

















### **Expanding Connections**

Super Region	
Location	4
Global Connectivity	•

### **Charmingly Enterprising**

Education	8
Downtown	12

### Sunshine Style

Get Outside	14
Lakeside Lifestyle	16
Arts/Entertainment	18











mainstreetwh.com

mywinterhaven.com

winterhavenchamber.com

whedc.com







# Ha•ven [hey-vuh n] 1. A harbor or port which affords anchorage and shelter for shipping

- 2. Any place of shelter and safety; refuge; asylum
- 3. A place offering favorable opportunities or conditions

H N



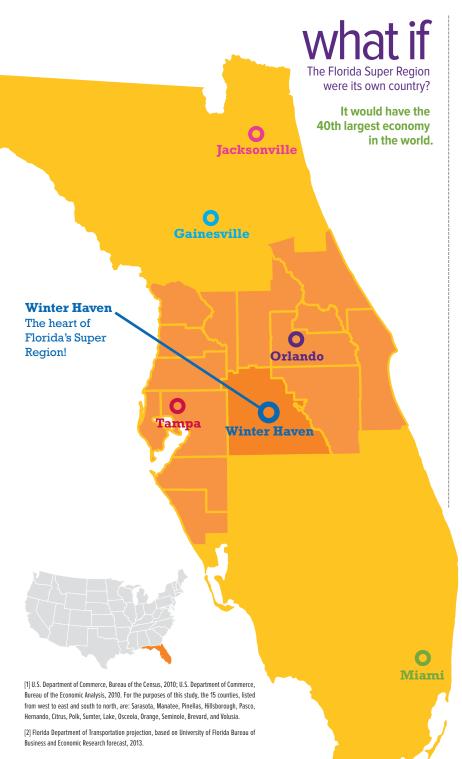




### what is the Florida Super Region? a super-awesome place.

The Florida Super Region generates \$300 billion per year in economic activity.

# a Super nerates er year activity.



### **Expanding Connections**

Winter Haven, Florida, lies at the center of the Florida Super Region, an area that generates \$300 billion per year in economic activity, making this Super Region the 9th largest economy in the United States. If this area were its own country, it would have the 40th largest economy in the world, surpassing the nations of Singapore, Chile and Israel.[1]

The Florida Super Region encompasses the 15 counties which make up the Tampa Bay and Central Florida regions with a current population of 7.2 million residents and 4.1 million jobs. The Super Region continues to grow in population and investment, with as many as 5.2 million additional residents expected over the next 50 years.[2]

Our prime location allows for convenient access to two major international airports, the nation's newest inland port and logistics center and a population of 7.2 million within a hour's drive. The area also includes Florida's 12th state university — the only polytechnic. It is also home to Polk State College, one of the most effective and rapidly growing state colleges specializing in innovative collaborations with local industry. Our inland data center provides the opportunity for secure data storage and enormous capacity which serves our growing healthcare and tech industries. We are the location of LEGOLAND® Florida Resort, built upon the site of the historic Cypress Gardens. Excellent transportation connectivity and partnerships with local industry allow us to capitalize on our long-standing history of agriculture and development. As Winter Haven makes the transition to a 21st century economy based on technology, transportation and logistics, education and tourism.

Most significantly, we have retained the character that makes Winter Haven uniquely wonderful, with an historic Downtown, walkable neighborhoods, the beautiful Chain of Lakes, numerous trails and parks, festivals and cultural events.

Winter Haven makes it possible to be part of a globally competitive Super Region and an authentic community. We invite you to expand your possibilities and your connections here in Winter Haven. You (and your company) belong here.

## are we there yet? yes, we are so there.

Winter Haven is your natural landing zone. In as little as an hour you can visit the most expansive theme parks, internationally known beaches, world class museums and unique dining experiences. Whether you are living, working or playing, calling Winter Haven your home is spot on.

Orlando

Tampa

Miami

Gainesville

**Jacksonville** 

50 MINUTES/46.3 MILES

53 MINUTES/51.4 MILES

2 HOURS 10 MINUTES/130.1 MILES

2 HOURS 52 MINUTES/186.3 MILES

3 HOURS 21 MINUTES/222.3 MILES



Winter Haven gives businesses access to people, a whole bunch of them.

# CONSUMERS WITHIN A 4 HOUR DRIVE 18 million residents plus 8 million monthly visitors.

# It's About Location But, isn't it always?

Winter Haven's central location makes it ideal for any business that has an interest in accessing the over nine million people within a 100 mile radius of Polk County.

Located 55 miles inland and with convenient access to interstates I-4, I-75, US 27 and the Florida Turnpike System, Winter Haven offers a protected and *connected* hub for the burgeoning transportation, logistics, manufacturing and technology industries.

Winter Haven's location at the confluence of significant transportation and technology grids makes the area primed to receive, produce and distribute goods and services regionally and globally.

