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INTRODUCTION

The Conservation Element is intended to provide a framework for the ongoing monitoring, management and use of the County's natural resources. This element addresses the environment and its goals, objectives and policies as they relate to the preservation, management and enhancement of the natural environment in Lake County. Because of the holistic nature of the natural environment, it is necessary for this element to have strong interrelationships with other elements in the Comprehensive Plan, most notably Land Use, Recreation and Open Space, Intergovernmental Coordination and Transportation.

The Future Land Use Element is dependent upon the Conservation Element to provide information and guidelines regarding the suitability of lands for development, particularly those lands containing or influencing significant or sensitive natural resources. In addition, this element shall support and strengthen the recommendations for land development regulations.

The Recreation and Open Space Element is dependent upon the Conservation Element to provide guidelines for the establishment of open space corridors, to assist in the nature education programs, to encourage compatible land uses adjacent to managed natural areas, and in giving indications of which environmentally sensitive areas are suitable for acquisition and development for recreational and open space purposes.

The Intergovernmental Coordination Element establishes policy for cooperation between various governmental entities having jurisdiction in Lake County. The Conservation Element incorporates the policies and regulations of these entities to ensure the coordination of effort among all levels of government in Lake County.

The Transportation Element is dependent upon the Conservation Element to identify areas where roadways may be constructed so as to minimize impacts upon significant natural resources and to maintain acceptable air quality standards for citizens. It is also necessary to recognize the relationship between transportation and conservation in order to effectively implement the policies of the Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act.

This Element provides goals, objectives and policies relating to natural resources by four broad categories: Air, Water, Land and Environmental Systems. The conservation goal provides a vision of what the County seeks to accomplish during the planning time frame. Chapter 9J-5 F.A.C. defines a goal as "the long-term end toward which programs or activities are ultimately directed." Objectives serve to identify strategic opportunities which will enable the County to move toward the vision projected by the goal. Chapter 9J-5 F.A.C. defines an objective as "a specific, measurable, intermediate end that is achievable and marks progress toward a goal." Policies are action-oriented statements, the means towards an end that, when implemented, will support or fulfill the stated objective. Chapter 9J-5 F.A.C. defines policy as "the way which programs and activities are conducted to achieve an identified goal."

DEFINITIONS

Florida-Friendly Landscapes - Quality landscapes that conserve water, protect the environment, are adaptable to local conditions and are drought tolerant. (source: Florida Statutes)

Environmentally Sensitive Land - land or an interest in land, the acquisition of which by the United States would, in the judgment of the Secretary-

- (1) promote the preservation of natural, scientific, aesthetic, historical, cultural, watershed, wildlife, and other values contributing to public enjoyment and biological diversity;
- (2) enhance recreational opportunities and public access;
- (3) provide the opportunity to achieve better management of public land through consolidation of Federal ownership; or
- (4) otherwise serve the public interest.

ABBREVIATIONS

ARMS	Air Resource Management System	LDR	Land Development Regulation
BMPs	Best Management Practices	LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
CUP	Consumptive Use Permit	NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
DOH	Department of Health	NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Services
DRI	Development of Regional Impact	OFW	Outstanding Florida Waters
EAR	Evaluation and Appraisal Report	OLW	Outstanding Lake Waters
ECFRPC	East Central Florida Regional Planning Council	RPC	Regional Planning Council
FDAC	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	SJRWMD	St. John's River Water Management District
FDCA	Florida Department of Community Affairs	SPZ	Springshed Protection Zone
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	SWFWMD	Southwest Florida Water Management District
FDOT	Florida Department of Transportation	SWIM	Surface Water Improvement Management
FFWCC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
GSACSC	Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern	USGS	US Geological Survey
IFAS	Institute of Food and Agricultural Services	WPPA	Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act

GOAL --- CONSERVATION (CON)

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES. This section stipulates goals, objectives and implementation policies for the Conservation Element pursuant to Section 163.3177(6) (d), Florida Statutes, and 9J-5.013(2) F.A.C. Lake County shall strive to preserve, properly manage and, where possible, enhance the quantity, quality and function of its natural resources and natural environment for existing and future generations. These goals should include, but not be limited to, the following natural resources: air, groundwater, lakes and surface waters, springs and springsheds, soils, minerals, wetlands, native vegetation and wildlife habitat, floodplains, endangered, threatened and species of special concern, open spaces, ecological landscapes, significant karst features, aquifer recharge areas, and historical and archaeological resources.

AIR¹

OBJECTIVE 1.0 AIR QUALITY

Lake County shall implement State and Federal guidelines to improve and protect air quality and ensure that the County meet or exceed all applicable air quality standards.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

1.1 Assess Air Quality

Lake County shall strongly encourage compliance with State and Federal ambient air requirements through the air quality programs established by public and private entities in the County. There is no need to single out an individual private facility.

1.2 Reduce Point-source Air Pollution Emissions

The County shall facilitate reduction in total air emissions by all current sources listed for Lake County on the FDEP ARMS or its successor by supporting the enforcement of applicable State and Federal regulations. Comment, not intended as additional text: Do we have an air enforcement section?

The County shall require facilities found to be chronically non-compliant with these standards to utilize the best available control technologies prior to re-issuance of their operating permits. Lake County will follow up on complaints and the appropriate state and federal agencies will be notified.

The County will adopts LDRs that require the new development proposals which will emit air pollutants and shall require modeling of potential air pollution impacts. The LDRs will require stringent air pollution review on any air polluting facilities and require a safe buffer distance from nearby uses, including but not limited to schools, hospitals, or residential neighborhoods.

Lake County shall cooperate with the State in the monitoring of hazardous materials users and hazardous waste generators. The County will provide support to the State in their effort to ensure that contamination of the air by volatile pollutants released in the clean up, use, or disposal of hazardous materials shall not exceed levels that may cause significant harm to human health or the environment. This policy shall be incorporated within the hazardous materials management program under the Lake County Department of Environmental Services. Lake County will follow up on complaints and the appropriate state and federal agencies will be notified.

¹ Air Quality topics numbered CON 1.1 through CON 1.9 correspond to Objective 7-10 and Policies 7-10.1 through 7-10.09 in the 2002 Lake County Comprehensive Plan. Objectives CON 2 Noise Pollution and CON 3 correspond to Policies 7-10.10 and 7-10.11, respectively, in the 2002 Lake County Comprehensive Plan.

