



APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

2023 – 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Proudly serving the counties & municipalities of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, & Wakulla!

ARPC proudly serves as a dedicated catalyst for responsible growth & development in the Apalachee Region of Florida.



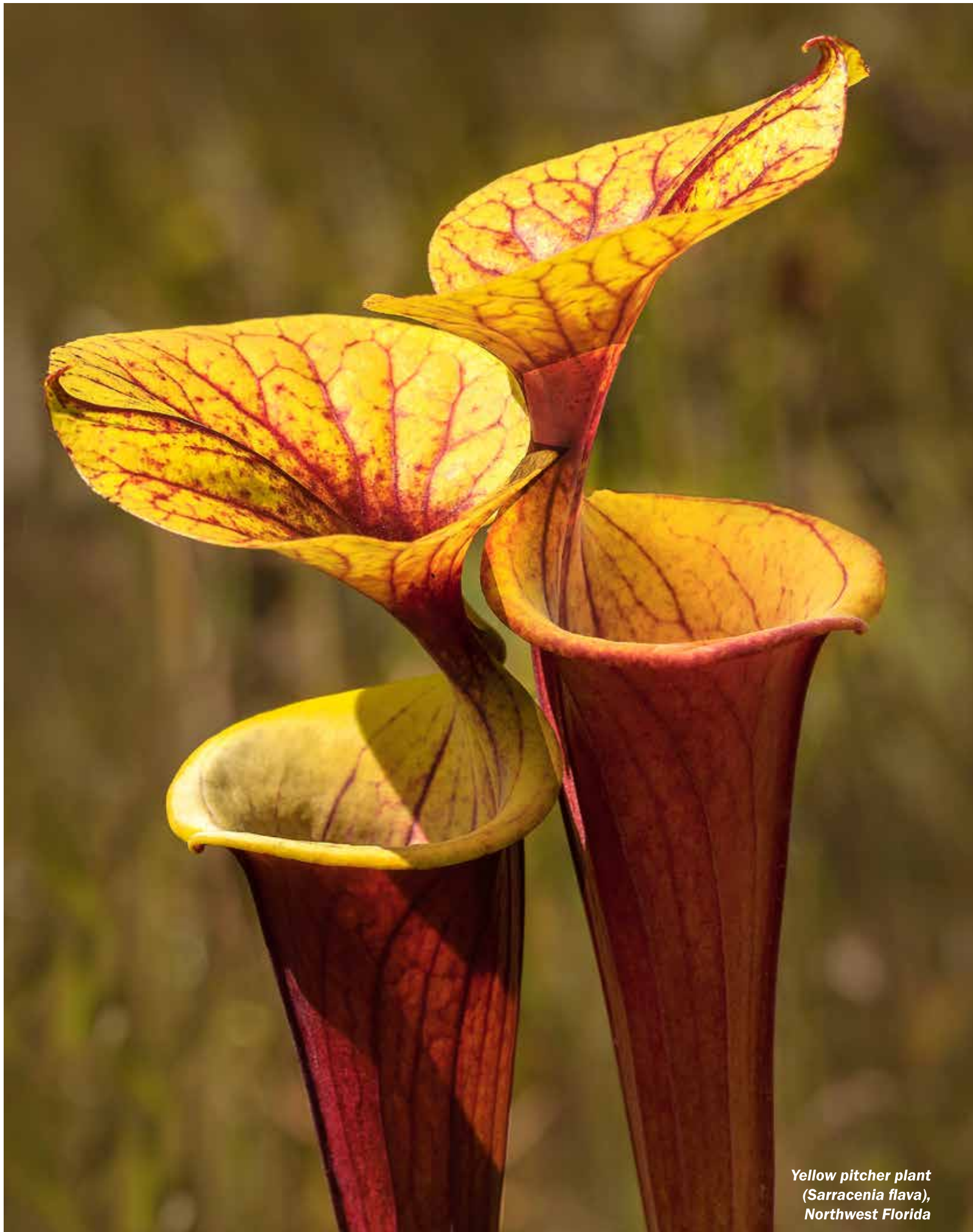
Lafayette Heritage Trail Park. Tallahassee FL

With a team of dedicated staff, ARPC works closely with local governments, community organizations, & stakeholders to develop innovative strategies & policies, protect & enhance our natural resources, promote conservation, and support responsible growth.

Marshlands of northern Florida in Tallahassee, Florida



**Fully committed to collaboration
and community engagement,
ARPC is able to better position our
member governments, creating
access and leverage for funding
that may not have otherwise been
attainable.**



Yellow pitcher plant
(*Sarracenia flava*),
Northwest Florida

2023 – 2024 Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Calhoun County

Darryl O'Bryan
Sheila Blackburn

County Commissioner
Councilwoman, City of Blountstown

Franklin County

Ricky Jones
Sebrina Brown

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Carrabelle

Gadsden County

Brenda Holt
Evelyn Goldwire
Henry Grant

County Commissioner
Mayor, City of Gretna
Governor's Appointee

Gulf County

Sandy Quinn, Jr.
Johnny Paul
Michael Hammond

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka
Governor's Appointee

Jackson County

Jim Peacock
Kim Applewhite

County Commissioner
Councilwoman, Town of Grand Ridge

Jefferson County

Chris Tuten
John Jones

County Commissioner
Councilman, City of Monticello

Leon County

Rick Minor
Jack Porter
Lisa Miller

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of Tallahassee
Governor's Appointee

Liberty County

Doyle Brown
James Kersey
Davis Stoutamire

County Commissioner
Mayor, City of Bristol
Governor's Appointee

Wakulla County

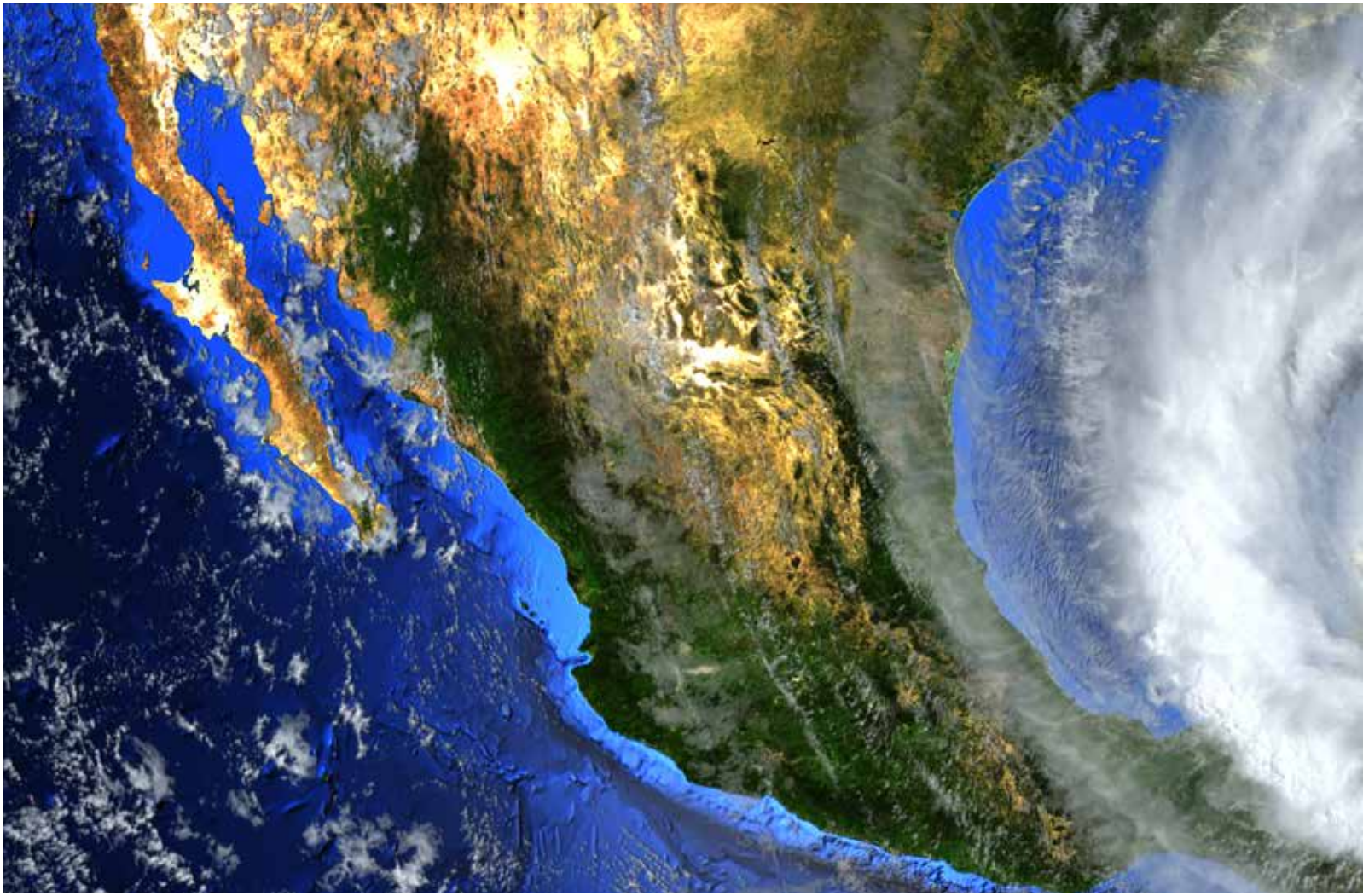
Quincee Messersmith
Steve Remke

County Commissioner
Commissioner, City of St. Marks

Ex-Officio Members

Kristine Morris
Darryl Boudreau
Tanya Branton
Diane Scholz

Fl. Dept. of Environmental Protection
NW Fl. Water Management District
Fl. Dept. of Transportation
Florida Commerce

