

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

The neighborhood action plan component of the Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014 identifies plan goals, strategies to achieve each goal, and actions to be taken to implement the plan. As structured, the plan is results oriented, with specific actions programmed for implementation.

Gifford Neighborhood Plan Goal

The goal of the Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014 is to revitalize the Gifford area as a safe community, maintaining its traditions (“Gifford Forever”), with good quality housing, adequate physical infrastructure, well maintained neighborhoods and public spaces, sufficient economic opportunities, and vibrant community activities.

Gifford Neighborhood Plan Strategies

For each major issue identified in the Analysis Section of this plan, an overall strategy has been developed. Each strategy provides a blueprint for addressing the issue, solving identified problems, and pursuing desired opportunities. Associated with each strategy are objectives and actions.

While the strategies establish the general framework for addressing each issue, objectives associated with each strategy set reasonable accomplishments to be met by specified time frames. Related to each objective are actions to be undertaken by appropriate parties. Those actions, when undertaken, should lead to accomplishment of the objectives.

Because the Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014 is a coordinated effort among a number of groups, there are several agencies/organizations with responsibility for taking actions identified in the plan. Only through the coordinated efforts of these agencies/organizations can the plan’s objectives be met.

COMMUNICATION & COORDINATION

Communication and Coordination Background and Strategy: Currently, the County has a general policy of maintaining good, reliable, and on-going communication with Gifford residents and interested parties regarding County-related plans and activities that affect the Gifford area. The County needs to formalize and expand that general policy by maintaining existing communication/coordination procedures and by broadening information access and input opportunities for Gifford residents and interested parties with respect to County activities that affect the Gifford area, and by incorporating those procedures and opportunities into this plan.

Objective 1. Communication and Coordination

By 2015, an enhanced communication and coordination process will be in place regarding County activities that affect the Gifford area.

Action 1.1: The County will maintain and continually update its “Gifford Interested Parties” e-mail group, and will add any party that requests to be added to that e-mail group.

Action 1.2: The County will notify by e-mail every party on the “Gifford Interested Parties” e-mail group of any application for a proposed development project in the Gifford area scheduled for review by the County’s Technical Review Committee, Planning and Zoning Commission, and Board of County Commissioners.

Action 1.3: The County will maintain a “Gifford” informational link on its website (www.ircedd.com), including items such as this plan, reports on major projects and development proposals in Gifford, and “report card” presentations (see action 1.5 below).

Action 1.4: The County will hold an information and input meeting in Gifford for any significant development regulation initiative in Gifford and for any significant proposed County project within Gifford, including roadway and intersection expansions, major parks and beautification projects, and new County buildings and community facilities. The County will invite any applicant proposing a significant land use or zoning change in Gifford to conduct a presentation and input meeting in Gifford, with County staff in attendance.

Action 1.5: Each year, through 2020, the County Planning Division will provide a Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014 action plan/implementation plan “report card” to the Progressive Civic League of Gifford and will present the report card to the Board of County Commissioners at a Board of County Commissioners meeting.

HOUSING

Housing Background and Strategy: One of the most significant and most visible problems in Gifford is poor housing conditions, especially in the east Gifford area. To address that issue, the County, the Progressive Civic League of Gifford, Gifford residents, non-profit groups, and private sector interests will need to support or engage in the rehabilitation of substandard housing units, remove dilapidated units and unsafe structures, and build new housing. As part of that effort, the County's role will be to provide state and local funds for housing rehabilitation and new construction, to undertake or support housing rehabilitation with federal funds, to remove dilapidated housing and unsafe structures using local and other funds, and to assist in establishing viable neighborhood associations to promote property maintenance and address neighborhood issues. Non-profit organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity Every Dream Has a Price, and any other recognized housing agency or provider will need to continue building new homes and rehabilitating existing homes in Gifford and providing pre and post construction mentoring to their clients. In that effort, community groups, particularly the Progressive Civic League of Gifford, have a vital role. Those groups need to inform Gifford residents of the various local, state, and non-profit group programs available for housing ownership and/or rehabilitation, encourage residents to participate in those programs, and bring together residents and providers of housing assistance.