1.3 Combat Fugitive Particle Emissions from Land Use Practices

LDRs shall ensure and require compliance with State BMPs regarding fugitive dust emissions caused by mining, inappropriate land use management practices, and development activities such as highway construction, road maintenance, and building construction. Mining activities shall be in conformance with the County mining ordinance).

1.4 Encourage Alternative Modes of Transportation

Lake County shall encourage programs that improve automotive traffic flow and shall encourage the use/development of private/public mass transit, multiple ridership in automobiles, telecommuting and the development and safe use of bikeways.

1.5 Reduce Vehicular Pollutant Emission Levels

The County shall reduce or stabilize vehicular emission levels by requiring air quality impact analyses be performed on all significant traffic generating development proposals. Projects which are predicted to violate air quality standards shall be required to pursue the implementation of traffic mitigation techniques (or down-scaling of the proposal to achieve compliance standards), as conditions in all development orders. Establish Airshed Protection Zones

Lake County shall establish an airshed protection plan for the urbanized areas and major transportation corridors of the County. This plan shall include urban forestry components and open space conservation guidelines. Airshed protection zones will have open space guidelines incorporated within the County's future land use element. New developments will be rewarded for consistency with landscape ordinances, as determined from the project's landscape site plan.

1.6 Mitigation of Environmentally Sensitive Lands

When environmentally sensitive lands are impacted by airport facilities, Lake County shall ensure that mitigation measures are provided consistent with the Conservation Element Goals, Objectives, and Policies, the wetland ordinance contained within the Land Development Regulations, rules of the St. Johns and Southwest Florida Water Management Districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army corps of Engineer and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Disturbance of environmentally sensitive lands under County jurisdiction and subsequent mitigation shall be in conformance with rules and regulations of the agency or agencies involved.

1.7 Education Program

Lake County shall establish an education program regarding potential indoor air problems.

WATER

OBJECTIVE 2.0 GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

Lake County, in coordination with federal, state and local agencies, shall strongly encourage the protection of both the quantity and quality of groundwater resources, protection of recharge areas, and prevention of excessive groundwater draw-down caused by withdrawal for consumptive uses.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

2.1 Develop Comprehensive Surface and Groundwater Basin Management Plans

Lake County shall cooperate with the appropriate agencies in developing and implementing comprehensive surface water and groundwater basin management plans. These plans shall assess the impacts of existing and anticipated future pollution sources on the water quality of surface waters and groundwater, and shall develop strategies to abate those impacts.

2.1.1 Participate in Long Range Water Conservation Planning

The County shall participate in the development of long-range water conservation plans that are created as part of the water supply planning process of the water management districts. The County shall participate in working groups and advisory groups on supply planning, minimum flows and levels, water quality monitoring and other aspects of the process. The County shall facilitate input from stakeholder groups.

2.1.2 Plan for Safe Withdrawal Rates of Water

Lake County, as a participant in the Water Alliance under interlocal agreement, shall continue to work with the SJRWMD and the SWFWMD on water supply plans that provide for water supply needs and the basis for emergency conservation measures in the event of drought conditions or water shortages, while encouraging and participating in efforts to comply with State standards and rules for protection of groundwater-dependent natural resources.

2.1.3 Conserve Potable Water Supplies

Lake County shall implement plans and procedures to conserve its potable water supplies to the maximum extent practicable through the implementation of water conservation techniques, programs, and cooperative arrangements with local water utilities. Such techniques, methods, and programs may include, but are not limited to:

Requiring installation of water conserving plumbing fixtures in new and renovated buildings which are, at minimum, consistent with the requirements of the State of Florida;

Promoting water reuse and/or reclamation, where appropriate, for landscape and farm irrigation, industrial use and other appropriate applications;

Supporting the implementation of leak detection programs by the owners/operators of public water supply systems in order to discover and curtail wasteful losses of potable water from public water supply water delivery networks;

A cooperative plugging program for uncapped artesian wells with SJRWMD and SWFWMD, and the local DOH;

Encouraging the implementation of water and sewer revenue mechanisms which encourage the economical/conservational use of potable water supplies;

Implementation of irrigation policies and practices according to SJRWMD and SWFWMD water shortage guidelines;

Prescribe water wise “Florida-Friendly” landscape guidelines for all County parks and new development; and

Distribute educational materials, which describe sources of water consumption and opportunities for conservation, to the general public.

2.1.4 Adopt a Water Conservation Ordinance

Lake County shall adopt within the LDRs provisions for water conservation which further implement the water conservation plans and programs of the SJRWMD and SWFWMD. The LDRs shall utilize the techniques and programs as outlined in herein. The County shall establish incentives to conserve water.

2.1.5 Monitor Consumptive Use Permitting

The County shall track the consumptive use permitting activities of the SJRWMD and the SWFWMD to monitor withdrawal rates by public and private water suppliers and large commercial users. The County shall evaluate the CUPs issued by the WMDs for likely impact on the groundwater model of Lake County and surrounding counties. The County shall take appropriate land use regulatory actions to assist the State in ensuring an adequate water supply for existing and future needs, including the protection of water dependent natural resources.

2.1.6 Ensure Supply of Safe Potable Water

Lake County shall review regulatory data and information related to the supply of safe potable water to its residents. Lake County shall coordinate with the State on countywide groundwater monitoring and treatment programs that emphasize those areas of known or suspected groundwater contamination.

2.2 Identify Groundwater / Aquifer Recharge Area Protection / Conservation Measures

The County shall identify groundwater recharge areas within the County and surrounding areas that may impact Lake County on the groundwater model of Lake County. In consultation with state and federal resource management agencies, the County shall establish Critical Groundwater Recharge Areas. Protected recharge areas, (those areas generally recharging in excess of 10 inches of rain annually), in Lake County include the Palatka and Sumter Uplands and the Lake Wales and Mount Dora Ridges. Activities within protected recharge areas shall not reduce the volume of recharge (i.e. increase the total volume of post-development runoff), or reduce the quality of groundwater below existing levels of County or State standards, whichever is higher. Consistent with the intent of this policy:

Hydrogeological and geotechnical reports shall be prepared for all proposed development sites within defined prime and high aquifer recharge areas.

