

## **Apalachicola Waterfronts Vision Plan**

First year Waterfronts Florida grant objectives for the Apalachicola Waterfronts program concentrated on 1) Forming a broad based group of citizens and establishing the Apalachicola Waterfronts Steering Committee. 2) Identifying our natural, cultural and historic resources, sources of environmental problems, and issues that impact the working waterfront. 3). Exploring zoning and comp plan issues. 4) Building staff and volunteer skills capacity, knowledge and studying other Waterfronts Florida communities, the things they accomplished, their successes and failures. 5) Researching resources and grants. 6) Holding a large inclusive public meeting and to gain additional input.

During the second year of the grant the committee will compile all of the ideas and issues generated by the Apalachicola Waterfronts Steering Committee meetings, the Waterfront Subcommittee meetings and the overall community visioning meeting into one vision document. Then we will evaluate and prioritize the projects and position the Committee to move toward implementation in the following areas:

### Objective 1

*Compile all of the ideas and issues generated by the Apalachicola Waterfronts Steering Committee meetings, the Waterfront Subcommittee meetings and the overall community visioning meeting into one vision document. Then evaluate and prioritize the projects.*

### •Enhancement of the Viable Traditional Economy

The addition of docks to Veteran's Park on the Apalachicola Riverfront was considered a high priority in all of the visioning meetings. Adding docking facilities for the working waterfront greatly increases the industry's capacity for unloading seafood from boats allowing them a better chance to stay in business on our waterfront. The docks will also make the area more attractive and safe to residents and tourists. The park will be a centerpiece for Apalachicola that will recognize the importance that the seafood industry has on the economy and the history of the town.

The Waterfronts Steering Committee will contract to have architectural drawings completed for park including docks, a landscape plan with

educational kiosks, and a public restroom facility. We will also research mooring agreements for the use of the docks and seek funding for the completion of the docks and the park.

Objective 2 Enhancement of the Viable Traditional Economy

*-Contract to have architectural drawings completed for park including docks, a landscape plan with educational kiosks, and a public restroom facility.*

*-Research and draft mooring agreements for the use of the docks and seek funding for the completion of the park.*

*-Scipio Creek Boat Basin (Mill Pond) was originally conceived to be an area where the commercial seafood industry could expand and have support services. The Waterfronts Steering Committee will work toward getting a conceptual plan completed that includes the ideas generated during the visioning process. The Committee will also work with the Planning and Zoning Commission to explore zoning issues*

Cultural Resource Protection and Public Access:

•Preserving the historic integrity, unique character and small town atmosphere of Apalachicola are considered very important. To assist in the preservation of these assets the Waterfronts Committee will help city staff and the Planning and Zoning Committee prepare an historic architectural guidelines booklet that defines the city's land development regulations, the review procedures for renovation and new construction, and principles of design. Specifically the Waterfronts Steering Committee will contract with Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) to conduct an architectural materials survey of the focus area. This study will provide the factual background on which to base the historic architectural guidelines booklet.

•The Waterfronts Steering Committee will also conduct research and gather data on increasing the walkability of the city and linking public spaces through out the waterfront district.

•During the first year the Waterfronts Steering Committee also helped to re-establish the Historic Apalachicola Merchants Association. They have agreed to address issues such as garbage, beautification, parking, safety and tourist facilities. The Waterfronts Steering Committee will assist in the

stabilization of the association by attend their monthly meetings, assisting with clerical needs and promotion of special events.

- Re-establishment of a maritime museum. The new Apalachicola Maritime Heritage Center will be dedicated to educating the public about the community's maritime heritage and helping the residents to appreciate and use the waterfront.

### Objective 3

*Preserve historic integrity and overall sense of place, enable merchants to clean up town and stage events, improve the linkages of public spaces*

*-Contract with Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) to conduct an architectural materials survey of the focus area. This study will provide the factual background on which to base the historic architectural guidelines booklet.*

*-Conduct research and gather data on increasing the walkability of the city, linking public spaces and enhancing public spaces through out the waterfront district.*

*-Support and assist the Historic Apalachicola Merchants Association by attend their monthly meetings, assisting with clerical needs and promotion of special events.*

*-Support and advocate for the re-establishment of a maritime heritage center.*

*-Research tax increment financing to help city get funds for waterfront area projects*

*-Coordinate with the Franklin County Scenic Byways group*

### •Environmental Resource Protection

A high priority identified in the environmental arena was storm water management. The Waterfronts Steering Committee will address this issue by providing educational resources to city staff and the Planning & Zoning Committee on storm water holding facilities and storm water management. The Committee will also continue research funding methods to remove two sunken vessels in the waterfront area.

### Objective 4 Environmental Improvements

- Provide support and information on storm water management to the Planning and Zoning Commission and city staff.*
- Continue to research funding methods to remove two sunken vessels.*
- Help city code enforcement staff get training on environmental and storm water issues.*

•Hazard Mitigation

Apalachicola has been chosen to be a part of a case study on Pre and Post Disaster Planning to the Local Level for Florida's for Historic Resources. The Apalachicola Waterfronts Steering Committee has arranged for the City of Apalachicola staff, representatives from the local historical society and the Franklin County Emergency Management staff to work with 1000 Friends of Florida to develop a disaster plan that will help protect our historic buildings. The Waterfronts Committee will assist the team in setting up meetings, locating information about our existing emergency management capabilities, locating information about our historic resources and communicating the finished plans.

Objective 5 Hazard Mitigation

- Create a team that includes city staff, a historical society representative, county emergency management staff and other interested parties to work with 1000 Friends of Florida to develop a disaster plan that will help protect our historic buildings.*
- Set up meetings, locate information on existing emergency management capabilities, our historic resources*
- Communicate finished plans to the City Commission, Planning and Zoning and area residents.*