

Alachua County Strategic Guide

Effective October 1, 2025

Focus Area	Board Level Objectives
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth by working collaboratively to support quality job creation, business development, and expanded access to economic opportunity throughout Alachua County. Strengthen local public-private partnerships and advocate for state and federal investments to advance targeted economic development across the county, particularly in key areas such as food systems, circular economy, the Airport Gateway, and the Forward Focus initiative in Eastern Alachua County. Leverage partnerships, marketing, and strategic communications to support local business retention, expansion, and attraction efforts that align with Alachua County’s values and long-term vision, especially those that support self-sufficiency, upward mobility, and generational wealth by providing training, policy innovation, and address socio-economic challenges.
Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure effective emergency response by aligning services with master plans, improving fire/rescue workforce stability, reducing response times, improving outcomes, and preparing for, developing mitigation strategies, and proactively responding to both natural and man-made disasters and developing and managing post disaster coordination. Strengthen the County’s capacity to adapt emergency services to emerging risks, population growth, policy shifts, and community health needs. Evaluate, implement, and/or expand innovative care models, such as community paramedicine, to address gaps in service delivery, reduce reactive emergency response needs, and improve outcomes for high-need populations.
Environment and Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, invest in, acquire sensitive land resources, and improve the County’s natural resources — including, but not limited to water quality and supply, conservation and agricultural lands, and all other natural resources — through sound policy and ongoing stewardship. Develop and strengthen collaboration with local jurisdictions, public and private agencies, and community partners to address regional environmental challenges and leverage shared solutions.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide and cultivate environmentally, socially, and economically resilient strategies and solutions to climate change for the whole community through adoption and implementation of the climate action plan, including lessening the dependence on fossil fuels and increasing energy efficiency in county operations.
Housing Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with public and private partners to expand access to safe and affordable housing options to meet the needs of residents across income levels and life stages. • Support housing interventions for high-need populations, including people reentering from incarceration, significantly disabled populations, the elderly, those with mental health challenges, the underserved and vulnerable, and individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. • Invest in long-term housing stability by aligning policies, land use, public-private efforts, and county plans to increase the supply of workforce, affordable, and permanent supportive housing.
Land Use and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate, update, adopt, and implement the County's Comprehensive Plan based on community input, with a goal to minimize the need for future amendments to the Plan, and where it is feasible, balance economic, environmental, and social considerations that align land use decisions with both community values and growth needs. • Support infrastructure reuse and compact development patterns that prevent sprawl, lower long-term public-service and facilities costs, and enhance community resilience. • Ensure public infrastructure meets the needs of the community by investing in the provision, modernization, maintenance, and strategic reuse of County-owned infrastructure and buildings to meet current and future service needs.
Parks and Public Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement and periodically update the Parks Master Plan, with a focus on continuing and expanding access to safe public places, parks/trails, recreation opportunities, youth activities, and public/open spaces to ensure alignment with population growth and community priorities. • Strategically invest in the creation of new recreational and public spaces while ensuring the sustained upkeep and improvement of existing assets.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish strategic partnerships with municipalities, regional entities, and private and nonprofit groups to develop and maintain public spaces through service coordination and use of alternative funding sources.
Public Health, Social, and Youth Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve health outcomes by evaluating the social determinants of health focusing on local needs, including housing stability, food access and insecurity, literacy, mobility, and digital inclusion. Identify potential priority areas to address with community partners for greater health and wellness of all Alachua County citizens. Enhance care coordination and case management for vulnerable populations through stronger community data systems, performance tracking, and feedback loops. This ensures advocacy for investing in essential public and behavioral health services to reach the people most in need. Support investment, and as appropriate provide funding, for essential community buildings and programs that help people and their pets. These buildings and programs should provide safe, easy-to-access, and caring services for public health, social needs, youth, mental health and pet adoption services, while also helping to prevent animal abuse and abandonment. Expand access to behavioral health services through scalable crisis response systems, coordinated care, services for addiction and co-occurring disorders, and strong community partnerships. Collaborate with nonprofits and community partners to support delivery of a full range of youth services and improve childhood programs that are accessible, rooted in evidence-based practices and are both proactive and intervention based; focusing on early childhood education and literacy, strengthening family, health care, and community stability, and reducing youth and gun violence for children and at-risk youth.
Public Safety and Social Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with and support public safety/law enforcement and judicial agencies to implement new services and reform existing programs to provide for a safe community. Reduce the County's jail population through diversion programs, alternatives to incarceration, addressing causes

