

APPENDIX C

RESOURCES & CASE STUDIES



Prepared For

CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH • FL

Prepared by



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I. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

The following section identifies resources and case studies to help implement the Vision Plan's goals for Theme 1: Environmental Sustainability & Resiliency.

A. Protect & Increase the Tree Canopy

Toronto Urban Forestry Master Plan

As the importance of urban trees has become more apparent in recent years, several cities have developed comprehensive and detailed urban forestry master plans that can be used by Fernandina Beach as a guide. The Toronto Urban Forestry program is a good case study that comprehensively looks at the challenges urban trees face in growing and urbanizing areas and identifies strategies to mitigate those challenges. One innovative approach the Toronto plan utilizes is considering potential canopy growth of a parcel by land usage. This gives the city a broad overview of potential planting areas at a city-wide level. The plan also identifies the unique challenges trees experience in urban areas including forest fragmentation, soil quality and volume, soil compaction, air quality, and stormwater quantity and quality. Lastly, the plan created a mortality study for new street trees to better pinpoint the reasons why some newly planted street trees do not survive their first few years.

<https://www.toronto.ca/data/parks/pdf/trees/sustaining-expanding-urban-forest-management-plan.pdf>

Shopping Center Redevelopment

Redevelopment offers another opportunity to increase tree canopy, especially in areas that do not have a lot of existing trees. For example, the large shopping plazas in the 5 Points area could be redeveloped in the next 25 years. Traditional suburban shopping centers like Amelia Plaza, Island Walk, and Saddler Square have been falling out of fashion nationwide. Many of these types of developments have been retrofitted to include pedestrian areas, greenspace, and an abundance of trees. A good case study is the Gulf Coast Town Center near Ft. Myers, FL. This development is populated with big-box retail stores like Amelia Plaza or Island Walk but it is designed in a more pedestrian friendly way. The additions of greenspace, wide sidewalks, and landscape features allows the development to support a small forest of trees. This project shows that you can support a similar retail mix and design it in a way that maximizes its contribution to the City's urban tree canopy.

<https://www.gulfcoasttowncenter.com/>

B. Increase Acreage of Land Dedicated to Recreation & Conservation

CLAM Program - Nassau County

A good case study example of a CLAM Program is Nassau County's Conservation Land Acquisition & Management (CLAM) program. The program was developed by the county with the assistance of the North Florida Land Trust to "preserve and conserve the county's natural, historic, and working lands resources by identifying, ranking, and assessing conservation lands for acquisition and management". CLAM utilizes a GIS-based map and database to identify, analyze, and rank parcels being considered for acquisition. A similar program is currently being considered by the City's Planning & Conservation Department. Completion and implementation of this program is critical to maximizing the efficiency of the City's land conservation strategy.

<https://maps.nassaupla.com/portal/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/8749e68a9bbf471cb2d5ff3bf61d25c8>

C. Remove All Septic Tank

Septic Tank Removal Program - Jacksonville

Several cities in Florida have undertaken septic tank removal programs to address ground pollution, blue-green algae blooms, red tide, and other environmental and health issues in the last few years. Two examples are Jacksonville and Naples. These programs offer a guide on how to transfer residents from a septic tank to a City sewer system. They also offer insight into some of the challenges faced by the City's undertaking this type of program. For example, Naples has received public push back from the program due to a lack in communication with the public. This resulted in complaints about residents unable to access their homes during sewer installation, noise complaints from construction, and fears about access for emergency vehicles. Lessons learned from these programs gives Fernandina Beach insight on how to better execute its strategy.

https://www.jea.com/in_our_community/construction_projects/septic_tank_phase_out/

D. Further Improve Protections of Wetlands & Coastal Areas

Green Infrastructure Adaptation Plan - Melbourne, FL

A highly effective way to protect surface water quality is to utilize low-impact development strategies to collect and filter stormwater runoff before it reaches rivers, streams, ponds, and other surface water features. Cities have begun using low-impact development strategies to control stormwater runoff. The Town of Melbourne Beach was awarded a grant from FDEP to assist in the preparation for comprehensive plan amendments to the Coastal Management Element for the Melbourne Beach Comprehensive Plan and the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR). This grant led to the creation of their Green Infrastructure Adaptation Plan. This plan contains recommendations for potential projects, project locations, renderings, strategies, potential constraints, and next steps that the Town can implement.

