



Envision the Future
Golden Gate Area Master Plan Restudy
Community Meeting #1
Fire Station #71, 100 13th St SW
April 20, 2016

Survey # 1 Summary of Written Comments

During the first community meeting, Collier County staff began the visioning process with the Golden Gate Area Eastern (Rural) Estates residents. The Rural Estates is defined as the Estates neighborhood east of CR 951. Three comment cards were distributed to gather ideas for the future vision of the area. The questions posed were intended to engage future thinking. The written comments collected at the meeting are summarized below.

In Collier County, the Eastern Estates will be:

Distinctive for.....

- Parks and Recreation
- Rural character
- Rural residential community
- Rural nature, large lots, service areas scattered and clustered together separated form neighborhoods
- Peace and quiet, large lots, animal life
- Low density, wildlife observation
- Flowways preserved
- Rural family life
- Privacy, quiet
- Forested lots, well-spaced homes
- Rural charm
- Large lots for homes to be built, families, affordable
- Seeing panthers 24 hours
- Small neighborhood communities with play areas and low traffic
- Habitat, flora, agriculture, flowways and water retention areas
- Preventing Collier County from becoming like Miami – buffer
- Large open space with trees and wildlife, houses on 2.25 acres and more
- Openness and individuality
- Family development
- Forestry, larger lot size, native connection



- Rural appeal
- It is a safe residential rural neighborhood
- A great place for family to live, have privacy with amenities people need close by without going to the city.
- Unique, natural homesteads and wetlands, cypress and old growth pine.
- Residential and parks
- Land preservation
- Tranquility and rural life
- Rural and non-commercial
- Rural and limited commercial uses should have small stores nothing like Wal-Mart. Keep it natural.
- Rural flavor (identity)
- Space for living in rural areas
- Coordinated areas for citizens to access commercial, and recreation areas by limited travel.
- Many areas for citizens to recreate in local areas
- Travel to “west” only occasionally.
- Life-long educational activities
- More University/cooperative extension expertise for rural citizens to provide food and resource management for youth, young adults, elderly and family
- A real benefit to family activity, sports indoors, roller/ice rink, soccer, plus more.
- Well planned
- Nature, quiet, no commercialism
- Non-gated living
- Open Space

A premier location for....

- Hiking trails
- Raising a family
- Enjoying nature
- Families
- Enjoying nature
- Country living, large lots, make for quiet some shopping areas separate from residents
- Families



- Families
- Habitat/sustainability
- Outdoor living
- Privacy, quiet, environmental stability, wildlife
- Quiet living
- Homeowners who want large lots
- Families that love the woods and old Florida style
- Livestock, gardening, peace and quiet.
- 5 acre, white sapote and Japanese persimmon groves
- Sustainability in a rural/ecologically balanced environment
- Younger families and extended families
- Family businesses, light industry and recreational activities
- Outdoor enthusiasts, small farms, place where people can live in a self-sufficient way, larger rural enterprises.
- Recreation, county living, horses and other domestic animals
- Raising a family
- Open, healthy living, room to live
- Nature connection, sports recreation, health clinics, churches
- Residents with rural amenities
- Great homes, schools, industry, but low density, low noise, low lighting, sheriff protection!
- Peace and quiet
- A place to go see the natural beauty that is S.W. Florida
- A commercial for example Home Depot people really need this since the majority of the Estates are always improving or building.
- Special wildlife, panthers, rare environment.
- New commercial establishments
- Environmental protection
- Single family communities
- A place to be without busy shopping and traffic for commercial use.
- Getting away from the urban life³ – trails, parks, architecturally “approved” commercial properties (stores, theaters...)that fit the rural format without disrupting the overall theme.
- Anticipation of future: living without cars, using solar and wind energy, preparing for climate change, including water levels.



- Greenways, horse trails
- Large lots and second homes
- No gated communities
- Biking, hiking and outdoor adventures. Kayaking and horseback riding.



How does the Eastern Estates area complement Collier County?

