

Redlines

Conservation Element

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GOAL 1: -The County shall maintain, protect, and enhance the diversity and integrity of the County's natural resources and provide stewardship to maintain the County's quality of life and economic vitality through the management and conservation of natural resources.

OBJECTIVE 1.1: -The County shall designate environmentally sensitive and locally significant natural resources for conservation, protection, and enhancement, and Land Development Code (LDC) provisions shall be maintained to implement this Objective and its Policies.

Policy 1.1.1: -The County shall include the following as environmentally sensitive natural resources requiring special protection to avoid adverse impacts to these resources:

- a. Waterbodies designated as Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW), Aquatic Preserves, Scenic Rivers, and/or ~~other~~ similar designations for protection by a local, state, and/or federal program;
- b. Navigable waterways as designated by the state and/or federal government;
- c. Wetlands as defined by the state and implemented by the applicable water management district;
- d. 100-year floodplains and floodways as identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FEMA FIRM);
- e. County, State, and/or ~~federal~~ Federally owned natural reservation lands used for conservation and/or recreation purposes such as State Parks, State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and the Ocala National Forest;
- f. Habitat containing listed flora and fauna identified as protected species by the state and/or federal government;
- g. Rivers, lakes, and springs with a defined Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs), as designated by local, state, or federal agencies, particularly in conjunction with local and regional Water Supply Plans; and
- h. Those areas identified as ~~High and Prime Groundwater Aquifer Recharge Areas (≥ 12 " annually as identified by the applicable water management district; H/PARA) and Springs Protection Zones (SPZ), as established in the Future Land Use Element (FLUE) and LDC.~~

Policy 1.1.2: -The County shall include the following as locally significant natural resources ~~due~~ requiring special protection to minimize adverse impacts to these resources:

- a. Surface waters of the State;
- b. Native vegetative communities as identified by the State of Florida's Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Program;
- c. Commercially valuable mineral resources as defined by the state;
- d. ~~Soils, particularly those identified as prime farmland and locally important farmland as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources~~

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~~Conservation Service (NRCS) which include the following soil series: Blitchton, Kanapaha, Micanopy, Fellowship, Kendrick, Flemington, Gainesville, Lochloosa, Hague, and Zuber);~~

- e.d. Good quality air, focusing on dust/debris and noxious odors;
- f.e. Good quality and sufficient quantities of groundwater, particularly addressing potable, agricultural, recreational, and other economically beneficial uses;
- g.f. Wellhead and wellfields serving centralized potable water systems for municipal and local governments or private systems regulated by the State of Florida Public Service Commission;
- h.g. Fisheries, wildlife, ~~and wildlife habitat~~ and marine habitat.;
- i.h. Migratory wildlife routes and ecological corridors; and County-owned and/or managed regional and/or resource-based parks.

Policy 1.1.3: -The County shall require the identification of environmentally sensitive and locally significant natural resources as part of the review process for development applications, focusing on land use, zoning, subdivision, improvement plan, and site plan applications. The detail of the data in early development review stages may be from generalized county, state, and/or federal sources, while later development review stages will require more detailed site specific information to be generated by the applicant.

Policy 1.1.4: -The County may utilize resources developed by ~~federal~~Federal, ~~state~~State, regional, and/or local sources to identify and evaluate environmental characteristics and development potential, including, but not limited to, the following sources:

- a. USDA NRCS (f/k/a Soil Conservation Service) *Soil Survey of Marion County*;
- b. FEMA FIRM, as amended;
- c. Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FDEP FNAI) Program, including the *Natural Areas Inventory of Marion County, Florida*;
- d. FDEP Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) publications including, but not limited to, Species Richness Maps, species management plans, etc.;
- e. FDEP Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP);
- f. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and its jurisdictional agencies' best management practices manuals;
- g. St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) publications and programs including but not limited to, Water Supply Plans, Well/Wellfield Capture Zones Maps, High & Prime Aquifer Recharge Area Maps, and Karst Sensitive Areas Maps;
- h. Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Water Supply Plan (WRWSA-WSP);

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i. Marion County produced publications including, but not limited to, the Marion County Water Supply Plan (MC-WSP), Marion County Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment (MCAVA), Marion County Springs Protection Zones (SPZs), and Marion County Environmentally Sensitive Overlay Zones (ESOs).

h. Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Policy 1.1.5: -The County will make available to the public maps and other information to allow for the general identification of environmentally sensitive and locally significant natural resources in the County to the greatest extent practicable. When information is provided by non-county sources, the County will facilitate providing that information to the public to the greatest extent practicable.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: -The County shall protect, conserve, and enhance the quality and natural function of environmentally sensitive and locally significant natural resources within the County, while encouraging and supporting the appropriate use of such resources, as further defined in the LDC.

