



CONSERVATION

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~~IV. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES~~

Goal CON-1: ~~GOAL #3~~—Natural Resource Preservation

Citrus County shall preserve, protect, and restore its natural resources for the health, safety, and welfare of its ~~residents~~citizens.

~~Water Resources~~

~~-Surface Water~~

Objective CON-1.1: ~~Objective 3.1~~ Water Resources: Surface Water

Citrus County shall m~~aintain~~ and restore surface water quality consistent with state surface water classification and respective surface water quality standards.

Policy CON-1.1.1: ~~Policy 3.1.1~~—Setbacks

Citrus County shall establish and maintain a~~A~~ minimum setback of 50 feet from water bodies and wetlands ~~shall be established and maintained~~ for all new subdivided parcels. The setback requirement shall be measured from the mean high water line or line of ordinary high water as appropriate.

Policy CON-1.1.2: ~~Policy 3.1.2~~—Water Quality Management Plans

Citrus County shall utilize or administer water quality studies ~~on~~ all water bodies and assist in adopting water quality management plans for all water bodies. Water quality management plans shall address at a minimum:

- 1) Stormwater treatment/retrofitting
- 2) Non-structural flood control
- 3) Protection of natural drainage features
- 4) Surface water regulations
- 5) Sewage retrofitting

Policy CON-1.1.3: ~~Policy 3.1.3~~—Construction Criteria Near Water and Wetlands

Citrus County shall implement the regulations in the Land Development Code for
~~During~~ construction in the vicinity of water bodies or wetland areas, ~~the following criteria shall be met:~~

- ~~—A buffer of 15 feet or greater shall be established to reduce adverse impacts on natural vegetation~~
- ~~—A buffer of 25 feet or greater shall be established upland of springs, spring-fed waterbodies, and open sinkholes~~

- Existing topography and vegetation shall be retained within the buffer area
- Pervious pavement materials or equivalent methods shall be used to reduce runoff into adjacent and downstream waters
- Silt screens shall be placed between the construction or land clearing site and the water body or wetland to prevent erosion and siltation
- After permitted shoreline stabilization construction natural vegetation shall be retained or replaced with suitable native vegetation to minimize and stabilize erosion and to decrease pollution

Policy CON-1.1.4: ~~Policy 3.1.4~~ Setbacks and Buffers

Citrus County shall implement the ~~a~~A mechanism ~~shall be established~~ in the Land Development Code, which allows for greater setbacks and buffers when environmental characteristics require additional protection measures.

Policy CON-1.1.5: ~~Policy 3.1.5~~ Site Preparation / Land Clearing

Citrus County shall not allow the commencement of site preparation/land clearing other than minimal vegetation removal, ~~shall not commence~~ until development approval is granted.

Policy CON-1.1.6: ~~Policy 3.1.6~~ Steeply Sloping Shores

Citrus County shall prohibit ~~s~~Steeply sloping shores resulting from approved fill deposition ~~shall be prohibited~~.

Policy CON-1.1.7: ~~Policy 3.1.7~~ Shallow Filter and Spreader Berms

Citrus County shall use ~~s~~Shallow filter or spreader berms ~~shall be used~~ adjacent to shorelines where slopes exceed 10:1.

Policy CON-1.1.8: ~~Policy 3.1.8~~ Canal Construction Criteria

Citrus County shall prohibit ~~t~~The construction of new canals ~~shall be prohibited~~ unless overriding public need is demonstrated. The criteria for determining public needs are as follows:

- Flood control
- Water quality management
- Resource management

Policy CON-1.1.9: ~~Policy 3.1.9~~ Runoff Control

~~Citrus County will carefully control r~~Runoff from structures, streets, yards, and parking areas ~~shall be carefully controlled~~ to prevent flooding in adjacent areas or pollution of water bodies.

Policy CON-1.1.10: ~~Policy 3.1.10~~ Stormwater Review and Approval

To ensure protection of surface water quality/pollution, ~~Citrus County shall subject~~ all new development/construction which is not subject to the Stormwater Review and permit procedures of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) ~~shall be subject~~ to County Stormwater Review and Approval. Design and performance standards of the SWFWMD for stormwater discharge facilities and management systems, shall be the minimum criteria used by the County. ~~The County shall~~ ~~Citrus County shall~~ ~~establish and~~ maintain procedures for review monitoring and enforcement of permit conditions. If and when an interlocal agreement is enacted, the agreement will supersede this policy.

Policy CON-1.1.11: ~~Policy 3.1.11~~ Water Quality Proposals

~~The County shall~~ ~~Citrus County shall~~ support and/or initiate proposals to protect and maintain the water quality of the ~~St. Martins Marsh Aquatic Preserve, the Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve, the~~ Chassahowitzka ~~River,~~ ~~the~~ Homosassa ~~River,~~ ~~the~~ Halls ~~River,~~ and Withlacoochee Rivers as Outstanding Florida Waters.

~~-Flood Plain~~

Objective CON-1.2: ~~Objective 3.2~~ Flood Plain

~~The County shall~~ ~~Citrus County shall~~ protect the flood storage and conveyance functions of the 100 year flood plain and properties within flood prone areas by limiting development and fill activities consistent with the policies and standards in the Future Land Use Element.