Objective 2. Housing Rehabilitation/ Property Maintenance

By 2018, at least 100 substandard residential units in east Gifford will have been rehabilitated.

Action 2.1 – By 2019, the County will apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to rehabilitate 20 or more substandard housing units in the east Gifford area.

Action 2.2 – By 2016, the County will commit up to \$250,000 of SHIP funds as a match for CDBG funds.

Action 2.3 – Each year, the County will coordinate with community leaders and, through Gifford civic organizations and places of worship, distribute SHIP program informational packages that provide information regarding the County's rehabilitation assistance program to Gifford residents.

Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014

Action 2.4 – Each year, the County will target SHIP rehabilitation program efforts for Gifford residents, especially east Gifford residents.

Action 2.5 – Each year, the County will coordinate with community leaders to identify Gifford residents interested in forming a voluntary neighborhood association and will assist the residents in forming the association.

Action 2.6 – At least twice a year, the Progressive Civic League of Gifford will organize community day clean ups in the Gifford area and will coordinate with the County Solid Waste District which will provide dumpsters for each clean up day event.

Objective 3. Demolition or Repair of Dilapidated Housing Units and Unsafe Structures

By 2016, at least 10 dilapidated residential units or unsafe structures in east Gifford will have been demolished or repaired, and by 2020, at least 30 dilapidated residential units or unsafe structures in east Gifford will have been demolished or repaired.

Action 3.1 – In 2014, and each year thereafter through 2020, County Code Enforcement, in coordination with community leaders, non-profit housing assistance organizations, the Health Department, and the Building Department, will identify 5 or more dilapidated housing units or unsafe structures, notify the owners to fix or demolish the dilapidated units or unsafe structures, and initiate the County’s building condemnation and demolition process when appropriate. Generally, dilapidated wood houses will be demolished, and concrete block houses will be rehabilitated whenever appropriate.

Action 3.2 – By 2015, County Code Enforcement, in coordination with the Building Division, will prepare and distribute to Gifford residents and owners of rental properties in Gifford a user-friendly brochure regarding property maintenance rules and how to report suspected maintenance violations to County Code Enforcement. In addition, the County will provide an informational link to the information on the County’s website.

Action 3.3 – By 2018, the County will apply for CDBG funds for demolition or repair of dilapidated housing units and unsafe structures in the east Gifford area.

Action 3.4 – By 2015, the County will coordinate with community leaders and identify ways to stabilize post-demolition sites that include weed-related nuisances through weed removal, weed-control, grass-seeding, or similar techniques performed as part of the demolition project, and will include such techniques as part of demolition project scopes of work, where appropriate.

Objective 4. Housing Ownership

By 2020, the number of owner occupied housing units in east Gifford will have been increased by 50 units.

Action 4.1 – At least once each year, County staff will coordinate with community leaders and meet with residents in east Gifford to present information regarding the County’s downpayment/closing cost loan assistance SHIP program.

Action 4.2– At least once each year, County staff will assist, and local financial institutions will host a housing fair in Gifford to inform Gifford residents of available housing loan programs, to provide housing assistance information, and to provide personal contact information.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ EMPLOYMENT/VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Economic Development/ Employment/Vocational Training Background and Strategy: One of the most significant issues facing Gifford is unemployment and under-employment. Because unemployment and underemployment are contributors to crime, poverty, poor housing conditions, and other problems, reducing unemployment and under employment can significantly improve community conditions. Currently, areas adjacent to Gifford have some of the highest concentrations of jobs in the County. To solve the unemployment and under employment problem in Gifford, more jobs need to be created. In addition, Gifford residents must be better trained to qualify for jobs and be brought together with potential employers to have good access to jobs. These solutions will require action by the County Chamber of Commerce with respect to job creation, and the School Board, Indian River State College, and various work force agencies with respect to providing vocational pathways and job training, and promoting commercial/industrial development within Gifford area.