On-site retention of and infiltration into hydrologic group A soils of the first three (3) inches of runoff from directly connected impervious areas shall be designed and based on the storm events and durations established within the Stormwater Management Element Goals, Objectives and Policies.

Impervious surface ratios shall be calculated and be site specific for development projects and shall be based upon a detailed hydrogeological report for the site.

Net retention and infiltration of pre-development recharge to the aquifer (system) must be maintained as determined from calculations presented in the hydrogeological and geotechnical reports.

Lake County shall, through its LDRs, discourage large quantity hazardous waste generators (> 1000 kg per month) in designated prime aquifer recharge areas.

2.2.1 Encourage Recharge Area Protection/Conservation Measures

The County shall encourage protection of groundwater recharge areas through land use strategies such as reduction of land use densities in critical areas, or water use and irrigation alternatives.

2.2.2 Restrict Landscape Irrigation

In order to conserve supplies of potable water, Lake County shall discourage the use of potable water for landscape irrigation, require and/or conserve native vegetation, or use other species with drought-resistant properties in their landscaping to the greatest extent practicable. Native or drought-resistant plants include, but are not limited to, those in the Florida Native Plant Society's Native Plants for Landscaping in Florida, or comparable guidelines prepared by FDAC, FFWCC, FDEP, RPC, or the water management districts. These planting guidelines shall be incorporated within the Lake County LDRs.

2.2.3 Prevent Salt Water Intrusion

Lake County shall discourage potable water withdrawals in quantities that would degrade or contaminate water supplies and shall cooperate with the SJRWMD and SWFWMD in determining the safety of the siting of any wells requiring a consumptive use permit known to be experiencing salt water intrusion. The County will recommend that the State require the development and implementation of monitoring programs for wellfields located in areas where withdrawals could result in increased saltwater intrusion.

2.2.4 Protect Recharge Areas

The County shall strongly encourage through LDRs an aquifer recharge overlay classification that sets standards to protect the infiltration functions of protected and the most effective aquifer recharge areas.

2.2.5 Monitor Effluence Reuse in Recharge Areas

The County shall monitor and evaluate the use of septic systems, effluent reuse systems, and public water supplies within protected groundwater recharge areas to determine any significant long-term negative impacts on groundwater quality and quantity and, if appropriate, recommend the adoption and development of additional regulations governing their use.

2.2.5.1 Regulate and Monitor Septic Tanks

1. The County shall continue to develop and implement guidelines and standards to regulate the location and use of septic tank systems in accordance with the Sewer Sub-Element.
2. Lake County, in cooperation with the local DOH, shall encourage the development of an inspection, maintenance and repair program for all septic tanks within the County. Lake County shall

review the septic tank limitations for highly permeable soils in cooperation with the local DOH and NRCS offices.

2.2.6 Adopt Wellfield Overlay Zones

The County shall adopt wellfield overlay zones of protection consistent with Federal and State policies.

2.2.7 Meet Non-Potable Water Use Demand

Lake County will encourage state and regional programs that require that non-potable water use demands be met using water of the lowest quality supply, which is both available and acceptable for the intended application. Educational materials shall be distributed to residents on private water systems informing them of alternatives.

2.2.8 Use of Drainage Wells

Lake County shall strongly discourage the practice of injecting untreated stormwater, waste water, or lake water into potable or non-potable aquifers by drainage / injection wells. The County shall encourage the plugging and abandonment pursuant to water management district rules of existing unpermitted drainage and injection wells situated within Lake County.

2.2.9 Acquire Sinkholes, Stream and Sink Basins and Lakes with Internal Drainage

Lake County shall identify, to the extent practical, all surface waters with direct hydrologic connection to the Floridan Aquifer with the assistance of the water management districts. Stormwater requirements as stringent as OFW guidelines or greater shall be implemented to protect the Floridan Aquifer from this potential source of groundwater contamination through the LDRs. Land uses within these basins shall be regulated so as to prohibit any activity with the potential to cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the Floridan Aquifer. Acquisition of these areas should be considered.

2.2.10 Comply with Wastewater Reuse and Treatment

Lake County shall encourage the disposal of effluents from all wastewater treatment plants comply with Federal, State, WMD and local regulations. A remedial action and enforcement plan, which encourages non-caustic treatment methods, shall be implemented through the LDRs. The County shall cooperate with municipal and private utilities in preparing a grey water treatment and reuse program and shall address the needs of this program within the future land use plan and development regulations.

2.2.11 Institute Siting Program for Public Potable Water Wells

Lake County shall work with the state and water management districts to establish wellfield protection zones in areas where the potential for groundwater contamination is low, the potential for sinkhole formation is slight, and potentiometric levels having limited variation. Once these preservation zones are determined, the County will encourage the State to implement measures to ensure regional and sub-regional water supplies are protected for future use by residents of Lake County. The County will cooperate with the State through the implementation of land development regulations consistent with the State's standards or through acquisition.

2.2.12 Investigation of Aquifer Storage and Recovery Technologies

Lake County shall strongly encourage research and evaluation projects that evaluate the use of aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) technologies and practices. The County shall cooperate with state and water management districts in ASR research and development projects.

2.3 Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act

The policies implemented by this Element are consistent with intent and purpose of The Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act, Part III of Chapter 369, Florida Statutes.

OBJECTIVE 3.0 SURFACE WATER PROTECTION

Lake County shall evaluate and identify sources of surface water pollution within the County and coordinate the development and implementation of pollution abatement methods and programs with local governments, State, and Federal agencies.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

3.1 Assessment Procedure

The County shall identify water bodies including lakes, rivers, streams, and spring discharges and develop and maintain levels of sampling that will describe existing conditions which will be essential to monitor short and long term changes. The County shall partner with and use the expertise of the USGS, FDEP, and the water management districts to accomplish these investigations. The design, parameters, and protocols including the need for more intense sampling shall be evaluated on a periodic basis to insure that high quality information is acquired.

3.2 Water Quality Improvement

The County shall implement a program to identify and improve surface water quality associated with stormwater runoff within receiving waters that are below established standards, in coordination with the Lake County Water Authority.

