

PALM BEACH COUNTY receives an Award of Merit for its implementation of the Glades Region Master Plan

Palm Beach County through the Department of Housing & Economic Sustainability was recently selected for an American Planning Association (APA) Florida Award of Merit in the Planning Project category. The County's implementation of the Glades Region Master Plan (GRMP) was recognized by APA Florida as an outstanding planning project in the State of Florida at its annual conference in September 2019. This is the first Palm Beach County Planning Project to receive an award by the Florida American Planning Association or the National Planning Association.

The Planning Project Award is for a specific physical planning project of unusually high merit that is in the process of being constructed or has been constructed within the last two years.

The GRMP is a physical planning project that included all infrastructure necessary to support a sustainable economy, was completed at the end of 2015 and accepted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in early 2016. In the past two years, much needed physical, social and economic improvements consistent with the GRMP were completed. It included a comprehensive inventory and analysis [i.e., infrastructure in (roads, paving, drainage, water, sewer, public transportation, parks/recreation; public facilities and services)] and community/economic development of needed employment and affordable housing.

Infrastructure improvements, new businesses and housing developments consistent with the Plan are being implemented, monitored and tracked. This includes infrastructure improvements totaling \$186.4 million in federal, state, county and city funds; business investments totaling \$23.0 million; and housing investments totaling \$97.2 million. These efforts which includes pipeline projects through 2019, have resulted in 2,955 jobs (including construction jobs) and 1,193 housing units. The result since the Plan was completed represents a total investment in the area of \$332.3 million.

This is the second award received by the County for the Glades Region Master Plan which was also recognized by the National Association of Counties. For more information about the Plan, please visit: <http://discover.pbcgov.org/HES/Pages/Glades-Region-Master-Plan.aspx>



Carol Thompson and Alan Chin Lee receive the APA award for the implementation of the Glades Region Master Plan