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Glades Region

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Note: The Glades Region consists of twenty Census Block Groups based on the 2010 US Census. The Census Block Groups are identified in the Demographic section of this report.
Boundaries
North: Lake Okeechobee
South: L-15 Canal
East: Dupuis Reserve, L14 Canal and other non-distinguishable streets or landmarks
West: Hendry County Line

Community Type:

The Glades region is located on the shores of Lake Okeechobee (Lake), which is the second largest freshwater lake in the lower 48 states that is entirely within the boundaries of the United States. It includes several unincorporated communities (Canal Point and Lake Harbor), as well as the following municipalities: City of Belle Glade, City of Pahokee and the City of South Bay. The municipalities and communities are separated from the urban areas in eastern Palm Beach County by agricultural lands, a national wildlife refuge and other lands preserved for environmental purposes. The western edge of the region along the Lake approaches the City of Clewiston across the Hendry County line.

The boundaries of the Glades region study area (as it is referred to throughout the report) have been established by the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in order to facilitate transportation outreach planning. These boundaries have not been officially designated by the County.

History

This section provides a general history of the Glades region study area, as well as its surrounding communities. The details provided are not specific to the defined study area, unless otherwise specified.

The earliest known occupation of the Glades region area and the surrounding lands is at the Belle Glade Mound. The site is located in the Okeechobee Basin approximately 1.5 miles west of Belle Glade and dates from 1000 BC to AD 1600. Excavated in the 1930s, the artifacts that were found revealed that the site served as a burial mound and that there was habitation in the general area.²

In the 1900s, settlers came to the Lake area to fish for catfish and in later years to farm. At its peak, the fishing industry shipped out annually approximately 6.5 million pounds of catfish. However, the Lake was fished out by 1912.³

The development of agriculture in the region began with the drainage of the Everglades in the area. As the result of the federal Swamp Act of 1850, on March 21, 1850, a large area of swamp overflow land was transferred from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund to the Disston Land Company. This transfer allowed the subsidized sale of land to private investors.⁴ Soon after, the US Army Corps of Engineers started working on the West Palm Beach Canal (C-51),
opening it for travel in 1917. In addition, three other large canals (Hillsboro, North New River and Miami) in western Palm Beach County were dug prior to 1920 to connect the Lake with the Atlantic coast. These canals drained the Everglades, which made available rich muck soils (known as “Black Gold” by the locals) for farming, and provided a means of transportation. Settlers used the canals to reach their new land and farmers used them to ship their produce to towns on the east coast that had rail access.

In 1909, Canal Point became the first white settlement on the east side of the Lake. Completion of the West Palm Beach Canal at Canal Point gave farmers a direct route to West Palm Beach, where their agricultural goods could be loaded from boats and barges on to rail cars using the Florida East Coast (FEC) railroad line. The first paved road to connect the area to the Atlantic Coast was Conners Toll Highway, a privately built toll road which was constructed in 1924 and is now known as US 98.

The Canal Point area was the initial area for sugarcane development. The Southern States Land and Timber Company planted the first sugar cane in the Glades as an experiment. In 1920, The US Department of Agriculture established a sugar cane field station to supply seeds primarily to Louisiana. In 1922, Fredrick Edward Bryant and G.T. Anderson built the first sugar mill in the Glades. It is recorded that 800 of the first 900 acres used for sugar cane were in the Canal Point area. The Canal Point area thrived until canal boat traffic ceased due to the construction of the dike that was built around Lake Okeechobee by the US Army Corps of Engineers after the 1928 hurricane.

The Everglades Experiment Station was established in 1921 to help the Glades residents turn the newly drained lands into productive farmland. The station, now the University of Florida Agricultural Research and Education Center, began operations east of Belle Glade on the Hillsboro Canal.

During the 1920s, the cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay grew and became known as the Glades communities. Belle Glade was originally known as Hillsboro when it was established in 1918 at the head of the Hillsboro Canal. The Torrey Island post office served the residents until they agreed on Belle Glade, short for “Belle of the Glades”, as a name for the community. Belle Glade with less than 500 residents was incorporated as a municipality five months before the 'hurricane of 1928. Today, Belle Glade is the largest city on the southern rim of the Lake. The City’s motto is “Her soil is her fortune.”