Objective 5. Economic Development/Employment/Technical Training

By 2020, Gifford’s unemployment rate will be 2 percentage points lower than the five year average for 2007-2011 (11.10%) by implementing the following actions. In addition, by 2020, the Community Disadvantage Index for Census Tract 503.02 (Gifford area) will be lower than the current index of 10, by decreasing the percentage of persons below the federal poverty line and by reducing the percentage of persons receiving public assistance such as food stamps, through the following actions that will lead to improved educational attainment and employment opportunities.

Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014

Action 5.1 - The County will promote appropriate commercial and industrial development by expediting review of permits for commercial and industrial development in Gifford, and by applying for CDBG funds whenever possible to fund infrastructure and building improvements to serve commercial and industrial uses in Gifford.

Action 5.2 – As the City of Vero Beach continues to promote industrial development on Airport property, the County will coordinate with qualified businesses wanting to locate on airport property and provide economic development incentives for such businesses.

Action 5.3 - The Indian River County Chamber of Commerce will continue to promote Gifford as being part of the Enterprise Zone and will encourage businesses to participate in job fair and job apprenticeship activities that serve Gifford.

Action 5.4:- The County will continue to provide businesses that expand or locate within the Enterprise Zone with a 10% bonus as part of the County’s job grant program. In addition, the County will continue to provide bonus scoring and associated increased award amounts for tax abatement applications for businesses that expand or locate within the Enterprise Zone.

Action 5.5 - The County and Chamber will provide technical assistance to minority owned businesses in Gifford by helping business owners and representatives apply for economic development funding from applicable local, County, state, and federal programs.

Action 5.6 – By 2015, the County will request that the School District and Indian River State College maintain and consider expanding their technical/vocational programs offered to Gifford area residents.

Action 5.7 – The Career Source Mobile Unit recently has been and will continue to be set up at the Gifford Youth Activity Center at least one day a week to assist Gifford residents in finding jobs, preparing resumes, and preparing for job interviews.

Action 5.8 – Each year, the Chamber in coordination with the Progressive Civic League of Gifford will host a job/apprenticeship fair in Gifford. The County, the Progressive Civic League of Gifford, and the Chamber will contact and recruit local businesses to participate in Gifford job/apprenticeship fairs.

Action 5.9 – By 2015, the County will request that the School District consider coordinating with the Gifford community regarding the District’s recruitment of minority teachers, the District’s Zero Tolerance policies, and practices, and other school related issues of interest to the District or residents.

Action 5.10 - At least once a year, the County will hold a procurement workshop in Gifford and encourage Gifford residents and businesses to apply for available County jobs. At each workshop, the County will also present its minority recruitment policy and conduct recruitment activities. The Progressive Civic League of Gifford will assist with informing residents of each workshop.

Action 5.11 – Each year, the Progressive Civic League of Gifford and other organizations active in Gifford will host a community meeting with School District staff, parents, and students, to identify ways to improve Gifford’s student performance and high school graduation rate.

Action 5.12 – Each year, the Gifford Youth Activity Center (GYAC) will evaluate its computer usage by Gifford residents and ensure that there are sufficient computers at the GYAC for all potential users.

Action 5.13: - The County and the Chamber will support continuation of the Enterprise Zone and educate Gifford residents and businesses regarding the incentives available through the Enterprise Zone designation by holding at least one education meeting per year in Gifford.

Action 5.14: - By 2015, the County will request that the Chamber consider providing chamber membership discounts for Gifford businesses located within the Enterprise Zone.

ILLEGAL USES AND NON-CONFORMITIES, LAND USE COMPATIBILITY

Land Use Compatibility, Illegal Uses and Non-Conformities Background and Strategy: To maintain the integrity of a community, illegal land uses must be identified and eliminated and non-conformities must be eliminated or upgraded and brought closer to compliance with current codes. In addition, codes must be periodically evaluated and sometimes revised to adequately address compatibility. In Gifford, illegal rooming houses and bars disrupt neighborhoods, reduce property values, and inhibit investment. It is important not only to remove those illegal uses, but also to prevent their re-establishment. To eliminate illegal uses, address non-conformities, and address land use incompatibilities, the County will use its regulatory authority. This will involve multi-agency sweeps, code enforcement action, coordination with local community groups and organizations, evaluation and revision of codes when warranted, and implementation of codes. To ensure compatibility with surrounding residential areas, the County must apply and enforce its non-conformities regulations in Gifford, and complete the West Gifford Industry and Commerce (WGIC) initiative to revise the list of permitted uses in the West Gifford industrial area and implement those revised regulations. In addition, to promote and adequately regulate the return of a traditional use in Gifford, the County will consider changing its zoning code to allow temporary fruit and vegetable sales, as well as food vending, in certain locations in Gifford.