<http://ftp.ecfrpc.org/Projects/Melbourne%20Beach%20Green%20Infrastructure%20Adaptation%20Plan.pdf>

E. Increase City's Resiliency to Climate Change, Storm Surge, & Sea Level Rise

Adaptation Action Areas

An Adaption Action Area is "a designation in the coastal management element of a local government's comprehensive plan which identifies one or more areas that experience coastal flooding due to extreme high tides and storm surge, and that are vulnerable to the related impacts of sea-levels for the purpose of prioritizing funding for infrastructure needs and adaption planning". An Adaption Area Framework is used to help develop and frame recommendations.

https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/CRI_AAA_Planning_Guidebook_for_Florida%27s_Local_Government.pdf

Special Assessment Areas

A special assessment is an additional property tax assessed by the local government to pay for their property and neighborhood projects. The tax goes toward a specific geographic region known as a special assessment district, and the property owners in that area are the only ones who must pay. These can be levied in Fernandina Beach to pay for flooding and storm surge protection projects along Egans Creek, Escambia, and the Beach areas.

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0100-0199/0197/Sections/0197.363.html

II. PRESERVATION OF CHARACTER

The following section identifies resources and case studies to help implement the Vision Plan's goals for Theme 2: Preservation of Character.

A. Ensure Preservation & Upkeep of Historic Assets

Cemetery Upkeep - Savannah

Restoration and repair of the Bosque Bello Cemetery is critical in preventing the property from deteriorating beyond repair. A major obstacle restoring the cemetery is the legal jurisdiction of who is responsible for headstone and enclosure repairs. Currently, owners of the burial plot are responsible for upkeep, preventing the cemetery from restoring headstones in the older sections of the cemetery when plot owners cannot be found and contacted. A strategy that can circumnavigate this impasse is to adopt a 50–70-year rule that would allow the cemetery to repair headstones and enclosures after the allocated timeframe and if no owners can be contacted or found after an exhaustive search. The City of Savannah's Code of Ordinances (Chapter 3 Section 4-3020) provides a good case study on which to base a future City ordinance.

<http://online.encodeplus.com/regs/savannah-ga/doc-viewer.aspx?secid=1052#secid-1052>

B. Preserve the Existing Building Stock

Historic Preservation Standards - Cincinnati

Several cities throughout the United States have bolstered their historic preservation guidelines in their municipal codes. A good case study relevant to Fernandina Beach is the City of Cincinnati, OH. The City contains Over-the-Rhine, one of the largest intact historic neighborhoods in the county. The City amended its municipal code to be more favorable to historic preservation and hold building owners more accountable. Elements of the municipal code (Chapter 1435 – Historic Preservation) that have been implemented include

- a Certificate of Appropriateness must be obtained before a demolition permit can be issued;
- minor repairs and maintenance that do not alter the appearance of the building do not need to be reviewed. This is to prevent the deterioration of existing structures; and
- owners must demonstrate that the existing structure cannot be renovated or reused for any use or reasonable economic return.