Originally known as East Beach and then Ridgeway Beach, Pahokee took the Seminole name for the Everglades, Pay-ha-okee, meaning “grassy waters.” Much of the five square miles that became Pahokee was owned either by the State of Florida or the Southern States Land and Timber Company. In February 1917, a cold front damaged crops throughout Florida, but the high ridge of the Lake protected the farms. This and the opening of the nearby West Palm Beach Canal attracted more farmers to the area of Pahokee. In 1922, Pahokee was incorporated as a municipality.
The City of South Bay is another community that developed when a canal was connected to the Lake. This community is situated at the head of the North New River Canal (L-18), which was completed in 1912. In 1917 only 12 families lived in South Bay. During the 1920’s, however the area grew, and in 1941 South Bay was incorporated. In 1997, the city became the only community in Palm Beach County to have an all-black city commission.11

In accounting the history of the Glades region, it is important to mention the hurricane of September 16, 1928 and the impact it had in the area. The storm killed at least 2,500 people in the communities around the Lake due to flooding and wind damage. The hurricane had two major effects in the area. First, the US Army Corps of Engineers drafted a plan which provided for the construction of major levees along the shore of the Lake. Second, the hurricane is believed to be the primary reason why several early settlements in the vicinity of the Lake, such as Okeelanta, Lake Harbor, Bryant and Bean City, generally died out. The planned community of Okeelanta founded by Elmer Will in 1913 no longer exists. The only reminder of Okeelanta is the Florida Crystals industrial subsidy named after the community. Lake Harbor, which was originally developed at the head of the Miami Canal in 1912, is now known as a census designated place. Bryant and Bean City exist today only as place names.

**Community Dynamics**

Today, the Glades region is primarily an agricultural area dominated by large agricultural companies and some mining activity (such as Lake Harbor Quarry operated by Florida Rock Industries). The region is characterized by the highest concentration of poverty and unemployment in Palm Beach County. The area has a large African-American and migrant population, who is mostly employed in agriculture or agriculture related areas. Indeed, the Glades region study area represents one of the most diverse communities in Palm Beach County, with immigrants from Mexico, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica and other Caribbean and Latin American countries living in the area. Public involvement efforts in this region must take language barriers into account since some of these populations do not speak English. Cultural barriers, such as fear and distrust of government, is another issue that may be encountered in conduction community outreach. Though there have been many efforts to revitalize the area, it is believed that rivalry and competiveness among the three municipalities of the study area have limited cooperation.

The Palm Beach County Managed Growth Program consists of five tiers. The Glades region includes portions of two tiers, the Urban/Suburban Tier and the Glades Tier. In addition, certain portions of the Glades region are also designated by the adopted Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan as **Revitalization, Redevelopment and Infill Overlay (RRIO)**, the Glades Economic Development Overlay, the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida Protection Area Overlay, and the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail Overlay.12 13 These overlays are intended to facilitate economic development initiatives.
The **Urban/Suburban Tier** in the Glades region consists of the unincorporated community of Canal Point, the municipalities of South Bay, Belle Glade and Pahokee, as well as the areas adjacent to these communities. The urbanized area of the region is largely occupied by older single family dwellings and mobile home parks. The area does contain some large food processing facilities, strip commercial development and large institutional facilities, such as a campus of Palm Beach State College, a correctional facility, and the Lakeside Medical Center. Other uses in the urbanized area include a golf course and two marinas on Lake Okeechobee, as well as two general aviation airports, Belle Glade State Municipal Airport and Palm Beach County Glades Airport near Pahokee. It is also served by the Florida East Coast Railroad and South Central Florida Railroad. The main objective of the Urban/Suburban Tier is to create communities that will accommodate the housing and jobs for the County’s residents. Another objective is to foster economic development. Properties in the Urban/Suburban Tier are located inside the designated **Urban Service Area of Palm Beach County**, which requires urban development to have all public services including centralized public water distribution and centralized sewer collection and disposal systems.  

