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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Public Facilities Element is to ensure that public facilities are available to meet the needs of Lake County. The Pubic Facilities Element is broken down into five sub-elements: sanitary sewer, potable water, stormwater, solid waste, and aquifer recharge.

Lake County does not own, operate, or maintain any potable water systems or wastewater systems, nor does Lake County have any water or sewer serviced areas. Municipal governments provide sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment within their jurisdictions and in adjacent areas that may be annexed as development in the county continues. Where public services are not available, private companies provide them. Septic systems and private wastewater treatment plants (package plants) treat waste in unincorporated Lake County. Potable water is provided by municipalities, private entities, or private wells.

Lake County's development and quality of life is dependent on this network of public facilities and services. Each type of service has a unique set of constraints and must adapt to growth and change differently. This element contains goals, objectives, and policies that establish the framework for the provision of public facilities in the County to meet the demand created by existing and future development.

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory has prioritized several conservation areas partially or wholly within Lake County, including, but not limited to: the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern, and the Wekiva/Ocala Greenway. Select ecosystems of Lake County are thus fragile and closely linked with the ecological sustainability of communities within and beyond the county's boundaries. Issues of plant and animal biodiversity and water supply are among the most important environmental considerations for the County.

The county is faced with the challenge of balancing development pressures with the preservation of the natural environment. To this end, Lake County will comply with all legislation (Federal, State, Regional and Local) as it pertains to Lake County's environmental sensitive areas.

GOAL SOL 1

Lake County shall provide for an integrated solid waste management system, which protects the public health, sanitation, and environment and provides for operational efficiency and beneficial land use and growth patterns.

OBJECTIVE 1.0 INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Lake County shall plan and implement an Integrated Solid Waste Management System to responsibly manage the volume of solid waste disposed in Lake County landfills. An Integrated Solid Waste Management System consists of a combination of Solid Waste Management Techniques to manage and dispose of specific components of the solid waste stream, which work together to meet the Counties and Municipalities needs for safe and effective Solid Waste Management.

1.1 Receipt of Materials at Landfills

Landfills shall be designated to receive only regulatory defined and acceptable items that cannot be reused, composted, recycled, incinerated, or processed for volume reduction in a technologically feasible and economically practical manner.

1.2 Focus on Proper Management, Conservation, and Optimization of Capacity

The integrated solid waste management program shall focus on the proper management of solid waste, conservation of resources, and responsible management of landfill capacity.

OBJECTIVE 2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The County shall operate solid waste management facilities in compliance with applicable air, groundwater, and surface water pollution standards established by Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines.

2.1 Continuance of Universal Solid Waste Collection Service

The County will provide universal collection service. Universal collection of solid waste was adopted for residents in the unincorporated portions of the County. The ordinance requires residences to pay a fee for solid waste collection. The ordinance includes provisions for exemptions from fee payment when severe economic hardship can be demonstrated.

2.2 Facility Improvements

The County shall identify, plan, and implement solid waste management facility improvements that are necessary to meet environmental performance standards and other applicable regulations.

2.3 Closure and Monitoring of Former Landfills

The County shall close and monitor the County's former landfills in compliance with standards established by Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines.

2.4 Opening of New Landfill Facility

The County maintains more than eighty acres of land at the existing County Solid Waste Facility on which additional permitted solid waste landfill cells may be built. New cell(s) shall be operational to replace the existing operating cell. The capacity of waste disposal represented by the additionally permitted land is in excess of 11 million cubic yards. This meets the disposal needs of the County for the duration of this Comprehensive Plan.

2.5 Location of New Transfer Stations

Lake County shall consider constructing or obtaining contractual services for the use of transfer stations within areas of the County as population densities increase and economics indicate support for such facilities.

2.6 Prohibition of Incompatible New Development Near Solid Waste Management Facilities

The County shall adopt land development regulations that prohibit new development that is incompatible with the operation of nearby solid waste management facilities based on land use types and specified distance buffers contained in the Future Land Use Element and Future Land Use Map. Landfill site set backs will comply with Florida Department of Environmental Protection regulation.

2.7 Minimizing the Impacts from Solid Waste Management Facilities

Peripheral buffers and landscaping shall be required at new or expanding solid waste facilities to minimize impacts to the surrounding area.

2.8 Landfill Monitoring

The County shall continue the present well monitoring program at the County's landfills to determine ground water and surface water pollutant levels and shall expand the number of monitoring wells concurrent with any expansion of the landfills and any future establishment of landfills/monofills.

2.9 State Regulation Compliance

Lake County shall follow applicable federal and state regulations at all County solid waste disposal facilities to protect the water quality of the Floridan and surficial aquifers.