The code changes helped preserve the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood and strict urban design and architectural guidelines have established it as a premier historic neighborhood. Similar code language in the Fernandina Beach LDC could incentivize developers to adaptively reuse existing structures for their development by making demolition requirements more stringent even for non-designated structures. The strategy of preserving structures beyond the Historic District and those that are designated historic align with Objective 11.08 of the Comprehensive Plan.

https://library.municode.com/oh/cincinnati/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIXIZOCOCL_CH1435HIPR

C. Ensure New Buildings Are in Line With the Community's Character

Hybrid Form Based Code

A major problem with developing buildings and neighborhoods that have the same scale, character, and charm of historic districts is that Euclidean based codes do not allow for their development. Euclidean codes are more focused on a building's use and parking ratio than form, architecture, and context. The best way to circumnavigate these restrictions is to adopt a form-based code. These codes allow for buildings that better align and complement the urban form of older neighborhoods. According to Smart Growth America, *"form-based code is a land development regulation that fosters predictable built results and a high-quality public realm by using physical form (rather than separation of uses) as the organizing principle for the code. Form-based codes address the relationship between building facades and the public realm, the form and mass of buildings in relation to one another, and the scale and types of streets and blocks."*

There are several benefits to adopting a form-based code. Daniel Harrings of Strong Towns identifies 6 main benefits.

- 1. Encourages Revitalization:** Form-based codes promote the reuse of existing structure in creative ways without having to worry about extensive use restrictions. They also are beneficial to local and small-scale developers by creating an approval process that is predictable and streamlined.
- 2. Promotes Affordable Housing:** Form-based codes allow for new housing that matches the look and feel of a place, but creates flexibility for housing options like cottage courts, accessory dwelling units, pocket neighborhoods, and other various homes that meet the needs of lower-income and senior residents.
- 3. Helps Small Businesses:** Form-based codes de-emphasize the use of a building and focus on how buildings fit into their surrounding context. This strategy allows for the establishment of corner stores, live-work spaces, and neighborhood coffee shops not usually allowed in traditional Euclidian zoning. Form-based codes also allow for commercial spaces with smaller footprints that are more attractive to local businesses, whereas Euclidian zoning encourages large, single-use structures favored by national chains.
- 4. Promotes Walkability:** Good walkable neighborhoods apply the principle of the 15-minute city where a person can access all their basic services within a 15-minute commute from their home. Form-based codes make it easier to achieve these neighborhoods by allowing for a mix of businesses, services, restaurants, and cafes in the same area.

5. Preserve a Sense of Place: One of the most enjoyable aspects of a historic neighborhood is its strong sense of place, the feeling that you are in a unique and special area. Many of the most cherished historic areas in America like historic Savannah, Annapolis, and coastal towns in New England are characterized by their architectural fabric comprised of a diversity of buildings unified by a cohesive look or style. Form-based codes allow for harmonious and cohesive neighborhoods while allowing for a diversity of uses and building types.

6. Stop Regulating the Wrong Things: Form-based codes regulate how the everyday citizen will interact with a building and how to make that interaction pleasant convenient, and enjoyable.

<https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2020/6/8/6-reasons-your-city-needs-a-form-based-code>

Reverse Engineering Architectural Standards - Coral Gables

A good case study for the development of form-based code regulations is Coral Gables, Florida. The City realized that many of the historic buildings loved by the community could not legally be constructed under Euclidean zoning standards. This led to the reverse engineering of their development code. They looked at historic buildings and neighborhoods that the city wanted to emulate and determined what regulations would allow that type of structure to be built. The end result was a form-based code that encouraged development that was more in line with the historic vision for the city and complimented the old urban form of the community.

<https://codehub.gridics.com/us/fl/coral-gables>

Best Practice Manuals - Coral Gables

Coral Gables also developed best practices guidebooks to help developers and architects better design their buildings or additions to the character and charm of the community. These books identified existing buildings in the City that were considered exemplary examples of what new construction should look like, and identified architectural features and massing of the structure. One of the most beneficial and effective elements of the guidebooks is that they include dimensions of architectural features. These help architects design new buildings that are in proportion and in the correct scale of existing neighborhood buildings. Lastly, to encourage architects and developers to adhere to the best practices guidebooks, the City offers a design bonus to developments that strictly adhere to the document's design principles (Sec. 5-200).