- Great area for developments – schools, farms, shopping, etc
- Protects the image of “Real Florida”
- Great residential area in a rural setting
- Provides opportunities for people to locate in the rural area. No condos or hotels
- Allows a great place to raise a family for future business owners, environmentalists and land stewards. Keeps a large green area open.
- Known as a place to get away from city life
- Affordability, large lots, ad valorem taxes
- Active rural area, great community
- Rural larger lots, wildlife, a more peaceful and quiet are of Collier County
- It allows less wealthy people to have a home with space
- Chance for rural attributes, grazing animals
- Enjoy nature and living
- People for Western Collier will drive east on weekends just to see wildflowers and wild animals.
- Serve as a template for future development and redevelopment in both Collier County and Southwest Florida.
- Lots of residential-believe 2.5 lots are too big – take away from neighborhoods and too much isolation.
- Allows for affordable homeownership in our County. Provides a more “normal” environment in our Town.
- Hopefully if it is taken seriously spend some of our tax dollars on improvements and services.
- The agrarian areas interspersed with low density offer a respite from the hectic activities of the adjacent urban areas.
- Buffer between development and the everglades
- Water recharge area
- An escape from “associations”, “cookie cutter” living.
- Individuality
- Consider on community, extended government amenity within close reach, open access via Everglades Blvd/I-75 interchange
- Unique for its wildlife, and room for horses
- It provides affordable housing for the working class community that resides in Naples. The schools are excellent!



- The city of Naples is very expensive to live and Estates is affordable for working class
- Freedom of natural space – uncrowded. Escape from boxed developments. Old Florida – not any town USA.
- Provides non-city atmosphere, wide open areas. Limited density.
- Natural beauty
- Rural atmosphere is hard to find in Naples. Keep it rural!
- Not a place to go shopping, but a place to go to enjoy nature.
- It provides a non-structured feeling – free-spirited, natural.
- It is now a blank canvass – it can be the future heart and pride of Collier if the “receiving” areas are properly utilized and perhaps redefined.
- Peace and tranquility for families, neighborhood schools.
- Lower cost housing
- Affordable housing



What is the full potential for your community?

- More than noise. More the swamp buggies. More than Country jams. How about some class?
- Potential to grow into a beautiful residential community.
- Balancing work and play
- Environmental protection – watershed
- A place for families to enjoy the outdoors, learn to live with wildlife. Keep low density, but allow rental of guest house. Needs some additional commercial.
- Great place to raise a family.
- Quality of life, economic sustainability, rapid EMS and Fire response.
- Stay rural keep wildlife.
- To have quiet areas for living with a small amount of retail and services within 5-7 miles.
- Increased population with currently vacant lots are built upon but roads, highways, bridges need improvement
- Unlimited, depending on view.
- Smaller lots ½ - 1 acre with mass transit to industrial areas – above ground transit – T, Tram, ...
- A place where people can live the way they want – on large lots, larger or same as 2.25 acres with domestic animals, horses, and wildlife co-existing. Services like stores and restaurants would be in the surround areas.
- So far the potential of our area has been to ignore it hope it goes away and have only excuses for its needs.
- The full potential of living in the Estates community is enjoying the peaceful rural environment with your family and friends. Having the space to co-habitat with the flora and fauna of SW FL.
- Having access to I-75 from Everglades would be great, amenities and services close by.
- Maintain unique status.
- Full potential is only limited by imagination. The central “North Bell Meade” area both sending and receiving can be a central source for innovation.
- Neighborhood schools. No thru traffic.
- To be able to work and live in this area.
- Need greater infill/building on existing lots to achieve more personal relationships.



Reading the newspaper in 10 years, what would the headline say about the Eastern Estates?

- The People, All the People, in Golden Gate Estates, are Getting Great Collier County Customer Service.
- A Great Area for Family, Fun and Living.
- Preservation Fulfilled.
- Best Place to Live in Florida
- Peace and Quiet in Golden Gate Estates
- Quality of Life Preserved
- Beautiful Rural Community Where Families and Nature Live Together
- Well-Planned, Peaceful and Quiet Neighborhood.
- Gee it's Congested.
- Low Density Residential Area Continues to Thrive.
- Panther Preservation Project Too Successful. Bounty Offered for Panther Pelts. Endangered Burmese Panther Lauded for Raccoon Control.
- Golden Gate Estates Area Viewed as One of the Premier Areas in the Country for Environmental and Sustainable Development.
- Disney-Like Tram Reaches Everglades Boulevard.
- Paradise A Livable Community Unique in Many Ways.
- Golden Gate Estates Area the Forgotten and Neglected Area of Naples FL. Treat Estates Area as Naples. That's Our Mailing Address Too.
- The Only Area Left in Collier County for Living in Peace and Quiet.
- You Can Still See the Stars!
- The Best Place to Live.
- A Great Place to Live as Nature Intended Away From Dictated Developments.
- Quiet, Rural Escape From City.
- Community of Future Gets International Acclaim.
- Private Homes, No Gated Communities, Beautiful Greenways and Nature Trails.
- Still No Interchange to I-75
- GGE No Longer the Ugly Stepchild of Naples.