OBJECTIVE 3.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Lake County shall develop programs to reuse, reduce, and recycle the waste streams generated by the residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

3.1 Commercial and Industrial Recycling Emphasis

Lake County shall encourage and promote the commercial/industrial sectors to examine their individual waste streams to determine those materials that may be reused, recycled, or composted.

3.2 Promote the Use of Recycled Products in the Commercial, Industrial and Government Sectors

Lake County shall encourage and promote programs to assist the commercial/industrial/government sectors in examining their operations and processes to identify recycled products that may be used in place of virgin materials and to identify ways to reduce their waste generation.

3.3 Enhance Public Education

Lake County shall promote, expand, and enhance public education and awareness programs to encourage and inform both the residential and the commercial/industrial sectors of the need to reduce, recycle, reuse, and recover.

3.4 Composting and Mulching Program

Lake County shall continue the program for the mulching of green yard waste (i.e. grass clippings, garden waste, hedge clippings). Lake County shall encourage backyard composting through the public education and awareness programs. The County, during the development of the mulching program, shall evaluate the establishment of local composting areas.

3.5 Inclusion of Materials not Traditionally Targeted for Recycling, Reuse or Volume Reduction

Lake County shall develop, improve, and expand the waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs to include additional materials, methods, or technologies.

OBJECTIVE 4.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF A WASTE-TO-ENERGY TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE THE VOLUME OF SOLID WASTE REQUIRING LANDFILLING

Lake County shall maximize the use of its existing facilities. Further waste volume reduction may be accomplished by utilizing the Lake County Resource Recovery facility, a waste-to-energy facility, to reduce the volume of solid wastes entering the landfill.

4.1 Utilization of the Waste-to-Energy Facility

The Lake County Waste-to-Energy (resource recovery) facility maintains a contract with Lake County to process waste until 2014. Continued utilization of the facility in its present or an expanded configuration shall be determined prior to the expiration of the current Waste Disposal Agreement, but no later than 2010.

4.2 Reduction in the Size of Bulky Waste

The County shall investigate methods to reduce the size of bulky waste so it may be processed through the waste-to-energy facility, recycled or disposed in the County or other permitted facilities in the most effective manner.

4.3 Monitor the Potential for Ash Residue Reuse

The County shall monitor the research and development of ash residue reuse to reduce the quantity requiring ultimate disposal.

OBJECTIVE 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF PRIVATE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

Lake County and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) shall monitor privately owned and operated solid waste management facilities including landfills, resource recovery facilities, and solid waste processing facilities. This monitoring is needed to ensure that solid waste facilities in Lake County remain in compliance with applicable air, groundwater, and surface water pollution standards established by Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines.

5.1 Safe Operation of Privately-Owned Solid Waste Management Facilities

Upon adoption of its Comprehensive Plan, the County shall cooperate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in their regulation of privately-owned, as well as publicly-owned, solid waste management facilities to assure they are operated in a manner that will protect the public health, welfare, and safety.

5.2 Monitoring Impacts from Privately-Owned Solid Waste Management Facilities

The Department of Environmental Services shall cooperate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in their efforts to monitor the impacts to air, land, ground and surface water, and wildlife habitat from privately operated solid waste management facilities.

5.3 Acceptance of Imported Solid Waste

Lake County shall encourage the acceptance of only those imported solid wastes for disposal at the waste-to-energy facility that have, at the point of origin, a recycling program that eliminates to a practicable degree materials such as batteries from the waste stream.

OBJECTIVE 6.0 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY PLANNING

Lake County shall plan new solid waste management facilities, additions, expansions, and improvements of existing facilities to meet the present needs and support the anticipated growth for a minimum of 25-years available disposal capacity. To assist in this planning process, a reasonable and effective level of service shall be established. The ultimate objective of the integrated solid waste management system shall be to reduce the solid waste generation rate and to increase solid waste disposal capacity.

6.1 Long-range Planning Program for Solid Waste Management

The County shall establish a long-range planning program to address the available capacity of solid waste management facilities for a minimum 25-year planning period.

6.2 Annual Evaluation of Generation Rates, Disposal Rates, and Facility Capacity

Lake County shall conduct an annual review of solid waste generation, disposal rates, and facility capacity to monitor existing programs and to evaluate future needs.

6.3 Evaluation of Funding Alternatives

Lake County shall identify and evaluate funding alternatives for the continued development and operation of the integrated solid waste management system.

6.4 Cost and Performance Efficiency

The County shall operate all of its solid waste management facilities in a manner that will protect the public health, welfare, and safety, and will control cost and performance.