<https://www.coralgables.com/departments/DevelopmentServices/medbonus>

Neighborhood Conservation Districts

Preserving the character of a City is challenging. Many Cities attempt to regulate new development to match the character of the City as a whole. However, a City is made up of many different neighborhoods and each has its own unique character. For example, Old Town has a different character than the Southside Neighborhood. Figuring out how to tailor development requirements to these specific neighborhoods or character areas can be challenging.

A good way to solve this predicament is to establish Neighborhood Conservation Districts (NDCs). These act as an overlay that allows communities to better tailor development requirements to their neighborhood's character. The National Trust for Historic Preservation compiled an Administrative and practices guidebook for the City of Detroit where they explained that "*The uses of an NCD include protecting against teardowns and "mansionization," stopping inappropriate demolition, or regulating neighborhood change by requiring architectural standards, square footage requirements, lot size, or tree conservation. In this way, the neighborhood planning model is well suited to help steer neighborhood change ex ante in the direction of desired outcomes, such as ensuring affordable housing or compatibility of uses when older areas are faced with intensive development pressures.*"

[Neighborhood Conservation Districts](#)

Pattern Book - Village of El Portal

Development requirements should be predictable and easily understood by the community. A great way to make these requirements more digestible for the general public is to make them graphic and provide examples. The Village of El Portal used this strategy to develop the Pattern Book. This book acts as the design guidelines for the small village. It illustrates the appropriate architectural styles for the village, identifies and explains basic architectural features, lists appropriate building materials, illustrates proper building massing and orientation, and provides guidance on landscape materials and design. The book is 41 pages, most of them pictures, and easily legible to the average citizen. The Pattern Book also helps board members who review these designs to provide better feedback to an applicant. A similar document could be used to articulate the specific design standards for each NDC in Fernandina Beach. This would make each area's development standards easily understandable to builders, architects, and neighborhood residents.

<https://elportal.plusurbia.com/patternbook/>

D. Reinforce Community's Social Networks & Small Town Character

Open Space Requirements - Dublin, OH

Form-based codes are the best way to allow this type of redevelopment. A good case study found in Dublin, Ohio. The suburban city adopted a form-based code for its historic downtown and surrounding area to encourage walkable, human-scale development. An important aspect of this code was the inclusion of public space requirements that mandate redevelopment projects including well designed public plazas, walkways, and seating areas to encourage social interaction amongst residents. The code was successful in initiating this kind of development.

<https://dublinohiousa.gov/dev/dev/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/BSD-Code-Amended-4-26-21.pdf>

(Page 80)

Village Commons Plaza - West Palm Beach

Public gathering spaces can be included in more suburban style developments as well. The Village Commons Shopping Center in West Palm Beach is a typical suburban commercial development. However, what differentiates it from other strip malls is the inclusion of a well-designed public gathering space. The plaza at the Village commons contains seating, trees, landscaping, and a fountain. Restaurants in the shopping center have their dining patios spill over into the plaza and local musicians use it as a performance space in the evenings.

<https://www.google.com/maps/@26.7135952,-80.1016036,111m/data=!3m1!1e3>

III. LIVABILITY

The following section identifies resources and case studies to help implement the Vision Plan's goals for Theme 3: Livability.

A. Better Balance Tourism With the Needs of Residents

High Tourism Impact Tax

In addition to any other tourist development tax imposed, a county with a high tourism impact may levy an additional 1% tax on the total amount charged for transient rental transactions. The proceeds must be used according to s. 125.0104(5), F.S. The provisions in s. 125.0104(4)(a)-(d), F.S., regarding the preparation of the county tourist development plan do not apply to this tax.

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0100-0199/0125/Sections/0125.0104.html

Paid Parking Program - Cocoa Beach

The use of paid parking programs to create revenue from visitors and is a mechanism to control parking management. Some cities have developed tiered payment structures that allow residents of the city to pay less for a parking permit than visitors. This strategy allows locals to easily enjoy the amenities of their community while maximizing revenue streams from tourists. Cocoa Beach is an example of this strategy. The City allows its residents to purchase parking permits for \$20 a year while charging out of town guests \$75. This strategy could be utilized by

Fernandina Beach to develop a program where city residents can obtain a parking permit for a small fee or for free and institute an hourly paid parking program for all public spaces. Tourists and out of town visitors would have to feed the meter while city residents who obtain a permit would be exempt from all parking fees. Revenue from the parking program can be used to fund other programs, projects, or initiatives for the City.

