

OBJECTIVE CON 1.3: SPRINGSHEDS AND SPRINGSHED PROTECTION ZONES

Maintain and restore important environmental features within springsheds and springshed protection zones, including springs, seeps, recharge areas, sinkholes, caverns, and other karst features.

Policy CON 1.3-1 Protection of Sensitive Resources

Protect sensitive resources through the acquisition of land within the delineated springsheds and protection zones to preserve and protect the natural qualities of these valuable natural resources.

Con 3.1.1 Use available acquisition funding programs such as the state's Florida Forever Program, Florida Community Trust, the Lake County Land Acquisition Program and others to acquire fee simple ownership or less than fee through conservation easements on land within the delineated springshed that have been identified as critical or sensitive resources. Karst features shall be considered for acquisition by the county with priority given to those areas where protection would render a property undevelopable.

Con 3.1.2 Provide for periodic sampling and testing of the surface and ground water quality within springsheds and springshed protection in coordination with any City/County sampling and testing with the USGS, State Department of Environmental Protection and the Water Management Districts.

Policy CON 1.3-2 Educate The Public

Establish programs that educate the public about the relevance of the springsheds to their community and region, and the vital hydrological systems of which they are a part.

Con 1.3-2.1 Coordinate with the local colleges, school board and individual schools to develop environmental literacy programs for school-aged children regarding springsheds.

Con 1.3-2.2 Work with the media to formulate a campaign to enhance the environmental literacy of community residents with respect to the natural values and threats facing local springsheds.

Con 1.3-2.3 Educate, encourage and assist farmers owning property within springsheds, especially if within the primary or secondary protection zones, to engage in fanning, farming best management practices that minimize use of water, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides and reduce erosion.

Policy CON 1.3-3 Regulation of Land Use Activities

Regulate land uses activities that have a demonstrated potential to cause the contamination of water within springsheds or springshed protection zones, utilizing best available data including DCA publication "Protecting

Florida's Springs: Land Use Planning Strategies and Best Management Practices".

Con 1.3-3.1 Require the construction of appropriate stormwater management systems to ensure that post-development recharge rates equal pre-development recharge rates within areas of high recharge (eight inches or greater of recharge annually), or alternatively to require storage of the first 3 inches of stormwater onsite.

Con 1.3-3.2 Require a minimum percentage of dedicated open space for all new development projects in designated secondary springshed protection zones through the use of clustering techniques.

Con 1.3-3.3 Guide development away from designated springshed primary protection zones. Such guidance may include a variety of approaches such as designation of land use type and density restrictions, buffer requirements, additional stormwater management treatment requirements, land acquisitions and easements and sponsorship of voluntary incentive-based local stewardship programs.

Con 1.3-3.4 ~~Restrict incompatible land uses near karst features and prohibit untreated stormwater from entering these features.~~ Karst features shall be accurately identified on development proposals. The county shall require strategies for protecting karst features during construction and after development, which promote the following:

- a. Inclusion of karst features into pervious open space areas.
- b. Use of landscape design principles to incorporate features as aesthetic elements.
- c. Pretreatment of stormwater runoff, in accordance with applicable county and water management district regulations, prior to discharge to karst areas.
- d. Prohibit discharge of wastewater effluent to karst features.
- e. Perimeter buffering around features to maintain natural context, edge vegetation, and structural protection.

Con 1.3-3.5 Require investigation of all surface and sub-surface conditions for land uses that have the potential for contamination of the delineated springsheds or protection zones around and up gradient of the springsheds.