

Lady's Island Vision (DRAFT)

Lady's Island is a diverse sea island community with a balanced mixture of natural areas, rural areas, residential neighborhoods, and village centers. Its stable neighborhoods offer a variety of housing choices and convenient businesses in nearby walkable centers. It meets travel needs with safe and efficient options including driving, walking, biking, along with air and boat access. It serves as an important gateway to St. Helena Island, along with Dataw, Harbor, Fripp, and many other coastal islands.

Common Goals and Objectives

The Lady's Island Vision encompasses many ideas that require further definition through goals and objectives. These goals and objectives are organized around four themes including:

Quality of Place that addresses how the built environment enriches quality of life.

Connections that tie places together with transportation and other public facilities.

Nature as the foundation on which the community is developed.

Stewardship provided by local governments in partnership with local civic groups.

Common Goal 1: Quality of Place

Lady's Island has a built environment with exemplary design quality that meets the living needs of its residents through strong neighborhoods and mixed-use business centers built to last for generations.

Objectives

1. Inspired Development and Redevelopment.

Inspiring, functional patterns of development within the developed areas of Lady's Island that support small businesses, new residents, and community interaction.

2. Housing Choices.

A variety of housing choices that meet the diverse needs of a changing and aging population.

3. Mixed Use Centers and Nodes.

A series of context sensitive walkable, mixed-use places for different regional and neighborhood retail and commercial needs of Lady's Island residents.

4. Parks.

Active and passive parks providing recreation opportunities and public gathering spaces.

5. Public Realm.

Streets that reflect the character of the community through enhanced streetscape and design.

Common Goal 2: Connections

Lady's Island neighborhoods, business centers, natural areas, and water are connected to each other and well served with public facilities.

Objectives

1. Connected and Efficient Road Network.

An integrated network of streets that enhances Lady's Island's sense of place while preserving the ability of Lady's Island and St. Helena residents to get on and off the island, including but not limited to the recommendations in the *Lady's Island Corridor Study*.

2. Pedestrian and Bicycle Friendly Streets.

A network of multi-use trails and pedestrian and bicycle friendly streets that make walking and cycling a safe and efficient transportation choice for island residents.

3. Adequate and Concurrent Public Facilities.

Growth tied to the ability to provide concurrent and adequate public facilities.

4. Public Transportation.

Public transportation that fits the scale and needs of Lady's Island including bus connections to the mainland and transportation for the elderly services and health care.

5. Public Access to Open Spaces and Water.

Physical and visual access to water and open spaces for recreation and public enjoyment.

Common Goal 3: Nature

Lady's Island natural resources are preserved and protected, giving residents the opportunity to live in a quintessential Lowcountry landscape with majestic live oaks, marsh views and river access.

Objectives

1. Natural Resource Protection.

Preserved and plentiful natural environmental resources including salt marshes, marsh islands, coastal waters, marine resources, trees, forests, and connected wildlife habitats.

2. Trees and Vegetation.

Extensive mature and new trees, natural vegetation, and landscaped developments that exemplify the sea island environment.

3. Open Space.

Preserved and connected open spaces that provide visual and natural breaks from the built environment.

4. Green Infrastructure.

Environmentally sensitive infrastructure that follows green and sustainable infrastructure best practices and recognizes the risks of rising sea levels and storm surge in vulnerable areas.

Common Goal 4: Stewardship

Lady's Island growth and change is managed responsibly and collaboratively by the City of Beaufort and Beaufort County in collaboration with local civic organizations.

Objectives

1. Long View.

A clearly defined and coordinated pattern of growth and annexation that respects the ultimate capacity of the island's infrastructure, public services and natural resources, including emergency evacuation needs.

2. City - County Coordination.

Coordination of development and public facility decisions between the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal, and Beaufort County in a transparent and inclusive manner.

3. Civic Infrastructure.

Strong partnerships between local governments and local and regional civic organizations representing residential, business, environmental, minority, and other interests.

4. Balance of Public Interest and Property Rights.

Respect for the need to balance the public interest in managing growth and development with the rights of individual property owners.

5. Fiscal Sustainability.

Living and growing within the means of local government to fund infrastructure and public facilities in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner.