

V I S I O N
for
SOUTHERN DISTRICT 4
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

by
Committees
of
NORTH SHORES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

which met during the year 1998

Resolution to Accept and Support the Vision
by Consent
of the
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 1999

**RESOLUTION NO. 99 - 27
OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, the residents of County Commission Southern District 4 have worked together to develop a VISION; and

WHEREAS, this VISION reflects a future for the District that displays all desired aspects and attributes that the residents wish for their future; and

WHEREAS, many of the ACTIONS identified within this VISION can only be accomplished by St. Johns County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognize that many of the proposals within the VISION are indeed meritorious.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida that the Board of County Commissioners accepts the VISION for Southern District 4 and directs that it be utilized within St. Johns County as a working guide for decisions affecting District Southern District 4 in part or in whole.

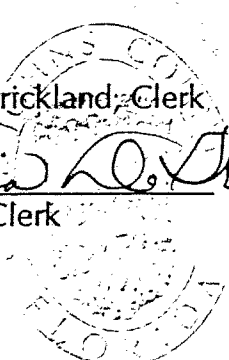
PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 9th day of February, 1999, by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

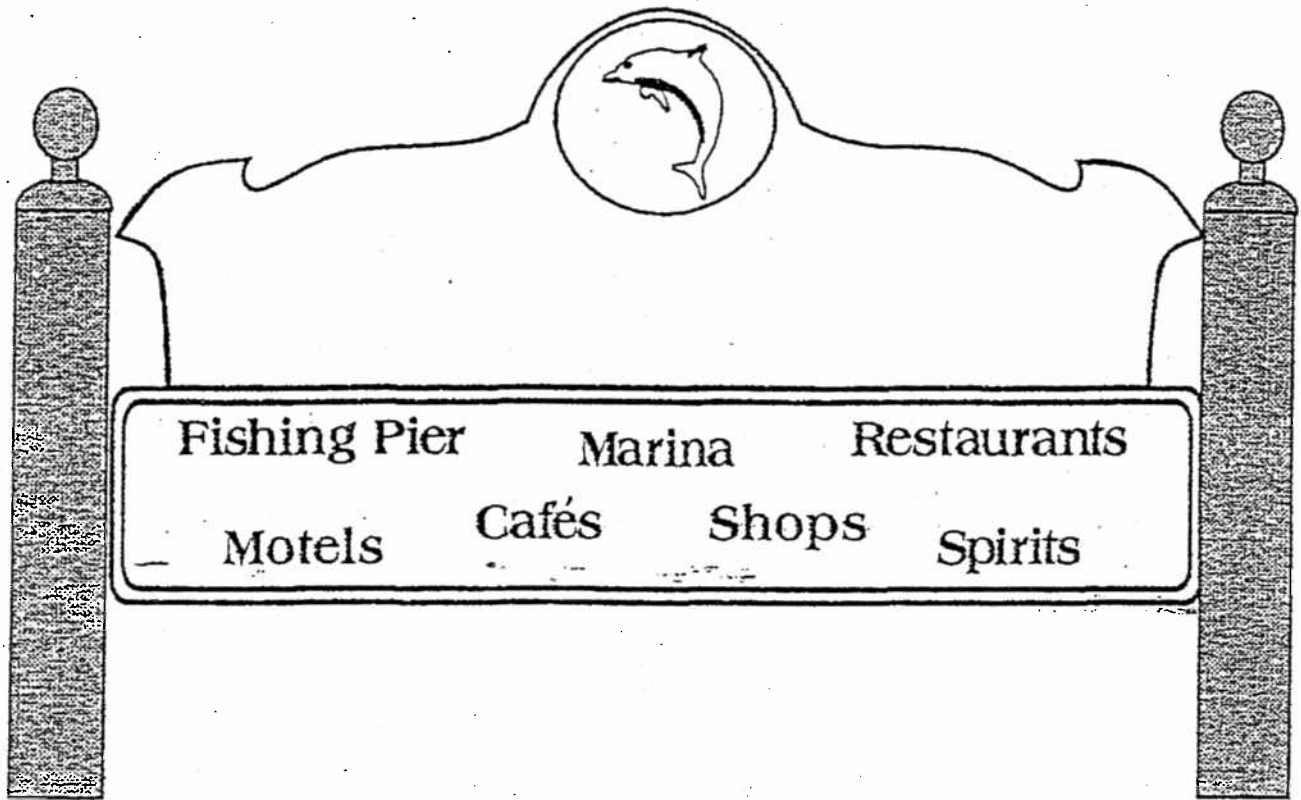
BY: *Mark A. Jorde*
Chairman

Attest: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk

By: *Patricia R. Strickland*
Deputy Clerk

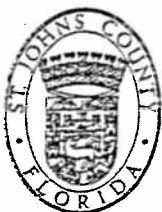


VISIONING



SOUTHERN DISTRICT 4

February 1999



Contents

<i>SUMMARY</i>	iii
<i>HISTORY OF THE VISIONING PROCESS</i>	v
<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	1
<i>LAND USE</i>	
Reference Map - Southern District 4	2
Committee Members	3
Focus Statement	4
Objective I -- Managing Growth	4
Objective II -- Architectural Control	5
Objective III -- Town Center	6
Objective IV -- Protection and Conservation of Water	7
Objective V -- Protection of the Environment	7
Objective VI -- Communication and Education to Preserve Quality of Life	8
<i>INFRASTRUCTURE</i>	
Focus Statement	10
Objective I -- Roadways for Motorized Vehicular Use and Waterways for Watercraft Use	10
Objective II -- Non-Vehicular Traffic	12
Objective III -- Protection Services	12
Objective IV -- Utilitarian Services	13
Objective V -- Flooding and Drainage	13
<i>ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW</i>	
Committee Members	14
Focus Statement	15
Objective I -- Architectural Control -- Overlay District	15
Objective II -- Architectural Control -- Guidelines	15
Objective III -- Site Design and Development Standards	17
Objective IV -- Permit Application Requirements	18
Objective V -- Functions	19
Objective VI -- Application of District Regulations	20
Objective VII -- Funding for District Projects	20
Objective VIII -- Architectural Themes	20
Objective IX -- Beach Improvements	21

CULTURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Committee Members	22
Focus Statement	23
Objective I -- The Beaches	23
Objective II -- The River	24
Objective III -- The Parks	24
Objective IV -- The North Shores Community Center	25
Objective V -- Vilano Road (Historic A1A)	25
Objective VI -- Bicycle Path & Sidewalk Master Plan	26
Objective VII -- Special Events	27

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Committee Members	29
Focus Statement	30
Objective I -- Education of How the Government Operates, How Citizens can Participate in the Governing Process, Creating a Community Coalition	30
Objective II -- Establish Committees	31
Objective III -- Evacuation Routes	31
Objective IV -- Promoting Points of Interest Using Signage	32
Objective V -- Beautification	32
Objective VI -- Encourage the Use of Southern District 4 Beaches	33
Objective VII -- Encouraging County Officials to Participate in Local Meetings, Keeping the Community Informed of Events & Issues, Interaction Between the Community and Government	33

SUMMARY

Areas of focus for our VISION of the future are:

LAND USE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Managing development
- Creating meaningful open space and greenways
- Maximizing recreational needs
- Enhancement through beautification
- Protection of beaches
- Protection and conservation of water
- Protection of natural beauty and wildlife
- Creation of a vibrant town center from Vilano Pier to Vilano Beach on Vilano Road
- Scenic highway A1A as a cohesive factor

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Promoting safe transportation on roadways for vehicles, non-vehicular traffic, pedestrians, and on water for watercraft
- Providing off street parking with vegetative barriers to keep demand under control
- Supportive Fire, Security, and Emergency Services to meet needs
- Providing adequate utilities
- Resolving flooding and drainage problems

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

- Appointment of an Architectural Review Committee for Architectural Controls
- Guidelines and standards for a cohesive appearance
- Guidelines for construction and renovation
- Regulations for Signage and Lighting

CULTURE AND LEISURE

- Determining, preserving and enhancing resources
- Establishment of new resources
- Monitoring beaches
- Protecting the western estuarine shore
- Providing new facilities such as pavilions, boardwalks, nature centers, rest rooms, picnic areas
- Enhancing the North Shores Community Center and South Ponte Vedra Beach Community Center
- Creating Vilano Road as a destination

Establishing events, activities, festivals, concerts, etc.
Initiating educational programs

GOVERNANCE

Formation of a Community Coalition, businesses, homeowner associations, community associations, for better communication, participation, sense of community

Providing information and education on issues which affect our district

Encouragement for citizen participation in public hearings and workshops

Ensuring effective evacuation procedures

Promoting points of interest using signage and public relations

Promoting a clean and safe environment

Interaction between the community and government

HISTORY OF THE VISIONING PROCESS

The idea for a Visioning Process in District 4 began in September 1995. The process was designed and initiated by Commissioner Joanne Cody, the County Commissioner representing District 4 at that time. She had been aware of Visioning successfully taking place in City of St. Augustine and other parts of Florida. A picture of the future was assembled by committees of residents/citizens from Palm Valley, Ponte Vedra, Ponte Vedra Beach, North Beach and Vilano Beach.

After over a year of effort, a Visioning Document was created which outline Focus Statements and Objectives to reach and maintain. Action Statements follow which can be used to direct and implement those Objectives. This first Visioning Document was presented to the St. Johns County Commission as a guide to governance initiated by the citizens of District 4.

The next step is creating an Overlay District. This creates ordinances in specific areas -- such as regulation of signage, protection of trees, restriction of driving on the beaches. When passed into County law, the result is to overlay existing zoning and be more restrictive than general County ordinances.

It became obvious during the initial Visioning Process that the structure, the culture, the focus, and the goals of Southern District 4 were different from those in Ponte Vedra and Palm Valley in Northern District 4.

Southern District 4 begins on the Northern boundary with Guana State Park where the Park meets the ocean and encompasses the rest of the barrier island peninsula to the St. Augustine Inlet. It includes areas known as South Ponte Vedra Beach, North Beach, Surfside, Vilano Beach and Porpoise Point.

Realizing the need for a separate Visioning for the Southern part of her District. Commissioner Cody presented the Visioning Project in November 1997 to members of the North Shores Improvement Association as a catalyst and called for volunteers to begin a more relevant Visioning for this area. Committees began work on a new document for Southern District 4 in January 1998. Several volunteers had already served on the original District 4 Visioning Committees. We were able to accelerate the process using the experience of the volunteers and the District 4 document as a base of reference. The report for the Southern part of the District to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners was finished in January 1999.

Research that was done in analyzing some of the Objectives and issues produced information, ideas and recommendations which might be helpful to those involved in making Objectives become a reality. This research was preserved in Compendiums under separate cover.

INTRODUCTION

Southern District 4 is a unique community with unusual natural beauty and wildlife. It is a barrier island peninsula enveloping estuarine habitats of the Tolomato River (Intracoastal Waterway) on the west and the Atlantic Ocean's sandy beaches on the east. It is bordered on the north by the southern boundary of Ponte Vedra Zoning District and Guana River State Park managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Guana River Wildlife Management Area managed by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. On the south, the area becomes dunes at Porpoise Point overlooking the inlet to the historic City of St. Augustine. In addition to the above, the District has naturally vegetated buffered streets as well as the beautifully serene marshlands meandering through the District. We have residents with various lifestyles. There are those living in planned communities and condominiums as well as homeowners with 30 to 50 year old single-family southern coastal homes and elegant waterfront homes.

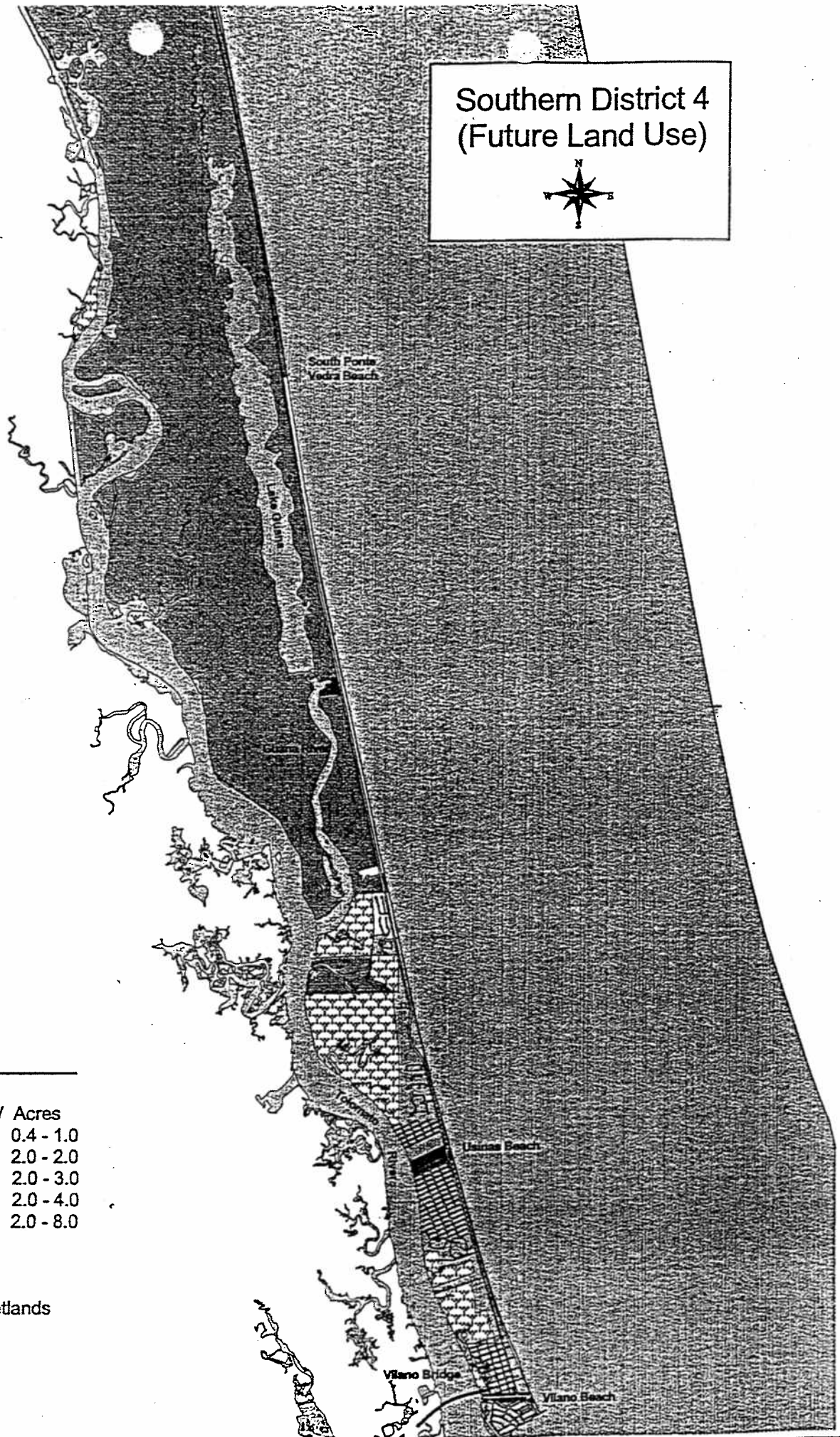
We chose the environment we live in today because it has special characteristics...characteristics that we hope will endure as long as we live here. We have the opportunity to share these characteristics -- and the quality of life they provide -- as a legacy for future generations through a VISION that balances growth and the natural environment that supports this quality of life we have created and a continuing implementation process for this VISION.

Over the past year, the committees of the Southern District 4 Visioning Process have worked and planned for unique and responsible growth and stewardship in our community and District, awareness and respect for the natural resources in the District, and to encourage the people here and those visiting us to appreciate the District as a wonderful place to live and to visit.

As with many communities in St. Johns County, Southern District 4 is in a state of change. New residents are moving into an established, settled area. Can our heritage be preserved as we adjust to this expected change? Moreover, this is a seaside community which faces the dilemma of other popular seaside communities. How can the needs of stable residential neighborhoods become compatible with those of a developing tourist destination?

We now request the County Commissioners to approve the Report of the Visioning Committee for Southern District 4.

Southern District 4 (Future Land Use)



Legend

Land Use

	Residential Units / Acres
	Density A 0.4 - 1.0
	Density B 2.0 - 2.0
	Density C 2.0 - 3.0
	Density D 2.0 - 4.0
	Density E 2.0 - 8.0
	Commercial
	Guana
	Public
	Conservation / Wetlands

Southern District 4 Visioning

LAND USE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee

Vivian Browning, *Chairperson*
Sacha Martin, *Vice Chairperson*

David Bruner, *County Commissioner*
Scott Clem, Director, *County Planning Department and Visioning Director*
Georgia Katz, Principal Planner, *County Planning Department*
Joseph Stephenson, *Regional Planning Administrator, District 2, FDOT*

Harold Baker
A.F. Barrancotto
Peggy & Bud Beard
Lola Brotherton
Richard Hardy
Charlotte & Bill Izzo
Art McGinness
Frank Timmons
Fred Wahlers
Jackie Ward

LAND USE

Southern District 4 Visioning Process

FOCUS STATEMENT

Our goal is to develop a vision that will guide state, county and individual decision makers concerning land use development in Southern District 4. This area is the southern portion of the barrier island peninsula which includes part of Guana River State Park, South Ponte Vedra Beach, and Vilano Beach — as shown on the attached map. The development of land within this area should be balanced to maintain and improve our unique beachside community, establish a community Town Center and preserve our natural resources while meeting the needs of our citizens' health, safety and welfare.

Most of this area is designated as residential usage by the current Comprehensive Land Use Map. The primary commercial area is the corridor from the oceanfront and along Vilano Road (old A1A) to the Intracoastal Waterway. The other commercial area is at or near the North Beach Campground.

The environmental aspects of this area are closely tied to the quality of life enjoyed by its residents and visitors. The mixture of relatively pristine natural and recreational areas such as the Atlantic Ocean and its shoreline, the Intracoastal Waterway and its shoreline, Guana River State Park, which exists alongside the residential, commercial and resort development, makes future decisions regarding land use so important in this unique section of St. Johns County.

OBJECTIVE I — Managing Growth

To ensure controlled growth and manage the development and redevelopment of the land within the designated area.

- Action 1.** Focus commercial development and redevelopment in areas designated as commercial on the Future Land Use Map in Southern District 4. Allow accessory uses and mixed uses within the commercial areas.
- Action 2.** Allow distance/setback requirements to be adjusted by development standards in both residential and commercial areas, for example, developments using traditional neighborhood design.
- Action 3.** Encourage the creation of meaningful open space by defining open space as the community's environmentally sensitive upland and wetland areas. Support their protection and preservation through development, such as planned unit and special developments (PUD's and PSD's), that use creative and innovative design standards

including clustering, transfer of development rights, buffering and wetland and upland bonuses (including, but not limited to, the Tree Clearing and Protection Ordinance which provides credits for both existing and new trees and plantings on property for development or redevelopment).

- Action 4.** Maximize recreation and open space requirements to be provided by proposed development.
- Action 5.** Create a set of development guidelines and standards that an Architectural Review Committee can utilize to prevent multi-family, high-rise and commercial projects that are not compatible with the surrounding area.
- Action 6.** Maintain a maximum building height for development of 35 feet.
- Action 7.** The Community should identify recreational needs for the Southern District 4 area and request the County government utilize Zone 4 Recreational Impact Fees toward these projects.

OBJECTIVE II – Architectural Control

Establish Southern District 4 design and development criteria, particularly architectural controls, in order to create a cohesive appearance.

- Action 1.** Establish development standards and guidelines for all new development and redevelopment other than single family development.
- Action 2.** Develop building siting guidelines and minimum standards.
- Action 3.** Create a Southern District 4 Architectural Review Committee (ARC) appointed by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) consisting of 5 members, including at least one professional architect or engineer licensed in the State of Florida. We recommend that the other members of the Committee have expertise in landscape architecture, land use planning, urban planning, engineering, or other areas of relevance to the Committee's purpose.

The ARC shall establish and create site architectural themes to be utilized throughout Southern District 4 and ensure adherence to standards and guidelines.

- Action 4.** Billboards should not be allowed in District 4. Also limit future off-building signage.

OBJECTIVE III – Town Center

A Community Focal Point. Throughout the Visioning Process there has been an attempt to locate and identify a community focal point. There has been discussion to the effect that there is not a central, accessible location that is suitable for family gatherings, socializing, hosting special events, or passive relaxation. Therefore, in an effort to improve the sense of community, there is interest in developing such a focal point. Foster a sense of community through the creation and implementation of a plan for a Town Center that is designed and scaled for the needs of the residents, visitors, and current businesses within this area.

- Action 1.** The area designated as commercial on the St. Johns County Land Use Map, which runs from the oceanfront and along Vilano Road to the Intracoastal waterfront, should be developed as the Town Center for this Southern District 4 area.
- Action 2.** A1A, where the eastern end of the bridge lanes intersect with the old A1A needs to be enhanced with better traffic safety features as well as landscaping and signage befitting the entrance to an upscale beachfront community and Town Center.
- Action 3.** The Town Center should be the focus of a redevelopment/revitalization area that will provide a central business, civic, and cultural area for citizens, residents and visitors. The Community should pursue funding mechanisms to assist in the redevelopment of this area (e.g. Florida Communities Trust Waterfronts Florida Program and Department of Community Affairs Florida Coastal Management Program grants programs).
- Action 4.** NSIA shall establish a Committee, consisting of residents, business owners, economic development and government representatives to develop a Town Center plan. This plan shall include funding and development implementation strategies and programs to ensure the creation of the Town Center.
- Action 5.** The Committee should research the Town Center concept as implemented in other communities. The study should include an exploration of issues detailing the following:
- public use, function, and design of the Center;
 - Town Center maintenance and associated responsibilities;
 - economic feasibility and opportunities;
 - traditional and creative financing techniques; and
 - land ownership and innovative joint ventures between public and private entities.
- Action 6.** Provide the Town Center with basic public facilities and attributes which will assist in the utility and popularity of the site.

- Action 7.** Enlist public input in the development and design of the Town Center in order to create a sense of community ownership.

OBJECTIVE IV – Protection and Conservation of Water

Restore and protect the waters of this area in order to provide a continuous and abundant supply of clean chemical-free water for both human and wildlife populations, while maximizing a healthy environment and maintaining the natural beauty of the area for present and future generations.

- Action 1.** Manage lakes, drainage ditches and retention ponds by monitoring them to maintain high water quality.
- Action 2.** Maintain high water and sewer quality levels for this area by having new projects utilize existing water and sewer lines or extending the lines to the new developments where possible. Encourage that new and existing wells and septic systems meet current state standards.
- Action 3.** Encourage the use of slow-release natural compost for fertilization, and/or the use of natural or organic fertilizers because of negative impact nitrogen based fertilizers have on our wetlands and waterways.
- Action 4.** Encourage the use of xeriscaping which promotes the use of indigenous trees and plants that are resistant to salt, pests and drought. These trees should be readily available at local nurseries and be labeled with their xeriscaping qualities.
- Action 5.** Disseminate information on xeriscaping techniques and plants.

OBJECTIVE V – Protection of the Environment

Habitat preservation and acquisition. Preserve and protect the natural resources of St. Johns County, and Southern District 4 in particular, including coastal, wetland, and upland areas and their associated plant and animal communities and habitat, with the goal of saving these resources for existing and future generations of people.

- Action 1.** Support the creation of a Master Resource Management Plan for Southern District 4 and the County which will itemize and describe significant upland, wetland, and coastal resources along with wildlife habitat areas and perimeter buffer areas adjacent to development.
- Action 2.** In Planned Unit Developments use cluster designs to help preserve open space, natural habitat and wildlife as much as possible.

Action 3. Protect existing species of federal/state protected flora and fauna throughout the county.

- a. Several greenways are presently proposed for St. Johns County. These proposals will require active support of Southern District 4 residents for implementation.
- b. Wildlife corridors are under study for the Northeast Florida Region. These corridors will provide protection of suitable habitat for animals threatened by land fragmentation, proliferation of roads, and the worsening threat of extinction due to loss of natural habitat.
- c. The National Estuarine Research Reserve proposed for St. Johns County is a major step toward environmental protection. It will need constant community support to reach fruition.
- d. Encourage the use of sodium lighting along the beach front to protect the endangered sea turtle.

Action 4. Pursue acquisition of environmentally sensitive, endangered lands through county, state and federal acquisition programs. Priority may be given to larger tracts of land and lands adjacent to the proposed National Estuarine Reserve.

Action 5. Establish a local land trust in St. Johns County to develop land acquisition programs and accept donations of land.

OBJECTIVE VI – Communication and Education to Preserve Quality of Life

Maintain a program of communication with members of the community and educate those who may use resources of our community in order to maintain and preserve our quality of life by protecting the unique environment that makes it possible.

Action 1. Utilize the North Shores Improvement Association as a center of effort and as a vehicle to facilitate and coordinate community efforts, implement programs and activities and educate, support and promote the previously stated Land Use concepts and actions, i.e., xeriscaping, town center concept, the National Estuarine Research area etc...

Action 2. The North Shores Improvement Association shall endeavor to form a Community Coalition of sub-communities and commercial interests in order to share information and provide an opportunity for participation by all members of the community. This coalition will act as a communications platform for integration of ideas, expression

of viewpoints, and awareness of the rules and regulations which we have chosen to safeguard our community.

- Action 3.** Educate the public through newspaper articles, newsletters, school projects, library resources, camps, brochures, advertisements, etc.
- Action 4.** Recognize efforts by individuals, institutions, or businesses that improve the quality of life of, or enhance, the community.
- Action 5.** Encourage Beautification efforts
- a. Create a Cleanup Committee that will establish a program to Eliminate Littering on Roadways and Beaches –Beach cleanup days, A1A road cleanup program, Enforce the No Tolerance for Littering Program with fines, place signs on beaches to “leave only footprints”, place trash barrels on the beach at intervals with ensured collection, lobby for legislation to control littering from boats, establish volunteer beach patrol units.
 - b. Disseminate information that strongly encourages the use of the county program for the disposal of toxic and hazardous household materials.
 - c. Create a Beautification Committee to develop, implement and fund a landscape plan (trees and native plants) that promotes planting of trees and other landscape plants. This plan should include the coordination, funding, planting and maintenance along A1A right-of-way with the State Department of Transportation (FDOT) and St. Johns County Beautification Committees.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Southern District 4 Visioning Process

FOCUS STATEMENT

Maintain a sense of community by optimizing our quality of life through safe and optimal use of a transportation network for motorized vehicles, watercraft, pedestrian and bicycle movement, security and fire protection, protection during flooding and emergencies, provision of utilities, water and sewer, safety on the surrounding beaches and waters of the ocean and Intracoastal Waterway.

- Allow for needs of both the residential and business community
- Analyze existing current facilities and provisions
- Project future demands that will be placed on the infrastructure system and determine possible solutions, allowing for growth of population in nearby communities as well as our own and visitors to the area who want to use our beaches, wildlife refuges, recreational facilities and local businesses.
- Prioritize future demands and explore funding sources for these demands.
- Be vigilant regarding conditions which are not predictable at the present time.

OBJECTIVE I – Roadways for Motorized Vehicular Use and Waterways for Watercraft Use

With expectations for future growth of population in our community and nearby communities and those visitors who wish to use our recreational, environmental facilities and commercial businesses. Our community should be provided with safe movement of traffic on roadways, roadway spans and crossovers, pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

- Action 1.** Any proposed major traffic modifications by FDOT, including any proposed additional bridges within Southern District 4, shall be reviewed in the planning stage by residents and business owners of the community.
- Action 2.** As provided for by law, the community should be provided with on-going information regarding current and future plans for the roadways and spans in the Southern District 4 area from county and state transportation authorities.
- Action 3.** Provide for additional off-street parking with provision for landscaping and/or visual barriers where possible to meet increased demand and probable prohibition of motorized vehicles on beaches.

- a. This additional parking includes use for:
 - beach and water sports
 - exclusive business use
 - bike racks for bicycles
- b. Regulations for parking,
 - including that for watercraft launching, trailers and RV's.

Action 4. A1A is the major traffic connector and unification theme within Southern District 4.

- a. A1A north of the Vilano (Usina) Bridge should remain two (2) lanes in perpetuity, even if congestion may result.
- b. A1A connection to Vilano Road at the Vilano Bridge should allow for safe movement of vehicular traffic to and from the Vilano town center, and adequate exit and entrance to the bridge.
- c. Safety features on the highway should include no passing zones, cross walks, and appropriate and enforced speed limits.
- d. A1A should be the focus of cohesive beautification efforts -- including sidewalks, signage and restrictions on signage, fencing, plantings along right-of-ways, incentives for commercial areas to plant and maintain flowers, off-street parking, shade trees, gateway to our community from Vilano Bridge, maintaining architectural guidelines. Encourage residents to have an annual "Vilano in Bloom" contest.

Action 5. Vilano Road (old A1A) from the Intracoastal Waterway to the Atlantic Ocean shall be the town center and a major retail and recreation area.

- a. Prevent traffic congestion through the use of angle parking and wide pedestrian walkways on the north and south sides of Vilano Road. Encourage business parking to be at the rear of buildings in order to provide a visual barrier as well as a pleasing architectural design to the road.
- b. Create or amend an Ordinance regulating type of signage and off-building signage to be implemented by use of an overlay district and/or the Architectural Review Committee.

Action 6. Paving of unpaved roads in Southern District 4 should be performed where supported by adjacent property owners.

OBJECTIVE II -- Non-Vehicular Traffic

Provide for safe passage throughout the community of non-vehicular traffic, including for pedestrians, bicycles, and watercraft.

- Action 1. Provide sidewalks, overpasses, crosswalks, tunnels, boat launching areas, as appropriate.
- Action 2. Complete bike paths and pedestrian walkways from southwest end of the Vilano bridge to the sidewalk on May Street. *[Note: a bike lane is planned for construction in September 1998.]*
- Action 3. Complete bike lanes from Ponte Vedra to Vilano Beach along A1A.
- Action 4. Bicycle lanes should be marked to discourage usage as a passing lane on A1A. Add sidewalks to bike lanes where possible.
- Action 5. Provide boardwalks to protect beaches, marshlands, and wildlife habitats.

OBJECTIVE III -- Protection Services

Supportive services on both land and water, including fire and security protection and emergency preparedness should meet the present and future needs of the Southern District 4 area.

- Action 1. Establish periodic analysis of police and fire protection by community committee.
- Action 2. Support Volunteer Fire Department and Land Amphibious Rescue Service.
- Action 3. Support coverage of security by the county sheriff's department. Determine the coverage as it exists, and as it needs to be enhanced.
- Action 4. Establish emergency preparedness and rescue procedures before, during and following storms, tornados, flood and other catastrophic acts, including evacuation procedures.
- Action 5. Have an annual emergency preparedness procedure training provided by the County.
- Action 6. Establish a volunteer beach and water patrol program, working together with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Florida Marine Patrol, Environmental Protection Agencies and other agencies.
- Action 7. Support an Overlay District for A1A for the community to have input for the future growth along A1A.

OBJECTIVE IV --Utilitarian Services

Provide adequate Utilities for Southern District 4, including electric, sewer, water, wells, cable TV, propane gas tanks for both residential and commercial use.

- Action 1.** Promote the use of underground utilities, including telephone, electric, wire, cable.
- Action 2.** Encourage visual barriers for, and safe installation of, propane tanks.
- Action 3.** Enact zoning restrictions on phone, radio and communications towers.

OBJECTIVE V -- Flooding and Drainage

Flooding and concerns with drainage will be an ongoing concern in the community. Although flooding affects travel on the roadways, it also affects lives, property and the environment. Resolve and correct the drainage problem in Southern District 4.

- Action 1.** All drainage improvements should protect the receiving bodies of water from pollutants.
- Action 2.** Encourage residents and county to work together for a solution to flooding in North Beach.
- Action 3.** Promote reduction of flooding on roadways through use of curbs and drains.

Southern District 4 Visioning

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Committee

Nancy Sonis McDowell, *Chairperson*

Susan Timmons, *Vice Chairperson*

Tim Brown, St. Johns County *Principal Planner*

Bunny and C.J. Manucy

Sally Chatfield

Jeremiah Murray

Southern District 4 Visioning

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Committee

Nancy Sonis McDowell, *Chairperson*

Susan Timmons, *Vice Chairperson*

Bunny and C.J. Manucy

Sally Chatfield

Jeremiah Murray

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Southern District 4 Visioning Process

FOCUS STATEMENT

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC), in contemplating and anticipating the future growth and development of St. Johns County's northeastern peninsula from Vilano Beach north to the southern boundary of Ponte Vedra Zoning District and Guana River State Park (see Southern District 4 Map), submits the recommendations.

It is our purpose and intent to recommend the establishment of an overlay district in order to promote safe and efficient use of the highway; project aesthetic and visual character of the lands adjacent to it; to protect the natural beauty and environment of the shore and waterways; and to promote development (including a Town Center, commercial and residential uses) in a manner compatible with surrounding land uses.

The ARC members recognize the "North Beach" area's beauty and spectacular vistas. It is one of the few areas remaining in Florida, which still represents a much earlier and much simpler way of life — a quaint fishing village and beach community.

At the same time, the ARC members recognize the necessity for a viable, successful Town Center within our boundaries. We expect future County leaders to encourage local business entrepreneurship and tourism trade in an area needing to boost its economy, instead of establishing and instituting restrictions which would deter same.

The ARC members wish to emphasize the importance of preserving and maintaining the characteristics of beauty, peace and serenity for the generations to come. And, as we enter this new millennium, let us keep in mind that to plan for our future, we must continue to look to our past.

OBJECTIVE I. Architectural Control – Overlay District.

We see a special overlay district being created and established in the area encompassing all the land situated within Southern District 4.

OBJECTIVE II. Architectural Control – Guidelines.

Action 1. Create and establish an Architectural Review Committee (ARC), which would consist of a five member panel. This panel would have a membership consisting of four local citizens living in the district and one licensed architect, engineer, or similarly professional expert who may or may not live in the district, and who would serve in the position for one year, pro bono. Additionally, the panel would have one County staff person. This panel would be a quasi-judicial body, appointed by the

Board of County Commissioners and would serve a term of a minimum of one year and a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Action 2. The compatible relationship of architecture along roads in the Southern District 4 Corridor Overlay District is of critical public concern for any buildings or site improvements. Intent of the design review is not to stifle innovative architecture but to assure respect for and reduce incompatible and adverse impacts on the visual experience from the roadway. To accomplish this, we recommend the following guidelines in reviewing proposed structures and related site improvements:

- (a) Proposed development shall be located and configured in a visually harmonious manner with terrain and vegetation of the parcel and surrounding parcels. Structures shall not impede, as little as reasonably practical, scenic views from the main road or from existing structures and the natural environment. This may be accomplished by the use of architectural features and/or siting of proposed structures to reduce the appearance of excessive and inappropriate height of mass of proposed structures.
- (b) The architectural design of structures and their materials and colors shall be visually harmonious with the overall appearance history and cultural heritage of the Vilano and North Beach area, with natural land forms and existing vegetation, and with other development plans already approved by the Planning and Zoning Agency (PZA). Specific consideration shall be given to compatibility with adjacent structures where such structures are substantially in compliance with this and demonstrate the character of Vilano and North Beach, that is historically, structures were designed to be unobtrusive and set into the natural environment.
- (c) Facade designs, texture and color plans must be appropriate for this area.
- (d) Signage. The location and dimensions of wall signs shall maintain compatibility with architectural features of the building. All other signage, including free-standing signs, must also be compatible and aesthetically appealing to the area, and must meet County sign code requirements.
- (e) Lighting. Standards and guidelines for appropriate lighting must meet County code requirements. However, more and unique lighting would enhance the physical appearance of the area, as well as provide more safety at night. Moving electrical and cables underground should be placed on a high priority in the near future. Lighting visible onto beaches should be sodium of a type which will not interfere with the reproduction of turtles and wildlife.

OBJECTIVE III. Site Design and Development Standards Applying to the Overlay District.

All standards prescribed in this section shall apply to the Town Center, commercial, multi-family (4 or more) and PUD construction, including additions and exterior remodeling and renovation for commercial and multi-family (4 or more). The site design and development standards to be applied to the overlay district shall be consistent with the concepts and actions established throughout the Visioning Document.

Action 1. General Design Criteria. Because the general purpose is to enhance development of property within the Corridor as well as protect the visual character of the lands adjacent to it, all construction shall comply with the following general design criteria:

- (a) Building heights shall be limited to thirty-five feet.
- (b) Heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment, duct work, air compressors, other fixed operating machinery shall be either screened from view or located so that such items are not visible from the highway, adjacent residential properties or intersecting streets. Large trash receptacles, dumpsters, utility meters, above-ground tanks, satellite dishes, antennas, etc., shall be similarly treated.
- (c) Parking and drive areas shall contain natural planted trees and shrubs.
- (d) Fencing. Where fencing can be viewed from the roadway, landscaping and/or berming shall be provided to minimize visibility from the roadway.

Action 2. Site Design Standards

- (a) Buffers. When possible, buffers shall contain native vegetation existing on the site proposed for development.
- (b) Parking. Should meet County code requirements, with natural plants and beautification emphasized.
- (c) Signage. Should meet County code requirements, and be aesthetically pleasing as well as compatible to the surrounding areas.
- (d) Landscape and Tree Standards. Applications for site development shall include a schematic Landscape Plan of the area to be developed followed by a detailed landscape plan at the time of final project submission.

Action 3. Detailed Landscape Plans

- (a) All existing trees and significant plant groupings, with sizes, locations, species identification and spacing noted.
- (b) All proposed trees and plant materials, with sizes, location species identification, and spacing noted; (including a percentage of use of xeriscape drought-resistant and freeze-resistant trees and plants).
- (c) All existing and proposed contours.
- (d) All existing and proposed structures and vehicular use areas, with sizes, square footage, materials, and circulation noted.
- (e) Proposed irrigation system layout.
- (f) The relationship of the site to the surrounding land use and landscaping schemes.
- (g) Screening requirements.
- (h) Parking lot island requirements.
- (i) Tree protection and reforestation requirements. Retention and protection of endangered and valuable native trees. The maintenance of trees and plant materials consistent with the County's Tree Ordinance during construction and after development is completed. The use of shade trees, especially in the development of vehicular-use areas.

OBJECTIVE IV. Permit Application Requirements.

Action 1. Owners or developers desiring to develop property within the Overlay District shall be required to submit applications for development approval to the Planning Department. Such applications will be scheduled before the ARC for review and action.

Action 2. As soon as possible after obtaining the appropriate zoning designation for the uses proposed, and not later than the submission of an application for building permits, the developer will submit the following to the Planning Department for review and approval:

- (a) Survey of property lines showing location of bordering streets and roads, and existing and approved access points.

- (b) Topographic and tree and endangered and threatened species wildlife habitat survey of the area to be developed and protected.
- (c) Site plan showing all buildings (including roof lines) and all site improvements with distances and dimensions clearly labeled.
- (d) Exterior evaluation drawings of buildings and other vertical construction.
- (e) Building materials and color samples.
- (f) Exterior evaluation drawings of buildings and other vertical construction.
- (g) Building materials and color samples.
- (h) Sign location, materials, colors, sizes, shapes and lighting.
- (i) Parking lot design and materials.
- (j) Landscape Plan.
- (k) Lighting Plan.
- (l) Architectural rendering of all proposed buildings and signs, as well as current color photographs of panoramic photography, made in four directions from proposed development site.

OBJECTIVE V. Functions.

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) shall discharge its responsibilities by carrying out the following functions:

- Action 1.** The ARC shall receive applications for development within the Overlay District from the Planning Department immediately following the submission of such applications.
- Action 2.** The ARC shall review and evaluate each application to ensure its general compliance with established provisions.
- Action 3.** The ARC shall approve, approve with conditions or disapprove all proposed development within the Corridor. If the recommendation is for disapproval, reasons must be provided in writing.
- Action 4.** The ARC shall review and take action within sixty days of receipt of any application.

- Action 5.** When necessary, the ARC shall consult with the developer and/or architect to resolve conflicts and deficiencies.
- Action 6.** County Staff shall monitor the work in progress to ensure its compliance with the approved plan.

OBJECTIVE VI. Application of District Regulations.

- Action 1.** Permitted Uses. The uses to which the property contained within the Overlay District may be put shall be as prescribed for in the various zoning districts underlaying the Overlay District except where such use of site design is not permitted by the St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan, as may be amended from time to time.
- Action 2.** Rezoning. Where a rezoning to commercial is proposed, the applicant must comply with the following minimum requirements:
- (a) The applicant must provide an analysis which demonstrates that existing available commercially zoned lands cannot accommodate the use as proposed.
 - (b) The applicant must demonstrate there will not be any adverse environmental impacts (noise, lighting, stormwater, vegetation removal, etc.) that otherwise would have deleterious effects on surrounding property.
 - (c) The applicant must demonstrate through the provisions of substantive, competent evidence that there will be no measurable adverse impacts to properties adjacent to or in close proximity to the site in question. The applicant may wish to utilize the services of appropriate professionals who are able to make recommendations in line with this standard.

OBJECTIVE VII. Funding for District Projects.

Research additional funding resources for special District enhancement projects such as beautification, landscaping, recreational, etc., as a top priority for the near future. Earmark specific funding, such as County Zone 4 Recreational Impact Fees and the creation of the Town Center, for these projects. Identify private and public grants available and make application.

OBJECTIVE VIII. Architectural Themes.

Research, develop and structure a uniform architectural design theme for the Town Center, commercial, multi-family (4 or more), PUD's, and recreational areas in and around Vilano Beach (such as a quaint fishing village, or a more uniform art deco theme).

OBJECTIVE IX. Beach Improvements

- Action 1.** At Beach ramp entrances in Southern District 4, restrict driving of vehicles to a specifically designated strip or area — away from the actual beach surf and away from the dunes and protected wildlife area. Also, prohibit certain types of vehicles from the Beach (semi trucks, large RV's, buses).
- Action 2.** Plan for future upgrades of the Beach, including the planting of palm trees beautification, and perhaps a boardwalk.

Southern District 4 Visioning

CULTURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Committee

Elaine Dilbeck, *Chairperson*
Mary Lou McEver, *Vice Chairperson*
Karen Taylor, *St. Johns County Commissioner*

CULTURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Southern District 4 Visioning Process

FOCUS STATEMENT

The importance of cultural and leisure activities to the citizens of our district cannot be overstated. They contribute significantly to the common good, to the general quality of life, to the expansion of horizons for our youth, to physical and spiritual well-being, and to the acceptance of diversity into our lives. It is our objective to prepare a document that will establish the long range strategy for the District in the area of culture and leisure, one that will guide us into the next century.

This area has two primary objectives: 1. Determine the resources currently available within the District and form a strategy to preserve and enhance these resources. 2. Determine unavailable resources that can be acquired through the establishment of new programs.

OBJECTIVE I

The Beaches. The beautiful beaches characteristic to Southern District 4 are the greatest leisure and recreational resource of the community. These beaches play a defining role in our quality of life, and have affected many people's decision to visit or move to Southern District 4. The community recognizes that the beaches and associated dunes are environmentally sensitive and a continuously changing ecosystem, and their protection is a foremost priority. Additionally, because the beaches are a natural resource and recreational magnet, the provision of public access for present and future generations is of major importance.

- Action 1. Eliminate all vehicular traffic on the beach, excluding bicycles, north of The Fiddler's Green restaurant location in the Vilano/North Beaches area.
- Action 2. Through the cooperation of County and State agencies, local schools, and the citizens of Southern District 4, the beaches and their associated dunes will be monitored and surveyed for their protection, enhancement, and renourishment needs.
- Action 3. In order to provide public access to the beaches for present and future generations, all County-owned beach access easements will be surveyed annually to prevent encroachment and loss of land; furthermore, easements will be clearly identified and developed as necessary.
- Action 4. In conjunction with the identification and future development of beach access easements, provide vehicle parking, public restrooms, bicycle racks, and picnic facilities as necessary.

- Action 5.** Assist the County Recreation Department with educational programs for safe use of the ocean for surfing, water sports, and understanding the characteristics of an unstable body of water.

OBJECTIVE II

The River. The Intracoastal Waterway forms the west boundary of this community and has been an important part of the North Shores environment and quality of life. As with the ocean, the river shore, too, is a continuously changing ecosystem and protection is necessary.

- Action 1.** Promote safe boating through Coast Guard classes for those who own boats.
- Action 2.** St. Augustine Boating Club and St. Augustine Yacht Club can be resources for education programs in the care of the river.
- Action 3.** Vilano Boat Ramp and Boating Club Road boat ramp need to be maintained.
- Action 4.** Initiate a beautification effort to clean up and enhance Vilano boat ramp.

OBJECTIVE III

The Parks. Southern District 4 is a community characterized by single-family and multi-family planned unit developments which often provide small parks and recreational areas within individual developments. However, there is a need to acquire larger consolidated tracts of parkland in the District, as well as undertake beautification and education efforts. The District is home to 1,000's acres of public parks and beaches, including Guana State Park and Wildlife Management Area in the center of the community. In conjunction with the regular acquisition of neighborhood and community parks, the District should capitalize upon its existing park resources.

- Action 1.** Coordinate and communicate with Guana State Park Rangers, State Park officials, and Friends of Guana to educate the community on Guana's existing facilities, trails, guided tours, natural resources, and long-range plans for future improvements.
- Action 2.** Initiate and coordinate efforts in District schools to include educational activities and field trips to Guana State Park.
- Action 3.** Initiate a beautification effort to clean up and enhance all District parks and facilities, specifically North Shores' parks and boat ramp.
- Action 4.** Provide for the continuing beautification and enhancement of Southern District 4 parks and facilities through creative partnerships between the County, local schools, volunteer organizations, and civic groups.

- Action 5.** Consider common signage as a guide to parks and encourage use by the public.
- Action 6.** Assist the County Recreation Department in the design of the recreational area planned north of Villages of Vilano.

OBJECTIVE IV

The North Shores Community Center. The North Shores Community Center is an outstanding resource for the Southern District 4 citizens of the North Shores and Vilano Beach communities. The community building, the associated ballfield, and adjacent wooded area provide a location for the citizens to meet, recreate, and hold annual or weekend events.

- Action 1.** Ensure that the North Shores Community Center and facilities are maintained and enhanced. Expand the use of the facility to the public.
- Action 2.** Locate and construct a boardwalk that extends from the northwest corner of the Community Center's property to the North River/Intracoastal Waterway.
- Action 3.** Explore the feasibility and demand for a small pavilion-type structure and picnic facility that could be used for outdoor gatherings and informal performances.
- Action 4.** Enlarge the facility in response to demand for additional space and to allow for social activities, such as, weddings, reunions etc....
- Action 5.** Establish walking paths throughout the wooded area.
- Action 6.** Establish the Center's reputation as a wedding/reception location.

OBJECTIVE V

Vilano Road (old A1A). This road forms a most unique recreation-resort corridor. It begins at an ocean/beach area and ends at a river pier. A pedestrian can walk the distance in 20 minutes. A visitor might sun and swim in the ocean part of the day then easily walk to the river for fishing or rest to watch dolphins play, boats pass or enjoy the sun setting over the Oldest City. The new bridge has created an incredible planning opportunity for revitalization and making the road a desirable destination. The business owners along the road adopted a vision statement in 1996 which stated: The Vilano Road Business Community is committed to our future. We envision a Town Center which include business, civic, recreational and residential uses composed of existing and new enterprises whose variety appeals to both residents and visitors enjoying an ambiance of being visually attractive, located along either side of a widened and landscaped roadway bordered by a public recreation Intracoastal pier and the Atlantic Ocean. The road has been in a transition stage from a previously pass-by business community to its present state of a business-recreation community. Combining the two is a goal.

- Action 1.** Facilitate the development of the road as the area's Town Center providing shops, restaurants, services and leisure activities as a gathering place for residents and tourists.
- Action 2.** Establish a "Friends of Vilano Road" group to assist with beautification efforts to business owners.
- Action 3.** Facilitate the development of an appealing beach parking picnic area.
- Action 4.** Promote the use of the pier for its recreational and observation qualities.
- Action 5.** Assist the County Recreation Department with training sessions for the youth in fishing and water sports and safe use of these facilities.

OBJECTIVE VI

Bicycle Path & Sidewalk Master Plan. As mentioned in a previous objective, much of Southern District 4 is dominated by developments which do not interconnect or access more than one arterial. Advancing this development pattern is the north-south orientation of the District's boundaries, the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, and its major artery, State Road A1A. The result is a series of fractionalized developments isolated from one another and the surrounding land uses. Throughout the Visioning Process, there has been a recurring theme regarding the lack of connectivity in the community. Furthermore, as envisioned ACTION Statements are implemented, how will they be accessible by the community? The result of this situation has been an overwhelming desire to create and implement a Bicycle Path and Sidewalk Master Plan.

- Action 1.** Establish a Committee to create and implement a Sidewalk and Bicycle Path Master Plan for Southern District 4 that addresses the following community concerns:
- bicycle and pedestrian safety;
 - enhanced community cohesiveness;
 - utilization of existing and future resources;
 - convenience and accessibility to surrounding land uses;
 - adequate design guidelines for bicycle paths and sidewalks;
 - roadway congestion; and
 - personal health and fitness.
- Action 2.** Utilize the bicycle path program to connect the North Shores community with the Ponte Vedra and Palm Valley communities.

- Action 3.** Construct, repair, or retrofit all existing sidewalk and bicycle path deficiencies in order to create a complete system.
- Action 4.** Utilize the Revitalization Plan to increase safe, public access to the beaches as well as to future facilities.
- Action 5.** Ensure that safe bicycle and pedestrian access is provided to all facilities.
- Action 6.** Require all new construction to provide a sidewalk and bicycle path accessing their development; investigate the feasibility of retrofitting existing developments with a sidewalk and bicycle path which would, at a minimum, "stub out (into)" the development.
- Action 7.** Ensure that all bicycle paths and sidewalks take into consideration the needs of the senior, youth, and handicapped populations. Measures should include, but are not limited to, accessibility ramps, crosswalk signals, appropriate road striping, shading, etc.
- Action 8.** Provide for the creative design and implementation of the Revitalization Plan to ensure its functionality and adaptability to changing conditions.
- Action 9.** Create sidewalk/bike path across Hospital Creek.

OBJECTIVE VII

Special Events. There is recognition that cultural events, festivals, and artistic exhibitions are anchored in the communities surrounding Southern District 4; and, to this end, the District has become a drive-through community for those traveling to these various weekend events. The citizens of Southern District 4 seek to establish and host cultural events, and enhance current activities, that will complement those of surrounding areas while strengthening the sense of community within the District.

- Action 1.** Designate a coalition of representatives from surrounding community associations, homeowner associations and condominium groups for cultural activities. Commission this entity to work with citizens toward enhanced coordination and communication of events and information.
- Action 2.** Commission the coalition to establish, or initiate with another existing informational resource, a Community Calendar for the District on cultural activities.
- Action 3.** Establish a Community Group Resource Directory that details the contact person, function, resources, and events for all community groups in Southern District 4.

- Action 4.** Encourage all community groups to utilize the designated coalition as an information hub for the distribution and collection of information within the District.
- Action 5.** Initiate a Southern District 4 Annual Cultural and Competition Weekend that would include community activities, cultural displays, arts and crafts, and athletic contests for the citizens of North Shores/Vilano Beach and Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley.
- Action 6.** Establish the now-existing "Day In The Park" annual arts and crafts festival as an ongoing event and develop the activities to meet the cultural needs of the residents and making it more attractive to tourists.
- Action 7.** Establish and organize a festival on Vilano Road with music and crafts. Make the festival "business-friendly" so that tourists and local residents will be drawn to the businesses on Vilano Road and learn more about what they offer to the public.

Southern District 4 Visioning

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Committee

Samuel Di Muzio, *Chairman*
Michele Diafria, *Vice Chairman*
Elaine Dilbeck, *Advisor*
James Mason
Art McGinness

Amended by NSIA Board 1/99

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Southern District 4 Visioning Process

FOCUS STATEMENT

Encourage the balanced development of Southern District 4 which includes South Ponte Vedra, North Shores, Vilano Beach, Original Porpoise Point and New Porpoise Point, Villages of Vilano and area Condominium Associations (see Southern District 4 Map) create and redevelop the Town Center, which includes Vilano Beach, Vilano Road (old A1A) and the Vilano Pier, specifically the main street which is Vilano Road, where benefits accrue to the community at large, St. Johns County, visitors and local merchants. Capitalize on the unique environment of Vilano Beach and the Intracoastal Waterway as destination points of enjoyment and interest.

