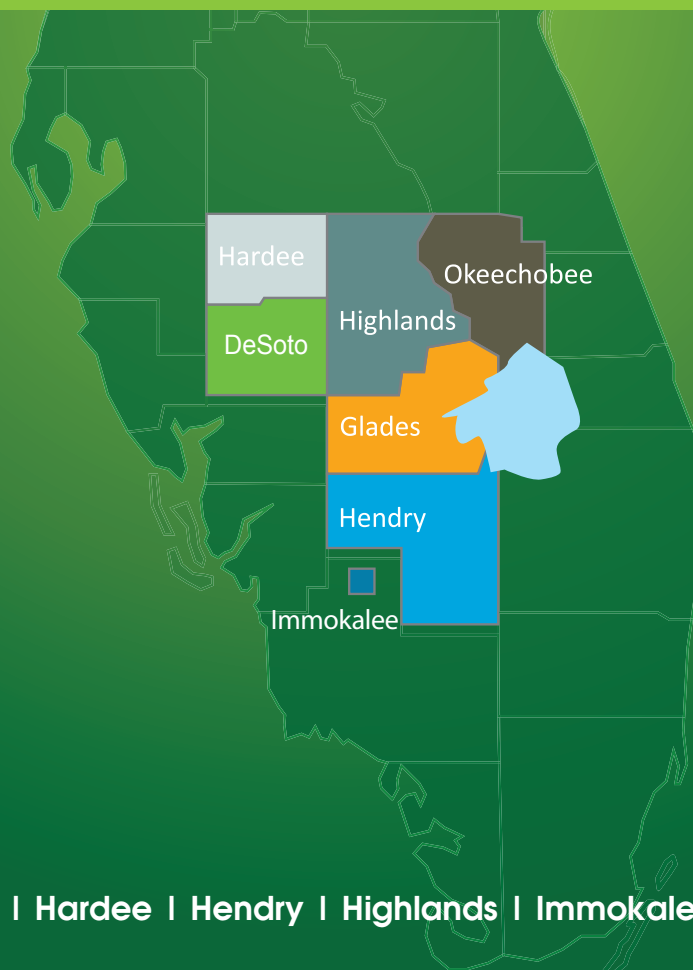




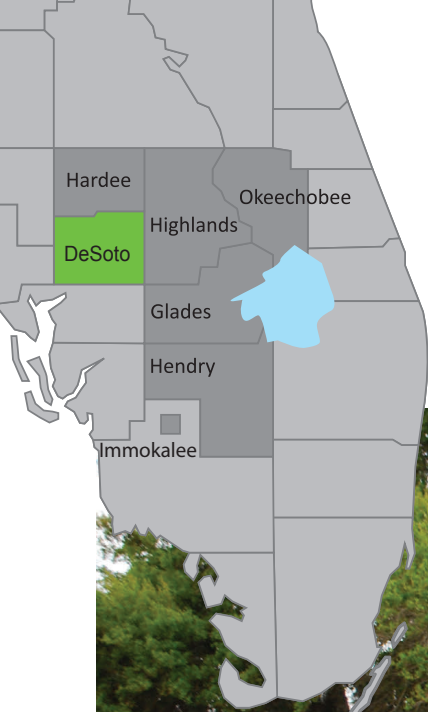
# FLORIDA'S HEARTLAND

A BUSINESS LOCATION AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING



DeSoto | Glades | Hardee | Hendry | Highlands | Immokalee | Okeechobee

# BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES in DeSoto



## DeSoto County

at a Glance

City: Arcadia

Area: 639 square miles

**DeSoto County is home to Florida's first universal solar plant, major distribution facilities, the scenic Peace River and an inviting historic downtown in Arcadia, the county seat. Agriculture, manufacturing and tourism are among the county's major business sectors.**

Arcadia is situated at the intersection of two major state highways, offering swift movement, inbound or outbound, and fast arrival at domestic and global destinations. It is located an hour east of Sarasota and Bradenton and an hour north of Fort Myers. Walmart chose Arcadia as the site for a major distribution center, which now employs more than 500 associates.

# Target INDUSTRIES

- Agriculture
- Logistics & Distribution
- Alternative Energy
- Tourism
- Health Care



In the agriculture sector, DeSoto has more than 4,000 available acres ideal for citrus growers and processors, as well as for cattle, nurseries and other natural products. Peace River Citrus Processing, Bethel Farms and Sorrells Brothers Packing Co., Inc. are leaders in this sector.

Businesses can also take advantage of the DeSoto County Enterprise Zone, a 20-square-mile area targeted for economic growth. Qualifying companies can take advantage of these and other incentives designed to encourage private investment and create new employment opportunities for area residents.

In recent years hotels, restaurants and retail stores have found DeSoto County to be fertile ground for business. Many new housing developments are in the final stages of planning and approval, and the county's population could double in the next decade.

## **BUSINESS ASSETS**

DeSoto County has much to offer businesses in a wide range of industries. The area's key business assets include the following:

### **Industrial Land**

DeSoto County has multiple industrial sites suitable for manufacturing, distribution or other types of businesses.

### **360-Degree Highway Network**

Businesses enjoy uncongested highway access to all parts of the state on I-75, I-4, I-95 and on the expanded U.S. 17 Corridor.

### **Dual Rail Accessibility**

CSX and Seminole Gulf Railway connect to Florida's statewide rail network, stretching from Jacksonville to Tampa, Palm Beach to Pensacola.

### **General Aviation Airports**

It's easy to fly in and out via Arcadia Municipal Airport and Punta Gorda Airport.

### **Education**

DeSoto County is home to a large, modern satellite campus of South Florida State College.

### **Health Care**

DeSoto Memorial Hospital offers comprehensive health and wellness services.