Winter Haven boasts the Central Florida Intermodal Logistics Center (ILC), the most advanced intermodal rail terminal in the world. This facility is where rail and roads combine to provide shippers with a 40% savings over trucking as well as an opportunity to increase efficiency by combining bulk warehouse, distribution and manufacturing in a single location. Both direct and consolidated operations will rapidly emerge from the ILC bringing even greater efficiencies to Winter Haven logistics activities. Most importantly, with over 900 acres of available land directly adjacent to the ILC, the site is at a competitive advantage for development in Winter Haven offering reliable, predictable service and comprehensive market reach, to millions of people all out of one location.

#### 9 million

7.35 million

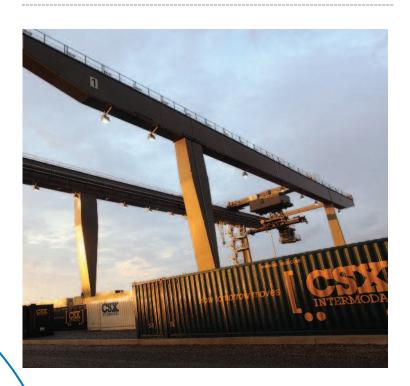
3.6 million

Winter Haven
75,000

The State of Florida is expected to experience a 39% increase in freight tonnage by 2035. Winter Haven lies at the center of three of Florida's Future Corridors Study Areas identified by the Florida Department of Transportation. These studies intend to plan a transportation system that maintains economic competitiveness by meeting current and future transportation needs for moving people and freight.

# What ya haulin'?

Rail and roads combine to provide shippers with a **40%** savings over trucking for distribution.

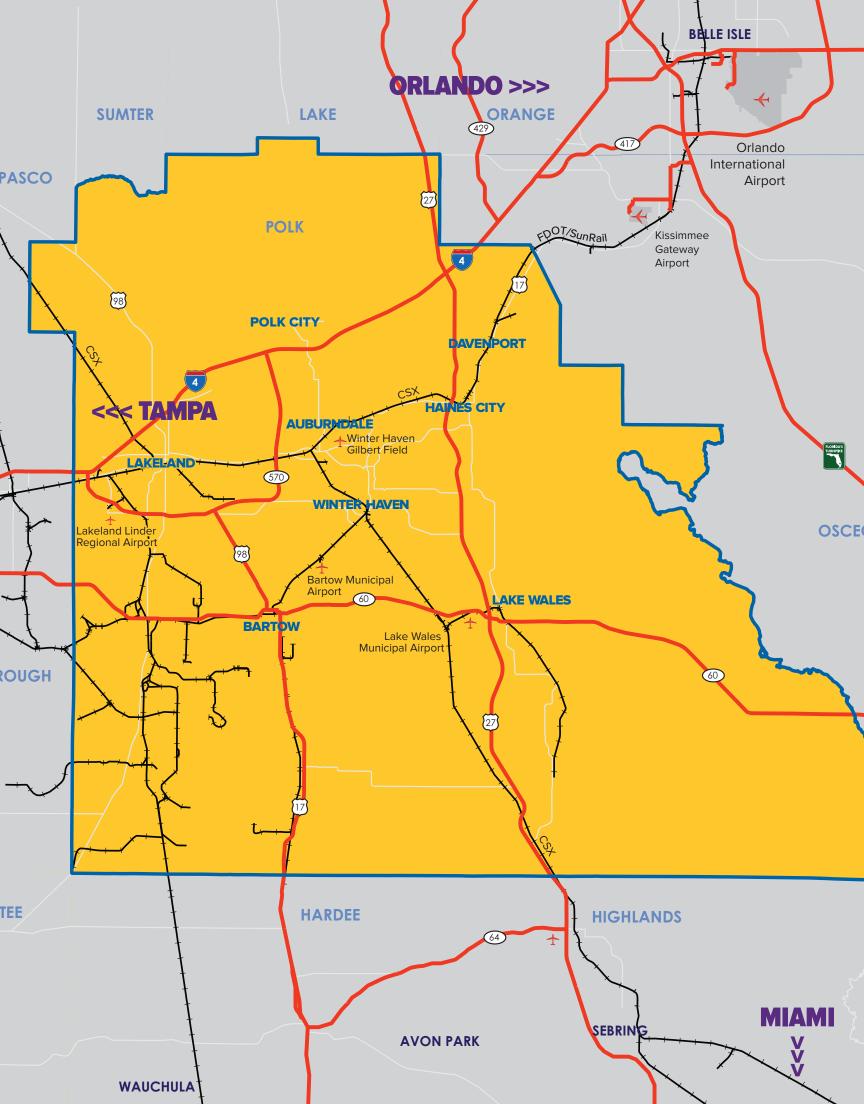


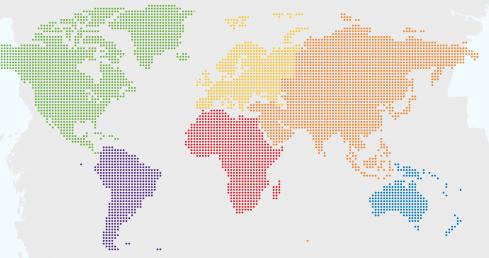
need access to a lot of people? look no further.