The role of the local governance to make recommendations and ensure the implementation of the Vision is (1) to reestablish the theme that the people govern themselves (2) to allow the NSIA Board to establish committees to implement concepts and actions (3) ensure committee chair and members coordinate with the Board and NSIA members on final actions for implementation (3) to establish guidelines for effectively communicating with the officials to whom we delegate the powers and responsibilities of government.

We must examine, modify or stop those ideas and practices which are inconsistent with our community values and desires, support and sustain the elements and services provided by government that are beneficial, and provide detailed alternatives based on community standards to replace inadequate or failed components of the existing system.

OBJECTIVE I

We must educate the community citizens about government and provide guidance, opportunity, to participate in activities which affect their governance and quality of life, and provide means of feedback from citizens to County governing officials.

- Action 1.** Residents of Southern District 4 should be provided with an Internet and/or video tutorial and pamphlet to explain our commission form of government and how it operates, along with the State Sunshine Law.
- Action 2.** Residents should be encouraged to actively participate in public hearings and workshops held by governing and monitoring agencies such as the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners (BCC), Planning and Zoning Agency (PZA), St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, St. Johns Civic Association Round table, on issues which affect our district. Encourage viewing of Government Access Channel 3 which broadcasts commission meetings and public hearings.

- Action 3.** Every household in Southern District 4 should be provided with an updated County Directory.
- Action 4.** A coalition should be established within Southern District 4 through the North Shores Improvement Association with representation of all entities within the District.
- Action 5.** Commissioners and officials are to be invited to regularly schedule town meetings to discuss public issues.
- Action 6.** Residents of Southern District 4 are to be made aware of whom to call when there is a situation requiring possible resolution; i.e., provide the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of local, state and federal officials who can assist residents with problem solving.

OBJECTIVE II.

The NSIA should establish all necessary Committees (Town Center, Pedestrian and Bike Plan etc... except the ARC) referenced throughout this Vision Document to ensure the implementation of the Objectives and Actions.

- Action 1.** NSIA Board shall appoint Committees as necessary.
- Action 2.** Committees hold regularly scheduled meetings to create plans which include funding mechanisms, make assignments, and coordinate to ensure the achievement of the long range goal with subject committee.
- Action 3.** Committees will present plans to NSIA membership for approval.
- Action 4.** Committees will ensure the implementation of Plan through coordination actions with NSIA and other local associations.
- Action 5.** NSIA President, or delegated appointee, shall act as liaison to communicate with the PZA and BCC, as necessary, to ensure implementation of the Southern District 4 Vision.

OBJECTIVE III.

The public is to be informed of evacuation routes.

- Action 1.** We should work with County Emergency Management Department Director on establishing an evacuation route for evacuation during hurricanes, flooding, etc.

- Action 2.** Additional signage should be installed designating the evacuation route in appropriate locations.

OBJECTIVE IV

Understanding the scenic and geographic points of interest which are the components of the community we are proud of through appropriate signage.

- Action 1.** Signage should be obtained for the North Shores Community Center and Park, the Surfside Park, and the South Ponte Vedra Beach Park north of Turtle Shores.
- Action 2.** Signage should be obtained for the points of interest which will be identified through the A1A Scenic Highway designation.
- Action 3.** Signs for direction to Vilano Beach, the business district, and the North Beach area should be established.

OBJECTIVE V

Residents should support the beautification of Southern District 4.

- Action 1.** The Beautification Committee of the North Shores Improvement Association which is comprised of citizens from the different areas in Southern District 4 shall establish a Beautification Plan for Southern District 4.
- Action 2.** The quality of life and attractiveness of the community will benefit from this beautification process. A Beautification Committee will identify areas which need enhancing, prioritizing projects, and will initiate a planning process which will include design, implementation, maintenance and procurement of financial backing and matching grants.
- Action 3.** The Beautification Committee should initiate ways and means to procure and install the following:
- A. Palm trees, planters and park benches
 - B. Appropriate street lights, parking signs
 - C. Adopt Vilano Road program
 - D. More angle/parallel parking
 - E. Walkway on both sides of Vilano Road
 - F. Underground wires instead of above ground
 - G. Statues and fountains
 - H. Christmas lights on Vilano Pier
 - I. Christmas lights on Usina Bridge

- J. Christmas lights on Vilano Road from the Atlantic Ocean to the Tolomato River

Action 4. The Vilano Pier should be enhanced by:

- A. Picnic tables
- B. Enhance/complete lighting of pier and entrance
- C. Flag poles and banners
- D. Rearrange entrance
- E. Public Relations signs welcoming the public to the Pier and the Area

Action 5. The beautification of Vilano Road and the Pier is designed to attract the walker, the runner, the site seer, the tourist and the community.

Action 6. Cleanliness of Southern District 4 should be promoted.

OBJECTIVE VI.

We encourage the use of Southern District 4 beaches, particularly Vilano Beach and Vilano Pier as meeting points for fun and relaxation through such activities as swimming, sun bathing, fishing, festivals, contests and concerts.

Action 1. A schedule of events on Vilano Pier and Vilano Beach should be established and actively promoted through Chamber of Commerce, advertisements, publications, and Neighborhood newsletters.

Action 2. We encourage the Southern District 4 Associations share in event responsibilities.

OBJECTIVE VII.

Encourage state and County officials and County departments to regularly schedule meetings and participate in meetings of local organizations, keeping the community informed of accomplishments and plans. Government publications are to include documentation relating to Southern District 4.

Action 1. Our County officials and County departments should be contacted requesting them to meet with us bi-annually to keep us updated on accomplishments and future plans of the County with regards to Southern District 4.

Action 2. The County Administrator should provide an accounting of Southern District 4's budget and plans for the upcoming year at a NSIA meeting.

VISIONING DOCUMENT COMPENDIUM

**In the process of analyzing Vision Objectives,
Research by the Committee produced
Information, Ideas, and Recommendations
which may be helpful to those
wishing to
Make Objectives a Reality
through Community Action**

**Attached is Research
for
LAND USE
and
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Compendium to Southern District 4 Visioning Document

In the process of analyzing Objectives,
our research has produced information,
ideas and recommendations
which may be helpful
to those wishing to
Make Objectives Reality
through
Community Action

COMPENDIUM

Land Use and Infrastructure

The Land Use and Infrastructure Committee is anticipating the desire of citizens of the community to turn Objectives in the Visioning Statement into Action Items.

A first step is prioritizing issues. For example, priority issues include establishing a town center which will serve our community with commercial, recreational and leisure needs and at the same time set a standard architectural theme representing our quality of life, plus traffic safety, control of signage, and beautification. Some of this may take 5 to 10 years to implement.

*In the process of analyzing Objectives, our research has produced
information, ideas, and recommendations
which may be helpful to those wishing to
Make Objectives Reality through Community Action.*

LAND USE

*We have designated the definition of "Our Community" as "***Southern District 4***". Political District 4 includes Ponte Vedra, which has already completed a Visioning Process. We used their report as a basis for our own; however, our needs and goals, physical and political characteristics are different. We requested a revised copy of the St. Johns County Coastal Corridor Development Map Plan II, 4 of 7 from the St. Johns County Planning Department to reflect the exact geographic area affected by our planning [*See Land Use Focus Statement*].

*The **St. Johns A1A Beautification Committee** goals are to Preserve and Protect the History, Archaeology, Culture, Recreation, and Scenic Views of the A1A Corridor, not only for us but for future generations. (Culture is defined as ethnic culture -- Spanish, Indian, Fish Camp) Each of these resources is being identified and mapped. First there is application for a state designation as a "Scenic Highway", and then will follow application for a Federal designation. They have filed a *Letter of Intent* with FDOT, and are in process of completing the *Eligibility Application*. This will be followed by involving the grass roots community organizations as part of the *Management Plan*. The Committee is chaired by Dr. Michael Greenberg, Univ. of Florida Professor at Whitney Labs, Marineland, and includes prominent experts in each of the resource fields. Our efforts should be coordinated with theirs. The "Scenic Highway" designation will certainly influence future zoning regulation and ability to change existing zoning.

***In the Southern District 4 area, for "Scenic Views" resources or points of interest,** the AIA Committee has identified Mickler's Landing, Otis Castle, the pedestrian overpasses at Villages of Vilano, Surfside, "the old fishing village" [Vilano Road], and an area under and just north of the bridge as a beautiful natural site. Not sure of the status of Porpoise Point. Coordination with them is suggested.

***On June 1, 1998 the "Southern Anastasia Island Visioning Project"** was initiated, chaired by Dave Wiles, assisted by Commissioners Jacalone, Bryant, and Bruner and county Visioning Director Scott Clem. The area represents 47 miles from Owens Avenue to Marineland and will encompass the Route 206 corridor across the ICW because of its impact on the area, especially if Six Flags is built. Their tools include updated maps, Comprehensive Plan 1990 and Coastal Corridor Development (which we did not have available to us). The Comprehensive Plan is now being re-evaluated and will be changed. "Southern Anastasia Island Visioning" will be based on the AIA Beautification Committee goals, and it appears that their key areas of focus are sewer/water utilities and the 206 corridor.

***Margaret Spontak is a prominent visioning authority in the State.** We have not used her before as a resource. She offers help with maps, with creativity, with implementation (contact through Pat Hamilton @ Southern Realty). She urged us to look at the visioning process done in **Flagler County**.

***Richard Hardy, a member of our committee and a resident of Porpoise Point, is a professional in the land use field. A theme is essential to the development of a town center. He has produced a full color design proposal, including layout of recreational areas, 2-story retail structures, inconspicuous off-street parking, and landscaping along Vilano Road.** Certainly we should use this as a beginning to a future design for our town center.

***We should identify where the boat launching ramps are now,** so that future projections regarding use and parking can be made.

***Utilization of the pier** should be considered. Putting roofing (architecturally theme related to the town center) over a portion of the pier so it can be enjoyed in all weather should be considered.) In May 1998, the North Shores Improvement Association sponsored the first Jazz concert on the pier. The concert was a success. Also consideration should be made regarding public rest rooms, on the pier and Vilano Beach areas, which may need to be locked at a certain time of night for security reasons.

***There are discrepancies among the Zoning Ordinance, The St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan, and the Coastal Corridor Development Plan.** The community should have ready access to a copy of all of these documents in order to proceed with actions. For example, looking at the Zoning Ordinance document, it would appear that a 70 foot structure could be erected. Coastal Zoning is also regulated to a 35 foot maximum build. However, this build is "above ground" which is subject to interpretation as to where the top of the highest elevation of the land is, not where the bottom floor is actually being constructed.

