



CITY OF DELAND
JOINT WORKSHOP MEETING OF
THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DELAND
AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 13, 2023 AT 6:00 PM
815 SOUTH ALABAMA AVENUE, DELAND, FLORIDA
AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion re Strategic Plan Recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

The DeLand City Commission holds its regular meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the DeLand City Commission Chambers, 120 South Florida Avenue, DeLand. Notice of special meetings, workshops, changes in dates, times or locations are provided by separate Public Notices, which are posted at City Hall and on the City's web site.

The City of DeLand may take action on any matter during this meeting, including items that are not set forth within this agenda.

Public participation is encouraged on any matter on the agenda. If you desire to be recognized by the Mayor, please fill out a Speaker's Card and present it to the City Clerk.

Minutes of the DeLand City Commission meetings are not transcribed verbatim. If any person decides to appeal a decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at a public meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings including all testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. To that end, such person will want to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made by a court reporter, at the person's own expense.

In accordance with the American Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation in order to participate in the proceedings should notify the City Clerk's Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting: 626-7132.

Assisted Listening System receivers are available for the hearing impaired, and can be obtained from the City Clerk.

If you wish to obtain information regarding the City Commission's Agenda, please call the City Clerk's Office: 626-7132.

We respectfully request that all pagers and cell phones be turned OFF during City Commission meetings.

Electronic Information! City Commission agendas and short form minutes are now available on the City's web page: www.deland.org.

**JOINT WORKSHOP WITH CITY COMMISSION
AND
STRATEGIC PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE**

A G E N D A

- 1. PRESENTATION OF RESULTS FROM CITIZEN SURVEY**
- 2. PRESENTATION AND OVERVIEW OF REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN**
- 3. BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION WITH COMMISSION AND STEERING COMMITTEE**
- 4. COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSION**

City of DeLand

Strategic Plan

2023-2035



VISION FOR DELAND, FLORIDA

DeLand will ~~remain~~*aspire to be* a city whose diverse citizens demonstrate a strong sense of community. The City will ~~remain~~*aspire to be* dedicated to preserving and enhancing those assets which make DeLand distinctive. We, as citizens of DeLand, will continue to strive to maintain DeLand's heritage as the "Athens of Florida."

Guiding Principles: To achieve this vision, the Commission has adopted a number of principles to guide it as it seeks to preserve and enhance the City's distinctive assets. These principles are presented below by major theme.

1. COMMUNITY. We will develop and implement programs and services that enhance the small town atmosphere and quality of life in DeLand by maintaining and / or developing:

Commented [DG1]: Add to definitions "images/characteristics of a small town and historic"

- a community of beautiful and safe neighborhoods, all with easily accessible public space, green space and bike and pedestrian friendly design;
- a culturally diverse community that values its diversity;
- a core community distinguished by its historic downtown, arts and cultural community, trees, Stetson University, and older, well maintained homes;
- downtown events that bring people together for a wide range of recreational, cultural, and intellectual events;
- infrastructure that provides interconnection between all community neighborhoods;
- services or infrastructure which help our community and residents remain healthy and mobile;
- a safe community;
- a community with quality and accessible healthcare.

2. EDUCATION. We will support comprehensive educational opportunities that provide our citizens with tools for their well being by:

- recognizing the critical importance that education and work skills play in ensuring we can have the quality community we want;
- advocating for our educational institutions to meet the lifelong learning needs of our residents, our employers and our employees;
- advocating family and parenting skill development as the building blocks of education;
- advocating quality educational opportunities for all residents as a lifelong pursuit;
- advocating vocational programs that meet the needs of employers and employees;
- providing community education about government;
- advocating a community with advanced technology that supports the enhancement of education and the economy;
- recognizing the importance and efficacy of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) in K-12 education.

3. GROWTH. The City will manage growth in a manner that ensures we maintain our distinctive character, charm and small-town feel by:

- protecting the natural environment through sustainable development practices and instituting smart growth principles;
- promoting quality design with ~~dinstinctive~~ distinctive neighborhoods;
- promoting housing options for a range of income levels;
- promoting interconnected transportation options that allow residents to easily move between where they live, work and recreate;
- promoting the creation of public and private green space and parks where residents can meet and enjoy a range of recreational opportunities.;

3.4. ECONOMY. Recognizing that a healthy economy promotes our success, we will:

- foster an entrepreneurial environment that supports local partnerships to create small business incubators and start ups;
- have a sustainable growth policy requiring the wise use of fiscal and natural resources;
- foster an economy that encourages diverse and economically rewarding job opportunities for all, resulting in a strong tax base;
- foster an economy that takes advantage of our regional location, transportation connections and airport;
- develop an economic infrastructure that supports local, regional and global business practices;
- seek out active partners in regional economic development;
- emphasize and promote Ecological, Cultural, Heritage, and Outdoors [ECHO] Tourism resulting in capital development;
- develop or advocate for transportation and mobility options that support economic activity.
- recognize and support the existing “economic generators” in our community.

4.5. HISTORY. DeLand is identified as the “Athens of Florida.” That heritage started with the City’s Founder, Henry A. DeLand. Henry DeLand’s goal was to create a town dedicated to the advancement of education and culture, much like the Athens of Greece. To this end, he started the DeLand Academy, which became Stetson University and in fulfillment of his dream, DeLand has been a center for culture and education. Recognizing that our future is guided by our heritage, we will:

- protect
 - our **historic** downtown
 - Stetson University
 - our **neighborhoods**
 - our other historic areas;
- encourage historic preservation and restoration efforts;
- advocate for flexible development standards for historic properties;
- encourage new development in the core that complements the historic character of the core community;
- encourage functional reuse of historic buildings while maintaining the historic character of the community;
- support programs that emphasize and promote the historic attributes of the community.

Commented [DG2]: Better define historic - add dates, style, significance

Commented [DG3]: Add protect vitality

5.6.CITIZENS. DeLand is comprised of citizens who are truly engaged and actively work to make the community a great place in which to live work and play. Recognizing the value of an active and engaged citizenry, we will:

- work to ensure that there are living wage jobs in our community so that our youth remain in DeLand and become of active part of our civic culture.
- support community engagement in all aspects of policy development.
- develop and/or support programs that keep citizens engaged in making DeLand a great place in which to live work and play.
- develop and implement policies that produce tangible and measurable solutions for people experiencing homelessness.
- encourage a high level of citizen participation in the community, particularly on cross-generational, multi-cultural projects;
- develop policies and programs to support growing senior citizen population.
- provide variety of recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages.
- foster a community culture that embraces the community's diversity.
- foster a city workforce culture that provides quality service to our citizens and recognize service of employees to the public.

Strategic Focus Area: Regional high value job creation.

Strategic Context: This first strategy acknowledges that DeLand is part of an economic region and when the region benefits, DeLand benefits. Secondly, the strategy emphasizes that the desired end result is high value jobs. A high value job is one that generates a family supporting wage while also offering meaningful work that would retain the youth of a community.

Strategic Results:

- Environmentally clean, high wage jobs.
- Increased diversity of the economic base of the community.

Strategies:

Retention and expansion of existing businesses and sites

Action Steps:

- ~~1. As opportunities are presented coordinate with Enterprise Florida to promote international marketing.~~
- ~~2.1. Continue business retention /communication programs and efforts program with the Chamber of Commerce.~~
- ~~3. Conduct staff analysis and hold Commission discussion of redevelopment sites to determine potential costs and potential beneficial uses.~~
- ~~4.2. Continue to Ddevelop business sites at airport, including “ready to build” sites.~~
- ~~5.3. Support policies and programs that encourage the retention and growth of our economic generators.~~
- ~~6.4. Work with Team Volusia, Volusia County Economic Development and other agencies to promote the DeLand Airport to facilitate diverse industries with clean jobs.~~
- ~~7. Work with the DeLand Chamber of Commerce and other agencies to assist local businesses with expansion efforts.~~

New business development (business recruitment and site development).

Action Steps:

1. Work with Team Volusia, Volusia County Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, and other agencies to promote the area and work prospects for the DeLand Airport and other properties to bring diverse industries with clean jobs.
- ~~2. Evaluate existing and additional incentives for economic development to remain competitive in the marketplace.~~
- ~~3.2. Provide assistance to fill vacant industrial/commercial sites.~~
 - ~~a. Spring Hill~~
 - ~~b. Downtown DeLand.~~
 - ~~c. Airport.~~

- d. Industrial areas.
- e. Gateway areas.
- ~~4. Develop a marketing strategy for new commercial and industrial businesses that includes brand and reputation management.~~
- ~~5.3. Pursue/Continue support for~~ Sport Aviation Village at DeLand Municipal Airport.
- ~~6.4.~~ Develop and implement strategies to attract jobs in science, engineering, architecture, education, arts, music, and entertainment whose economic function is to create new ideas, new technology, and new creative content – the “Creative Class Businesses.”
- ~~7.5.~~ Identify and pursue strategies to expand the downtown beyond its current boundaries.

Foster collaboration and partnerships

Action Steps:

1. Provide a unified and coordinated strategy with Team Volusia, County Government, and other economic development partners.
2. Cooperative efforts with other West Volusia cities [to include water resource management](#).
3. Work with the County, ~~west-side cities,~~ and other partners on the SunRail Transit Oriented Development Plan for DeLand Station [and transportation options from SunRail to downtown](#).
4. Enhance user-friendliness in terms of economic development support.
- ~~5.~~ Work with Career Source Flagler/Volusia to provide more job training and job opportunities for residents including those with criminal records and felony convictions.

Strategic Focus Area: Institute Smart Growth principles:

Strategic Context: To manage growth, the City will need to institute a number of smart growth principles. For reasons of both community identity and governmental efficiency, an annexation strategy is required which will “square off” the City’s boundaries.

Strategic Results:

- Annexation which will “square off” the City’s boundaries.
- Quality growth that preserves the character of the City.
- ~~Encourage redevelopment~~ Redevelopment of blighted areas.

Commented [DG4]: Define blighted areas

Strategies:

Annexation

Action Steps:

1. Require contiguous properties to annex.
2. Continue to review annexations from a business plan perspective.
3. Conduct annexation feasibility studies when appropriate.

Redevelopment

Action Steps:

1. Pursue downtown residential redevelopment.
2. In cooperation with County, support Spring Hill redevelopment through the Spring Hill Community Redevelopment Agency.
3. Promote downtown commercial redevelopment with MainStreet DeLand.
4. Pursue redevelopment in areas outside of City core.
5. ~~Develop action plan for use of existing public lands and buildings owned by county and City in Downtown.~~
5. Develop incentives for redevelopment:
 - a. Downtown residential
 - b. Commercial
 - c. “Local” Retail Stores
6. Provide density bonuses for housing options and preferred development patterns.
7. Position mobile home park as a site for affordable housing options.
8. Develop a “missing middle” housing strategy.
9. Continue efforts to expand downtown.

Commented [DG5]: Define “preferred development”

Commented [DG6]: Add a definition of “missing middle”

Community consistent growth (promote character consistent growth)

Action Steps:

1. Implement the 2050 vision plan, to include joint planning agreements with

the County.

2. ~~Implement smart growth policies relating to increasing urban densities and protecting conservation areas.~~
3. ~~Provide 4.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 population.~~
- 4.2. Encourage use of Planned Development Agreements in zonings.
- 5.3. Promote mixed use development that localizes traffic trips.
- 6.4. ~~Adopt County sponsored stormwater requirements utilizing 100 year storm event. Increase stormwater **standardsrequirements** for all **new** developments.~~
- 7.5. Manage the difference in rates between potable and reuse water so as to encourage conservation.
- 8.6. Work with other cities and the County to provide a sustainable and affordable water supply to meet demand.
- 9.7. Review and update land development regulations and policies and incorporate principles that encourage smart growth ~~and~~ redevelopment and low impact development **standardsstandards**.
- 10.8. Develop transportation mobility strategy which may include traffic congestion management approach.
11. ~~Explore development of similar rules for commercial development between the City and County on gateway corridors.~~
9. Decrease parking requirements when development provides other desired features that could reduce traffic impacts.
10. Work with county to create a unified approach to development approvals that incorporates low impact development policies, smart growth principles, that would encourage preferred development patterns in the City and the surrounding **unincorporatedunincorporated** area.
11. Consider an approach to development which includes a hybrid of form based codes and traditional **Euclidian** zoning.
12. Continue to conduct current practices which improve the predictability, stability and timeliness of development review.
13. Develop regulations that would encourage commercial development along the street with parking and other functions behind the building. Develop an incentive package to encourage character compatible commercial development downtown.
14. Develop a "**nodal**" strategy for development that would encourage a diversity of development approaches based on the character of the City.
15. Continue to protect and maintain the tree canopy.
16. Reduce cul-de-sac developments encourage more expanded grid development.
17. Create artisan community/**workspace**.

Commented [DG7]: Not just new development

Commented [DG8]: Add definitions "Euclidian", hybrid, form based, etc

Commented [DG9]: Define "nodal"

Commented [DG10]: Add bullet

Strategic Focus Area: Preserving “Sense of Community” as a key asset.

Strategic Context: Throughout the strategic planning process, the term “sense of community” has been highly valued as a distinctive DeLand asset. The term is most often associated with downtown, the historic district, Stetson, and the old city grid. It is this core city identity that citizen’s want to maintain and preserve. This distinctiveness is critically important in the New Economy where sense of place is a highly valued asset. There is synergy between high value jobs and maintaining the current sense of place that distinguishes the core city.

Strategic Result:

- Maintenance of distinctive core city.
- Preserve “sense of community.”

Strategies:

Current asset protection and maintenance

Action Steps:

1. Ensure that the quality of public investments is maintained through a long term maintenance plan.
 - a. Implement multi-year maintenance plan for city assets (buildings, parks, pools, etc) and downtown improvements that promote mobility.
 - b. Enhance right of way maintenance, pavement/sidewalks, signage, and curbs city-wide.

Promote additional investment

Action Steps:

1. ~~Work with MainStreet DeLand Association to prioritize and schedule additional public improvements.—Continue partnership with Mainstreet DeLand Association.~~
2. Continue private investment in those core assets that define “sense of community.”
 - a. Encourage private investment in commercial redevelopment and residential restoration.
 - b. Provide incentives to encourage redevelopment of commercially underutilized buildings.
3. Develop plan for maintenance and utilization of downtown parking lots.
- 3.4. ~~Conduct a feasibility analysis for a parking garage.~~
- 4.5. Implement other facets of Downtown Master Plan Update.
 - a. Develop alternate forms of transportation downtown linked to Intermodal Facility, i.e. downtown trolley.
- b. ~~Continue partnership with Main Street Association.~~
- c. ~~Maintain linkage with Stetson facilities.~~

- 5.6. Promote bicycle/pedestrian friendly resources.
- 6.7. Create-Maintain an Arts and Culture District in downtown DeLand.
8. Develop policies and plans for development outside of our core that promotes public and private investment that is complementary to our core, not competitive.
9. Maintain and expand public spaces for community events and gatherings, expansion of use of existing facilities.
- 7.10. Pursue expansion of public art program.

Create and/or support public policies that promote a sense of community, promote our community's history, promote inclusiveness or solve important community issues.

Action Step:

1. Support additional diverse and inclusive events throughout the City.
2. Add youth programs that create more youth influence in the community.
3. Create a database for volunteers in the community.
4. Support preservation of historic structures in core city as well as throughout the City.

Continue to support quality of life features

Action Step:

1. Expand range of City parks such as dog parks, and other specialty parks.
2. Continue festivals and public events.
3. Develop sites for community gardens.
4. Encourage the development of more "night life" venues.
5. Discuss with Stetson and Daytona State College a program to allow local residents/seniors to audit classes.
6. Expand programming at Senior Centers

Commented [DG11]: Add Daytona State College

4.

Strategic Focus Area: Creating the connected community.

Strategic Context: It is the connections between the three elements identified so far which will create the economic dynamism and the community vibrancy desired by the citizenry. This connection takes form in four ways:

- **Key Corridors.** The City has two key corridors – Woodland and SR 44 and several gateways that are important entry ways into the City. The look and feel of these corridors and gateways needs to be consistent or complementary with the City both to enhance the sense of community as well as permeate across the City the image of DeLand as a distinctive place which attracts high value wage earners and high value jobs.
- **Greenways.** This includes recreational areas, bike paths, urban trails, sidewalks and other physical connections which allow one to move about the city in a pedestrian-friendly manner. This connection fosters sense of community while also supporting the attractiveness of the City to high value jobs.
- **Information.** To attract high value jobs and high value wage earners and entrepreneurs, the City must offer access to the world through electronic means.
- **Comprehensive Code Enforcement on a focused basis.** If the City is to maintain its competitive advantage as a real place with a sense of community, no part of the City can be allowed to deteriorate. Therefore code enforcement must be comprehensive, but used on a focused, priority basis.

Strategic Results:

- Mobility.
- Community aesthetics and appearance.
- Human and technological connections.
- Preserve sense of community for long term as well as new residents.

Strategies:

Walkability and alternative mobility

Action Steps:

1. Continue implementation of sidewalk master plan with emphasis on safety and linking neighborhoods to each other and to the other features of the City, i.e. downtown, parks, schools, etc.
 - a. Continue the sidewalk construction using a ~~ten-year~~ten-year plan and repair all broken sidewalks within a ~~five-year~~five-year program.
 - a.b. Expand sidewalks in areas where gaps exist~~exist~~.
2. Continue to develop all phases of the DeLand Greenway of the trails included in the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan.
3. ~~Develop and implement a plan to make DeLand a bicycle friendly community modeled after best practices put forth by the League of American Bicyclists.~~ean Bicyclists.

Traffic Mobility

Action Steps:

1. Identify and implement options for traffic calming throughout the City.
2. Continue street resurfacing plan.
- ~~3. Continue to pursue Sunrail station for DeLand.~~
- ~~4.3.~~ Develop options to shuttle commuters from Sunrail to downtown DeLand.
4. Encourage other alternative forms of public transportation.
5. Promote grid street patterns to assist with traffic and parking.
6. Consider one-way streets (with side parking) to alleviate parking limitations.
7. Analyze/consider more areas to be permitted for golf cart use on City streets.
8. Continue to support the maintenance and expansion of public transportation.
9. ~~Develop~~ Investigate a downtown trolley.
10. Examine options to reduce drive through traffic downtown.

Design and Appearance

Action Steps:

- ~~1. Continue development of DeLand Greenway.~~
- ~~2.1.~~ Roadways:
 - a. Partner with the Florida Department of Transportation and Volusia County to develop a corridor improvement plan which identifies ways in which the major entrances into the City can be improved.
 - b. Continue to Improve City's gateway signage.
- ~~3.2.~~ Maintain and improve the aesthetic appearance throughout the City and along its gateways.
 - a. Gateways:
 - i. Enforce the City's Design Standards.
 - ii. Focus proactive enforcement on major issues that create unsightliness along the City's gateways.
 - iii. Mowing, litter control, planting trees.
 - iv. Continue Joint code enforcement/gateway standards with the County.
 - v. Develop joint code enforcement programs with the County on shared corridors.
 - vi. Maintain Tree City USA designation.
 - b. Continue focused program for razing condemnable structures as funding allows.
 - c. Review sign requirements.

Strategic Focus Area: High value government.

Strategic Context: To support the combination of high value jobs and sense of community a high value government must be fostered. This would include as:

- Increased use of e-governmental tools to communicate internally and externally.
- Alignment of resources to the strategic plan.
- Integrated city infrastructure with other public and private infrastructure sources.

Strategic Results:

- Efficiency.
- Effectiveness.
- Organizational Capacity Leadership.
- Interaction with citizenry and access to city government.

Strategies:

Technology leadership

Action Steps:

1. Continue implementation of a strategic information technology plan.
2. Continue to position the City to be a municipal leader in the use of information technology for public services by achieving e-qualified community status.
3. Enhance e-government capabilities:
 - a. ~~Expand and continually improve city web site. Develop interactive website.~~ Continue interactive City website.
 - b. ~~Endeavor to~~ Promote the use of ebilling and epayment options. install all new customer accounts through electronic payments.
 - c. ~~Develop a social media strategy consistent with Florida law.~~
 - b. Continue social media marketing of City events, activities and progress on initiatives.
4. Facilitate partnering opportunities with other related infrastructure providers.
5. Provide education to city workforce on technology utilization and cyber security.

Organizational Improvement

Action Steps:

1. Annually provide customer service training for employees.
2. Continue implementation of an organizational improvement / process re-engineering program.
3. Systematically and continuously review City functions from the perspective of how technology can improve efficiency and effectiveness.
4. Identify long term investments in technology, facilities, and training to

enhance services and operations.

5. ~~Systematically and e~~Continuously review City functions for improved efficiency and effectiveness and consider potential privatization and/or public partnership advantages.

Facilities and infrastructure

Action Steps:

1. Expand green space throughout the City.
1. ~~Maintain park system to provide 4.6 acres per 1,000 citizens and increase capacity at existing facilities.~~ Develop a parks and recreation master plan to determine the location of new parks and the types of amenities residents would like to add or modify and develop an action plan to pursue those improvements.
2. Continue maintenance of City facilities in accordance with five-year maintenance plan.
3. Aggressively pursue expansion of reclaimed water system master plan for expansion.
4. ~~Complete a comprehensive analysis of all underutilized public property in downtown and determine optimum future use.~~

Future planning

Action Steps:

1. Maintain City Strategic Plan and update at City goal setting workshop annually.
2. In cooperation with the other west-side utilities, develop and implement strategies and facilities to meet the requirements of the Blue Springs Mitigation Strategy.
3. Continue capital investments to alleviate future flooding of neighborhoods.
- 3.4. Increase stormwater requirements for new development.
- 4.5. Prioritization of projects included in Stormwater Master Plan.
- 5.6. Plan for increased cultural diversity and increased senior citizen population.
- 6.7. Continue expansion of activities at the Sanborn Activity Center to meet demand for senior programs.
- 7.8. Expand programs at Chisholm Community Center.
8. ~~Develop a plan for future park facility needs.~~

Service Improvements

Action Steps:

1. Emphasize paperless record keeping.
2. Develop partnerships for better efficiency, reduced costs.
3. Develop interactive use of City web site.

Staff development

Action Steps:

1. Strengthen leadership/management skills of existing employee base.
2. Continue to implement succession plan.
3. Develop a [diversity equity and inclusion](#) plan.
4. Provide technology training to City work force. Regularly scheduled classes, technology curriculum, ask employees what they need.

Strategic Focus Area: Communication.

Strategic Context: To maintain a high level of both internal communications within the City Government as well as ensure a two-way flow of information between the City Government and the citizens.

Strategic Results:

- Informed and engaged citizenry and city employees.
- Improved access to city government.

Strategies:

Public communication and outreach. A comprehensive public relations approach incorporating newsletters, e-communications, outreach efforts and other identified tools for improving both public access to and understanding of government, as well as to increase public participation in civic affairs.

Action Steps:

- [1. Maintain City website and social media to keep residents informed about programs, initiatives, events, and City news.](#)
- ~~1.~~[2. Develop and implement a strategic communications plan.](#)
- ~~2.~~[3. Emphasize personal contacts with citizens vs. heavy reliance on electronic communication.](#)
- ~~3.~~[4. Survey community periodically on city services.](#)

Citizenship development

Action Steps:

1. Continue local student government academy designed to provide high school students with knowledge of local government (Chamber, High School).
2. Pursue development of a youth council.
3. Pursue development of a citizen's academy.
4. Continue/expand activities related to Florida city government week.

Expanded access

Action Steps:

1. Encourage civic engagement in the policy development process.
2. Continue a City Commission citizen concern response system.

Legislative

Action Steps:

1. Continue development of annual legislative action platform.

2. Communicate policy positions of City to State legislators on specific State legislative initiatives.

Strategic Focus Area: Maintaining a Safe Community

Strategic Context: To have a thriving, prosperous, and exciting community in which to live work and play it is necessary to first provide for the safety of our citizens.

Strategies:

Maintain public safety

Action Steps:

1. Insure public safety services are developed to meet needs of annexed areas.
2. Continue a program of stricter speed limit enforcement.
3. Continue closest station response with Volusia County and coordinate public safety service delivery.
- 3.4. [Continue implementation of Advanced Life Support.](#)
- 4.5. Maintain strong law enforcement presence in the community.
- 5.6. Develop additional preventative public safety services that are not emergency services.
- 6.7. Enhance communication between public safety and citizens.
- 7.8. Continue Citizens Police Academy and utilize alumni in appropriate ways to assist in law enforcement efforts.
- 8.9. Work with the Volusia County Sheriff's office to develop and implement a joint policing program.
10. Develop and implement policies that produce tangible and measurable solutions for people experiencing homelessness.
- 9.11. [Increase planning with healthcare partners.](#)

Strategic Focus Area: Preparing for the Future/Sustainability

Strategic Context: Recognizing that the City itself is dynamic and that extensive changes will occur in the region in the near and long term future, it is important that there be a strategic focus on the future.

Strategic Results:

- Identification of emerging issues that can impact the City.
- Proactive development of plans and strategies to address those issues.

Strategies:

Identification of emerging issues and options regarding a growing senior population.

Identification of emerging issues and options regarding health care services in the community.

Recognize and where possible facilitate or participate in mobility (transportation) planning for the community in the regional context.

Increase opportunities for affordable housing.

Identify and facilitate means to address community social needs.

Identify and pursue sustainability opportunities.

Action Steps:

1. Promote sustainability in policy decisions.
2. Identify sustainability initiatives to be pursued with grant money.
- [3. Pursue Florida Green City platinum designation.](#)
- [4. Participate in Florida League of Cities Race to Zero](#)
- [3-5. Apply for Resilient Florida grant to study flood vulnerability.](#)
- [6. Pursue federal grant to expand second floor buildings downtown.](#)

City of DeLand Strategic Plan

Definitions

Advanced Life Support - Assessment or treatment by a person qualified to the use of techniques such as endotracheal intubation, the administration of drugs or intravenous fluids, telemetry, cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation, and other techniques described in the EMT-Paramedic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards, pursuant to rules of the department.

Artisanal Community - A community that integrates residential and studio space for persons skilled in an applied art or craft to make a high-quality, distinctive product in small quantities, usually by hand and using traditional methods.

Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan - A comprehensive, long-range plan intended to guide the planning and development of the community's future bike and pedestrian goals and objectives.

Character Consistent Growth - Development that is consistent with the surrounding built environment in terms of character and context.

Clean Jobs - Industrial and manufacturing employment opportunities that have minimal impact on the surrounding area and/or conserve natural resources.

Community Redevelopment Agency - A government entity or organization created by a local government to address and revitalize areas within a community that are suffering from blight, economic stagnation, or other developmental challenges.

Creative Business Class - A classification of jobs associated with science, engineering, architecture, education, arts, music, entertainment, and similar fields whose economic function is to create new ideas, new technology, and new creative content.

Density Bonuses – Those residential units granted pursuant to the provisions of our development codes which exceed the otherwise maximum density for the development site.

Design Standards - A set of guidelines defining parameters to be followed in site and/or building design and development.

Distinctive Neighborhoods - Communities or neighborhoods with a strong sense of place, that build on their unique history, identity, and assets to foster community pride, and increase social interaction.

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Plan - A strategic framework that an organization develops to promote and foster diversity, equity and inclusion within its workforce and broader operations.

Diverse Industries - Promoting the establishment and expansion of diverse commercial and manufacturing industries to support sound job growth and a strong and stable economic tax base for the city.

Historic - Any prehistoric or Historic District, site, building, object or other real or personal property of historical, architectural or archaeological value. These properties or resources may include, but are not limited to, monuments, memorials, Native American habitations, ceremonial sites, abandoned settlements, sunken or abandoned ships, engineering works, treasure troves, artifacts, or other objects with intrinsic historical or archaeological value, or any part thereof, relating to the history, government, or culture of the City of DeLand.

Hybrid Based Code - An adaptation the use-based regulations with a newer, form-based approach. This approach balances these two types of development standards while uniquely focusing on a more predictable, outcome-based application process.

Joint Planning Agreement - A written agreement or understanding between two local governments designed to facilitate planned growth for the region and community.

Land Development Regulations - Regulations enacted by the City of Deland for the regulation of any aspect of development, and land use that implement the policies of the Comprehensive Plan.

Low Impact Development Practices - Land planning, design, and construction practices to conserve and protect natural resource systems and reduce runoff and pollutants.

Missing Middle Housing Strategy – Establishment of criteria and incentives to facilitate the production of higher density infill duplexes, triplexes, multi-family and cottage homes, to provide a variety of housing types.

Mixed Use Development - Development projects that provide more than one use or purpose within a shared building or development area. Mixed-use projects may include any combination of housing and office, retail, medical, recreational, or commercial components.

Mobility Options - Multimodal options that help residents, businesses, and industries move more freely throughout the community and region.

Nodal Strategy - Central or connecting points in a neighborhood that have a mix of residential, commercial, industrial and institutional uses and buildings.

Planned Development Agreements - A negotiated contract or agreement between project proponents and public agencies that govern the land uses and performance standards that may be allowed for a project.

Race to Zero – Is a program created by the Florida League of Cities. It is a friendly competition between municipalities to showcase how they are leading the way to carbon neutrality. The Florida Race to Zero is part of a global Race to Zero campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, governments, and investors for a healthy, resilient and decarbonized economy.

Smart Growth Principles - Planning, regulatory, and development practices and techniques founded upon and promoting the following principles: (1) using land resources more efficiently through compact building forms, infill development, and moderation in street and parking standards in order to lessen land consumption and preserve natural resources; (2) supporting the location of stores, offices residences, schools, recreational spaces, and other public facilities within walking distance of each other in compact neighborhoods that are designed to provide alternate opportunities for easier movement and interaction; (3) providing a variety of housing choices so that the young and old, single persons and families, and those of varying economic ability may find places to live; (4) supporting walking, cycling, and transit as attractive alternatives to driving, providing alternative routes that disperse, rather than concentrate, traffic congestion; and lowering traffic speeds in neighborhoods; (5) connecting infrastructure and development decisions to minimize future costs by creating neighborhoods where more people use existing services and facilities, and by integrating development and land use with transit routes and stations; and (6) improving the development review process and development standards so that developers are encouraged to apply the principles stated above.

Strategic Information Technology Plan - A comprehensive document that outlines an organization's long-term goals and objectives related to its use of technology.

Succession Plan - A structured strategy put in place by an organization to identify and prepare potential successors for key positions within the company, particularly leadership roles.

Sustainable Development Practices - Development that maintains or enhances economic opportunity and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which people and economies depend and meets the current needs without compromising future generations.

Sustainable Growth Policy - Policies that implement social, economic, and environmental planning to balance the social and economic needs of present and future generations with the goal of preserving, or preventing undue damage to the natural environment.

Traditional "Euclidian" Zoning - The segregation of land uses into specified geographic districts and dimensional standards specifying limitations on the magnitude of development activity that is allowed to take place on lots within each type of district.