population within 50 miles

population within 75 miles

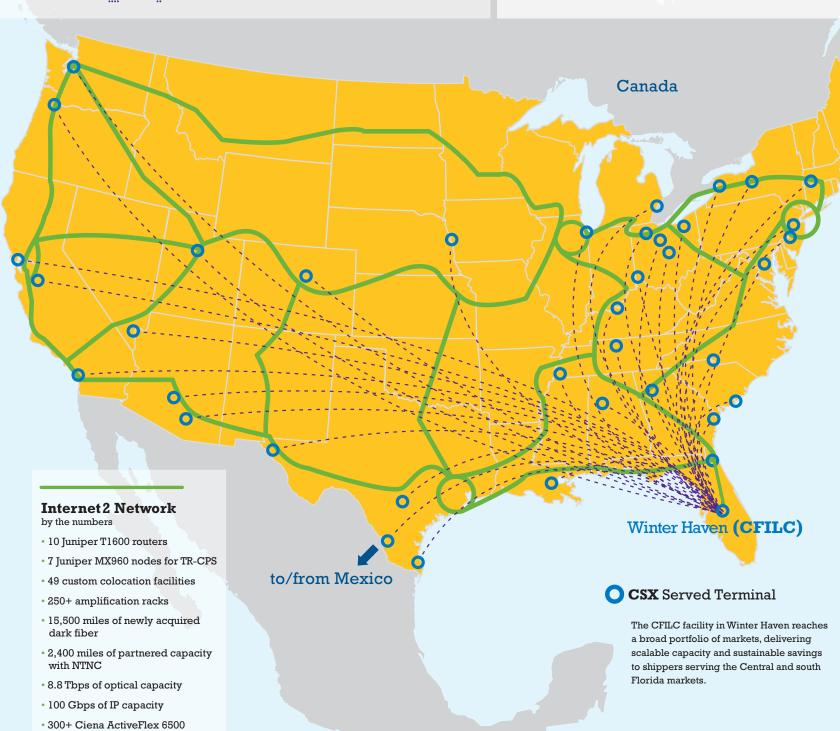
population within 100 miles





network elements

Winter Haven is going global. We're exploring relationships and partnerships with people and businesses on six continents.



### There is more than one way to move freight and we have access to all of them.

BY 2035 FLORIDA'S FREIGHT TONNAGE WILL INCREASE BY >>>

# And Speaking of People... [We can move them too.]

The Winter Haven Municipal Airport Terminal is a state-of-the-art facility featuring 13,300 square-feet of space to accommodate retail businesses, meetings and conferences, a pilots lounge and sleeping area, Fixed Base Operations, a restaurant, administrative offices and a flight school. With flight school accommodations including a reception area, ground school classroom and conference facilities, a testing room and manager's office, Winter Haven Airport at Gilbert Field welcomes more than 80,000 operations per year.



#### You can't see it... but its moving.

While the extensive network of railroad tracks and roadways and the new Central Florida Intermodal Logistics Center are visible to all, the less visible technology grid is not one to be ignored. Winter Haven lies along the east-west portion of Florida's LambdaRail, a dedicated statewide communications facility made up of 1,540 miles of dark fiber designed to provide direct connectivity to a wide range of domestic and international research networks through the national LambdaRail. Downtown Winter Haven is also the location of Protected Trust, a full-service data center in a structure that is CAT IV hurricane wind load certified. The center features redundant power and cooling systems, high-speed fiber connectivity to the internet and 24/7 monitoring and surveillance. If you're looking for a place to serve as a haven for your business, we have you covered.



#### Winter Haven's transport by the numbers

#### 2 international airports

- Tampa International Airport
- Orlando International Airport

#### 4 municipal airports within a 35 minute drive

- Winter Haven Municipal Airport
- Lake Wales Municipal Airport
- Bartow Municipal Airport
- · Lakeland Linder Municipal Airport

#### 2 seaports

- Port Manatee
- Port Tampa Bay

#### 1 Intermodal Logistics Center

- 318-acres
- 300,000 containers a year- ILC movement capacity
- 930 acres- around the ILC that are being developed in phases to build 8 million sq. feet of industrial facilities, warehouse and manufacturing space

#### Oh, there is just 1 more thing.

 Additional infrastructure will include the development of the Central Polk Parkway providing enhanced access to Orlando and the planned Heartland Parkway which will create nearly direct access to Port Manatee and Southwest Florida



For over 50 years, Winter Haven has been the single largest location of seaplane training in the country! Because of its abundance of freshwater lakes and superb flying weather, corporate clients, seaplane enthusiasts and visitors from around the world have chosen Winter Haven as the ideal location to enjoy this invigorating flight activity.





young and smart? **yep and yep.** 

have completed an Associate Degree

# Lollar:



"Winter Haven provides employers with extraordinary access to a variety of K-12 options, both public and private as well as the dynamic programs at Polk State College."

-Dr. Eileen Holden, President of Polk State College

The terms "white collar" and "blue collar" are occupational classifications that have been used historically to distinguish workers who perform professional jobs from those who perform manual labor. In Winter Haven, we recognize that the hue of the collar is less important than a diverse and well-prepared workforce. We also believe in S.T.E.A.M., an educational emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics to stimulate creative, innovative workers. From career academies, which expedite preparedness of middle and high school students with college credit courses and industry certifications, to Florida's 12th State University, Florida Polytechnic University (Florida Polytechnic) and Polk State College's Clear Springs Advanced Technology Center specializing in incumbent worker training, the Winter Haven community is committed to producing and maintaining an educated, skilled workforce.