Alachua County Strategic Guide

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	<p>of recidivism, supportive services for individuals awaiting trial, and reentry programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner to promote re-entry employment opportunities and reentry success through local incentives, employer partnerships, and supportive social and workforce programs. • Research, identify, and coordinate to address the root causes of incarceration and recidivism — such as housing instability, education, behavioral health needs, social support, co-occurring disorders, youth and gun violence, and economic opportunity — through public systems and partnerships.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the overall condition and safety of county-maintained roads through proactive planning, prompt response and resolution to roadway maintenance and citizens concern, repaving, and clear public reporting. • Partner to enhance and evaluate existing and new public transit options to increase accessibility, reliability, and ridership — especially for underserved and elderly population(s), employment-focused areas, educational institutions, and population centers. • Advance currently established and long-term transportation planning (e.g. Pavement Management Plan, Alachua County Comprehensive Plan, MTPo activities, etc) to guide and direct fair and balanced infrastructure investments, reduce strain on residential and rural roads, and identify future transportation plans for all Alachua County maintained roadways.
Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance the County’s Circular Economy goals by identifying and implementing key milestones, increasing diversion rates, and reducing reliance on landfills. • Promote reduce, reuse, recycle, and sustainable materials management and evaluate and provide recommendations on reducing organics in the waste stream. • Strengthen public engagement and education to improve waste management, reuse/recycling, and circular economy behaviors to support the County’s environmental goals.

Department Implementation Guidance:

The County, when implementing the Strategic Guide and Board Level Objectives, shall refer to and follow any/all Alachua County Commission adopted plans, regulations, board motions, and state and federal regulations.

When implementing any Board Level Objective, the County shall follow a good governance structure that promotes transparency, accountability, stakeholder input, balance, fairness, and positive long-term impact to ensure continued trust, quality, sustainability, and resilience. Considerations include, but are not limited to:

- **Budgetary Resources** – determine best use of limited financial resources
- **Communication** – projects and outcomes should be clearly communicated, information is readily updated and shared, communication and coordination across County departments and with external partners is encouraged to align goals, create synergies, and deliver desired results, public communication should occur regularly to have the broadest reach to ensure representation of all – including the marginalized voices
- **Efficiency and Effectiveness** – use data and data reporting systems, performance metrics, and community feedback to guide data-driven decisions and actions, actively track and report program progress and use of taxpayer funds, and strive to continuously improve County services
- **Information Technology** – utilize existing and implement new, advanced, and proven technologies, apply innovative technological solutions, and leverage, as appropriate, artificial intelligence to boost existing resources
- **Participation** – create internal and external feedback loops, ensure multi-directional communication, actively engage the staff, partners, and community with different modes of communication, encourage a representative voice from the public
- **Partnerships** – continue to utilize effective partnerships and develop mutually beneficial partnerships with federal, state, and regional governmental agencies, local municipalities, educational institutions, local nonprofits, private sector entities, the MTPO, volunteers, and local experts with specialized expertise
- **Risk** – minimize legal risk, financial risk, and potential for loss of public trust, mitigate risks posed by malicious actors and cybersecurity threats, consider current and future legislative impacts
- **Staff Resources** – ensure staff feel empowered to discuss both pros and cons of assigned projects, bring internal service providers to the table in the early phases of a project, minimize departmental silos whenever possible