



City of Orange City
Community Redevelopment Plan



Orange City CRA Annual Report

2015



Prepared by:



ORANGE CITY COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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ORANGE CITY, FL 32763

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OVERVIEW

In 2014, the City Council of Orange City, Florida established a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), in accordance with the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969, to implement a Community Redevelopment Plan to remove the conditions of slum and blight that exists within a large portion of the City's core and the adjacent historic district. The City Council serves as the CRA board and performs the legislative functions, governing duties and corporate responsibilities of the agency. The City Manager, or designee, serves as the director of the agency, performs the administrative duties and oversees the day to day operations of the agency. Several City departments, including Developmental Services, Finance, and Public Works, provide assistance in planning and implementing project activities that are designed to revitalize and restore the identified blighted areas.

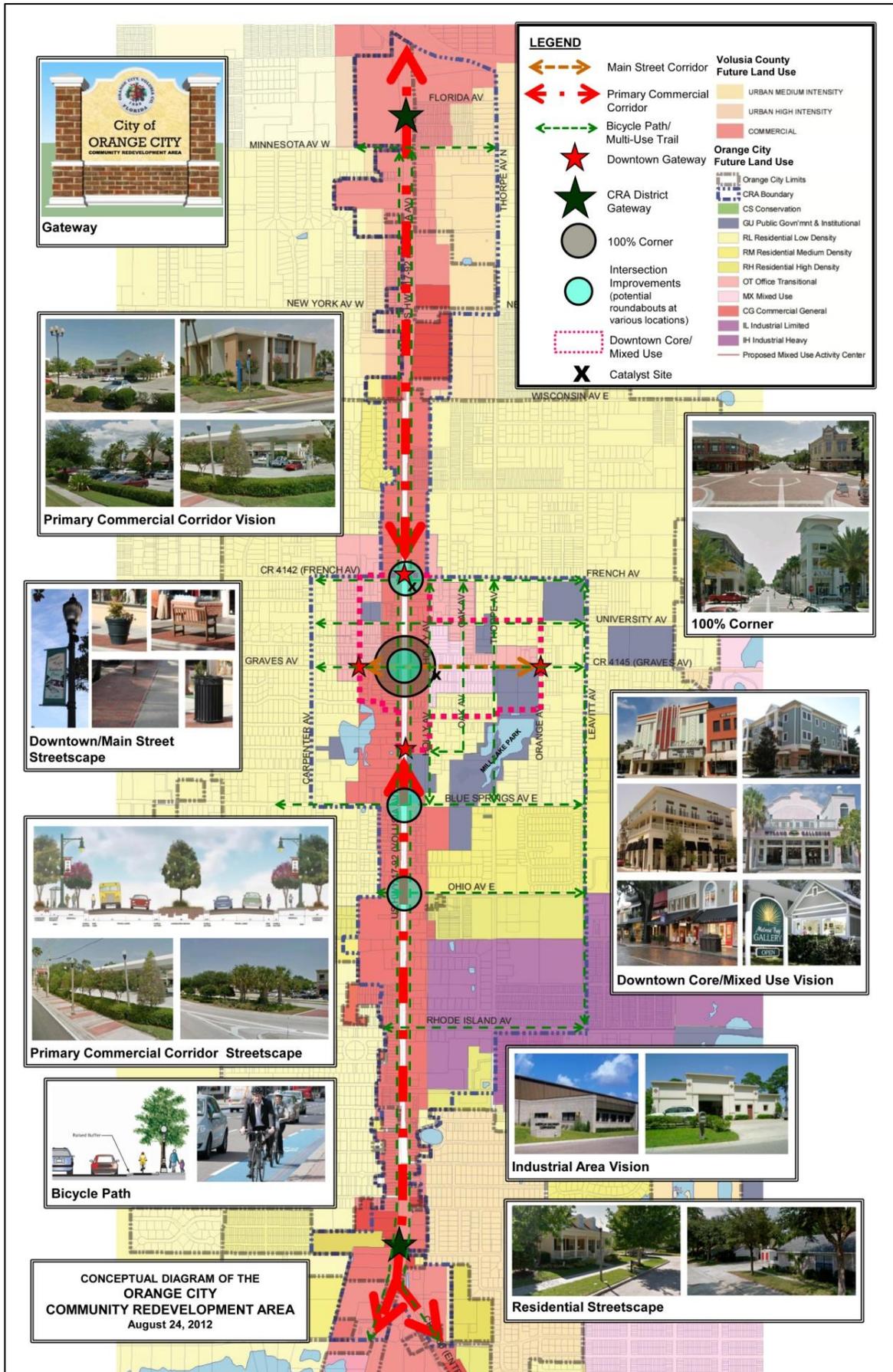
PURPOSE

As stipulated in Florida Statute chapter 163.356(3)(c), each Community Redevelopment Agency is required to file an annual report of activities for the preceding fiscal year. This report, which is being filed to comply with that requirement, includes a description of projects, activities and expenditures as well as a financial statement setting forth the assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses of the Orange City CRA as of the end of fiscal year 2014-2015. As the CRA was established in August 2014, a full budget will be developed as part of the up-coming cycle.