### **Water**

DeSoto County businesses have unrestricted access to water through a 6 billion-gallon reservoir.

# SUCCESS

## Stories



## Arcadia All-Florida Championship Rodeo

First held in 1928, Arcadia All-Florida Championship Rodeo is Florida's largest and longest-running rodeo event. From its pioneer beginnings, it has evolved to a major event, drawing top cowboy athletes from throughout the nation. The March event, known as

"The Granddaddy of 'em All," brings more than 30,000 spectators, contestants and visitors to DeSoto County every year. It represents the region's agricultural heritage and is a source of great pride for the community.



## Sun Bulb Company

Sun Bulb Company is a third-generation, family-run wholesale grower and supplier of plant supplies. Around since 1956, Sun Bulb was founded by A.P. and Mildred Hollingsworth in the garage of their family home in Arcadia. In the beginning stages, Sun Bulb Company focused on producing flower bulbs. As time went on, the organization grew into a business that sells plant food, orchids and pots for wholesale nationally and internationally. Sun Bulb's orchids are also exported to Canada and Central America.



## A Charming Lifestyle

From rodeos to county fairs and festivals, DeSoto County offers a rewarding lifestyle quite different from large urban centers. It also attracts new residents who appreciate convenient access to the soft beaches of the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, the Peace River traverses the county and provides opportunities for camping, fishing, canoeing, rafting and other water/wilderness activities.

Arcadia has a friendly small-town flavor that reflects the county's history of agriculture. With more than 400 buildings and homes on the National Register of Historic Places, residents can enjoy historic charm and turn-of-the-century architectural beauty.

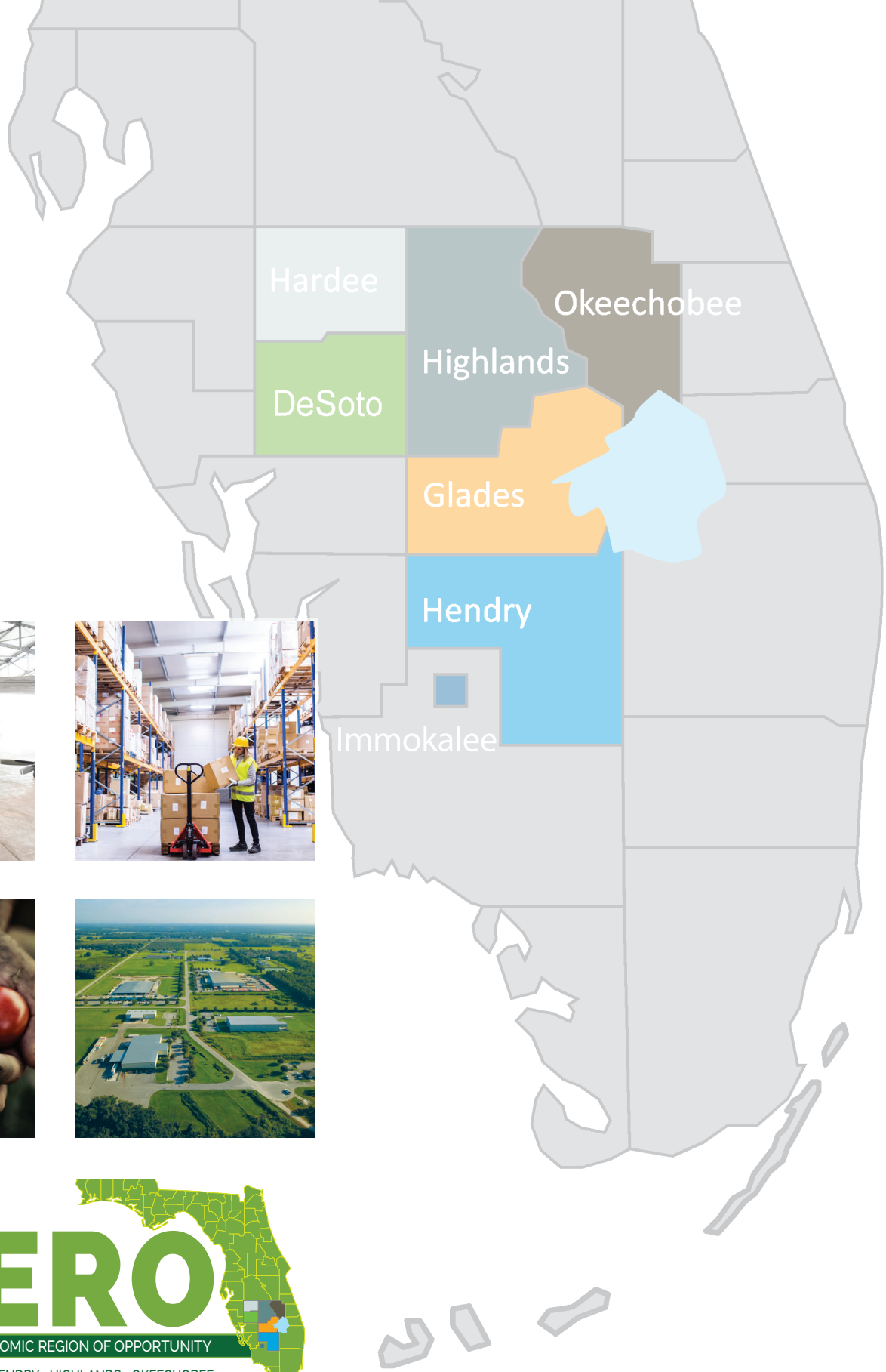
It's a charming lifestyle that appeals to people of all ages!



## CONTACT



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# FHERO

FLORIDA HEARTLAND ECONOMIC REGION OF OPPORTUNITY

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 BELLE GLADE • IMMOKALEE • PAHOKEE • SOUTH BAY