Transit Oriented Development Plan - A development plan that is either located around mass transit centers or along corridors that are developed at a density and intensity that makes it feasible to be served by public transportation. The plan helps create compact, walkable communities that provide a high quality of life without complete dependence on a car for mobility within the Deland Area.

Transportation Mobility Strategy - A plan that provides direction and guidance for optimizing travel needs in the community or region.

2050 Vision Plan - The adopted plan that provides the guiding principles for future growth within the city and utility service area.

Water Resource Management - The holistic approach to managing water supply and water risks to ensure sufficient quantity and quality to meet many competing demands, including drinking water and sanitation as well as energy production, food production, water transportation and navigation, recreation, and maintaining sustainable ecosystems. This includes planning, forecasting, and identifying the most effective and environmentally conscious methods of managing resources and maintaining equitable and cost-effective access to water.

A Strategic Plan for the City of DeLand

Approved by the City Commission of the City of DeLand this _____ day of _____, 2021

ATTEST:

Christopher Cloudman, Mayor – Commissioner

Julie A. Hennessy, City Clerk - Auditor

Charles Paiva, Commissioner Seat 2

Michael P. Pleus, ICMA-CM, City Manager

Jessica Davis, Commissioner Seat 3

Dan Reed, Commissioner Seat 4

Kevin Reid, Commissioner Seat 5



STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY REPORT

Prepared by the Office of
Community Information

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Situation Analysis

The City of DeLand started a year-long process of updating its strategic plan.

First adopted in 2000, the strategic plan outlines a vision for the city's future and strategies that should be utilized to get there. It is also a guiding document for the commission and staff when setting the budget.

The city's Strategic Plan serves as a guiding document in everything that we do - whether it is setting policy or the work staff does on a daily basis. Here are strategic focus areas of our current strategic plan:

- Regional high value job creation
- Institute smart growth principles
- Preserving "sense of community" as a key asset
- Creating a connected community
- High value government
- Communication
- Maintaining a safe community
- Preparing for the future/sustainability

The plan was updated in 2005 and city has tried to update the plan every 10 years with 2015 being the last time it was updated. However, given the changes within our community and a city commission led by a new mayor for the first time in more than 20 years, the city is moving forward with an update this year.



About the Survey

To gauge sentiment, the city held several community meetings, however, attendance was not to the level anticipated. The electronic survey method helped capture the prevailing sentiment of our residents.

Surveys are great ways to gather insights and take the pulse of community sentiment.

In this case, the survey provided invaluable information as many of our community meetings had poor attendance.

The survey was developed using open-ended questions asked at the community meetings.

Though not scientific, nearly 800 people participated with more than half of respondents answering all questions asked.



The survey was started by nearly 800 respondents and more than half answered all of the questions. More than 4,500 responses total were collected.



Summary of Findings

Several themes emerged from the questions asked.

DOWNTOWN IS AN ASSET



Downtown was mentioned nearly 500 times in answers given by respondents. Many respondents view downtown as an area of the city that must be protected and maintained.

RESIDENTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENT



Excessive development was cited nearly 300 times in answers given in the survey. Many said it is eroding the city's small town charm.

HOMELESSNESS



Respondents have noticed an increased presence of homeless individuals in the community and it is having an effect on the city's overall appearance and perception of safety.

INFRASTRUCTURE



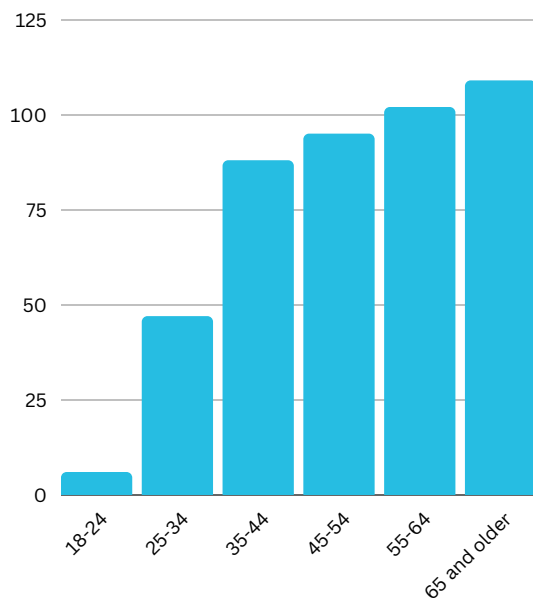
Many respondents commented on the lack of infrastructure in relation to increased development. Several commented on the increased traffic with little done to expand roadways, overcrowding of schools and relative lack of park space.



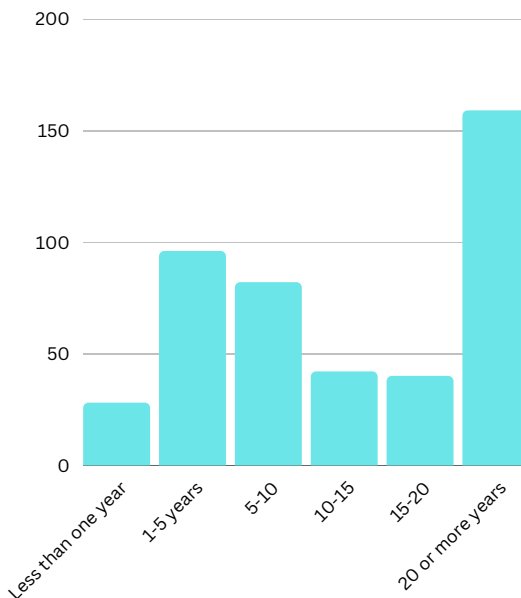
Demographics

Though not considered scientific, the survey provided a fairly even cross-section of our community

Age



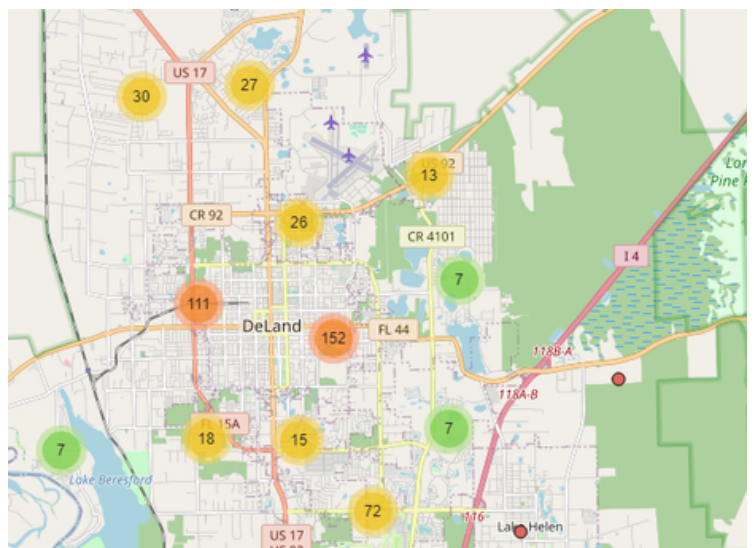
How long have you lived here?



What area best describes where you reside?

Respondents were asked to place a pin on a map to represent where they live.

Though some respondents indicated they lived outside of DeLand, an overwhelming majority live in the greater DeLand area.

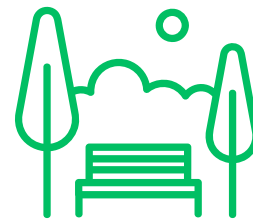


Question:

Think of three other communities that you might like to live in. What do they have that you would like to have in DeLand?

For this question, we asked respondents to think of other cities and list some of their best qualities that DeLand may not have. Of the cities cited by respondents, Winter Park is mentioned 30 times, Mt. Dora is mentioned 25 times, New Smyrna Beach - 13 times - and Sanford is mentioned by 11 respondents.

When citing these communities, people valued the green space and walkability offered by these various locations.



Variety in dining options especially in the city's downtown corridor was cited as a desire - with it being mentioned 50 times in responses.

Respondents also cited a desire for better planned subdivisions and less housing density altogether.

"The massive cookie cutter neighborhoods being built all over DeLand are an eye sore and taking away from what makes the DeLand area special."



Question:

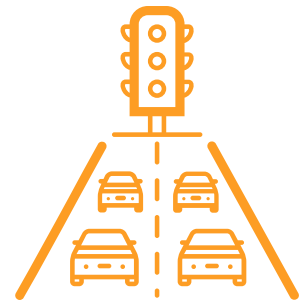
What is one feature that could be added to the City that would improve the quality of life in DeLand?



More park and green space was again a key concern and desire with some respondents being more specific such as wanting kid-friendly features such as a splash pad or pool or amenities such as walking paths.

"Community Waterpark; The springs are great but a lazy river and lap swimming open to the public at reasonable rates is something greatly needed. Water Aerobics/ swim lessons/ birthday parties etc. Chisholm Center Pool is never open and not inviting to general public."

Updating infrastructure such as roads, sidewalks, healthcare facilities and our schools to keep up with growth was cited several times by respondents.



Respondents across the board generally don't want to see more housing projects coming to the city. However, respondents to this question also noted there is a need for affordable housing.

"People who live and work in DeLand don't make that (much) money, and can't afford to live there. We need real affordable solutions."



Question:

What opportunities should the city pursue?

Many of the same themes such as park space, infrastructure, less development were touched on for all of the questions posed. Rather than belaboring those themes, we've highlighted some of the more thoughtful responses below:

"'Live here, work here, play here' opportunities versus opportunities that simply grow us as a bedroom community."



"Attract business creating more employment opportunity targeted to help families with lower incomes gain better income."

"The Putnam property presents an opportunity to reimagine what downtown DeLand could be. Connecting it with the Athens Theater and the Old Courthouse could create a unique green space or square not on a state highway. "

"Continuing the outreach to Spring Hill and add better sidewalks/bike paths for all residents to get downtown and around"



"More parks, trails and places for people to gather outside of downtown proper."

"Cultural, and recreational activities, more diverse restaurants and shops"



"Spring training baseball team."

"Keeping DeLand the small, quiet residential city that we all moved here to enjoy."



Question:

If you chose to live in DeLand, what factors were key in making that decision?

DeLand's population has experienced incredible growth over the last decade with roughly 27,000 residents registered in the 2010 Census and more than 37,000 in the 2020 Census - a growth rate of 9.25 percent. So it is important to ask **why** people are moving here.

"Small town" and "downtown" are cited in nearly 200 of respondent's answers. The word "community" appears about 49 times in responses. It should be noted that a number of survey takers believe growth is eating away at the qualities that brought them here.

"It was a quiet, peaceful, charming community. It is now over populated."

"Small town feel, family-oriented, safe - but I do not feel like we are preserving these qualities."

Proximity to amenities such as the beach and big cities was another reason given by respondents for moving here.

"Small town feel, but close to major cities. Traffic is not bad. Cost of living is lower than bigger cities."

The city's events and festivals were also listed a major draw to live in DeLand.



"Small Town life. Less traffic, more friendly people. Strong sense of community & preservation of historic buildings. Celebrations and parades, hometown events."



Question:

What is your greatest hope and greatest fear for DeLand?

"I hope that DeLand will expand upon the things that make it a nice place to live. I fear it will become another copycat sprawling suburb with no character or uniqueness (like Deltona, Altamonte Springs, Brandon, or any number of other suburbs in this state)."

"Greatest hope: We lead the state in developing a small city that provides affordable housing, multimodal transportation options, and parks that showcase and preserve our beautiful natural areas."

Greatest fear: We focus on developing on the city periphery without planning for bicycle and pedestrian safety and become yet another sprawling suburb where getting around requires a car and where trees and natural spaces are sparse."

"That what's left of the small town feel can be preserved. Biggest fear is that we are at the point of no return with the over development. No adequate schools and traffic is getting out of control."

"That it will grow into a place where everyone feels welcome not just those with money. Fear - It will grow too much without enough policing and crime will be rampant."

"DeLand continues to feel small. My fear is that we continue to grow too fast and the citizens that have lived here 20+ years are the ones to pay for it."

"My greatest hope is that DeLand will embrace the small, historic town feeling that drew us to this area. My greatest fear is that, you will continue to clear cut massive areas for huge subdivisions and put further strain on our roads and schools."



Question:

What makes DeLand distinctive?

The city's downtown and small town feel are what people feel distinguishes DeLand from other cities - as respondents cited these qualities more than 200 times in their answers.

"Downtown- hip and historic at the same time. Still has small town feel despite growth."

"Its historic beautiful downtown, the citizens who fight to keep it small because they cherish its distinctive hometown feel, the families who've lived here for generations, the beautiful landscape of the places still left untouched by construction."

DeLand's community spirit and embrace of diverse cultures as well as our history was another distinctive trait pointed out by respondents.

"I love how when we go out around DeLand, we always run into someone we know. That is what I love about small towns, the sense of community that residents are able to foster."

"It has one high school. We close our downtown streets to have parades. When kids grow and leave, they can come back and still feel they are part of the community."

"I think that Stetson is truly the biggest gem in DeLand's crown. That and the historic buildings: The courthouse, the Athens Theater, and other various remarkable buildings that are so worth preserving."



Question:

The future will bring change to DeLand. What feature would you like to keep as we change. What feature would you reduce or eliminate?

The same themes seen throughout the survey are also found here: people wish to keep or maintain downtown and the small town feel and stop or limit development.

"I hope we can keep our uniqueness, trees and small town charm as they seem to be disappearing rapidly..."

"The small town feeling, is what makes DeLand special. Don't ever change that aspect. I want the city to stop cutting down so many trees and clearing land to continually build massive neighborhoods."

"Reduce the speed of growth until the infrastructure can catch up. Keep the small town feel."

"...I love our area and the future should embrace a theme such as "A small town with a big heart." Building a big town with no infrastructure and no upward mobility would be cruel to future generations. DeLand is beautiful and it should feel like a drive through paradise anyplace we go. Traffic and eyesores need to be worked on big time."

"We should keep the small hometown feel along with the rich history and diversity. I understand that cities must grow, but we need to absolutely stop forcing the growth at a rate that isn't sustainable while ignoring the people who currently live and work here in favor of importing people from out of town."

"Keep an emphasis on history, charm and community. Our 100-200 year old homes and giant oaks are a treasure, our downtown sector is the heart of the town and something that NONE of the other cities in Volusia have..."



Conclusions

Downtown and small town feel are valued by residents.

The city's downtown and small town are what brought many people here. The city should continue to look for ways to invest in the downtown corridor.

Growth and development are seen as a negative aspects for the city, and are seen as possible dangers to the city's greatest assets.

Growth and development are inevitable. But many feel these issues are chipping away at the qualities that brought them here.

Residents would like to see a focus on infrastructure to include green space and parks.

If growth is going to continue, residents expressed a need for the city to keep pace with roadway development and amenities like parks and green space for walking.

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Think of three other communities that you might like to live in.
What do they have that you would like to have in DeLand?

Holland, MI, Missoula, MT Haarlem, NL - they are all small towns that have a connected safe cycling network.

May 30, 2023

Lower population

May 30, 2023

Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Edgewater. Better shopping, more restaurants, closer to beaches.

May 27, 2023

Lake Helen , umatilla , Geneva , it's quiet and not over populated. There is land for the animals

May 26, 2023

Shopping Mall, Top Golf, Roller Coasters

May 26, 2023

Everywhere, even Lake Helen is getting to built up!!!! We want to live in the country, not a big city!!

No one wants growth but the people financially gaining from it!!

May 25, 2023

More restaurants
May 25, 2023

Sandford - more music venues and opened a little later as well as restaurants open a little later.
That's it. I like everything else we have in DeLand
May 24, 2023

More affordable housing
May 24, 2023

Better restaurants
May 23, 2023

Good schools Family events Shopping (target)
May 23, 2023

Cross Creek Glenwood Grand Ave
May 22, 2023

I think Deland is perfect with its small town appeal.
May 22, 2023

Winter park the shopping places Clearwater Florida the downtown is nice and the new large park for
concerts and they got rid of the homeless Sarasota many artistic venues and restaurants
May 21, 2023

A diverse selection of businesses focused on restaurant & retail within their downtown corridor. A
unique vibe amongst those shops but something that provides a reason to spend my money on
things I probably don't need.
May 20, 2023

Less people, more small town feel
May 20, 2023

Better schools. More crosswalk guards. Target. Another Starbucks location. A better variety on
places to eat. Less Homeless
May 19, 2023

Less developments. I was in country outside deland unincorporated. Kepler is a joke. The
roundabout is horrible. The developments are out of control. Three now on Kepler. It has to stop. I
came from Oregon we had bad government thre now homeless rule there. Mi want to live with
wildlife not houses that touch each other by 5'. You have no consideration for wildlife. Build is greed
not progress. Sad I wanted a small town feel this year it's awful. Too much allowed for building. 1.
Less development. Developers should have to donate some land for wildlife 2. More accountability
from developers. 3. More wildlife areas especially in Daytona park estates. Get maronda out! Shane
for allowing all buildings on Kepler and here. Nothing left for peace and quiet. Ocala, away from city.
I used to love small town feel Deland. Shame this won't be my forever home. I moved from Portland
Oregon due to homeless and crime ncrease. The druggies control Portland now. You have ruined
deland. I vote and seeing all the people upset here I agree enough is enough! Stop developing huge
developments. You allowed big tax breaks for developers. Learn word No to more development.
There won't be any land left!
May 19, 2023

Glenwood-more quiet, trees, less traffic. Lake Helen-small town, closeness with residents.
May 19, 2023

Fourth of July parade, nice steakhouse, splash pad, more festivals
May 18, 2023

No other community we wish to live in.
May 18, 2023

Easy access to sunrail Public park with activities like disc golf Water features
May 17, 2023

I love Deland, wouldn't want to live elsewhere.
May 17, 2023

My community currently has everything that I need or want!
May 17, 2023

Controlled growth. Growth management enforced Infrastructure before building. Less destruction of wildlife habitat. More parking downtown.
May 16, 2023

Tree-lined main roads
May 16, 2023

TREES
May 16, 2023

No litter of trash throughout the streets. Trees not trimmed from street lights and power lines
May 16, 2023

Winter Garden - Cohesive downtown that offers a family-friendly environment & takes advantage of historic roots Mt. Dora: Does an excellent job of maintaining a consistent charm throughout the downtown. It feels like a shopping, eating & strolling destination. Feels like a Hallmark movie. Winter Park - Maintains beautiful green spaces along with non-chain businesses. Beautiful, classy feel. Lovely brick streets & old-growth trees. Holiday events, etc.
May 16, 2023

more safe access to the river besides ed stone park garbage pick up 2x a week enforced noise ordinances
May 16, 2023

Delray Beach
May 15, 2023

outside concerts, park or botanic garden, trolley like system
May 15, 2023

Land
May 15, 2023

none
May 15, 2023

Less development and more infrastructure improvements.
May 15, 2023

Takes care of residents over big business. Control over economy. Rent locks and home sales. Live within means available. Incentives to revitalize damaged and/or abandoned properties.

May 15, 2023

+Buildings freshly painted, added landscape, enforce panhandling and vagrancy laws +Traffic rerouted, especially trucks from Woodland Blvd. and added landscaped outdoor dining +Remove old derelict buildings from entrance roads leading into main city area and improved landscape +Added parking and condos +Create a vibrant retail and dining environment in the downtown DeLand area
May 15, 2023

We love Deland.
May 15, 2023

Orange City has a Target Orlando has a Renters Rights office Winter Park has movies in the park every month
May 15, 2023

more police patrols in the elliot subdivision
May 14, 2023

Food, fun and feel safe.
May 14, 2023

Victoria Park Well maintained public areas
May 14, 2023

Better zoning laws More 4 lane roads with shoulders More park and walking trails
May 14, 2023

Elijay GA less people and traffic. I have loved her since I was five years old, crime is higher, traffic and building is just ridiculous. It no longer has that small town feel
May 14, 2023

I don't prefer any other community. That's why I made the decision to move here. The newer ones are worse, IMO, anyway.
May 14, 2023

More restaurant choices. Rail transit. More natural spaces dedicated to nature and never be allowed to be developed. A greenway around the city would be nice for walking, sports, running, etc.
May 14, 2023

Less housing density and better traffic flow.
May 13, 2023

I only want to live in Downtown Deland, Specifically I'd like to live in the University Highlands area, or the northwest historic district or the southwest historic district, I like these areas due to being able to walk downtown, them being historic home areas, and their proximity to Stetson's campus.
May 13, 2023

More beautiful parks near downtown.
May 13, 2023

Lake Helen. Not as busy or over developed Unincorporated Volusia Not as developed Debary. Not as developed
May 13, 2023

City ordinances (enforced) against using fireworks in the city.
May 13, 2023

They're all in other states and the reason is they have different weather.
May 13, 2023

No where else. My parents moved from Miami , where I was born and raised to DeLand in the early 80s. I moved around with the military and when I came back home after retiring I knew this is where I wanted to live.
May 13, 2023

Roads with lower speed limits need the roads wide enough to accommodate bicycles Plus sidewalks that are maintained for pedestrians
May 11, 2023

Not so many homeless persons, space, not too many people.
May 11, 2023

Less trash!! I've never lived anywhere with more litter than Deland. And I've lived in big cities, small cities, the burbs, etc.
May 11, 2023

I can't think of anywhere else I would like to live. I do like Winter Garden because of the downtown activities and feel. The bike trail has greatly impacted their town. I like the music system they have downtown also. Landscaping is also good. Their Christmas lights put Deland to shame.
May 9, 2023

Bike trails, electric bikes, symphony, comedy club, a full service car wash.
May 9, 2023

Louisville Kentucky has a wonderful city forested parks. Urban forests.
May 9, 2023

1.Orange City-West (Rural bit close to everything) 2.Lake Helen-Same as above 3.
May 8, 2023

Less traffic. Better traffic light management.
May 8, 2023

Small town feel with access to larger cities nearby Spread out, less dense living areas Lots of local restaurants and shops
May 8, 2023

As a 67 year old life long resident of DeLand my answers are unique from a small town kid in the past to a senior now. I miss old DeLand (the Mayberry type atmosphere) and I appreciate many things about current DeLand (The Alley, Athens, the unique shops and restaurants, etc.). The current building boom is...well booming. I don't see expanded sewer and water being addressed i.e. infrastructure building. I have to assume those things are being addressed. There is no way to widen the 2 main arteries running through the town. When these new homes and apartments are fully occupied....no way you can drive through DeLand. The city has done well with historic preservation of buildings and homes. I know you realize that DeLand, being a quaint quiet town, was the draw for many who moved here or lived here already. Growth is enevitable- please be a good steward for DeLand.
May 5, 2023

Individuality in houses, well kept yards, small stores nearby
May 5, 2023

Better police to help with the noise Better restrictions to help with dog ordinance as far as barking all day And my St., North Clara is like a race track. It needs speed bumps.
May 4, 2023

Rural anywhere in Volusia....trees! Anywhere there are trees. TREES!
May 4, 2023

A drive through park with a lake and walking, biking trails in a safe area.
May 4, 2023

Mount Dora, Downtown Sanford, Hood River, OR. I wish there was less heavy traffic downtown.
May 4, 2023

More park space More sidewalks Green spaces reserved for non development
May 3, 2023

Art residences, art collectives
May 3, 2023

Intelligent leaders Better roads More localized parks
May 2, 2023

I'm happy here
May 2, 2023

Orange City.. shopping and restaurants parks for young and old. More community events.
May 1, 2023

more sidewalks in residential areas
May 1, 2023

We love where we are. Many friends and active community well maintained.
May 1, 2023

Winter Garden - a large downtown with a mix of shops and living. Lake Mary My Dora
May 1, 2023

1. More streets' lights. 2. More sidewalks. 3. More cell towers close to living areas. 4. Better electric service, so we do not lose power for so long after a storm or hurricane.
Apr 29, 2023

There is nothing to do in deland for teenagers. We use to have teen dances, movies theater, and game room.
Apr 28, 2023

winter park. they have gorgeous views and greenery. they aren't actively cutting down every tree in creation to put up poorly built homes.
Apr 27, 2023

DeLeon Springs, not as overdeveloped & more greenery.
Apr 27, 2023

More parks and green space
Apr 26, 2023

DeLand is the community that we want to live in, period. I've lived in Florida for 43 years and DeLand has been the best. I would like to see a proper homeless shelter for the homeless population.

Apr 26, 2023

I wouldn't live anywhere else. I was born in DeLand in 1959. My parents were born here in 1927.

Apr 25, 2023

More retail/restaurants outside of the downtown area. More revenue generating infrastructure, but keep small town atmosphere. Spring training baseball team.

Apr 24, 2023

I love Deland!

Apr 24, 2023

I would rather live on property and avoid HOA's

Apr 24, 2023

Stop approving new residential communities. We have become too overgrown and we don't have the roads and infrastructure to support it. My fear is that we are going to look like Kissimmee in no time.

Apr 24, 2023

Lake Mary more restaurants and shops, Ocala more recreational activities Winter Park more cultural and recreational activity

Apr 24, 2023

Better Infrastructure

Apr 24, 2023

A community pool

Apr 23, 2023

Lake mary, winter park, winter springs. More and higher quality restaurants, better maintained common areas (Deland's are deplorable), access to more shopping besides dollar stores.

Apr 23, 2023

Park space!

Apr 23, 2023

- Bike lanes/paths - Nature preserve/trails

Apr 23, 2023

Reduced traffic Smaller population More natural wooded areas

Apr 23, 2023

Ormond Beach and Winter Park. They are careful in the businesses they choose to allow to build and also what they build. Very classy and not just plain or thrown together. As well as well kept. Also Mt. Dora. For the same reasons.

Apr 23, 2023

More variety of restaurants. Food in Orlando had a ton more variety, we should incentivize small businesses to encourage less chains more mom and pop shops. More bike lanes, better safety for pedestrians, I live off Plymouth and the sidewalk is attached the road with no space or barrier. More native plants, should require new development to use native plantings to help eco system and reduce water usage.

Apr 22, 2023

I would prefer to live places that actually tried to control growth to maintain the small town charm that DeLand used to have but is rapidly losing

Apr 22, 2023

Breckinridge, Colorado has a free shuttle that circulates around the town and areas outside of town. Woodstock, Vermont has lots of areas of forest (not developed).

Apr 22, 2023

I'm happy here

Apr 22, 2023

Green Spaces/Parks, Limiting the number of properties effected by blight, cutting edge/magnet k-12 schools

Apr 22, 2023

More entertainment, more community activities, better restaurants and stores

Apr 22, 2023

Lower taxes, way less development, less homeless

Apr 22, 2023

Amphitheater

Apr 21, 2023

A nicer lake park like Lake Eola.

Apr 20, 2023

I'm not sure what other communities, I haven't had a need to looked till now, I thought DeLand was going to be my last move in our senior years.

Apr 20, 2023

We like Historic Deland

Apr 19, 2023

Charming local spots. Wide range of local options for shopping and dining. Streets are clean. No homeless people all over downtown and everywhere you turn.

Apr 19, 2023

1) Better quality food choices - grocery (i.e., whole foods, trader joes) and restaurants. 2) Better pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. 3) Better code enforcement. Cars on the grass, RVs in the front yard being used as rental apartments. Extremely loud trucks and motorcycles disturb the peace. The crazy Trumper flag seller at the corner of 44 and spring garden.

Apr 18, 2023

Winter garden, mount dora and new Smyrna beach. Deland is similar to all of these places, but obviously without the ocean and a downtown lake. I like a thriving downtown with activities, restaurants, and places to dine outdoors.

Apr 18, 2023

Less building

Apr 18, 2023

Apr 18, 2023

More green space, less housing communities eating up all available land.
Apr 18, 2023

Apr 17, 2023

None, Sanford, Lake Mady, etc. I've lived in before and they are horrible places to live. I moved to DeLand to get away from those areas. Stop trying to turn DeLand into them!
Apr 17, 2023

Land set aside and protected for wildlife
Apr 16, 2023

More independent owned restaurants. Sidewalks on 17 heading from trails west to Glenwood Road on the South and North side. River Walk along the river at white hair bridge
Apr 16, 2023

Community cleanest, road cleanest, junk yard ordenance.
Apr 16, 2023

Median beautification - I love the communities that have plantings in the median. I'm in favor of wildflowers, Florida-friendly landscaping, perennial peanut, and some trees. I think that it makes the road looks nicer and brightens up a sometimes drab corridor like 17-92. DeBary's medians are nice. Also Winter Springs. Sidewalks - I think that we need more sidewalks and a better maintenance programs for our sidewalks. A sidewalk inventory should be completed showing where we are missing connections, and we could plan construction over the next several years. This again, should be paired with trees as to make anything walkable in Florida, you're going to need some shade. When I lived in Eugene, Oregon I could walk everywhere - it is a college town like us (though a bigger college, admittedly) but sidewalks and shade were plentiful. Bike lanes - I would again reference Eugene, OR for this. They have designated bike lanes, nearly the size of the car lanes, and separated from car traffic by parking. It makes people feel safer and increases options for safe and efficient transportation.
Apr 16, 2023

Northwest Deland-rural Lake Helen-rural
Apr 16, 2023

Affordable housing. Walk ability. Children's activities.
Apr 16, 2023

Downtown DeLand seems to shut down after 8 pm and many restaurants and businesses are closed Sunday - Tuesday... we need access to better restaurants and retail shops.
Apr 15, 2023

DeBary: They are now smaller with less traffic, less new housing, less growth Mt. Dora: Historic, small town, laid back, quiet, has less traffic than Deland and less new housing developements Paisley: small, more remote, less traffic and new houses
Apr 15, 2023

Certain restaurants and a fitness center like Sporta; parks/recreation like Freedom Playground in other areas of the city and a Skyzone for kids. More safe entertainment opportunities for our youth.
Apr 14, 2023

Performing Arts Center
Apr 14, 2023

Larger lots, more natural space, no HOA-just neighborhoods.
Apr 12, 2023

Lake Helen It's growing but not like Deland with all the crackerjack houses going up.
Apr 12, 2023

Winter Springs they have access to the sun rail, right in town. Mount Dora the downtown is multi
demential Longwood nice restaurants that are locally owned and less of a wait time.
Apr 12, 2023

More restaurants.
Apr 12, 2023

Orlando, FL Winter Park, FL Sanford, FL More diversity
Apr 12, 2023

Less traffic, better water, Country Club,
Apr 12, 2023

Less population, less crime, more safe areas.
Apr 11, 2023

More options for shopping - Target, mall, etc Movie theater Better restaurants
Apr 11, 2023

Natural parks with shade trees that promote/educate about Floridas natural environment.
Sustainable/environmentally friendly living. Community gardens. Small businesses. Promotion of
outdoor recreation.
Apr 11, 2023

Larger library, community gardens, better public transit
Apr 10, 2023

Better choice of restaurants for evenings out.
Apr 9, 2023

Deland has everything I want. Convenient to St. John's River, I 4, great restaurants, golf and plenty
of excellent healthcare facilities.
Apr 9, 2023

Access to diverse retail and restaurants. Mom and pop restaurants are great, but have to go to
Sanford or Daytona for more options that Deland lacks. Better school districts is a must, Deland is
behind on almost everything. I am considering moving closer to Orlando to get my kid to a better
school. The other communities I'm consider moving to has better emergency services and safer
areas. Additionally Deland has a lot of homelessness and panhandling. Really makes the city look
run down.
Apr 9, 2023

More mom/pop restaurants downtown, 50's diner,
Apr 9, 2023

Glen wood Mt. Dora Lake County Area Land and space, quiet living.
Apr 9, 2023

More green space. Great walking trails Parking
Apr 9, 2023

They have city leaders who also consider quality of life as an intangible asset and not give away assets in the form of tax breaks, or cave into money money interests.
Apr 8, 2023

Natural areas, open space, nature-based stormwater treatment.
Apr 6, 2023

More baby/kid-friendly activities to do in the area, more nightlife events/activities.
Apr 6, 2023

We actually were provided trash cans in Miami Dade. I have lived in my community for over four months and many residents still do not have trash cans. SOMEBODY IN CHARGE NEEDS TO BE FIRED. THIS IS AN OUTRAGE FOR INCOMPETENT PEOPLE TO BE RUNNING SUCH AN IMPORTANT AND CRITICAL BUSINESS.
Apr 6, 2023

Lake Helen, South Beach Miami, Key west Walkable, plenty of activities year round
Apr 5, 2023

I don't know of any community names. But I prefer not living in a HOA community and not have high crime
Apr 5, 2023

Less traffic, less traffic, less people. The building has gotten out of control. No more cute community
Apr 5, 2023

Parks for kids, dog parks. Walking biking trails not on roads
Apr 5, 2023

Ormond Beach, New Smyrna Beach, St. Augustine. Beautiful and clean streets and medians (not just downtown). Strict zoning that is not changed to make developers money. More upscale locally-owned restaurants outside of the city (less chain fast food - it makes DeLand seem low-class).
Apr 4, 2023

DeLeon Springs, New Smyrna - places that have maintained small town feeling and are not leaning quickly into building up industry and housing
Apr 3, 2023

Rail connection to Orlando Airport
Apr 3, 2023

Adult fitness at the community pool year round
Apr 3, 2023

We love DeLand and would not want to be anywhere else.
Apr 1, 2023

Cold weather and fewer people
Mar 31, 2023

Winter Park: public transit (ie sunrail IN downtown where the shops are) Mount Dora: organized and inclusive festivals and events, with a wide range of shops and things to do in the city center New Smyrna Beachside: they limit the amount of new build construction and housing, preventing extreme overload of city infrastructure or influx of vacation rental and residents not committed to the community
Mar 31, 2023

Historic Sanford, New Smyrna. They have many of the same features that I love about our city as it exists now. Historic preservation, an abundance of community events, "natural" spaces, shops and restaurants.

