

# Ecosystems & Resiliency

Cities are engines for development, innovation, close connections, and opportunity. At the same time, cities can exacerbate environmental challenges by attempting to carve a place for humans outside of nature. For Titusville to be a smart, resilient, and sustainable city, it must harness the power of nature and embrace nature-based solutions. Examples of nature-based solutions include low impact development, connected ecosystem corridors, living shorelines, and much more.

The care and stewardship of natural lands and waterways has been a top priority for the people of Titusville for many years. The Indian River Lagoon has seen declines in sea grass growth, fish and other marine life, and the quality of water. On land, the City continues to see loss of tree canopy as development continues to boom. For the City to continue to grow in a sustainable manner while require evaluating the state of current natural resources and prioritize ecosystem health and resiliency in decision making.

The protection of natural resources is essential to maintain healthy air, water, and protecting residents and businesses from the impacts of natural disasters. The continued care of our environment will continue to attract tourism, economic growth, and a high quality of life.





## Ecosystems & Resiliency

*The holistic protection, preservation, and expansion of Titusville's natural resources from the impacts of development and natural disasters*

### **Goal 2: Protect natural resources and ecosystems and develop an ecologically resilient community**

#### **Objective 2.1: Increase natural resource acreage and habitat area for threatened species and wetlands**

2.1.1	Manage a database of natural resources and collaborate with local agencies to promote environmental stewardship.
2.1.2	Develop an Urban Forestry Management Plan to manage tree infrastructure and canopy.
2.1.3	Promote UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program.

#### **Objective 2.2: Prioritize the use of green infrastructure, low impact development, and nature-based solutions**

2.2.1	Continue to develop an inventory of low impact development public projects and establish a network of demonstration sites with educational material and signage.
2.2.2	Offer incentives for residents that implement green infrastructure projects including rain barrels, rain gardens, pervious pavement, etc.
2.2.3	Provide education and resources to homeowners on Florida Friendly Lawns and reducing the use of pesticides and garden chemicals.
2.2.4	Evaluate current and planned stormwater infrastructure projects and determine the feasibility of incorporating green infrastructure.

#### **Objective 2.3: Continue to make demonstrable progress towards Resilient Titusville's Goals and Objectives**

2.3.1	Identify and designate Adaptation Action Areas within the City.
2.3.2	Develop annual reports and update the plan on a 5-year basis.

#### **Objective 2.4: Foster ecosystem and resiliency education and empowerment**

2.4.1	Continue education and outreach initiatives about sea level rise, climate change, and the Indian River Lagoon.
2.4.2	Collaborate with volunteer programs and organizations to assist with habitat restoration efforts on public and private properties.
2.4.3	Create native plants demonstration and education sites with plant details at local parks.

# Targets

2.1 : Measure baseline natural resources acreage and work to increase natural resource acreage, habitat areas, and protected wetlands.

2.2 : Measure baseline application of low impact development, green infrastructure, and nature-based solutions and demonstrate increase in use on municipal projects

2.3 : Measure baseline community understanding of resiliency and work to increase community awareness