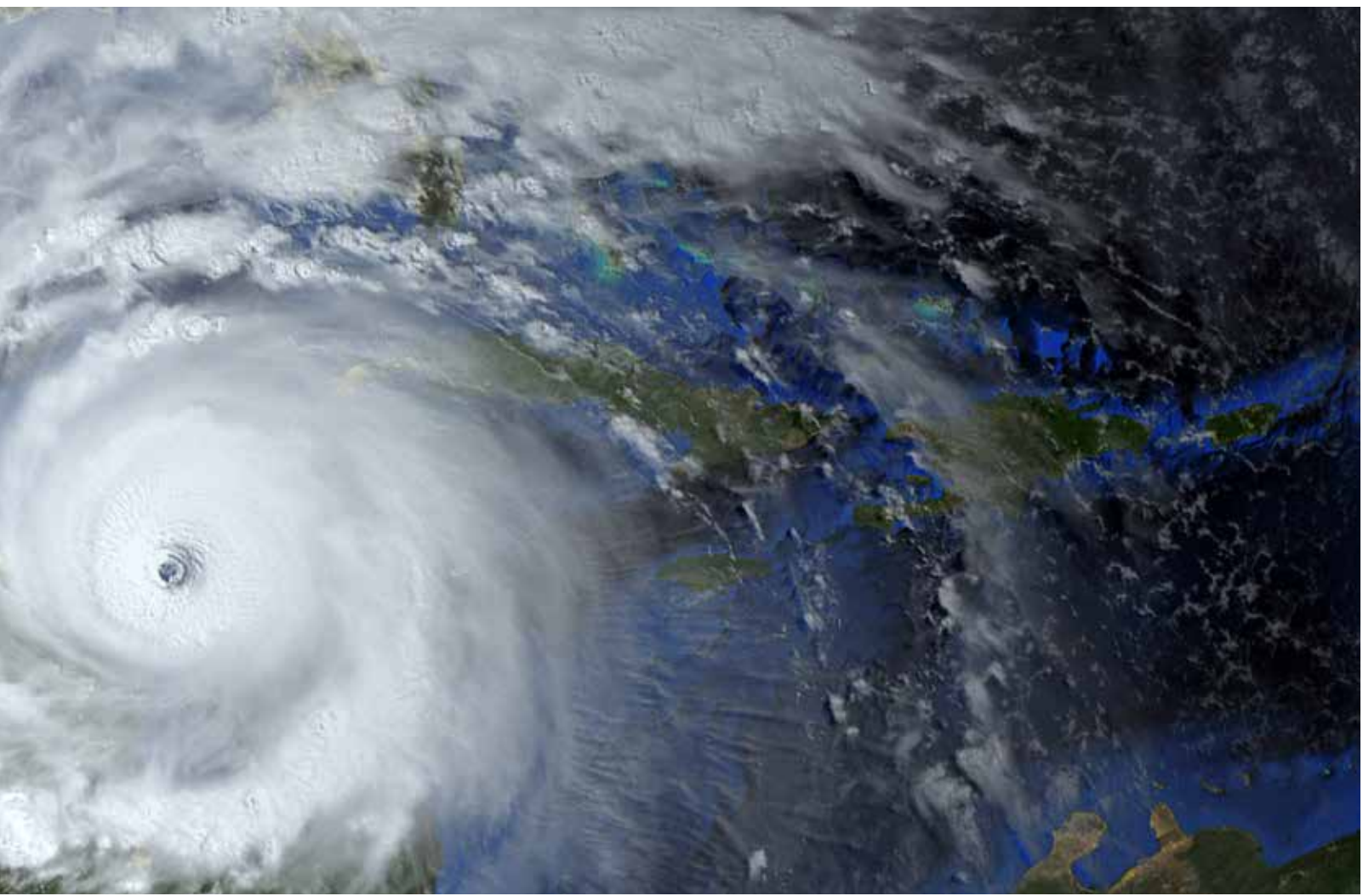


Note from the Chair

With each passing year, time demonstrates that change is the only constant, and this year is no different. Our Region has grown tremendously. We narrowly escaped the devastation of two hurricanes, rallied to support our neighbors to the south who have endured relentless challenges, and finally recovered from many of the economic shocks of the pandemic, even as we weather record-high inflation. Today, we're proud to be overseeing the largest living shoreline project in the state. Through it all, our regional

partners have been organizing, collaborating, and adapting to every new development, steadily guiding the evolution of the Region day by day.

Community and economic development is slow but valuable work. We show up every day to push the needle toward progress, and once a year, we get to reflect on our accomplishments and celebrate that, together, we have moved it by a millimeter. Alongside the Region, the ARPC has also grown, now home to over



20 employees. Our staff manages housing programs, supports emergency preparedness, and ensures that our organization is ready for any challenge. The ARPC has returned to its roots, once again providing growth management services, and has built redundancy into almost every program to bolster our resilience. With growth comes inevitable growing pains, but as they say, no pain, no gain.

As we look toward the new year, I encourage you to first look back

and appreciate how far we have come and to value every part of the journey—highs, lows, and close calls. Without these experiences, we would be stuck in time.

Looking forward,

Commissioner Ricky Jones



**132
JOBS**
created or retained
with RLF funds



11,454
life-sustaining trips
through Transportation Disadvantaged

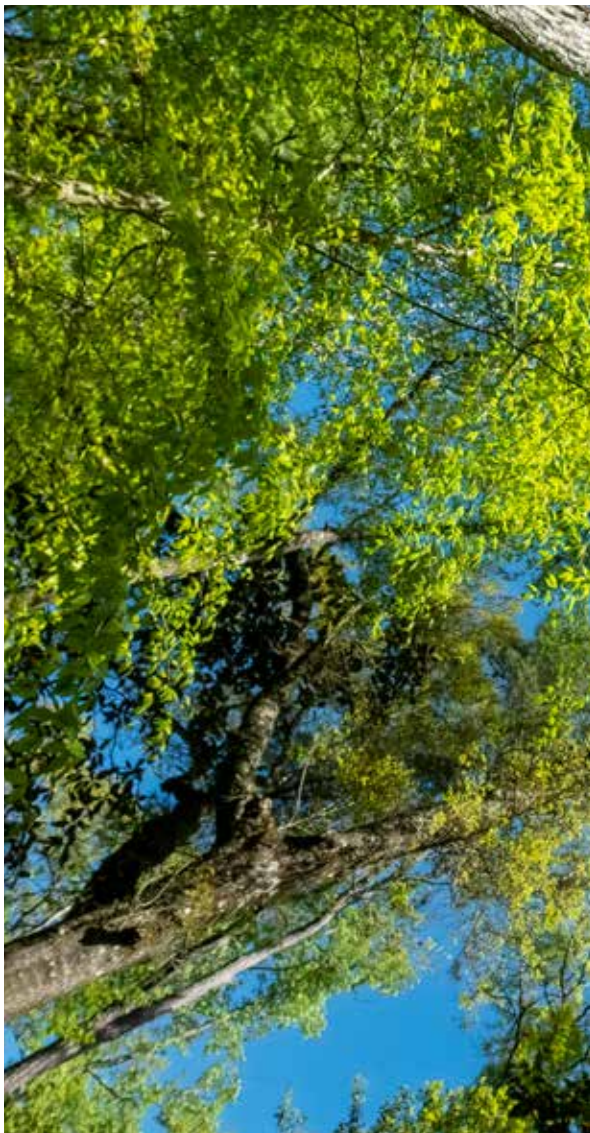
20

housing projects
(built, repaired,
or purchased)