The **Glades Tier** occupies the land area in the remainder of the Glades region. The objective for the Glades Tier is to preserve and enhance the unique characteristics of the Glades and protect the economically viable agricultural base in the area. The area outside the designated Urban Service Area predominately supports large-scale agricultural operations for sugar cane, rice, sod grass and vegetables. The area also has limited mining activity including the Five Stones Mine at Canal Point and the Lake Harbor Quarry. A rural level of service occurs in this Tier, meaning that public water and sewer is not provided. Residents must use wells and septic tanks. However, labor camps and sugar industry sites can have package sewage treatment plants.  

A portion of the Glades Region is located inside the Urban Service Area of Palm Beach County, which requires all public services including centralized public water distribution and centralized waste water collection and disposal systems. With assistance from the State of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District, Palm Beach County has built a regional water treatment plant to assist South Bay and Pahokee to shift from lake water to wells. Groundwater is cheaper to treat and a more sustainable source of drinking water. Public services in this area are provided by the three municipalities, countywide agencies and special districts. The municipalities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay provide code enforcement, water, sanitary sewer, public works and parks and recreation. Services provided by countywide agencies include public schools (School District of Palm Beach County), public transit (Palm Tran), solid waste disposal, police, libraries (Belle Glade Branch, Loula V. York Branch in Pahokee, and Clarence E. Anthony Branch in South Bay) and fire/rescue services. Drainage services are provided by several water control and drainage districts.  

It is also important to note that the Comprehensive Plan includes a Glades Area Economic Development Overlay in order to encourage economic diversification and revitalization. In addition, some of the unincorporated portions of the Glades region have been designated as **Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) areas**, which are part of the **Revitalization, Redevelopment and Infill Overlay (RRIO)** in the County’s Comprehensive Plan. These are communities that have been targeted by the Palm Beach County Board of
County Commissioners for revitalization efforts due to infrastructure deficiencies, code enforcement issues, and a need for public service facilities and law enforcement services. These communities have a concentration of very low to moderate-income residents and low property values. (See map of CCRT Areas at [http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/pzb/planning/rrio/ccrt_areas.htm](http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/pzb/planning/rrio/ccrt_areas.htm))

The Glades Region contains a variety of public facilities including a park ‘N’ ride lot at West Tech (2625 SR 715 in Belle Glade), fire/rescue stations, libraries, a regional solid waste transfer station and county and municipal parks. The area also has the Palm Beach County portion of the 110-mile Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail with local parks serving as trailheads. Palm Tran provides bus service with routes 40 (West Palm Beach to Belle Glade with limited stops via SR 80), 47 (South Bay to Canal Point) and 48 (Pahokee to Belle Glade). In addition, there is the Lake Region Commuter Route from Big Lake Plaza in Belle Glade to Clewiston. Public schools situated in the area include one school in Canal Point (K.E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary), one school in South Bay (Rosenwald Elementary), three schools in Pahokee (Pahokee Elementary, Pahokee Middle, Pahokee High), six standard schools in Belle Glade (Belle Glade Elementary, Gove Elementary, Pioneer Park Elementary, Gladeview Elementary, Lake Shore Middle and Glades Central High) and two alternative public schools for behavioral intervention (Elementary Transition West and Intensive Transition).

The safety of the Herbert Hoover Dike along Lake Okeechobee is a key issue in the Glades region. The area has a history of extensive flooding. The first embankments to address flooding from the lake were built around 1915 by local interests. Hurricane tides in 1926 and 1928 overtopped these embankments. The River and Harbor Act of 1930 authorized the construction of 67.8 miles of levees along the south shore of the lake, which were constructed by the US Army Corps Engineers between 1932 and 1938.

The 1947 hurricane prompted the need for additional flood protection. As a result, the Flood Control Act of 1948 authorized the first phase of the Central and South Florida Project. The new dike system was completed in the late 1960s and was named the Herbert Hoover Dike. The problem with the current 143-mile long dike system is that when water levels get too high, water seeps through the dike from lakeside to landside, sometimes eroding from the inside or under the dike. The movement of soil or erosion is known as piping. Piping creates a continuous, open path that moves water and soil and could form large cavities in the dike. When water from the Lake runs through these cavities, it weakens the dike creating the potential for a breach. A breach would result in a large release of water from the Lake and dike failure, flooding the surrounding land. A limited potential for dike failure could result from water elevations as low as 17 feet. The US Army Corps of Engineers has found during recent high water events that numerous areas of the dike have seepage and piping problems when the water elevation levels reach 18 feet. This water elevation level could cause severe flooding with limited warning time.