Mar 30, 2023

less auto traffic in downtown. Hop on/off tram

Mar 30, 2023

Better public schools

Mar 30, 2023

Lower property taxes. Better quality hospitals.

Mar 29, 2023

Mt Dora Winter Park Historic Orlando They have well maintained older trees and brick streets.

Mar 29, 2023

Lighted/walkable sidewalks, Police who actually show up to enforce noise complaints, trash buildup in neighbors yards. Enforce homeless congregating.

Mar 29, 2023

W. Beresford Ave

Mar 29, 2023

An art center/gallery where artists can work and sell their products, like the HUB in NSB

Mar 28, 2023

Affordable housing/apartments

Mar 28, 2023

Clearwater, Destin, Savannah All three cities appear to be doing a better job of managing growth.

Mar 28, 2023

Sanford Orlando Claremont. We already have the traffic without the infrastructure to handle the congestion. All three places named have frequent QUALITY FESTIVALS (aka food trucks) each has great restaurants to visit and an atmosphere most people between 18 and 80 would enjoy including well theme bars and restaurants

Mar 28, 2023

Winter Park, Lake Helen, outside Ocala. Winter park has some lovely niche stores and eating establishments. Better even because you have little worry when being in the area during later hours. They also have a far better school system and silly as it sounds water pressure!! Lake Helen because it's quaint. The houses are not packed one on top of another. OMG whoever agreed to building these homes so close together should be forced to live in them. Ours is bad enough but newer builds are getting even closer. You don't have the infrastructure for the volume of homes being built and the taxes in Deland are getting out of hand. Outskirts of Ocala is the same. Space between homes, multiple main roads in and out. Niche attractions.

Mar 28, 2023

More options for transportation, like bicycle riding. More natural spaces & natural playgrounds. An urban garden that allows for educational opportunities. A public pool for swimming, splash pad etc A space for homeschool families to utilize resources, classroom space, etc.

Mar 27, 2023

Winter park Mount Dora Only those. They have done more with their downtowns and did not rest and say "job well done". They keep making it better. Their downtown experience is superior.
Mar 27, 2023

Less traffic and population density, small town feel/charm, and less sprawl.
Mar 27, 2023

#1 - No homeless #2 - More Police Officers #3 - More Trash Collection days
Mar 27, 2023

More public parks / playgrounds More bike / running trails less homelessness
Mar 27, 2023

Food hall, smart parking app, splash pad
Mar 27, 2023

Specific stores. Job opportunity. Affordability of rentals.
Mar 27, 2023

Centrally located parks with water, landscaping, nature, paths, benches. Streetscaping and lighting.
Mar 27, 2023

Key West New Smyrna Beach Delray Beach
Mar 27, 2023

Better roads. More downtown parking.
Mar 26, 2023

New Smyrna Beach Key West Austin All fun, funky towns with an appreciation for history
Mar 26, 2023

Property to grow my own food. And not feel I'm crammed next to my neighbor.
Mar 26, 2023

Vibrant, walkable downtown with residential , retail and restaurants. Green space, parks and choices of transportation. Controlled and managed traffic with adequate roads.
Mar 26, 2023

Limited used car lots in Unincorporated areas. Stronger law enforcement presence in all areas incorporated and unincorporated areas. Enforcement of traffic laws. Enforcement of noise ordinances recently passed limiting how far noise should travel during day/night hours. Not currently being enforced in unincorporated or incorporated areas at all.
Mar 26, 2023

Cheaper water bills. Cheaper electric bills Recycling of more materials
Mar 26, 2023

Mount Dora art and restaurants Winter Park art and restaurants Sarasota art restaurants and beautiful parks
Mar 26, 2023

Trolley service especially since there is no downtown grocery. Downtown playground.
Mar 26, 2023

Larger lots and distance between new houses. Less new houses built on totally cleared lots. Enough schools so that they can satisfy the 1:18 ratio voted on by the citizens of Florida.

Mar 25, 2023

Peaceful, family oriented, shops.

Mar 25, 2023

Lenexa Kansas does a great job as a city building and advancing the area for residents. Better landscaped parks with flowers and plants. Cleaned up grass areas with flowers and plants along our roadways and center dividers to beautify our city more. Require that some of the buildings around the city are painted and better well kept. Homeless issues could also be better addressed in the downtown and wooded areas in and around town. A large community pool complex/water park for city residents to use and purchase passes for. Gym and fitness area and a bigger upgraded public library.

Mar 25, 2023

Sanford, more breweries downtown Oviedo, better school system St. Pete, rich culture

Mar 23, 2023

Lots of parks An aquatic center Dog parks

Mar 23, 2023

There was no other. I lived in Dade County and it was terrible. I feel in love with Deland's charm and historical beauty. However, this is being taken away with too many developments. All this traffic is awful as the roads are not designed for it. I no longer enjoy living in Deland.

Mar 23, 2023

Ability to have a small flock of chickens, better water pressure (DeLand is beyond pitiful)

Mar 23, 2023

Winter Park - lots of unique places to eat and close to lots of museums and parks. St Pete (grand central district) - very laid back and small town vibe Downtown Savannah GA - love the big downtown vibe but with small town charm

Mar 23, 2023

Bigger clubhouse New management Security

Mar 22, 2023

While I'd like to ask for more high-value local careers and increased school funding, a smaller and more achievable attractive community amenity is a Makerspace - a local community building where kids and adults can take classes or rent workshop space for a variety of STEM-related activities- woodshop, welding, coding, robotics, tool rental, etc. This community resource gives people the tools and community they need to grow in interests that their education hasn't provided. In the long run, DeLand will need to invest in some way to bring those high-value careers (doctors, lawyers, and engineers) to the community. That won't happen until the school district improves with funding. But until then, a Makerspace will provide a more immediate result, giving old and young the resources to make a living immediately.

Mar 22, 2023

More playgrounds for little ones Houses with 2 acre lots Neighborhoods with larger lots

Mar 22, 2023

Victoria Hills, Victoria Commons, College Arms apartments. An interesting and attractive mix of high, moderate, and low-density housing: apartments, townhouses, multi-family residences, and least of all, single family houses. All are presented in efficient, attractive, and well thought through fashion, and also contain public green spaces, like wide bike trails, gathering places, gazebos, trees, local foliage, and tennis courts. And they are close to amenities like restaurants, bars, medical facilities,

etc., reducing the crazy, out of control reliance on 2-ton vehicles to get everywhere in DeLand. For business, i have lived in cities from Memphis to coastal Connecticut to Atlanta, and others. They all have better solutions than DeLand for accommodating human-oriented living; mixes of apartments and other types of housing and businesses; green spaces, pedestrian walkways, entertainment, and most of all, visions for the future. DeLand and its leadership is firmly rooting in the 1950s and looking backward.

Mar 22, 2023

Restaurants that close later than 8:30pm.

Mar 22, 2023

No where else.

Mar 21, 2023

Way way way more support for seniors and disabled and low income people. Why are there no meals on wheels here (home delivery)? Why is my SNAP denied when I am qualified for it and why does no one answer the phone at the office so I can sort the problem out and why don't I have a case manager? Why isn't there a county number to call for SNAP of the local office never answers their phone? Why does my caregiver file an application for Medicaid, which he is qualified for, and the office says they are sending it to someone for further review then he never hears back from anyone? Why doesn't he have a case manager? Why did the hospital approve his charity care then turn around and bill him thousands of dollars when all they did was tell him to take ibuprofen and acetaminophen? Where we lived prior, we each had a local case manager who helped us with benefits as well as a county office that we could call for assistance if our case manager wasn't available. We had lots of services like meals on wheels and an excellent food pantry that gave extra fresh food to seniors, etc, because I am disabled and my caregiver is a low income senior. This is pathetic. There is zero help here.

Mar 21, 2023

More shopping Public transportation

Mar 21, 2023

Better shopping choices, walking trails

Mar 20, 2023

Better family friendly activities. Good restaurants. Less crime.

Mar 20, 2023

I like it here

Mar 20, 2023

Stone Island. They aren't building or developing anymore.

Mar 20, 2023

I love Deland and wouldn't move but the following cities have PARLING and better rules for what is allowed on the Main St Winter Garden, Mt Dora and Winter Park have a 20% rule meaning there is only allowed 20% of each type of business per block. Deland has become a st of hair salons,bars and restaurants. There are a few store fronts that are for display only! There's not much to keep people from eating, drinking and leaving.

Mar 20, 2023

Kid activities like sports, playgrounds SPLASH PADS

Mar 20, 2023

Glenwood.

Mar 20, 2023

Avalon park, Baldwin Park- downtown area is clean, aesthetically updated and consistent among the businesses, vagrants are not allowed

Mar 19, 2023

Ormond Beach, beachside, has well maintained streets and safer intersections with similar traffic to DeLand. Orange City has better shopping and most stores are well laid out, well landscaped, with ample parking. Sanford has a beautiful downtown with nice parks throughout.

Mar 19, 2023

Plantation, FL Orlando, FL Winter Park, FL I would like more fast healthy food options such as cafes or more different kinds of cuisine other than downtown

Mar 19, 2023

Small town charm but things to do Low crime rate People are not piled on top of each other

Mar 19, 2023

Mar 19, 2023

Historical district. Na Na

Mar 19, 2023

Bike paths downtown Green space downtown Interactive art

Mar 19, 2023

Better infrastructure, roads, and long term planning to manage overdevelopment.

Mar 19, 2023

I would only live in smaller communities at this point if I was to move

Mar 19, 2023

Easier access to downtown events, more parking. Movie theater, more restaurants. Some restrictions on growth. Traffic is getting terrible especially around rush hours due to uncontrolled development of housing subdivisions.

Mar 19, 2023

Lake Helen Mt Dora Lees burg

Mar 18, 2023

Closer to I4. Traffic has gotten so bad it takes 20-30 min to get to I4 from the west side of DeLand.

Mar 18, 2023

No open drug markets, no sleeping on bus benches

Mar 18, 2023

DeLeon Springs- large lots, supportive of agriculture/homesteaders, no apartment complexes. Altamonte Springs- lovely walk around the lake on boardwalks (that is all lol) NSB- Nice clean main street/downtown shopping area with a wide variety of small businesses, curfew for youth, great farmer's market

Mar 18, 2023

Love DeLand, wouldn't want to live anywhere else, just wish there was less development in the area.

Mar 18, 2023

North Deland...more acreage

Mar 18, 2023

1. Winter Park- better restaurants, movie theater, Sunrail station 2. St Petersburg- better restaurants, better community spaces 3. St Augustine- more restored historical properties

Mar 18, 2023

More upscale restaurants!

Mar 18, 2023

New Smyrna Beach, Port Orange, Edgewater They have very nice playgrounds and skateparks for kids. Lots of walking trails, exercise parks etc.

Mar 18, 2023

Less traffic and more awareness about people who speed thru neighborhoods

Mar 18, 2023

Port Orange, Ocala, space coast! Great schools , better health care, more federal jobs!

Mar 17, 2023

1) natural parks for hiking/walk 2) quiet nights .. not the sound of racing cars 3) no homeless people or people on lights asking for money 4) more bike lanes and sidewalks 5) better school ratings 6) demolition or maintenance of abandoned properties

Mar 17, 2023

Parks that don't have homeless lying around

Mar 17, 2023

Less road noise, no excessive development around, better schools.

Mar 17, 2023

DeBary: FREE Splash Pad for Kids, Food Truck Meet-Up Monthly, & Youth Tumbling Classes

Mar 17, 2023

Green spaces that are not over developed that provide refuge for wildlife. Walkable/bikeable retail and eating areas. Public transportation that you do not have to wait a long period of time for. Redevelopment of run down areas or modernization of areas that have already been developed as opposed to sprawling new development. Beautification of roadways, businesses and residences using low maintenance native plants.

Mar 16, 2023

New Smyrna Edgewater Lake Helen Slower growth, closer to highways

Mar 16, 2023

More space between homes, less through traffic from people who DONT live in the neighborhood

Mar 16, 2023

Parks and green space within walking distance of my home; safe bicycling routes to grocery stores; affordable housing; diversity.

Mar 16, 2023

Sidewalks. The lack of sidewalks especially in DeLand's older areas makes driving a requirement, which is terrible because it increases traffic and parking issues. We should be walking and biking places. Mixed light commercial with residential. We could also use more places to walk to, and those places should be physically near where people live. Apartment buildings in particular should have a bottom floor of commercial that supports that local community.

Mar 16, 2023

Winter Park: more green space (park) downtown and east access to Sunrail. Sanford: more unique bars and restaurants. Very hip. Green space along river walk downtown. All very walkable. Chapel Hill NC - hip college town that is not overly dominated by car traffic. Low key.
Mar 16, 2023

Casselberry/Altamonte Springs as it has more commercial businesses than what DeLand offers: Panera, Costco, more options for dining, etc.
Mar 16, 2023

Mt. Dora, FL - very pedestrian and bike friendly, bigger variety of shops and restaurants Columbus, OH - miles of interconnected greenway trails for joggers/walkers/cyclists that are easy to access from virtually anywhere in the city Finish the Sunrail station and provide an easy way to safely get from the station to downtown
Mar 16, 2023

Community focused, well planned, not over crowded.
Mar 16, 2023

test
Mar 15, 2023

Nice entryways into the city. More sports fields for kids to practice on (baseball, soccer, football). Another city gym/multipurpose space. Chisholm Center is maxed. City run golf course, nice to have option versus Victoria which is failing there is no other course north of here until Crescent City with 40K plus residents I think Victoria and a public course would be viable.
Mar 15, 2023

What is one feature that could be added to the City that would improve the quality of life in DeLand?

more trail connections starting with one to the SunRail and SUNTrail. Make the "DeLand Black Heritage Trail" become a real trail not just a guided tour, and we'd like to see it connected to the Alabama Greenway and to the SUNTrail Network west of DeLand (AKA Spring to Spring Trail until the county finally gets signs up for St Johns River-to-Sea Loop. We'd also like to see downtown become much more walkable and bikable. And we'd like to see the highways rerouted away from the middle of town. and more public spaces.
May 30, 2023

Less building
May 30, 2023

Less housing and more roadways.
May 27, 2023

Better monitoring of speeding vehicles on city streets. More bike lanes.
May 27, 2023

Less housing development more conservation areas
May 26, 2023

More indoor basketball facilities
May 26, 2023

Less building
May 26, 2023

Housing that our locals can actually afford!! Every apartment building or house being built is thought of only with Orlando in mind, we don't make that kind of money here! We can't even afford the cheapest and unsafe places to live because all the city cares about is bringing in new people from out of state or Orlando/ Miami.

May 25, 2023

Weekly. Concerts in the park during the spring and fall
May 25, 2023

Put a stop to building as you city commissioners have single handily ruled DeLand with over population.

May 24, 2023

I believe I would like a safe place that the homeless can go. A facility where they can have a room and a bath room for themselves that they can call their own for a while. A place that would give them - having a home address - the opportunity to find a job when a home address is needed for employment. I see more and more homeless: on benches downtown next to the restaurants. As well at the entrance/exit of Neighborhood Walmart - they're laying down on the sidewalk .) They didn't want food when offered.) I actually was saddened to hear someone say she wasn't come back - said she had been having dinner outside of Forno Bello - all because there was quite a disheveled and grubby gentleman laying down on the bench with his bags. Mind you she said this outside the ice cream place immediately next to Elusive Grape (there was another gentleman sitting on the floor with his things). (I was walking out of the ice cream parlor when I heard her say this rather loudly). They're even on Woodland with signs though I know they were told not to be there. I would also like to see foot police officers on Friday and Saturday nites walking the down town area. Also, there are neighborhoods I don't bring guests to (when driving downtown) because the homes are literally shacks (whole streets sometimes). Can we help the homeowners? Incentives ?

May 24, 2023

More affordable housing
May 24, 2023

More "green spaces" Less gas stations Safe bicycle lanes Shaded seating in downtown DeLand
May 22, 2023

Our roads are getting over crowded for the amount of subdivision they are putting in.
May 22, 2023

More parking
May 21, 2023

More integration into the diverse cultures that live within DeLand.
May 20, 2023

Large community/aquatic center
May 20, 2023

Something done with the homeless. I don't feel safe in several areas downtown, especially with my children.

May 19, 2023

Less housing developments. Kepler has three. Road to casadaga wiped out all trees for development houses so close together. All for greed. Stop big developments! Keep tree city full of trees and wildlife. People have no regard for turtles on road or sandhill cranes. Tom scotti is watching over. 70 birds that have been injured by cars and such disregard for wildlife. They msye for life. Horrible a guy going thru the circle on orange camp rd plowed thru .four sandhill cranes injuring one or killing it. So sad they are protected! He wasn't caught. Sad huge fines should go into effect. Protect wildlife. Driving on Kepler saw dead deer side road I called wildlife to remove I was told oh we don't do that, let other animals eat it! What???? Where is dignity to bury her? I raised a ruckus she was gone next day!
May 19, 2023

Tree lined streets.
May 19, 2023

Splash pad
May 18, 2023

Limit additional building. Draw in good restaurants.
May 18, 2023

Trolly to the new sunrail station from downtown
May 17, 2023

Splash pad for children
May 17, 2023

Parks on the North side of DeLand.
May 17, 2023

Lower speed limits downtown and in residential areas.
May 16, 2023

Stop the no personality, no trees house development
May 16, 2023

A plan to play up the historic charm of our Downtown & keep it family friendly, a great place for strolling & shopping, and regulation of business' street-facing aesthetics that will give a cohesive & curated feel to the town.
May 16, 2023

an improved river front park
May 16, 2023

Get rid of the homeless downtown
May 15, 2023

STOP ALL the Building!!!
May 15, 2023

More downtown charm
May 15, 2023

train service, stop the noise from vehicles at least downtown. The City, and the police seem to do nothing regarding quality of life issues.
May 15, 2023

A moratorium against additional building of housing, storage units, car washes, and mattress stores. In all seriousness, development is out of control and are small town is getting way too big.
May 15, 2023

A multi level Parking Garage with solar panels as top floor covered parking. Lower levels for shoppers, mid levels for local employees & upper paid reserved spots.
May 15, 2023

All of the above. Create a vibrant and elevated area which builds on the history and charm of the area.
May 15, 2023

More open areas and walking paths and less building of houses!
May 15, 2023

Renters Rights office (that is, if we're not going to focus on building houses instead of "housing")
May 15, 2023

a water park, like other cities have.
May 14, 2023

High density housing options near downtown. I wanted to have an apartment downtown but there were massive waiting lists regardless of price.
May 14, 2023

A beefed up Public Works
May 14, 2023

better zoning
May 14, 2023

NO more developing. Fix up the run down parts of DeLand.
May 14, 2023

Better long-term, sustainable development plan. The city cheated on the one here, and we get to clean it up.
May 14, 2023

A drive in movie theatre.
May 14, 2023

More moving violation enforcement: aggressive driving and running stop signs.
May 13, 2023

Focus on reducing downtown crime, vandalism, and assisting the homeless with resources in other areas of town besides downtown. I understand that there are larger issues for folks that are down on their luck or need medical attention in one way or another. But the panhandling and sleeping in front of businesses and downtown benches, or yelling at people walking downtown is a detractor. It makes some feel unsafe walking and enjoying downtown. More and visible DeLand police officers making regular rounds walking the downtown area is an easy step that would help.
May 13, 2023

Public speakers' forum where authors, activists, and others speak about relevant local, national, and international issues.
May 13, 2023

Stop development keep small town look leave trees
May 13, 2023

More police officers to enforce laws, particularly traffic laws that cause so much harm.
May 13, 2023

More parking
May 13, 2023

DeLand does not have the infrastructure to maintain the building that is occurring. . There are few areas that can be expanded. The growth needs to stop for now. The city complains developments are using too much reclaimed water but within three miles or less of my house are five new developments of 1k houses each. This is causing Deland to lose its charm . Sad.
May 13, 2023

Bicycle lanes
May 11, 2023

Homeless shelter
May 11, 2023

The sunrail
May 11, 2023

Less growth. So many homes have been added, but the infrastructure is not ready for it. Traffic has increased significantly.
May 9, 2023

A park with a walking trail, natural wildflowers, outdoor seating and a water feature.
May 9, 2023

Large city center covered multi- use space for markets, concerts and other special events. (next to artisan alley)
May 9, 2023

Sidewalk maintenance
May 8, 2023

Fewer rezonings.
May 8, 2023

Quit approving new cookie cutter housing developments that will clog our streets and facilities
May 8, 2023

A Yankee Zapper? Just kidding :)
May 5, 2023

An Art center
May 5, 2023

It needs to be quieter, and there needs to be a more dedicated space for students. Stetson Cove is in my backyard, and I listen to partying and screaming and carrying on. I wish that Deland would buy the upper section of North Clara and turn it into Stetson property so we wouldn't have to live here anymore.
May 4, 2023

Make developers pay for roads before building and adding to our population. Road traffic is insane now that this hasn't been done. Shame on our city fathers.

May 4, 2023

Less new homes construction. Preserve areas with wildlife. More green spaces. Less traffic.

May 4, 2023

More sidewalks and bike trails to make walking and biking easier and safer.

May 4, 2023

Sidewalks on glenwood road

May 3, 2023

Homeless shelter

May 3, 2023

Better Parking

May 2, 2023

Flying the rainbow flag during Pride Month (June)

May 2, 2023

Less apartment buildings and housing developments. They ruin Delands hometown small town feel.

May 1, 2023

Police officers on foot downtown in the evenings. I'd love to see movie nights in the parks, where you can picnic and watch a family friendly movie with blankets on the ground. A city fishing pond that is stocked with freshwater fish where children can fish - or seniors from wheelchairs or scooters, for free or a nominal fee - residents could donate fishing equipment - volunteers could help teach young ones to fish.

May 1, 2023

More shops similar to the museum shop with quality gift items.

May 1, 2023

More affordable housing options

May 1, 2023

1. One feature that could be added is a public state college where the next generations can obtain bachelor, masters and doctorate degrees. Stetson is a private college. Daytona State College (ex.cDeltona, Deland and Daytona campuses) do not offer so many graduate degrees.

Apr 29, 2023

Something for the teenagers to do to keep them out of trouble.

Apr 28, 2023

no parking tickets for employees that work downtown so that visitors can enjoy our businesses and the mainstreet of deland without having to worry they'll have to walk out the their car after their shift to a parking ticket in the one parking space that they found close enough to walk into work without being too far away so that when you have to walk back at night in absolute fear of become just another statistic in a crime rate.

Apr 27, 2023

Stop the overbuilding/overdevelopment of this city. It's too much now. Implement parking passes for employees that work downtown. Charge an affordable monthly fee so they can have a parking pass attached to their vehicle.

Apr 27, 2023

More parking for downtown

Apr 26, 2023

Stop building multi family houses! Apartments cause lots of traffic problems too. Stop removing the trees and displacing wildlife too. The quality of life is great if construction would just stop already!

Apr 26, 2023

More police protection to stop the increase of crime caused by excessive growth.

Apr 25, 2023

Noise control restrictions on vehicles with code enforcement.

Apr 24, 2023

Less subdivisions

Apr 24, 2023

Parking garages and parks.

Apr 24, 2023

Stop approving new residential communities! We have enough!

Apr 24, 2023

More walking trails

Apr 24, 2023

Better infrastructure

Apr 24, 2023

More bike lanes on busy roads

Apr 23, 2023

Better rated schools

Apr 23, 2023

Our park space is lacking. Whether that is for open fields for family play or sports fields, our city does not have a large enough capacity for all the people here. As a member of deland little league, we are constantly struggling to find fields to practice and play games. Our current fields are constantly flooded due to improper grading and need some serious attention or we need a new dedicated space for new fields. The limitations on our schedule due to events taking place at the football field make the current location unreliable.

Apr 23, 2023

Bike lanes/paths

Apr 23, 2023

Better traffic flow. Less pan handling on corners

Apr 23, 2023

More money for schools and hiring the best teachers for our children and grandchildren.

Apr 23, 2023

More native plants.

Apr 22, 2023

Control growth...right now we are destroying natural spaces way too fast without infrastructure and certainty without enough water.

Apr 22, 2023

A free or low cost shuttle to nearby communities that runs every half hour or so. Sunrail train that runs on weekends, too. Noise ordinance that is enforceable and is enforced. A green space where Putnam Hotel was.

Apr 22, 2023

More green spaces.

Apr 22, 2023

A large city park/rec center on the southeast side of town. Our kids have to travel to parks throughout Volusia county and Seminole county because there simply isn't enough space for some of the rec leagues practices/games. We need to do what we can to encourage youth participation in recreation.

Apr 22, 2023

More schools, widening of roads

Apr 22, 2023

Another high school

Apr 21, 2023

Noise ordinance for vehicles driving through downtown. No 18 wheelers.

Apr 21, 2023

More parks.

Apr 20, 2023

More variety of food stores, Publix is way to expensive for seniors on a tight budget.

Apr 20, 2023

Better developments with more thought behind them for the future.

Apr 19, 2023

I would love to see more parking in downtown and an expanded area for like concerts or something

Apr 19, 2023

On-street parking, one-way streets where needed, and other traffic calming tools. Encourage more golf carts and bikes by providing priority parking and bike racks.

Apr 18, 2023

Parking.

Apr 18, 2023

More open spaces.

Apr 18, 2023

If the city stopped building all of the housing communities. Traffic is too much, the houses are too close together.

Apr 18, 2023

A shoe store and a clothing store so I don't have to drive to Orange City to buy those things for my kids.

Apr 17, 2023

Do something about the homeless people and clean up the garbage on the roads. That's part of what my property taxes pay for and the streets are filled with trash.
Apr 17, 2023

Less URBAN SPRAWL...too much housing development ...and there has been NO road, water, sewer, police or fire upgrades or expansion
Apr 17, 2023

Preservation of wild spaces
Apr 16, 2023

Parking garage downtown Splash Pad Park near downtown
Apr 16, 2023

Safety roads n improvement on them.
Apr 16, 2023

I think even more greenspace/parks with trees and native plantings would be a great addition to DeLand. There can never be too many trees.
Apr 16, 2023

Beautification of 17-92 as you enter Deland from Orange City/Debary.
Apr 16, 2023

More parking downtown
Apr 16, 2023

Increased businesses to the area... restaurants & shopping. The City must improve infrastructure that provides for growth that includes grocery stores, gas stations, schools, churches, and proper roads.
Apr 15, 2023

More full serve chain restaurants, i.e. Red Lobster, Cheddar, etc.
Apr 15, 2023

listen to it's residents
Apr 15, 2023

Access to affordable healthcare and housing
Apr 14, 2023

More public parking downtown.
Apr 14, 2023

Safer traffic patterns.
Apr 12, 2023

Roads and schools for all the new people coming to all these house ins developments. That are so ugly for our town
Apr 12, 2023

Homeless shelter
Apr 12, 2023

Uphold no parking in street laws = would make neighborhoods and property look better
Apr 12, 2023

A Country Club open to community with ammenities.
Apr 12, 2023

Water more cost effective and stop approving so much new homes for goodness sake be begged
not to build where old gulf course is
Apr 11, 2023

Traffic control
Apr 11, 2023

Apr 11, 2023

More truly affordable public housing/dwellings.
Apr 10, 2023

Less new houses, more walking paths and small parks.
Apr 9, 2023

This survey is a good start to better community communication with Deland City Management.
Apr 9, 2023

Diverse retail, restaurants, better schools, expansion of emergency services, bring more big
business to the city and reduce the tax burden on residents. Clean up the city, it looks run down. I'm
sure you all are working on something because you can't have the city run bankrupt. Look at other
great cities nearby and talk to those city leaders.
Apr 9, 2023

North Woodland clean up. From Plymouth to 92 looks bad for the city.
Apr 9, 2023

More green space
Apr 9, 2023

Less congestion in the core area. Making decisions that will improve parking in downtown. Not
making decisions that will cause more parking pressure such as the decision recently made
regarding parking spaces on the new apartment complex beside ace hardware. With two car
households the overflow will put pressure on what parking downtown has now. How many City Hall
workers have only one car in their household and ride a bicycle to work?
Apr 8, 2023

More bus routes.
Apr 6, 2023

Offering more to the kids & teenagers where it could help keep those same kids entertained with
something positive rather than the negative
Apr 6, 2023

A competent person running the trash service. It all starts at the top in every organization. Fire the
people or company that cannot or chooses not to give good service.
Apr 6, 2023

I like DeLand pretty much the way it is but something needs to be done about affordable housing in
this area. Housing and rent is out of control.
Apr 5, 2023

A Target

Apr 5, 2023

Limits on building.

