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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**

Text to Come

**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	WRPA	Wekiva River 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 springheds, 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.

### **AIR<sup>1</sup>**

## **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 monitor its ambient air resources for compliance with State and Federal NAAQS. Lake County shall monitor the air quality programs established by various entities in the county.

### **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 proper enforcement of applicable State and Federal regulations.

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 schools, hospitals, or residential neighborhoods.

### **1.3 Monitor Air Pollution from Hazardous Materials**

Lake County shall monitor hazardous materials users and hazardous waste generators 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**1.4 Combat Fugitive Particle Emissions from Land Use Practices**

LDRs shall ensure and require compliance with State rules 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.).

**1.5 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.

**1.6 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. The County shall, on a case-by-case basis, request that the ECFRPC require air quality monitoring on DRIs located within Lake County. This request shall be applied especially in or near existing urban areas. The ECFRPC shall be required to justify why a DRI would not have to conduct an air quality study. 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.

**1.7 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 map. New developments will be rewarded for having a 30 percent tree canopy cover at maturity, as estimated from the project's landscape site plan. The existing tree and landscape ordinances shall be modified if necessary and will be utilized to encourage developments to create a 30 percent tree cover..

**1.8 Improve Air Quality in Buildings**

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

**WATER**

**OBJECTIVE 2.0 GROUNDWATER PROTECTION**

Lake County shall utilize best available geologic, hydrogeologic, and hydrologic information in coordination with federal, state, and local agencies to protect both the quantity and quality of groundwater resources, protect recharge areas, and prevent 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**

The Lake County Water Alliance 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.

**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:

1. 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;
2. Promoting water reuse and/or reclamation, where appropriate, for landscape and farm irrigation, industrial use and other appropriate applications;
3. 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;
4. A cooperative plugging program for uncapped artesian wells with SJRWMD and SWFWMD, and the local DOH;

5. Implementing water and sewer revenue mechanisms which encourage the economical/conservational use of potable water supplies;
6. Implementation of irrigation policies and practices according to SJRWMD and SWFWMD water shortage guidelines;
7. Prescribe water wise “right plant–right place” landscape guidelines for all County parks and new urban development; and
8. 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 monitor the consumptive use permitting activities of the SJRWMD and the SWFWMD for public water supplies to determine appropriate and safe withdrawal rates by public water suppliers and large commercial users. The County shall evaluate the CUPs issued by the water management districts for likely impact on the groundwater model of Lake County and surrounding counties. The County shall take appropriate land use regulatory actions to ensure an adequate water supply for existing and future needs.

#### **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 are implemented.

### **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. High recharge areas, (those areas generally recharging in excess of 10 inches of rainfall annually), in Lake County include the Palatlahaha and Sumter Uplands and the Lake Wales and Mount Dora Ridges. Activities within high 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:

1. Hydrogeological and geotechnical reports shall be prepared for all proposed development sites within defined prime and high aquifer recharge areas.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. 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.

### **2.2.1 Evaluate Recharge Area Protection/Conservation Measures**

The County shall evaluate its groundwater conservation measures and policies for regulation of water usage, reduction of land use densities in critical areas, water use restrictions and irrigation alternatives as part of each Comprehensive Plan's EAR.

### **2.2.2 Restrict Landscape Irrigation**

In order to conserve supplies of potable water, Lake County shall restrict the use of potable water for landscape irrigation, or employ 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 prohibit potable water withdrawals in quantities which 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 within that portion of the Wekiva River Protection Area (and other areas to be determined) known to be experiencing salt water intrusion. Wellfields located in areas where withdrawals could result in increased saltwater intrusion shall develop and implement monitoring programs. Landscape operations, which withdraw, or propose to withdraw irrigation water within areas experiencing saltwater intrusion shall be required to submit landscape plans which employ and/or preserve native vegetation and/or "right plant-right place" plants for at least 50 percent of all landscaping requirements. Such operations shall be prohibited from using potable water. Exceptions are projects that demonstrate that irrigation waters will be derived from stormwater detention ponds and/or gray water systems.