# we have how many career academies?

#### Polk County has more than 100 career academies.

These academies include the following essential elements:

- · A small learning community supported by a local advisory committee
- · A career theme that may include college-prep curriculum leading to industry certification
- Partnerships with employers, the community and higher education

In Winter Haven, career academies range in program of study from culinary arts and medical technology to robotics and tourism creating not only an educated workforce, but most importantly, a relevant one.



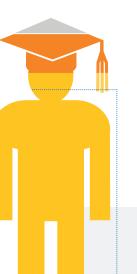
# We are ready to work

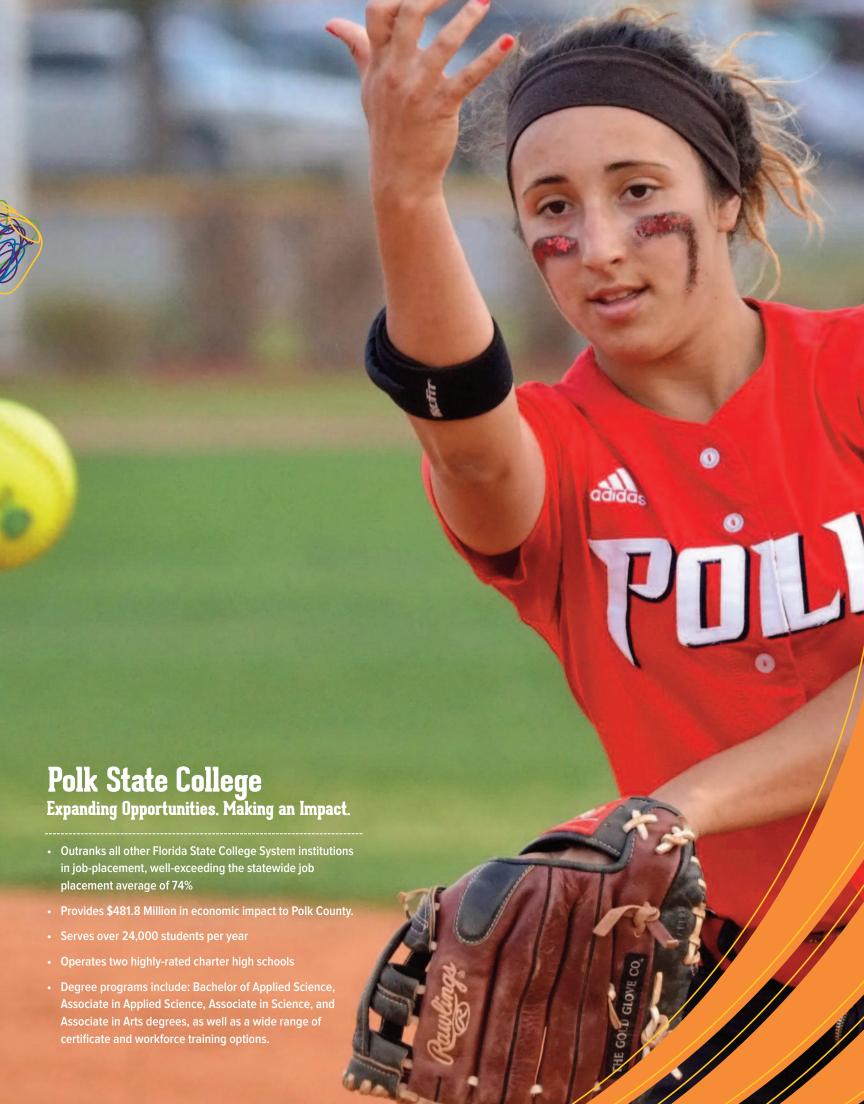
**47.51%** of career academy seniors graduated with industry certifications in 2013