3.2.1 Surface Water Quality Restoration

Lake County shall continue to participate in a surface water restoration programs in cooperation and coordination with the State for programs such as, but not limited to, SJRWMD's SWIM plans for Lake Apopka and the Upper Oklawaha River Basin. Stormwater Management Systems

Stormwater management systems shall employ the most cost-effective pollutant control techniques available that are consistent with sound environmental management and which provide the greatest efficiency in stormwater runoff pollutant removal.

3.2.2 Stormwater Management Guidelines

Lake County shall require that all new developments utilize stormwater management systems that are designed to meet the adopted level of service as found within the Stormwater Sub-element Goals, Objectives and Policies for the specified design storm.

3.2.3 Surface Water Quality and Land Use Guidelines

Lake County shall continue to promote land use decisions which limit the density of lakefront and stream shoreline development. Maximum densities and shoreline buffers shall be established in the FLUE & LDRs based on the provision of centralized water and wastewater facilities. Where the

provision of centralized services are required, densities shall conform to that which is compatible with the protection of shoreline values and the surrounding area.

3.2.4 Lakeshore Protection

To protect lakefront and wetland areas, including the WSA and the GSACSC, from the encroachment of development, the County shall work with federal, state and regional agencies to comply with shoreline and wetlands protection.

3.2.5 Vegetated and Functional Littoral Zone

Lake County shall work with federal, state and regional agencies to establish a vegetated and functional littoral zone as part of any new surface water management system that consists of or is adjacent to lakes and wet detention areas.

3.2.6 Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Control Guidelines

The chemical control of aquatic plants, mosquitoes, animal pests, or undesirable fish shall be performed in a manner that will minimize the degradation of ecological functions and surface water quality. The employment of biological and mechanical pest and/or aquatic weed control management practices shall be applied, as appropriate.

3.2.7 Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Discharge

Lake County shall work with FDEP to strongly discourage the discharge of wastewater treatment plant effluent, including package plants, into the surface waters of Lake County.

3.2.8 Waterless Toilets and Grey Water Systems

In cooperation with the local DOH office, the County shall encourage the use of waterless toilets and the use of home-based grey water systems where acceptable by the State.

3.2.9 Other Point Source Pollution Discharges

The County shall continue to follow and enforce its rules relating to all pollution sources. The County shall require all point source discharges to recycle and/or treat wastewaters and pollutants on-site in conformance with State and Federal rules and regulations. The County shall continue to have its rules codified in the Lake County Code of Ordinances and shall be made part of the Lake County LDRs.

3.3 Evaluate BMPs

The County shall participate in State initiatives and will evaluate water conservation, water reuse and BMPs to minimize the impact of agricultural, horticultural, silvicultural, construction, and landscape practices to both surface water quantity and quality, wetland and floodplain areas.

3.3.1 Comply with Existing Ordinances

In addition to the Water Conservation and Sensitive Lands Plan, all activities permitted within designated wetland and flood prone areas, including agriculture, silviculture, and landscape practices shall, at a minimum, comply with the County's Wetland, Flood and plant Ordinances to ensure the protection and function of these resource areas.

3.3.2 Evaluate BMPs

The evaluation of BMPs should be coordinated with Federal, State and Local agencies. The evaluation shall include a review and incorporation of applicable new BMPs established by the Division of Forestry and other agencies identified above as well as by public-private partnerships such as Clean Marina and programs created by non-profit organizations that include Audubon International.

3.3.3 BMPs for the Control of Erosion and Sedimentation

BMPs for the control of soil erosion and sedimentation shall be employed for all road construction, development and agricultural activities in order to protect natural waterbodies, watercourses and wetlands from siltation. BMPs shall also be employed, as necessary, to protect the function of stormwater management systems (e.g., exfiltration systems) from excess sediment loads. Erosion and sediment control BMPs include those of the NCRS, FDOT, FDEP, FDACS, and IFAS or other agencies.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

1. Require the LDRs to incorporate the BMPs for the following activities: urban land uses, construction, agriculture, silviculture, urban stormwater design, on-site wastewater disposal, hydrologic modification, and activities in forested wetlands.
2. Cooperate with the Lake County Extension and NRCS Offices to develop conservation management plans and incentives for agricultural operations.

3.3.4 Marina and Boating Guidelines

Marinas which service boats with on-board sewage facilities shall be required to provide sewage pumpout and treatment facilities and to provide for appropriate effluent disposal methods.

3.4 Protect Areas for Water

The County shall participate in programs at the local, regional, state, and federal levels to afford protection and management of land in watersheds and in water areas given special protection status by law, rule or ordinance. These land areas shall include but not be limited to the GSACSC, the Wekiva River Corridor, the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway, OFW and OLW.

3.4.1 Designate OLW Program.

Lake County shall implement an OLW program through the LDRs that will identify those waterbodies that possess exceptional water quality and/or habitat for aquatic, terrestrial, and avian wildlife, including designated species habitat, or possess strong hydrogeological logical connection with the Floridan Aquifer. Water quality standards, nutrient loading capacities, and use criteria shall be established for these OLWs to ensure their conservation. Transportation on an OLW will be of a nature that does not degrade the environment of the designated lake. These waterbodies will be regulated to prohibit further degradation of the environment; consideration will be given to noise levels, light levels, water quality, and significant adverse impacts. Land uses that may potentially impact these lakes will be regulated through the LDRs.

3.4.2 Map Outstanding Florida Waters

The location of the Wekiva River and its tributaries as an OFW and other waters that may be subsequently designated as "Outstanding Florida Waters" shall be placed on maps and GIS overlays prepared for use in regulatory decisions by the County. Section 403.061 (27), Florida Statutes, grants FDEP power to: establish rules that provide for a special category of water bodies within the state, to be referred as "Outstanding Florida Waters," which shall be worthy of special protection because of

their natural attributes; and the Wekiva River has been so designated. The direct or indirect discharge into OFW in Lake County as may be influenced by land use decisions by Lake County shall be regulated consistent with Florida Statutes.

3.4.3 Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act

Lake County recognizes the importance of the Wekiva River and its watershed and shall implement policies, procedures, and LDRs consistent with intent and purpose of The Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act, Part III of Chapter 369, Florida Statutes.