### **2.2.4 Protect Recharge Areas**

The County shall incorporate through LDRs an aquifer recharge overlay classification which sets standards to protect the infiltration functions of the most effective aquifer recharge areas as part of each Comprehensive Plan's EAR.

### **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 critical groundwater recharge areas to determine any significant long-term negative impacts on groundwater quality and quantity and, if appropriate, adopt and develop 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 on soils with low or very low potential to percolate or drain as required to function adequately.
2. Lake County, in cooperation with the local DOH, shall be responsible for developing 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.
3. Lake County, in cooperation with the local DOH office, shall be responsible for developing an inspection, maintenance and repair program for all septic tanks within the County as a dimension of its regional sewer utility. All costs of this program will be funded by the utility system and the involved private sector. 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 Zones**

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

### **2.2.7 Meet Non-Potable Water Use Demand**

Lake County will encourage 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. The order of preference for water meeting non-potable demands is: 1) grey water treatment and reuse; 2) surface water; 3) surficial aquifer; 4) the Floridian Aquifer. Water reuse (grey water) or water reclamation programs shall be used wherever economically and ecologically feasible to reduce groundwater or surface water withdrawals for water use applications which do not require potable water. Educational materials shall be distributed to residents on private water systems informing them of alternatives.

### **2.2.8 Use of Drainage Wells**

Unless injected water is treated to appropriate groundwater standards, the use of drainage/injection wells into or through the Floridian Aquifer for the purposes of stormwater management, disposal of wastes, or lake level stabilization shall be prohibited. If technically feasible, existing drainage and injection wells situated within the County shall be plugged and abandoned pursuant to water management district rules by the owner of the well and/or the County based on the findings of the Stormwater Management Master Plan to be completed.

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

Lake County shall identify all surface waters in high recharge areas with direct hydraulic connection to the Floridian Aquifer with the assistance of the water management districts. Stormwater guidelines as stringent as OFW guidelines or greater shall be implemented to protect the Floridian Aquifer from this potential source of groundwater contamination through an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and LDRs. Land uses within these basins shall be regulated so as to prohibit any land uses which possess the potential to cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the Floridian Aquifer. Acquisition of these areas should be considered.

### **2.2.10 Comply with Wastewater Reuse and Treatment**

Lake County shall require that 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.. 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 establish well field preservation 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, regional and sub-regional water supplies shall be protected for future use by residents of Lake County.

## **2.3 Wekiva River 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 Assess Water Quality**

The County shall use the Florida Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment to identify Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas as part of the groundwater model of Lake County.

#### **3.1.1 Assessment Procedure**

The County shall identify water bodies including lakes, 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 which are below established standards.

#### **3.2.1 Surface Water Quality Restoration**

Lake County shall have initiated a surface water restoration program in cooperation and coordination with the SJRWMD's SWIM plans for Lake Apopka and the Upper Oklawaha River Basin and the Lake County Division of Pollution Control for the purposes of significantly improving the water quality in the

Oklawaha Chain of Lakes. Land locked public lakes with fair or poor water quality, as defined by the FDEP, will also be incorporated into this program.

### **3.2.2 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.

### **3.2.3 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.

### **3.2.4 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 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.

### **3.2.5 Lakeshore Protection**

To protect lakefront and wetland areas from the encroachment of development, the County shall implement the shoreline protection standards found in Policy 1-2.6 of the Future Land Use Element.

### **3.2.6 Vegetated and Functional Littoral Zone**

A vegetated and functional littoral zone shall be established as part of any new surface water management system which consists of lakes and wet detention areas greater than or equal to 0.5 acres in size, based upon the 10 year storm event.

### **3.2.7 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.

### **3.2.8 Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Discharge**

Prohibit the discharge of wastewater treatment plant effluent, including package plants, into the surface waters of Lake County.