28
grants
applied for

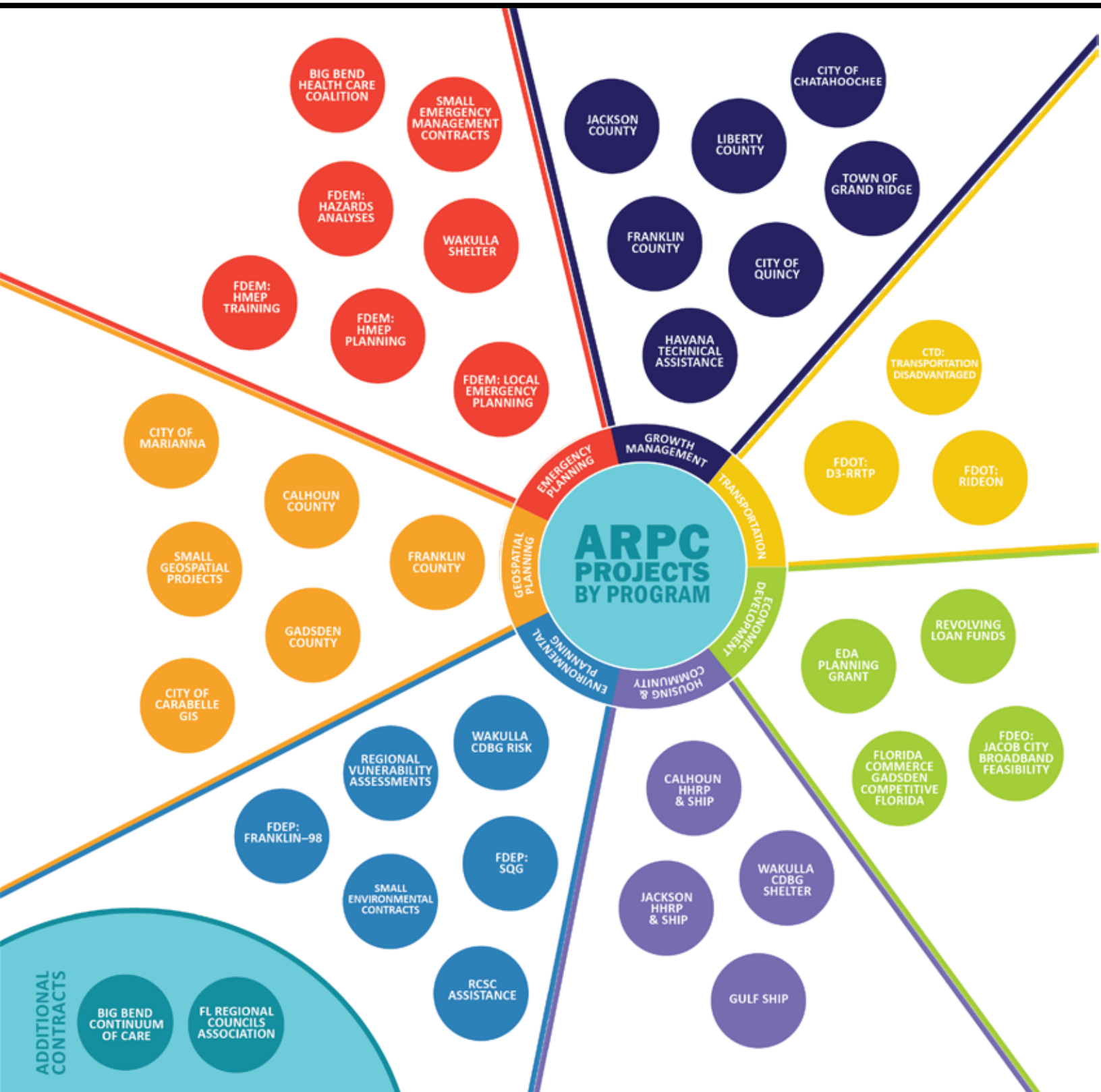


273
first responders
trained

14
blog entries



Under the dedicated leadership of Executive Director Chris Rietow, ARPC has more than quadrupled in size, and the services available to our member counties continue to expand.





We are stewards to one of the most unique and diverse regions of the world. Shaped by a range of habitats including hardwood forests, pine flatwoods, wetlands, coastal marshes, and spring-fed rivers, the Apalachee Region provides a critical biodiversity hotspot, supporting an astonishing variety of terrestrial and aquatic species.

Stretching roughly from the Apalachicola River to the Aucilla River, our communities are well known for their natural beauty, and an enduring blend of historic charm and cultural heritage.

Our dedicated team works tirelessly to address the unique challenges and opportunities that shape the landscape of our communities. From strategic planning initiatives to collaborative partnerships, ARPC maintains an unwavering dedication to enhancing the quality of life for residents, while preserving the rich cultural and natural heritage that defines the Apalachee Region.



47
YEARS OF
REGIONAL
SERVICE

22
BOARD
MEMBERS



23
STAFF
MEMBERS



28
MUNICIPALITIES

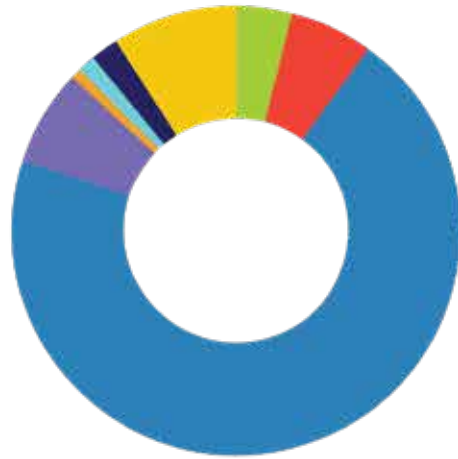


9
COUNTIES

2023/2024 REVENUE OVERVIEW

\$6,594,906

2023/2024 TOTAL REVENUE



REVENUE PERCENTAGE
PER PROGRAM

- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: 4%
- ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING: 70%
- GIS: 1%
- TRANSPORTATION: 7%
- EMERGENCY PLANNING: 6%
- HOUSING: 7%
- GROWTH MANAGEMENT: 3%
- MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS: 2%

42+ CONTRACTS EXECUTED

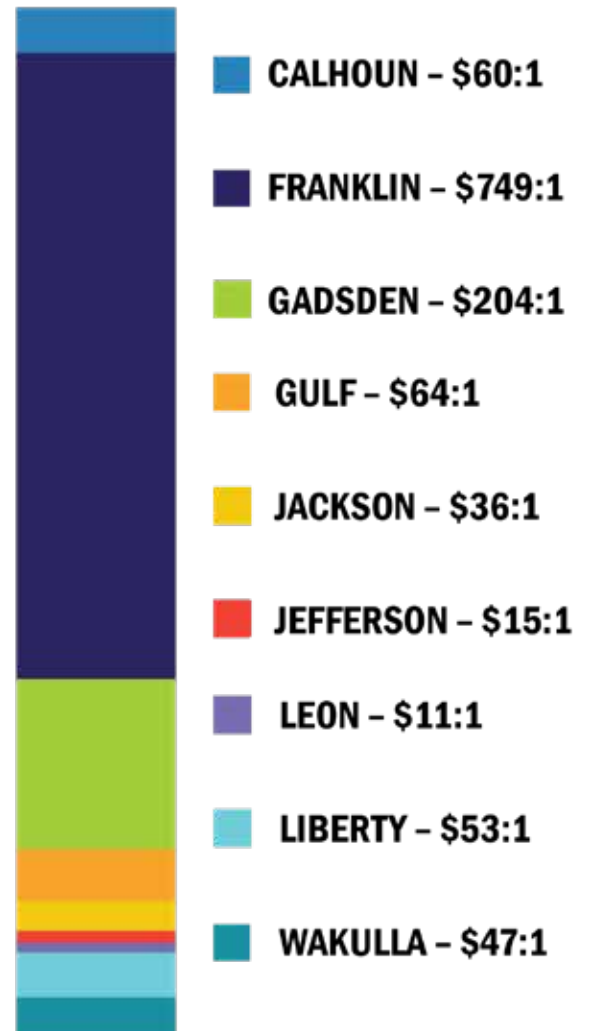


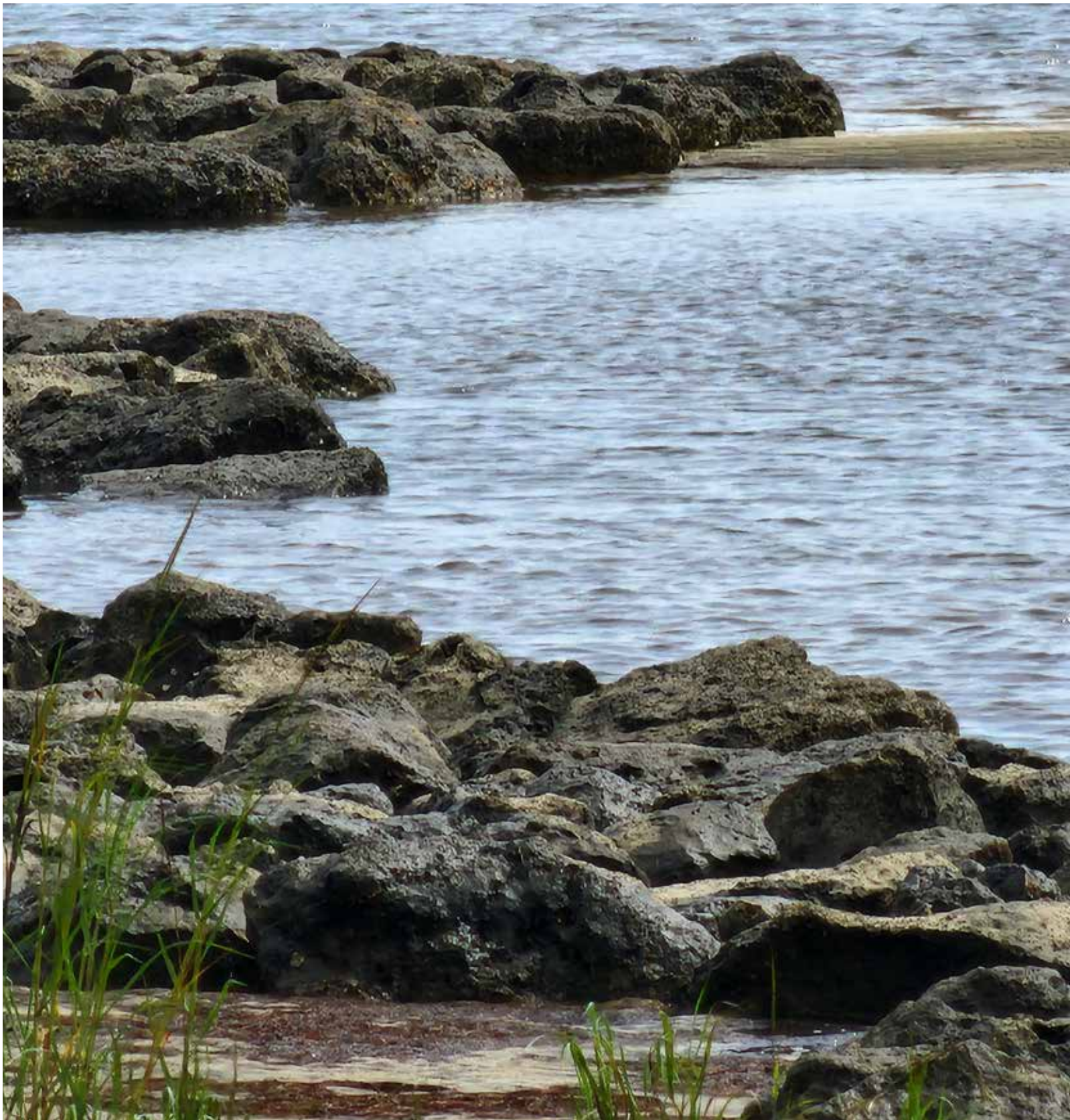


\$73:1
**REGIONAL
RETURN ON
INVESTMENT**

AVERAGE ROI PER COUNTY

FY 2019/2020 – FY 2022/2023





The constructed reefs have trapped more sediment than originally expected, already doubling the area available for marsh grass plantings, and attracting wildlife to the area.



