From Disaster to Development: Our Town's Journey to the Future

Nancy Johnson, CEO
• Small town on the Southwest Coast of Florida
• Population 19,472 year round residents
• Large influx of snowbirds each winter
• 54% are 65 or older
• The only municipality Charlotte County, population 182,033
Hurricane Charley
August 13, 2004
Purpose:
Develop & Implement The Citizens Master Plan 2005
Mission:
To make greater Punta Gorda a better place to live, work, and play
Community Improvement
In Partnership With Charlotte Habitat for Humanity
Community Development

- Community Housing Workgroup
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan
- Waterfront Activity Center Planning

Gilchrist Park Activity Center Project Report 2018
Special Events Help Sustain Projects

March 22 & 23, 2019
Most of what was in the 2005 Citizens Master Plan has been done.
But there are still major holes...
Culture of Punta Gorda:

• Culture of service & participation but...
• Resistant to change
• Sense of empowerment/entitlement
• Want new services, but do not want growth
• Want to retain historic character & charming small town feel
Demonstrate what can be accomplished by working together
Inspire, Motivate & Energize, As Well As Teach
• Provide new ideas
• Facilitate long-term thinking
• Help inform & mobilize the community
• Focus on areas critical to the future community & economic development of Punta Gorda
• Participatory Process
• Consultant-led
• Dover/Kohl & Partners
Citywide Master Plan 2019

Draft Of The Master Plan Is Here!

3 Components:

- Economic Development Study
- Master Plan
- Collaborative Implementation Plan
The Journey Continues...
The spirit of Punta Gorda is strong!

We know that we are better when we work together, and keep the conversation going.

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