Policy CON-1.2.1: ~~Policy 3.2.1~~ Flood Plain Management Handout

~~The County shall~~ ~~Citrus County shall~~ provide and update the flood plain management ~~webpage on the County's website~~ ~~handout~~ to inform and educate people about the County's flood plain protection regulations.

Policy CON-1.2.2: ~~Policy 3.2.2~~ Undeveloped Floodplain Land

Acquisition

~~The County shall~~ ~~Citrus County shall~~ support the acquisition of undeveloped lands within flood plain areas under the Florida Forever Program, if warranted.

Policy CON-1.2.3: ~~Policy 3.2.3~~ Maintaining Stormwater and Flooding Standards

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall maintain standards for stormwater quantity/flooding for development that is not covered by any State agency. ~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall establish and maintain procedures for review, monitoring, and enforcement of permit conditions.

~~Water Resources~~

~~-Groundwater Protection~~

Objective CON-1.3: ~~Objective 3.3~~ — Water Resources: Groundwater Protection

Citrus County shall mMaintain and, whenever possible, improve existing groundwater quality for continued public health.

Policy CON-1.3.1: ~~Policy 3.3.1~~ Minimizing Adverse Impact

Citrus County will evaluate pProposed development ~~shall be evaluated~~ for its adverse impact on aquifer recharge and discharge areas, and their vulnerability to contamination shall be assessed before any development is permitted. Additionally, development shall be evaluated to minimize adverse impacts on first magnitude springs and water.

Policy CON-1.3.2: ~~Policy 3.3.2~~ Stormwater Drainage into Water Aquifers

Citrus County shall prohibit dDrainage wells and sinkholes ~~are prohibited~~ for the disposal of stormwater where they recharge into potable water aquifers. In instances where they exist, these wells shall be abandoned using approved methods which include adequate sealing and plugging ~~(required by Section 17.28, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.))~~.

Policy CON-1.3.3: ~~Policy 3.3.3~~ Provision of Groundwater Quality Information

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall continue to work with SWFWMD and FDEP to provide property owners with information about the protection of groundwater quality.

~~-Well/Wellfield Protection~~

Objective CON-1.4: ~~Objective 3.4~~ — Wellfield Protection

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall maintain its interim wellhead protection regulations utilizing five-year time of travel zones to establish zones of contribution and develop a more comprehensive wellhead protection program within the planning period in the Land Development Code.

Policy CON-1.4.1: ~~Policy 3.4.1~~ Interim Groundwater Protection Regulations

Citrus County shall adopt ~~interim~~ groundwater protection regulations ~~shall be adopted~~ placing appropriate guidelines and restriction on land uses involving storage, use, handling, production, or transportation of contaminants within zones of protection an all wells/wellfields which withdraw or have permitted withdrawal capacity of 100,000 gallons per day or greater.

Policy CON-1.4.2: ~~Policy 3.4.2~~ Groundwater Modeling Program

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall support and assist the SWFWMD in the development of a groundwater modeling program.

Policy CON-1.4.3: ~~Policy 3.4.3~~ Wellhead Protection Plans

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall seek funding and assistance to develop site specific wellhead protection plans for the regional wellfields within the County.

Policy CON-1.4.4: ~~Policy 3.4.4~~ — Wellhead Protection Regulations

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall adopt wellhead protection regulations which utilize the findings of the modeling program to establish zones of contribution for public water supply wells.

~~-High Recharge and Wellfield Locations~~

Objective CON-1.5: ~~Objective 3.5~~ — High Recharge and Wellfield Locations

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall utilize the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Master Plan for Water Supply in determining future regional wellfield locations.

Policy CON-1.5.1: ~~Policy 3.5.1~~ Wellfield Location Identification

The Department of Public Utilities ~~Division~~, in coordination with the WRWSA and the Department of Growth Management ~~Community Development Division~~, shall develop a plan which identifies and prioritizes high recharge and future well/wellfield locations for protection and acquisition.

Policy CON-1.5.2: ~~Policy 3.5.2~~ Consideration of Multiple Use Sites

The high recharge and future well/wellfield location plan shall consider multiple use sites for protection and acquisition. These multiple uses should include but are not limited to recreation, wildlife habitat, and community services.

Policy CON-1.5.3: ~~Policy 3.5.3~~ Public Acquisition Programs

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall recognize public acquisition programs as an alternative to purchase lands for water supply and groundwater recharge.

Policy CON-1.5.4: ~~Policy 3.5.4~~ Natural Groundwater Recharge Areas

~~The Citrus~~ County will continue to seek funding to prepare an assessment and adopt programs to protect natural groundwater recharge areas.

~~-Water Conservation~~

Objective CON-1.6: ~~Objective 3.6~~ — ~~Water Conservation~~

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall continue measures to conserve freshwater resources as defined by F.A.C.

Policy CON-1.6.1: ~~Policy 3.6.1~~ Xeric Landscaping

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall adopt water conservation regulations providing recognition and/or incentives for xeric landscaping, reuse of grey and treated wastewaters, and public information.

Policy CON-1.6.2: ~~Policy 3.6.2~~ Water Conservation

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall adopt a water conservation ordinance and plan, which supports the SWFWMD water conservation rule and addresses local concerns.