Apr 5, 2023

Parking garage downtown

Apr 5, 2023

Make development of land more affordable for current owners so they would less-likely to sell to developers. Make DeLand land-owners want to develop their own land according to the current land-use policies (ie. 1 house per 1/2 acre or whatever). Stop Developers from swooping in and buying land then greasing palms to change zoning from 1 residence per acre to 4 or 8 residences per acre. We don't want to live in another Altamonte Springs-yuk. Make developers build schools, fire departments, police stations, etc. Do not allow developers to clear cut property with mature trees then just re-plant a few non-native trees. Stop DeLand from becoming another over developed city.

Apr 4, 2023

Additional dog parks

Apr 3, 2023

City Park at old Sandhill Golf course.

Apr 3, 2023

Community pool adult fitness year round.

Apr 3, 2023

Less traffic, improved schools. Grocery store by Downtown area. Maintain cleanliness of roadside.

No more development and clearing of wooded areas.

Apr 1, 2023

Better public transit

Mar 31, 2023

Downtown specifically has a parking crisis, which could be heavily alleviated with public transit. Our buses are NOT an option and are used mainly by houseless humans and criminals coming from the county jail. New construction is flooding the area with new residents, but resources aren't matching. We need more grocery and market close to downtown instead of adding the same 2 grocery chains on the far north and south ends of town. The space below the new save-a-lot complex would make a great Greenwise or Wholefoods and service those residents as well as any within walking distance of downtown. The old jail site would also make a great option for small grocery like Fresh Market or Trader Joes, especially with vertical parking that includes greenscaping to blend it into the architecture of downtown.

Mar 31, 2023

Parking for downtown Deland

Mar 31, 2023

There is not just one but personally I think there needs to be much improved code enforcement through the city limits. The trash in vacant lots and untrimmed vegetation on public thoroughfares makes it difficult (and unpleasant) to venture by foot in many sections.

Mar 30, 2023

Slow the growth. No more subdivisions until all the infrastructure is in place to handle it.

Mar 30, 2023

Traffic police
Mar 30, 2023

The Kepler roundabout...
Mar 29, 2023

A City Pool, with Splash Park for kids, wading pool for toddlers, and Olympic size swim pool for active swimmers....diving well optional
Mar 29, 2023

The traffic is terrible just getting from one side to the other. Stop with the roundabouts. No one uses them correctly and stop building more apt complexes.
Mar 29, 2023

Cell phone and internet service that actually works for a price that doesn't break the bank
Mar 29, 2023

An art center/gallery where artists can work and sell their products, like the HUB in NSB
Mar 28, 2023

A shelter for the homeless
Mar 28, 2023

Pay more attention to realistic planning for the future. Schools should not have to become overcrowded before new schools are built.
Mar 28, 2023

Limits on citizens moving here WERE FULL
Mar 28, 2023

The High School. Well the whole Deland school system is just a hot mess in so many ways but. I will be the first to say I don't have the answers but there are so many issues with the school system it's embarrassing. Fights, guns, kids commenting on how many kids they see in handcuffs at middle and high school. Listen to what the kids are warning you about. Please. They certainly don't want to be the next news stream about another community that missed the signs.
Mar 28, 2023

Urban garden and learning center. Farm to table
Mar 27, 2023

Expand downtown with destination restaurants and shops along the side streets as well as a first class hotel/convention center. We are the center of Volusia, no? Convention center/concert hall would be amazing.
Mar 27, 2023

Actual affordable housing, not cracker jack box houses that all look the same with tiny lot lines costing half a million dollars. People who live and work in DeLand don't make that money, and can't afford to live there. We need real affordable solutions.
Mar 27, 2023

Museum's that are opened during the weekend where those of us who work M-F can enjoy them as well.
Mar 27, 2023

Restrictions and enforcement on the homelessness
Mar 27, 2023

Better parks and rec department
Mar 27, 2023

More mixed use properties (shopping, restaurants and apartments in the same space)
Mar 27, 2023

Better infrastructure. Developers are tearing the land up....not a care in the world for wildlife, traffic and flooding problems.
Mar 27, 2023

Community spaces, town squares, parks.
Mar 27, 2023

Parking
Mar 27, 2023

Wider road through town!
Mar 26, 2023

More parking downtown
Mar 26, 2023

Fruit trees. Community food gardens.
Mar 26, 2023

Managed growth. Additional grocers and schools.
Mar 26, 2023

Water feature for the public with a park like setting.
Mar 26, 2023

Cheaper water and electric bills
Mar 26, 2023

More green spaces
Mar 26, 2023

The trolleys!
Mar 26, 2023

New infrastructure to accommodate the growth in and around the city.
Mar 25, 2023

Speeders and loud music in cars ticketed.
Mar 25, 2023

More department stores to shop.
Mar 25, 2023

Take a look at Lenexa Kansas. They did a great job creating an area where there is a large community pool/water park complex for the city which they sell passes for as well as a gym/fitness center. New advanced public library and a food/small business hall where there are community and family events.
Mar 25, 2023

Improved school system

Mar 23, 2023

Aquatic center
Mar 23, 2023

Less traffic, homeless and religious people harassing us. Traffic is really bad as there's no new development for the extra vehicles. PLUS ONE high school... it too crowded. My daughter has mentioned no more food if your at the end of the line at lunch.
Mar 23, 2023

Fewer new developments or roads to support the amount of traffic. Lived here until high school graduation in early 70s, left for college and moved back with husband after retirement as my sister lives here. Impressed with what the city has done to improve downtown, offer art events but it seems no one cares to question some of the development of houses in areas that were always marshes. Permitting and land density really concerns me
Mar 23, 2023

Safety. In general it's safer then most places but i feel between the growing homeless populations and more traffic from new development. Walking and driving around down is more treacherous
Mar 23, 2023

Good chain restaurants
Mar 22, 2023

Higher pay and additional funds to the public schools. A district that pays staff well attracts talent, which provides quality education. High-quality STEM education gives local children a better chance of an independent, safe, and well-paid life. A more immediate quality of life improvement would be a Makerspace, as I listed above.
Mar 22, 2023

For one, better affordable housing. Also, improved public transit.
Mar 22, 2023

More open spaces. Stop feeling the need to fit as many houses as possible into this place
Mar 22, 2023

People-oriented walking/biking trails to enable easy, safe movement throughout the city without reliance on loud, unsupervised disruptions and dangers of vehicular traffic. Downtown DeLand is basically a highway with some quaint features.
Mar 22, 2023

A green space within 5 minute walk of downtown. Earl brown is nice, but it's too far away. A green space could also provide a needed event area.
Mar 22, 2023

Nice updated theater
Mar 21, 2023

Establish low / nominal cost trips run by the city. I've lived several places where the recreation department or other entity did this and it was great. They served all ages. Also bring in a Trader Joe's!!!
Mar 21, 2023

Better schools
Mar 21, 2023

Walking trails
Mar 20, 2023

Larger police force
Mar 20, 2023

Clean up the roads that have litter all over them.
Mar 20, 2023

Moratorium on building
Mar 20, 2023

Parking
Mar 20, 2023

Splash pad for children
Mar 20, 2023

Less mass development.
Mar 20, 2023

Clean out the run down and vacant buildings in the area
Mar 19, 2023

More public parks would improve the overall quality of our growing town.
Mar 19, 2023

More fitness gyms
Mar 19, 2023

Community gardens where residents can grow vegetables
Mar 19, 2023

Better/more parking in downtown. No apartment buildings in downtown. Less storage unit facilities (seriously, there is enough). The old Putnam hotel area could become another parking garage to help with parking during events.
Mar 19, 2023

Splash pad
Mar 19, 2023

No more development.
Mar 19, 2023

Bike paths thru Downtown
Mar 19, 2023

Stop building housing communities.
Mar 19, 2023

Roads and traffic management
Mar 19, 2023

Community Garden(s)
Mar 19, 2023

Improve traffic by improving road system.
Mar 19, 2023

More roads now that we are over building De Land
Mar 18, 2023

Stop cutting down trees and building all these subdivisions.
Mar 18, 2023

Shutdown the friendly way and stronger police representation there and crime-ridden area
Mar 18, 2023

Protect and conserve agricultural land!!! Encourage small farms and homesteading and support those who provide food locally.
Mar 18, 2023

Wish we had a water park or splash park for the kiddos
Mar 18, 2023

More parks
Mar 18, 2023

Sunrail to Orlando
Mar 18, 2023

More upscale restaurants!
Mar 18, 2023

Updated skatepark.
Mar 18, 2023

Expand downtown with more restaurants
Mar 18, 2023

Youth homeless shelter
Mar 17, 2023

Same as above.
Mar 17, 2023

Add roaming security
Mar 17, 2023

More parks
Mar 17, 2023

Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Classes For Females 12 Years & Older Some Water Feature Run By The City (Splash Pad OR Residents ONLY In-Ground Swimming Pool) Park & Recreation Educational Nature Walks (Wild Edibles/Foraging) Concealed Carry Gun Classes For Residents Extend The Mayors Fitness Challenge (8 Weeks Is Too Short) Continue with up keep of parks/playgrounds (Tom Brown, Freedom Playground)
Mar 17, 2023

Public Wifi
Mar 17, 2023

Beautification of road shoulders and medians with low maintenance native plants. Rain gardens would help with flooding
Mar 16, 2023

More entertainment areas
Mar 16, 2023

Slow growth so the city infrastructure can catch up
Mar 16, 2023

No more developments
Mar 16, 2023

More shopping- a Target would be great. And our own movie theater.
Mar 16, 2023

More parks!
Mar 16, 2023

Sidewalks. Whatever can be done to make fewer cars.
Mar 16, 2023

More green space within walking distance to downtown. Way to much driving needed here. Earl Brown, etc., are great but you have to drive to there. Would be nice to have coffee shops etc in walking distance to such park like spaces.
Mar 16, 2023

No more housing developments
Mar 16, 2023

More safe sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks outside of downtown.
Mar 16, 2023

More parks, green space, redevelopment of dilapidated areas.
Mar 16, 2023

Public swimming pool open all day during the summer
Mar 16, 2023

test
Mar 15, 2023

As stated above, more P&R activities/locations. City is growing and it needs more places for residents to utilize.
Mar 15, 2023

What opportunities should the City pursue?

Make the town more walkable, don't listen to the antiquated thinking demanding more parking. consider adopting "form-based codes" to allow more public spaces and mixed-use areas. Bring Strong Towns founder Chuck Marohn and Mark Fenton for workshops, or if you want someone local to start with who wouldn't dent budget, invite Dr. Kelly Brock (recently awarded Complete Streets Changemaker by the National Complete Streets Coalition) from Casselberry Public Works Director to give his talk on "Implementing Complete Streets in a Small City". Consider partnering with St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance to organize the Second Annual "Active Transportation for All"

Workshop and other initiatives. Never give up on the DeLand West Greenway along New York (and with a side trip to Voorhis Ave if possible)
May 30, 2023

More agriculture
May 30, 2023

Splash pad for children
May 26, 2023

Any and all
May 26, 2023

Stop building on every piece of land!! We don't want to live in a concrete city! We want Mayberry! That was DeLand's charm, now you're running it by all the building on every corner!! Leave DeLand alone!! We prefer trees and grass!!
May 25, 2023

Keep out large warehouses or contain them to one area.
May 25, 2023

Upgrade the infrastructure, expand high school to get rid of the portables which was suppose to happen in 2003-4, expand the hospital. Stop building apartments, homes and storage units.
May 24, 2023

More affordable housing
May 24, 2023

Additional high school on the south side of deland
May 23, 2023

Stop housing development and protect wildlife
May 22, 2023

Awareness of the city and communities rich history. The opportunity for more performing art festivals
May 21, 2023

Addressing the downtown unhoused population. This has drastically grown over the last couple years making it a very uninviting environment for consumers to walk and spend time in our downtown area.
May 20, 2023

Not allowing new builds and tearing down our woods!
May 20, 2023

Better shopping.
May 19, 2023

Wildlife preservation Less developments Monitor violators of wildlife. Lady in Hart farms saw an arrow thru a buck in his neck trying get off. Dead deer bullets in hart farms. Someone is target shooting in our wildlife. Stiffer penalties for offenders. Open up land for rehab for injured animals
May 19, 2023

Horse drawn carriage rides.
May 19, 2023

Steak house
May 18, 2023

Drawing in good restaurants, another Publix, shops.
May 18, 2023

Park or community center with activities different than Earl brown park
May 17, 2023

Stop building housing complexes. Stop overcrowding our city.
May 17, 2023

Conservation and park amenities.
May 16, 2023

The city should use what must surely be a massive influx of tax dollars due to the booming population to preserve our downtown & parks. Many "vice" businesses have popped up on Woodland, & the vibe of our downtown seems to be changing for the worse. Even if tax dollars had to subsidize desirable businesses vs. undesirable ones, it seems it would be a net benefit to the town's economy in housing values, foot traffic generation & tourism. Especially in light of Stetson being so close by, we should be mindful of giving of a "seedy" feel to prospective students & their parents. The city should also take the opportunity to expand our main artery roads before Deland becomes truly gridlocked from traffic. The 2-lane roads in and out of town are not sufficient for the growing population. This needs to be addressed with urgency.
May 16, 2023

trail connectors
May 16, 2023

Restaurants downtown
May 15, 2023

consider a park at the old Putman Hotel lot and a parking lot at the old jail area
May 15, 2023

the city admin has a difficult to work with reputation
May 15, 2023

Easily maneuverable City website. Currently NOT user friendly. Too many specialty words, need more generic search results. Too micro divided. Sidewalks in growing outskirts areas (Deerfoot Rd). Lots of foot traffic with lots of cars.
May 15, 2023

Higher end ethnic dining experiences, hands on art experiences and museums, a stand alone Dillards/Kohls would make shopping so much easier.
May 15, 2023

Bringing the Sunrail to Deland!
May 15, 2023

I feel these questions are synonymous. Who wrote them?
May 15, 2023

making a water park where the old hotel stood
May 14, 2023

TIF & tax abatements to bring positive development
May 14, 2023

Continue with improvements, i.e. weekend activities, maintenance of parks and roads.
Enforcement of No loitering laws. i.e. No Skate Boards, bikes. etc.
May 14, 2023

None! Stop developing DeLand like a big city.
May 14, 2023

Better housing for homeless. Paved greenway ring around the city, thus linking communities together, like pinellas county has from Tarpon Springs to Largo, although that doesn't go around the city, like one here could do.
May 14, 2023

Pocket parks.
May 13, 2023

Not allowing and approving new residential projects downtown without making the projects allow for actual cars to park being included in the plan (not letting bicycle parking count). New projects need to include their own parking in the plan (and should not be allowed to skimp on this). Having downtown residential have historic style fronts. Focus on retaining trees and green spaces. A grocery store downtown!! A walking, livable downtown area needs a grocery store. Preserving historic buildings if at all possible from being torn down. The city could purchase them if necessary to then be sold to companies that are dedicated to preserving history - and have the money and vision to do so in a specified amount of time, without the city giving them discounts or money. Transportation such as a trolley or designated shuttle from the DeLand Sunrail station to W Indiana Ave (or somewhere in the heart of downtown. Closing Woodland Blvd from Georgia (south end) to Church St (north end) and having it be pedestrian/bicycle/scooter/golf cart traffic only. Then using some of the existing parallel parking spots for outdoor seating provided by the city without a need for shops/restaurants to obtain a sidewalk cafe permit. The seating would not be exclusive to any shop/restaurant - it would be open to all. Some of the parallel parking areas could be retained for bicycle/scooter/golf cart parking. Permanent yellow poles mounted into the ground across the streets where the close off points would be would be spaced large enough for a golf cart, but not large enough for a car to pass through. I know, this is a big ask! Not sure if this is possible, but making downtown business be restaurants and retail businesses. This is the draw for people to come downtown, not lawyer offices, roofing offices, etc. on the boulevard.
May 13, 2023

Low cost housing.
May 13, 2023

Don't know
May 13, 2023

More parks, more trees, nature walks.
May 13, 2023

Recreational facilities
May 13, 2023

I realize progress is a given, but where do the animals go? The transplants don't understand or care. I read on the nextdoor website they want them killed. No. They were here first. We need some areas that are protected for them.
May 13, 2023

Get rid of the parking on Woodland allow restaurants to extend their sidewalks and put in a bicycle lane downtown
May 11, 2023

Start thinking about what all this land cutting is displacing.
May 11, 2023

The sun rail.
May 11, 2023

Preserve and create urban green space/ forests to combat heat.
May 9, 2023

More good paying jobs
May 8, 2023

Reduce rezoning request approvals.
May 8, 2023

Keeping DeLand the small, quiet residential city that we all moved here to enjoy.
May 8, 2023

Smart growth- take your time, think how can we retain DeLand and all the treasures here.
May 5, 2023

An Art Center, where professional artists can teach and sell their artwork
May 5, 2023

As stated above more dedicated space, just for Stetson students living quarters
May 4, 2023

Road improvements.
May 4, 2023

A municipal golf course. More 55+ Senior Affordable living.
May 4, 2023

This is far too broad a question.
May 4, 2023

Making deland more walkable/bike rideable
May 3, 2023

Affordable micro housing initiatives near downtown.
May 3, 2023

Corporate taxpayers rather than non profit and government buildings which don't pay property taxes
May 2, 2023

A cute, colorful and fun way to get from the train station to downtown. (Jitney? Trolley? Horse and carriage?) when SunRail arrives
May 2, 2023

Parks and recreation areas. Fitness parks. Chain restaurants and better shopping.
May 1, 2023

community centers for retired folks and others who would like to pursue crafting but don't have the room or supplies - where people could donate material, sewing machines, jigsaw puzzles and folding tables, paints, ceramics, etc. A comfortable reading room with books where they accept donations. A bingo room - no money involved. Old unused schools would be perfect for that.

May 1, 2023

A few higher end shops while keeping the small college town atmosphere.

May 1, 2023

More commercial businesses in the downtown area.

May 1, 2023

The city should pursue opportunities that allow young individuals to want to stay in the city. For example, 1. more businesses like Dave & Busters and Epic Theater, where young people and adults, can have fun, and want to spend their money. 2. opportunities related to the improvement of public transportation for residents and for students that attend public schools. At this time there are not enough bus drivers and busses for high school students from new communities. Sometimes there are 3 high school students seating on a seat made for 2 students. It is not safe to do that. Accidents can happen, that could have been prevented if you had 2 students on a 2 people seat.

Apr 29, 2023

Teen dances, reopen or build a new movie theater. Game room or arcade.

Apr 28, 2023

making the young women feel safe in the community. parking passes for downtown employees so they aren't ticketed everyday trying to work.

Apr 27, 2023

Stop the overbuilding/overdevelopment of this city. It's too much now. Implement parking passes for employees that work downtown. Charge an affordable monthly fee so they can have a parking pass attached to their vehicle.

Apr 27, 2023

Sun RAIL

Apr 26, 2023

Bring in a Menards and get rid of Lowe's! Have more community events with law enforcement.

Apr 26, 2023

Programs to help keeping fathers in the home and families in faith based programs/churches.

Apr 25, 2023

Spring training baseball team.

Apr 24, 2023

keeping Deland more small town

Apr 24, 2023

adding another High School

Apr 24, 2023

Building new roads and more grocery stores to accommodate this huge increase in residents. Traffic has become a nightmare here and it's getting worse. We need to invest in growing our police force as well so they can keep up with amount of nonsense that seems to come with all of these new residents.

Apr 24, 2023

Cultural, and recreational activities, more diverse restaurants and shops

Apr 24, 2023

Better infrastructure

Apr 24, 2023

More businesses to improve tax base

Apr 23, 2023

Apr 23, 2023

No more subdivisions! Period! All new house should have a minimum of 0.5 acres with a requirement that there are % with larger properties.

Apr 23, 2023

Working on a homeless shelter/ group home that combines with a place of employment for the residents of hime

Apr 23, 2023

Partnerships with Stetson for a performing arts center. Parking garage. More family related activities.

Apr 23, 2023

Liked the proposal online of the owners of east end market taking over the old Jail downtown, the stall nature of low barrier rent for small shops/ eateries would be good.

Apr 22, 2023

Control growth, do something about harassment by religious extremists downtown, and the homeless

Apr 22, 2023

More green spaces. Stop cutting down trees and native plants for development.

Apr 22, 2023

An example: we have a sinkhole near us (border by Salisbury, Wisconsin, and Orange) that is currently an eyesore. Remove the fence, plant some native trees and turn it into a place of beauty.

Apr 22, 2023

More parks, trails and places for people to gather outside of downtown proper.

Apr 22, 2023

Better businesses to come to the town, relocation of homeless

Apr 22, 2023

North deland restaurants like south end

Apr 21, 2023

Maintaining the original architecture of of buildings in the downtown area, such as the old jail.

Apr 21, 2023

Costco

Apr 20, 2023

Apr 19, 2023

More parking. Expanding schools. Clean up homeless people in the streets and especially downtown
Apr 19, 2023

The Putnam property presents an opportunity to reimagine what downtown Deland could be. Connecting it with the Athens Theater and the Old Courthouse could create a unique green space or square not on a state highway.
Apr 18, 2023

More affordable living for seniors, homeless. If you must keep building...larger lots, less HOA's..
Apr 18, 2023

More green space
Apr 18, 2023

Support natural habitats instead of building houses.
Apr 17, 2023

Stop building subdivisions.
Apr 17, 2023

Stop the insane building and tearing down the woods
Apr 16, 2023

Restauranteurs River Walk
Apr 16, 2023

Keep Deland as a small town.
Apr 16, 2023

The City should pursue opportunities to promote infill development downtown, increased public transit options and connections with the upcoming SunRail, and pursue beautification efforts (trees, plantings, art throughout the City, not just in the CRA)
Apr 16, 2023

More schools. Better roadways
Apr 16, 2023

Attracting small business and big business to DeLand. Most of all pursue excellence... we should not be the City known for affordable housing, homelessness, and a refuge for drug addicts and the mentally ill. Sadly, we are becoming that.
Apr 15, 2023

Big business
Apr 15, 2023

Multicultural opportunities
Apr 14, 2023

Sunrail connection
Apr 14, 2023

Attract more small businesses
Apr 13, 2023

NO MORE ROUNDABOUTS!

Apr 12, 2023

Streets and schools

Apr 12, 2023

Being able to have access to rentable bikes or scooters

Apr 12, 2023

More diverse programs to include all people

Apr 12, 2023

Less develop & more & better schools.

Apr 12, 2023

Better shopping and restaurants

Apr 11, 2023

As a mother of a young child I find myself traveling to other parts of the county for my child to play and engage. I travel to Daytona for the childrens museum, Daytona or Sanford for a splash park, and Lake Helen for a smaller/safer playground. We should have places for our youngest children to play and learn. Earl Brown is not for young children and is not covered from the summer sun. Freedom playground is always overflowing with children of all ages.

Apr 11, 2023

Ones that allow the city to reduce the overall cost of living for its citizens.

Apr 10, 2023

Please purchase more land such as the Lake Moore Property.

Apr 9, 2023

Expansion and preservation at the same time. Clean up woodland blvd. You have all those ugly dealerships. Makes the area look disgusting. Put things people need. Better restaurants, more grocery, entice business to move here. Clean up parks. Get it right like Winter Garden, Winter Park, Mount Dora, Lake Mary. Volusia county is behind.

Apr 9, 2023

Bring Sun Rail to Deland.... New High School and middle school

Apr 9, 2023

More parking for downtown City parks

Apr 9, 2023

Improve and expand green infrastructure.

Apr 6, 2023

I'm not sure. I really think just anything entertaining and fun for little kids and teens in general since I feel like there's a lot of focus on adults.

Apr 6, 2023

Better, higher paying jobs.

Apr 5, 2023

No opinion

Apr 5, 2023

Rejuvenation of ryn down areas. More law enforcement

Apr 5, 2023

We need tech jobs

Apr 5, 2023

PAY More attention to the airport and ISB & Woodland area. Make sure there is a plan for more restaurants & shopping not just auto parts, car washes and fast food. That could be a very nice area but it seems neglected and unattractive. Do SOMETHING-ANYTHING with the Sonic property.

Apr 4, 2023

STOP BUILDING - Deland is a charming small town. By building up housing and business, the county structures in place (schools, healthcare facilities, roads) are going to be overwhelmed. Some already are.

Apr 3, 2023

Alternatives to higher buildings in downtown area

Apr 3, 2023

Community pool adult fitness program year round.

Apr 3, 2023

Expand schools. Improved shopping centers. Provide shelters for the homeless and eliminate pan handling. More funding for security to implement peace and order.

Apr 1, 2023

I don't know

Mar 31, 2023

Any that alleviate the parking crisis in downtown, promote slow healthy growth, improve traffic patterns and transportation, promote diversity and inclusivity in culture and community or any that benefit the people that live and work within city limits, rather than pander to corporate entities that use our city as a tax break opportunity.

Mar 31, 2023

A new high school

Mar 31, 2023

"Live here, work here, play here" opportunities versus opportunities that simply grow us as a bedroom community.

Mar 30, 2023

Divert out-of-state traffic to I-4 and away from DeLand

Mar 30, 2023

Return county services like license office and health services to DeLand.

Mar 30, 2023

Participating in conservation of undeveloped properties to preserve some of the rural nature of the town, and preservation of wildlife habitat. Require more tree plantings on developed and developing sites. Resolving the panhandling issue.

Mar 29, 2023

Homeliness needs to be SERIOUSLY addressed. The tent cities that are ALLOWED for whatever reason needs to stop. The continual "begging" at so many intersections has got to go. Perhaps a major homeless housing center just OUTSIDE of Deland in an undeveloped area could be built.

Mar 29, 2023

Improve infrastructure. Offer grants for homeowners to fix up their homes
Mar 29, 2023

When new houses being built charge them for road upgrades (trucks tear up the roads)
Mar 29, 2023

An art center/gallery where artists can work and sell their products, like the HUB in NSB
Mar 28, 2023

Partnering with conservation agencies to buy and preserve land beyond what Volusia Forever and Echo are doing.
Mar 28, 2023

A handful of large chain restaurants since all of downtown restaurants choose to be closed on the weekends causing people not to travel to deland to eat and people living in deland to travel to eat
Mar 28, 2023

Bringing down an old dilapidated building is a great start. It was an eyesore. Make good use of the area.
Mar 28, 2023

Destination retailers to upgrade our pitiful mall spaces. We need a Trader Joe's, a Barnes and Noble, a Williams & Sonoma or a Pottery barn in the old Publix mall or the Aldi's mall, or some of the awful eyesores north of town. Retail brings jobs and visitors money, which will spawn new and better restaurants. We can do a lot better than what we now have. We look 3rd class honestly. Our malls are pitiful.
Mar 27, 2023

Addressing the huge homeless population, bring in technology jobs that attract Stetson Graduates so they're enticed to stick around rather than go somewhere else with work and affordable housing.
Mar 27, 2023

Promoting and growth of the performing arts.
Mar 27, 2023

Parks
Mar 27, 2023

Additional partnerships
Mar 27, 2023

Employment
Mar 27, 2023

Urban planning! Shuttle to the beach, the train, airports!
Mar 27, 2023

Increased downtown parking over all Create a Program with downtown property owners that have available downtown parking open on weekends (during transition of the city adding parking) to utilize these owners empty parking. City to consider giving these owners small tax break for this official commitment to allow use of parking. Build parking garage on existing footprint/ parking lot in the county parking between W Rich and W Church street with a walk over to the county building to add to traffic flow and pedestrian safety
Mar 27, 2023

More restaurants and job providers

Mar 26, 2023

Create a true arts district: move the museum to the building north of the Athens Parking garage over the lot on Rich with a walkover into the county building Permanently close Indiana and add greenspace

Mar 26, 2023

American Public Gardens Association, USDA-wide Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants

Mar 26, 2023

Visit well run small town leaders for their experience and advice.

Mar 26, 2023

Annex of DeLeon Springs for business and residential development.

Mar 26, 2023

A water system like Deltona so residents can save money

Mar 26, 2023

Emphasize the importance of our natural environment through environmental consciousness that includes conservation and sustainability in building codes and public policies. Deland's brand should attract people who want to preserve the area's natural beauty and seek a community dedicated to its preservation.

Mar 26, 2023

Getting the power company to cut back on their outrageous price hikes!

Mar 26, 2023

Opportunities for diversity and inclusion and relationship building.

Mar 25, 2023

Skate park Water park/pool complex possibly more than one Beautification of our town and landscaping while preserving our feel of a small Main Street America in our approval of architecture and buildings

Mar 25, 2023

More park land and natural spaces

Mar 23, 2023

Be careful about developments- make sure schools can handle the load. Work towards a second high school.

Mar 23, 2023

Pursue PRESERVING Deland's history and architectural beauty. No more cookie cutter homes, storage or dollar general.

Mar 23, 2023

Please make sure Sun Rail and other public transportation opportunities are available

Mar 23, 2023

While i think Growth is inevitable, Id love to see the city work faster at combating that with better infrastructure

Mar 23, 2023

Restaurants

Mar 22, 2023

A Makerspace would be a great opportunity to make use of a large, old building. Many communities use old warehouses in areas close to demographics that would profit most from the career-based resources (West or North DeLand).

Mar 22, 2023

(see above)

Mar 22, 2023

Get serious about placing people first (businesses as well as residences). Make it a REAL priority, rather than a tertiary talking point to placate increasingly irate residents. Create a focused, empowered, competent, and FUNDED strategic planning function to identify, resource, and implement civic improvements. I grew up on Rolling Hills Golf Course in Longwood (Seminole County). Long story short, the city/county had set aside funding well in advance to purchase green spaces as they came available (knowing that they would), and purchased that failed golf course. I actually spoke with the leadership team for that effort and asked how they did it. The parting comment was, "Good luck doing this in DeLand", accompanied by a sardonic laugh. It is now a park greenspace with planned amenities. DeLand has no such interest, will, foresight, or functional capabilities (that any of us are aware of) to take advantage of such opportunities on behalf of its citizens.

Mar 22, 2023

Moving industrial buildings outside of the main downtown area like car repair, construction, air conditioning, etc.

Mar 22, 2023

Stop building so many houses and keep it rural.

Mar 21, 2023

Reducing taxes for residents and small business by putting the burden on corporate entities. Also bring in a Trader Joe's!!!

Mar 21, 2023

A new high school Improving the schools specifically technology Better waste management

Mar 21, 2023

Control your zoning and growth. Look at Gilbert, AZ as a model

Mar 20, 2023

Crime keep Deland as safe as possible!

Mar 20, 2023

Advertise the historical aspects.

Mar 20, 2023

Splash pad for kids, more sports programs for children.

Mar 20, 2023

Preserving historical buildings, conservation of wildlife areas. Utilizing existing buildings before allowing more commercial development.

