Economic Vitality: Encourage development of an economy that provides for the community's basic service, health, and commercial needs, supports small, locally owned businesses, and promotes tourism initiatives that showcase Micanopy's unique history, culture, and natural beauty.

Environmental Stewardship: Promote responsible environmental practices, conservation of natural resources, and preservation of green spaces to ensure a healthy environment for current and future generations.

Resilience and Preparedness: Develop resilience strategies and sustainable practices to mitigate risks and adapt to environmental, economic, and growth challenges.

## **Planning Initiatives**

### **Community Engagement:**

- a. Facilitate community dialogues and cultural exchanges among community members.
- b. Develop programs or activities specifically designed to engage and involve young people in community affairs, such as youth councils, leadership training, or volunteer opportunities.

### **Quality of Life:**

- a. Develop and maintain recreational facilities, parks, and green spaces that promote physical activity, mental well-being, and community engagement.
- b. Partner with local businesses and community organizations to promote healthy lifestyle choices, such as healthy dining options, wellness, and green community initiatives.

### **Smart Growth and Development**

- a. Update the town's comprehensive plan and land development regulations based on the town's adopted vision and guiding principles and to 1) ensure new developments support local culture and natural environmental features 2) direct development to areas where land is already served by existing infrastructure; and 3) improve environmental quality by conserving open space, surrounding farmlands, and environmental sensitive land areas.
- b. Prioritize needs capital services and infrastructure systems through the annual update of the town's budget and capital improvement plan.
- c. Collaborate with Alachua County on joint planning initiatives to ensure the development of the greater community supports the character and identity of the Town of Micanopy.

### **Promote Historic Community Character:**

- a. Assess the town's historical structures to identify types and design features through a historic survey of structures and design features.
- b. Implement zoning regulations and incentives to encourage property owners to maintain and restore historic structures.
- c. Organize cultural events, heritage tours, and historic educational programs to promote awareness and appreciation of Micanopy's history among residents and visitors.

### Connectivity

- a. Implement infrastructure projects such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and multi-use paths to promote safe and accessible walking and cycling routes throughout the town—particularly in residential neighborhoods and school zones.
- b. Incorporate green infrastructure elements such as greenways, parks, signage, and open spaces into community planning to create interconnected networks that promote active transportation and community connectivity.
- c. Implement inclusive design practices in urban planning and development projects to ensure accessibility and safety for all community members, including those with disabilities.

### Economic Vitality:

- a. Foster collaborative partnerships with economic development agencies, chambers of commerce, local businesspeople, and other stakeholders to promote the town's economy.
- b. Develop marketing campaigns and initiatives to attract tourists and visitors, showcasing the town's attractions, historical sites, events, and unique offerings.
- c. Evaluate economic land uses and development standards with the town's municipal boundaries and the surrounding unincorporated county.

### Environmental Stewardship:

- a. Conduct an assessment of environmentally sensitive locations and habitats within the surrounding environment.
- b. Provide environmental education programs, workshops, and outreach campaigns to raise awareness, educate the community about environmental issues, and promote sustainable behaviors.

### Resilience and Preparedness

- a. Opportunities to train community volunteers to assist emergency services during disasters or crises, such as conducting search and rescue operations, providing first aid, and supporting local authorities.
- b. Work with local businesses and industries to develop business continuity plans that ensure continuity of operations during emergencies, including remote work arrangements, supply chain resilience, and contingency planning for critical services.