What three things would really improve the future of the Eastern Estates?

1. Parks

- Roads
- Individual Identity (Big Cypress Estates)
- Connectivity
- Land Preservation
- Keep the dead end streets – entrance only on one end makes increased security
- Greenway or biking trails throughout pod areas of Golden Gate Estates
- More bridges for emergency vehicles
- Preserve flowways
- No fracking
- Limited commercial
- Maintain low density
- More, better roads with additional bridges. Connect Everglades Blvd with I-75
- Maintain rural/agricultural charm
- Finish paving lime rock roads in 1-2 years, all of them, start a project plan to finish them not 2 part
- Street entrances tapered and beveled so you can exit Everglades Blvd with minimum delay of person behind you.
- Integrated and continuous green space, trails and bikeways (part of transportation needs)
- Better traffic flow. Wilson should be widened and expanded
- Commercial and light industrial in the rural fringe area allowing GG residents to have services and jobs nearby.
- Building a Lowes/Home Depot
- Maintain housing/density restrictions
- More commercial/retail
- 4-lane GG Blvd to Everglades
- Roads
- Participation by citizens to be proactive rather than reactive

2. Bridges

- Bridges and connector roads
- Conveniences
- Trail network
- Consider keeping the water sheds value Storage area for water supplies



- More small parks in pod areas with small amenities
- Restrict high density development
- Parks more central to community
- Don't east coast the west coast
- Bridges
- More commercial development, stores, shops, service enterprises
- Allow present owners to be bought out if you plan on developing roads/sewers
- No oil wells period
- Block canals [end of street] with plants or boulders
- Impress upon all users of our roadway network that the functionality of this system requires community spirit and vision. No one is entitled to excessive speed or overuse of these facilities.
- Additional schools
- Sports and recreational areas, stadiums and other activities in the rural fringe.
- Horse trails, walking/nature study pathways
- Close access to I-75 from Everglades
- Eliminate clear cutting
- Fast food establishments – restaurants, post office
- Keep commercial out
- Major big box stores
- Residents being more open to new ideas and new large ventures that will improve our tax base

3. Lights

- Limited Commercial development GG Blvd & Wilson, GG Blvd & Everglades, GG Blvd & Desoto
- I-75 Interchange and Emergency Services
- Character (maintaining)
- Transportation network (bridges, interchange)
- No mass housing - condos, hotels, apartments
- More Arthrex type businesses in appropriate areas.
- More parks
- Low density east of 951
- Buy lots located in flowways
- Succinct identity
- Protect wildlife



- Keep wildlife
- The 24/7 20 mph flashing caution yellow light on GG Blvd – Everglades School is like crying “wolf” when there is no “wolf”. If it flashed only when needed, we might not ignore it.
- Incorporate energy saving incentives within the Golden Gate Estates Area.
- Reopen access to the interstate from Everglades Blvd.
- Keep the GG Estates area a low density area and use the surround area for build-up and services. Do not allow GG Estates guest houses to be rented unless the house sits on enough acres (i.e. 5 acres minimum for house and guest house). Don’t double the density.
- Commercial built out like a Wal-Mart. This would bring jobs for people.
- Nature road/hardscaping. No herbicides. No fracking.
- Parks
- No fracking
- Commercial like Shorline (?) Street area
- Greenways, trails, primitive areas



Other comments....

- Manage/consolidate conveniences at “cores” avoiding new commercial rezones outward
- Retain environmental character
- Great rural community
- Connect large natural areas, panther refuge, with greenbelts
- Retain streets that dead end. Only people that live there will use them. That is what many of us want – a little bit of isolation.
- Keep high speed roads to the bare needs minimum
- Concerned proposed development not factored in
- Recharge-wells serve Naples thru protections, i.e., gas stations
- Proposed development (some) interrupts major flow ways
- Trails needed
- Good public transportation, need more area served
- Any new commercial are need low light to keep light pollution out.
- Bridges to cut down on traffic congestion and for evacuation
- Discourage so much lighting individuals use they can interfere with other people’s privacy.
- Develop commercial centers with grocery, hardware, and other service/sales establishments
- Greenway with trails
- Better (more lanes) highways
- More bridges so thru traffic is less congested on existing major highways.
- Eastern Golden Gate Estates provides the rural/agricultural residential chance that encompasses wholesome old family values. It provides academic excellence, athletics and fosters a sense of community
- We need more north/south exits. Exits onto the alley, or build more fire stations east.
- Block all streets dead ending in canals with trees so that no one drives into the canal
- Start mowing late in spring allowing our state flower coreopsis, ground orchids, black eyed susans and dozens of other wildflowers to persist.
- With the increase in population, better traffic plans are definitely needed. Wilson needs to be widened from GG Blvd to Immokalee Rd and should be expanded to allow for traffic to flow more easily to south areas of the County.
- Reopening access to the interstate from Everglades Blvd would be great.
- Additional high school so that zoning options could be modified.
- Introducing residents into the plan process allows their voice, a different voice that frequently heard influencing County staff, ie Florida Wildlife Federation, Conservancy