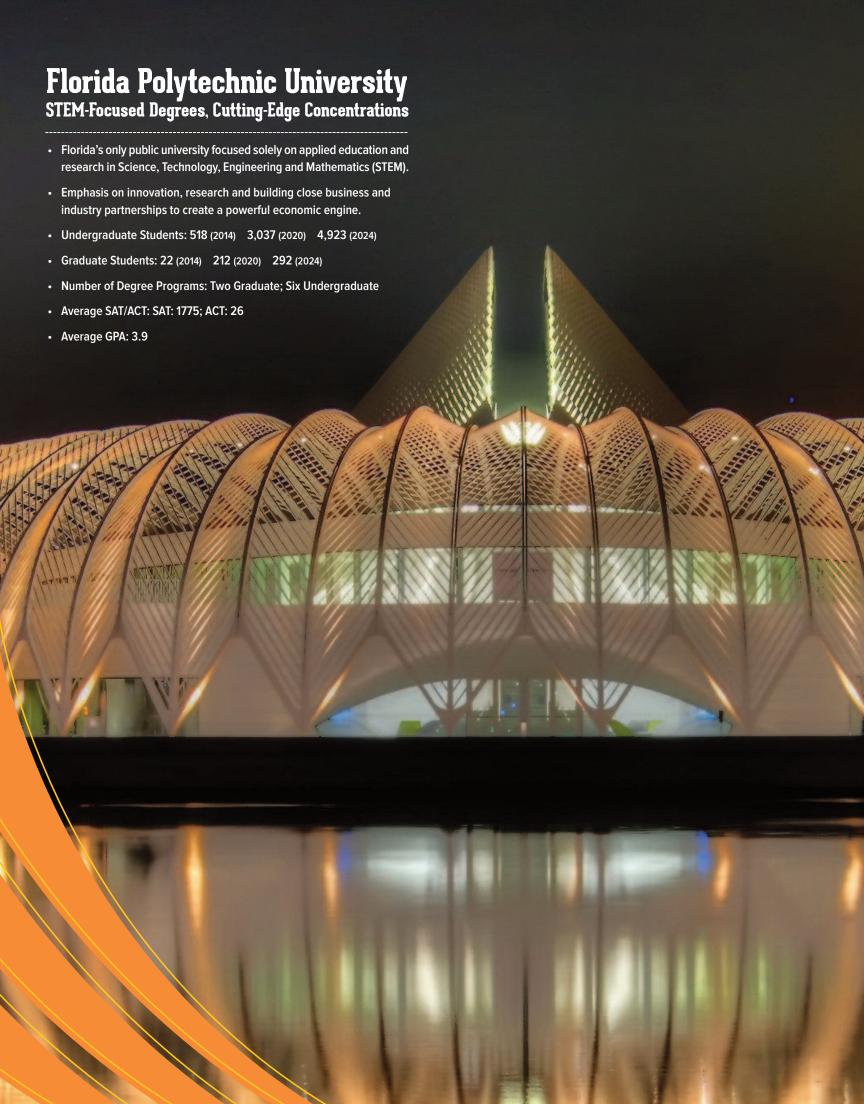
### POLK COUNTY'S EDUCATION SYSTEM is a

- 83.32% of all Polk County high school seniors enrolled in 2013 graduated
- Graduation rate for high school seniors in the academies in 2013 was 95.29%
- The national average is 78.2%









### are there any great private schools? yep, we have those too.

Winter Haven's K-12 All Saints Academy prepares students for a lifetime of success

of graduates were accepted into college since the first graduating class in 1997



Florida Polytechnic and Polk State College are prime examples of educational institutions working directly with the private sector to conduct research and training that meets the needs of industry. As Winter Haven expands its regional connectivity, Florida Polytechnic and Polk State are leading the way in workforce development to meet the growing demands of the region.

#### The Perfect Place to Soar

Polk State College, established in 1964, is a multi-campus institution serving over 24,000 students. Its core mission is to deliver the highest caliber education for students from all walks of life. At the College of Business, Technology and Engineering, Polk State's programs include Accounting Technology, Business Operational Management, Supply Chain Management, Computer Network Engineering, Aerospace and Engineering Technology, Computer Systems and Business Analysis and Digital Media Technology.

Industry partners include: Aldi Foods, Colorado Boxed Beef, Mosaic, Geico, Merlin Entertainment/LEGOLAND, Coca-Cola and Welldyne.

The Polk State Corporate College and Clear Springs Advanced Technology Center continue to specialize in the creation and delivery of customized education

and training programs. Programs range from day long seminars to registered apprenticeship programs that enhance the skills of the regional workforce. The facility boasts 47,000 sq. feet of training ground with the most advanced, state-of-the-art equipment in each of its laboratories, classrooms and meeting spaces.



#### **STEM-Focused Degrees**

Florida Polytechnic is Florida's only public university focused solely on applied education and research in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). At their core is the principle that "innovation occurs when research and creativity are applied to real-world challenges and opportunities." It is Florida Polytechnic's contention that a university focused on innovation, research and building close business and industry partnerships is more than an academic institution, it is a powerful economic engine.

Florida Polytechnic offers six bachelor's degrees and two master's degrees, with 19 concentrations including such innovative programs as:

Digital Logic Design **Embedded System Design** 

Machine Intelligence Electrodynamics Magnetics Motion Intelligence Multifunctional Materials Big Data Analytics

Cloud Virtualization Information Assurance & Cyber Security

Logistics Materials & Supply Chain

Industry partners include: Cisco, Brighthouse Networks, EA Sports, Harris Corporation, Lockheed Martin, Microsoft and Stryker.



Creating a world-class education system means finding new ways to engage every sector of the community. The Public Education Partnership is just one example of how Winter Haven elevates private sector ideals in public education. This not-for-profit organization supports Winter Haven's public schools by taking on the task of refining and implementing community-wide recommendations. The vision engages every citizen in creating life-long learning solutions to ensure Winter Haven's public school system is the 'hallmark' of education in the United States.





downtown re-investmentit's providing major returns. net new businesses

net new jobs >>>

total projects

# DGet Down COVINTOVIN

Downtown Winter Haven will see more than \$100 million in economic investment by 2016.