Innovations – Franklin 98

Coastal communities throughout the Apalachee Region are all too familiar with chronic erosion along the shorelines. Summer and winter storms bring high winds and raise water levels; chronic erosion is a daily occurrence with the ebb and flow of the tide. Year after year, Franklin County's shoreline experiences these conditions, causing portions of coastal Highway 98 to suffer.

Highway 98 serves as an evacuation route and a main artery of the surrounding communities, tying Franklin County together, covering Apalachicola, Eastpoint, Carrabelle, and St Teresa. It acts as the only thoroughfare for some residents. For decades, various hard armoring techniques have been implemented ranging from wooden bulkheads to articulated concrete. Until recently, these efforts have been standard approaches to mitigate against coastal erosion that often preempt existing and potential habitat from forming and migrating – seawalls and riprap effectively draw a line in the sand for coastal geomorphological and ecological functions. Looking to implement a different approach, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) partnered with WSP USA to explore involving design and implementation of a living shoreline project, one that sought to breach the gap between hard armoring and “soft” solutions such as planted shorelines with native vegetation. This is the basis for Franklin-98.

Franklin-98 is a nature-based solution that involves establishing a nearshore reef and marsh ecosystem, bolstering the general productivity and health of the nearshore ecosystem while capturing, or attenuating wave energy in Apalachee Bay before it has a chance to reach shore. The nearshore hardbottom reefs, constructed out of limestone sourced from Florida, have been observed providing home to this past year's oyster set. Once a primary driver of the local economy that accounted for 90% of the total Florida oyster yield, the fishery has since collapsed, with laws put in place to prevent wild harvest through 2026. It is important to note that the F-98 project is not primarily an oyster restoration project, and separate from FWCs much larger restoration efforts, though the project has seen oyster recruitment



Environmental Planning Manager Josh Adams surveys site progress along the Franklin-98 Living Shoreline.



on the reefs. Additionally, the project is located in a “no harvest” zone.

The installation of nearshore reefs helps to attenuate wave energy in a novel wave, unique from other linear formations that direct wave energy on the sides, potentially leading to scouring on the sides of the engineered structure. Taking inspiration from natural oyster formation, our reefs are irregularly shaped and the length and depth of the structures slows the waves before reaching shore. The effects on energy reduction are profound and are visible, even on an average day. The reefs will not prevent all erosion or provide the same type of wave attenuation as seawalls and riprap. They are much lower in elevation, protruding only a few feet out of the water, and totally submerged on the highest tides.

The reefs are installed in shallow water, less than six feet. Materials are positioned in the water using excavators from barges in deeper areas, and working in and around the intertidal zone carefully, as to not disturb any of the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). The SAV are field verified and mapped ahead of placement to avoid any accidents. Some of the workers from the project are displaced oystermen, leveraging their experience to help construct the reefs. Construction work is being performed by North Florida Construction, a local contractor operating in Franklin County.

Spartina alterniflora, or smooth chordgrass, is the dominant species that is being used to establish our fringing marsh. With the reefs in place, the wave

climate becomes favorable for marsh species. The saltmarsh helps to lock-in suspended sediments and trap them in place, settling them out of the water column and aiding in growing the shoreline. The GulfCorps of the Forgotten Coast, an Americorps program based out of Franklin County, is the contractor responsible for the planting portion of the restoration process. GulfCorps crews partner with federal, state, county and municipal agencies as well as local nonprofits to implement restoration and conservation projects throughout the Panhandle coast. The GulfCorps team has been busy harvesting, transporting, and propagating the marsh grass. The grass comes from a Duke Energy donor site in Crystal River.

The combination of the marsh and reefs will benefit the local ecology through providing enhanced habitat that has been preempted by seawall in many locations along the project area. The enhancements will also help to offset erosion and catch sediment, increasing shoreline resiliency. Project design considerations included twenty-seven public outreach events, as well as data collection and analysis methodology.

Franklin-98 Living Shoreline has been designed to withstand at least Category 3 wave energy and has performed well to-date since being initially installed in fall of 2023. Sea level rise was also taken into consideration when designing the marsh and reefs; both are anticipated to “grow” with the projected amount of sea level rise in our project area. The project will be n

Innovations – Emergency Planning

When disaster strikes, there's no time for second guessing. Preparation is essential. And even more so throughout the Apalachee Region, an area prone to severe weather incidents. Disasters of this nature require a coordinated and collaborative effort among first responders and support agencies, and the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition (BBHCC) serves as this forum, facilitating a response that best leverages the resources and capabilities of all healthcare providers and partners engaged.

Emergency management planning can be daunting, no matter how necessary it may be. To address this issue, and ensure ease and accessibility, the Florida Healthcare Coalitions worked collaboratively to fund an online planning platform for healthcare facilities statewide. Users are able to develop and maintain their Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) in the platform using an AHCA-compliant template that helps them easily meet the requirements for annual approval of their plan. While not required to do so by law, the Coalitions also developed a Continuity of Operations (COOP) template for their use, to help plan out how to keep their main agency functions operational when their organizations face significant disruptions from emergency or disaster events. Additionally, there is an option for plan-checkers to check the plan off within the platform, thereby eliminating significant back-and-forth via the exchange of emails and physical copies of plans between facilities and those who approve the plans.

Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) is proud to have been a part of this effort. Christian Levings, ARPC Emergency Planning Manager, who has extensive experience in plan-approval, advised and steered the development group to ensure that the CEMP development interface remained consistent with the AHCA guidance checklist for CEMP's. The resulting platform has streamlined a historically cumbersome process, allowing for superior planning and preparation throughout the State of Florida.

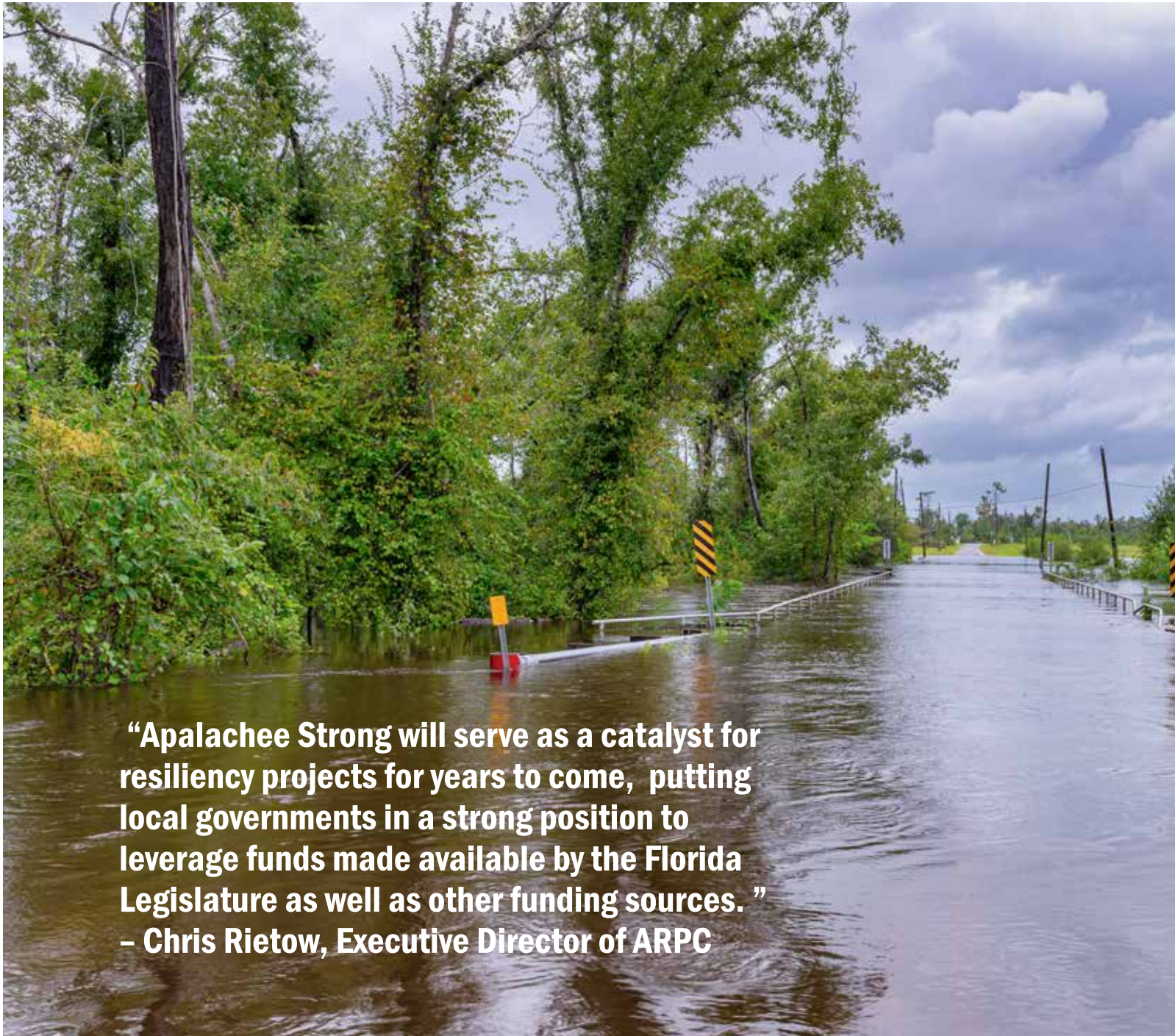
And the newly developed platform is already award-winning! We are thrilled to announce that ARPC received the 2024 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations. NADO is a Washington, DC-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The Impact Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities. We proudly accept this recognition and remain committed to improving quality of life for all throughout the Apalachee Region!





Up-and-Coming Programs

ARPC is structured such that the organization can respond to the needs of the Region in a nimble manner. As the challenges of our communities evolve, so do we! Here is a brief summary of just one of the up and coming programs at ARPC.



