Northern Turnpike Connector

Study Area Overview

August 27, 2019
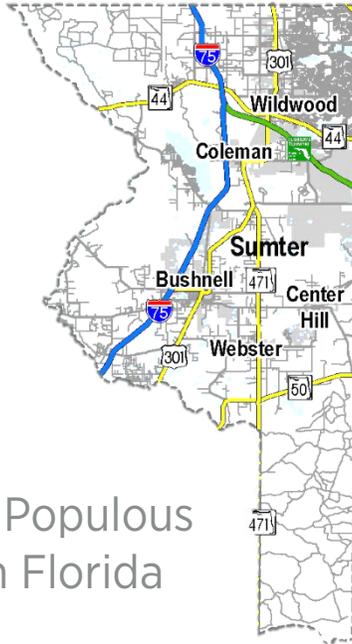
Study Area Summary

4 Counties, 20 Cities and Towns

● Counties: Citrus, Levy, Marion, Sumter

Land Area: 3,831 square miles

Known as the "Nature Coast"

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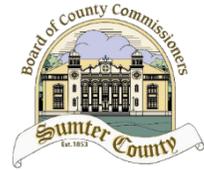
- Sumter County was originally within Marion County until established separately in **1853**

- County Seat: **Bushnell**

- Known to the region as "**the Real Florida**"

- Webster is the only city in Florida to obtain **"Bee City"** designation by Bee City USA

Top Industries: Health Care & Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Government, Accommodation & Food Services, Construction

34th Most Populous County in Florida

Kayaking

The Villages

Agriculture

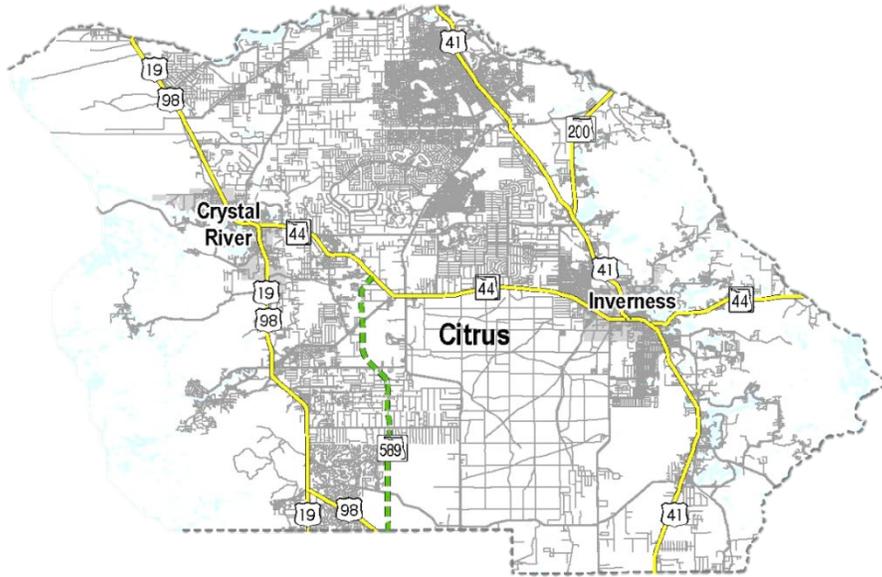*Webster Flea Market*

U-Pick Farms

Town Centers

Airboating

Citrus County Highlights

33rd Most Populous County in Florida

- Established in **1887**, nicknames **"Gem of Nature Coast"** & **"The Water Lover's Florida"**

- County Seat: **Inverness**

- Florida's Manatee Capital – Crystal River is home to the **largest herd of wintering manatees** in the US

- First occupied **10,000 years ago**, Crystal River Archeological Site retains 2,000 year old burial mounds
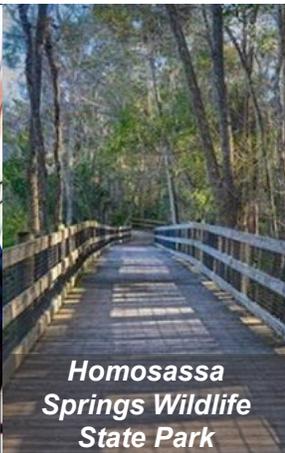
Top Industries[1]: Education & Health Services; Trade, Transportation & Utilities; Leisure & Hospitality