A VISION FOR REDEVELOPMENT

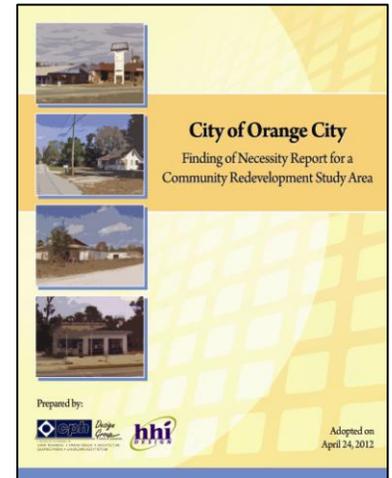
On April 24, 2012, the City Council of the City of Orange City adopted Resolution 670-12 determining that portions of the municipality contained blighted conditions as defined in the Community Redevelopment Act making a "Finding of Necessity" as required by Section 163.355, Florida Statutes and designating the Orange City Community Redevelopment Area as appropriate for community redevelopment.

The Redevelopment Area is confined to a specific area along and adjacent to US 17-92 (Volusia Avenue) within the City of Orange City in Volusia County, Florida. This area boundary was delineated due to blighted conditions, such as: underutilized land uses, faulty lot layouts, deteriorating buildings and site conditions, lack of pedestrian facilities, congested and unsafe roadways, and inadequate and deteriorating infrastructure along US 17-92 and surrounding parcels, as identified in the "Finding of Necessity Report". The declining nature of the business community along US 17-92 and the industrial areas within the peripheral, and the housing foreclosures also contribute to the blighted conditions within this area boundary. In addition, based on the 2010 census the City of Orange City has the lowest median household income (\$30,111.00 per household) of any other city in Volusia County, which further demonstrates the need for funding sources, such as the CRA, to direct funds to upgrade deteriorating infrastructure.



The newly adopted Orange City Community Redevelopment Plan addresses the blighted area conditions observed in the "Finding of Necessity Report" and creates a vision for a sustainable community with commercial/mixed-use areas that offer visitors, businesses and residents a high quality local destination; safe transportation network; pedestrian connections; public space/recreation facilities; and an adequate level of service and infrastructure.

Improvements within the Redevelopment Area benefits the overall west Volusia area by improving the environment adjacent to Blue Spring State Park; reducing septic systems to improve and protect water resources; reversing the declining urban form along US 17-92; and strengthening the commercial viability and overall community livability.



Financial Outlook

The CRA received its first contribution of increment revenue. The revenue from the City increment is \$26,755 and the County increment is \$22,571 for a total revenue of \$49,326. At this the CRA has not acquired any assets or liabilities. During this fiscal year a budget will be created for the CRA and adopted for the first time.

CRA ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2014-2015

Redevelopment Plan Adopted

The Orange City CRA completed and adopted the redevelopment vision and developed a roadmap for successful implementation.

CRA Board Member Training

Working with the Florida Redevelopment Association and the City of Edgewater's CRA, a joint workshop was held to train new CRA board members on their roles and responsibilities. The meeting was held on January 21, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Express in Orange City.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2014-2015

Mill Lake Park Phase I

The Orange City CRA area is very active. The City with the help of an Environmental, Cultural, Historical and Outdoor (ECHO) grant opened a new park called Mill Lake. The park opened on January 7, 2015 and includes a walking trail, picnic pavilions, an interactive fountain and natural viewing areas.



Sidewalks

During 2015 the City repaired and replaced sidewalks on Holly Avenue and University Avenue. Additionally a new sidewalk was installed on Ohio Avenue filling in one of the identified sidewalk gaps.



New Sign Code

Orange City has adopted a new sign code in order to be more flexible and affordable for businesses along US 17-92. The code allows for more sign choices and flexibility in location. Business signage is extremely important to ensuring customers are able to find our local businesses and will enhance the aesthetics and safety for our visitors.



Median Beautification

With a beautification grant from the Florida Department of Transportation, US 17-92 medians received a makeover. Beautiful new palms, crape myrtles, ground covers and sod were planted in 18 medians. The project has had a positive impact on the aesthetics of the entire corridor.

Additional landscaping was completed on Graves Avenue. New palm trees and landscaping were added that greatly enhance the City's downtown.



Gazebo at Dickinson Park and Welcome to Orange City Signs

The Dickinson Park gazebo was repaired and painted with fresh new colors. In the US 17-92 corridor there is a Welcome to Orange City sign. The sign was in need of repair and maintenance. It received a fresh coat of paint this year that makes it appear almost like new. New branding is being contemplated that will complement the median landscaping.



Festivals and Events

The City's downtown area is very active with events scheduled monthly. In Dickinson Park there is a farmers market every Friday. Also at Dickinson the City sponsors a movie in the park on the first Friday of the month. In addition, the City holds events to attract people to the downtown core including a Halloween Block Party with a pet costume contest, a light up event, a Christmas Village and Parade, National Night Out, Arbor Day Celebration, the Mayor's Fitness Challenge and Walk to School Events. Other events also occur in the CRA that are not sponsored by the City, including University High School's homecoming parade, the African American Heritage Festival and the Volusia Baptist Church's Journey Through Christmas which attracts over 5,000 visitors.

Additionally the City's Historic Preservation Committee has been active in promoting the City's downtown. A new historic brochure and walking tour were created this year to teach people about Orange City's history and allow them to tour while using their smart phones and see the City's many contributing historic structures.



LOOKING FORWARD

The Orange City CRA has a lot to look forward to 2015-2016. Mill Lake Phase 2, currently in design will be constructed and open for use. While this project is not funded by the CRA, it enhances the entire CRA area and is a great achievement for the area as the project has been contemplated for many years. New sidewalk projects are planned for Oak Avenue. The City has recently completed feasibility studies for sidewalks on Holly Avenue and Graves Avenue that will promote livability and mobility in the CRA area.