Mar 20, 2023

Upscaling the look of the city

Mar 19, 2023

Take advantage of our beautiful waterways.
Mar 19, 2023

More young professionals
Mar 19, 2023

With the current growth, at minimum a new high school needs to be built. Deland High is over safe capacity.
Mar 19, 2023

Limit the amount of housing that is around. The traffic through downtown, 15A and 44, 17 and 15A/Taylor Road are HORRENDOUS. I've only been here two years and can see a HUGE difference in traffic around 5 pm than it was 2 years ago. Our roads cannot take the amount of cars on the road. One Friday it took me 20 mins to go from Boston Ave area on 44 to Wells Fargo on 44, which is insane.
Mar 19, 2023

No more growth.
Mar 19, 2023

More patrolling of city streets Better handling of homeless that harrass citizens downtown
Greenspace downtown Bike paths
Mar 19, 2023

Stop building housing communities
Mar 19, 2023

Avoid ruining our City with overdevelopment not planning appropriately for the increase in road and infrastructure usage.
Mar 19, 2023

More parking for the downtown area. Affordable housing
Mar 19, 2023

Bring in a wider variety of businesses.
Mar 19, 2023

Mass transit to cut down traffic
Mar 18, 2023

Build tiny homes near the bus line for temporary housing. Having the non-sheltered not sleeping or yelling at patrons
Mar 18, 2023

Small businesses, real farmer's markets with LOCALLY produced fruit, veggies, plants, and livestock and byproducts. STOP rezoning ag land and building more houses/apartments/franchises/big businesses. Basically support and promote the small town values that made Deland popular to begin with. There are plenty of older homes/apartments/townhouses/condos that could be remodeled/renovated instead of building new- gentrify the area instead of selling out to builders.
Mar 18, 2023

More green spaces less houses.
Mar 18, 2023

Sunrail
Mar 18, 2023

More upscale restaurants!
Mar 18, 2023

Mar 17, 2023

Demolition or restoration of old/abandoned buildings. Building schools for the new developments
Mar 17, 2023

Upscale apartments
Mar 17, 2023

Get rid of old abandoned buildings. Do a better job with homeless people. Less destruction of green areas.
Mar 17, 2023

Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Classes For Females 12 Years & Older Concealed Carry Gun Classes For Residents Some Water Feature Run By The City (Splash Pad OR Residents ONLY In-Ground Swimming Pool)
Mar 17, 2023

Don't waste the tax payer dollars on incentives for developers. Stop development of clear cutting zero lot line subdivisions. Developers should have to spare native trees when clearing a plot of land and include greater than 50% native plants in landscape plans. City needs to incorporate bike and walking trails into any new roadway development
Mar 16, 2023

More street lights in dark places
Mar 16, 2023

Expand roads and improve traffic patterns, invest in more sustainable growth
Mar 16, 2023

Zoning undeveloped land to only be agricultural
Mar 16, 2023

Work on lowering the crime rate
Mar 16, 2023

State and federal funding for improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety (road diets, protected bike lanes, wide sidewalks, etc). Infill development to provide affordable housing (repurposing old strip malls and motels, for example). Investment in historically black areas south of New York Ave (DeLand feels much more segregated than other Southern cities I've lived in. Don't love that aspect of living here).
Mar 16, 2023

Installation of sidewalks. Expansion of the police force and focused reduction of crime. Programs to embrace and encourage remote work, expansion of tech jobs.
Mar 16, 2023

Take the old Putnam property and make it into a green space and not condos or apartments. This could be the walkable location close to downtown merchants that would make town really shine!
Mar 16, 2023

Pursue more businesses that cater to a higher population density to give DeLand residents greater options.
Mar 16, 2023

Fewer strip malls, more green space, vertical housing to conserve green space while still adding inventory and keeping prices affordable
Mar 16, 2023

Keeping green space, smart growth, community features (expansion of sports fields/rec areas.
Mar 16, 2023

test
Mar 15, 2023

Purchase Dutton House, make it another event space for weddings and use the building for additional office space for city staff. Place a parking garage in the downtown, to help with long term parking needs to allow for more people to visit and spend less time looking for parking -- it may event allow for existing surface parking to be developed.
Mar 15, 2023

If you chose to live in DeLand, what factors were key in making that decision?

The Spring to Spring Trail from Blue Spring SP to Lake Beresford Park and the promise of the St Johns River-to-Sea Loop becoming a state designated top-priority SUNTrail. Also the University. We did an exhaustive search of Florida small towns that met the criteria of bikability and opportunities related to a university.
May 30, 2023

Family
May 30, 2023

It was a quiet, peaceful, charming community. It is now over populated.
May 27, 2023

House I could afford to buy. Quiet college town atmosphere.
May 27, 2023

Multiple acres to live on , not near a subdivision , not in a heavy traffic area
May 26, 2023

Born and raised
May 26, 2023

Small town
May 26, 2023

I've lived in DeLand all my life and I've watched it go from perfect, relaxing, beautiful small town, to now you're just trying to make another Orlando. It's terrible and looks like it's only for the money.
May 25, 2023

Small town Bike trails Proximity the ocean and race tracks
May 25, 2023

It was a small town.
May 24, 2023

I moved here 5 yrs ago when I retired but we had been coming here off and on for the last 20 yrs when I came to visit my sister who lives in Clermont. I love the quaintness of DeLand. The friendliness of the people. I LOVE our library! I think I'm starting to worry about the development of DeLand. Too many houses and apt buildings in the 5 years I've been here with my husband have gone up. The beautiful wild lands that first attracted me are being razed. That saddens me sooo much. It's starting to look like where I came from ☹️. Congested streets, too many autos, too many trees torn down. Bears are coming into properties and they're not at fault - where can they go?
May 24, 2023

Affordability
May 23, 2023

Near to elderly parents. We're retired and had previously enjoyed the "small town" vibe... disappearing rapidly. Child at Stetson (now graduate who cannot afford a home despite mortgage approval for \$200k)... astounding rent rates!
May 22, 2023

I moved to Deland for the small town appeal. The fact that you could talk to your neighbors. Now feels like everyone is rushing.
May 22, 2023

The location between port orange and Orlando was central. The downtown was very visitor and family oriented.
May 21, 2023

We do live in DeLand and love calling it our hometown. It is close to the interstate for easy access to beaches and the Orlando airport.
May 20, 2023

North deland seemed more rural when we moved here now its like orlando jr
May 20, 2023

Closer to work, newer house.
May 19, 2023

Was small town charm. That's depleting with so much development Wildlife in my back yard . I had whole summer of babysitting two fawns with no fence while mama left babies four hours day for all summer. It was awesome. They came back I've had no deer with all maronda buying up lots. It's a shame!
May 19, 2023

It had grocery stores nearby and my job was here.
May 19, 2023

Home town feel.
May 18, 2023

Job and love the downtown
May 17, 2023

Small town feel. Lots of nature.
May 17, 2023

It was a small community. Easy to get around. Not too much traffic.
May 17, 2023

Relatively small city, with that hometown country feel and charm. Larger lots and open spaces with less congestion than that of other communities and cities that we were considering.
May 17, 2023

DeLand was chosen due to its downtown ambience and small town atmosphere. DeLand also had a higher quality of life before the destruction of natural habitats and infrastructure which does to support the overbuilding.
May 16, 2023

Size, historic buildings, well-maintained houses, gardens, dining, boutiques, calmness, cleanliness
May 16, 2023

Quaint and neighborly
May 16, 2023

I loved the charming downtown, the relative affordability, the stunning Stetson campus, the nearby springs & parks, and the friendly people.
May 16, 2023

proximity to family, old house stock, access to the national forest
May 16, 2023

The nice downtown
May 15, 2023

the small town with it's old time look and shops, orange groves and fern fields and festivals
downtown
May 15, 2023

proximity to Stetson, nice downtown, away from the coast
May 15, 2023

When I first moved here DeLand had a very small town feel. In just over a decade our small town has exploded with unnecessary growth. The infrastructure pertaining to roads, utilities, sewage, and services are taking a huge hit. At one time DeLand was voted the best downtown in America. This is all a facade because the city is more interested in revenue. Watching all this continued housing and unwanted retail development has been a real discouragement.
May 15, 2023

Access to a multitude of variety. Traffic flow with options when road closures. Sense of community.
May 15, 2023

I chose DeLand for the location, historical charm, and strong Christian influence. The people are warm and loving.
May 15, 2023

We loved our subdivision and the amazing , quaint and interesting downtown!
May 15, 2023

My family
May 15, 2023

Stetson University, charming downtown, wooded areas, homes with large acreage and mixture of newer HOA communities with amenities. Liked the area we selected as it offered many of the things we were looking to have.
May 14, 2023

quiet, small natural
May 14, 2023

Food, fun, feel safe and cost of living.
May 14, 2023

My family moved here
May 14, 2023

Grew up here.
May 14, 2023

Trees, Stetson, NOT Daytona. I grew up there. DBch is a glorified mess now with them chasing development to keep the money flowing instead of addressing the decay downtown
May 14, 2023

Close to Disney and Orlando, but not too close to have all the traffic. Small town feel, which is slowly getting less from all the housing developments.
May 14, 2023

Small town charm, Florida winter weather.
May 13, 2023

Historic homes, lower home prices, college town, less crime, less traffic, walking downtown area with shops and restaurants, events, live music, small town charm, theater.
May 13, 2023

The character of the town. Architecture, history, art, social activities, places to walk like parks, and good restaurants.
May 13, 2023

fifteen years ago was a small town feel. Now too busy
May 13, 2023

I was born in DeLand; It's my hometown.
May 13, 2023

I grew up here, so I didn't make the choice. But now I stay here because of the community feeling. I love downtown and the small businesses. I see and meet people I don't know, but still feel like we're all neighbors.
May 13, 2023

Some of my family live in DeLand so the choice was easy.
May 13, 2023

Small town feel. The SunRail train. Close proximity to the beach and Orlando. Farmland. And state parks.
May 11, 2023

Close to work. Good atmosphere.
May 11, 2023

We fell in love with our house and downtown. Love the lack of chain restaurants.
May 11, 2023

I like the small town atmosphere and the community feel. I don't live in the city, but out near the river.

May 9, 2023

Small town charm, zero traffic snarls, close to the beach.

May 9, 2023

Small old time town and cafes with outdoor seating,

May 9, 2023

Location Smaller town feeling Community activities

May 8, 2023

Beautiful and working downtown. Natural beauty.

May 8, 2023

Open acreage close to town

May 8, 2023

Lifelong resident- I didn't have much say where we lived the first few years though.

May 5, 2023

Small town feel, great downtown, no skyscrapers, free street parking

May 5, 2023

I didn't choose to live here. I wanted to live someplace else, but I was forced to move here because my house sold so quickly and I couldn't find anything that was available.

May 4, 2023

Stetson University

May 4, 2023

We chose to live here 22 years ago because of the quaintness and small town qualities, but also because it is an active community with modern art and college youth. The active downtown and festivals are great!

May 4, 2023

Community, engaging downtown.

May 4, 2023

Small town, green spaces, plenty of room/property, cutie downtown

May 3, 2023

The diversity in city events downtown

May 3, 2023

It use yo be charming. Now it's just a traffic mess

May 2, 2023

The embracing of LGBTQ diversity and the fun events . The wonderful downtown too of course!

May 2, 2023

Small town feel but that is being ruined as the small town is being ruined. Progress is not always a positive thing.

May 1, 2023

Spacious & quiet with little traffic. Small town! No longer!

May 1, 2023

The downtown area and the beauty and convenience of the parks and waterways. The Stetson Campus. The proximity to the beaches without the dangers.
May 1, 2023

Small friendly college town. Very welcoming with great walking down town with many activities. Pretty much what it is.
May 1, 2023

The environment, downtown, university and location between Orlando and Daytona
May 1, 2023

1. One of the factors was family members live close by. 2. Another of the factors was the IB Program for students at Deland H.S. 3. Affordable new communities close to main interstate roads like I-4 and I-95. 4. A diverse city population.
Apr 29, 2023

Born here
Apr 28, 2023

it being a small town with a tight knit community. not too far from Daytona, Sanford or Orlando.
Apr 27, 2023

Some family lived here. At the time it was affordable & not overbuilt
Apr 27, 2023

Quint downtown
Apr 26, 2023

The open space, the people, the charm of a city that doesn't look like a cracker box. The wildlife is also wonderful.
Apr 26, 2023

Birth
Apr 25, 2023

Gated community with surrounding nice neighborhoods. Historic downtown with restaurants. Close to work/Sanford.
Apr 24, 2023

already live here for 30+ years
Apr 24, 2023

Many local businesses, not so much chains. Lots of nature and big/old trees which sadly are quickly disappearing due to new developments being allowed to clear big forest areas with absolutely no care of what type of tree, its age, etc.
Apr 24, 2023

small town community
Apr 24, 2023

Born and raised here but considering leaving due to the city continuously approving all of these new communities when we aren't currently built to support it.
Apr 24, 2023

We loved downtown, Athens theater and programs at Stetson, such as the music concerts
Apr 24, 2023

Small town feel
Apr 24, 2023

Land
Apr 23, 2023

It wasn't my choice to move here.... But what keeps me here is the easy access to 1-4 and 95. We are 30 minutes from most everything I need. Real estate is cheaper.... But zoning and maintenance of the entry points and medians is awful.
Apr 23, 2023

It was a quite community with good country people. We have lost our southern country charm due to the increased population and heavy traffic.
Apr 23, 2023

Downtown area! Close to Daytona and Orlando, but with more affordable housing and less people.
Apr 23, 2023

Traffic Parking spaces Access ability to schools
Apr 23, 2023

We've been here a long time and it was small town feel with family-based lifestyle. Not so many people.
Apr 23, 2023

Mature trees and shade from them. Orlando was getting crazy too many homes owned by hedgefunds (slum lord's) who didn't take pride or monitor the rental homes which created opportunities for more crime. Deland should watch out for corporate ownership of single family homes to avoid that issue here.
Apr 22, 2023

At the time, it was because of Stetson and the small town feel
Apr 22, 2023

Attractive areas and older buildings. Green spaces.
Apr 22, 2023

Stetson, small town atmosphere
Apr 22, 2023

Affordability, access to highway, sense of community, cultural events
Apr 22, 2023

Job offer
Apr 22, 2023

Hometown feel, affordable living. Both of which have severely diminished.
Apr 22, 2023

Location of home, children school, my neighborhood
Apr 21, 2023

Safety
Apr 21, 2023

Rural setting and small town vibe.

Apr 20, 2023

It was open airy small city, it is not any longer the growth is so overwhelming, I very rarely go anywhere traffic is horrendous, crime is up, taxes utilities are starting to drive us out of our home. We selected this neighborhood homes where on nice size lots that let people breath and have a safe walking family community. No longer Victorian Gardens example development so many homes on little lots have ruined this city. I blame it on the city planners.

Apr 20, 2023

Downtown feel...Stetson University...being able to walk in the historic district.

Apr 19, 2023

A rural college town with balanced values. Warm weather in winter but away from the shore and the hurricane and flooding risks. A community with a richly diverse history

Apr 18, 2023

I came to Deland in 1976. Since then, the city has changed tremendously. There was only a roses, department store, pennies, Dreka and Gibbs. I would not have been as eager if I had known that the development would be as massive as it is. Traffic is horrible and everywhere I look I see the same house. The charm of the city is being swallowed alive.

Apr 18, 2023

Originally it was because it was a small quaint city. Not a lot of development...still spaces for wildlife.. etc. Not anymore.

Apr 18, 2023

Right now, I can't afford to move

Apr 18, 2023

Small town, quiet and peaceful.

Apr 17, 2023

Less housing and the feel of "country" living

Apr 17, 2023

Small Town atmosphere, good neighbors, lots of space

Apr 16, 2023

Small town charm Family Friends Community

Apr 16, 2023

When we move, cost of our home n closed to many facilities.

Apr 16, 2023

I love the proximity to my alma mater and the many events that Stetson puts on, I love the events Downtown, I am close to my family and DeLand is the perfect proximity from beaches, springs, and the noisier attractions to the South. I love the history of the City and the sense of community.

Apr 16, 2023

Coming from Lake Mary, traffic was not as bad. Seemed to have less hustle/bustle compared to Lake Mary.

Apr 16, 2023

Used to be the quiet lifestyle.

Apr 16, 2023

We liked the look of the city and the downtown and found a house that would work for our family.
Apr 16, 2023

Small town community feel. Centrally located.
Apr 15, 2023

Closeness to beach but west of intercoastal.
Apr 15, 2023

raising a family in a small community setting, that is now gone.....not having lots of new buildings and extreme traffic (we now have "Round-Abouts" that cause more traffic accidents & back-up traffic... and more and more construction that is never ending. So we are going to build just another one at 44 and Kepler :() I'm not sure I would move here as I did 38 years ago.
Apr 15, 2023

I did not choose, but I am glad we live here.
Apr 14, 2023

Downtown area with small businesses. Community festivals.
Apr 14, 2023

Art scene, love small town vibe
Apr 13, 2023

22 years ago, the downtown was vibrant and had lights strung around the roads...very welcoming.
Apr 12, 2023

I grew up here and loved our small town. Not that feeling anymore.
Apr 12, 2023

The reason I stayed is because of how small it was.
Apr 12, 2023

Property ;values
Apr 12, 2023

College baseball, very cute & vibrant downtown.
Apr 12, 2023

Weather, family
Apr 11, 2023

1. I was born/raised here. 2. I feel it is a safe place to raise my family. 3. Local downtown events.
Apr 11, 2023

Access to wild places, existence of multiple types of people from various backgrounds, forethought in infrastructure planning.
Apr 10, 2023

It was 30+ years ago. I loved the small town atmosphere and the lovely downtown. Less traffic, less crime, nice place to live.
Apr 9, 2023

College town , access to St John's River, vibrant and quaint downtown business district, access to I 4 , great medical facilities.
Apr 9, 2023

I chose to live here because the house prices were a bit cheaper and moved from Ocoee. Now I am getting ready to go back to Orlando because I have a kid on the way. DeLand is racist and lacks diversity from all facets.

Apr 9, 2023

Small town feel

Apr 9, 2023

Small downtown feel and schools.

Apr 9, 2023

It was a quiet little town when we moved here. The town has grown but the infrastructure (roads, parks, schools, parking) has not been able to keep up. One thing we especially like was all the big green trees, many of which have been removed for 'progress'

Apr 9, 2023

Small Town life. Less traffic, more friendly people. Strong sense of community & preservation of historic buildings. Celebrations and parades, hometown events.

Apr 7, 2023

The cute downtown area has a small-town vintage feel that we loved, and we loved how residents and locals supported the small businesses.

Apr 6, 2023

I grew up here. I love DeLand. It's a big small town.

Apr 5, 2023

Price

Apr 5, 2023

Location when seeking housing. Fell in love with the area. Now starting to hate it due to overgrowth.

Apr 5, 2023

Quiet town with less traffic. LOL

Apr 5, 2023

Space. A place that has free parking downtown. A place where lots of families still have livestock on their property. I can live very close to town AND have a REAL garden. A place with beautiful woods surrounding residential areas. Where the houses aren't (well weren't) packed in like sardines. A place that wasn't overtaken by corporate greed.

Apr 4, 2023

My employment (Stetson, then Davita Labs), distance to fresh water springs and beaches, distance to major cities for occasional entertainment purposes, small town feel with access to more developed cities.

Apr 3, 2023

Nice quiet town. No growth aspirations apparent

Apr 3, 2023

Culture and nature activities

Apr 3, 2023

Small university town feel. Less crowded and friendly people.

Apr 1, 2023

Community, ease of access to international hubs (ie MCO), low(er) cost of living, proximity to family and history.

Mar 31, 2023

20 years ago we purchased our home here because houses were affordable and we loved that DeLand had a "functioning" historic town that was away from big city hustle and bustle and close to opportunities to experience "natural" Florida.

Mar 30, 2023

Family, Small town feel.

Mar 30, 2023

Quiet and safe but that was 30 years ago.

Mar 30, 2023

Lots of events. Victoria Park. Close to work.

Mar 29, 2023

Small town feel with easy access to major highways

Mar 29, 2023

Cost of living, jobs

Mar 29, 2023

Nice school district, low crime, pedaphiles charged and in jail. Trees being planted (since all these new places tearing down our trees to build, wildlife is losing habitat) Clean grocery stores that are affordable

Mar 29, 2023

Fewer cookie cutter homes, possibility of non HOA homes

Mar 28, 2023

Mixture of people

Mar 28, 2023

I moved here twenty five years ago. I loved the small town, college atmosphere and the strong neighborhood connections immediately. I felt safe during both the daytime and the evenings. People were respectful and kind.

Mar 28, 2023

Distance to my job. The downtown area is very quaint and offers a lot. I really love that the Main Street is shut down for street fairs. When we moved here there was a lot of natural spaces still and not so much overcrowding.... We didn't know about outstanding building projects that would strip much of its beauty.

Mar 28, 2023

I live in downtown DeLand area. I love the charm. Location is also a factor.

Mar 27, 2023

Small town community, a strong Sheriff, Victoria Hills community, and a lot of family and friends here. We intend to stay.

Mar 27, 2023

My wife grew up here when it was a small and safe community. We chose to purchase the home she grew up in from her mother in order to raise our son here, but feel the city is going in the absolute wrong direction. Now we choose to stay to make that right.

Mar 27, 2023

The small town feel.

Mar 27, 2023

Small town feel, culture and history, lack of traffic and congestion (something that is changing and needs work)

Mar 27, 2023

Community

Mar 27, 2023

I moved quickly so I went for the first apartment that I found and could afford.

Mar 27, 2023

Loved the small college town vibe and the abundance of unbuilt property

Mar 27, 2023

Small town atmosphere, the university, the mix of young and old residents.

Mar 27, 2023

Community supportive of arts and culture full of residents here much of the year to help support great restaurants in a thriving historic downtown district. Inclusive and family oriented Walkable downtown

Mar 27, 2023

I loved the small town feel and quiet area to raise my kids.

Mar 26, 2023

Family, walkable downtown

Mar 26, 2023

Family

Mar 26, 2023

Less traffic, a hometown downtown with cultural offerings and a multi generational population.

Mar 26, 2023

Quiet communities, downtown area

Mar 26, 2023

A small town feel and active downtown that's close to a larger city but worlds away.

Mar 26, 2023

I was brought here at 16 kicking and screaming from NYC. I joined the Air Force to escape and after 13 years of coming and going decided this is my home with family and friends!

Mar 26, 2023

The downtown

Mar 25, 2023

Where the best option was when I was house hunting.

Mar 25, 2023

I love that it has a small town feel but also has its own charm and is close to everything.

Mar 25, 2023

Downtown and a generational family feel with history and appreciation for the arts
Mar 25, 2023

Good neighborhood. Limited traffic
Mar 23, 2023

Nice downtown, lots of restaurants, safe
Mar 23, 2023

The history and architectural charm. I loved the small town feel. Which sadly it's being taken away.
Mar 23, 2023

My sister still lives here and we were going to retire somewhere in Florida since I was born and raised in Miami and 3 yrs DeLand
Mar 23, 2023

Mar 23, 2023

Small clean town
Mar 22, 2023

My husband and I moved here last year because my parents live here now. They moved here 5 years ago because they fell in love with Victoria Commons and the downtown.
Mar 22, 2023

Family, mostly.
Mar 22, 2023

That it was, at the time, a nice small town with not a lot of big neighborhoods
Mar 22, 2023

My wife and i have lived in Lake Mary, Mount Dora, and New Smyrna Beach, all with their own - and in some cases, superior - assets over DeLand. The overriding factor in our selection was Stetson University. The University, with its diverse student body, youth, vibrancy, social and entertainment options, professors and professional staff, stately campus, etc., promised a culture superior to the "here today, gone tomorrow" atmosphere of those other cities. We like seeing young people with green hair, piercings, and modern, intelligent perspectives, rather than rude tourists, rednecks, and bumper to bumper traffic. The beautiful, preserved historic districts are nice, but the biggest asset to DeLand is its forward-thinking component. With that said, DeLand does a crappy job of fostering, retaining, and satisfying those assets and that culture.
Mar 22, 2023

Rural living with farms and yet near everything.
Mar 21, 2023

Proximity to church, beach, river, springs, farms, Orlando, Daytona, and charming downtown area, as well as it WAS NOT built up when I bought here like it is now.
Mar 21, 2023

Affordable new homes
Mar 21, 2023

The house
Mar 20, 2023

DPE because we wanted to be unincorporated

Mar 20, 2023

Town is just the right size, enough shopping and restaurants but not huge. Downtown area nice.
Mar 20, 2023

It's a small, historic city.
Mar 20, 2023

The small town quintessence, friendly people which is slowly leaving us.
Mar 20, 2023

Not too big and urbanized while still having all the amenities close by
Mar 20, 2023

Small town,
Mar 20, 2023

Community feeling Location to other areas such as the beach etc
Mar 19, 2023

Access to skydiving center, a lovely downtown area, farmer's market, attempts at inclusiveness, and short commute to work.
Mar 19, 2023

Stillness, central location, and a great downtown
Mar 19, 2023

At the time, growth was slow.
Mar 19, 2023

Small town charm but close to amenities. No 5:00 traffic NOT a big city
Mar 19, 2023

Quality of life
Mar 19, 2023

Small town feeling.
Mar 19, 2023

Close proximity to downtown Crime Walkability of streets Downtown liveliness
Mar 19, 2023

Small town feel
Mar 19, 2023

Small town, historic downtown
Mar 19, 2023

Small Town feel Downtown Close to Daytona and Orlando
Mar 19, 2023

Twenty years ago it had a small town feeling. That feeling is rapidly disappearing.
Mar 19, 2023

The small town charm , that is now gone
Mar 18, 2023

Small town feel.
Mar 18, 2023

The quality downtown area.
Mar 18, 2023

Affordability, Quaintness,
Mar 18, 2023

Less crime and more ag land than other central FL towns, but that is quickly changing for the worst.
Mar 18, 2023

Small community and hometown feel. All the building use taking away from that feeling and bringing in more crime to the area.
Mar 18, 2023

Trees...surrounding farms and green spaces.
Mar 18, 2023

Walkable, affordable, good people
Mar 18, 2023

Less traffic, less people, more friendly and downtown
Mar 18, 2023

Family! Vibrant community/amazing home town feel
Mar 17, 2023

Closer to work and the house we bought. Also it was close but at the same time far from the coast.
Mar 17, 2023

Close to work
Mar 17, 2023

Small town feel.
Mar 17, 2023

Close to my spouse's job & Competitive Public Elementary School Ratings for the area
Mar 17, 2023

DeLand use to have a small town feel and it was a community that when you went down town or to Publix you always ran into someone you knew. Not anymore. DeLand has grown into DeLando and is now another suburb of Orlando with all the sprawl and strip shopping and traffic that goes with it.
Mar 16, 2023

Safety
Mar 16, 2023

Safety & affordability
Mar 16, 2023

Born and raised
Mar 16, 2023

Small town feel with a strong sense of community, but close to larger cities and the beach.
Mar 16, 2023

Downtown DeLand; being able to live somewhere within walking distance of local businesses and restaurants; trees; sidewalks; proximity to bike trails and state parks; short commute to work.
Mar 16, 2023

Family and history in the area (grew up in Lake Helen). Honestly no other attributes mattered, other cities are better in most ways.
Mar 16, 2023

I moved up from Altamonte Springs because of reduced traffic and the downtown of Deland. I live in town or darn close and can walk Stetson and town without needing a car.
Mar 16, 2023

Less population density. Husband liked city as worked on commercial construction of the government building on Indiana, I am not totally sold on DeLand, I am a big city gal.
Mar 16, 2023

Love downtown for its small businesses and cool festivals. We also love our proximity to the springs and other outdoor activities.
Mar 16, 2023

It feels like home.
Mar 16, 2023

Small town and the various community activities
Mar 16, 2023

test
Mar 15, 2023

Job/commute time, then quality of community. The historic downtown makes DeLand special versus other cities in the area.
Mar 15, 2023

What is your greatest hope and greatest fear for DeLand?

Greatest fear is more limited access development with no bike/walk connectivity and the consequent arterials that are the most dangerous kind of roads to cyclist, walkers, users of disability aids and other VRUs. Greatest hope is Deland will get the vision of the way people want their towns to be (walkable/bikable/livable), and the way towns and transportation will change in the future, and be proactive in preparation. Stop the big developments that will eventually destroy our city. Try to work with FDOT to decrease traffic downtown (e.g. by changing the lights and take other measures to make it easier/faster not more difficult/slower to take the 15 bypass)
May 30, 2023

I hope Deland keeps its close community involvement! I fear the major growth will make that close community go away.
May 30, 2023

Too big for itself-more traffic
May 28, 2023

My greatest fear is the greed that is causing the ruin of forest and swamp areas and depleting the land. The animals that were here now are gone.

May 27, 2023

Return of small town atmosphere. Overpriced, unaffordable housing for middle class people.

May 27, 2023

To not become Daytona or Orlando. To stay a smaller town that's not over populated with subdivisions

May 26, 2023

Hope to continue to grow fear of too much growth

May 26, 2023

Keep small Town and build less

May 26, 2023

My greatest hope is that you'll stop building it up! Leave us alone, leave it small, that's why people like it here! That's what draws people here and you're running it in the name of "progress". No one wants an apartment complex that you can only own a bicycle, get real! It seems all you care about is bringing in more people = more money for you while who's gonna take care of all these new residents? Who's gonna serve them at restaurants, who's gonna be their cashier's at stores? Locals! But how can you have locals when we can't afford any of the housing you build!? Not all of us are old enough to be in senior only communities, not all of us are Stetson students, you need affordable housing for locals. \$1,200 a month for rent alone is not affordable in this inflation ridden economy.

May 25, 2023

Fear it will get too congested. Hope future growth has a master plan

May 25, 2023

To remove all city commissioners, and allow the DeLand locals to pursue future development or not. Greatest fear is all descions made by city commissioners have already overpopulated and ruined DeLand beyond the point of no return.

May 24, 2023

Greatest fear: we'll lose the beauty that attracted my husband and I here in the first place. Greatest hope: the DeLand officials will here our concerns and act upon them.

May 24, 2023

More affordable housing

May 24, 2023

Greatest fear is over population

May 23, 2023

I hope that deland continues to grow and attract nice families. Greatest fear is my family will be forced to move due to low ratings of the high school.

May 23, 2023

Overdevelopment without infrastructure. Wildlife suffering due to human encroachment. Crime and homelessness due to poor wages and soaring rents/mortgages.

May 22, 2023

That it out grows its roads and we keep knocking down the beautiful greenery that makes Deland one of the best home towns that there is.