“Apalachee Strong will serve as a catalyst for resiliency projects for years to come, putting local governments in a strong position to leverage funds made available by the Florida Legislature as well as other funding sources. ”
– Chris Rietow, Executive Director of ARPC



ARPC has established a resilience collaborative for the Region, Apalachee Strong. With funding made possible through a grant by the American Flood Coalition, all nine of the Apalachee Region's member counties eagerly joined the collaborative. The initiative started in November of 2020, with the adoption of the ARPC's Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the need for a collaborative approach in tackling resilience issues.

The goal of the collaborative is to help cities and towns across the Panhandle advance adaptation efforts and support resilience projects, and ultimately seeing a return on investment in our communities. The collaborative serves as a centralized forum for resilience related initiatives in the Region. By identifying the Region's resiliency deficits, specific policies can be set to meet them, and grants can be pursued.

"Water does not recognize city or county lines, so it is absolutely critical for leaders to take a regional approach to building resilience," said Melissa Roberts, Executive Director of the American Flood Coalition.

"We are proud to have funded this effort to create Apalachee Strong as the Panhandle community works together to meaningfully address flooding in the region."

One of the first grants that the ARPC pursued under the collaborative is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida Grant Program, through the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection. The grant program

was established in 2021 by Senate Bill 1954, and allows regional resilience coalitions to coordinate solutions to sea level rise and flooding. ARPC utilized the grant funding to

develop a regional vulnerability analysis, used to prioritize projects for inclusion in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan.

As resiliency efforts become ever more crucial throughout the Region, ARPC is ready to bridge the gap. Resiliency Officer Divina Lade will be leading the charge, ensuring that the communities throughout the Apalachee Region are fully prepared for the challenges of tomorrow.



ARPC News Highlights

*USDOT Announces Final Round of 2024 SS4A
Grants to Fund Road Improvements*





Crawfordville senior citizens get advice on creating a will; see who is behind the idea
– **SEPTEMBER 2023**

Planning Council Receives National Award
– **DECEMBER 2023**

Gadsden County leaders, town and city managers plan to create an economic development strategy
– **APRIL 2024**

Protecting U.S. 98 in Franklin County using nature-based solutions
– **JUNE 2024**

Gadsden County leaders show drafted economic development plan to neighbors
– **SEPTEMBER 2024**

Living Shorelines to the Rescue
– **SEPTEMBER 2024**

ARPC wins award for Franklin County map
– **NOVEMBER 2024**

Gadsden County leaders work to bring passenger rail service back through the county
– **NOVEMBER 2024**

USDOT Announces Final Round of 2024 SS4A Grants to Fund Road Improvements
– **NOVEMBER 2024**

ARPC wins award for Franklin County map
– **NOVEMBER 2024**



New Staff

Liz Todak

Alex Valdes

Juliette Kearce

Logan Patten

Marcus Thompkins

Matt Vossler

Justin Stiell

Mary O'Brien

Austin Britt

Isabella Marmanidis

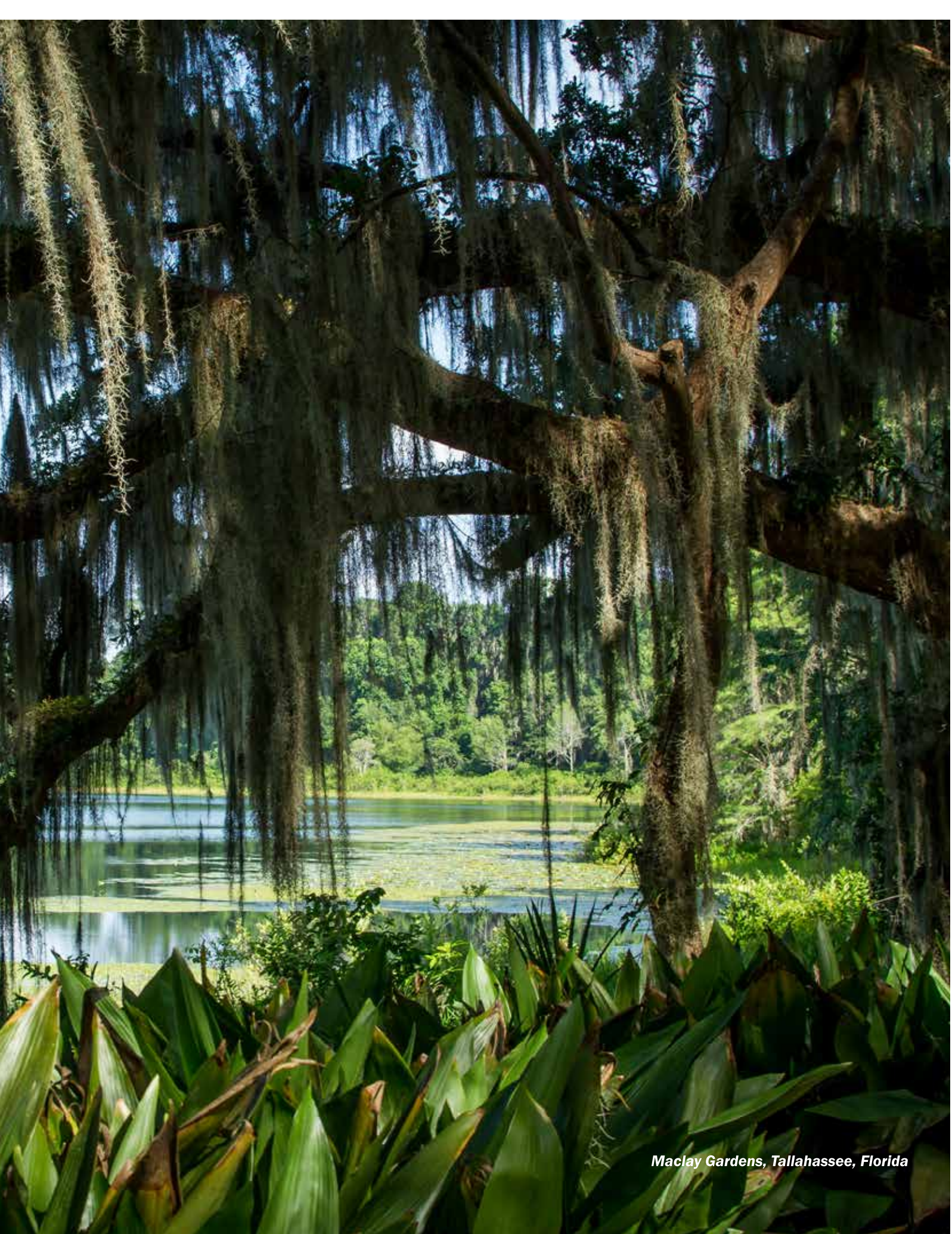
Tom Thompson

Lydia Johnson

Khalig Atakishiyev

Kristin Dozier

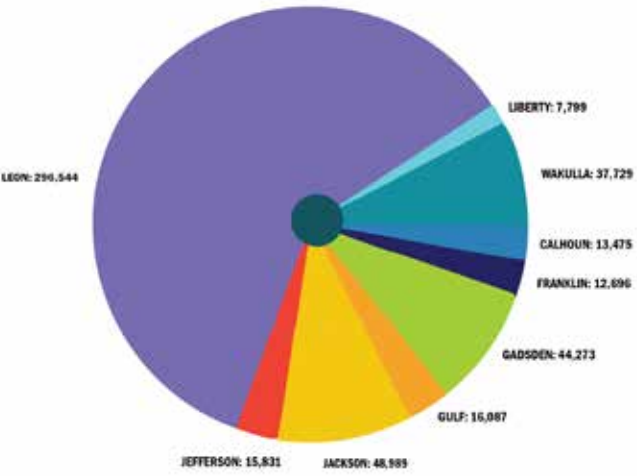




Maclay Gardens, Tallahassee, Florida

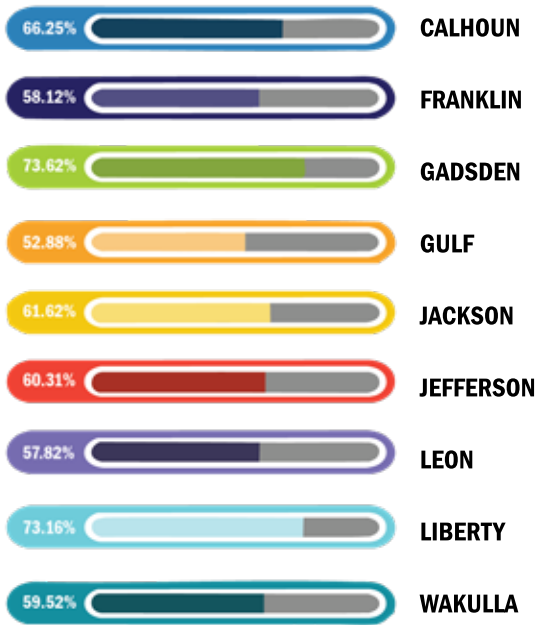
The Apalachee Region is as diverse as it is beautiful. Known for its distinct blend of urban and rural communities, the demographics of this region reflect a tapestry of varied cultures and heritages weaved together with the threads of Southern hospitality.

493,423
**APALACHEE REGION'S
TOTAL POPULATION**



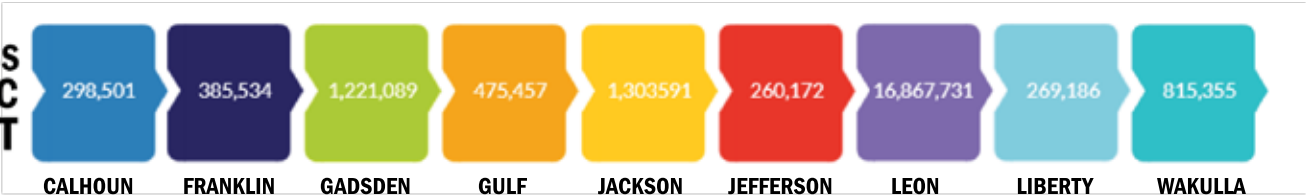
POPULATION BY COUNTY

**% OF POPULATION
BORN IN COUNTY**



Please refer to the appendix for all data sources.

