

Vision Statement

In 2030 Escambia County, Florida is a place that is:

- **Fostering diverse family-friendly neighborhoods with affordable/workforce housing and rich cultural opportunities**

Planning will focus on creating town centers and neighborhoods that attract a mix of large and small businesses, and a full spectrum of housing opportunities with recreational spaces located in close proximity to residential areas to promote an active and healthy lifestyle. These recreational spaces will include green spaces such as parks with nature, hiking, and biking trails, facilities for cultural productions or events and when possible access to the many water-based recreational opportunities available in Escambia County, such as boating, fishing and swimming. Land use regulations will facilitate the desire of the citizens of Escambia County to live, work and play in their own communities. Through the creation of these town centers and neighborhoods, citizens will be provided with opportunities and spaces to come together for recreational and cultural events, thereby developing a sense of community and celebrating diversity.

- **Committed to preserving our rich history, rural heritage, and environment**

Planning for central and north Escambia County should focus on preserving the rural heritage they enjoy and protecting the environment by keeping much of the land agricultural. Planning for the urban and suburban areas of Escambia County should focus on preserving old historic Pensacola, providing more education about local history and maximizing the access and use of waterfront such as barrier islands, bays, bayous and inland waterways while protecting their natural beauty. Escambia County's rich maritime and agricultural heritage should be celebrated and preserved.

- **Attracting business and industry by its economic climate, local resources, educational system, and skilled workforce, thus providing opportunities for citizens to remain in Escambia County to live and work**

Planning should focus on creating strategies for building economic capacity and vitality throughout Escambia County designed to attract a mix of large and small businesses. Economic development activities will focus on attracting industry that will strengthen the local economy and provide sustainable job opportunities for families to continue living in the county. Realizing that a strong workforce is a key to attracting business and industry, an emphasis on targeted educational programs in cooperation with Pensacola Junior College and the University of West Florida should be

prioritized. The county should take a lead role in ensuring, promoting and supporting economic development partnerships with organizations. A sample of economic development programs that should be enhanced includes, but is not limited to, the following: incentives, workforce development, enterprise zones, business incubators, and media centers to attract film producers. The county should work to expand the local health care and tourism industries. Quality of life and great public schools are also important features to attracting business and industry. Thus quality of life and quality education (including facilities) should be a focus for the county and its citizens.

- **Effectively planning and managing growth, taking into account intensive economic development**

Planning for and managing growth should focus on providing adequate infrastructure to accommodate a growing population. While Escambia County is not projected to grow at the rapid pace of many of Florida's counties in the next twenty years, an effective smart growth approach is being called for by its citizens. Citizens are calling for consistent and well thought out zoning and planning that promotes quality of life for all. This includes improving our public school facilities, providing affordable health care and housing, supporting more road development/improvements, and providing recreational venues for our families. This element correlates to the other elements within this vision statement, but it speaks to the need of long-range planning and to the need of strong economic development efforts so all the elements within this vision statement can be realized.

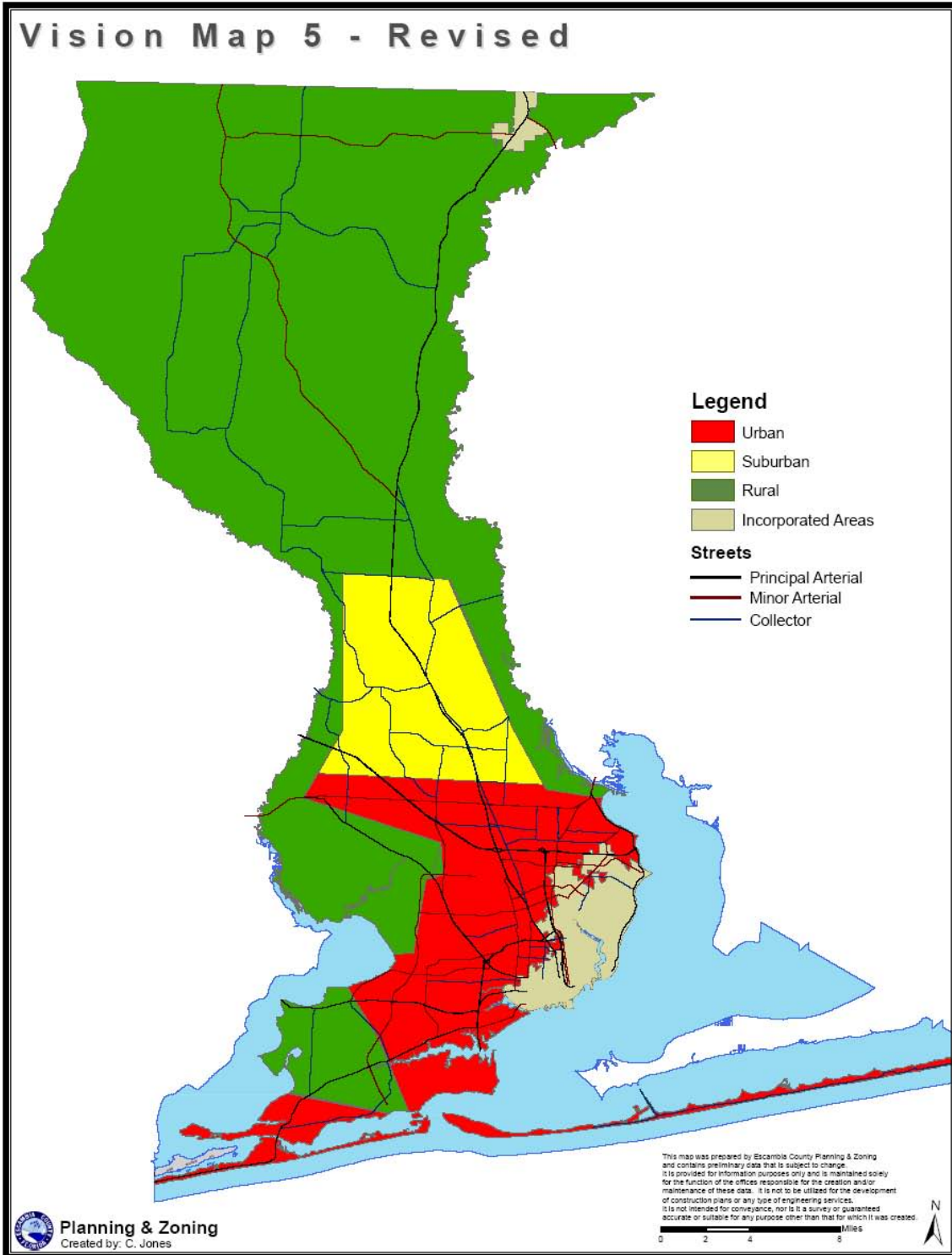
- **Sensitive to meeting the needs of all age groups**

Planning for the entire population should focus on providing adequate and affordable housing solutions, accessible recreational facilities that promote an active and healthy lifestyle, an expanded public transportation system, and easily accessible and affordable health care.

- **Continuing the current support of military missions and fostering its growth**

Escambia County has a rich history with the Navy. Whether through drawing visitors to the area by the Naval Air Museum or providing jobs for many area workers, the Navy is a vital part of Escambia County's economy and thus, protecting its mission should be a part of all our efforts. Planning should focus on continuing our efforts to protect the area's military installations through prevention of encroachment and supporting its missions.

Vision Map



Source: Gulf Coast GIS Mapping Sessions