

# Cultivating a

## The leaves of change

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that, between April 2000 and July 2005, Lake County grew by more than 30 percent, making it the 20th fastest growing county in the nation. To ensure the County is positioned to responsibly handle and accommodate growth, in 2004 Lake County began the involved process of drafting a new comprehensive plan.

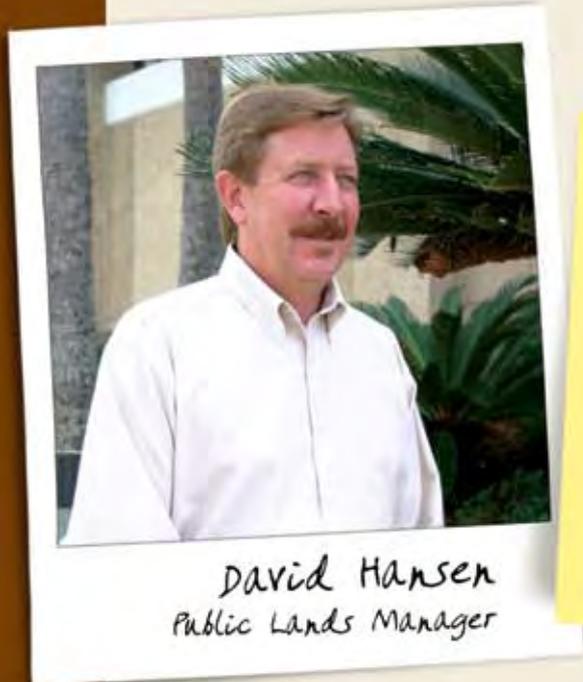
In its second year, the draft of a new Lake County Comprehensive Plan, titled Planning Horizon 2025, is nearly complete. After months of reviewing documents and discussing issues, the Local Planning

Agency (LPA) held public meetings in April 2006 to offer the public an opportunity to express their comments. More than 500 interested individuals attended the series of six meetings.

Armed with input from the public, the LPA is finalizing the document to transmit to the Board of County Commissioners in the fall of 2006. After the Board reviews the document and receives public comment, Planning Horizon 2025 will be transmitted to the Florida Department of Community Affairs for further review to ensure consistency and propriety.



On Nov. 2, 2004, Lake County voters overwhelmingly approved by referendum to purchase environmentally sensitive land. The citizens voted to pay up to one-third mill of additional property tax to finance the issuance of \$36 million in bonds for land acquisition.



David Hansen  
Public Lands Manager

"The greenprinting process will help shape how we continue with land acquisition and conservation."



# sustainable tomorrow

## Connecting environmental lands

To bolster the County's ability to evaluate parcels of environmental lands for acquisition, Lake County undertook the innovative technique of "greenprinting" in partnership with the Trust for Public Lands.

The process is a comprehensive approach to identify land desirable for conservation, as well as to provide strategies to protect those parcels. This new method will be used to prioritize land for future acquisitions.

Lake County's "greenprint" encompasses layers of community-based data using computer modeling Geographic Information Systems software. These layers of data include watershed protection, trail linkages and parks gap analysis. This valuable tool will not only assist with determining land conservation, but will also help calculate where and how to protect Lake County's invaluable ecosystems, watersheds and sweeping vistas.



## Tree-saving development

The County's new integrated financial software will not only streamline many functions for Lake County government, but will also save resources in the process by reducing duplicate paperwork.

Employees from several Lake County departments, including the offices of Budget, Employee Services, Procurement Services and Information Technology, worked cooperatively to get the new system operational by the beginning of the new fiscal year. With effective training of all users, an efficient transfer to the

new technology from the existing software and manual systems was accomplished.

The new integrated system will reduce staff workload and paper costs associated with financial documentation. The software will allow staff to complete transactions online, such as budget transfers, purchase orders, time cards and updates to personal employee information. The integrated database also gives all employees access to real-time data and ensures County records will be consistent among all departments.