### **3.2.9 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.

### **3.2.10 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. The rules of the Pollution Control Board shall be, at a minimum, as stringent as those of State and Federal rules and regulations, while within the authority granted by the Florida Legislature.

### **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 the Agricultural Extension Agency, NRCS, the FDCA, the FDEP, the SJRWMD, and the SWFWMD. 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, urban 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 SCS 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.

## **OBJECTIVE 4.0 SPRINGSHEDS AND SPRINGSHED PROTECTION ZONES**

The County shall protect and restore 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 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 monitor 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 enter into a program to protect 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.

### **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. The County's participation may include appropriations for staff and monies for this use.

#### **4.2.3 Encourage Agency Use of BMPs**

The County shall participate with the FDCA, the WMDs, 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).

#### **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 Xeriscape, or "Right Plant-Right Place"**

The County shall continue to encourage the use and application of right plant-right place practices to improve water quality and reduce the consumptive use of water. The County shall continue to enforce and evaluate its right plant-right place 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 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 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 three (3) inches of stormwater onsite.

#### **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**

High recharge karst features shall be accurately identified on development proposals. The county shall require strategies for protecting high recharge karst features during construction and after development, which promote the following:

1. Inclusion of high recharge karst features into pervious open space areas;
2. Use of landscape design principles to incorporate features as aesthetic elements;
3. Pretreatment of stormwater runoff, in accordance with applicable county and WMD regulations, prior to discharge to karst areas.
4. Prohibit discharge of wastewater effluent to high recharge karst features.
5. Perimeter buffering around features to maintain natural context, edge vegetation, and structural protection.

#### **4.3.5 Investigate Surface Soils**

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

### **4.4 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.

#### **4.4.1 Designate OLW Program.**

Lake County shall implement an OLW program by \_\_\_\_ through the LDRs that will identify those lakes (waterbodies) which 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 Floridian 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 lakes (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. Lake County shall amend the Comprehensive Plan to include the identification of the OLW lakes (waterbodies). This plan amendment shall also include the standards and guidelines that govern the water quality standards of the identified lakes (waterbodies).

#### **4.4.2 Map Outstanding Florida Waters**

The location of the Wekiva River and its tributaries as a water body and other waters that may be subsequently designated by the FDEP 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 which 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.

#### **4.4.3 Wekiva River 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.

#### **4.4.4 Wekiva River Parkway and Protection Act Implementation**

Lake County shall establish specific requirements for development within the Wekiva Study Area that may be necessary 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 5.0 FLOODPLAINS <sup>2</sup>**

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.

### **OBJECTIVE 6.0 WETLANDS**

The County shall protect ecological systems including wetlands and uplands, including those which are sensitive to development impacts and provide important natural functions for maintenance of environmental quality and wildlife habitats.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

## **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.<sup>3</sup>

## **6.3 Regulate Wetlands**

In order to protect and sustain the functions and values provided by wetlands, the County shall: [A] Evaluate appropriate buffer zones, size thresholds, and wetland classification methods for use in assessing wetland impacts in urban and rural portions of the County, [B] Develop a strategy to ensure the retention of wetland functions and values throughout the County, [C] establish areas where no loss of wetlands is appropriate and to require the conservation of wetland systems (including upland buffers, the mosaic of isolated and connected wetlands, natural hydrologic patterns and natural processes such as fire), [D] Identify intact wetland systems for which comprehensive protection is necessary, and consider means of providing permanent protection through regulation, acquisition, purchase of development rights, external partnerships, and other measures, [E] Participate with local, state, and federal entities that own land in the County to establish a cohesive plan for the management of 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).

## **OBJECTIVE 7.0 COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION OF WETLANDS**

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

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<sup>3</sup> \*\*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.

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:

### **7.1 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.

### **7.2 Enforce Wetland Regulations**

The County shall continue to enforce and apply all special Federal, State, and Local provisions that relate to protection of wetlands and their functions.

