

# Hendry County

Hendry County Economic Development Council

## What's Happening in Hendry...

Hendry County is full of opportunity for new home buyers, businesses looking for room to expand, and tourists who love the charm of small towns in a natural Florida environment.

In 2021, Hendry had:

- \$76.2M in new construction
- A median home price of \$280k
- a 62% increase in new home built in 2020
- \$7.2 B in Market Value

Pilots are always welcome to fuel up in one of , Hendry County's two airports, the LaBelle Municipal Airport or Airglades International.

The LaBelle Municipal Airport has increased traffic thanks to upgrades made to the airport. Visitors flying into the airport can enjoy a nice meal or pick up a few sweets for the flight at Shortcakes eatery located inside of the new terminal building.

## LABELLE RECREATION & TOURISM

The City of LaBelle offers numerous family-friendly festivals and events year-round. The City Wharf allows boaters on the Caloosahatchee River to dock for three days complete with water and electric while they explore the city.

Downtown LaBelle offers a variety of restaurants, shops and services just a short walk from The City Wharf and is easily accessible from State Road 80.



## LABELLE CONTINUES TO GROW

LaBelle is welcoming and supportive of new businesses both small and large. The Downtown LaBelle Revitalization Corp is always working to connect the community with new resources, vendors and events.

LaBelle has become a desirable location for individuals who cannot afford high costs of living in other areas of SWFL. In the City of LaBelle, 971 single family units were recently approved along with 18 apartment units in the downtown area. Port LaBelle continues to lead the County in growth with over 1,100 new single family homes built since 2020.

# CLEWISTON

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**Downtown Clewiston Revitalization-** The EDC is working with Retail Strategies and the City of Clewiston to revitalize the downtown area. Most people may not know that the City of Clewiston was designed by one of America's top early-20th-century city planners, John Nolan. The layout of the city makes it ideal walkable city. Tourism is a large economic driver in the city, and the downtown area is a destination for visitors to shop, dine, and enjoy the best of what the city has to offer.



## LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERFRONT MASTER PLAN

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The City of Clewiston desires to develop its waterfront property on Lake Okeechobee to enhance boating access, encourage water related economic development and provide a safe harbor for boats during storm events.

**Airglades International Airport-** Airglades is strategically located in South Florida, the hub of United States perishable air cargo, and will receive and send goods to all major Latin American cargo hubs. Airglades International Airport is expected to create 1400-1700 jobs. Properties along Highway 27, adjacent to the airport are being rezoned from agriculture to commercial, in preparation for the project. The 27 corridor is expected to become a major logistic and distribution pipeline for the State.

## CLEWISTON COMMERCE PARK INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

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Marketing efforts contributed to increased activity which helped accomplish the city's completed sale of all remaining city-owned properties within the Commerce Park Industrial District (CPID) in 2021 including additional lots created by the subdivision of the larger 10 acre tract completed earlier in the year. This is a long awaited milestone achievement for the city as the development of the properties is expected to be impactful with the potential creation of an estimated 300 new jobs, private investment projected in the \$30-40 million range and the city garnering \$1.7 million in gross receipts on the land sales which bolstered reserve funds.

## LAKE OKEECHOBEE TOURISM

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Lake Okeechobee has become a world renowned destination for bass fishing and is home to many professional freshwater fishing tournaments:

- Major League Fishing Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit
- MLF Toyota Series
- Phoenix Bass Fishing League
- BASS Nation Adult and Youth Tournaments
- Roland Martin Marine Center Series

Annually fishing tourism based out of Clewiston on the south end of Lake Okeechobee brings an astounding overall economic impact estimated at \$8-10 million dollars.

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