May 22, 2023

Hope is that it is a place for strong community and cultural outlets. Fear is that it will turn into a drinking and adult entertainment hub. I heard there was a drag show in Cafe DaVinci last week. I hope that was a misduplication on my part.
May 21, 2023

Greatest hope - Create a community with no tolerance for intolerance. Greatest fear - Investing in the community when the community doesn't have the means or desire to support it because they'd rather go to neighboring towns such as Sanford and Winter Park.
May 20, 2023

It becomes like orlando or jacksonville
May 20, 2023

My fear is that the schools will continue to decline. The fight for parents to get their children into the 1 Charter School in the area is crazy. Especially for middle schoolers. My hope is that the city can somehow help to make things better. Freedom Elementary doesn't even have a playground for kids 1-5th grade! That's not normal!
May 19, 2023

Losing to concrete jungle all commissioners have allowed. Greatest hope is quit developing. Mske developers accountable leave and donate land wildlife. Too much developing. Sad. Worst fear is that developing content byes without regard for wildlife.
May 19, 2023

Hope to see more ladies, home goods, antiques stores downtown. I fear less desirable stores will take over the downtown area which would make tourists want to go elsewhere.
May 19, 2023

Way to many storage units and apartments
May 18, 2023

Over growth. Losing the hometown appeal.
May 18, 2023

Greatest fear is irresponsible growth Greatest hope is the sunrail bringing downtown DeLand into connection with the airport, Disney, Miami and Tampa.
May 17, 2023

That deland stops building. Stops tearing down wildlife and trying to fit as many homes as possible in our small beautiful town just so the developers can profit.
May 17, 2023

I hope that DeLand will stop building so many houses and apartments. Our roads and schools can't handle more traffic/students. My greatest fear is that it will take an hour to just drive across town and we will become like Daytona or Orlando, way over crowded!
May 17, 2023

I hope that DeLand remains small and charming, which is what drew us to the area. I fear that it is growing far too rapidly. Large developments are popping up all over, the traffic has more than doubled in the past several years and it's honestly beginning to feel like the communities that we decided against when we chose to make it our home!
May 17, 2023

That commissioners and those responsible for decision making start controlling growth. Greatest fear ha already happened.

May 16, 2023

Preservation Overpopulation

May 16, 2023

My hope is that the population remains the same. My fear is the city will grow and just become another city

May 16, 2023

My greatest hope for Deland is that it will embrace its history and excellent "bones" and continue to move towards being a charming, family-friendly, culturally-rich, day trip destination. With its proximity to beaches, springs, a stunning and respected university and beautiful historic buildings, there is no reason that our town shouldn't achieve destination status any more than Winter Garden, downtown Sanford or Mt. Dora have done. My greatest fear for Deland is that our downtown will devolve into a mishmash of random/adult businesses and ground floor offices to the point that it is no longer a place worth visiting. I'm afraid that lack of regulation and proper planning will destroy the cohesiveness on Woodland, and that unchecked issues with loitering, etc. will make downtown a scary place to be. I'm afraid that the charm that drew me here will disappear from downtown, and that massive cookie-cutter housing developments will crush the character of the city, as well as swell the population to the point that our road systems cannot sustain the load.

May 16, 2023

hope - natural resources are preserved fear - overcrowding

May 16, 2023

Keeping downtown nice Homeless overtaking downtown like they are in the process of doing

May 15, 2023

that we preserve that look and feel and STOP ALL the building of New homes, Apartments etc. and preserve our historic buildings, structures and our land. I fear the Over population of homes, people, traffic, crime and drugs which together is Totally destroying this once beautiful area along with roundabouts and cookie cutter architectural designs.

May 15, 2023

overdevelopment, traffic, cost

May 15, 2023

That our elected officials will stop being persuaded by developers to change our small town into a big overcrowded over congested city. A look at New development downtown that is not consistent with downtown look and standards is just an example of how developer money is obviously more important to our elected officials than maintaining what made DeLand special to begin with.

May 15, 2023

Go back to basics - enforce Lil stuff so some are deterred from bigger stuff. Consequences. Too many million dollar homes being built next to 75k homes. Vacant shopping places on main roads. Cost of living does not match average wage earned.

May 15, 2023

That it can modernize without losing its historic charm and the surrounding beauty. As a native Floridian, I have observed the destruction of our waters, wildlife habitats, and quality road travel.

May 15, 2023

Greatest hope - the downtown will stay the way it is Greatest fear - the immense house building going on ALL over! No thought goes into it, just build, build, build no matter how ugly it looks, with houses 6 ft from each other! Our concern is the price of sewer and water going up!

May 15, 2023

I hope DeLand can be a moderate city that could be an example on how Florida could be. I fear there are too many radical right people in charge, and not many listen to the people.

May 15, 2023

That the open space is disappearing and our quality of life is changing rapidly due to the crowded roads, disappearing wooded areas. My greatest fear is that over-development creating irreversible damage to our natural resources, clean water, flooding issues, possible sink hole issues, school overcrowding, and inadequate roads to support the traffic. This quaint town that we referred to as a hidden gem is rapidly beginning to disappear.

May 14, 2023

a nice hall for us older folks to go play bingo, to many moving to a quiet place and bringing their bad habits with them, most don't get out of their on boxes and change to be better in new surroundings.

May 14, 2023

Fear: Boomers will stop the growth Hope: it will continue to adapt with the times and remain the heart of volusia county

May 14, 2023

Greatest hope for a safe and popular City. Greatest fear-another San Francisco. More police visability and enforcement of local laws. Ive personally experienced hesitation to enforce laws.

May 14, 2023

Over development without infrastructure

May 14, 2023

Fear we have no more trees and land left. My greatest hope is really gone because small town feel is not the same sadly.

May 14, 2023

Greatest hope would be enough politicians to push back on the money and unbridled development. (Oh, I guess that means that our upper crust would have to decide that was a good idea, huh?)

May 14, 2023

Greatest hope that DeLand will stay like a hometown feel and will get a greenway/bike trail like pinellas county has. Greatest fear is that it grows too fast and

May 14, 2023

I hope the downtown area remains a fun and safe place to visit. I fear that development density is detrimental to wildlife and quality of life for all residents.

May 13, 2023

Greatest Hope - that we retain the small town charm, historic appeal, and walking downtown area

Greatest Fear - my greatest hope listed above disintegrating

May 13, 2023

Deland will keep space for parks, build affordable housing and NOT become a mishmash of new developments.

May 13, 2023

Hope save the small town feel. Fear over development which is well underway making me want to leave. N pro t why I moved here.

May 13, 2023

It's growing too fast, and the land... particularly trees...are being destroyed. The infrastructure can't keep up; the growth needs to slow down.

May 13, 2023

I hope we retain that community feeling. I fear that we will get too big.

May 13, 2023

Greatest fear? Too many people. Greatest hope? We can maintain the charm.

May 13, 2023

Greatest fear is that all the criminals will start to come to DeLand rather than go to Daytona. Hope: the city seemed to be built near the springs fresh water railroads and then they built churches. It would be nice to see churches come together with the city for community outreach like a back to school supply drive. Toys for tots. Food distribution. We don't need more 501c3's coming in and threatening like in Pierson that they will quit helping the community if the city doesn't give them free rent in city buildings.

May 11, 2023

Greatest hope: I can sell my house soon. Fear: that I can't sell when there's too many open box houses being built.

May 11, 2023

My greatest hope is more people buy homes and keep them up. My worse fear is this city continues to tolerate the overgrown weeds, the littering which is ridiculous, and allows people to have couches, chairs, etc on the curbs for months.

May 11, 2023

Hope - that it will retain the small town feel. Fear--too much growth, homeless downtown, crime. Too much development. How many apartments do you need downtown? Will there be parking?

May 9, 2023

Greatest hope is that DeLand retain its small town charm. Greatest fear is over-population and loss of pastoral views.

May 9, 2023

I hope Deland remains charming and art/ music oriented. My fear is too many cars and urban sprawl

May 9, 2023

Less traffic - Slow down on building houses; when the roads can not support it.

May 8, 2023

Maintain quality of life. Greatest fear is we are losing that quality of life.

May 8, 2023

Greatest hope is that it does NOT grow in population or density, and the greatest fear is that all our open spaces that attract both people and wildlife will disappear in the next few years if growth is not checked. It shouldn't be about the Almighty dollar when re-zoning or clearing land.

May 8, 2023

I am proud to live in DeLand. I like the way things are (and have been) all my life. No issues with services i.e. Police, Fire, Hospital and city politics. Keep up the good work. Please someone explain to me how DeLand can handle the coming traffic nightmare. Has anyone tried to leave or enter DeLand during rush hours? (It added 10minutes to my Otown commute). Idk, I am retired recently and probably just need to get the golf cart.

May 5, 2023

More traffic, more franchises, high rise bldgs
May 5, 2023

My hope is that it would become quiet, and that Stetson would buy up my land so I could move.
Also, I don't feel safe where I live.
May 4, 2023

Hope that developments stop. Fear that it won't.
May 4, 2023

Greatest fear is the thousands of homes being built near me. The roads and highways can't handle more population. They will require more schools, shopping centers, hospitals, water consumption. We will look for a quieter place to live.
May 4, 2023

My greatest hope is that we can maintain the sense of community that attracts people here. My fear is that we're turning into a personality-free sprawl like Jacksonville.
May 4, 2023

Greatest hope- slow down housing development and meet the existing demand with community/ street development Greatest fear- loose the small town feel with over development
May 3, 2023

Overdevelopment, increased pavement leading to reduced groundwater quality for wells. We love our spring water from our well pump. Displaced bears losing the wildlife homes in the woods
May 3, 2023

Greatest hope- visionary leaders will one day emerge Greatest fear- same old people stay in charge bowing down to Stetson and Developers
May 2, 2023

Hope that DeLand maintains it's small town charm as it grows. Fear for over- utilization of resources
May 2, 2023

Greatest hope is stop over development and build a community. Greatest fear is over development over population and over crowding which is becoming a reality
May 1, 2023

Hope is more land set aside for nature & less homes!
May 1, 2023

Greatest fear - overpopulation - but also, greatest hope - more affordable housing
May 1, 2023

Greatest fear is that it will become over populated and become a major city and lose it's small town ambiance.
May 1, 2023

To become like lake Mary
May 1, 2023

My greatest hope is for Deland to continue been a safe place for its residents. A place where kids, teens, adults and senior citizens can live a normal live, without having to be in constant fear. My greatest fear is that the city government agencies stop taking care of the residents ' safety, of the trees, parks, streets and bodies of waters. This will mean that the city will lose its' beauty and it will become dangerous place to live.

Apr 29, 2023

Greatest hope is to stop the gun violence, greatest fear is building to many sub divisions

Apr 28, 2023

i hope that deland comes to their senses and stops ticketing individuals who work at the businesses that operate on their mainstreet in the downtown deland area. if you want to continue to be voted the best mainstreet in the country then you need to listen and actually work to help the people who serve the visitors in this community. my greatest fear is that they don't and deland becomes just like surrounding areas that have high trafficking rates. that i'll be assaulted walking out to my car at night again. that deland will not listen and crime rates will rise and young women will live in even more fear than they already do. that the police report of the trespassed man that hangs in the bathroom at work will multiply. that having to walk 5 blocks to get to my car in the dark of night anyone is going to take advantage of me or any of my coworkers and at best end up in the hospital with trauma for a lifetime or be found lifeless in a ditch somewhere. i fear that deland does not care for their citizens, especially the hundreds of young women who are employeeed in their downtown area. my greatest hope is that they do and fix this issue before it's too late for us.

Apr 27, 2023

Greatest fear: overbuilding. Stop the overbuilding/overdevelopment of this city. It's too much now. Greatest hope: Implement parking passes for employees that work downtown. Charge an affordable monthly fee so they can have a parking pass attached to their vehicle.

Apr 27, 2023

Hope downtown will continue to be. Over building Retail Stores outside of downtown. More clothing stores.

Apr 26, 2023

My hope is that city officials listen to the people who definitely want the town to stay the way it is. My fear is it will be decimated by construction and multi family housing for rent! Also the crime has been going up the last couple of years.

Apr 26, 2023

My greatest hope is that Deland could be the small hometown close community I grew up in. My greatest fear is the increase in crime and lack of respect for each other.

Apr 25, 2023

Fear: Crime and homelessness infiltrating neighborhoods, decreasing value of homes. Hope: Managed growth of residences with infrastructure and city services being ahead of the curve.

Apr 24, 2023

greatest fear-Overdevelopment greatest hope-reduce overdevelopment

Apr 24, 2023

Hope, that the city begins to value the nature it has. It is amazing to see how green Deland looks from the air. Fear, that this green is quickly disappearing. Certain type of trees or old trees which should be protected.

Apr 24, 2023

Hope: the city stays small and intimate Fear: becoming too crowded and congested

Apr 24, 2023

That the city will stop approving all of these new densely packed communities. Enough is enough!

Apr 24, 2023

I hope DeLand will retain its small town, old Florida feel, my greatest fear is that it will not
Apr 24, 2023

Losing small town feel and better Infrastructure
Apr 24, 2023

Freedom in how you live Losing the freedom
Apr 23, 2023

Greatest hope.... Better caliber of education to get higher ranking schools - and to improve appearance of medians and entry points into the city. Greatest fear.... Unbridled growth without expert planning...
Apr 23, 2023

That we stick to our roots and not become the next liberal community.
Apr 23, 2023

Greatest hope: keep the charm of DeLand Greatest fear: Too much development!!!
Apr 23, 2023

Hope: it stays a small town where one can raise a family! Fear: getting too big!
Apr 23, 2023

My greatest hope is that as we grow, the council will want what's absolutely best for the citizens and families and not necessarily look to always please those that yell the loudest or intimidate. I'd love to see us build with a purpose and not just for revenue sake. My greatest fear is that we bring in so many new people that we don't resemble DeLand anymore. Build the infrastructure to handle all the people and build it well with character and class as to not turn into a sloppy town.
Apr 23, 2023

Greatest hope- become more inclusive and focus on maintaining the environment for generations to come. Greatest fear- keep adding churches to the city who don't pay taxes which burden the rest of the property owners in city proper.
Apr 22, 2023

My hope is that we control growth and get rid of overt religious demonstrations (Friday screamers and Easter crosses). My fear is that the extremists will get more strident and that growth will continue unchecked
Apr 22, 2023

That it will stay a safe and quiet place. Greatest fear is that it gets overdeveloped (it almost is already) and traffic, noise, and conflicts will be common (almost are already). New buildings seem to have no character. Examples are the Marriot Hotel and plans for ugly and boring apartment buildings. They don't fit with the older character of the city.
Apr 22, 2023

I hope that the destruction of green areas can be stopped. I'm afraid DeLand will become as tacky as the rest of Florida.
Apr 22, 2023

Overgrowth and traffic.
Apr 22, 2023

Greatest fear: more apartments, new communities, storage units, and commodity stores (dollar general) Greatest hope: DeLand would expand its 'Athens of Florida' namesake beyond the

downtown area (where zoning allows), creating a city that is truly immersed in culture, arts, sports, commerce and entertainment.
Apr 22, 2023

Better infrastructure, with safe places to go. Fear increasing inflation, high taxes, too many people, too many homeless, decrease value of properties
Apr 22, 2023

Hope that they stop approving all of these developments going up. I fear that the politicians are going to just keep approving developing every square inch of the town despite clearly not having the infrastructure needed.
Apr 22, 2023

Keep it the size it is Too much development, too big
Apr 21, 2023

My hope is that DeLand maintains a small town feel and my fear is that rent for shop owners goes so high that businesses cannot survive.
Apr 21, 2023

Hope that it maintains the small town feel. Fear that overcrowded roads and parking areas make it impossible to enjoy the downtown area and events.
Apr 20, 2023

It is already like development in south Florida build build build overwhelming amounts of homes stripping our land providing no services, no care for the elderly and low income families. It's here and you in office don't care but lines your pockets. Crime is already getting bad. It was a nice community.
Apr 20, 2023

Fear...the apartments being built. Bad design and do not fit in with the Historic buildings. Parking!!!!
Hope...more jobs in the downtown area.
Apr 19, 2023

That Deland continues to be charming and a destination spot for people all over the community. That the homeless ruin our downtown and make it unsafe or dangerous to go to especially when it's at night.
Apr 19, 2023

That DeLand continues to attract people who care about the community and value our public institutions, history, and culture.
Apr 18, 2023

My greatest hope is that they will stop this over development and my fear is that we will look like Deltona.
Apr 18, 2023

Unwanted growth...
Apr 18, 2023

Greatest fear is it is. Expanding way too fast, and water resources are not sufficient for all the community going up and the traffic. The roundabout they are proposing at 44/Kepler is crazy.
Apr 18, 2023

My greatest hope is that the communities stop being built so we can continue to have trees in the city and nearby areas. My greatest fear is that it doesn't stop.
Apr 18, 2023

Greatest hope is that you stop building housing developments, greatest fear is that the city becomes so congested and overcrowded because you won't stop adding more houses. Our schools and roads are already overcrowded. Deland High has over 3,000 students, one high school will not be enough the city continues this way.
Apr 17, 2023

Greatest hope is it stays the same. Greatest fear is you'll turn it into the Orlando area. Don't destroy our farm lands, Forrest and kill out wildlife. It's what makes DeLand special!
Apr 17, 2023

Greatest fear is the continuation of developers building more and more housing
Apr 17, 2023

Greatest hope- not overcrowded Greatest fear-death of the woods and animals
Apr 16, 2023

I hope you add Golf Cart lanes. My fear has already happened-so, I hope we can maintain the small town charm .
Apr 16, 2023

Keep Deland as a small town. With the new Sunrail hope that more people come to visit n revenue in our town. To much traffic!
Apr 16, 2023

My greatest hope for DeLand is that we are adaptive. We cannon oppose every development, but not every development is appropriate either. We must balance the need for growth with our natural resources and make sure that decisions are being made responsibly. My greatest fear is in line with the hope - while infill development is good, I am scared of the rapid development on the outskirts of town and the impact to our natural resources. Trees, plants, water all must be protected or at the very least mitigated to ensure that we maintain our beautiful town.
Apr 16, 2023

Retaining the charm of the city. Building!!! Subdivisions are bad enough. Bigger concern for warehouses, storage, commercial development being considered.
Apr 16, 2023

That we retain our small town feel. That we become to big. Increase in crime.
Apr 16, 2023

I didn't realize how quicly it would grow, loved the trees that are now disappearing.
Apr 16, 2023

We do NOT need affordable housing. We should be seeking excellence and quality. Members of society who can afford to live in nice homes, support local businesses, donate to our local non-profits, and pay taxes... we were created as the Athens of Florida... we must raise our standards. We should be the Athens but we aren't. Crime is rampant. Build higher standards of living and that's what you will attract.
Apr 15, 2023

Lower water bills. Larger police dept.
Apr 15, 2023

Greatest hope is to stop all the building of houses & clearing all the land of trees and brush. You are ruining our city from what it use to be. You are more concerned with \$\$ than to even think of where are all the wildlife going to go. You want the "green deal" and worry about the environment, yet you are destroying it. Schools are overcrowded, the kids out of hand. Traffic is congested, backed up. Accidents getting worse. Greatest fear is that we become just like Orlando, Tampa, Miami. And we are getting there fast :(

Apr 15, 2023

Crime/illicit drug free city 🙏🙏🙏 Delinquency and substance use increasing :(

Apr 14, 2023

Fear division. Areas that feel safe and others to avoid.

Apr 14, 2023

Keep small town vibe keep out type businesses I really fear that we are getting overpopulated here.

Apr 13, 2023

My fear is too much building leading to more traffic, crowded schools and water shortages...losing our 'Mayberry' reputation. My hope is for our downtown to thrive, much like downtown Sanford.

Apr 12, 2023

I don't see any hope. We are letting our town go down the drain. Fear we will be a version of Orlando so sad 😞

Apr 12, 2023

Having too much housing, their cost is ridiculous

Apr 12, 2023

Hope is that all of DeLand becomes more inclusive and welcoming like the actual downtown area of Deland Greatest fear is that the population that has outdated and bigoted ideology takes a bigger control due to misguided state guidance

Apr 12, 2023

Greatest hope: Maintain integrity of downtown & Greatest fear: overdevelopment!

Apr 12, 2023

Greatest hope is it truly becomes a strong ,proud town. Greatest fear crime gets worse.

Apr 11, 2023

Traffic, crowding with new developments and apt buildings

Apr 11, 2023

Greatest fear is urbanization. It is already incredibly difficult to drive during morning/afternoon in certain parts of the city. My greatest hope is that this town retains its small town charm by continuing to offer parades and downtown events/activities.

Apr 11, 2023

My greatest hope is that a system of mutual aid and citizen led government can be developed. My greatest fear is that cost of living rises until only the wealthy can afford to live here.

Apr 10, 2023

My hope is there is a cap put on new, large building projects. My fear is that DeLand has lost its small town appeal. It's too crowded, too spread out, too busy. If I wanted all this crowding, I would have stayed in Orlando.

Apr 9, 2023

Hope Deland continues to attract best of class government leadership.
Apr 9, 2023

My greatest hope for Deland would be strategic growth with diversity not only in business but with people coming here. The city has a lot of growth to do and what happens at this point is pivotal for what the city would be like in the next 10 years. My fear for Deland is that the too many residents will try to stop growth and crooked city leaders pocketing taxpayer money. This is not a city to raise kids. I will be leaving within in the next year.
Apr 9, 2023

Fear is amount of houses being built, traffic issues, crime rate, amount of homeless everywhere, vape shops downtown
Apr 9, 2023

Downtown stays small and quaint and businesses continue to proper. Over population and congested
Apr 9, 2023

That we will become another Orlando or even Deltona. Too big, too many people
Apr 9, 2023

Greatest fear – that outside money will keep influencing city commission decisions. Greatest hope - that the city would stop wasting resident's time and resources with never ending committees and actually do something about the degradation of the downtown area. I sat on some of these committees. It was a waste of my time and effort. Other members felt the same way. A number of us decided we would never waste our time in this manner again.
Apr 8, 2023

Preserve our architectural history. Over population which is already happening. Destroying of our TREES.
Apr 7, 2023

My greatest hope is that we will remain a strong community with a dedication to preserve our history and our unique way of life. My greatest fear is that we will lose all that and become just another once lovely Florida town that is now overgrown. Over crowded. And out of touch with our history and each other.
Apr 7, 2023

Greatest hope is continuing to build up and support the downtown area of DeLand as well as the surrounding areas of DeLand to make it more safe and fun. My greatest fear is that more apartments and new construction homes being build and crowding up the small-town feel that originally was our decision for moving to the area just 3 years ago.
Apr 6, 2023

That it'll be over developed with houses that all look alike and cost too much.
Apr 5, 2023

More bigger stores to shop in so I don't have to drive so far. Also my concern is for it to not to become so congested like Deltona with people and traffic
Apr 5, 2023

Hope people do not see growth as advantageous and it can get back to its roots from 30 years ago
Apr 5, 2023

It's turning out to be like altamonte springs but with less infrastructure

Apr 5, 2023

I hope DeLand puts some very strict development laws in place - development will happen but it needs to SLOW WAY DOWN. My greatest fear is that it is too late. I saw a dead deer on Grand Avenue yesterday - sad. The deer, bears and sand cranes don't get to voice their opinion or submit a questionnaire.

Apr 4, 2023

Hope - maintain small town feel Fear - overrun just like so many cities on the I-4 corridor.

Apr 3, 2023

Keep density the same. Too many people clogging roads and green spaces.

Apr 3, 2023

Greatest hope is a community pool for adult fitness year round, fear it will never happen.

Apr 3, 2023

Less growth. Our greatest fear is increase in crime and violence.

Apr 1, 2023

Hope is keeping its small town feel Fear is losing it

Mar 31, 2023

Hope: Pause and thought about how to grow steady and healthy while maintaining the charm and community involvement that we're known for. Fear: Corporate overtake of the local businesses, overload of infrastructure and traffic patterns, infill of cheap and unattractive HOA subdivisions that bring in people that don't care about the community or history that DeLand has worked to maintain.

Mar 31, 2023

Hope for more parking downtown, another high school. Fear overcrowding and crime

Mar 31, 2023

Greatest hope: RESPONSIBLE growth that does not jeopardize the "small town" and historic charm. Continued strong sense of community and a safe place for families to raise their children. Greatest fear: Irresponsible growth where schools, hospitals, roads, traffic cannot keep up with the influx of new residence. Our schools are already overpacked. Disregard for green spaces in the name of progress and honestly, fear of projects that go against the wishes of the actual residents, especially those impacted the most by whatever change is being implemented.

Mar 30, 2023

Over population

Mar 30, 2023

Careful, thoughtful growth not only in population but also in services. Crime and traffic that is a free for all.

Mar 30, 2023

Fear: Growing too big (Traffic, Resources (like hospitals) stretched thin due to the added demand)

Hope: retains its rural character.

Mar 29, 2023

If we keep clearing acreage, all those new housing and business developments will lose lots of their charm. Why not plan with trees, small parks, lunch areas, etc in mind for residents and businesses. Keep DeLand feeling like an environmentally responsible community.

Mar 29, 2023

Keeping small-town feel vs turning into daytona or deltona
Mar 29, 2023

More downtown market and activities for families (worst fear overcrowding)
Mar 29, 2023

Over development, a strain on infrastructure
Mar 28, 2023

Hope: stay strong and prosper
Mar 28, 2023

My greatest hope that leadership will start listening to experts regarding the impact on our water supply and flooding problems. Over the course of the past twenty five years, the voice of the people has been drowned out by developers and their lawyers. Land use regulations and zoning is changed so quickly that the community is often unaware of the impact until it is too late. Busy schedules make it impossible to keep up with the agenda items at the Planning level and TRC level so that when it finally gets to the Commission it is literally a done deal. Code needs to be modified with more emphasis on tree preservation, flooding potential and the implementation of low impact development. My fear is that nothing will stop the out of control, runaway development train.
Mar 28, 2023

That if we're going to pretend to be a big city that we go all the way. Since we are already over run due to Victoria park expansion that we've lost the remaining small town charm that remained
Mar 28, 2023

Greatest hope is that city politicians care about the city and surrounding area as a whole and don't cave to builders who suck the area dry then move on without a care in the world. Greatest fear... that most attention will be given to Downtown and the rest of DeLand will go by the wayside. Woodland seems to be a dividing line... work with business owners to cultivate a sense of pride. Ensure people feel safe.
Mar 28, 2023

Greatest hope is that the city maintains its small town charm and avoids over crowding and traffic
Mar 27, 2023

Greatest hope is that DeLand remains safe and committed to the safety and quality of life of its citizens. Greatest fear, greedy developers over building without regard to beauty, safety, and infrastructure.
Mar 27, 2023

The greatest fear is suburban sprawl and the turning of DeLand into something that is completely unrecognizable as DeLand. Nobody who lives here wants to see DeLand turn into an off shoot of Orlando. That's what makes this place so great, is that it's close enough to Orlando without the crowding. The greatest hope is that we can return this city to what made it special.
Mar 27, 2023

Greatest hope is that DeLand will become even more safe place to live. Greatest fear is that the crime will continue to grow and overrun or great City.
Mar 27, 2023

Hope- it retains the culture Fear- overdevelopment will dilute and eliminate the small town charm and culture of the city
Mar 27, 2023

Those that make the most noise don't have the best interest of DeLand as a whole.
Mar 27, 2023

Hope- economy. Fear- being taken over by people who think their religious beliefs need to be imposed on everyone.
Mar 27, 2023

My greatest hope is that we will realize the above and make the proper changes while my greatest fear is that it will be ignored and soon we will have so much overcrowding and poor roads and schools
Mar 27, 2023

I hope for it to remain the small town, university-enriched place that it is and I worry about haphazard over development!
Mar 27, 2023

Remain small yet progressive within a framework that keeps the downtown complete with one of a kind interesting shops restaurants and boutique services... fear is becoming too transient of a community and fewer full time residents that continue to support these businesses ongoing.
Mar 27, 2023

DeLand is expanding rapidly and the infrastructure isn't keeping pace. My hope is to slow the growth!!!
Mar 26, 2023

Hope- It maintains it's small town feel Fear- It becomes another touristy Florida town
Mar 26, 2023

That it will become more like Orlando where it will be too expensive for families, over crowded, and all around no longer the small town it used to be. It will get swallowed by city life and lose its small town charm.
Mar 26, 2023

That it maintains what attracted us to it in the first place as stated and the fear it will be destroyed by the uncontrolled growth based on outdated plans
Mar 26, 2023

Well managed growth. Crime and reckless driving will continue to rise.
Mar 26, 2023

That water and electric bills will keep climbing.
Mar 26, 2023

The greatest hope is that DeLand will incorporate green areas as it expands, value our natural environment and retain a sense of community. The greatest fear is that developers will pave over nature and build a sprawling network of suburbs with no central focus.
Mar 26, 2023

Hope that we won't overload our utilities and roads and schools. Just because we have open land, that's what makes DeLand special. We don't want to become another segment of DeBary-Orange City. Jeep our greenspace! Without it we are just another overheated, cluster on the highway.
Mar 26, 2023

Hope that the city will be mindful of keeping some open natural spaces. Fear that the city will become a place of concrete and the city will forget about the places outside the immediate downtown area.

Mar 25, 2023

Greatest hope-able to retire here. Greatest fear-taxes keep going up!

Mar 25, 2023

Hope: to realize it's full potential and to be a place for economic growth and development.

Mar 25, 2023

That we continue to invest in creating a community that is safe, beautiful and promotes healthy lifestyles. My biggest fear is the pockets of crime we experience and decline in care of some of our landscaping, buildings, and areas around downtown. We need to place a healthy amount of pressure to beautify our community outside of just the downtown area and along our roadways leading in to our town. Over building without long term impacts being accounted for regarding over development and lack of protection of our lands and wooded areas

Mar 25, 2023

Hope: sustainable building while making sure infrastructure can handle new residents Fear: uncontrolled building is outpacing roads and schools

Mar 23, 2023

Hope: rein in the development of every square inch of this town Fear: the city will not control development

Mar 23, 2023

DeLand continues to feel small. My fear is that we continue to grow too fast and the citizens that have lived here 20+ years are the ones to pay for it.

Mar 23, 2023

Hope more restaurants Fear is too many homeless

Mar 22, 2023

I hope the quality of education can improve so the people who live here can enjoy local high-value careers in the future.

Mar 22, 2023

My greatest hope for DeLand is that it will see that more houses doesn't equate to the 'Best Small Town' it claims to be. My biggest fear is that this area will become over populated and suffer for it.

Mar 22, 2023

Greatest hope: That DeLand will learn from the hundreds of communities and cities that have already moved to a modern quality of life with greater emphasis on HUMAN needs and proclivities: walking, socializing, moving, relaxing, dining - just LIVING - in surroundings which promote and support those opportunities, rather than squashing them and layering on ever more 1950s cookie-cutter boxy homes that destroy enjoyable living. Get a vision and FUND it! Greatest fear: Currently, DeLand is four blocks of Mayberry surrounding itself with South Florida sprawl. I have attended many city meetings and City Council sessions, and am simply amazed at the utter absence of quality project management and effective, systematic processes. (I worked globally managing people and processes for corporations, and when DeLand is presented with important decisions, it too often veers toward the deficient, ill-advised choices, all the while proclaiming, "Our hands are tied.") Continuing with its current vision, methods, and processes will be the death knell of a once well-positioned city.