3.4.3.1 Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act Implementation

Lake County shall establish for land development regulations within the Wekiva Study Area, as appropriate, to protect groundwater and surface water resources and to help attain target water quality standards. The requirements shall address, but not be limited to, allowed uses, storm water management, aquifer recharge, protection of karst features, open space, habitat protection, and public facilities.

OBJECTIVE 4.0 SPRINGSHEDS AND SPRINGSHED PROTECTION ZONES

The County shall protect and restore, to the maximum extent possible, sensitive areas within and adjacent to springsheds and SPZs including springs, seeps, recharge areas, sinkholes, caverns, and other karst features.

4.1 Identification and Protection of Sensitive Springshed Resources

The County shall work with state and regional agencies to use the Florida Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment, and the Wekiva Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment, as appropriate, to identify and map springs and springsheds and to create SPZs as part of the groundwater model of Lake County. The SPZs will be used as a base to regulate land use and development within and adjacent to these resources.

4.1.1 Acquire Land with Delineated Springsheds and Springshed Protection Zones

The County shall protect, to the maximum extent possible, sensitive springshed resources through the acquisition of land within the delineated springsheds and SPZs to preserve and protect the natural qualities of these valuable natural resources, consistent with other policies found elsewhere.

4.1.2 Preserve Karst Features through Land Acquisition

The County may use revenues and monies that may become available to match or leverage funds for private or public acquisition programs including but not limited to the Florida Forever Program, the Florida Community Trust, and the Lake County Land Acquisition Program and any other existing or newly implemented program to acquire fee simple ownership or less than fee ownership through conservation easements. Karst features directly impacting or showing the potential to impact ground and surface water quality should be considered for acquisition by the County with priority given to those areas where acquisition would protect the health and welfare of the citizens and environment.

4.1.3 Create Open Areas within Springsheds

The County may identify other approaches to create open areas within the springsheds. These approaches may include transfer of development rights, on-site density transfers, and performance zoning.

4.2 Environmental Education

The County shall establish programs that provide environmental education for the public about the relevance of water resources, groundwater, aquifers, water pollution, karst features, springs, springsheds, and springshed protection to their community and region, and the vital hydrological system of which they are a part.

4.2.1 Coordinate with Schools

The County shall coordinate with the local colleges, the school board and individual schools to develop environmental education programs for school-aged children highlighting water resources and springshed protection issues.

4.2.2 Work with Media

The County shall participate with and encourage the media to formulate a campaign to enhance the environmental literacy of community residents with respect to water resources, natural values and issues facing local springs and springsheds.

4.2.3 Encourage Agency Use of BMPs

The County shall participate with Federal, State and Local agencies, and existing agricultural extension programs to educate, encourage and assist farmers owning property within springsheds, to use BMPs that minimize use of water, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides and reduce erosion.

4.2.4 Encourage Silviculture and BMPs

Within delineated springshed and SPZs, the County shall encourage silviculture activities and BMPs that are compatible with the need to protect and conserve the water resources. The County shall encourage the industry to follow the BMPs outlined in "Silviculture BMPs Manual" (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry) and "Protecting Florida's Springs."

4.2.5 Encourage Residential and Commercial use of BMPs

The County shall encourage residential and commercial land owners within springsheds to use BMPs such as those provided by the Florida Yard and Neighbors program. Such practices will reduce the use of water, fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides.

4.2.6 Encourage Use of Florida-Friendly Plants

The County shall continue to encourage the use and application of Florida-Friendly practices to improve water quality and reduce the consumptive use of water. The County shall continue to enforce and evaluate its Florida-Friendly regulations which, at a minimum, set standards for the use of native and drought tolerant species, removal of exotic plants, vegetative clearing and efficient irrigation to maximize conservation of water resources. The evaluation process shall consider the existing arbor and landscaping requirements of the LDRs requirements.

4.2.7 Evaluation Process

The evaluation process shall consider the existing arbor and landscaping requirements of the LDRs requirements with special attention given to the FDEPs prohibited aquatic plants list and the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's Category 1 and 2 lists.

4.3 Regulate Land Use Activities

The County will regulate land uses activities that have a demonstrated potential to cause the contamination of water within springsheds or SPZs. As regulation measures the county will:

4.3.1 Require Appropriate Stormwater Management Systems

Require the construction of site-appropriate stormwater management systems to ensure that post-development recharge rates equal pre-development recharge rates within areas of protected recharge.

4.3.2 Require Open Space

Require a minimum percentage of dedicated open space for all new development projects in designated springshed protection areas through the use of clustering techniques to achieve this requirement.

4.3.3 Guide Development Away from Springsheds

Guide development away from designated springsheds and SPZs. 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.

4.3.4 Identify Karst Features on Development Proposals

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:

Inclusion of karst features into pervious open space areas;

Use of landscape design principles to incorporate features as aesthetic elements;

Pretreatment of stormwater runoff, in accordance with applicable county and WMD regulations, prior to discharge to karst areas.

Prohibit discharge of wastewater effluent to karst features.

Perimeter buffering around features to maintain natural context, edge vegetation, and structural protection.

4.3.5 Investigate Soils and Subsurface Hydrology

Require investigation of surface soils and sub-surface hydrologic conditions for land developments and land uses that have the potential for contamination of delineated springsheds or SPZs.

4.3.6 Use BMPs for Producing the LDRs

Where feasible, the County shall use springshed BMPs and “Protecting Florida’s Springs” guidebook when producing the LDRs.

OBJECTIVE 5.0 FLOODPLAINS ²

Lake County shall protect the 100-year floodplain areas so that natural hydrological functions are maintained to the greatest extent possible.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

5.1 Protect Floodplains

The County shall implement the Conservation land use designation through the regulation of development consistent with the Flood Prone Area Zone Classification (FP-1) which: A) Restricts uses which are dangerous to health, safety, and property, and minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions; B) Prohibits land filling and grade changes where such activity will cause erosion or inhibit flood waters; C) Requires development to comply with the requirements and rules of the National Flood Insurance Program and Florida DOH; and D) Requires all subdivisions and site plans to maintain pre-development run off characteristics, provide compensating storage, comply with wetland regulations, and dedicate post-development flood prone and wetland areas to the County as a conservation easement.