6.5 Regulation of the Waste Stream

The County shall identify solid waste generated within and outside of Lake County, and adopt controls to direct components of the waste stream to processing facilities prior to final disposal. The County may opt not to accept for disposal waste generated outside the County. Such waste that is dedicated to agreements with adjacent counties pursuant to an interlocal agreement shall be accepted for disposal or processing at a rate to be established.

6.6 Solid Waste Level of Service

The County's adopted level of service (LOS) for its solid waste disposal facilities shall be:

- The base LOS is 2-1-1: 2 days per week garbage pickup, 1 day per week recycling pickup, and 1 day per week yard waste pickup.
- Exceptions are in the north and northeast part of the County, which are contracted for 1-1-1 due to road conditions and a less dense population.

OBJECTIVE 7.0 PROPER DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE

The County shall develop and implement programs to address the problems of illegal dumping of solid waste materials.

7.1 Enforcement of Regulation to Guard Against Illegal Dumping

Lake County shall assist in the enforcement of existing County ordinances, Florida Statutes, and Federal laws concerned with illegal dumping.

7.2 Emphasize the Problems Associated with Illegal Dumping

Lake County shall discourage illegal dumping, through education, public awareness, and cooperation with County and Departmental Code Enforcement staff in the issuance of enforcement penalties.

OBJECTIVE 8.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The County shall endeavor to protect County residents from diseases associated with solid waste, from nuisances caused by the improper management and/or disposal of waste materials and from adverse impact resulting from the improper management and/or disposal of regulated materials and hazardous waste.

8.1 Household Hazardous Waste Programs

Lake County shall maintain a Household Hazardous Waste Program and Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators' (CESQG) Program, and operate a Household Hazardous Waste Collection facility at the Residential Drop-Offs and Landfill and provide for the pickup and disposal of household hazardous waste materials by appropriately licensed hazardous waste management firms.

8.2 Compliance with State Regulations – Pollutant Storage Tank Systems

The County shall comply with Florida Administrative Code (FAC) requirements for above ground facilities, below ground storage facilities, and for Florida Petroleum Liability Insurance requirements.

8.3 The Lake County FDEP Pollutant Storage Tank Monitoring Program

The County shall monitor the compliance of newly permitted storage tanks and retrofit existing tanks, the County shall utilize the information the Health Department already has to complete a geographic inventory of storage tank locations. This inventory should be developed in the same manner as a septic tank inventory. A coordinated inventory and inspection should occur between the two programs whenever possible. The County shall implement the state mandated program through a continuing contract.

8.4 Litter/Nuisance Control

The County shall enforce the Lake County nuisance provisions through available remedies and shall promote anti-litter practices through the adopt-a-road program. The County shall cooperate with other jurisdictions and agencies on the detection and correction of nuisances through a countywide litter committee comprised of Solid Waste, Potable Water, DOT, Library & Leisure Services and Administrative Services.

8.5 Enhanced Battery Collection and Disposal Program

Lake County shall encourage the recycling of batteries, and those collected shall be properly and safely stored for recycling. If the batteries are not recyclable than they should be disposed in a properly permitted landfill.

8.6 Battery and Used Oil Collection Program

Lake County shall maintain battery and used oil collection programs in order to eliminate these materials from the waste stream.

8.7 New Solid Waste Facilities and Expansions of Existing Facilities Within the Wekiva Study Area

The County will evaluate the hazards posed by new solid waste facilities and expansions of existing facilities within the Wekiva Study Area (WSA). The County will study appropriate siting criteria and other issues for solid waste transfer stations, hazardous and toxic materials treatment and disposal sites, and landfills. The County may adopt regulations, as needed, to limit or exclude such facilities within portions of the WSA.

OBJECTIVE 9.0 COORDINATION, MAXIMIZATION, AND DEFICIENCY CORRECTION

The County shall correct and future capacity deficiencies coordinate capacity increases and maximize the use of existing facilities.

9.1 Priority of Solid Waste Services

The County shall establish the priority of solid waste activities as follows in order of priority:

A. Operation and maintenance of all facilities in accordance with applicable regulations.

B Provision of additional capacity to service new development.

9.2 Intergovernmental Coordination

The County shall support an intergovernmental approach to the problems and opportunities of waste management, both within and outside the County, through the monthly coordination meetings and any future interlocal agreements.

9.3 Annual Capital Improvement Element Update

The County shall annually update the Capital Improvements Element to adequately fund activities and programs enabling the correction of any deficiencies that might arise, the replacement of equipment, the maximizing of existing facilities and facility capacity increases needed to serve future needs.