<https://www.cityofcocoabeach.com/541/Parking-Permits>

City	Public Parking Revenues
Jacksonville Beach	\$200,249
St. Augustine	\$2,222,000
New Smyrna Beach	\$1,000,000
Cocoa Beach	\$2,385,000

Source: FY20-21 City Budgets

B. Improve Living Conditions of Seniors

CAPABLE Program

Community Aging in Place—Advancing Better Living for Elders (CAPABLE) is a program offered through the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing for low-income seniors to safely age in place. The approach teams a nurse, an occupational therapist, and a handy worker to address both the home environment and uses the strengths of the older adults themselves to improve safety and independence.

https://nursing.jhu.edu/faculty_research/research/projects/capable/

C. Expand Affordable Housing Opportunities

Affordable Housing Bonus - St. Johns County

The Workforce/Affordable Housing Density Bonus accommodates provisions for the Development of housing affordable to very low, low, and moderate income households in fulfillment of policies of the Future Land Use and Housing Elements of the St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan. For purposes of this Section, Workforce/Affordable Housing is defined as housing for which monthly rents or monthly mortgage payments (including taxes and insurance) do not exceed thirty percent (30%) of gross household annual income.

<http://www.co.st-johns.fl.us/longrangeplanning/media/LDC/ArticleV.pdf> (Sec 5.07 pg 44)

D. Maintain Socio-Economic Diversity

N/A

IV. FUTURE READY INFRASTRUCTURE, UTILITIES, & PUBLIC FACILITIES

The following section identifies resources and case studies to help implement the Vision Plan's goals for Theme 4: Future Ready Infrastructure, Utilities, & Public Facilities.

Future ready means that the City's infrastructure, utilities, and public facilities will meet their current needs, while building a flexible, reliable, scalable to handle future requirements, trends, and technology

A. Establish a Resilient Smart Grid, Electric Vehicle Charging Network, & Improve Broadband Access

Dig Once Policy

A strategy to increase access to broadband that has been adapted in California, Indiana, and North Carolina is the "dig once policy". This means that during the construction or repair of a road or an underground utility, agencies can leverage rights-of-way to simultaneously install conduit or run fiber at a lower cost. This strategy allows for minimal construction disruption while reducing the cost of installing broadband infrastructure. Fernandina Beach should coordinate streetscape projects, water/ sewer line upgrades, broadband installation, and the burying of overhead power lines so that all of these elements can be accomplished at one time for a more affordable price than undergoing these projects separately.

<https://www.ncbroadband.gov/technical-assistance/playbook/policy-broadband/dig-once-policies>

Electric Vehicle Compatible Building Code

The first strategy is to ensure that all new buildings are compatible with electric vehicle charging installation and operation by updating the building code. This makes the transition to an electric vehicle easier and more appealing as well as making a property more appealing for those who already own an electric vehicle. Good case studies of cities that have adopted electric vehicle ready building codes include Atlanta, Georgia (Ordinance 17-0-1654) and Boulder, Colorado (Section K111).

https://library.municode.com/ga/atlanta/ordinances/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=869232

<https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/building-code-2015.pdf> (pg 20)

Electric Vehicle Task Force - San Jose

Another strategy is to streamline the permitting process for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. A recommended strategy is to create a task force to examine potential roadblocks in the permitting process and recommend improvements to expedite the process. San Jose, California is an example of a municipality that used this strategy, and the results were codified in Chapter 17.88(4) of the LDC.

https://library.municode.com/ca/san_jose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT17BUCO_CH17.88ELVECHSTEXBUPEPRELVECHST

Electric Vehicle Charging Network Partnership

An electrical vehicle charging network can be built and expanded through partnerships with local utilities. Utility companies can install, own, and operate public electric vehicle charging stations. Utility companies can also enter into special contracts with apartment complexes where participating residents get access to a charging station in exchange for an extra fee on their electric bill.