Policy CON-1.6.3: ~~Policy 3.6.3~~ Treated Wastewater on Golf Courses

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall support the use of treated wastewater on golf courses and other appropriate land when feasible.

Objective CON-1.7: ~~Objective 3.7~~ — ~~Water Supply and Demand Data~~

~~The Citrus~~ County, with direction from the RWSP and assistance of SWFWMD, shall maintain estimates, project demands, and available water supplies for the planning period.

Policy CON-1.7.1: ~~Policy 3.7.1~~ Project Needs and Sources

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall establish a program in coordination with the SWFWMD and the RWSP to estimate and project needs and sources for a ten-year

period based on the demands for use and the quantity and quality of water available to meet demands.

Objective CON-1.8: ~~Objective 3.8~~ — Regional Water Supply Plan Policies

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall implement water conservation and reuse options using the policies and techniques as outlined in the 10 year Regional Water Supply Plan.

~~Flora and Fauna~~

~~-Wildlife and Habitat~~

Objective CON-1.9: ~~Objective 3.9~~ — Ecological Communities and Threatened Wildlife

~~The natural balance of ecological communities becomes altered as development increases. To arrest and reverse this trend, the County shall~~ Citrus County shall implement measures to identify and protect ecological communities and threatened wildlife.

Policy CON-1.9.1: Destruction [FROM THE OBJECTIVE]

Citrus County shall prohibit the destruction of endangered and threatened species and species of special concern, ~~shall be prohibited~~ unless mitigated pursuant to US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) regulations.

Policy CON-1.9.2: Alteration [FROM THE OBJECTIVE]

Citrus County shall prohibit the alteration of areas for which the presence on-site of endangered and threatened species and species of special concern ~~such species~~ has been documented or confirmed, ~~shall also be prohibited~~ unless the alteration of habitat may be permitted where project alternatives that would comply with the prohibition are impracticable and mitigation measures that will ensure the survival of a viable population of the affected species can be successfully implemented.

Policy CON-1.9.3: Biological Site Surveys [FROM THE OBJECTIVE]

~~The~~ Citrus County ~~shall~~ requires biological sites surveys and shall require the developer to provide assurances that the proposed development is consistent with this Objective ~~policy~~ and the standards and criteria adopted by the FWC.

Policy CON-1.9.4: Protection of Listed Species ~~[FROM THE OBJECTIVE]~~

~~Additionally, the County shall~~Citrus County shall maintain written criteria through Land Development Regulations for protection of all listed species.

Policy CON-1.9.5: ~~Policy 3.9.1~~ Prioritization of Conservation Acquisitions

~~The County shall~~Citrus County shall not take actions which have the potential to jeopardize conservation acquisitions.

Policy CON-1.9.6: ~~Policy 3.9.2~~ Prioritized Lands for State/Local Acquisition

~~The County shall~~Citrus County shall support an acquisition program to identify and recommend prioritization of environmentally endangered lands for State/local acquisition. Communities that will receive priority include scrub, sandhill, springs, and hardwood hammocks.

Policy CON-1.9.7: ~~Policy 3.9.3~~ Interlocal Vegetation Protection

~~The~~Citrus County will maintain a program to coordinate the continuing cooperation between adjacent local governments to conserve, appropriate use, and protect unique vegetative communities located within more than one local jurisdiction.

Policy CON-1.9.8: ~~Policy 3.9.4~~ Wetland Protections

~~The County shall~~Citrus County shall continue to enforce wetland protection regulations in the County Land Development Code (LDC) and revise them to reflect Ecosystem Management and Environmental Resource Protection (ERP) standards.

Policy CON-1.9.9: ~~Policy 3.9.5~~ Habitat Mitigation Criteria

~~The County shall~~Citrus County shall continue to enforce regulations and programs providing for the protection of endangered, threatened, and species of special concern, require inspections for proposed development sites and establish habitat mitigation criteria. Habitat mitigation criteria shall be designed to provide net positive improvement to the affected species.

Policy CON-1.9.10: ~~Policy 3.9.6~~ Comprehensive Ecological Inventory

~~The County shall~~Citrus County shall utilize FWC data to develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory of ecological communities, habitat conditions,

occurrences, and disturbances of endangered, threatened, or species of special concern.

Policy CON-1.9.11: ~~Policy 3.9.7~~ Agricultural Practices and Conservation

~~The~~ Citrus County will assure, through its Best Management Practices program for wildlife, that agricultural practices are compatible with the protection of wildlife and natural systems.

Policy CON-1.9.12: ~~Policy 3.9.8~~ Biological Survey Requirements

Citrus County shall require a All nonresidential development in excess of five (5) acres and new residential development via the platting process ~~shall be required~~ to have a biological survey conducted when native vegetative or ecological communities are present. The survey will utilize FWC recommended methodology. If listed species are determined to be present, preservation and/or impact mitigation shall be required prior to issuance of a final development order. The mitigation for listed species or their habitat shall be determined by the FWC, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), or USFWS.

Policy CON-1.9.13: ~~Policy 3.9.9~~ Best Practices for Landowners

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall continue development and maintain programs to encourage private land owners to use best available management practices to protect habitat of endangered and threatened species.

