

Vision

Land development regulations, programs and capital projects should be consistent with the following long-term goals or vision:

Vision for Downtown LaBelle:

- Destination for Residents and Visitors
- Family Friendly
- Beautiful, Vibrant, and Walkable
- Appealing to New Businesses
- Alluring Waterfront Tied to Park and Downtown
- Safe Environment to Work, Shop, Walk, Play, and Relax

Summary of Recommended Actions

- Appoint an Implementation Committee to assist with prioritizing and maintaining focus and energy in the downtown redevelopment process. Specific focus should be given on whether to establish a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).
- Obtain professional marketing assistance to help develop and implement a theme or brand. A leading concept would be to refer to the area as the Walking District with a distinct logo.
- Amend the Comprehensive Plan to implement the Downtown Plan. Subsequently amend the Land Development Code accordingly.
- Direct new construction towards underutilized and vacant sites, while endeavoring to preserve historically and architecturally significant landmarks that contribute to the downtown's unique character.
- Tie history to the present by locating historical markers or kiosks that include photographs and written history to be placed in key locations.
- Adopt architectural design standards that are mandatory for new construction or major redevelopment. Provide incentives for existing development to comply with said standards. Allow for varied architectural styles with preference for Old Florida.
- Establish a pilot streetscape project to apply recommended improvements.
- Establish Veteran's Memorial Park to serve as a gateway feature into the downtown area.
- In coordination with the Barron Park Plan, implement the Wharf Grant to upgrade and improve the dock and wharf area.
- Organize and schedule community gatherings and events at regular intervals.
- Seek funding mechanisms from all sources available.
- Prioritize impact projects to energize redevelopment process.
- Establish consensus regarding the future of SR 29. Coordinate with FDOT regarding the SR 29 PD&E. Seek public/private partnerships (P3) to maximize funding of road improvements.
- Establish linkages and appropriate signage (wayfinding) to connect downtown with significant natural, recreational, and cultural amenities.