Objective 6. Illegal Uses, Non-Conformities, and Land Use Compatibility

By 2017, all illegal uses in Gifford will have been eliminated, and by 2020 all non-conformities will be eliminated or upgraded to be brought closer to compliance with current codes.

Action 6.1 – Each year, County Code Enforcement will coordinate with the Sheriff’s Office, the Building Division, the Fire Division, and the Health Department to target, plan, and conduct regular enforcement sweeps of suspected illegal uses (use violations) and violations of environmental regulations in Gifford.

Action 6.2 – County Code Enforcement will initiate or assist in the initiation of appropriate enforcement action against identified illegal uses.

Action 6.3 – County Code Enforcement will regularly monitor properties against which code enforcement action has been taken to ensure on-going code compliance.

Action 6.4 – By 2014, the County will revise its Land Development Regulations (LDRs) to prohibit heavy industrial uses such as sawmills, steel mills, textile mills, landfills, and cement manufacturing plants, to strictly regulate concrete batch plants and demolition debris facilities, and to specially regulate new mulching operations and mulch operation expansions in the West Gifford industrial area located between 43rd Avenue and 58th Avenue.

Action 6.5 - By 2015, the County will consider revising its Land Development Regulations (LDRs) to allow food and produce vendors for weekend markets and special events in designated areas in Gifford, subject to special temporary use regulations.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure Background and Strategy: Adequate infrastructure is important for every community. In the early 1980’s in Gifford, most of the public streets were paved and a system of water and sewer lines were installed. Street lighting and sidewalks exist along major roads, although some critical gaps exist. Drainage problems occur in some areas. Maintenance of existing facilities is needed and there is also a need to construct additional infrastructure in some areas. Most important is beautification of Gifford’s “Main Street” (45th Street aka Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard), filling-in sidewalk gaps and gaps in street lighting coverage, road resurfacing, and targeted drainage improvements. In most cases, the County is responsible for these activities. Some activities, such as road resurfacing, are being undertaken on a regular basis according to a Countywide schedule. Other activities, such as 45th Street beautification and sidewalk construction, involve special projects and sometimes special funding. Besides conducting

maintenance activities, the County will provide various infrastructure improvements and enhancements that serve the Gifford community.

Objective 7. Sidewalk Improvements

By 2017, there will be continuous sidewalks in place along 45th Street, from 43rd Avenue to U.S. #1 and by 2021 along 45th Street from 43rd Avenue to 58th Avenue, and by 2021 along 43rd Avenue from 49th Street to 26th Street/Aviation Boulevard, and by 2024 along 41st Street and 49th Street from 58th Avenue to U.S. #1.

Action 7.1 – Each year, through 2020, the MPO will determine if any funding opportunities are available for sidewalks and trails in the Gifford area, and will apply for any available funds. The MPO will notify the Progressive Civic League of Gifford of potential funding opportunities.

Action 7.2 – By 2018, the County will repair and connect the sidewalk along 43rd Avenue between 41st Street and 49th Street, and by 2020 the County will construct a sidewalk along 43rd Avenue from 41st Street to 26th Street/Aviation Boulevard.

Action 7.3 – By 2018, the County Public Works Department will repair, connect, and construct the sidewalk along 45th Street, from 43rd Avenue to U.S. #1 and by 2021 along 45th from 43rd Avenue to 58th Avenue, where necessary right-of-way is available (has been acquired). The County will seek to install segments of a 45th Street sidewalk between 43rd Avenue and 58th Avenue prior to 2021.