5.1.1 Floodplain Management Program

Lake County shall develop a strict floodplain management program designed to preserve hydrologically significant wetlands and other natural floodplain features. The County shall cooperate with the SJRWMD and the SWFWMD to identify significant floodplains for restoration. The 100-year floodplain shall be mapped and entered in the County's GIS system and, when financially feasible, the 25, and 100-year floodplains shall be mapped and entered into the County's GIS system.

5.1.2 Keep Flood Information Updated

The County shall work with agencies to keep flood information up to date using the best available data and technology.

5.1.3 Protect Floodplain Vegetation

In order to protect the quality and quantity of surface waters and provide habitat for semi-aquatic or water-dependent terrestrial species of wildlife, Lake County shall establish land development regulations for buffer zones established by federal, state and regional agencies. Lake County shall encourage buffer zones of a least 25 feet and not more than 50 feet for vegetation occurring within the 100-year floodplain in riverine systems. In order to assist in providing for viable wildlife corridors, Lake County shall protect 100-year floodplains that connect significant isolated wetlands and environmentally sensitive areas as identified by state and federal agencies through land use regulations.

OBJECTIVE 6.0 COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION OF WETLANDS

² Intermediate version of current drafting process had the following objective:

Lake County shall protect the 100 year floodplain so that natural hydrological functions are maintained to the greatest extent possible. Floodplain management activities shall be coordinated with other County activities to manage surface and groundwater resources, springsheds and springshed protection areas and special floodplain protection areas.

The County shall protect the functions provided by wetlands. These functions may vary depending upon the type, location, and classification, but could be affected by the degree of historic alteration. For purposes of fulfilling this objective, Lake County shall continue to adopt regulations that protect and conserve wetlands, including criteria for identifying the significance of wetlands.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

6.1 Maintain Conservation Land Use in Flood Prone and Wetland Areas

The County shall maintain the conservation land use designation and continue to map conservation areas (100-year flood prone and wetland areas) on the County's Land Use Map for the purpose of identifying and protecting conservation areas/corridors where special zoning regulations and performance standards apply.

6.2 Establish a Conservation Overlay Layer in GIS

The County shall establish a Conservation overlay layer in GIS to depict environmentally sensitive areas in order to prevent public harm; to protect the public health, safety and welfare; guide and protect and preserve wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas for natural water management and hydrologic functions; for use by aquatic and wetland dependent wildlife; habitat of endangered, threatened or species of special concern; recreation, open space and buffer areas.³

6.3 Encourage protection of isolated wetlands

Lake County, through its land use regulatory process, shall strive to protect and sustain functions provided by isolated wetlands. The County shall participate with federal, state, regional and local entities that own land in the County to establish a cohesive plan for the management of isolated wetlands and other natural resources.

6.4 Require Conservation Easements/Dedications

The County shall require upon conservation easements or require dedication of open space areas to an appropriate management agency as a tool for preserving floodplains, flood prone areas, springsheds, wetland and other ecologically significant communities to the extent allowed by law.

6.5 Coordinate with Agencies

In order to implement the provisions of this Conservation Element, the County shall coordinate with appropriate Federal, State and local agencies during the review of development proposals to ensure that development orders and permits are consistent with applicable rules, regulations and associated referenced guidance for the protection of endangered, threatened or species of special concern (both plant and animal).

6.6 Acquire Land

The County shall continue to acquire (as part of its Public Lands Acquisition Program) and partner with other agencies to acquire areas of environmental sensitivity.

³ **Species (both plant and animal) identified as endangered, threatened or of special concern are those listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Game and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, U.S. Department of Agriculture or otherwise listed under Chapter 39-27, Florida Administrative Code or its successor provisions.

6.7 Enforce Wetland Regulations

The County shall continue to enforce and apply all special Federal, State, and Local requirements that relate to protection of wetlands and their functions, including but not limited to the Green Swamp and the Wekiva Protection Area.

6.8 Apply Future Land Use Designations

The County shall continue to utilize the Future Land Use Designations as contained within this plan to direct incompatible uses away from wetlands, including the use of special planning techniques and the application of the Conservation Land Use designation.

6.9 Establish Minimum Buffer Requirements

Upland buffers adjacent to protected wetlands provide habitat for some wetland dependent species, and protection and mitigation of some deleterious effects of development adjacent to the wetland. The County shall establish a minimum buffer requirement in rural areas and specially protected basins and springshed areas that will ensure the continued functioning of the wetlands and the maintenance and protection of organisms that depend on them.

LAND

OBJECTIVE 7.0 AREAS OF ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

7.1 Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern

Lake County shall preserve the integrity of the Green Swamp as an intact ecosystem of statewide significance by protecting its discrete and intra-dependent natural resources including but not limited to hydrologic regimes, wetland and upland communities, ecologic connectivity, wildlife, and aquifer recharge.

7.2 Wekiva-Ocala Greenway

The County shall preserve the integrity of the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway which links the Ocala National Forest and state-owned lands along the Wekiva River as an intact ecosystem of statewide significance by protecting its discrete and intra-dependent natural resources including but not limited to its springs, springsheds, river system, karst features, wetland and upland communities, ecological connectivity, and wildlife.

OBJECTIVE 8.0 HABITAT AND DESIGNATED SPECIES PRESERVATION

Lake County shall maintain viable habitat for species designated as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern. Mitigation or relocation of species shall be consistent with all applicable state and federal regulations and recommendations.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

8.1 Protect General Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife in existing natural areas such as surface waters and their perimeters, wetlands, floodplains, and native uplands shall be conserved and enhanced by management techniques which encourage the improvement of biological diversity and wildlife resources.

8.2 Preserve or Acquire Rare or Endangered Ecosystems

Land use planning, development approvals and assignments of priorities for environmental preservation/acquisition and protection programs shall require consideration of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) status of rare or endangered ecosystems.

8.2.1 Protect Critical Habitat

Lake County shall cooperate with all levels of government in supporting the protection of critical habitat for designated species.

8.2.2 Identification and Protection of Habitat Corridors

Lake County shall cooperate with appropriate State and Federal agencies for purposes of identification, and protection of habitat corridors that serve as biological connections between existing managed areas.

