

# DCA Recognizes Local Governments For Their Initiative, Innovation And Focus On Planning For a Better Florida

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~ Tallahassee-Leon County and the Cities of Gainesville, Wildwood, Yankeetown and Coral Gables received awards at the 2010 Growth Management Implementation Workshop ~

TALLAHASSEE – Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Secretary Tom Pelham congratulated five local governments for their initiative, innovation and desire to better their communities through their comprehensive plans, at the Department’s 2010 Growth Management Implementation Workshop. Those recognized include Tallahassee-Leon County, Gainesville, Wildwood, Yankeetown, and Coral Gables. “I am very excited at the innovative ideas these local governments have developed in updating their comprehensive plans,” said Secretary Pelham. “These local governments have stood out in our mind as leaders in addressing issues with land use and transportation planning, community character, housing, the environment, and greenhouse gases.”

The Growth Management Implementation Workshop was held June 22-23 in Orlando and featured more than 300 local planning officials from around the state, with Secretary Pelham and DCA planning and legal staff providing guidance on legislation and planning responsibilities. Below is a brief recap of the awards:

- City of Tallahassee/Leon County – DCA Planning Excellence Award for Land Use and Transportation Planning. A multi-modal transportation district was incorporated into the combined City-County Comprehensive Plan with the goal of shifting the emphasis of transportation from the automobile to a comfortable, safe and attractive environment for walking, cycling, and transit between neighborhoods, schools, job centers, shopping and services, thus enhancing the downtown and other areas of the community.
- Gainesville – DCA Planning Excellence Award for Land Use and Transportation Planning. The city’s goals are to foster downtown development, redevelopment and good urban design through innovative Land Use and Transportation Strategies.
- Wildwood – DCA Planning Excellence Award for Long Range Planning and Intergovernmental Coordination. Working in collaboration with Sumter County, the city completely upgraded its comprehensive plan to create a framework for long range growth and to provide strong urban design standards that support a compact development, employment and neighborhood mixed-use centers..

- Yankeetown – Citizen Planning Initiative. Yankeetown is recognized for its initiative that included many hundreds of hours of work by citizen-planners who took the time to learn the growth management system and put it to use to protect the unique character of their community.
- Coral Gables – Planning Excellence Award for Green Planning. The city revised its entire comprehensive plan including a Green Element for greenhouse gas reduction strategies, an emphasis on affordable housing, and creation of a Mobility Element

The Department of Community Affairs is the state’s land planning and community development agency. Its role is to assist Florida’s communities as they meet the needs of Florida’s ever-expanding population by ensuring that new growth complies with the state’s vital growth management laws, while also helping established communities revitalize their older or traditional neighborhoods. For more information regarding the Florida Department of Community Affairs, please visit [www.dca.state.fl.us](http://www.dca.state.fl.us).

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Office of Public Affairs  
Florida Department of Community Affairs  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
(850) 922-1600  
(850) 414-8566 (Fax)  
publicaffairs@dca.state.fl.us