Action 7.4 – By 2024, the County Public Works Department will repair, connect, and construct a sidewalk along 41st Street from 58th Avenue to U.S. #1, and a sidewalk along 49th Street from Fire Station 12 to U.S. #1, where necessary right-of-way is available (has been acquired) and adequate funding has been obtained.

Objective 8. Street Maintenance

All publically dedicated streets in Gifford will continue to be adequately maintained through resurfacing projects. Adequate maintenance is defined as a ranking of 1, 2, 3, or 4 on the Road and Bridge Roadway Maintenance Condition Inventory which ranks road conditions 1-5 from best to worst. Roads ranked in 2014 as a 4 or 5 include 34th Avenue from 45th Street to 49th Street, 35th Avenue from 47th Street to 49th Street, and 38th Avenue from 45th Street to 47th Street.

Action 8.1 – Each year, the County Road and Bridge Division will monitor publicly dedicated street conditions in Gifford, rank projects for resurfacing and/or repair, and schedule resurfacing projects for roadways ranked 5. Each year, a copy of the latest annual report and any resurfacing schedule will be provided to the Progressive Civic League of Gifford.

Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014

Action 8.2 – Each year, the County Road and Bridge Division will repair or resurface any publicly dedicated street in Gifford with a ranking of 5. Priority will be given to resurfacing 34th Avenue north of 45th Street.

Action 8.3 – By 2020, the County Public Works Department will resurface 45th Street from U.S. #1 to 43rd Avenue.

Action 8.4 – On an on-going basis, the County Road and Bridge Division will investigate all pothole complaints and fix potholes on publically dedicated streets in Gifford.

Action 8.5 – By 2022, the Progressive Civic League of Gifford will coordinate with property owners along 32nd Avenue north of 43rd Street, and 35th Avenue north of 45th Street, to obtain commitments for right-of-way donations so that those roads can be considered for dedication to and acceptance by the County for improvement and maintenance.

Action 8.6 – By 2020, the County Public Works Department will pave 32nd Avenue north of 43rd Street, and 35th Avenue north of 45th Street if needed rights-of-way are donated to and accepted by the County and adequate funding for paving has been obtained.

Objective 9. 45th Street “Main Street” Beautification and Improvements

By 2020, 45th Street will be improved and beautified as Gifford’s “Main Street”.

Action 9.1 – By 2014, the County will design a phased improvement and beautification plan for 45th Street between 43rd Avenue and U.S. #1, with input from Gifford residents at a community meeting in Gifford.

Action 9.2 – By 2016, the County will improve and beautify the segment of 45th Street from 43rd Avenue to U.S. #1 with “Phase 1” improvements consisting of the following:

- Widened shoulders/bike lanes (both sides of 45th Street)
- Street lights, as needed, to fill-in street lighting coverage gaps
- Curbing improvements along certain portions of the north side of 45th Street
- Re-surfaced side street approaches on the north side of 45th Street, where appropriate
- Hardscape and landscaping improvements along certain portions of the north side of 45th Street
- Westbound right turn lane at 28th Court

Action 9.3 – By 2018, the County will improve and beautify the segment of 45th Street from 43rd Avenue to U.S. #1 with “Phase 2” improvements consisting of the following:

Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014

- Culverting certain portions of the canal on the south side of 45th Street
- Landscaping improvements along the south side of 45th Street in the culverted areas, where appropriate

Action 9.4 – By 2015, the County will seek any needed right-of-way or easement with assistance from the Progressive Civic League of Gifford from property owners along 45th Street necessary for the 45th Street beautification project east of 43rd Avenue and for 45th Street sidewalk improvements west of 43rd Avenue.

Objective 10. Traffic/Safety Improvements

By 2020, traffic safety improvements in Gifford will be identified and completed, and by 2016 appropriate school safety improvements at Gifford Middle School will be identified.

Action 10.1 – In 2015, 2017, and 2019, the County Traffic Engineering Division will monitor traffic volumes and crash rates of all major intersections in Gifford. When warrants are met, a schedule will be developed for signalization. Each report, along with any schedule, will be provided to the Board of County Commissioners and to the Progressive Civic League of Gifford.