Mar 22, 2023

Fear - that Deland keeps building out, instead of proving more dense housing at the city center.
Hope - we can make the city more walkable. The city is missing sidewalks on many roads, or they are very small without an easement to the road. There are many sidewalks in disrepair as well.
Mar 22, 2023

Too much building it was a nice town but too much building. There's plenty of empty businesses and houses to be revamped. Also help homeless, hire people to assist them in getting addresses if they want off streets.
Mar 21, 2023

Greatest hope is that you stop development and improve the infrastructure to support quality of life over profits. Greatest fear is that you'll just keep doing what you have been doing... over development of HOAs and malls etc.
Mar 21, 2023

Hope - invest in improving schools Fear - building more homes before improving infrastructure
Mar 21, 2023

Hope-controlled thoughtful growth that is pro business. Fear-thoughtless sprawl
Mar 20, 2023

Family friendly (just had a baby)! Fear the increasing crime here
Mar 20, 2023

That it stays a nice safe community. Fear that over building will make roads, schools, population etc. a disaster
Mar 20, 2023

Hope - preservation Fear - development
Mar 20, 2023

Fear: We don't become a town of cookie cutter homes, higher crime, and are no longer a quaint friendly town due to an explosion of mishandled growth Hope: Our city leaders develop Deland responsibly! Add parking downtown or people will choose to go elsewhere to shop, dine and explore. We want to thrive not become "Deadland" because it's too inconvenient to park.
Mar 20, 2023

That it doesn't become overpopulated and overpriced
Mar 20, 2023

Greatest hope...slow down over building of zero lot line/cookie cutter development. Maintain small town atmosphere, lifestyle. Greatest fear...Deland will turn into just another appendage of Orlando. Orange City all ready has and is disgusting. Lose of wildlife habitat, too much traffic, crime.
Mar 20, 2023

My hope is that the town will grow toward positive and productive renovations of the city. Allowing for more businesses to be open in the evenings esp on the weekend. My fear is that the city will be stagnant due to the allowance of vagrant individuals and drug infested areas Schools, particularly from middle school to high school are not safe The high school needs to be expanded; create a 9/10 building and a 11/12 building.
Mar 19, 2023

I would hope that DeLand would make quality housing more accessible while planning better for additional traffic. Keep corporations from buying up existing housing. I fear that our town is growing too fast without proper planning.

Mar 19, 2023

Greatest hope is that it becomes a little more modernized while still keeping the historic elements.
Fear: there won't be enough doctors

Mar 19, 2023

Hope - that growth will slow/stop before it's too over crowded. Fear, that we have already reached that point.

Mar 19, 2023

Greatest Hope: the amount of neighborhoods in DeLand will stop. It's ridiculous to see housing developments where woods and trees once were. I like the small town charm and that DeLand is not Sanford or Daytona. I live in DeLand so I have peace and quiet and can go to Sanford or Daytona when I want to go to the city. Greatest fear: with the amount of houses going in, can this town handle the extra people and traffic? It's hard to find parking downtown on a weekend night. There aren't enough restaurants downtown to handle the influx of people. The traffic in the evenings is terrible. It shouldn't take 8 mins in the morning to go 3 miles and 20 mins in the evening to do the same.

Mar 19, 2023

Hope for Walkable, affordable and Beautiful DeLand Fear quantity over Quality

Mar 19, 2023

Growth is the fear.

Mar 19, 2023

That it will grow into a place where everyone feels welcome not just those with money. Fear- It will grow too much without enough policing and crime will be rampant.

Mar 19, 2023

That deland stops building housing communities. That deland will turn into another Sanford.

Mar 19, 2023

Hope - that the City will heed what so many residents have relayed - the fear of overcrowding and overdevelopment will ruin our small town community.

Mar 19, 2023

Greatest fear is over growth. Traffic is already horrible Greatest hope is we never lose the small Town feel.

Mar 19, 2023

Controlling widespread growth is possible but there doesn't seem to be any desire at the city government level to do so.

Mar 19, 2023

To stop building everywhere there is sand

Mar 18, 2023

Greatest hope is to keep our small town feel. Greatest fear, too crowded.

Mar 18, 2023

Hope: further enhancing downtown Fear: public or low-income apartments in the downtown.

Mar 18, 2023

Get a hold on the drugs and criminals and reclaim the proud small town feel while protecting agriculture.

Mar 18, 2023

Less development please. You are taking away all of our Green space and it's bringing more crime to our area
Mar 18, 2023

Hope for small community fear for too many people.
Mar 18, 2023

That it's not adding affordable housing for people. I'm a teacher and some of my unmarried teacher friends are having trouble finding affordable places to rent.
Mar 18, 2023

Road construction and annexation not pacing with growth and expansion
Mar 18, 2023

That the over building will stop so DeLand doesn't become like orlando, Altamonte springs and lake mary
Mar 18, 2023

Hope: It gets better Fear: no balance between nature and new construction and increasing crime rates.
Mar 17, 2023

Hope to see more upscale growth. I fear safety may be an issue related to crime in nearby areas
Mar 17, 2023

That what's left of the small town feel can be preserved. Biggest fear is that we are at the point of now return with the over development. No adequate schools and traffic is getting out of control.
Mar 17, 2023

The area seems to be growing very rapidly even in the short amount of time I have lived here. It would be a shame to lose the small town feel around an university that I have gotten to know. The homeless/panhandling problem seem to be a bigger problem with each passing day what is being done to correct this? What drug rehabilitation programs & job training/placement programs are available to these individuals in addition to short-term housing (NOT JUST HURRICANE & COLD WEATHER).
Mar 17, 2023

Too late. Already too much development. Too many lawns sucking too much of our drinking water. Too much traffic. I try to avoid Woodland and 15-A in my drive to and from work. Now DeLand and the County are turning all the rural areas west of DeLand into zero lot line subdivisions with no trees. All those houses will have lawns and each one will have multiple cars.
Mar 16, 2023

I'm afraid Deland will lose the charm it has with all of the building projects. I hope we will maintain our charm and sense of community
Mar 16, 2023

Hope to go back to small town, fear we are turning into Lake Mary or Orlando
Mar 16, 2023

Greatest hope - manageable growth that leads to more opportunities. Greatest fear - rising crime rate.
Mar 16, 2023

Greatest hope: We lead the state in developing a small city that provides affordable housing, multimodal transportation options, and parks that showcase and preserve our beautiful natural areas. Greatest fear: We focus on developing on the city periphery without planning for bicycle and pedestrian safety and become yet another sprawling suburb where getting around requires a car and where trees and natural spaces are sparse.

Mar 16, 2023

Hope: the downtown DeLand community feeling extends to the rest of the city Fear: people stop caring about where they live and slowly destroy it. This brings me back to sidewalks and light commercial. People walking, biking, and interacting with people they live around creates community.

Mar 16, 2023

Greatest hope would be making town more walkable and adding that green space. Greatest fear - more development leading to more cars, less parking in town, and more crime of opportunity. I would hate to move, but will if needed.

Mar 16, 2023

The Council keeps approving high density residential developments, STOP! infrastructure already cannot handle the additional vehicle usage. Guess the city is greedy for more tax dollars. Or you will impose a greater tax mill levy, are seniors on limited income. With added developments water processing plant will be further taxed and will not be able to keep up with demand, our water filtration plant is undersized and old.

Mar 16, 2023

I hope that DeLand will expand upon the things that make it a nice place to live. I fear it will become another copycat sprawling suburb with no character or uniqueness (like Deltona, Altamonte Springs, Brandon, or any number of other suburbs in this state).

Mar 16, 2023

Hope: DeLand stays a place I am proud to live Fear: grow too fast that the infrastructure will not keep up and it will be overdeveloped and will lose the charm.

Mar 16, 2023

Greatest fear: growing too much; crowding; too much traffic. Greatest hope: keep it small

Mar 16, 2023

test

Mar 15, 2023

Hope: DeLand continues being the Athens of Florida -- even with more people moving to our area. Fear: People start arguing over everything and forget about how great we have it and focus on making it greater.

Mar 15, 2023

What makes DeLand Distinctive?

still maintaining our small-town charm and gridded street patterns... (but it's disappearing fast due to the big developments.) and a University committed to community engagement.

May 30, 2023

Downtown and community

May 30, 2023

Downtown area
May 28, 2023

Nowadays, burgeoning growth without investing in enough infrastructure to support it.
May 27, 2023

The history
May 26, 2023

Friendly home style atmosphere
May 26, 2023

Small town
May 26, 2023

It USED to be it's historic small town feel, but you're raping it of that. Stop tearing down trees. Stop building.
May 25, 2023

It's a small town with a beautiful downtown, things like historic Stetson. Having the St. John's attribute to DeLands beauty.
May 24, 2023

It's friendly people first and foremost. The loveliness of our our downtown area. Our wonderful local merchants!
May 24, 2023

Diversity.
May 24, 2023

Small town feel and nice downtown
May 23, 2023

Small town with culture, thanks to Stetson. Enough amenities without overdevelopment (but not for long).
May 22, 2023

The hometown appeal. Centered between two major cities. Main Street!!
May 22, 2023

Beautiful Stetson Uni
May 21, 2023

DeLands heritage is defined greatly by its historical traits. Unfortunately at this juncture, it seems as if many of our policies are still stuck in a time warp. As I see it, these policies are defining us as a city to not be inclusive or willing to accept change.
May 20, 2023

The downtown area is so historical and such a great place, but it being riddle with homeless people makes it extremely unappealing.
May 19, 2023

Used to be small town charm. Downtown was amazing. Now you allow a big apt complex in middle. Sad main street usa is gone. Sad
May 19, 2023

Nicer shops downtown.
May 19, 2023

Downtown
May 18, 2023

The parades, the Fall Festival of the Arts, the many celebrations when main streets are shut down to accommodate festivities. This is Home Town America from Years gone by.
May 18, 2023

It's Downtown
May 17, 2023

The downtown area
May 17, 2023

DeLand is a beautiful, historic town with a home town feel that is quickly disappearing.
May 17, 2023

Small communities, fewer corporate businesses (more mom and pop). Mult-Generational families!
May 17, 2023

Stetson University.
May 16, 2023

It's uniqueness
May 16, 2023

Used to be small town
May 16, 2023

The history
May 16, 2023

I think that Stetson is truly the biggest gem in Deland's crown. That and the historic buildings: The courthouse, the Athens Theater, and other various remarkable buildings that are so worth preserving.
May 16, 2023

main street feel
May 16, 2023

Historic downtown
May 15, 2023

I feel, not much anymore
May 15, 2023

The charm and small town feel it has.
May 15, 2023

downtown, Painter's Park, and college vibe
May 15, 2023

Not much anymore. It's incredibly discouraging to go anywhere in our town only to be met with congestion. At the risk of being extreme it seems that DeLand's elected officials in the past couple of decades have sold their soul to developers.

May 15, 2023

All in one

May 15, 2023

HISTORY and old buildings. This area needs to move traffic away and focus on added outdoor dining , walkable areas surrounded by butterfly and bee gardens, fountains, etc. Our area is filled with small farms producing healthy organic foods and we should support their effort.

May 15, 2023

Definitely our beautiful downtown !

May 15, 2023

It's small, quaint, and modest

May 15, 2023

The lovely downtown.

May 14, 2023

quiet, the county seat, the St.Johns River, no hussle and bussle

May 14, 2023

Fun per capita

May 14, 2023

Thats tough! Historic down town activities but you could say that about many towns in Florida!

May 14, 2023

The downtown area

May 14, 2023

Used to be small town feel. There was land and country. Now there is developing and road construction everywhere!

May 14, 2023

Still relatively small (you're ruining that), green areas (your developing over that), and a quaint identity (that's being sold-out)

May 14, 2023

Hometown small-town feeling.

May 14, 2023

Stetson University, historic homes and buildings, public art.

May 13, 2023

Historic homes, college town, less crime, less traffic, walking downtown area with shops and restaurants.

May 13, 2023

Architecture, Artisans Alley, Downtown, small town feel.

May 13, 2023

Downtown and small town feel that is being lost fast.

May 13, 2023

It's small town atmosphere and beauty...but we are losing that, unfortunately.

May 13, 2023

It has one high school. We close our downtown streets to have parades. When kids grow and leave, they can come back and still feel they are part of the community.

May 13, 2023

It used to be mainstreet but with all of the building on and around Woodland near downtown has changed that.

May 13, 2023

Pride in DeLand history. Desire to respect and honor the founders while looking to the future needs of the community

May 11, 2023

Downtown

May 11, 2023

Downtown!!

May 11, 2023

Close knit community.

May 9, 2023

Downtown vibe, the Artisan's market, the Athens theatre and Stetson University.

May 9, 2023

Main Street preservation , the university, and it's people

May 9, 2023

Was the Small town feeling

May 8, 2023

The people.

May 8, 2023

Small college town with an engaged population.

May 8, 2023

Nothing- Deland is boring...nothing to see here...move along. (small L on purpose). I named a lot already, like I said I love DeLand. Can we just keep it a secret how cool it is and slow down a whisker.

May 5, 2023

Small town with an urban vibe

May 5, 2023

The only thing about Deland that I like is downtown has a nice feel except for the homeless sleeping on the benches

May 4, 2023

It has lost it's distinctiveness with over developments. . No longer the city of trees.

May 4, 2023

It's the County Seat.
May 4, 2023

Downtown, Stetson, our commitment to historic preservation, very active Mainstreet DeLand and all of their events, access to nature, the arts, I could go on and on.
May 4, 2023

Downtown and Stetson brings things to do an interesting fun place while still being in a smaller town
May 3, 2023

It's cultural diversity and ability to freely express them through events
May 3, 2023

The distinction for DeLand is that the leaders have ruined a once charming small town rather than have the vision of a Winter Garden
May 2, 2023

The embracing of LGBTQ diversity and the fun events . The wonderful downtown too of course!
May 2, 2023

It was the small town charm and community.
May 1, 2023

Was a small town!
May 1, 2023

The campus, the downtown, the community activities
May 1, 2023

University and downtown
May 1, 2023

As soon as you exit I4, using exits 116 or 118, you are welcome to DeLand by beautiful tall trees and calm waters near SR44. That makes DeLand distinctive. People have the opportunity of living in a place that has been developed and understands the importance of beauty through nature.
Apr 29, 2023

N/a
Apr 28, 2023

it being a small town that has many activities and parades and things constantly going on downtown
Apr 27, 2023

It was the small town but close to many larger cities. Now it's becoming too overbuilt/overdeveloped
Apr 27, 2023

It's downtown
Apr 26, 2023

DeLand is charming and feels like all people belong!
Apr 26, 2023

It is the Athens of Florida
Apr 25, 2023

A hometown feel, but still convenient to larger cities.

Apr 24, 2023

Small town charm

Apr 24, 2023

How green it is, and the amount of local businesses, historic look preservation

Apr 24, 2023

The close community, arts, music and food.

Apr 24, 2023

It used to truly be a small home town feel but there are just too many people. We have stopped attending all functions downtown because it's a nightmare to fight so many people for parking, seating, etc. it has become so much less enjoyable and I hate that. I love DeLand but I hate the direction it's heading.

Apr 24, 2023

It's small town charm

Apr 24, 2023

History and downtown

Apr 24, 2023

Rural with cultural vibes

Apr 23, 2023

Historic downtown

Apr 23, 2023

Beautiful downtown area, with lots of events throughout the year

Apr 23, 2023

Small town feel

Apr 23, 2023

I love all of our community engagement. Me Strong, Rotary events, Athens, our excellence food choice. Stetson University, the athletics and and School of Music. Our kind people and great downtown shops.

Apr 23, 2023

Small town metropolis is distinct. Will be hard to maintain with growth, but if we focus on pedestrian safety and bike paths with natural plants for shade it will help.

Apr 22, 2023

We have a nice little downtown, but the homeless and religious extremists make it less appealing than it was before

Apr 22, 2023

Downtown shops and restaurants. Activities in the city.

Apr 22, 2023

Town/gown connection, history

Apr 22, 2023

Small town charm.

Apr 22, 2023

DeLand is a small town that is rich in cultural experiences. It provides great access to Central Florida and offers unique experiences to its residents and tourists alike.
Apr 22, 2023

Location
Apr 22, 2023

Quaint downtown, mostly friendly, beautiful
Apr 21, 2023

Shops, boutiques, restaurants and festivals.
Apr 21, 2023

Small college town feel.
Apr 20, 2023

It is not longer distinctive you've over developed without forethought. The farms are disappearing open spaces are dwindling. Where is our wildlife it was beautiful to see them.
Apr 20, 2023

It's history and neighborhoods.
Apr 19, 2023

Downtown
Apr 19, 2023

Our diversity. I have no interest in living in a gated, cookie-cutter, car-dependent community.
Apr 18, 2023

First and foremost, I think the people of the land make it very distinctive. The downtown area is very beautiful, and seems to be vibrant on most nights. At this point, I think there are other cities that offer as much if not more than Deland. The massive development, and, lack of infrastructure to handle all of the development is a real drain to me.
Apr 18, 2023

It used to be small city, historical, small business...less chains.
Apr 18, 2023

The small town did but not anymore
Apr 18, 2023

Downtown
Apr 18, 2023

The community, great food, all the events downtown are great
Apr 17, 2023

Downtown, and the areas like Lake Woodruff.
Apr 17, 2023

Lots of woods and wildlife
Apr 16, 2023

The sense of community and small down downtown
Apr 16, 2023

Small beautiful small town.
Apr 16, 2023

There is always something to do in DeLand. Between Stetson and Downtown there is always an event going on in a way that I don't think is common in many cities our size. We come together as a community often and I think that makes us stronger.
Apr 16, 2023

Downtown area, access to springs, nature preserves. Also, closeness to beach and Orlando.
Apr 16, 2023

The people
Apr 16, 2023

Stetson Univrsity and the forrest right outside of town.
Apr 16, 2023

Historic Preservation prevails
Apr 15, 2023

Stetson
Apr 15, 2023

Small town, lots of people know each other. The "Downtown" is awesome, we have parades like Homecoming, VA, Dog, etc all make it a special place to be. We also have Stetson which is an awesome college. Nothing like having Santa visit neighborhoods before Christmas....so many little things that make it special
Apr 15, 2023

Stetson University and downtown
Apr 14, 2023

Stetson
Apr 14, 2023

Small business and festivals.
Apr 13, 2023

It used to be the Mainstreet of America...
Apr 12, 2023

Nothing anymore. Our small town that everyone loved is gone.
Apr 12, 2023

The downtown
Apr 12, 2023

Downtown
Apr 12, 2023

Downtown historic area
Apr 12, 2023

The downtown.
Apr 12, 2023

It's downtown area and of course Stetson
Apr 11, 2023

Small town feel, friendly people
Apr 11, 2023

The Volusia County Fair. Skydive Deland. Our murals. Dog parade, veterans parade, and wildflower festival. The Athens Theater.
Apr 11, 2023

The fact that despite leaps in racial barriers in the nation and big cities, our community still seems separated by color and religion. For a college town, the lack of diversity in our downtown business ownership is startling.
Apr 10, 2023

Beautiful downtown, proximity to the beach and of course the river. Close enough to Orlando to enjoy quality entertainment.
Apr 9, 2023

Location.
Apr 9, 2023

Deland is not really distinctive.
Apr 9, 2023

Downtown area
Apr 9, 2023

Small town feel
Apr 9, 2023

It used to be the quiet, friendly atmosphere. Now its the overcrowded roads....
Apr 9, 2023

It's downward spiral in the past 50 years. It is no longer a congenial place to live.
Apr 8, 2023

So much!!! Our history, our pride in our town, our lovely surroundings, our community. DeLand stands out in every way.i think my former answers
Apr 7, 2023

Collaborative business community and investment in historic preservation.
Apr 6, 2023

I think the small businesses in the downtown area and the support we see from the locals is what makes DeLand so distinctive. I grew up (middle school/high school years) in a small town where locals rarely showed support to that downtown and it always looked like a ghost town.
Apr 6, 2023

It's maintained it's character
Apr 5, 2023

Downtown
Apr 5, 2023

The people, born and raised here who hate to see it change as I do.

Apr 5, 2023

Downtown, college town

Apr 5, 2023

Nice blend of rural and suburban life. It is coming close to losing it's rural charm.

Apr 4, 2023

Historic buildings, small town, family businesses, lack of overdevelopment.

Apr 3, 2023

Nice downtown

Apr 3, 2023

Arts and entertainment

Apr 3, 2023

Small town charm. Walkable Historic Downtown. Tree lined streets.

Apr 1, 2023

A city with 30k people that still feels small

Mar 31, 2023

It's people. You've got a huge sector of community that have lived here for decades and are highly involved in the city and culture. Filling up every piece of vacant land with 100-200 pop up houses bought by people that don't care about that sense of community is dangerous.

Mar 31, 2023

Sense of community encouraged through downtown events. The rich history and fact that many residents were born and raised here.

Mar 30, 2023

Our beautiful trees, our monarch butterflies

Mar 30, 2023

Trees and green spaces

Mar 30, 2023

Downtown

Mar 29, 2023

Downtown Deland and the surrounding business and residential areas area charming. Having grown up in small towns in the midwest, Deland has that type feel to me.

Mar 29, 2023

Small town feel, downtown events but need safer/more parking

Mar 29, 2023

Sense of community and commitment to keep our area beautiful

Mar 29, 2023

The lack of high rise buildings

Mar 28, 2023

The people

Mar 28, 2023

DeLand use to be a welcoming, small town where people from many different backgrounds were able to thrive. DeLand has lost a great deal of that charm and I seriously doubt that it can be recaptured.

Mar 28, 2023

Nothing anymore

Mar 28, 2023

Location. Close to the beach but far enough away. This city has lots to offer a traveler. Quaint town, college town, Athens theater, tons of different restaurants and stores..... mom and pop. LOVE LOVE LOVE the weekend specials and Artisan Ally on Friday nights.

Mar 28, 2023

Great community for families. There is an appreciation for art and history.

Mar 27, 2023

A vibrant downtown, the Athens theater, Stetson U and the sports,

Mar 27, 2023

DeLand is distinctive because of its rich history, diverse people and business types, and it's small home town feel.

Mar 27, 2023

The historic downtown.

Mar 27, 2023

The culture and history

Mar 27, 2023

Community

Mar 27, 2023

Cute downtown.

Mar 27, 2023

It's small town charm

Mar 27, 2023

History, location, walkability and its small town, Main Street look and vibe.

Mar 27, 2023

☀️our Diversity of strengths...not all eggs in one basket ☀️Our Natural beauty and eco tourism with springs and river and close proximity to beaches ☀️College town of a significant... well respected private University ... Stetson ☀️Depth of history in government and architectural, and agriculture ☀️DeLand is the county seat of Volusia county ☀️A true beautiful and thriving downtown ☀️Eclectic artsy inclusive small town with a variety of restaurants offering tastes from around the world.

☀️Unique industries such as Sky diving ☀️Robust equestrian communities attracting many to enjoy our mild weather for year round training

Mar 27, 2023

I absolutely love our downtown area and all the events.

Mar 26, 2023

Downtown: the fact it is chain-adverse and supports local restaurants/shops/artists

Mar 26, 2023

It's historic beautiful downtown, the citizens who fight to keep it small because they cherish its distinctive hometown feel, the families who've lived here for generations, the beautiful landscape of the places still left untouched by construction.

Mar 26, 2023

It's historic nature, including Stetson university and its quaint downtown. .it is close to other larger cities for convenience but doesn't have the traffic.

Mar 26, 2023

Downtown

Mar 26, 2023

Its downtown, Stetson, and its friendliness

Mar 26, 2023

The downtown buildings, the University, the trees, the arts, the people who open doors when I approach the buildings, the people who hung in there during the pandemic, the small shopping centers (well, they used to be smallish)!

Mar 26, 2023

It's downtown area with its many activities and variety of shops and restaurants.

Mar 25, 2023

Hometown feel

Mar 25, 2023

It's vibe. Love it.

Mar 25, 2023

Our downtown and generation town rich in history and preservation

Mar 25, 2023

Cute little downtown and events

Mar 23, 2023

The beautiful downtown are

Mar 23, 2023

The history and architectural charm. It felt safe to walk around and people were friendly. No more.

Mar 23, 2023

Well, the teapot over Boston Coffee did, but that's gone. I guess the restoration of the Athens and downtown. You should be proud of that

Mar 23, 2023

Sense of community

Mar 23, 2023

Small Good shopping Nice people

Mar 22, 2023

Through community events, it's clear DeLand values a small-town feel. Walking down Mainstreet, it's wonderful that folks can say "Hi" to friends they see! Mainstreet and the demographic it serves is doing well. The next challenge will be to improve on the rest of the town. That is where I hope a Makerspace would be able to provide assistance- to the demographics not served by the downtown area.

Mar 22, 2023

It used to be because it had a small town feel to it.

Mar 22, 2023

DeLand is well-positioned, geographically, and with assets and possibilities: history, quaintness, the University, large oak trees and forested areas, business depth, and a tidal wave of growth headed our way - whether or not you confusingly continue to give large tax breaks to developers to come here. We've got everything going for us, yet have spent years squandering it aggressively as if "create more sprawl" was our marching order. We're blowing it by running happily toward the fates that destroyed Longwood, Lake Mary, and Deltona. Stop wasting our distinctions; leverage and expand them.

Mar 22, 2023

The country yet close to everything.

Mar 21, 2023

The downtown area with its shops, museums, restaurants, university, entertainment, brew pubs, coffee shops, artisan alley etc. it's very charming.

Mar 21, 2023

Stetson

Mar 20, 2023

Historic areas and lovely 'main street' area

Mar 20, 2023

The beautiful downtown area

Mar 20, 2023

Downtown festivals, lack of crime, Stetson, beauty of historical buildings and houses

Mar 20, 2023

Our beautiful downtown(at least for now) and of course Stetson University.

Mar 20, 2023

Small town vibes and all the nice community events

Mar 20, 2023

It USED to be a lovely quaint town. No longer is.

Mar 20, 2023

Small town vibe, weekend events

Mar 19, 2023

A thriving downtown, Stetson, and events.

Mar 19, 2023

Downtown and stetson

Mar 19, 2023

The downtown area. It's very quaint

Mar 19, 2023

The people are friendly and everyone loves this town. But they love the DeLand that used to be and not the DeLand this town is becoming

Mar 19, 2023

Use to be the historical bldgs.

Mar 19, 2023

Centrally located to everything. Liveliness of activities.

Mar 19, 2023

Stetson, small town feel

Mar 19, 2023

Downtown

Mar 19, 2023

Downtown, our events, the people.

Mar 19, 2023

Attractive downtown area with a historical background as well as a distinctive university.

Mar 19, 2023

Not much now

Mar 18, 2023

The old courthouse, artisan alley, theater and murals

Mar 18, 2023

Downtown (which needs new small businesses and more events that are family friendly).

Mar 18, 2023

The downtown historic area! Priceless! ♥

Mar 18, 2023

Quaint small town feel.

Mar 18, 2023

Downtown, parades, events, Stetson

Mar 18, 2023

History

Mar 18, 2023

Historic downtown. Small shops and markets downtown make our city unique.

Mar 18, 2023

The friendly people and the quaint downtown

Mar 18, 2023

Woodland Blvd

Mar 17, 2023

The downtown and Stetson University.

Mar 17, 2023

Down town is wonderful with mom and pop restaurants . Great job keeping area clean.

Mar 17, 2023

It's people, downtown arts and festivals.
Mar 17, 2023

Small Town Feel Around A University. Active community for the size (parades, theater performances, open-air shopping & small businesses) all in the heart of downtown.
Mar 17, 2023

Stetson University Downtown Skydive DeLand
Mar 17, 2023

The Downtown.
Mar 16, 2023

Lively downtown with opportunity for small businesses to flourish
Mar 16, 2023

Downtown
Mar 16, 2023

Small town feel with a strong sense of community, but close to larger cities and the beach.
Mar 16, 2023

Downtown DeLand isn't just an upscale shopping district like Winter Park - it offers something for everyone and maintains a more homey and welcoming charm. We have lots of trees too, which provide excellent shade during our hot summers!
Mar 16, 2023

Downtown, but that feels like it's being strangled instead of expanded.
Mar 16, 2023

It's downtown. Work it more!
Mar 16, 2023

Small entrepreneurs on Woodland, cute shops, small town feel.
Mar 16, 2023

Downtown- hip and historic at the same time. Still has small town feel despite growth.
Mar 16, 2023

Small town feel
Mar 16, 2023

Downtown activities.
Mar 16, 2023

Downtown, the people, the public facilities, Stetson, the airport and the location close to Orlando and close to the beach.
Mar 15, 2023

The future will bring change to DeLand. What feature would you like to keep as we change? What feature would you reduce or eliminate?

keep small town charm and add gridded street patterns and mixed-use areas to reduce traffic, reduce or eliminate arterials and the single-use developments that cause them.
May 30, 2023

Stop building so much!!
May 30, 2023

We love the parks and the trails around the area. Reduce the destruction of woods and swamps.
May 27, 2023

Small town feel.
May 27, 2023

The woods , reduce the mass development & avoid becoming deltona
May 26, 2023

Keep historical Deland historic
May 26, 2023

Less building and fix flood issues
May 26, 2023

STOP BUILDING UP. Everyone here HATES it! If you're care about your residents, listen to what we're saying! We don't like you building up!!!!
May 25, 2023

I think the downtown doesn't look as quaint as years past. Would like to see a sign ordinance on the stores so the signage looks as creative and vibrant as it should. A lot of cheap looking retail fronts
May 25, 2023

Stop Building and over populating DeLand. Stop Building roundabouts. May all you city commissioner's go down in history as a poor misrepresentation of how are town should have been managed.
May 24, 2023

The beauty of downtown with the lovely potted plants and flowers. Our wonderful parades and art fairs. Our Santa Claus. I even enjoy motorcycle week! ☺ No more home building. Buy land to keep it wild and natural
May 24, 2023

The local fee is downtown. Keep it free of chain restaurants. I would like to see the homeless % change but helping these individuals to a better life for themselves.
May 23, 2023

Keep natural and wild spaces. Eliminate housing developments, gas stations, storage units... just stop and work on improving what's here!!!
May 22, 2023

The intimate feel. I would like to jeep most local restaurants downtown. Keep chains out.
May 22, 2023

The orderly and aesthetic historic downtown vibe. Shops and restaurants that are not not franchise. Higher quality product in the restaurants . the stores should get some incentives from the city to increase their interior and exteriors. I want to reduce the adult entertainment venues. Keep it very family oriented

May 21, 2023

Keep - The history. We can't change that. Change - More progressive thinking with a focus on inclusivity. Example: Murals. All current murals represent a portion of history. Why can't we have just have some super cool abstract art feature that is an amazing photo opp for the city? Example: Downtown district. Our quaint woodland blvd is now cluttered with hair salons, real estate offices and lawyers. The desire for one to go down to shop is being eliminated by the lack of offerings. I'd like to see the city implement a % of building space dedicated to services, retail and restaurant. Once we are at 20% occupancy for services, we cannot open another one of those businesses.