Policy CON-1.9.14: ~~Policy 3.9.10~~ Tree Protection

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall continue to implement and regularly update tree protection regulations in the Land Development Code ~~continue measures~~ to preserve and protect the native tree canopy and offset the loss of trees due to development and construction activities.

Policy CON-1.9.15: ~~Policy 3.9.11~~ Invasive Vegetation Removal

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall encourage and promote the removal of invasive exotic vegetation from all development sites.

Policy CON-1.9.16: Florida Wildlife Corridor

Citrus County will coordinate with local, regional, state, and national partners to conserve land in the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

~~-West Indian (Florida) Manatee~~

Objective CON-1.10: ~~Objective 3.10~~ — West Indian (Florida) Manatee

Citrus County shall protect and maintain the West Indian (Florida) manatee population in accordance with the objectives of the Research and Management Plan for Crystal River Manatees, Manatee Recovery Plan, and future protection plans prepared by the FDEP and the USFWS.

Policy CON-1.10.1: ~~Policy 3.10.1~~ — Intergovernmental Cooperation

Citrus County shall cooperate with State and Federal manatee protection efforts and grant full weight to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's jeopardy opinions.

Policy CON-1.10.2: ~~Policy 3.10.2~~ — Manatee Protection Plan

Citrus County shall maintain a Manatee Protection Plan designed to protect manatee populations.

Policy CON-1.10.3: ~~Policy 3.10.3~~ — Educational Materials

Citrus County shall disseminate educational materials on coastal and marine resource conservation and manatees in particular, ~~shall be disseminated to~~ boaters, and displayed in areas where both manatees and humans congregate.

~~Air Quality~~

Objective CON-1.11: ~~Objective 3.11~~ — Air Quality

Citrus County shall meet or exceed ambient air quality standards established by the FDEP and establish long range measures to monitor, identify, and maintain air quality at acceptable levels within the planning period in order to maintain public health.

Policy CON-1.11.1: ~~Policy 3.11.1~~ Reduction of Vehicular Emissions

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall reduce the potential for vehicular emissions by:

- 1) Encouraging planned developments and multiple use commercial centers
- 2) Requiring vegetative buffers between new transportation arterials and new residential developments
- 3) Promoting alternative transportation modes
- 4) Maintaining appropriate levels of service on arterial and collector roads
- 5) Promoting cleaner burning fuels

Policy CON-1.11.2: ~~Policy 3.11.2~~ Reduction of Air Pollution

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall develop a strategic program, with the assistance of FDEP, to identify, monitor, and reduce air pollution or maintain air quality at acceptable levels.

Soil Erosion

Objective CON-1.12: Objective 3.12 — Soil Erosion

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall reduce soil erosion and sedimentation which may result from agriculture, roadway construction, and land development, in accordance with the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) adopted practices.

Policy CON-1.12.1: Policy 3.12.1 Assisting the USDA NRCS

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall assist the USDA NRCS in activities directed towards minimizing soil erosion.

Policy CON-1.12.2: Policy 3.12.2 — Agricultural Erosion and Runoff

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall encourage best management practices for controlling soil erosion and stormwater runoff associated with agriculture uses.

Policy CON-1.12.3: Policy 3.12.3 — Soil in Development

Citrus County shall consider cCharacteristics of soil, suitability, and capability ~~shall be considered~~ in determining appropriate land uses and subdivision.

Policy CON-1.12.4: Policy 3.12.4 — Revegetation of Cleared Properties

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall adopt regulations ~~policies~~ within the Land Development Code to require revegetation of cleared properties to control soil erosion and fugitive dust.

Commercial Uses of Natural Resources

Objective CON-1.13: Objective 3.13 — Protection of Natural Resources

Citrus County shall designate conservation efforts ~~have been designated~~ to protect natural resources and ensure environmental protection of land, water, air, and wildlife. ~~To continue this objective, t~~

Policy CON-1.13.1: Commercial Uses of Natural Resources [FROM THE OBJECTIVE]

Citrus County shall maintain regulations in the Land Development Code LDC shall ~~contain provisions~~ to regulate commercial uses of natural resources in a manner which will protect socio-economic benefits while simultaneously maintaining conservation objectives.

Policy CON-1.13.2: Areas Suitable for Mineral Extraction **[FROM THE OBJECTIVE]**

Citrus County shall determine the areas ~~determined~~ to be suitable for mineral extraction ~~shall be and~~ designated appropriately on the ~~Generalized~~ Future Land Use Map.

Policy CON-1.13.3: ~~Policy 3.13.1~~ — Areas of High Mineral Resource Value

~~The Citrus~~ County ~~should~~ shall recognize the areas of high mineral resource value, and the necessary regulations providing protection for mining activities, environment, and surrounding property owners, and require adaptive reuse or reclamation of mined lands.

Policy CON-1.13.4: ~~Policy 3.13.2~~ — Vegetative Buffering

Citrus County shall establish vVegetative buffering ~~shall be established~~ by new or expanding mining operations where the location of adjacent land uses do not provide natural buffering.

Policy CON-1.13.5: ~~Policy 3.13.3~~ — Protecting Natural Resources Associated with Intensive Commercial Activities

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall include in the land development and enforcement codes provisions for protection of natural resources and the environment associated with commercial activities which utilize resources in large measure.

