

High Ridge Initiative

Revitalizing, High Ridge Estates,
an under-resourced, residential
neighborhood in Clay County





The Neighborhood

- ▶ History
- ▶ Antiquated Subdivision
- ▶ Under-resourced and Stigmatized
- ▶ Entirely residential, 500 homes
- ▶ Outside of city limits
- ▶ We estimate that approximately 40% of the neighborhood lives on \$24,000 or less.
- ▶ Most roads are private and unmaintained.
- ▶ Residents desire to see a positive change and have already begun working toward that aim.



The High Ridge Initiative Timeline

Dec 2021

Informal Survey

Neighborhood Clean ups

Apr 2022

Acceptance as Impact Clay Project

Recruit stakeholders for Steering Committee

May 2022

Steering Committee Meetings

Issue Guide

Planning for Event and Hot Dog Dialogues

Oct 2022

Hosted 10 Hot Dog Dialogues

Surveys

Healthy Harvest




Final Report

Jan 2023


Present to BCC

Implementation

College Drive Led the Way

-  **Focus on Revitalization**
-  **Start with Community Interest**
-  **Deliberative Dialogue for Community Engagement and Consensus building**

High Ridge Estates Innovations

-  **Only Residential**
-  **Simplified Discussion Guide**



What have we already accomplished?

- ▶ Identified 8 key concerns and correlating possible solutions, with input from more than 100 people.
- ▶ Removed more than 3.5 tons of trash and 3 tons of tires.
- ▶ The Emmanuel Project within walking distance
- ▶ Healthy Harvest
- ▶ Christmas Shop
- ▶ Twisted Oaks and Animal Services
- ▶ Discussions with CCUA and Water Management
- ▶ \$25,000 Grant from Community Foundation for Northeast Florida
- ▶ Benches donated by Humana for neighborhood beautification

Community Safety Request:

- ▶ Work with Urban Land Institute and Clay County zoning and planning department to develop a master plan that considers road improvements and maintenance, branding and aesthetics for the neighborhood, water and sewage infrastructure, and development of quality affordable housing.
- ▶ Collaborate with Clay County Sheriff's Office to address drug prevention measures in High Ridge Estates.

People Power Request:

- ▶ Seek support from the University of Florida Extension 4-H program and Clay County Library and Parks and Recreation departments to develop youth programming near the neighborhood.
- ▶ Support Mission of the Dirt Road's efforts to bring residents together for clean-up days, neighborhood aesthetic improvements, and community events intended to provide education and resources.

Caring for Neighbor Requests:

- ▶ Pursue conversations with Jacksonville Transportation Authority to improve transportation to neighboring communities and provide shuttle services within the Keystone Heights area.
- ▶ Support non-profit and small business development around providing health care and access to healthy foods near High Ridge Estates.
- ▶ Encourage Clay County Animal Services to continue addressing animal care education and resources to pet owners in the neighborhood.