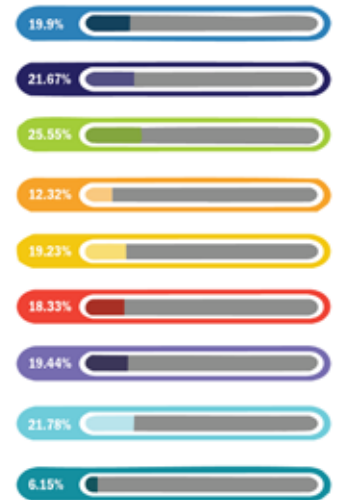
REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT



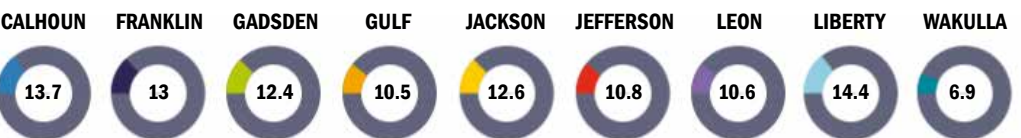
SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADES



POVERTY RATE



% OF GRANDPARENTS CARING FOR GRANDCHILDREN



% EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY

CRIME RATE

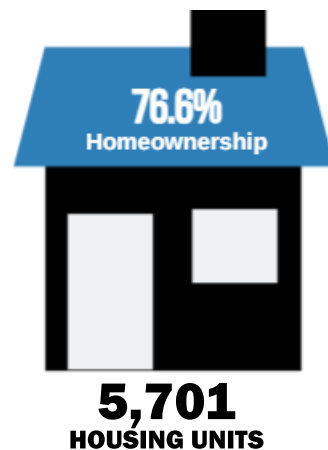


CALHOUN COUNTY

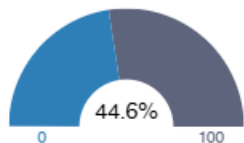
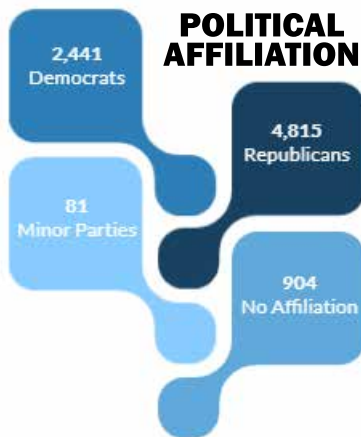


CALHOUN COUNTY

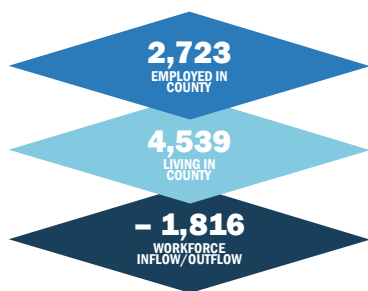
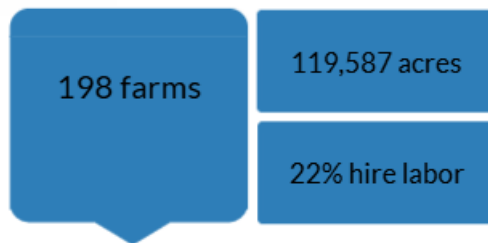
POVERTY BY GENDER



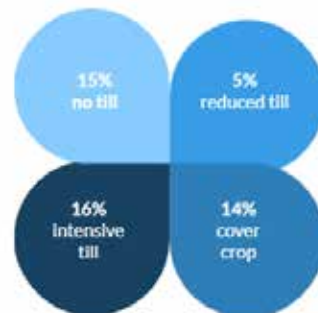
192
EMPLOYERS



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION



% UNDER AGE 65 WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE



FARMING METHODS



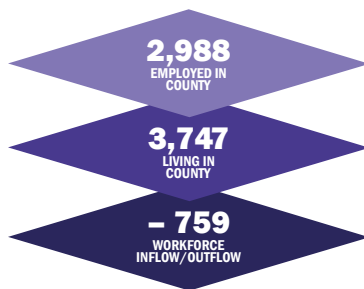
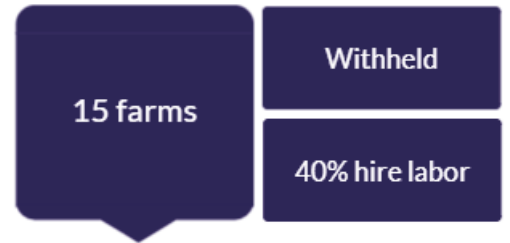
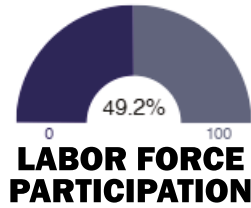
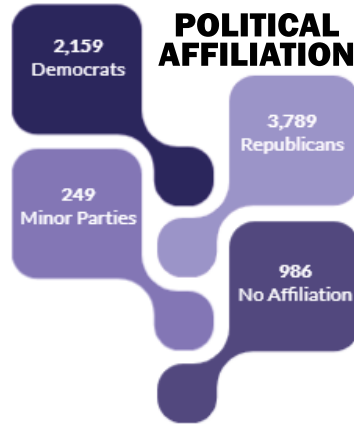
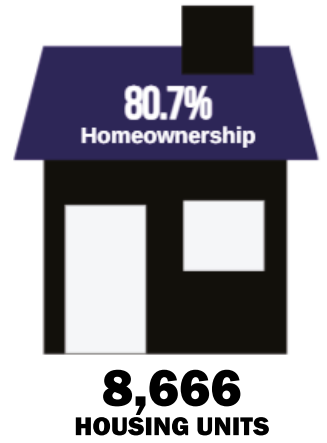
CONSERVATIVE LAND MASS BY ACRES

FRANKLIN COUNTY



FRANKLIN COUNTY

POVERTY BY GENDER



% UNDER AGE 65 WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE



FARMING METHODS



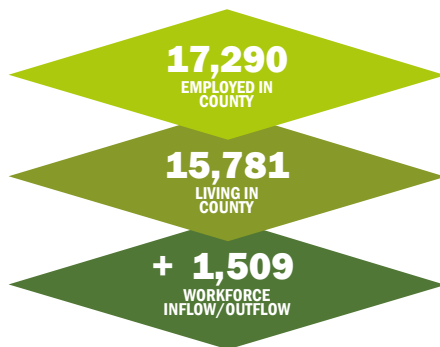
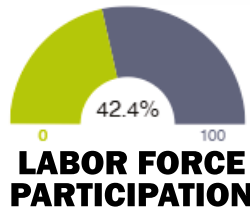
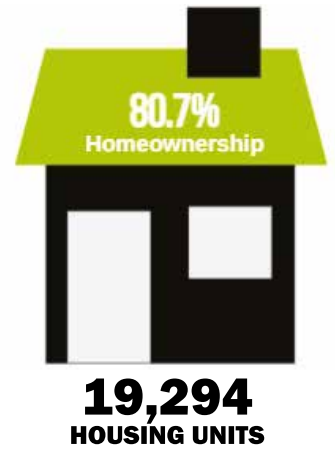
CONSERVATIVE LAND MASS BY ACRES

GADSDEN COUNTY

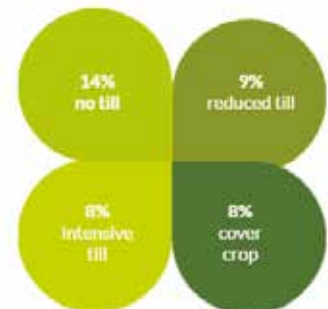


GADSDEN COUNTY

POVERTY BY GENDER



% UNDER AGE 65 WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE



FARMING METHODS



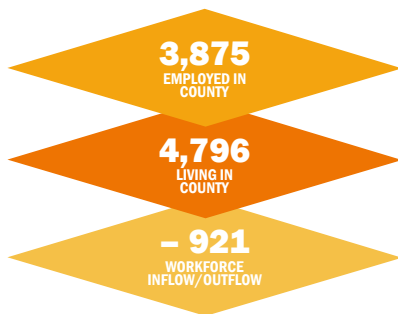
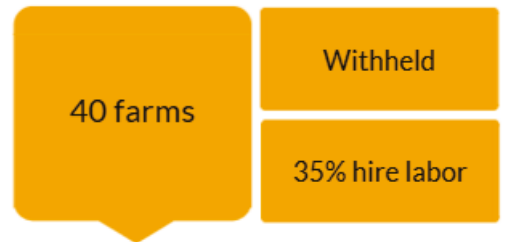
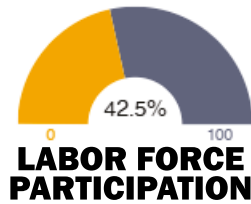
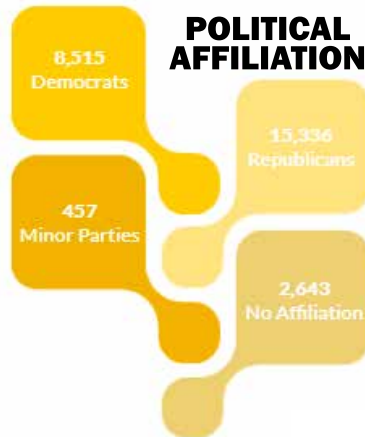
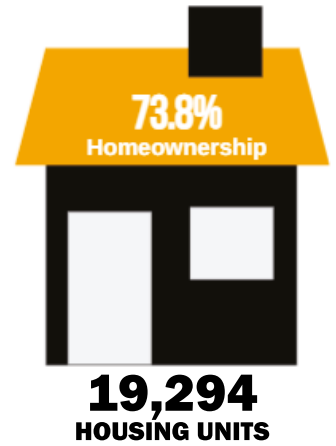
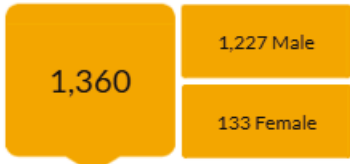
CONSERVATIVE LAND MASS BY ACRES