Climate Mayors Electric Vehicle Purchasing Collaborative

The Climate Mayors Electric Vehicle Purchasing Collaborative is a network of over 400 municipalities throughout the United States that leverage the buying power of Climate Mayors to reduce the costs of electric vehicles and installing charging infrastructure. The collaborative also has additional resources including training, best practices, educational resources, and data analysis support.

<https://climatemayors.org/ev-purchasing-collaborative/>

B. Incorporating Sustainable Future Proofing (SFP) Design Principles into Public Facilities

Principles of Future Proofing

Future proofing is the process of anticipating the future and developing methods of minimizing the negative impacts while taking advantage of positives. The Principles of Future Proofing were developed as a broader definition of resiliency. They include concepts of resilience, sustainable design, and life-cycle analysis, as well as addressing climate change and cultural heritage preservation.

<http://principlesoffutureproofing.com/10-principles/>

V. MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION

The following section identifies resources and case studies to help implement the Vision Plan's goals for Theme 5: Mobility & Transportation.

A. Complete Sidewalk & Bike Networks

Vision Zero

Vision Zero is a strategic shift in traditional traffic management and infrastructure design in two major ways.

1. Vision Zero recognizes that people will sometimes make mistakes, so the road system and related policies should be designed to ensure those inevitable mistakes do not result in severe injuries or fatalities. This means that system designers and policymakers are expected to improve the roadway environment, policies (such as speed management), and other related systems to lessen the severity of crashes.
2. Vision Zero is a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together diverse and necessary stakeholders to address this complex problem. In the past, meaningful, cross-disciplinary collaboration among local traffic planners and engineers, policymakers, and public health professionals has not been the norm. Vision Zero acknowledges that many factors contribute to safe mobility -- including roadway design, speeds, behaviors, technology, and policies -- and sets clear goals to achieve the shared goal of zero fatalities and severe injuries.

To become a Vision Zero City, Fernandina Beach will need to form a coalition focused on safety and injury prevention. Once the coalition is in place the City will adopt a Vision Zero resolution and add a Vision Zero element into its Comprehensive Plan. Then, the coalition will need to begin the process of collecting baseline data including the location of crashes, their severity, and if any patterns or common themes arise in why they occur. At this point the coalition needs to reach out to the public to solicit feedback on why people feel unsafe walking or riding their bikes around town. The coalition should inquire with school children, parents, cyclists, the High School Foundation, and any other resident that has safety concerns. This process will give the coalition data on the trouble spots and major issues that are causing traffic accidents in the City and begin the process of identifying solutions.

<https://visionzeronetwork.org/about/what-is-vision-zero/>

The Florida Department of Transportation has adopted Vision Zero into its Strategic Highway Safety Plan

https://fdotwww.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/safety/shsp-2021/shsp_mar21.pdf?sfvrsn=5452dad_0

Vision Zero Action Plan - Orlando

In December 2017, Mayor Buddy Dyer signed a resolution to adopt a Vision Zero Action Plan. The Vision Zero Orlando Action Plan outlines strategies to reduce crashes. It also describes ways to share the progress of the program's goals with the community.

<https://www.orlando.gov/files/sharedassets/public/initiatives/vision-zero/vision-zero-action-plan-orlando-2021.pdf>

Vision Zero Toolkit - Boston

The City of Boston, Massachusetts is a good case study for Vision Zero implementation. Their program has also developed a Vision Zero safety toolkit that can be used to retrofit existing infrastructure or be used in new streetscape designs to lessen the likelihood of traffic deaths and injuries. Strategies include

- clear corners;
- crossing islands;
- curb bump-outs;
- hardened centerlines;
- in-street "Yield to Pedestrians" signs;
- pedestrian warning signs;
- high-visibility crosswalks;
- raised crosswalks;
- raised intersections;
- pedestrian crossing flashing-lights;
- road right-sizing;
- protected bike lanes;
- slow turn wedges;
- stop signs; and
- T-intersections.