Downtown Winter Haven has evolved into a destination city with a vibrant restaurant scene, distinct retailers and events that draw visitors into the city's core. Winter Haven has taken advantage of its unique assets to promote growth while still retaining genuine historic charm that visitors relish. It's authentic... seamlessly integrated into meaningful life.

Today, downtown is establishing itself as an innovative, high energy technology district, attracting high-tech businesses and medical organizations with its high-speed fiber optic access to the Internet. The downtown tech core is ahead of most rivals when it comes to technological advances. From big data, to cloud computing, nanotechnology, neutral data and enterprise collocation, if it exists in the tech world, Winter Haven probably has it, knows about it and/or is working to get it.

#### **Eat, Shop and Be Merry**

The vibrancy of Winter Haven's downtown is fueled in part by its unique dining experiences. Looking for burgers and fries, we got it. Want a taste of Italy, we got that too. Want more exotic fare, oh yeah, done. If you are looking for fun and diverse, distinctively Winter Haven food options, you'll find it in downtown.

After a good meal, take advantage of the various retail shops that line the streets. From antiques to jewelry, vintage furnishings and everything in between, you can find the perfect gift for your friends or family, or even better, you.



There's always something new to experience in downtown Winter Haven. With over 100 events happening annually, we invite you to venture down to find your perfect spot to enjoy it all.

#### High Tech Medical Care In the Heart of the City:

Winter Haven is home to one of the most high-tech medical centers in Florida. As part of the BayCare Health System, Winter Haven is connected to a leading community-based health system, outpatient facilities and more than 200 access points conveniently located throughout Tampa Bay.

- Fully accredited by the Joint Commission
- 527 Beds
- 300+ board-certified physicians in every major specialty
- · 2,500+ employees
- Dedicated Robotic Surgery Institute, Cancer Center, Women's and Infants Center, Heart and Stroke Institutes
- Rated a "Best Place to Work"

#### **Bond Clinic:**

Bond Clinic, P.A. is one of the oldest businesses in Winter Haven. Founded in 1948 by Dr. Benjamin Bond, the clinic has more than 40 physicians, encompassing 20 specialties. This multi-specialty practice that offers not only core physician services, but also offers a broad array of other services to help address your personal health needs.

### amazing downtown housing? raingarden is an architectural beauty.

Award winning architect, Max Strang of Max Strang Architecture has created the beautiful Raingarden Apartments in downtown Winter Haven. This residential location is the first new residential project in the downtown area in more than 25 years. This is only one example of how Winter Haven is merging architectural beauty with an ideal location, spurring economic interest in future "liveable" downtown growth.









how do we invest our money? in quality of life, of course.

SINCE 2001, WINTER HAVEN HAS MADE INVESTMENTS IN THE TRAIL SYSTEM TOTALING >>>

# \$13 million

# Get Out (side)

In Winter Haven, it's all about lifestyle... art, parks, trails, environment, encouragement and wellness. Here you will find a wide range of places and programs that are accessible, equitable, and affordable which will stimulate the mind, body and spirit for residents and visitors. This is your haven

#### You can walk or you can ride...

for everything you need to self preserve.

When you're looking to play on land, Winter Haven has an extensive system of trails and bikeways, as well as:

38

11

FORE

municipal parks within the City limits

5 | popular trails just minutes from Winter Haven

miles of trails and connections

**3.2** miles of paved trails starting in the heart of downtown Winter Haven. (The Chain of Lakes Trail)

#### You can get in, too.

This community is deeply invested in physical health for all ages and fitness levels. With an array of fitness options offering everything from hatha yoga to dance aerobics, sword fighting to Crossfit, you are sure to find a locale that fits your physical goals.



#### An experience you can build on

LEGOLAND® Florida is right here in Winter Haven. As the largest LEGOLAND Park in the world, this 150-acre interactive theme park has more than 50 rides, shows and attractions, restaurants, shopping, a breathtaking botanical garden and the LEGOLAND Water Park all geared to families with children ages 2 to 12.

Resting along the beautiful shores of Lake Eloise, LEGOLAND® Florida will soon add world class destination resort to its description. In 2015, The LEGOLAND® Hotel will open featuring 152 brightly colored and highly themed rooms and suites, LEGO décor, interactive play areas, a pool and a restaurant. It's where you want to be!

#### Saddle up and ride

Winter Haven itself is home to one of Florida's greatest and most unique cycling events, The Chain of Lakes Cycling Classic Criterium. The two-day, three-event competition, now in its sixth year, is a favorite for cyclists of all ages. The weekend race begins with a 14-mile road race through the beautiful citrus groves of Bartow, and continues with a 7 mile time trial. The dramatic conclusion happens in downtown Winter Haven with ten races around an eight-turn criterium course.









wanna hit the links today? we're surrounded by greens.

Golfers of all abilities should have no problem finding the course options to suit their game. The perfect climate and lush landscapes have provided the ideal location for high caliber designers such as Donald Ross, Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, Steve Smyers and Ron Garl to make their mark on the golf lifestyle.