GULF COUNTY

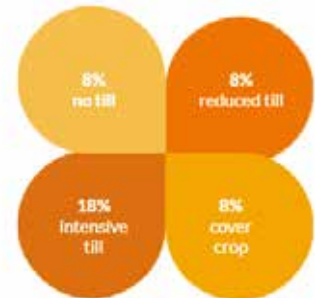


GULF COUNTY

POVERTY BY GENDER



% UNDER AGE 65 WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE



FARMING METHODS



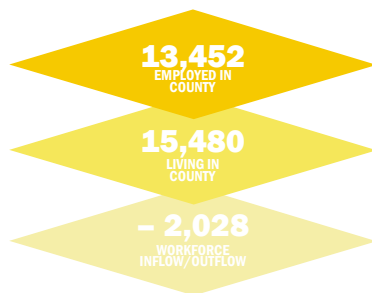
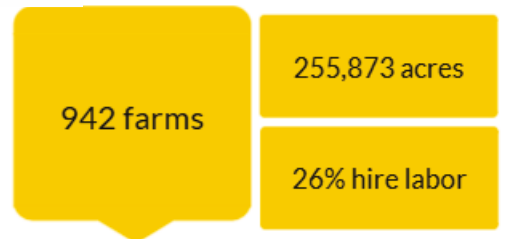
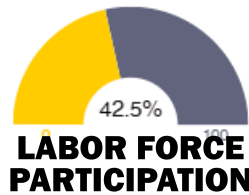
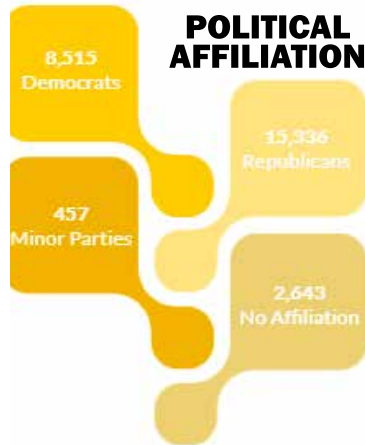
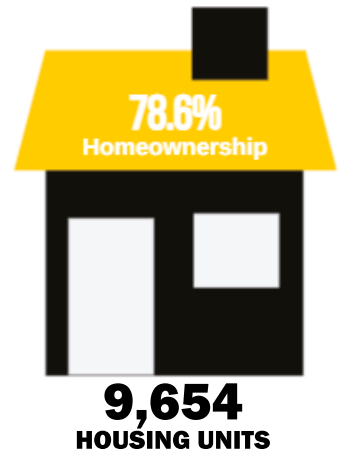
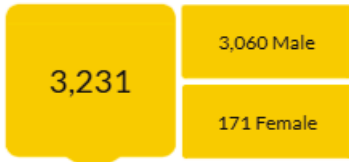
CONSERVATIVE LAND MASS BY ACRES

JACKSON COUNTY

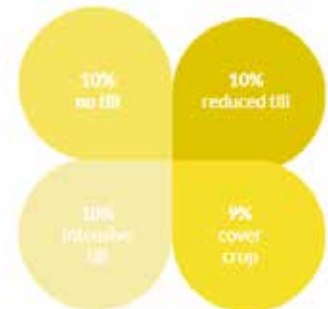


JACKSON COUNTY

POVERTY BY GENDER



% UNDER AGE 65 WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE



FARMING METHODS



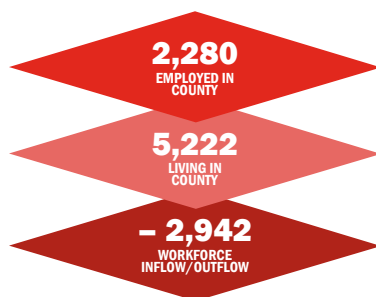
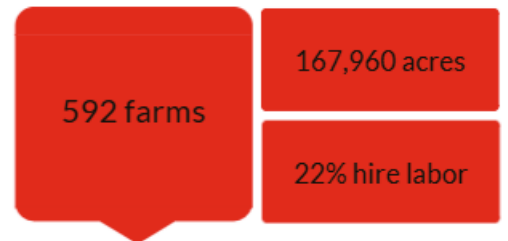
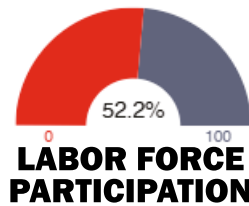
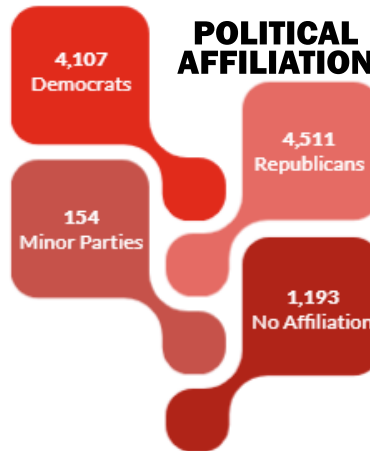
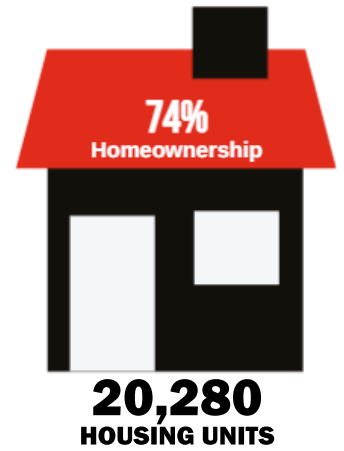
CONSERVATIVE LAND MASS BY ACRES

JEFFERSON COUNTY

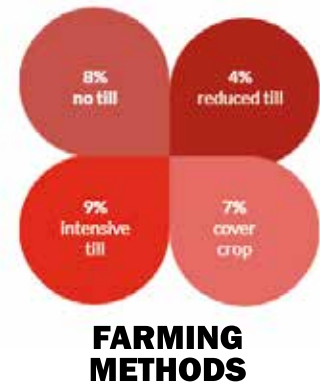


JEFFERSON COUNTY

POVERTY BY GENDER



% UNDER AGE 65 WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE



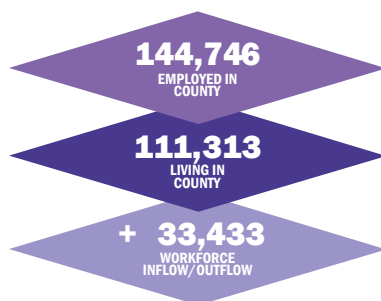
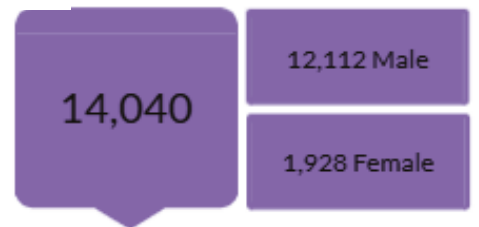
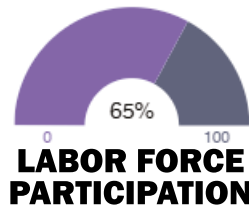
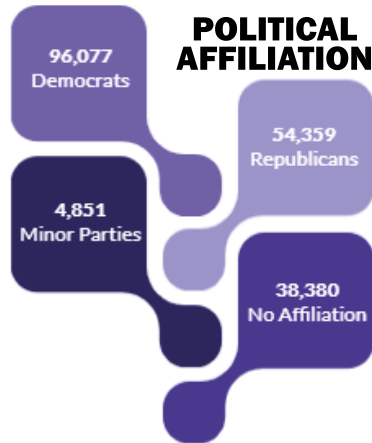
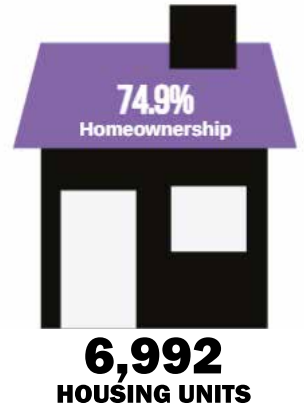
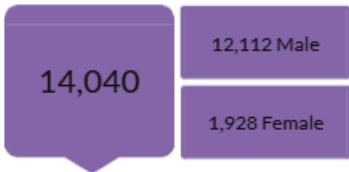
CONSERVATIVE LAND MASS BY ACRES