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/street-safety-toolkit>

Safe Routes to School Initiative

The Safe Routes to School program is a concept is to increase the number of children from grade school to high school who walk or bicycle to school by funding projects that remove the barriers currently preventing them from doing so. Florida's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program helps cities throughout the state address their school transportation needs and encourage more students to walk or cycle to school. Fernandina Beach would be a prime candidate City to initiate a program since a large amount of residential development is within walking distance of the schools. Guidelines, tool kits, and additional resources are found on the Safe Routes to School website.

<http://floridasrts.com/>

AARP Walk Audit Guide

There are several case studies and toolkits available to help communities looking to do a walk audit. The AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit provides a step-by-step guide for conducting these types of studies. Scott County, Iowa developed their own tool kit based off AARP. Both tool kits are free and open to the public to use as a resource to conduct your own community walk audit.

<https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/getting-around/info-2014/aarp-walk-audit-tool-kit.html>

Bike Friendly Community Standards

Amelia Island is currently a Bronze Level Certified Bike Friendly Community. The League of American Bicyclists' website has a detailed graph identifying the requirements for each level.

<http://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/BFC%20infographic.pdf>

B. Improve Accessibility for Seniors & Disabled Residents

Disabled Citizen Working Group - Athens, OH

One of the easiest and most effective ways to identify mobility issues for disabled residents and develop solutions is to reach out to the disabled community and listen to their experiences navigating the City. The City of Athens, Ohio, a small city of 25,000, established a Disabilities Commission to provide a means for the concerns of people with disabilities to be heard, to advocate for public policy change, and to provide expertise to the community on disabilities. The commission is comprised of 11 members appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the City Commission. The Commission's duties are to:

- Make recommendations to the Athens city government on city services related to the needs of persons with disabilities;
- Act as liaison between members of the community and local government;
- Respond to questions from the public, local government, and community;
- Consult with Athens city officials, council, and citizens;
- Inform the city of grant opportunities; and
- Submit activity reports and recommendations to the Athens City Council.

Universal Design

Universal Design is “the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood, and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability, or disability.” This approach is based off 7 primary principles.

1. **Equitable Use:** the design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
2. **Flexibility in Use:** The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
3. **Simple & Intuitive Use:** Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills or current concentration level.
4. **Perception Information:** The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
5. **Tolerance for Error:** The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
6. **Low Physical Effort:** The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.
7. **Size and Space for Approach and Use:** Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

Using Universal Design principles creates a more equitable experience for all users of public facilities and recreation amenities.

<https://universaldesign.ie/what-is-universal-design/>

C. Establish Transit Options around the Island

Trolley Tracker App - West Palm Beach, FL

West Palm Beach operates several free trolley lines in its downtown districts. These trolleys are operated by the West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and funded through a special taxing district. The trolleys are advertised by the DDA throughout the downtown area and a trolley tracking app was developed for users. These are elements that the Island Hopper lacked as over 35% of public survey respondents did not know the service was available or how to use it, and 17% found the system inconvenient.

<https://downtownwpb.com/things-to-do/trolley-tracker-app/>

FreeBee Microtransit Service

The City of Delray Beach has been offering a free, door to door, on demand transportation service in its downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. The service is run by the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and is funded through tax increment revenues. The program operates low-speed, battery operated electric vehicles that can be requested via an app. It is run by FreeBee, a South Florida electric transportation company. The City began offering the service as an alternative to its trolley circulator that was seeing low ridership numbers. The trolley is being discontinued and City is focusing on enhancing its transportation services through microtransit programs like the FreeBee.

<https://www.delraybeachfl.gov/government/city-departments/public-works/transportation-traffic/downtown-shuttle-service>