8.2.3 Public Conservation Land Acquisition Programs

Public conservation land acquisition programs shall consider conservation needs before recreation needs when lands that appear on lists or inventories of rare or endangered ecosystems are selected, to protect designated species and their habitats.

8.2.4 Identification of Conservation Programs

The County shall identify public and private conservation programs within the County's boundaries.

8.2.5 Habitat Corridors-Development Buffers

Lake County shall develop appropriate programs to protect the wildlife corridors identified by the Federal, State and Local agencies as important to the movement of non-avian wildlife, and provide for protection of these areas within its comprehensive planning and development approval processes.

8.2.6 Maintenance of Corridor Functions

Land alteration activities adjacent to viable wildlife corridors shall be regulated in a manner consistent with the continued function of the corridor.

8.2.7 Use of Native Vegetation near Wildlife Corridors

Native plant landscaping shall be encouraged by the County adjacent to viable wildlife corridors.

8.2.8 Identify and Protect Designated Species

The County shall cooperate with State and Federal agencies to determine the presence and habitat distribution of designated species. The County shall cooperate with these agencies to prevent further reductions in designated species populations.

8.2.9 Predevelopment Survey for Designated Species and Protection from Development

Activities that require the alteration or clearing of native habitat of designated species shall be surveyed for occurrences of designated species by qualified ecologists (one who has a biology or related degree) prior to the issuance of a development permit. Development activities that have adverse effect upon a designated species shall require mitigation or shall not be permitted. Where viable (capable of living) habitat for designated species occur on a site, management plans protecting these species shall be prepared, and reviewed and approved by the County.

8.2.10 Identification and Protection of Viable Natural Corridors

The County shall identify significant natural areas and implement a program protecting viable corridors connecting these natural areas.

8.2.11 Mitigation for Designated Species

Mitigation for species, including relocations, shall be permitted in Lake County only if consistent with applicable State and Federal regulations.

8.2.12 Management of Private Lands

The County shall encourage proper management of natural communities and designated species on private lands.

8.2.13 Endangered Species Management Plans

Lake County shall cooperate with the appropriate agencies in identifying habitat ranges for designated species located within the County and shall assist in the preparation of management plans, including mitigation procedures, to ensure the survival of these species.

8.2.14 Intergovernmental Coordination

The County shall adopt agreements with local governments and State and Federal agencies as necessary, pertaining to the protection and enhancement of designated species. The County shall continue to coordinate with all public agencies listed in the Intergovernmental Coordination element as primary or secondary agencies, whether or not they have regulatory authority over the use of the land. In the area of conservation of natural resources, especially unique vegetative communities that overlap jurisdictional and hydrological boundaries, Lake County shall pursue coordination through legal mechanisms and, where necessary, utilize the informal mediation process outlined within the Intergovernmental Coordination element.

8.3 Explore a Land Banking Program for Habitat Mitigation

Lake County, in cooperation with the Lake County Water Authority, and other state and regional regulatory and land use management agencies, shall investigate the feasibility of establishing an off-site "land banking" or land trust program as an option for the mitigation of the unavoidable loss of protected rare or endangered lands, natural upland communities, and wetlands. The monies generated from this program shall be dedicated to the purchase of significant environmentally sensitive lands for preservation.

8.4 Investigate Acquisition Funding for Conservation of Native Upland

Lake County shall investigate the establishment of native upland impact fee. The County shall also investigate funding this program through the general fund or other alternatives. If established, this impact fee shall be payable to the County and shall be used by the County for acquisition of native habitat preserve areas and for management of such lands.

OBJECTIVE 9.0 LAKE WALES RIDGE PROTECTION

9.1 Protect Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

Lake County shall establish a program to secure the protection of rare and native upland communities unique to the Lake Wales Ridge, an ecosystem that includes portions of Lake, Osceola, Polk, and Highlands Counties.

OBJECTIVE 10.0 MINING AND BORROW PITS

The County shall regulate mining extraction activities for mineral commodities including sand, clay and rock to minimize adverse impacts to air quality, surface waters, groundwater, springsheds, wetlands, and other natural resources.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

10.1 Evaluate Mining and Borrow Pit Operations

The County shall continue to evaluate and enforce its Land Development Regulations relative to Mining and Borrow Pit Operations, including criteria of submitted restoration, reclamation and/or mitigation plans.

10.2 Coordination with State Reclamation Program

The County shall coordinate its permitting and regulation of mining and borrow pit operations with activities of the Bureau of Mine Reclamation of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

10.2.1 Mining in Prime and High Aquifer Recharge Areas

The County shall strongly discourage mining in high and prime aquifer recharge areas as identified by the SJRWMD/SWFWMD pursuant to the Florida Statutes and provided for within the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council Regional Policy Plan Policy. Small-scale, public-purpose mines are compatible when limited in size and duration of operation. In addition, Lake County shall implement the following requirements for mining within the areas of the County identified as protected recharge areas:

1. All mining proposals shall be required to submit a hydrogeologic report to determine the recharge potential of the site. The report shall be completed by a professional engineer or state-registered geologist.
2. Activities within recharge areas shall not reduce the volume of recharge or reduce the quality of groundwater below existing levels of County or State standards, whichever standards are more restrictive.

10.2.2 Surface Mining Reclamation Plans

Lake County shall continue to require within its mining ordinance that no excavation operations for the purposes of extracting mineral resources shall be permitted until the operator demonstrates a workable (environmentally sound) reclamation plan and proof of financial responsibility. Operators shall be required to provide financial assurance for the future costs of reclamation activities. Furthermore, the County shall encourage owners of existing mines presently exempted from reclamation requirements to carry out environmentally sound reclamation practices. Mining reclamation shall also adhere to all conditions imposed in permits issued by the FDEP, the WMDs and Lake County.

10.2.3 Preservation of Hydrological Integrity at Reclaimed Mining Sites

Lake County shall require, where feasible, a horizontal impervious layer (possibly including a portion of the extracted resource) to be left undisturbed and unpenetrated beneath all excavated areas in order to retard the movement of water from excavated areas into the groundwater. The amount and location of the impervious layer to remain intact, if any, shall be determined using soil borings taken prior to excavation. Lake County shall minimize the effects of resource extraction upon ground and surface waters in conformance with State Plan Policy.