In 2000, the Army Corps of Engineers received Congressional approval to rehabilitate or reinforce the dike. This rehabilitation will include constructing a cutoff wall inside the dike and a seepage berm. The cutoff wall could provide protection for a lake elevation of 26 feet.
project, which was estimated in 2007 to cost $826 million, has a completion date of 2030. The first phase of the project covers the portions of the dike between Belle Glade and Port Mayaca in Martin County. The second phase covers the remaining portions of the dike in Palm Beach County.\textsuperscript{23}

More information on the Glades region and its surrounding areas is available in the Glades Assessment Report (http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/pzb/planning/publications/index.htm). It includes an overview of demographic, economic and infrastructure issues.

**Demographic Highlights**

The demographic data that follows was compiled using Census Block Group data. The Glades Region study area is made up of the twenty 2010 Census Block Groups listed below. Census Block Groups consist of several census blocks and generally have a population of 600 to 3,000 people.

\begin{verbatim}
120990080011  120990080012  120990080021  120990080022  120990081011
120990081012  120990081013  120990081021  120990082011  120990082012
120990082013  120990082014  120990082021  120990082022  120990082031
120990082032  120990082033  120990083011  120990083021  120990083022
\end{verbatim}

**According to the 2010 US Census, the population of the Glades region is 34,209.**\textsuperscript{24}

*The majority of the population in the Glades Region is Black, with whites making up less than 30\% of the population.* In 2010, Blacks made up the largest segment of the population in the Glades region, with 58.28\% of the population, followed by whites at 29.23\% of the population. In comparison, 73.49\% of the population in Palm Beach County are white and 17.32\% are Black.\textsuperscript{25}

*The Glades region has a significantly younger population than Palm Beach County.* In 2010, adults ages 65 and over represented 9.46\% of the population in the Glades region. In Palm Beach County adults 65 and over made up 21.6\% of the population.\textsuperscript{26}

*The level of educational attainment in the Glades region is lower than in Palm Beach County.* Approximately 28.5\% of the area's residents had a college degree, a graduate degree, or some college education, compared to 60.1\% for Palm Beach County as a whole.\textsuperscript{27}

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{lllll}
\textbf{Education} & \textbf{Study Area} & \textbf{\%} & \textbf{County} & \textbf{\%} \\
With a Degree or Some College & & & & \\
Doctorate & 99 & 0.5 & 11,103 & 1.2 \\
Professional & 56 & 0.3 & 28,863 & 3.1 \\
Master & 542 & 2.7 & 68,815 & 7.4 \\
Bachelor & 1,353 & 6.8 & 186,552 & 20.1 \\
\end{tabular}
\end{table}
Table 1: Education in the Study Area and County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Study Area</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associates</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>73,088</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>2,711</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>190,510</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,647</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>558,931</td>
<td>60.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School or Less</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>6,171</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>248,302</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below High School</td>
<td>8,011</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>122,361</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14,182</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>370,663</td>
<td>39.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19,829</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>929,594</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average income per capita in the Glades region is 64% less than the average per capita income for Palm Beach County as a whole. The average per capita income in the Glades region in 2010 was $12,142, compared to $33,610 for Palm Beach County.\textsuperscript{28}

Almost half (45.79%) of the total population of the Glades region is living in poverty, compared to 16.48% for the County as a whole.\textsuperscript{29}

The Glades region has a higher percentage of renter-occupied units than Palm Beach County. Approximately 36.09% of the total housing units in the Lake Okeechobee are owner-occupied and 50.82% are renter-occupied. In Palm Beach County, 58.46% of the housing units are owner-occupied and only 23.43% are renter-occupied.\textsuperscript{30}

Approximately, 30.72% of the Glades Region residents identified themselves as Hispanic.\textsuperscript{31}

Place of Birth, Nationality, and Language Spoken at Home

The place of birth, nationality and language data presented below are reported at the Census Tract level instead of at the Block Group level since the 2010 US Census does not have such information available by Census Block Groups. Though the Census Tracts represent a larger area than the study area, the data provides valuable information on the social characteristics of the population living in and around the Glades Region.