May 20, 2023

Keep downtown mainstreet usa hometown small town feel its going opposite currently, eliminate new builds unless they are in a subdivision that was started and not finished. Stop tearing down mother nature

May 20, 2023

I love the historical side of Deland. I think it's a huge drawl for people. The round about on Orange Camp has been such a mess. So many unnecessary accidents, too many people in a hurry to get to/from the highway.

May 19, 2023

Quit developing so much! It's greed controlled! Not about wildlife or consideration of residents here. Eliminate developing and consider wildlife and residents been here. Not concrete jungle. Pretty soon more homeless come here. Sad it will be Portland oregon on sides freeways homeless Change happens but overdeveloping is detrimental to all. Keep the charm deland had past.

May 19, 2023

Eliminate tobacco/vape shops. Be more choosy about what shops you do allow in our historic downtown.

May 19, 2023

As listed in previous statement. Keep the hometown feeling. Parades, festivals etc.

May 18, 2023

Keep the focus on downtown and bringing people together downtown to support those businesses and the growth of other businesses. I would reduce or eliminate the constant influx of neighborhoods along MLK and utilize space over their for a large open park or community center.

May 17, 2023

Stop building!!!

May 17, 2023

Keep the small town feel, reduce so much growth.

May 17, 2023

Let's focus on a productive move toward a "Green" city. Let us strive for self sustainability and remain small and charming. Deland has everything we need! If we continue to grow in the manner we are, it will force it's residents to venture outside of its hometown for basic necessities and to escape the growing crowds and congestion!

May 17, 2023

Reduce and eliminate the uncontrolled growth and destruction of animal habitats.

May 16, 2023

Its charm Its decay

May 16, 2023

Keep the history

May 16, 2023

I would love for DeLand's downtown to maintain that classic, wholesome, "Main Street" charm and the many community activities that are always being put on. I would love to see the historic houses and buildings preserved. I would love to see the increasing traffic issues resolved, as well as the recovery center possibly moved to a more appropriate location. It is wonderful to have & much needed, but its proximity to downtown and especially a school with very young people venturing out for the first time on their own is worrying.

May 16, 2023

keep arts community

May 16, 2023

Keep downtown historic The homeless downtown and marijuana shops

May 15, 2023

The old time look and feel. Preserve More historical structures, our wooded land. I would stop and eliminate ALL future building of New Homes, Condo's, Townhouses (Row Homes), and Apartment buildings. I would renovate existing buildings and structures and preserve and maintain the old style DeLand look.

May 15, 2023

downtown shows and activities are great, like Friday in the Alley.

May 15, 2023

I would have like to see all housing development come to a stop. Any new businesses should be required to maintain a look and feel reminiscent of old DeLand. I understand that it's 2023 but the charm that was DeLand is rapidly fading. We are not Deltona or Orlando and I believe most residents especially long time residence and multi-generational residents are resentful that the city is wanting to grow at the pace it's growing.

May 15, 2023

Sun Rail to Downtown (usage of old tracks) Use of parking lots after hours open to public

May 15, 2023

Spruce up and enhance what we have. Reroute traffic from part of Woodland Blvd. turning it into a walkable outdoor dining/mall area selling fresh flowers, honey, local breads and produce, (European approach to outdoor city areas).

May 15, 2023

Keep the downtown the way it is! Reduce the amount of housing being built!

May 15, 2023

I don't see many features, other than look more into maintaining historical structures. Highlight the black community that was here before the DeLand family. Offer more help to the Chisolm Center

May 15, 2023

Want to keep Main Street but would love to find a way to reduce traffic through the main downtown area. Perhaps by at a minimum by reducing the speed limit so people would drive thru the shopping and dining areas at no more than 15 mph, also have noise restrictions regulating blaring vehicle radios and revving motors and loud mufflers to he reduce noise pollution, thereby making downtown a place for residents to walk, shop, dine and enjoy all the opportunities that downtown could offer.

May 14, 2023

the Quaintness ,to much more building.

May 14, 2023

Demand architectural standards to keep the historical feel but encourage development that can meet that.

May 14, 2023

Parks and duck ponds Dirty parks and ponds Ducks over population! They are laying eggs on store front steps!

May 14, 2023

Downtown and all of the festivals. The run down homes and businesses

May 14, 2023

Downtown is nice. Eliminate developers from ruining our town and land.

May 14, 2023

Friendly people/ have someone with a plasms cutter take about 3-4 feet out of the light poles on main street. Street lights were a great design idea, but the height is just wrong.

May 14, 2023

I would hope to keep the events that bring people a sense of community and culture. I wish to eliminate the commercial retail building infill that has little ingress /egress, creating traffic frustration.

May 13, 2023

Keep: Historic homes, small town charm, college town, less crime, less traffic, walking downtown area with shops, restaurants, music venues, events and parades. Reduce or Eliminate: increasing congestion on Woodland Blvd, esp. between Voorhis and Wisconsin. I'm seeing more accidents with pedestrians and bicyclists in this area, more traffic back up, more turns on NY, honking and frustration of drivers in this area. Making semis not be able to go down Woodland downtown.

Deliveries can access from side streets and back of shops/restaurants. Trucks can use Amelia, 15A, 44, etc.

May 13, 2023

I like the diversity of our town. I don't want to see it become another overly developed McMansion suburb.

May 13, 2023

Save small town feel. Reduce and eliminate any more development

May 13, 2023

Keep as much safety as possible. Reduce growth. Eliminate fireworks in the city.

May 13, 2023

Keep downtown and if it expands, add more parking. I would love to eliminate that stop light between the two plazas on the 92 extension, just west of Wendy's and Sonny's BBQ.

May 13, 2023

Downtown. Reduce? The transplants. *. *. Transplants - people from the north. As a true native from Florida I can see they use and abuse my beloved state.

May 13, 2023

Start improving the schools

May 11, 2023

Keep Downtown small and no chains. Local only. I would start ticketing people for littering, loitering and leaving trash on their lawns. That \$ could go directly to educating people on how to beatify this wonderful city.

May 11, 2023

Keep the annual community events. Eliminate roundabouts.

May 9, 2023

Let's keep the small town feeling. Reduce the automobiles.

May 9, 2023

Sidewalks Slow down on future building of houses!

May 8, 2023

The future does not have to change DeLand unless we let it.

May 8, 2023

Change does not necessarily mean population growth. Cap the number of housing developments to what is already approved and under way.

May 8, 2023

Growth decisions (good or bad) will determine how things go in the future. I would eliminate the Putnam Hotel. Hey while we're on that topic...if there are apartments built there, it's going to make the downtown traffic even worse. A park where you could park...your car. Half green and half parking.

May 5, 2023

See above responses

May 5, 2023

There are any really redeeming features other than the main street everything else that I've mentioned above I would like to be taken care of if it was in my house is bought out by Stetson and they extended the stats in Cove Apartments on to my property then I would consider staying and Deland just in a different area

May 4, 2023

Keep the Trees. Eliminate developers and greed.

May 4, 2023

Keep small-town charm, and eliminate traffic.

May 4, 2023

Keep historic charm and community, reduce traffic and new housing developments.

May 4, 2023

Keep- art in downtown (keep developing and more mural with historical significance) Reduce or eliminate- house development mowing down all the lands and crowding the small town

May 3, 2023

Keep variety of events, vibrant farmers. Keep tree giveaway program. Reduce aerial mosquito spraying. Let the dragonflies thrive and do the work.

May 3, 2023

Stetson university has the ability to change its lack of commitment to the community.

May 2, 2023

DeLand maintains it's small town charm as it grows. Reduce or eliminate the pockets of people that still harbor hate
May 2, 2023

Reduce or eliminate apartments complex and housing developments. Want to keep the small town feel and tight knit community
May 1, 2023

More nature; parks & trails vs sub development with zero lot lines. Need development of new homes with larger parcels of land!
May 1, 2023

Definitely invest in keeping downtown a vibrant, fun place to walk and shop. The free parking areas are a huge plus.
May 1, 2023

Keep the downtown enlarge the area it serves being more commercial businesses and more housing options.
May 1, 2023

As much as possible, keep recreational areas, surrounded by nature. For example, new communities need to be built, but we need to make sure that there are enough trees around these communities. This will allow us to have good quality air and reduce the noise levels.
Apr 29, 2023

N/a
Apr 28, 2023

i would eliminate parking tickets for employees of the downtown area and i would stop building poorly built homes and knocking down every tree in deland. i would love to keep the good energy deland once had when we first moved here. i want to feel safe in my own town
Apr 27, 2023

Stop overdeveloping this city!! Give downtown employees parking passes!!
Apr 27, 2023

Keep downtown strong Let's building
Apr 26, 2023

I would eliminate construction of apartments for rent as well as the splitting of property for that purpose. We keep seeing trees cleared and construction is everywhere! This town should remain the way it is- a sanctuary!
Apr 26, 2023

DeLand has a unique charm about it that should be preserved. What needs to be eliminated is the increase in crime.
Apr 25, 2023

Clean up Woodland Blvd. Add a few more retail areas like those on Saxon boulevard in Orange City.
Apr 24, 2023

reduce new housing complexes/sub-divisions
Apr 24, 2023

The destruction of green areas.
Apr 24, 2023

Keeping the small town vibe and eliminating the increased traffic and congestion.
Apr 24, 2023

Eliminate bringing in more residential communities. We are rapidly losing the small town feel!
Apr 24, 2023

I would like to retain the small town feel, but with more diversity and opportunities for places to go and places to eat
Apr 24, 2023

Eliminate more sub divisions and weird boundaries with the county
Apr 24, 2023

I'd like to keep the small town charm, while embracing planned growth that keeps improves the demographics to attract more desirable businesses and our tax base.
Apr 23, 2023

Apr 23, 2023

Keep downtown the way it is, keep nature areas, slow down development, don't get too big.
Apr 23, 2023

Main Street Small town feel
Apr 23, 2023

Personally, I'd like to see less confrontational item, gay bingo and shouting on the boulevard. If our LGBTQ+ community would like to feel welcome, just know that you are. If you're a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ than show love and not judgement.
Apr 23, 2023

Reduce or eliminate # of churches. Keep / enhance small town feel and mature native plantings.
Apr 22, 2023

We need to keep small, unique businesses so that DeLand remains a destination that is better than a mall or online shopping...don't squeeze out longtime businesses, but also let in new businesses (e.g. I don't see anything wrong with tattoo parlors!)
Apr 22, 2023

Only allow new construction that matches with the older look of the buildings downtown. Feature to eliminate- Clear cutting forest to develop a property. Development can happen and keep trees and wildlife (example Trails West subdivision)
Apr 22, 2023

Eliminate ugly entrances to town on north and especially south (need less signs and more trees)
Apr 22, 2023

Keep small town charm. Reduce traffic downtown.
Apr 22, 2023

Keep: Sense of community Reduce: blight
Apr 22, 2023

Keep downtown beautiful. Eliminate too many storages places, car wash, drug addicts and homeless sleeping in the bus stop or asking for money everywhere
Apr 22, 2023

Stop mass development
Apr 21, 2023

Homeless should not be allowed to sleep on benches.
Apr 21, 2023

Keep downtown events.
Apr 20, 2023

REDUCE BUILDING AMOUNT OF HOMES ON ZERO LOT LINES!!! Keep open spaces expand parks
Apr 20, 2023

Keep the small town feel and not gentrified.
Apr 19, 2023

The charm Homeless. Please find a way to help them off the streets
Apr 19, 2023

DeLand must continue bringing the community together regularly with its many events, parades, and Friday market. Traffic and the related noise. Big trucks on Woodland, cars and trucks violating noise statutes should be fined and cited. Encourage more golf carts and bikes.
Apr 18, 2023

I hope that the downtown area continues to develop with shopping, dining and entertainment that draws appropriate crowds. I do not have any particular problems with events that are going on, and have been in Deland as long as they protect the innocence of our children. I am conservative, but I do not care the way people live their lives, unless it is detrimental to children. I am very fearful of this massive housing development in every corner of our city and surrounding areas. we don't need another gas station, credit, union or chain restaurant.
Apr 18, 2023

Less box stores, chains & developments
Apr 18, 2023

Building has outgrown our small town appel
Apr 18, 2023

I would reduce the amount of housing developments being built! Every lot that is being cleared right now should be stopped immediately and converted back into a natural habitat with trails.
Apr 17, 2023

Reduce or eliminate cutting down our Forrest to cram in houses. You are killing our wildlife and driving them into residential areas. I should be charging you to clean my trash up when the bears come vs you charging me. You are forcing them into our properties just to make some extra tax dollars by building additional houses.
Apr 17, 2023

Lots of wild spaces Construction based on preservation of wild things and spaces instead of profit
Apr 16, 2023

We need sidewalks from the north side (Brandywine / Trails west
Apr 16, 2023

Out town! Trashed areas n more yard regulations.
Apr 16, 2023

The sense of community is important to maintain. I would eliminate giveaways to corporations and businesses as I truly believe we are the incentive.
Apr 16, 2023

Continue to consider roundabouts to improve flow of traffic. But, is there anyway to design them better to help people understand right of ways? ☹️ Commercial development that requires massive destruction of our greenspace.
Apr 16, 2023

Keep the small town. No big box stores. No more chain stores.
Apr 16, 2023

I love the trees, there is getting to be too much traffic.
Apr 16, 2023

Historic Buildings/Districts must be kept. The people moving to the area are buying these properties and are improving them 50 to 100% of their purchase price. What treasures we have. Abandoned homes and those not maintained should be encouraged to be restored... they are gems worth saving. Eliminate the multitude of new affordable housing being built, the cheap construction, and low rent apartments... the people occupying these properties, how are they contributing? They should be limited not the main focus.
Apr 15, 2023

Historic downtown. Homeless.
Apr 15, 2023

I think I've made my thoughts clear...keep the small town flair and the atmosphere that we had maybe 5-8 years ago. Stop all the building, and clearing of our precious lands...you are making us unrecognizable. Traffic is awful and only getting worse.
Apr 15, 2023

Peaceful historic aspect & public transportation Homelessness & run down housing/areas
Apr 14, 2023

Keep the integrity of the Downtown area. Eliminate panhandling.
Apr 14, 2023

Main street local vibe. No more housing developments.
Apr 13, 2023

Eliminate roundabouts. Let's make downtown a place to go and have fun!
Apr 12, 2023

Small town feel
Apr 12, 2023

The decorations keep, reduce would be homelessness
Apr 12, 2023

Downtown area must stay. Love the small town vibe.
Apr 12, 2023

Would like to keep the historic look and pride in the downtown area Would like to eliminate the small minded bigotry of narrow minded individuals and the standing out with their religious signs on streets detracting from the feel good vibe of the town on Friday nights - it's distracting and distasteful

Apr 12, 2023

Keep integrity of downtown, improve schools & reduce homelessness.

Apr 12, 2023

Small town feel, alleviate crowding

Apr 11, 2023

I would like to keep our small town feel. Continue to offer weekend activities, festivals, parades. I greatly appreciate the hometown heroes program. I would like to reduce urban sprawl and build our buildings up instead of out. Affordable housing for all types of people with resources within walking/biking distance.

Apr 11, 2023

Keep the open mindedness to things like drag shows and mask mandates. Lose the promotion of Christian and nationalist values.

Apr 10, 2023

Stop tearing out every wooded area and plopping in house after house. Pretty soon DeLand will be all concrete and buildings with no natural areas left.

Apr 9, 2023

Please no large buildings.

Apr 9, 2023

Get rid of all those dealerships, and bring valuable restaurants and diverse food. Bring A+ schools, stem schools, and preserve the scenic views but don't over preserve where you stop growth. DeLand has high tax for a city that offers very little.

Apr 9, 2023

Sunrail will be nice. Eliminate housing projects

Apr 9, 2023

Keep the small town feel Too much Traffic downtown

Apr 9, 2023

I would like us to build smarter. Stop destroying all the green space in city limits. If housing developments continue to be approved, new schools, new hospitals and utility services have to improve and grow as well.

Apr 9, 2023

I think my answers already covered this. I know change is inevitable but having been born in Florida and growing up in lovely towns, only to see them become so overgrown and impersonal that they lost their attraction, I just hate the thought of watching that happen in DeLand, the town of my birth.

Apr 7, 2023

Require improved stormwater treatment for new development and provide retrofit incentives for existing development. Require clustered subdivisions and Low Impact Development to avoid flooding .

Apr 6, 2023

I'd love to reduce the amount of new construction homes that are being built so that we can keep the small town energy going and honestly focus more on helping our environment by focusing on planting more trees instead of knocking them down.

Apr 6, 2023

Our downtown is the best. We need to provide better housing and help to the homeless.
Apr 5, 2023

Change to restore older historic areas. Eliminate the housing developments. Infrastructure can't handle it
Apr 5, 2023

Plant more trees on roadways and medians to make it feel like a town again
Apr 5, 2023

Keep the rural feel or the rural aspect of the community. Keep the free parking in DeLand. Keep the locals as the owners of most of the businesses. Lose the out-of-towners from taking over and changing our town to suit them and their pockets. I am from Key West (30 yrs) I saw it go from a fishing town with a lively nightlife and very affordable rent to a mega-expensive city where kids cannot afford to remain and raise a family in their own home town. it is a terrible loss.
Apr 4, 2023

Keep things simple.
Apr 3, 2023

Reduce large land clearing in low lying areas or areas prone to flooding for housing development and displacement of native animals .
Apr 3, 2023

Parking garage. Less housing development. More fine dining restaurants. Improved parks and recreational facilities. Expand existing public schools. Eliminate homeless presence in Downtown areas and make pan handling illegal. Monitor for drug and human trafficking .
Apr 1, 2023

Keep an emphasis on history, charm and community. Our 100-200 year old homes and giant oaks are a treasure, our downtown sector is the heart of the town and something that NONE of the other cities in Volusia have. Eliminate short term rentals and vacation homes, push owners to rent to local families that invest in the community and care about maintaining its charm.
Mar 31, 2023

Obviously, growth is inevitable in today's climate so it cannot be eliminated, but why does it have to be happening so fast here in DeLand? What is the rush outside of monetary incentives? That is a sincere question. Is the FULL impact of some of these projects seriously being considered and addressed?
Mar 30, 2023

Save the trees. No more zero lotline development. New development needs more sustainable trees To replace ones they must cut down. Our wildlife is suffering Due to habitat loss.
Mar 30, 2023

Green spaces. Lack of traffic control.
Mar 30, 2023

Again, the rural, small town character. Resolve the panhandling and homeless problem.
Mar 29, 2023

If we get a Sun Rail station just outside of Deland, we will need a user friendly trolley to encourage folks to make Deland a destination and not just a place to board Sun Rail for southern destinations.
Mar 29, 2023

The homeless and crime rates are growing and the police do not respond to those issues
Mar 29, 2023

Keep our shopping plazas, but renovate them to accommodate new businesses. Eyesores will invite crime and vandalism. More lighting on dark streets.
Mar 29, 2023

Keep the diversity of homes and unique buildings
Mar 28, 2023

Keep:small town feel Eliminate: building more roundabouts
Mar 28, 2023

Supporting events such as the Mardi Gras Dog Parade, Veterans Parade, Athens Theater and recreational activities is essential in this community. The plan to bring in industrial warehouses, distribution centers and large developments that negatively impact the conservation of our lands needs to be reduced. Everyone is aware that growth cannot be stopped but it must be managed with an emphasis on doing the least harm to the community. Currently the only winners are the developers and the lawyers. The Commission has be scared into believing that unless they approve a project, they will be sued. Modification of the code to reduce the number of home per acre will go a long way to improving future land use. They should be more concerned with citizens suing the City when their homes are flooded and construction is so poor that their homes put them in danger.
Mar 28, 2023

Stop building just to build Victoria park is a nuisance that should have never been built. If you are going to make deland an amazing place you must hold downturn builders to a standard unlike the Marriott. Businesses should be willing to work with the city on the weekends and evenings for instance since so often nothing is open to enjoy on the weekends or the evenings
Mar 28, 2023

Feature to keep= downtown area, closing the road down for community functions, Artisan Ally... extend the area, there are so many opportunities along Woodland before the square and school. Reduce/eliminate = packing soooo many homes into a development. Over development. You don't have the infrastructure to handle what you have don't compound it and make it worse.
Mar 28, 2023

Keep the downtown vibrant and keep the city's historic preservation as a top priority.
Mar 27, 2023

We should keep the small hometown feel along with the rich history and diversity. I understand that cities must grow, but we need to absolutely stop forcing the growth at a rate that isn't sustainable while ignoring the people who currently live and work here in favor of importing people from out of town.
Mar 27, 2023

The historic buildings we need to keep. Low income housing to be reduced or eliminated.
Mar 27, 2023

Mar 27, 2023

Growth on downtown core - reduce county pockets
Mar 27, 2023

Economic development.
Mar 27, 2023

Reduce and eliminate overbuilding
Mar 27, 2023

Build infrastructure and figure out how to manage growth without losing the unique small town look and feel! Get rid of the cookie cutter developments!
Mar 27, 2023

Keep the small town charm with boutique one of a kind shops and Restaurants. Grow the arts in all aspects. Soar with our strengths. That's our signature. Reduce and or eliminate homelessness
Mar 27, 2023

Reduce the speed of growth until the infrastructure can catch up. Keep the small town feel.
Mar 26, 2023

Keep- Accessibility and quaintness of downtown...while nobody likes too much government oversight, we want to control how downtown changes Reduce- Homelessness
Mar 26, 2023

The vegetation that is untouched is what makes Deland so gorgeous. Stop cutting it all down for new subdivisions. Let people buy land for their own personal home/property. Stop making Deland look like Orlando. Everywhere we go, another subdivision is popping up.
Mar 26, 2023

Accessibility for all age groups, students, seniors, families. Reduce small lot production home sprawl, clear cutting historic trees.
Mar 26, 2023

Keep the old town feel. Again, ensure LE (DPD/VSO) work to enforce traffic laws with proactive patrols.
Mar 26, 2023

Keep small town feel Reduce the homes! Too many subdivisions while cost of things are increasing!
Mar 26, 2023

Keep preservation of historical feel through encouraging preservation and restoration of buildings and being pedestrian friendly. Reduce multilane highways lined with strip malls
Mar 26, 2023

Rt 44 through way - getting worse and the circle won't stop that. Now there are cars discovering Voorhies and filling up that area early and late in the day. Ride through 17 in Orange City and see where we are headed. The roads are packed at 10 am!! The only reason to build more housing should be for our poor and low wage workers. Send the rich and their contracts elsewhere to build a big city. The Athens of Florida will soon be the parking lot of West Volusia!
Mar 26, 2023

I would like to see us keep the small town feel. I also would like to see a cleaner Deland beyond the downtown area. County areas within the city area are not code enforced to city standards and the city is not enforcing its codes.
Mar 25, 2023

I would like to keep its small town feel and to add jobs. I'd like to eliminate as much crime in the area.
Mar 25, 2023

Preserve our downtown for small businesses There is not feature in our town that I would reduce or eliminate except for better requirements for Pam handling, homeless and in cared for property
Mar 25, 2023

We need to ensure the lovely downtown is supported and beautified. We need fewer big builders and thoughtful well planned communities.
Mar 23, 2023

KEEP historical buildingsPutman was allowed to be demolished...that was a BIG mistake. The buildings could have been saved if pockets were being filled \$.
Mar 23, 2023

The events that happen like Wildflower festival, Art shows, musical events. Don't really care for traveling art and the downtown motorcycle gathering is just loud and dangerous
Mar 23, 2023

The open communication between the city and its citizens has been great (via social media/press releases) and would love for that to continue. I would reduce some of these housing developments the best we can. Focus more on sustainable development. We have all these new housing going up but when's the last time we got a nice new park?
Mar 23, 2023

Reduce homeless Increase restaurants
Mar 22, 2023

The Mainstreet Association is a powerful tool to retain the town's jewel of a downtown. I'd like to see DeLand focus on the rest of the community, now.
Mar 22, 2023

Reduce or eliminate zero lot lines
Mar 22, 2023

KEEP: Quaintness; quality of life. And enhance it! (Or just stop actively destroying it, like the supply is endless.) Build UP, not OUT!! ELIMINATE: The limited vision and antiquated processes across City functions that have culminated in a decade of destruction and ugly sprawl (though admittedly, its been great times for builders!).
Mar 22, 2023

Eliminate the homelessness and drug situation and stop building.
Mar 21, 2023

You have already ruined it with over-development, zero lot line high density housing, rezoning 2 acre building parcels to 5000 sq.ft. building parcels. STOP it now before this place turns into a total slum. AND make developers pay for adding schools and roads and other infrastructure like all other smart town councils do instead of making taxpayers pay for it. STOP. Just STOP. As far as features to keep, you need to encourage more spaces be occupied by, and support existing, small business owners' shops and restaurants because that is what makes the downtown area charming. Stop letting chain restaurants and stores ruin our town. We don't want to be ugly Deltona or Orange City.
Mar 21, 2023

Keep downtown charming but make it more people friendly. Benches, biker paths, parks
Mar 20, 2023

Small business on woodland needs to stay. Reduce all the housing developments. It can't be sustained.

Mar 20, 2023

Small town feel. Huge buildings going up and crowding.

Mar 20, 2023

Keep the small town atmosphere. Eliminate the need for overcrowded schools, stores, traffic, and crime.

Mar 20, 2023

I hope we can keep our uniqueness, trees and small town charm as they seem to be disappearing rapidly. I'd like to see a parking garage to reduce parking issues and traffic. Most cities have parking garages that can be painted to "disappear" into a mural or designed to look like surrounding bldgs.

Mar 20, 2023

Keep the family friendly atmosphere. Eliminate big apartments/condos being built

Mar 20, 2023

Keep SMALL town atmosphere. Prevent over developing and loss of wildlife habitat.

Mar 20, 2023

Keep town events Eliminate drug invested areas and vagrancy - it creates an unsafe vibe

Mar 19, 2023

More parking with access to ev charging. Solar & other green incentives.

Mar 19, 2023

Don't change the downtown area at all!

Mar 19, 2023

Building more houses needs to reduce. Or at least the building of neighborhoods that have almost zero space between. I'd like to see much larger lots in neighborhoods.

Mar 19, 2023

Keep: the events downtown, the small town charm, the community involvement but give us more parking downtown, not more housing Reduce/eliminate: extreme housing growth, storage facilities (give us different restaurants or activities)

Mar 19, 2023

Increased Density in town with continued interaction of community focused on humanities

Mar 19, 2023

Reduce downtown rentals.

Mar 19, 2023

Keep-The walkability of downtown. Reduce-Traffic down residential streets

Mar 19, 2023

I'd put a stop to all new housing projects. Any builders that want to build new housing in deland should be forced to fix up 1 low income neighborhood.

Mar 19, 2023

Small town character. Excess number of storage facilities, Dollar Tree stores

Mar 19, 2023

Keep the small town nostalgic feel. Keep the history alive

Mar 19, 2023

Our downtown area needs to be protected. Stop building subdivisions until we have the infrastructure to handle the amount of people coming into our city.
Mar 19, 2023

Not sure
Mar 18, 2023

No more mattress stores, storage units etc.
Mar 18, 2023

Keep: theater, fountain, parks, old courthouse, artisan alley Eliminate: unkept property, trash and junk located in front yards, furniture and mattresses waiting weeks for removal
Mar 18, 2023

NO more giant housing developements or apartments!! NO rezoning of agricultural land!! DeLand needs to understand that when you take farmers/growers out of the area you are simply making good food harder to find and are making it something that has to be trucked in. Encourage the refurb/remodel of empty homes instead of building new. Fill empty commerical buildings with producers/manufacturers!
Mar 18, 2023

Love the small hometown atmosphere. Just like all the building and development that is bringing more congestion and crime into our area
Mar 18, 2023

Keep historic buildings and trees. Eliminate housing developments taking over.
Mar 18, 2023

I'm concerned about homelessness. I would like to keep our Friday markets
Mar 18, 2023

Downtown DeLand is beautiful, and the city does a great job keeping the Public informed about what's going on in our city. I'd love to see the homeless population reduced as it does limit the places I will bring my children because of homeless people present.
Mar 18, 2023

I hope the downtown stays not over crowded and I hope the crazy over building stops
Mar 18, 2023

Keeping downtown as is!
Mar 17, 2023

I will keep the Downtown I will reduce new housing development until schools and infrastructure can keep up with development.
Mar 17, 2023

Keep mom and pop ownership. Homeless is becoming an issue and makes me feel unsafe
Mar 17, 2023

Keep deland as a small town, stop over development. Last hurricane gave us a taste of what's going to happen with all the flooding.
Mar 17, 2023

Continue to have the police, fire fighters, EMT's etc. active in this community where they are approachable to talk to and ask questions. Sometimes you don't realize something is going on until it

is pointed out. Find a way to correct the homeless/panhandling problem. You should feel safe to walk on the sidewalks without someone jumping out at you from the wooded areas.

Mar 17, 2023

The business area on North Woodland between Plymouth and ISB looks terrible. The street scape needs desperately to be upgraded as do the buildings.

Mar 16, 2023

Keep downtown friendly for mom and pop shops

Mar 16, 2023

Keep the small town feel. Too many housing developments will eliminate this

Mar 16, 2023

The sense of community and lots of downtown events. Reduce crime rate.

Mar 16, 2023

Keep the trees, please! Eliminate 4- lane roads when possible (convert to 3-lanes with bike or multi use - I know, easier said than done).

Mar 16, 2023

Crime needs to be reduced. Parks, outdoor activities, and mixed commercial / residential needs to be expanded. The future will bring more work from home, so we need to encourage people being able to do that by putting the services they need close to where they live, and accessible by foot and bike.

Mar 16, 2023

I love the events during our key winter season. If you could make the old Putnam property into green space it would be nice to work in a unique festival using that. Downtown traffic is a concern. I know these are State roadways, but I see too many close calls with cars / pedestrians crossing Woodland.

Mar 16, 2023

Small businesses on Woodland, but also encourage large business growth to offer greater consumer options. Reduce housing development which leads to more taxing of infrastructure, water, roads, emergency responders. etc

Mar 16, 2023

Maintain the charm of downtown. Quit building storage units in every vacant lot, tear down the half-empty strip malls and replace them with housing or green space

Mar 16, 2023

Keep: small town feel Change: Sprawl

Mar 16, 2023

Keep the community activities. Reduce property taxes and water bill.

Mar 16, 2023

test

Mar 15, 2023

The community pride is what I would like to keep. Some call that small town feel, but I think community pride is a better description. The item I would like to eliminate the attitude that things need to stay the way they are or go back to the way they were. Change is inevitable & we need to change with the times. We need to honor and recognize our past successes and build on those things, not say no or "we are closed" to new people/businesses.

Mar 15, 2023