OBJECTIVE 11.0 SILVICULTURE

Lake County shall require that silviculture activities be conducted in a manner compatible with the need to protect, conserve and appropriately use natural resources associated with wetlands and surface waters.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

11.1 Encourage Silviculture Activities – if this is a spring shed issue, shouldn't it be in Spring sheds?

With the delineated springshed and springshed protection zones, encourage silviculture activities in a manner compatible with the need to protect and conserve the springshed.

11.2 Follow BMPs for Silviculture

Follow the best management practices outlined in "Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual" (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry) or its successor.

11.2.1 Monitor

Monitor existing special management zones, as established by the Manual, to ensure that such zones provide buffering between forestry operations and sinkholes in order to reduce or eliminate non-point pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, logging debris, chemicals, and water temperature fluctuations and to protect natural in stream or near-stream habitat functions or values

HUMAN SYSTEMS

OBJECTIVE 12.0 PROMOTE GREEN BUILDING

The County shall encourage the public and private-sector in the use of third-party sustainable building rating and certification systems, such as the Master Builder Association's BuiltGreen system and the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED system.

OBJECTIVE 13.0 ENERGY CONSERVATION

The County shall promote the use of renewable energy sources and energy conservation practices.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

13.1 State and Federal Incentives

The County shall support incentives by the state and federal governments to promote energy efficiency and conservation and the use of solar and other clean alternative energy sources.

13.2 Coordinated Energy Conservation

The County shall coordinate with the municipalities to promote energy conservation and education.

13.3 Alternative Energy Sources

The County shall encourage the development of power generating facilities that use energy efficient technologies, use diverse fuel sources, and take advantage of clean energy resources,.

13.4 Energy Programs

The County shall encourage participation in the following programs or their successors, as well as others that may apply:

USEPA's Energy Star Buildings and Green Lights Program to increase energy efficiency through lighting upgrades in buildings.

Rebuild America

Building for the 21st Century

Million Solar Roofs

Energy Smart Schools

National Industrial Competitiveness through Energy

U.S. Department of Environmental Protection's Pollution Prevention (P2) Program.

13.4.1 Promote Energy Efficiency in Government

The County shall encourage energy efficiency in government operations. Comment, not intended to be included as text: The County does not own a waste to energy facility – Covanta is private, the County contracts with them. I don't believe a regional sewer utility is proposed?

Reduce Architectural Consumption of Energy

The County shall promote the reduction of architectural energy consumption by - encouraging the incorporation of energy efficient site design techniques into all new developments. These guidelines shall include landscaping, green roofing, solar orientation and solar access provisions that promote the conservation of energy used for the thermal conditioning of buildings.

13.4.2 Promote Renewable Energy Resources

The County shall promote renewable energy applications by providing educational materials to the general public.

13.4.3 Promote Energy Consumption for Transportation

The County shall strongly encourage efficient urban growth patterns that minimize transportation demand. The County shall identify and implement transportation strategies that will lead to reduced per capita consumption of non-renewable energies.

OBJECTIVE 14.0 NOISE POLLUTION

Lake County recognizes the potential for noise pollution from various commercial and domestic sources and shall establish maximum decibel levels allowable for noise emitting vehicles, devices, and activities.

OBJECTIVE 15.0 LIGHT POLLUTION

Lake County recognizes the potential for conflicts in land uses that can be created by lighting from changes in land use and property use.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

15.1 Consider Affects of Lighting in the LDRs

The County shall consider conflicts in land uses created by the lighting of private property through the LDRs that shall limit the intensity, duration, and the area of illumination within urban and rural

residential areas. The County shall encourage consideration of such recognized lighting programs or ordinances, such as the “Dark Skies.”

OBJECTIVE 16.0 ENVIRONMENTAL LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT

Lake County shall continue a program to acquire and manage environmentally sensitive lands. Lake County shall develop land use regulations that are most appropriate and capable of providing for responsible development without significant adverse impact to the County's natural resources.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

16.1 Acquire Land

The County will utilize revenue bonds from the Lake County Land Acquisition program and partnering opportunities to the greatest extent possible with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as with private conservation entities as appropriate.

16.1.1 Natural Areas Network

The County shall buy land to establish natural area networks by connecting existing natural areas for the purposes of wildlife enhancement, endangered species population maintenance and restoration, retention of aquifer recharge capabilities, establishing open space networks between existing urbanized areas and controlling urban sprawl.

16.1.2 Special Protection Areas

The County shall participate in programs at the local, regional, state, and federal levels to afford protection and management through acquisition and conservation easements of land areas given special protection status. These land areas shall include but not be limited to the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern, the Lake Wales Ridge and the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway.

OBJECTIVE 17.0 ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES PLAN

17.1 Investigate conducting an ecological resources plan

Lake County shall investigate the feasibility of conducting an ecological resources plan as part of an overall long-range planning effort to provide the County with an approach for sound and sensitive urban and rural development that is interwoven with the community's goals for maintaining and enhancing the ecological and economic benefits of the natural environment.

OBJECTIVE 18.0 SOIL CONSERVATION

Lake County shall support efforts and activities that conserve soil.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

18.1 Support Natural Resources Conservation Service

The County shall support the Lake Soil Conservation District with ongoing countywide program that provides soils evaluation for the Agricultural Extension Service, reviews of development plans, public facilities location, and wetlands identification.

18.2 Use Soil Survey Data

The County shall use the most recent “Soil Survey of Lake County and Soil Supplement” as the source of soil interpretation information for countywide land use planning and development review and approval.

18.3 Slope and Land Use

The County shall prescribe land use development limitations for slopes to minimize the impacts of development. The County’s land use regulation shall limit septic tanks on Astatula (AtF) and Lake (LaE) soil types where steep slopes are present. Conservation easements or dedication shall be required where steep slopes are located adjacent to surface waters to minimize erosion consistent with streambank and lakeshore stabilization objectives.

OBJECTIVE 19.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Lake County recognizes the importance and value of protecting historical and archaeological resources.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

19.1 Identify and Preserve Historical and Archaeological Resources

The County shall cooperate with the State and Federal agencies and local archaeological and historical groups to identify and preserve archaeological and historical resources within the county. Land development regulations shall take into consideration historic sites and properties to insure appropriate maintenance and preservation.