Census Tracts are subdivided into Block Groups and have a population of 1,500 to 8,000 people. They are created to be fairly homogeneous with respect to social and economic characteristics. The Glades Region study area is located within the Census Tracts listed below. The data reported below are for the following Census Tracts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Tract ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12099008001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12099008002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12099008101</td>
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<tr>
<td>12099008102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12099008201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12099008202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12099008203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12099008301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12099008302</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Place of Birth**

- Born in Florida: 20,198 (57%)
- Born in Different State: 6,809 (19%)
- Born in Puerto Rico or abroad to American parent(s): 433 (1%)
- Foreign Born: 7,717 (22%)
- Total population: 35,157 (100%)  

**Foreign Born Population: Top Ten Places of Birth**

- Mexico: 2,831 (37%)
- Haiti: 1,586 (21%)
- Jamaica: 1,190 (15%)
- Cuba: 940 (12%)
- Guatemala: 224 (3%)
- Honduras: 149 (2%)
- Barbados: 115 (1%)
- Bahamas: 87 (1%)
- El Salvador: 73 (1%)
- Indonesia: 63 (1%)

**Language Spoken at Home**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Population 5 Years and Over</th>
<th>Speak English Less Than Very Well</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English only</td>
<td>22,278</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language other than English</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>7,761</td>
<td>4,066</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Indo-European languages</td>
<td>2,175</td>
<td>1,428</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian and Pacific Islander languages</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other languages</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population 5 years and over</td>
<td>32,481</td>
<td>5,579</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transportation Trends**

The figures below provide key transportation indicators for the Glades region:

- Housing units with vehicles available:
  - Glades Region: 8,188 (83.24%)
  - Palm Beach County: 490,820 (93.82%)
Mean (Average) Vehicles per households:
Glades Region          1.31
Palm Beach County      1.54

Means of Transportation to work:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Glades Region</th>
<th>Palm Beach County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carpool</td>
<td>17.48%</td>
<td>11.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drive Alone</td>
<td>70.45%</td>
<td>78.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transport</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>1.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle</td>
<td>0.25%</td>
<td>0.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>0.11%</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>2.46%</td>
<td>1.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.31%</td>
<td>1.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work at Home</td>
<td>1.55%</td>
<td>4.92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Events**

The Glades region contains nearly 50 facilities that are venues for social, educational, health and cultural events. These facilities include the Lakeside Medical Center, Palm Beach State College, Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center, community centers, three public libraries, schools, churches, parks, community health centers and social service agencies. These facilities are mainly located in the cities of Belle Glade and Pahokee. Major events include the Black Gold Jubilee and Afro Arts Parade in Belle Glade and the 4th of July Celebration, Heritage Musical Festival and Circus in Pahokee. Some of the events in the area are targeted to Hispanics and Haitians. Detailed information on community events is available from the Glades Initiative Calendar of Events at www.gladesinitiative.org.

Lake Okeechobee has a number of special events throughout the year including Loop the Lake for Literacy (a bicycling event), Big O Hike on Thanksgiving, as well as several fishing tournaments and boating events. The City of Pahokee sponsors the 4th of July Celebration at the Pahokee Marina.

**Business Landscape**

The largest employers with operations located within the Glades region are the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida Crystals, U.S. Sugar Corporation, A. Duda and Sons Growers, Thomas Produce Company, TKM-Bengard Farms and Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative. Except for the public school system, these employers are agribusinesses.

The Everglades Agricultural Area is a major producer of sugar cane, sweet corn and bell pepper. Other crops grown in the area include rice, lettuce, radishes, Chinese vegetables and celery. The
area also has plant nurseries. The Glades region has several food processing facilities including sugar mills and refineries, vegetable packing houses and a rice processing and packaging facility. Associated with the agricultural industry, is an electrical cogeneration plant.