Action 10.2 – By 2018, the County will signalize and/or improve the 58th Avenue/45th Street and 58th Avenue 49th Street intersections, if adequate right-of-way has been obtained. The Progressive Civic League of Gifford will assist the County during the right-of-way acquisition process.

Action 10.3 - By 2016, the County will coordinate with the School District to identify appropriate school zone safety improvements such as improved signing and school drop-off and pick up area improvements at Gifford Middle School, and will coordinate with the District on providing identified improvements in a timely manner.

Objective 11. Drainage Improvements

By 2020, there will be adequate drainage systems in Gifford neighborhoods to handle a 10 year/24 hour storm event, where adequate outfall can be obtained.

Action 11.1 – By 2018, the County Public Works Department will identify all neighborhood drainage system problems in Gifford, evaluate potential solutions, and report its findings to the Progressive Civic League and the Board of County Commissioners.

Action 11.2 – Each year, the County’s Public Works Department will maintain the stormwater management system that serves the portion of east Gifford which is not part of the Indian River Farms Water Control District (IRFWCD). By 2019, the Public Works

Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014

Department will build ditches, canals, or other similar means that provide outfall from the subject area to the 41st Street retention pond. [Relates to Action 14.5]

Action 11.3 – Each year, the Indian River Farms Water Control District (IRFWCD) will continue to maintain its canals and drainage system within the Gifford area.

Action 11.4 – Each year, the County’s Public Works Department will share its list of locations with drainage problems with the Indian River Farms Water Control District (IRFWCD) and request any appropriate District maintenance activities or improvements needed to address drainage problems.

Action 11.5 – Each year, the Progressive Civic League of Gifford will encourage Gifford residents to monitor all canals and stormwater facilities within Gifford and report any dumping of grass clippings or other debris into stormwater management facilities to Code Enforcement and to the Progressive Civic League of Gifford. Planning Division staff will provide updated Code Enforcement contact information to Gifford residents.

Action 11.6 – Each year, the Progressive Civic League of Gifford will encourage residents to notify the County Public Works Department and IRFWCD of clogged culverts or slow moving water in ditches. Planning Division staff will provide updated County Public Works and IRFWCD contact information to Gifford residents.

Action 11.7 – By 2018, the County Public Works Department will coordinate with the Indian River Farms Water Control District and develop a scope of work for culverting the canal on the south side of 45th Street, east of 43rd Avenue, in segments and as a whole project. In addition, after a scope of work for culverting is developed, the County and MPO will seek funding for culverting improvements.

Action 11.8 – By 2018, the County’s Public Works Department will coordinate with the Indian River Farms Water Control District (IRFWCD), identify any appropriate safety barriers along canals in Gifford that are warranted by accident data and that the District will allow, and report its findings to the Board of County Commissioners and the Progressive Civic League of Gifford. Findings shall include an evaluation of culverting improvements associated with Action 9.3.

Objective 12. Street Lighting

By 2017, major streets within Gifford will have streetlighting without any gaps in lighting coverage.

Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014

Action 12.1 – By 2015, the County’s Public Works Department will meet with the Progressive Civic League of Gifford and Gifford residents and will develop a plan for enhanced street lighting in Gifford, the cost of which will be paid through the Gifford street lighting district.

Action 12.2 – By 2017, as requested by Gifford residents, the County’s Public Works Department will coordinate with street lighting providers to provide street lighting at 41st Street /32nd Avenue, along 49th Street from 58th Avenue to U.S. Highway #1, and any other street lighting improvements identified in the Action 12.1 street lighting plan for which adequate funding has been obtained.

Objective 13. Park Improvements

By 2016, parks and public places in Gifford will be improved to increase opportunities for recreational and community activities for Gifford residents, and by 2018, the County will consider the feasibility of building a boat ramp at Gifford Dock park.

Action 13.1 – By 2015, the Parks Division will clean and remove debris, trim Australian pine trees, repaint picnic tables and benches, clean and enhance picnic areas, clean and repair playground equipment, and repaint and change nets at basketball courts in the Hosie-Schumann Park, and by 2016, the Parks Division will build or schedule for construction a pavilion in the Hosie-Schumann park.

