

## 2. Community Background and Existing Situation

### Description of Community

Bradford County is located in Northeast Florida and lies between Clay County to the east, Union County to the west, and Alachua County to the south. The northwestern border is the New River. Bradford County was created in 1858 as New River County but renamed Bradford County in 1861. It was named for Captain Richard Bradford, who fought and was first Confederate officer from Florida killed in the Civil War. The County operates under a Board of County Commissioners. The population of the county is estimated at 28,520 based on the 2010 Census. The community can be found on the internet at <http://www.bradfordcountyfl.gov>.



### Demographics

According to the 2010 United States Census, 28,520 people live in 11,083 housing units in Bradford County. Population estimate as of July 1, 2019 was 28,201 (2020 Census was not complete at time of this update). There are four incorporated cities in Bradford County: Starke, Brooker, Hampton and Lawtey. The largest city, Starke, is the county seat with a population of 5,446 in 2,492 households.

Bradford County is locally populated, with a density of 93 people per square mile. The County is described as Florida's 51st most populous county with 0.2% of the state's total population. Population projections through 2020 indicate an additional 2.9% increase to 28,857 persons. This growth will occur in more rural areas of the county. These locations have the highest wildfire risk in the county due agricultural land usage.

The Forestry and Forest Products Industry employs 445 people with an annual labor income of \$21 million and a total industry output of \$62 million.