Three Sisters Springs

Antiques

Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park

Scalloping

Golf Courses

Homosassa Springs

Active Living

Note: Top Industries by 2017 Employment

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17th Most Populous County in Florida

- Marion County was **established in 1844** out of lands from Alachua, Orange, and Hillsborough

- County Seat: **Ocala**

- Known to the region as **"Horse Capital of the World"**

- One of only four **thoroughbred horse centers** in the world with 600 horse farms

Top Industries: Health Care & Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Government, Accommodation & Food Services, Construction
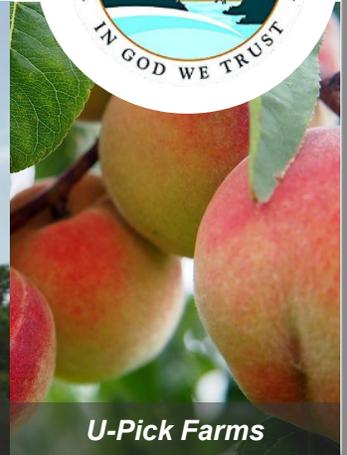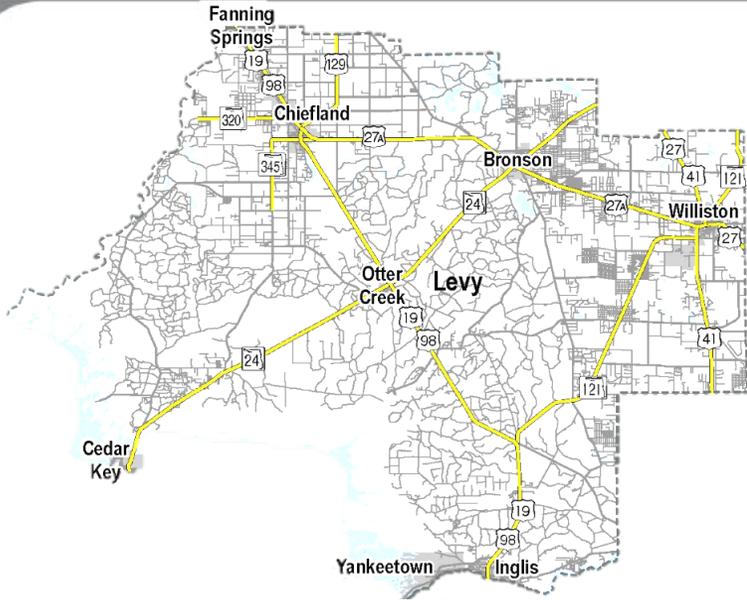
Zip Lining | **Kayaking** | **Equestrian Centers** | **Silver Springs** | **Arts & Culture** | **Racing** | **U-Pick Farms**

Note: Top Industries by 2017 Employment

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- A week after Florida became a state, Levy County was **established in 1845**

- County Seat: **Bronson**

- Known to the region as **"Florida's Natural Paradise"**

- Seafood is major staple, with Cedar Key being the **largest producer of farm raised clams** in country

Top Industries: Trade, Transportation & Utilities; Government; Construction
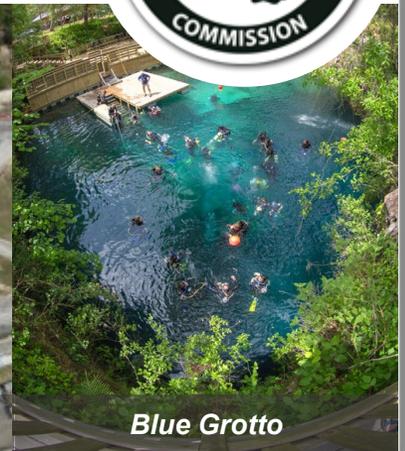
46th Most Populous County in Florida

LEVY COUNTY COMMISSION

Cedar Key   **Farming**   **Local Business**   **Goethe State Forest**   **Outdoor Recreation**   **Bronson Speedway**   **Blue Grotto**

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Public Engagement

Task Force Engagement

- Task Force Meetings
- Community Open Houses
- Community Workshops
- Briefings
- Website

Project Development Engagement

- Public Information Meetings
- Public Workshops
- Press Releases
- Public Hearings
- Website

Photos: HDR

Public Engagement, Engagement, Engagement…

Northern Turnpike Connector:

- Sumter County
- Citrus County
- Marion County
- Levy County