Policy 1.2.1: -The County shall protect, conserve, and enhance environmentally sensitive and locally significant natural resources from adverse impacts to the greatest extent practicable focusing on, but not limited to, the following activities:

- a. Protection of surface and ground water from activities that degrade and/or introduce pollutants that may adversely affect its quality and/or quantity;
- b. Protection of surface and navigable waters from activities that adversely impact their use, capacity, quality and/or character;
- c. Protection of flood storage and floodplain capacity -from activities that materially impair floodplain capacity or alter the characteristics of the existing one-percent (100-Year) Floodplain;
- d. Protection of qualified central potable water system supply wells and/or wellfields from activities that would adversely affect the public health and/or the ability to maintain such services;
- e. Protection of identified habitats, such as wetlands, native vegetative communities, including listed species, or critical migratory and/or estuarine habitats, from activities that destroy and/or degrade such habitats from immediate or long-term effects from development, -such as pollution, siltation, and/or non-native invasive species;
- f. Protection of natural reservations including federal, state, regional, and/or local government owned conservation and/or recreation lands and facilities from activities that adversely impact the intended purpose and/or use of those lands;
- g. Protection of key soil types identified as prime and locally important -farmlands and/or known to include commercially valuable minerals from adverse impacts which would prevent and/or discourage their continuing use and/or recovery when suitable environmental management and best practices are used;

h. Protection of air quality from adverse impacts ~~which~~that would negatively affect other identified resources and/or the quality and/or character of such resources or surroundings ~~which~~that would create a public nuisance, such as wind-borne dust or odor.

Policy 1.2.2: The County ~~shall~~may require development design, construction, and management techniques to protect environmentally sensitive and locally significant natural resources, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Compliance with stormwater management LOS standards as provided in the Stormwater Element (SE) and reflected in the Capital Improvement Element (CIE);
- b. The reduction of densities in specified habitats or areas when development is proposed within those areas, unless development is clustered to protect and conserve the habitats, including those adjusted densities provided in FLUE Objective 9.1;
- ~~c.~~ The clustering of development to create open spaces that function to buffer and protect identified resources on-site and off-site to development, and provide habitat linkages when possible;

~~e.d.~~ The preservation of Specimen Trees;

~~d.e.~~ The establishment and management of buffers and other land use controls between development activities and identified resources, with emphasis on ensuring the buffer establishes a balance between the scale and intensity of development and the scope, quality, and character of the resource;

~~e.f.~~ The use of Marion Friendly flora to prevent or discourage non-native invasive species;

~~f.g.~~ The implementation of water conservation, irrigation, and fertilizer management provisions;

~~g.h.~~ The implementation of design and development standards regarding setbacks, lot dimensions, and building location/design, particularly when such sites abut or are determined to be connected, such as but not limited to, hydrologically connected, to identified resources;

~~h.i.~~ The use of mitigation for on-site resources through alternative on-site locations, off-site, or monetary methods to ensure the protection/conservation of the resource; the intent of off-site or monetary mitigation is to achieve a minimum of one-for-one mitigation/replacement, with focus on maintaining the mitigation action within the County unless otherwise authorized,

~~h.j.~~ The Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and the Transfer of Vested Rights (TVR) Programs as provided within the FLUE; and

~~j.k.~~ The establishment of an Maintaining the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) within which the provision of adequate public facilities shall be provided to all developments.

Policy 1.2.3: The County shall work cooperatively with adjacent local governments to conserve, appropriately use, and/or protect unique vegetative communities located within more than one local jurisdiction.

Policy 1.2.4: The County shall protect surface and navigable waters by regulating the capacity, overuse, and habitat loss of these important resources.

OBJECTIVE 1.3: –The County shall continue to encourage acquisition of environmentally sensitive and/or locally important resources when such acquisition is determined to be in the public interest and particularly when such acquisitions maintain and support the character and quality of life of citizens and visitors, and may benefit economic diversity and development in the County.

Policy 1.3.1: –The County shall participate to the greatest extent practicable in efforts to identify and acquire environmentally sensitive and/or locally important resources for conservation and/or recreation purposes. The County, upon affirmative determination by the Board of County Commissioners, may act as a lead agency and/or participate in such resource identification and acquisition.

Policy 1.3.2: –Funds for any land acquisition will be maximized to the fullest extent possible by bonding funds when necessary and by actively seeking matching funds and grants through governmental (e.g., local, regional, state, federal, etc.) or non-governmental (e.g., private and/or non-profit funds and/or trusts, etc.) entities when available.

Policy 1.3.3: –The purchase or acceptance of conservation easements in lieu of acquisition by fee simple title will also be considered and supported when practicable.

Policy 1.3.4: The County shall create a prioritization list of environmentally sensitive and/or locally important resources for acquisition.

Policy 1.3.5: The County may utilize funds from the open space fee-in-lieu of program (Recreation and Open Space Policy 1.3.4) to acquire environmentally sensitive and/or locally important resources.

OBJECTIVE 1.4: –The County shall encourage and promote the appropriate and practicable use of environmentally sensitive and locally important natural resources in a form which-that maintains the County's character and the quality of life of its citizens and supports economic development and diversity.

Policy 1.4.1: –Recreation, agri-tourism, and eco-tourism activities which-that function to promote and support natural resource conservation, protection, and enhancement, particularly when including an educational component, shall be encouraged.

Policy 1.4.2: The County may inventory existing platted conservation tracks to create urban and rural trail connections to existing County and regional trail systems.

Policy 1.4.23: The County shall protect and provide for the extraction of commercially valuable mineral resources, as may be authorized by the County through the LDC Special Use Permit process and/or other regulating agencies (e.g., FDEP, SJRWMD, SWFWMD, etc.). Sites of commercially valuable minerals shall be protected from the encroachment of incompatible land uses that would inhibit or preclude the extraction of minerals, particularly uses that would increase

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the density of people in close proximity to a mineral extraction operation. Land use changes on contiguous land areas that are incompatible with mineral extraction operations shall be prohibited until extraction, mitigation, and reclamation or restoration are completed where mineral extraction operations exist or can be reasonably predicted. LDC provisions shall be maintained to implement this policy.

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