***Many legal regulations are in the process of being re-written.** For example, the County Tree Ordinance, The Zoning Ordinance, and the Comprehensive Plan are all scheduled for revisions. Citizens can participate in these revisions. Citations to items in the County Comprehensive Plan are certainly helpful to any action planning implementation. We would have liked to have reviewed a copy of this plan to understand what the County's goals and objectives are stated to be. This would assist us in applying for grants, exemptions, or implementing other plans. The Comprehensive Plan may be restrictive for us. Developers get landscape credits for trees which are left, Southern Red Cedar Trees should get more "credit". We need to understand what "specimen trees" are and how they are "preserved".

***Establish a committee to work on signage and lighting standards** with a look at zoning Ordinance revision. Coordinate the same committee in Ponte Vedra.

***There is a new 3-story motel with 100-120 rooms in the planning stage off Vilano Road** near Fiddler's Green.

***The percentage of commercially zoned land in Southern District 4 is very small.** We were not informed (not confirmed) that Beachcomber Campground loses its commercial zoning status if it is sold.

***We would liked to refer to Development and Re-Development Standards as "Traditional Neighborhood Standards"** to allow a "street friendly appearance", however, we were unable to define these terms relative to our community at this time, so we had to leave the wording out. This needs further definition.

***An Architectural Review Committee** in the community would have little authority unless it had at least one licensed architect. Extra clout would be another professional who was licensed in a meaningful capacity in terms of the committee's purpose.

***Communication of intent and action is vital within the community as well as education.** We should all be working toward a common goal. We should not hear, "No one told us about this". The **North Shores Community Improvement Association** already exists as a **Center of Effort**, a vehicle to coordinate and implement programs and provide information. **There should be a Coalition established representing each PUD or sub-community and including business interests.** The purpose of the coalition is not only communication of what is going on but to tap the potential resources of individuals who may have a lot to give to the community in terms of their efforts and life experience, individuals who might not otherwise become aware of the community efforts toward visioning for the future, and as an added benefit, this leaves no one to complain about the way things are going as they have had the opportunity to be made aware of the opportunity to participate.

***Education of both citizens and prospective visitors** who use our resources allows us to be able to better care for the quality of life in our own community and the preservation of a standard of living. It also allows us to be able to control what we would like the community to be or to become. We constantly need to be **educated as to what the community has to offer**, particularly in regard to commercial offerings, **as well as to knowledge of the rules and regulations** we, ourselves, have chosen as safeguards to our community. There will always be new people moving into the community who will have no awareness of the environment available to them.

***Recognition of special efforts to better the community** -- whether by individual, institution, or business -- always benefits, through the **power of acknowledgment**. In this category we should include entities such as the Nature Conservancy (institution) or BellSouth (non-local business).

***Scott Clem, St. Johns County Planning Department, has just been named Visioning Director** for St. Johns County.

***Control must be through zoning ordinances.** Zoning will direct growth. Certainly if population density increases, commercial interests will want a piece of the action. Ponte Vedra now has action committees to change the zoning ordinances. (Teresa Bishop chairing Sign Ordinance).

*“Overlay Zoning”, to change existing zoning, may take 6 years to become effective on prior usage [e.g., disallowing billboards; old billboards to be removed].

*To establish a **Homeowners Association Coalition for North Beach**, we will work in concert with the **St. Johns County Civic Roundtable**, which represents 30 associations and a population of about 40,000. It meets 2nd week of the month at the library at 9AM. NSIA is one of the 8 founding members 14 years ago to facilitate homeowners' ability to speak with a large voice and provide political and legal pressure on county government on matters affecting the well being of the entire county. Currently Harold Baker represents NSIA and Marge Blocksidge, South Ponte Vedra homeowners. Current Chairman is Ester Marshall of Marsh Creek, Anastasia Island. Mary Low McEver of NSIA, Dan Macdonald of Marsh Landing (also President of the Ponte Vedra Homeowners Association Coalition) and Wendy McDevitt and her husband of Ponte Vedra are active in the coalition.

*For **application of landscaping projects** along state or county roads, and **Enhancement Program Application** must be made to the County -- using North Shores Improvement Association as the community vehicle -- The County project priority list for budgeting is then passed to FDOT. As **safety issues are prioritized before all others**, the application could indicate how the landscaping could improve the safety of intersections, etc.

*FDOT is concerned about the Maintenance of the landscaping. In the plan application **maintenance must be provided for in perpetuity**. If maintenance fails, the community will be charged for removal of failed landscaping. The plan can call for maintenance by a landscaping company.

*There is a **State of Florida Highway Beautification Grant** as well as an **Enhancement Grant**, and a **Maintenance Grant**. Application for a Beautification Grant goes to FDOT District 2. Decisions regarding funding are made by the Governor's Council on Beautification, which selects as many as 50 projects a year. Where San Marco meets U.S. 1 was such a project, sponsored by the City of St. Augustine. An application can be made by the North Shores Improvement Association through the County Commission.

There is **no recommended list of plants for area highway landscaping**. Those with **xeriscaping** qualities are preferred. We are being provided with a 2 page document, "**Standards for Planning**" which determines the 'clear zone' and 'site distance' for different types of intersection — what clear area you must leave before you start planting.

*The County has a **watering truck for care of new plant installation**, requiring at least a month's notice, however, this may not be dependable solution for watering. The City of St. Augustine Beach was given an old pumper fire truck which they use for watering of new plantings. We have been advised by Chuck Moore of St. Augustine Parks that water for irrigation can be brought to the traffic circle and the Vilano Pier entrance through underground pipes to a nearby water supply. The construction firm which planted the medians on the new 4-lane A1A on Anastasia Island are required to replace any plantings which do not survive during a one year period. Therefore, they are responsible for the watering and establishment of the plantings. A list of the plantings on those medians and remarks with maintenance has been attached to this report.

List of Plantings used on A1A Median, Anastasia Island, May-June 1998

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SPACING/SIZE/REMARKS</u>
181	CRINUM ASIATICUM	CRINUM LILY	48" O.C. 1 - 3 GAL. 2 - 7 GAL. 3 - 10 GAL STAGGER HTS. - EACH GROUPING EXCEPT TYPE D SHALL BE 7 GAL. 42" TYPICAL
154	CYCAS REVOLUTA	SAGO PALM	48" O.C. 1 - 3 GAL. 2 - 7 GAL. 3 - 10 GAL. STAGGER HTS - EACH GROUPING EXCEPT TYPE D SHALL BE 7 GAL. 42" TYPICAL
529	ILEX CORNUTA 'CARRISA'	CARRISSA HOLLY	A.S. 3 GAL. 12" MIN. SPRD. WITH DENSE COMPACT FORM SEE TYPE B CURB / PLANTER DETAIL
272	Ilex Vomitoria "Carrisa"	CARRISSA YAUPON	36"-42" O.C. 7 GAL. 20" HT. 4 SPRD. WELL SHAPED WITH DENSE COMPACT FORM SEE TYPE F CURB/ PLANTER DETAIL
44	ILEX VOMITORIA	UPRIGHT YAUPON	10' HT. 5' SPRD. MULTI-TRUNK WITH DENSE BRANCHING AND FOLIAGE SPECIMEN QUALITY FEMALE PLANTS B&B
13,440	JUNIPERUS CONFERTA 'BLUE PACIFIC'	DWARF SHORE JUNIPER	18" O.C. FULL GAL. 12" SPRD. WITH HEAVY FOLIAGE
1,281	JUNIPERUS CHINENSIS 'PARSONII'	PARSON'S JUNIPER	A.S. FULL GAL. 12" SPRD. WITH HEAVY FOLIAGE SEE TYPE C DETAIL
21	JUNIPERUS SILICICOLA	SOUTHERN RED CEDAR	A.S. 30 GA. 7' HT. FLORIDA FANCY
420	JUNIPERUS CHINENSIS	SEA GREEN JUNIPER	18" O.C. FULL GAL. 12" SPRD. WITH HEAVY FOLIAGE
2,323	LIRIOPE MUSCARI EVERGREEN GIANT	EVERGREEN GIANT LIRIOPE	2' O.C. FULL GAL. 16" HT WITH HEAVY FOLIAGE
26	LIGUSTRUM JAPONICUM	WAX LEAF PRIVET	33' O.C. 10' HT. 6' SPRD. WELL SHAPED MULTI-TRUNK TREE FORM 'SPECIMEN' QUALITY 65 GAL. CONTAINER GROWN STOCK
2,788	LIRIOPE MUSCARI	LILYTURF	12" O.C. QUARTS OR EQUAL SIZED BIBBS SEE TYPE A DETAIL
628	LIRIOPE MUSCARI 'SILVERY SUNPROOF'	VARIEGATED LILYTURF	12" O.C. QUARTS OR EQUAL SIZED BIBBS SEE TYPE C DETAIL
4,027	LIRIOPE MUSCARI 'VARIEGATA'	VARIEGATED LILYTURF	12" O.C. QUARTS OR EQUAL SIZED BIBBS SEE TYPE B DETAIL
65	MYRTICA CERIFERA	WAX MYRTLE	33' O.C. 8'-10' HT. 5'-6' SPRD. WELL SHAPED MULTI-TRUNK TREE FORM 'SPECIMEN' QUALITY 30 GAL. CONTAINER GROWN STOCK
1,170	NERIUM OLEANDER DWARF	DWARF OLEANDER	36"-42" O.C. 12" HT. 16" SPRD. 3 GAL. WELL BRANCHED WITH HEAVY FOLIAGE SINGLE COLOR/VARIETY
31	PARKINSONIA ACULEATA	FLOWERING PARKINSONIA	33' O.C. 10' HT. 5' SPRD. WELL SHAPED B&B