Hazardous Waste

Objective CON-1.14: ~~Objective 3.14~~ — Hazardous Waste

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall administer a hazardous waste management program.

Policy CON-1.14.1: ~~Policy 3.14.1~~ — Hazardous Waste Management Program

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall maintain its hazardous waste management program providing for the proper storage, recycling, collection, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste.

Policy CON-1.14.2: ~~Policy 3.14.2~~ — Protection from Radon Exposure

~~The Citrus~~ County recognizes the concerns of radon exposure and will assist State/Federal efforts to protect County residents.

Conservation and Recreation Lands

Objective CON-1.15: Objective 3.15 — Natural Reservations

Citrus County shall ~~implement procedures through the Citrus County Ecotourism Committee~~ to protect and assist in the management of natural reservations.

Policy CON-1.15.1: Policy 3.15.1 Intergovernmental Cooperation

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall assist State and Federal agencies in their management efforts relating to preservation and protection of natural reservations.

Policy CON-1.15.2: Policy 3.15.2 — Participation in State Land Acquisition Programs

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall provide technical assistance and actively participate in State land acquisition programs.

Policy CON-1.15.3: Policy 3.15.3 — State Reservations Conflicting with County Objectives

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall not seek or support State natural reservations for public uses which conflict with their respective agency objectives.

Policy CON-1.15.4: Policy 3.15.4 — Designation of Low Density Land Uses

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall designate low density land uses adjacent to natural land reservations and resource based parks where the adjacent lands are undeveloped.

Policy CON-1.15.5: Policy 3.15.5 — Crystal River Site Acquisition

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to maintain and operate ~~acquire a site in the Crystal River area for the subsequent development of~~ the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center ~~Wildlife Refuge's Manatee Interpretive/Education Center~~.

Policy CON-1.15.6: Policy 3.15.6 — Prohibition of Citrus Tract Mining

Citrus County shall prohibit ~~f~~ Further mining in the Citrus Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest ~~is prohibited~~.

Policy CON-1.15.7: Policy 3.15.7 — Development Impact on Conservation Areas

Citrus County shall require ~~d~~ Development occurring along the edges of natural reservations ~~shall to~~ be designed to protect and minimize the impact of

development on conservation areas through the use of natural vegetative buffers and clustering of structures away from the conservation area.

Policy CON-1.15.8: Citrus County Conservation Lands Program

Citrus County will consider establishing a County conservation lands program focused on strategic land acquisition that is aligned with the County's Greenprint Plan and provides long-term stewardship, and management of environmentally sensitive lands that provide ecological, recreational, and community benefits. In concert with establishing the Conservation Lands Program, the County will consider establishing a dedicated funding source.

Wetlands Protection

Objective CON-1.16: ~~Objective 3.16~~ — Wetlands Protection

Citrus County will protect and conserve the functions and values provided by wetlands so there will be no net loss of wetland functions and values due to development or other activities.

Policy CON-1.16.1: ~~Policy 3.16.1~~ — Wetlands Protection Standards

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall continue to implement wetlands protection standards of the LDC. ~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall ensure that the following steps are taken, in order, when assessing proposed activities that may result in wetland impacts:

1. avoidance of wetland impacts
2. minimization of unavoidable wetland impacts
3. compensation for wetland impacts through mitigation

Policy CON-1.16.2: ~~Policy 3.16.2~~ — FDEP ERP Permit Requirement

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall require an FDEP ERP permit and other State or Federal wetland permits prior to issuing local development permits and orders. Where no State or Federal permit is required, ~~the County shall~~ Citrus County shall require mitigation for wetlands impacts.

Policy CON-1.16.3: ~~Policy 3.16.3~~ — Prohibiting Densities Harmful to Natural Resources

Citrus County shall not allow d ~~Development shall not be allowed~~ at the maximum densities and intensities of the underlying land use district, if those densities would be harmful to natural resources.

Policy CON-1.16.4: ~~Policy 3.16.4~~ — Wetland Protection Standards

Citrus County shall maintain wetland protection standards and criteria in the Land Development Code ~~shall be prepared, included within the County's LDC. The standards and regulations shall include some combination of the following:~~

- ~~• Setbacks and upland buffers~~
- ~~• Conservation easements~~
- ~~• Compensatory mitigation~~
- ~~• Performance standards~~
- ~~• Evaluation-ranking scheme that includes wetlands type, function, and quality~~
- ~~• Drainage criteria~~
- ~~• Allowed and exempted uses~~
- ~~• Impact on Outstanding Florida Waterbodies~~
- ~~• Significant and insignificant effects of development on wetlands~~

~~For those projects which receive exemptions from State or Regional wetland rules, the concepts and principles of Ecosystem Management will be implemented on a local level to achieve environmental benefit.~~

Policy CON-1.16.5: ~~Policy 3.16.5~~ — Conservation Easements.

Citrus County shall record aAny wetland created or used in compensatory mitigation or portion of an approved development order ~~shall be recorded~~ as a conservation easement.

Policy CON-1.16.6: ~~Policy 3.16.6~~ — Mitigated Wetlands

Mitigated wetlands shall function ecologically the same as the replaced wetlands unless, otherwise directed, within an ERP or US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) permit.