and Audubon, whose dictates have only brought the County to it's knees by lawsuit, bully issues contrived by policy wonks who have no factual information or data. They have screwed up the GMP and Land Development Code with foolish nonsense which must stop!

- We need a way to unite the community in a “loose” way. People came out here because they want space but we still want community. I think a series of walking/hiking paths would be great with some small anchor parks linking the paths. Perhaps along the canals.
- Traffic on Golden Gate Blvd is heavy and too fast – several bad accidents in the past few months – we need more east west and north south avenues.
- Would like less gunfire – short term and long term.
- Love to see provisions for preserving and protecting wildlife.
- Would like for the Estates to allow private ponds and lakes they add to visual appeal, improve retention and enhance wildlife habitat.
- Right no GGE is regarded as low-class, “affordable” living. Events attract only a type of event-goer that Sheriff even says are “negative.” Would like planning for Estates that treats homeowner more fair. Fairground with decibels exceeding 90-100 db needs to go! It was never intended for home nearby to be subjected to fairground outdoor amplified sounds. Some GGEers have peace, quiet, star-lit nights. Others have abuse. Future – fairness!
- We also need public transportation that goes down along Immokalee road toward I-75.
- We need more restaurant, stores, entertainment like possibility a movie theater people in the Estates usually stay at home not wanting to drive out to the city.
- Although here is much need for food stores and easy access roads it is important to focus on land preservation and maintain healthy water sources and environmental protection. Keep it “Country” and rural (private) yet provide necessary commodities as well as good and ample road access to accommodate and even flow of traffic.
- We all have wells that provide each household with their water. How will adding additional development affect the over usage of our water supply? Do not want to end up like Cal./Nevada
- Drilling wells deeper would end up with salt water.
- Really hoping that they do not put a bridge on 8th St NE, 16th St NE and 47th St.
- If individual storefronts or commercial properties are established, there should be an architectural committee established to prevent structures, signs, from making the area a hodgepodge. Cohesion – natural look.
- Ice skating rink is a must, everywhere in Country and around the world for family and kids. Also, a multipurpose 40,000 SF rink sport of any kind very important for youth. Grass root program. The future is with the kids.



- There is no need to bring commercial into the Estates. Leave it on 951 and Immokalee Road.
- No commercial on Everglades and Golden Gate Blvd. The 7-11 and Walgreens on Wilson and GG Blvd are enough
- Keep low light density
- Widen Everglades from Oil Well to GG Blvd
- Widen Randall from Immokalee to Desoto
- Important that the roads are improved as they exist now. Any new roads should have minimal impact on establish neighborhoods. Small commercial centers struggle to survive. Should be positioned based on where large PUDs will exist.
- Preserve flowways
- Improve capacity of canal system.
- People who have moved here from the East Coast should not have a say, example, I have heard some that have moved here from the East Coast would like more stores out here. Well then they should have stayed in the area they came from or moved closer to town and leave our "Estates" life alone. The Estates is the only place to live in peace.
- Do not connect certain dead end streets that would cause more traffic. We like living on the quiet dead end streets which limits the traffic flow. The only bridges that should be built is one-lane bridges that are gated for emergency use only. Very important!
- When I purchased my property is was with the expectation that I would be living in a non-commercial residential community with 2.5 acre lots. My intention is to live here for the next 30-40 years and be able to see the stars at night and the birds, deer, bears, and panthers during the day.
- Use of canals for canoes, kayak, electric motors – walking paths along canals – vertical parks – make rock pit on 5th St a water park.
- Not everyone moved out here for the rural atmosphere although we love it. Some of us couldn't afford the gulf communities or needed space for our toys.