284	PITTOSPORUM TOSIRA 'COMPACTA'	COMPACT FITTOSPORUM	42" O.C. 5-7 GAL. 24" SPRD. WELL SHAPED COMPACT FORM WITH HEAVY FOLIAGE
<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SPACING/SIZE/REMARKS</u>
254	PITTOSPORUM TOBIRA 'VARIEGATA'	VARIEGATED PITTOSPORUM	42" O.C. 5-7 GAL. 22" SPRD. WELL SHAPED COMPACT FORM WITH HEAVY FOLIAGE
18	QUERCUS VIRGINIANA	LIVE OAK	A.S. 15' HT. 5' SPRD. 5" MIN. CAL. WELL SHAPED 100 GAL. CONTAINER GROWN FROM INCEPTION
1,411	RAPHIOLEPIS INDICA DWARF	DWARF INDIAN HWT HORN	3' O.C. 3 GAL. 12" SPRD. WELL SHAPED WITH DENSE COMPACT FORM HEAVY FOLIAGE
14,663 SY	STENOTAPHRUM SECUNDATUM 'PALMETTO'	PALMETTO ST. AUGUSTINE GRASS	LAID SOLIDLY IN ALL INDICATED AREAS
11,622 SY	CYNODON DACTYLON	BERMUDA GRASS	LAID SOLIDLY IN ALL INDICATED AREAS SOD SHALL BE FREE OF IMPURITIES
148	SERENOA REPENS	SAW PALMETTO	42" O.C. 7 GAL. 20-24' SPRD. WITH HEAVY FOLIAGE
4,965	TRACHEL OSPERMUM ASIATICUM	STAR JASMINE	18" O.C. FULL GAL. MIN. 6 RUNNERS WITH 12" LENGTH TRIANGULAR SPACING
2,184	LANTANA CAMARA CONFETTI	LANTANA	12" O.C. 1 GAL. WITH FULL FOLIAGE
1,105	LANTANA CAMARA 'BANANA YELLOW'	LANTANA	12" O.C. 1 GAL. WITH FULL FOLIAGE
36	YUCCA GLORIOSA	SOFT-TIP YUCCA	A.S. 30" HT. 24" SPRD. 3 GAL. WELL SHAPED 18" O.C. 1 GAL. WITH FULL FOLIAGE
3,556	ZAMIA FLORIDANA	COONTIE PALM	SEE TYPE E OURS / PLANTER DETAIL FOR 24" O.C. SPACING AND TYPICAL SECTION

List of Plantings used on A1A Median, Anastasia Island, May-June 1998

BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE

MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

CRINUM ASIATICUM	TERM OF SPENT FLOWER SHOOTS, THINNING BY PLANT DIVISION MAY BE REQUIRED APPROXIMATELY EVERY THREE YEARS. NO SERIOUS PESTS WATCH FOR APHIDS (OFTEN ACCOMPANIED BY ANTS) AND FUNGAL LEAF SPOT.
CYCAS REVOLUTA	REMOVE DEAD FRONDS. NO SERIOUS PESTS. PROTECT FROM COLD TEMPERATURE.
ILEX CORNUTA 'CARRISA'	REQUIRES NO PRUNING. WATCH FOR LEAF MINERS LEAF SPOTS. RED MITES AND IRON DEFICIENCY. DO NOT SHEAR.
ILEX VOMITORIA 'SCHELLINGS'	MINIMAL PRUNING REQUIRED. PRUNE TIPS OF NEW GROWTH TO MAINTAIN NATURAL FORM. NO SERIOUS PESTS. DO NOT SHEAR.
ILEX VOMITORIA	PRUNE TIPS OF NEW GROWTH EACH SPRING TO MAINTAIN DENSELY BRANCHED FORM. DO NOT PRUNE IF 'OPEN' NATURAL FORM IS DESIRED. NO SERIOUS PESTS.
JUNIPERUS CONFERTA 'BLUE PACIFIC'	SELDOM REQUIRES PRUNING. PRUNE TIPS OF NEW GROWTH IF FULLER. PLANT AS DESIRED. RESISTANT TO SPIDER MITES. APHIDS AND SCALE.
JUNIPERUS CHINENSIS 'PARSONII'	SELDOM REQUIRES PRUNING. WATCH FOR SPIDER MITES. APHIDS AND SCALE MAY DEVELOP FUNGAL TWIG BLIGHT. ROOT AND CROWN ROT. REQUIRES WELL DRAINED SOILS.
JUNIPERUS SILICICOLA	NO PRUNING REQUIRED. NO SERIOUS PESTS.
JUNIPERUS CHINENSIS 'SEA GREEN'	SELDOM REQUIRES PRUNING. NO PESTS.
LIRIOPE MUSCARI 'EVERGREEN GIANT'	THINNING BY PLANT DIVISION MAY BE NECESSARY EVERY THREE TO FIVE YEARS. WATCH FOR APHIDS AND POWDERY MILDEW.
LIGUSTRUM JAPONICUM	PRUNE AFTER SPRING FLUSH TO MAINTAIN DESIRED TREE FORM. REMOVE SUCKERS GROWTH FROM BASE. WATCH FOR WHITE FLIES, SCALE AND SOOTY MOLD.
LIRIOPE MUSCARI	THINNING BY PLANT DIVISION MAY BE NECESSARY EVERY THREE TO FIVE YEARS. WATCH FOR FUNGAL LEAF SPOT.
LIRIOPE MUSCARI 'SILVERY SUNPROOF'	THINNING BY PLANT DIVISION MAY BE NECESSARY EVERY THREE TO FIVE YEARS. WATCH FOR FUNGAL LEAF SPOT.
LIRIOPE MUSCARI 'VARIEGATA'	THINNING BY PLANT DIVISION MAY BE NECESSARY EVERY THREE TO FIVE YEARS. WATCH FOR FUNGAL LEAF SPOT.
MYRICA CERIFERA	MINIMAL PRUNING REQUIRED. PRUNE AFTER SPRING FLUSH IF FORMAL APPEARANCE DESIRED. NO SERIOUS PESTS.
NERIUM OLEANDER DWARF	PRUNE IN EARLY SPRING TO CONTROL SIZE AND TO KEEP FORM. WATCH FOR APHIDS. SCALE AND SOOTY MOLD AND CATERpillars, LEAVES, STEMS, AND FLOWERS ARE TOXIC. PROTECT FROM COLD TEMPERATURES.
PARKINSONIA ACULEATA	PRUNE AFTER SPRING FLUSH TO MAINTAIN DESIRED FORM. WATCH FOR APHIDS, CUSHION SCALE AND MEALY BUGS.
PITTOSPORUM TOBIRA 'COMPACTA'	PRUNE AFTER SPRING FLUSH TO MAINTAIN DESIRED FORM. WATCH FOR APHIDS. CUSHION SCALE AND MEALY BUGS.

INFRASTRUCTURE

* As we go forward into the future, there will be a **major conflict -- keeping the area free of traffic congestion as growth continues** and at the same time maintaining a 2-lane thoroughfare on A1A. The FDOT's solution is a 4-lane road. This is where our creativity will have to come in.

* **FDOT regulates signage along state road (A1A) right-of-way.** If a local community wants to erect signs along the right-of-way, request goes to the County, who then makes a request of the State, so if we wish to have a sign "North Shores Improvement Association Park", or entrance of town center, it must be requested by the County. Signage is also controlled by County Zoning Ordinance (Vilano Road is a County road), where citizens groups may form an effort to change -- as Ponte Vedra is doing with respect to Billboards.

* There are no **signs designating the area of "North Beach"** as there are for South Ponte Vedra and Vilano Beach. The Post Office has requested residents put "North Beach" as part of their address, as there are at least 3 "Third Streets, etc., in St. Augustine.

* There will be need for **additional off-street parking**, particularly since there will be thousands of new homes built in the St. Augustine area within the next few years, with most new residents wishing to go to the beach. If vehicles are prohibited from driving on the beach, we need to allow for additional beach parking on or off the beach, with visual barriers, and safe transit across A1A. Business parking needs to be protected from those using their retail spaces as beach parking.

* **The Safety Problem of making an unexpected and difficult turn at the East End of the Vilano Bridge, especially at night will be on-going.** It is suggested that a meeting of property owners adjacent to the intersection be arranged to discuss beautification of the area and safety issues. However, there is a liability issue, even if the fence were replaced by shrubs or trees. We can suggest reflector tape on the fence, but this may detract from beautification efforts.

* The County has agreements with individual **volunteer fire corporations.**

* **Vilano Road is a perfect road for a festival.**

* The system on our part of A1A was designed 5-6 years ago, with designs based on a projected 20 year horizon. **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) operates on a 5 year plan**, therefore, citizens suggesting a project must look at this lead time for approval. **Safety issues** can be implemented more easily.

* **FDOT needs to observe a specific, reported problem** before any recommended change.

* **Hewey Hawkins** has recently (5/98) been appointed as head of FDOT for our state district. He is Joe Stephenson's boss. Pat Hamilton (Vice Chairman of the A1A Committee and the Southern Anastasia Island Visioning Process) indicated the A1A Scenic Highway Committee will be dealing with Hawkins on FDOT matters.

*It was suggested by Mr. Stephenson of FDOT that we investigate how we could benefit from the **St. Johns Community Traffic Safety Team** which meets once a month (last Wednesday at 2 PM at City Police Department).

* A1A is generally 66 feet wide with a paved roadway generally 34 feet wide. Sections of the roadway differ, so specific **County Right-of-Way maps should be looked at before any actions involving Right-of-Way are begun**. Right of way at the bridge is 200 feet plus uneconomical remainders. The state owns the bridge roadway, the County owns the shoulder of Vilano Road and Poplar Avenue.

***Bike lanes** are 5 feet wide contiguous on the road. Bikes must stop at intersections.

*FDOT determines **speed limits** by actual observation of vehicle speed and a formula based on the average of the observations.

***Crosswalks** can be dangerous in that they make the pedestrian feel safe but do not necessarily affect a motor vehicle's behavior there. To ensure pedestrians cross where desired, obstructions such as saw palmettos or spanish bayonet plantings can be useful if there is room for them. This works at the Villages of Vilano overpass and the Turtle Shores tunnel.

* **Tunnels (or overpasses)** can be constructed at the expense of the benefiting neighbors. The roadway must be torn up to make a tunnel. Re-paving of the road is the financial responsibility of the community constructing the tunnel.

*Existing **septic tanks** are grandfathered. But sometimes it is not possible to connect a property into the sewer system without the homeowner tearing up a good part of the road. So there are cases where septic tanks were replaced.

***Ditches along Vilano Road** are percolating swales. If we wanted angled parking along Vilano Road, the County may require drainage piles plus installation of retention ponds. Also, Mr. Stephenson indicated the **travel lanes on Vilano Road are only 11 feet wide**, too narrow for angle parking on the roadway.

* Our area is an **historic nesting area for protected species of birds and turtles**. The ruts and gas remainders left by autos on the beach and lights near the beach, have been impediments to wildlife regeneration. The peak time for nesting is mid-March to mid-August. Diane Reed (829-9854), who lives in Villages of Vilano, has an E.P.A. permit to monitor turtle nesting on sea turtle patrol between Compton's and Fiddler's Green. Last year there were 32 nests in this 2.5 mile area, or 15% of all nests documented in the County. There is no monitor for the Porpoise Point area. It takes 25 years before a female turtle can become reproductive and they only lay every other year. Reports have come from the Fish and Game Department that eggs of the protected Least Tern nesting on the Point were being hit by baseball bats. The early-rising turtle patrol has found that the ban on driving on the beach from 10 PM to 6AM has been ignored.

Nip it in the Bud

* One subdivision of the future, North Shores Coalition should be a **NIP IT IN THE BUD COMMITTEE** -- which covers all visioning efforts of our community. *[For example, if it is discovered that a large offensive billboard is planned].*