The area also has an ecotourism industry based on sport fishing and wildlife viewing. Lake Okeechobee is a bass fishing capital and is also known for its catfish and crappies. Airboat tours are available for wildlife viewing. Pahokee, Belle Glade and South Bay have marinas and campgrounds.

It should be noted that the Glades Region represents one of the most economically depressed areas in Palm Beach County with some of the highest levels of poverty in the County and the nation. To address this issue, efforts have been made to foster economic development by designating portions of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay as State Free Enterprise Zones. Businesses that are located in a State Free Enterprise Zone may be able to receive tax benefits if conditions are met.

In addition, as was mentioned previously, portions of Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay and Canal Point are designated by the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan as Revitalization, Redevelopment and Infill Overlay (RRIO) areas. Palm Beach County establishes incentives and makes resources available in areas identified as RRIO areas, when feasible, to encourage revitalization, redevelopment and infill activities.

On November 21, 2011, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded a grant of $1.98 million to Palm Beach County under the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning and Community Challenge competitive grant program. This grant will be used to develop a Glades Region Master Plan that will serve to enhance economic competitiveness, infrastructure sustainability, transportation choices, workforce training and housing with proximity to employment centers. Incorporating principals of livability and sustainability, the comprehensive planning process will include input and participation from affected communities, policy coordination and investment leveraging. The community participation meetings will begin in January 2013 (See the Palm Beach County Economic Development Office for details).

In addition to the master plan, a major industrial project, the South Florida Intermodal Logistics Center, was recently approved by the Palm Beach Board of County Commissioners that addresses the need for an inland port, which has been sought by the Port of Palm Beach. This project will be located on an 850-acre tract of land owned by Florida Crystals between Belle Glade and South Bay. This project will include 10 million square feet of distribution and warehouse space along with a rail yard. Access is provided by US 27, State Road 80 and the Florida East Coast Railroad.

Additional Resources

- Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County: Provides a general overview
and statistics regarding migrant workers in Palm Beach County.  
http://www.farmworkercouncil.org/fwpbc.htm

- **Glades Assessment Report**: Provides an overview of the planning initiatives and demographic profile of the area. Developed by the Palm Beach County Planning, Zoning, and Building Department Planning Division:  
  http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/pzb/planning/publications/index.htm

- **Glades Communities Initiative**: Combines programs for business development, housing, and community initiatives. Developed by the Department of Economic Sustainability;  

- **List of Churches in the Glades region study area**:  
  https://maps.google.com/maps?ie=UTF-8&q=churches+in+glades+region+florida&fb=1&gl=us&hq=churches&hnear=0x88dc3dfb49f743a5:0xe80023328481fb5b,Glades,+FL&ei=78jjUKOtKYH68QSOhIDACw&ved=0CN4BEMgT

- **LORI (Lake Okeechobee Regional Initiative)**: An economic development initiative of the Collins Center for Public Policy.  
  www.LakeOBigWater.com

- **Glades Initiative**: Created to coordinate health and human services.  
  www.gladesinitiative.org

- **Glades Strategic Business Development Initiative** – Established to promote economic development in the western portion of Palm Beach County. Includes statistics on unemployment and other key economic indicators.  

- **LORE (Lake Okeechobee Regional Economic Alliance of Palm Beach County)**;  
  www.LOREalliance.org and http://lakeopalmbeach.blogspot.com

- **LORI (Lake Okeechobee Regional Initiative)**: An economic development initiative of the Collins Center for Public Policy.  
  www.LakeOBigWater.com

- **Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan** by the Palm Beach County Planning, Zoning, and Building Department Planning Division:  
  http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/pzb/planning/comprehensiveplan/tableofcontent.htm

- **The United Way of Palm Beach County Prosperity Campaign**: Evaluation and Recommendations for Future Development (Profile for the general Glades area) produced by the Center for Urban Economic Development, University of Illinois at Chicago for the United Way of Palm Beach County:  
  http://www.unitedwaypbc.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=publication.details&ArticleId=312&returnTo=main&x=2694817
Sources

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