19 GOLF COURSES WITHIN 10 MILES OF THE CENTER OF WINTER HAVEN

98 GOLF COURSES WITHIN 25 MILES

297 GOLF COURSES WITHIN 50 MILES

**EIGHT OF FLORIDA'S TOP 25 GOLF COURSES** ARE WITHIN 50 MILES OF WINTER HAVEN —GOLFWEEK.COM



lakefront property? oh yeah, we have that.



We live in a community with a unique lake-centered environment that is continually enhanced and preserved in a manner that ensures healthy ecosystems. Our citizens use and appreciate our water resources.

#### -From Our Future by Design, A Vision for Winter Haven

Winter Haven has long been known for its extensive collection of lakes and history of water sports. With over 50 lakes within the city limits, it should come as no surprise that there are 1,100 waterfront residential properties, making the lakefront lifestyle accessible to all residents. For those who enjoy boating, we have two Chains of Lakes; where a total of 24 of our beautiful lakes are connected by a series of canals. From waterskiing to kayaking, stand up paddle-boarding to fishing, there is a water activity for everyone. Where else can you live where there are five waterski schools and the ability to engage in flyboarding?!

benefits. The innovative resource plan uses the natural landscape to provide multiple benefits that will result in a less costly, more efficient water supply system for people and the environment. The Sustainability Plan's multiple benefits include the following:

Water quality benefits—Environmental benefits—Water supply benefits—Flood protection benefits—Economic benefits—Social, cultural and recreational benefits.



#### A Recognized Leader for the Management and Enjoyment of its Lakes

Winter Haven takes its water environment seriously. The City is one of only a few in the State of Florida with a state approved water resource management plan called The Peace Creek Sustainable Water Resource Management Plan.

The plan is an investment in the capacity of the natural landscape to provide water resource