Action 13.2 – By 2016, the Parks Division will improve the football field, the senior league baseball field, and the little league field by adding topsoil, grade and sprigged fields with Bermuda grass, additional irrigation, a new score board, concession stand upgrades and other improvements within Gifford Park. Parks Division also will install security lights from the park entrance to little league field.

Action 13.3 - The Parks Division and Sheriff’s Office will maintain a Sheriff’s Office security unit at Gifford Park, as needed.

Action 13.4 – The Parks Division will maintain the Gifford park ball fields play area, dugout, and lighting on an on-going basis.

Action 13.5 – The Parks Division will maintain, replace, and repair playground equipment, as needed, in Gifford park and Hosie Schumann park.

Action 13.6 – By 2018, the County will prepare plans, seek FDEP/EPA approval, and seek funding for redevelopment of the 41st Street Old Landfill Site for community and/or recreational uses.

Action 13.7- By 2016, the Progressive Civic League of Gifford will invite representatives from the County Parks and Recreation Division, the Sheriff’s Office, and the School District, along with residents to a meeting in Gifford to develop specific actions and assigned responsibilities for each action to ensure that parks and schools are safe for small children.

Action 13.8 – By 2018, the Public Works Department will study the feasibility of constructing a boat ramp at Gifford Dock Park and report its findings to the Board of County Commissioners and the Progressive Civic League of Gifford.

Action 13.9 – By 2014, the County/MPO will apply for state funding to build a walking trail at the Martin Luther King Park, and the County will commit local matching funds necessary for the state funding application.

Objective 14. Funding

By 2017, there will be multiple dedicated funding sources in place to fund infrastructure improvements in the Gifford area.

Action 14.1 – By 2022, the County will consider establishing a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) district or a tax increment financing mechanism in an area within Gifford to promote economic and community development.

Action 14.2 – By 2022, the County will consider establishing in Gifford a Safe Neighborhood Improvement District (state authorized program) to reduce crime through innovative design techniques and improvements, and to apply for associated funding.

Action 14.3 – By 2015, the County Public Works Department will apply for funding from Moving Ahead for Progress for the 21st Century Transportation Alternatives or other appropriate programs such as MAP-21 for bus stops, bike lanes, sidewalks, and traffic calming improvements in the Gifford area where adequate right-of-way exists.

Action 14.4 – By 2015, the County Parks Division will apply for Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grants for maintaining and improving parks within the Gifford area.

Action 14.5 – By 2019, the County's Public Works Department will utilize funds from the Municipal Service Benefit Unit East Gifford Stormwater Watershed Area for an additional stormwater improvement project, such as outfall ditches from low-lying areas to the 41st Street retention pond, for that area of Gifford that is not under the authority of a water control district. [Relates to Action 11.2]

CRIME PREVENTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Crime Prevention Background Strategy: Reducing Gifford's crime rate is an important component in achieving the overall plan goal. Like most community issues, crime reduction requires coordinated action by various groups and agencies. While many of this plan's strategies including code enforcement, infrastructure improvements, and improved street lighting, may help reduce the crime rate, there is still a need for coordinated, targeted, and sustained crime-prevention actions. Those efforts will involve the Sheriff's Office maintaining its current level of resource commitment to the Gifford area, the County coordinating and continuing its code enforcement activities, and residents cooperating with law and code enforcement agencies.

Objective 15. Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

By 2018, the crime rate in Gifford will be ten percent lower than 2013 levels.

Action 15.1 – Each year through 2020, the Sheriff's Office will maintain its current level of resource allocation for law enforcement in Gifford.

Action 15.2 – Each year through 2020, the County will coordinate with the Sheriff's Office in order to focus code enforcement activities on sites with code violations which contribute to or have the potential to contribute to Gifford's crime rate.

Action 15.3 - The Sheriff's Office will enforce all posted speed limits in Gifford.

Action 15.4 - The Sheriff's Office will conduct enforcement actions against noise, including loud music that violates codes, drug dealing, and traffic violations.

Action 15.5 – Each year through 2020, County Code Enforcement staff will attend one or more COPE meetings as needed in order to coordinate code enforcement efforts with the Sheriff's Office.