Policy CON-1.16.7: ~~Policy 3.16.7~~ — Wetlands Evaluation

Citrus County shall evaluate uUniqueness of the wetland; threatened and endangered species and species of special concern; and surface and groundwater quality and quantity ~~shall be evaluated~~ for all proposed wetland alteration or mitigation.

Policy CON-1.16.8: ~~Policy 3.16.8~~ — Wetlands Definition

Citrus County shall use the most comprehensive definition possible for ~~of~~ wetlands for to be used for regulatory purposes by the County shall be the most

~~comprehensive definition possible,~~ as derived from the definition of wetlands used by the SWFWMD, the FDEP, and the ACOE, for regulatory purposes.

Policy CON-1.16.9: ~~Policy 3.16.9~~ — Utilization of State Data

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall utilize data from SWFWMD, FDEP, FWC, and other state agencies in monitoring wetland types and amounts through the planning period.

Policy CON-1.16.10: ~~Policy 3.16.10~~ — Land Uses Incompatible with Wetland Conservation

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall direct land uses which are incompatible with the protection and conservation of wetlands and wetland functions away from high quality wetlands and wetlands connected to Outstanding Florida Waterbodies.

Policy CON-1.16.11: ~~Policy 3.16.11~~ — Site Survey Wetlands Identification

Citrus County shall require a All applications for land use change ~~shall be required to~~ identify all jurisdictional wetlands on the site survey.

Policy CON-1.16.12: ~~Policy 3.16.12~~ — Density Adjacent to Conservation Areas

Parcels that include or are adjacent to conservation areas shall not receive future or current land use designations that are higher in density or intensity than the currently adopted designations unless adequate natural resource protection is ensured.

Policy CON-1.16.13: ~~Policy 3.16.13~~ — Karst Sensitive Areas

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall discourage wetland alterations within a Karst Sensitive Area, ~~as delineated by FAVAI.~~

~~Springshed Groundwater Protection~~

Objective CON-1.17: ~~Objective 3.17~~ — Groundwater Protection

~~The Citrus~~ County will establish appropriate measures to protect its springs, springsheds, and surface water contributing areas.

Policy CON-1.17.1: ~~Policy 3.17.1~~ Spring System Impact Assessment

~~The Citrus~~ County will develop and assess objective criteria by which to evaluate development for impacts to first magnitude spring systems ~~by 2009~~. Assessment of impacts may include ground water impacts, surface water impacts, upland

vegetative cover, buffers and filter strips, shoreline impacts, wetland systems, site ground area coverage, watershed level impacts, airborne emissions, and hazardous materials management.

Policy CON-1.17.2: ~~Policy 3.17.2~~ — Recharge and Groundwater Contribution Areas

~~The~~ Citrus County will identify the recharge and groundwater contribution areas, or springsheds, of the three first magnitude springs systems, Crystal River/ King's Bay, Homosassa, and Chassahowitzka.

Policy CON-1.17.3: ~~Policy 3.17.3~~ — Mapping of Lower Degree Springs

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall map all springs of second degree or lesser magnitude as part of its comprehensive watershed management master plans being developed in cooperation with the SWFWMD.

Policy CON-1.17.4: ~~Policy 3.17.4~~ — Springs Protection Regulations

~~The~~ Citrus County will develop land development regulations for springs protection which address the use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials, best management practices for turf grass and landscaping, enhanced development and parking lot standards, enhanced buffers, habitat/environmental protection standards, and other appropriate and feasible measures to minimize surface and groundwater contamination and the reduction of groundwater recharge.

Policy CON-1.17.5: ~~Policy 3.17.5~~ — Maintenance of Aquifer Recharge Areas

~~In order to maintain aquifer recharge area, the County shall~~ Citrus County shall require all new subdivisions to preserve and dedicate adequate open space, in order to maintain aquifer recharge area. Open space standards shall be as defined in Policy G&D-3.16.917.15.11.

~~a.1)~~ 1) All new subdivisions shall be required to use open space/conservation subdivision design plans.

~~b.2)~~ 2) Open space shall be encouraged to connect to adjacent open space to create networks and corridors of larger areas.

Surface Water Protection of Springs, Spring Runs and Open Sinkholes

Objective CON-1.18: ~~Objective 3.18~~ — Surface Water Protection

Citrus County shall protect the surface water quality of springs, spring runs, and sink holes open to the aquifer.

Policy CON-1.18.1: ~~Policy 3.18.1~~ — Regulation of Adjacent Development

~~The~~ Citrus County ~~shall maintain~~ ~~will develop~~ land development regulations to address development and site construction practices adjacent to springs, spring runs, and sinkholes open to the aquifer.

- 1) All lands cleared for development shall be seeded, sodded, or mulched promptly after clearing if construction has not commenced.
- 2) Erosion control barriers shall be required around the impacted area perimeters unless continuous buffers of natural vegetation of a depth of 15 feet or more exist.

Policy CON-1.18.2: ~~Policy 3.18.2~~ — Native Vegetation Buffer

During construction in the vicinity of springs, a buffer of native vegetation of 100 feet or greater shall protect uplands around springs, spring runs, and open sinkholes. When site restrictions interfere with the accommodation of a buffer, an engineered system that meets the same standards of protection may be submitted as an alternative. Spring run shall be defined as a spring fed stream flowing from its source to its confluence into a receiver river, lake, canal, or other body of water.

