



A SUSTAINABLE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST

The way of life in the Mississippi Gulf Coast is intertwined with water and the environment. Protecting the natural resources of the coast is paramount to the health of the region's economy and its residents. The Plan for Opportunity is a three year collaborative planning project led by the Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC). Its purpose is to make the Mississippi Gulf Coast a more sustainable and prosperous region by enhancing regional coordination. Funded by the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, the Plan evaluated six topic areas including food, housing, the economy, transportation and land use, water, and resiliency. An extensive public involvement effort was undertaken throughout the planning process.

The Plan includes strategies and recommendations that can be implemented at a regional or local level. For the Plan for Opportunity recommendations to be effective, it is critical to work together. Once adopted, the Plan will lead to a more unified and cohesive region working together as One Coast.

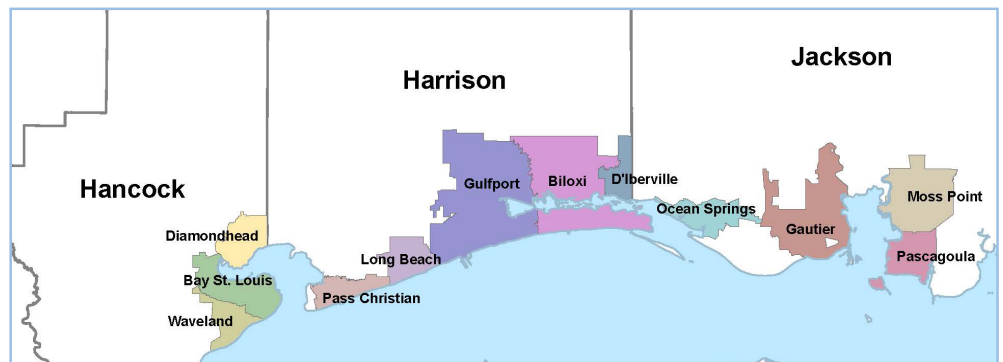


PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES LIVABILITY PRINCIPLES

These Livability Principles guided the development of the Plan for Opportunity goals:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment
- Value communities and neighborhoods

The Plan for Opportunity includes the 3 coastal counties and 12 municipalities



PLAN FOR OPPORTUNITY GOALS

- Lower transportation and housing costs by creating better connections between where people live and where they work
- Develop in ways that value the natural environment, understanding that regional prosperity is dependent on our many environmental assets
- Improve air quality by making buildings more energy efficient and reducing vehicle miles traveled
- Create a broad range of employment and business opportunities by coordinating land use, transportation and infrastructure planning
- Improve regional health by ensuring that all communities have access to fresh food, safe recreation, open space, medical care, and clean air and water

PLAN FOR OPPORTUNITY

Vision: To improve the regional economy of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and to improve housing, employment and transportation opportunities within Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties

Promote Equitable, Affordable Housing



Priority Action Areas

- Expand access to housing options
- Improve housing resiliency
- Build capacity to increase fair housing

Enhance Economic Competitiveness



Priority Action Areas

- Increase region's financial security
- Nurture a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation
- Decrease barriers to employment

Coordinate Policies and Leverage Investment



Priority Action Areas

- Invest strategically for long-term benefits
- Advocate for policies that support housing
- Share information to improve government efficiency
- Coordinate natural resource policies

Priority Action Areas

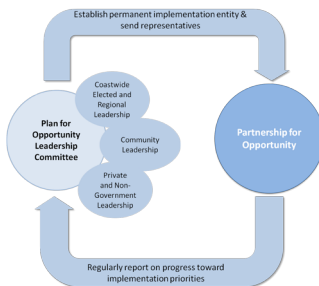
The strategies and recommendations developed for each of the topic areas were prioritized and organized under the livability principles. Each livability principle has priority action areas and priority actions that when implemented will achieve a significant number of outcomes.

Transition to Implementation

The original partnership will transition from a planning organization into one that maintains a focus on implementation actions and continuing support.

There are three primary means of carrying the plan forward through on-going strategic communications activities:

1. Regular dialogue among partners and stakeholders on implementing actions
2. Expanding outreach throughout the region to increase awareness and support
3. Engaging policy leaders and decision-makers in an annual forum about outcomes



Provide More Transportation Options



Priority Action Areas

- Invest in bicycle and pedestrian networks
- Strengthen the transit system
- Increase access and mobility

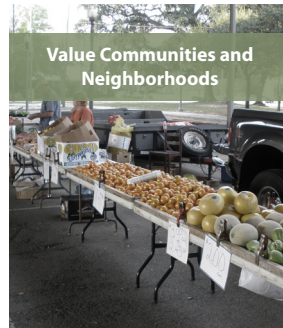
Support Existing Communities



Priority Action Areas

- Promote community revitalization
- Build for resiliency
- Protect the region's environment

Value Communities and Neighborhoods



Priority Action Areas

- Create healthy, safe, walkable neighborhoods
- Foster a responsible food system
- Connect communities to the waterfront

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Gulf Coast Community Design Studio
- Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation
- Gulf Regional Planning Commission
- Mississippi Center for Justice
- Ohio State University
- Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District
- Steps Coalition
- The Kirwan Institute
- Partnership for Sustainable Communities (Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, Housing and Urban Development)

NEXT STEPS

The Plan for Opportunity partnership engaged residents and communities along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in a dialogue about the role the economy, housing, transportation, water, food, and other elements play in a more vibrant, healthy and prosperous region.

The final plan outlines specific action steps, strategies and responsibilities to address the region's needs. Making the plan a reality will take a continuing commitment of the public, private and non-profit organizations working on the Gulf Coast. Every small part contributes to a more successful and livable Gulf Coast region. You can review the final plan by visiting gulfcoastplan.org.

"There is an effort to synchronize what is going on across the Gulf Coast. Wouldn't it be simpler if we just had one coast?"

-Arnie Williams,
Director of Economic
Development,
MS Power



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The **Plan for Opportunity** is a collaborative planning project led by the Gulf Coast Regional Planning Commission that is intended to guide the economic growth and development of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and to improve housing, employment and transportation opportunities throughout the region. The Plan for Opportunity is key to strengthening the economy, improving quality of life for residents, and creating a more sustainable future for the region.

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