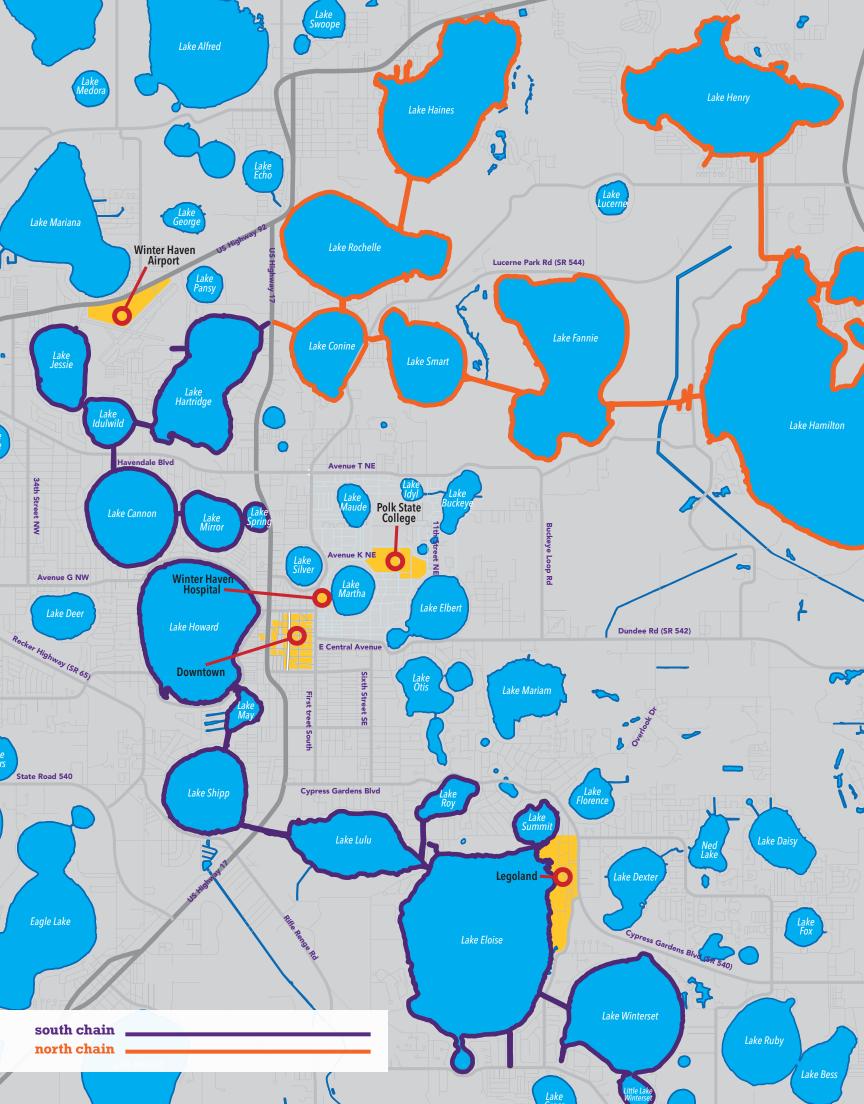
#### Our lakes by the numbers

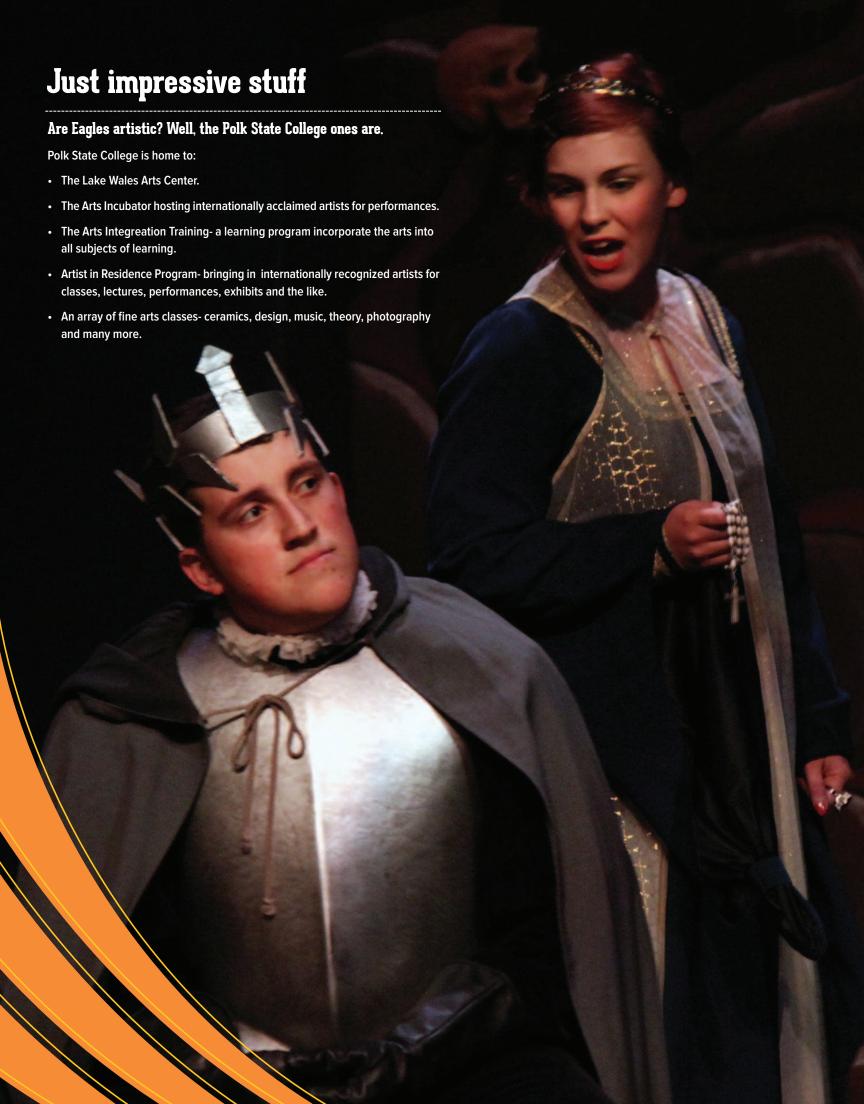
- 5,200 acres of water within the city limits
- 50 lakes either within or touching the City
- · 30 lakes inside city limits
- 10 Lakes partially in the City
- Approximately 55 miles total of shoreline (approximately 2.6 miles owned by the public)

### If the fish could talk, oh wait, they can...business that is.

Florida is known for its beaches, theme parks and summer weather, but not to be forgotten is its unmatched fishing. From big game, deep sea fishing, just a short drive away, to reeling in a monster bass right here in Winter Haven, there's a huge variety of fish and many places to catch them.









#### an investment in the arts creates big economic impact!



# I'll see your music, and raise you some culture

Winter Haven's cultural scene reflects its natives. For every traditionalist, there's a non-traditionalist; for every serious piece of art, there's something a little more comical. What inspires us? Well we do, of course. There's little doubt that things here are fun and positively original, too.

Winter Haven is such an appealing hotbed of authenticity, it makes sense that its music would be no different. Music lovers just need to be ready to keep pace with the thriving music scene. On any given evening, be prepared to enjoy soft jazz tunes in the heart of downtown, the melodious choral sounds from local high school students, or for the truly adventurous, take in some rock-n-roll at any one of the local hot spots.



#### And, if you need more drama, we got that too.

- · Five Mainstage productions for adults
- Theater Academy Program
- · In-school and after-school classes
- Touring program for young adults
- Touring program for senior citizens,
- · Summer musical
- Stage readings of contemporary plays







#### The Polk Museum of Art

is Polk County's accredited art museum and an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. As the eighth most attended museum in the state of Florida, the museum welcomes more than 141,000 visitors per year.

At the Polk Museum of Art, the mission is to "enhance the lives of our varied communities by bringing people and art together." The museum does this through an ambitious exhibition and event schedule and a transformational outreach education program. The outreach programs have annually served over 2,400 people at 16 sites including children and teens at Parker Street Ministries, Lighthouse Ministries Preschool for homeless children, Ridge and Traviss Career Centers and municipal libraries. In addition, the docents led tours for about 5,000 fifth-graders from 56 schools.



The Museum's Permanent Collection totals about 2,500 pieces. Visitors from around the world can enjoy exhibitions featuring the work of 175 national artists, plus student exhibitions comprising the work of 861 students.

why three different logos? because it's smart.

Every city has a story to tell, our story is as diverse as the people, businesses and opportunities of our city...