Policy CON-1.18.3: ~~Policy 3.18.3~~ — Prohibited Uses

Citrus County prohibits the following uses ~~are prohibited~~ from locating within 500 feet of any spring, spring run creek, sink, or contributing stream or surface waterbody (except for the Cross Florida Barge Canal):

Any new business or use classified as one of the following handler types by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection under its Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement Tracking System under the RCRA program.

Handler Types:

CLO - Closed
LQG - Large Quantity Generator
MER - Mercury Handler
OIL - Used Oil Handler
TRA - Hazardous Waste (HW) Transporter
TSD - Treater/Storer/Disposer

The following handler types are exempt:

NHR - Non-handler.

CES - Conditionally Exempt SQG

SQG - Small Quantity Generator

Policy CON-1.18.4: ~~Policy 3.18.4~~ — Landscaping Best Management Practices

Citrus County shall institute the following landscaping Best Management Practices ~~BMPs shall be instituted within new and revised planned developments~~ shall be included in the land development code to reduce nutrient loading:

- 1) Planted turf grass and landscaping on residential lots shall be limited to a maximum of 50% of the upland portion of the deeded lot
- 2) Turf grasses and landscape vegetation common to the area shall be used. Landscape vegetation shall be drought tolerant; and
- 3) All development shall require best management practices as dictated by the principles and practices of the Florida Yards and Neighborhood Program.

Policy CON-1.18.5: ~~Policy 3.18.5~~ — Golf Courses

Citrus County shall ensure all new or revised golf course siting, design, construction, and management within County ~~shall~~ be consistent with FDEP's Best Management Practices for the Enhancement of Environmental Quality on Florida Golf courses (FDEP, 2007).

Policy CON-1.18.6: ~~Policy 3.18.6~~ — Stormwater Best Management Practices(BMPs)

Citrus County shall use BMPs ~~shall be used~~ in the design of stormwater management facilities and systems. The following stormwater BMPs shall be instituted to reduce nutrient loading:

- ~~a.~~ (1) All residential development which requires on-site retention shall use swales with swale blocks or raised driveway culverts whenever possible except when soil, topography, or seasonal high water conditions are inappropriate for infiltration as determined by a professional engineer licensed in the State of Florida.
- ~~b.~~ (2) Design of stormwater systems for residential and commercial uses shall use bio-retention areas (below grade vegetated areas) to increase stormwater treatment and reduce stormwater volume. Downspouts for both residential and commercial development shall be directed from the roof to vegetated areas for uptake.

- ~~e.~~(3) Vegetated infiltration areas shall be used to provide stormwater treatment and management on all sites except when soil, topography, or seasonal high water conditions are inappropriate for infiltration as determined by a professional engineer licensed in the State of Florida.
- ~~d.~~(4) Whenever infiltration systems are not feasible, wet detention systems shall be used for stormwater treatment and management.
- ~~e.~~(5) Developments within the Coastal High Hazard Area or identified sensitive karst areas shall utilize the St. Johns River Water Management District karst sensitive criteria found in **SJRWMD Rule 40C-41.063 (7)(a) ERPS – Surface Water Management Basin Criteria and SJRWMD Rule 40C-42, Part II Criteria for Evaluation, Section 9.11 Sensitive Karst Area Basin Design Criteria.**
- (6) Sensitive karst features, including sinkholes with a direct connection to the aquifer and stream-to-sink features, shall not be utilized as stormwater management facilities. Prior to subdivision approval, all depressions will be investigated by a licensed professional using a professionally acceptable methodology for suitability of water retention using generally accepted geo-technical practices with an emphasis on identification of potential connections to the aquifer. If connections are determined to exist, the depression shall not be used for stormwater retention and the area draining to this feature under pre-development conditions shall be preserved through a conservation easement.
- ~~f.~~(7) All development approval by ~~the County shall~~ Citrus County shall require the applicant to submit to the County a copy of the SWFWMD or DEP stormwater permit and the NPDES notice of intent to be covered by the construction generic permit prior to any land clearing.
- ~~g.~~(8) All components of the stormwater treatment and management system shall be in common ownership and shall be maintained by the responsible legal entity identified in the SWFWMD or DEP stormwater permit. The studies required above shall be used to characterize on-site soils and determine locations of geologic features including sinkholes, solution pipes, depressions, and depth of soil to lime rock. Sensitive karst features like sinkholes with a direct connection to the aquifer and stream-to-sink features shall be protected.

Policy CON-1.18.7: ~~Policy 3.18.7~~ — Protection of Springs

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall protect springs by prohibiting increases in allowed land use intensity at the ~~Generalized~~ Future Land Use level within 100 feet of a spring or open sinkhole.

Policy CON-1.18.8: ~~Policy 3.18.8~~ — Springs Along the US 19 Corridor

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall evaluate adoption of land development regulations to protect springs, spring groups, and wetlands along the US 19 commercial corridor between Homosassa Springs and Crystal River.

Policy CON-1.18.9: ~~Policy 3.18.9~~ — Educational Programs for Private Landowners

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall develop and maintain programs based on Florida Yards and Neighbors (FYN) to educate and encourage homeowners and private landowners to use BMPs to protect natural habitat and to protect water quality, especially on land within the mapped recharge areas of first magnitude springs.