### **7.3 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.

### **7.4 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 8.0 GREEN SWAMP AREA OF CRITICAL STATE CONCERN**

**8.1 Preserve 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.

**OBJECTIVE 9.0 WEKIVA-OCALA GREENWAY**

**9.1 Preserve Integrity of the 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 10.0 CRITICAL 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:

**10.1 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.

**10.1.1 Protect Critical Habitat**

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

**10.1.2 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.

**10.1.3 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.

#### **10.1.4 Identification of Conservation Programs**

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

#### **10.1.5 Habitat Corridors-Development Buffers**

Lake County shall develop appropriate programs to protect the wildlife corridors identified by the FGFWFC, the FDNR, the FNAI, and or the ECFRPC as important to the movement of non-avian wildlife, and provide for protection of these areas within its comprehensive planning and development approval processes.

#### **10.1.6 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.

#### **10.1.7 Use of Native Vegetation near Wildlife Corridors**

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

#### **10.1.8 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.

#### **10.1.9 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 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.

#### **10.1.10 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.

#### **10.1.11 Mitigation for Designated Species**

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

#### **10.1.12 Management of Private Lands**

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

### **10.1.13 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.

### **10.1.14 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.

## **10.2 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.

## **10.3 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 11.0 LAKE WALES RIDGE PROTECTION**

### **11.1 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 12.0 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:

## **12.1 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.

## **12.2 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.

### **12.2.1 Mining in Prime and High Aquifer Recharge Areas.**

No mining shall be allowed to be conducted 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 "very high and high recharge" areas pursuant to the Future Land Use Element Data Inventory and Analysis:

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.

### **12.2.2 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 FDER, the WMDs and Lake County.

### **12.2.3 Preservation of Hydrological Integrity at Reclaimed Mining Sites**

Lake County shall continue to enforce its mining ordinance provisions requiring, 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 13.0 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:

### **13.1 Encourage Silviculture Activities**

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

### **13.2 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.

#### **13.2.1 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 14.0 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.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

#### **14.1.1 Adopt Right Plant-Right Place Regulations**

The County shall adopt "right place right plant" regulations including Xeriscape, native and drought tolerant species, and removal of exotics, vegetative clearing and efficient irrigation to maximize conservation of water resources.

### **OBJECTIVE 15.0 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:

#### **15.1 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.

#### **15.2 Coordinated Energy Conservation**

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

#### **15.3 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,.

#### **15.4 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.

## **OBJECTIVE 16.0 NOISE POLLUTION**

Lake County recognizes the potential for noise pollution from various commercial and domestic sources.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

### **16.1 Consider adoption of noise pollution ordinance**

Lake County shall consider the adoption of a noise pollution control ordinance to regulate maximum decibel levels allowable for noise emitting vehicles, devices, and activities.

## **OBJECTIVE 17.0 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:

### **17.1 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.

### **17.2 Natural Resource Standards**

In order to coordinate policies and procedures among natural resources agencies, the County shall prepare, evaluate and update a documents titled “The Planning Guidelines for Natural Resources” and include in this document management standards, guidelines, and appropriate State and Federal procedures and regulations pertaining to endangered and threatened species.

## **OBJECTIVE 18.0 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 growth without significant adverse impact to the County’s natural resources.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

### **18.1 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.

#### **18.1.1 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.

### **18.1.2 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 Wekiva River Corridor and the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway.

## **OBJECTIVE 19.0 GREENPRINTING**

### **19.1 TEXT TO COME**

## **OBJECTIVE 20.0 SOIL CONSERVATION**

Lake County shall support efforts and activities that conserve soil.

It shall be the policy of Lake County to:

### **20.1 Support Soil Conservation Service**

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

### **20.2 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.

## **OBJECTIVE 21.0 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:

### **21.1 Identify and Preserve Historical and Archaeological Resources**

The County shall cooperate with the Secretary of State’s Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, 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.