LEON COUNTY

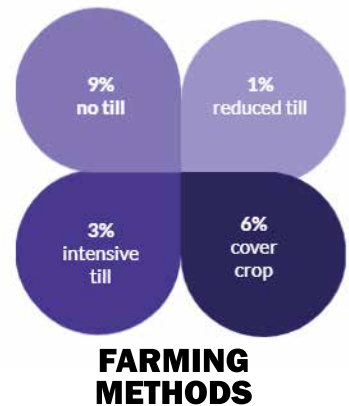


LEON COUNTY

POVERTY BY GENDER



% UNDER AGE 65 WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE



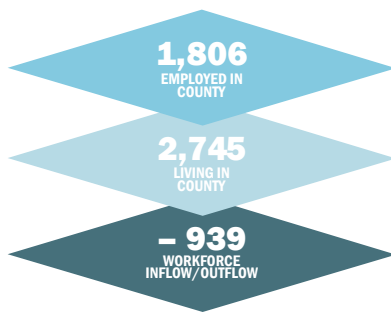
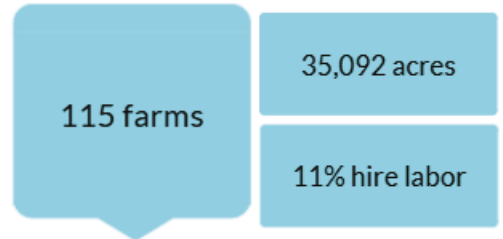
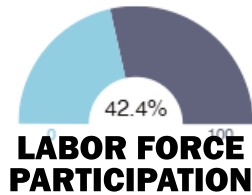
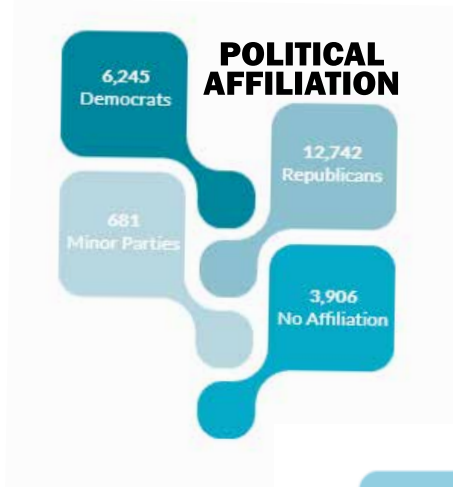
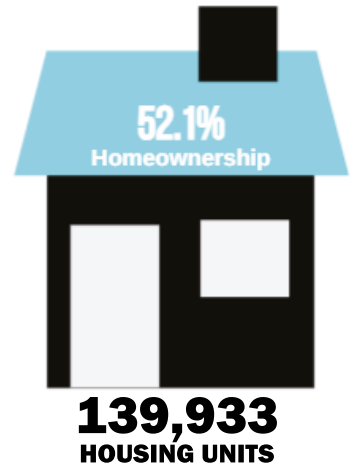
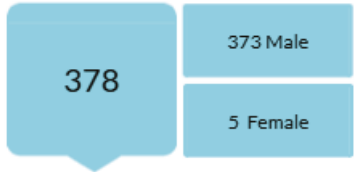
CONSERVATIVE LAND MASS BY ACRES

LIBERTY COUNTY

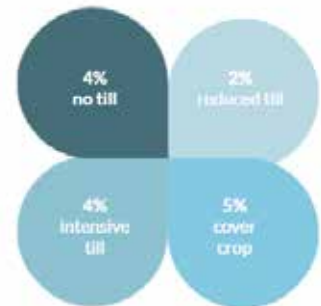


LIBERTY COUNTY

POVERTY BY GENDER



% UNDER AGE 65 WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE



FARMING METHODS

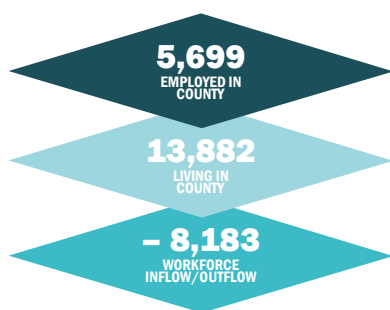
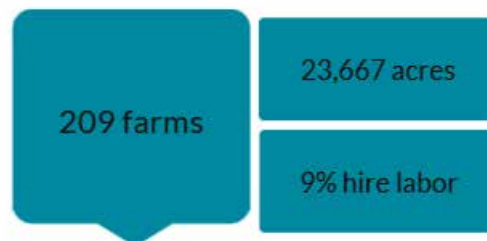
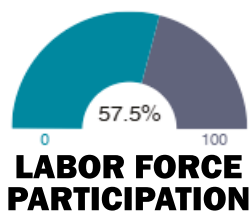
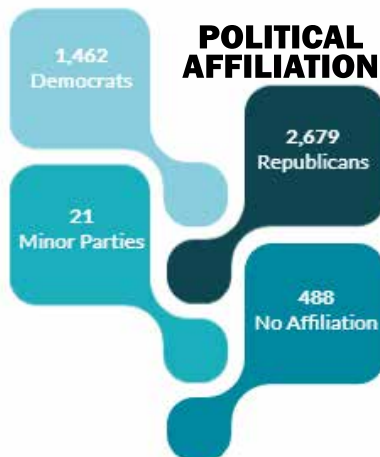
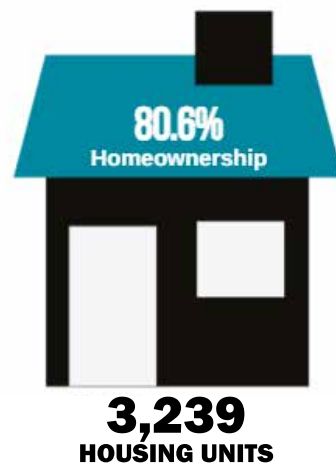
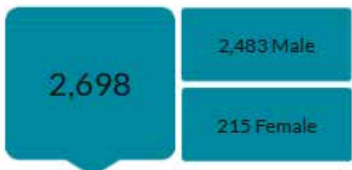


CONSERVATIVE LAND MASS BY ACRES

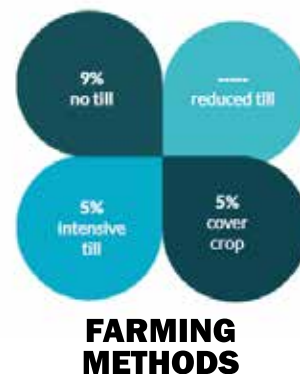
WAKULLA COUNTY



POVERTY BY GENDER



% UNDER AGE 65 WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE



CONSERVATIVE LAND MASS BY ACRES

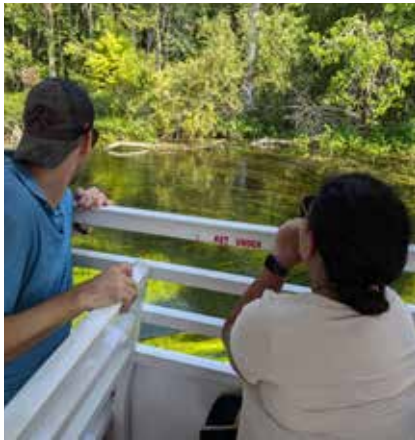
HIGHER EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS IN THE APALACHEE REGION

- **Chipola College**
- **Florida A&M University (FAMU)**
- **Florida State University (FSU)**
- **Gadsden Technical College**
- **Gulf Coast State College**
- **Keiser University**
- **Lively Technical College**
- **Tallahassee Community College (TCC)**
- **TCC Gadsden Center**
- **TCC Wakulla Center**





We the Apalachee Region!





FESTIVALS AROUND THE REGION

JANUARY

Oyster Cook-Off – Franklin County

FEBURARY

Florida Riverfest – Calhoun County

Annual Robert Wise Chili Cookoff – Franklin County

Field Day Music Festival – Leon County

MARCH

North Florida VegFest – Leon County

APRIL

North Florida Wildflower Festival – Calhoun County

SGI Brewfest - Franklin County

Carrabelle Riverfront Festival – Franklin County

Chain of Parks Art Festival – Leon County

Pride in the Plaza – Leon County

Springtime Tallahassee – Leon County

Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival – Wakulla County

MAY

Havana ReggaeFest – Gadsden County

Tupelo Honey Festival – Gulf County

JUNE

Watermelon Festival – Jefferson County

AUGUST

Tallahassee Beer Festival – Leon County

SEPTEMBER

Experience Asia – Leon County

OCTOBER

Goat Day - Calhoun County

NOVEMBER

Florida Seafood Festival –Franklin County

Greek Food Festival – Leon County

DECEMBER

Festival of Lights –Leon County



APPENDIX: DATA SOURCES

CONSERVATION LAND MASS BY COUNTY – https://www.fnai.org/PDFs/MAXCounty_202401.pdf

LABOR INFLOW/OUTFLOW BY COUNTY – https://lmsresources.labormarketinfo.com/library/labor_shed/franklin.pdf

AVERAGE COMMUTE BY COUNTY – <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/wakulla-county-fl#housing>

2023 SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADE BY COUNTY – <https://edudata.fldoe.org/ReportCards/Schools.html?school=0000&district=33>

TOTAL LAND MASS UTILIZED FOR AGRICULTURE BY COUNTY – https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Florida/cp12013.pdf

OF FARMS

LAND MASS IN ACRES

% OF FARMS HIRING LABOR

TOP CROP IN ACRES

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE – (OR MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME) <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/florida/calhoun-county>

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES – <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/florida/calhoun-county>

PERCENT IN POVERTY – <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/florida/calhoun-county>

AGE – <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/florida/calhoun-county>

GENDER SEGMENTATION – <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/florida/calhoun-county>

NUMBER OF VETERANS – <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/florida/calhoun-county>

CRIME RATE – 2022 <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsDashboards/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalIndNoGrp.Dataviewer>

PERCENT OF POPULATION 60+ – https://elderaffairs.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-Year-in-Review_WEB.pdf

GRANDPARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR OWN MINOR GRANDCHILDREN – <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsDashboards/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalIndNoGrp.TenYrsRpt&cid=840>

TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYER ESTABLISHMENTS BY COUNTY (2022) – <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/calhouncountyflorida/HSG650222>

NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS (2023) – <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/calhouncountyflorida/HSG650222>

RATE OF HOME OWNERSHIP – <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/calhouncountyflorida/HSG650222>

NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED (2023) – <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/calhouncountyflorida/HSG650222>

PERSONS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE, UNDER 65 YEARS, 2018-2022 – <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/libertycountyflorida,leoncountyflorida,jeffersoncountyflorida,jacksoncountyflorida/HSG010223>

FOOD INSECURITY: NACO COUNTY EXPLORER – <https://explorer.naco.org/index.html?dset=Food%20Insecurity&ind=Food%20Insecurity%20Rate>

2022 REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT - <https://edr.state.fl.us/content/area-profiles/county/wakulla.pdf>

TOTAL MILES OF SHORELINE THROUGHOUT THE REGION – <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/beaches#:~:text=The%20825%20miles%20of%20sandy,Florida's%20most%20valuable%20natural%20resources.>

POLITICAL AFFILIATION - <https://dos.fl.gov/elections/data-statistics/voter-registration-statistics/voter-registration-reports/voter-registration-by-county-and-party/>