Policy CON-1.18.10: ~~Policy 3.18.10~~ — Educational Opportunities for Landscape Professionals

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall ~~provide~~ enhance the educational opportunities (FYN) for landscape and lawn-care professionals regarding the use and application of fertilizers and pesticides.

Policy CON-1.18.11: Fertilizer/Pesticide Applicators Certification

Citrus County shall explore the development a program that requires commercial applicators of fertilizers and pesticides to receive a certification to operate in the county.

Policy CON-1.18.12: Fertilizer/Pesticide Application Penalties

Citrus County shall explore developing penalties or remedies for commercial applicators that are not in compliance with the Fertilizer/Pesticide Applicators Certification program.

Policy CON-1.18.13: ~~Policy 3.18.11~~ — Karst Sensitive Areas

~~The County shall~~ Citrus County shall protect springs by prohibiting increases in allowed land use intensity at the ~~Generalized~~ Future Land Use level within a Karst Sensitive Area without a hydrogeological analysis that addresses impacts to groundwater resources. The analysis shall be performed by a professional geologist

or professional engineer licensed in Florida. Karst Sensitive Area shall be defined as an area in which limestone lies within five (5) feet of depth from natural grade.

Sinkholes and karst features

Objective CON-1.19: Objective 3.19 — Sinkholes and Karst Features

Citrus County shall protect ground water quality by limiting exposure to man-made hazards due to development activity around historic sinkholes and other identified karst features.

Policy CON-1.19.1: Policy 3.19.1 — Geological Investigation

Citrus County shall require a detailed geological/geotechnical investigation if there is an existing sinkhole on the proposed development or karst sensitive feature, ~~then a detailed geological/geotechnical investigation shall be required~~. This investigation must be conducted by a certified geologist or professional engineer experienced in hydrogeology and a report submitted to the County for consideration. The geologic investigation shall be comprehensive enough that recommendations for site planning, engineering design and construction techniques may be made.

Policy CON-1.19.2: Policy 3.19.2 — Prohibited Land Uses

Citrus County prohibits the following uses and activities ~~shall not~~ be located over or adjacent to an existing sinkhole unless it is determined by a certified geologist or professional engineer experienced in hydrogeology that the area is safe and that there is no subsurface connection that may cause contamination or damage to the groundwater:

- 1) Stormwater structures, other than stormwater swales
- 2) Utility structures, above or beneath ground
- 3) Buildings, structures, or impervious surfaces

No septic systems, drain fields, solid waste disposal areas, or chemical storage shall occur within five hundred (500) feet of the existing sinkhole unless it is determined by a professional geologist or professional engineer licensed in Florida and experienced in geohydrology that there is no subsurface connection that may cause contamination or damage to the groundwater:

Policy CON-1.19.3: Policy 3.19.3 — Building Setbacks

Citrus County shall include building setbacks from springs, spring runs, sinkholes, and caves in the Land Development Code ~~shall be developed~~ based on best data

available ~~by 2009~~. In the interim, a minimum 100-foot building setback shall be required. The setback shall retain natural vegetation.

Policy CON-1.19.4: ~~Policy 3.19.4~~ — ~~Setback Incompliance~~

~~Citrus County requires that~~ ~~Where~~ a lot of record ~~that~~ is unable to accommodate development in compliance with the setbacks set forth in ~~Policy CON-1.19.33-19.3~~, ~~development shall~~ follow an engineer-designed system with the building and associated paved areas located the maximum distance possible from the karst features. Any swale and berm shall be designed to direct drainage away from the karst feature.

Policy CON-1.19.5: ~~Policy 3.19.5~~ — ~~Intergovernmental Land Acquisition Efforts~~

~~The County shall~~ ~~Citrus County shall~~ support the State and SWFWMD's efforts to acquire for conservation, properties with significant springs, open sinkholes, and caves.

Policy CON-1.19.6: ~~Policy 3.19.6~~ — ~~Conditional Use Process for Non-Conformant Redevelopment~~

~~Citrus County allows~~ redevelopment of valid non-conforming lots or structures ~~to may~~ seek approval through the Conditional Use process for an engineer-designed system that mitigates the provisions of the spring's protection standards contained within the Plan.

~~Wastewater disposal in high aquifer recharge areas~~

Objective CON-1.20: ~~Objective 3.20~~ — ~~Wastewater Disposal in High Aquifer Recharge Areas~~

Citrus County shall protect ground water quality within high aquifer recharge areas by encouraging use of reclaimed water and provision of central sanitary sewer for new development.

Policy CON-1.20.1: ~~Policy 3.20.1~~ — ~~Advanced Wastewater Treatment Standards~~

~~Citrus County shall connect a~~ All development where service is available; ~~shall connect~~ to systems designed to achieve Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) standards. All development shall be served by a regional wastewater treatment facility as soon as the service is available as stated in ~~Policy PF-3.2.3 7-3.5~~

Objective CON-1.21: Natural Resource Protection [FROM COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT]

Continue efforts to protect native vegetation and ecological communities. The primary emphasis shall be on, but not limited to, upland habitat for endangered and threatened species and other environmentally sensitive communities.

Policy CON-1.21.1: Ecological Protection [FROM COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT]

Citrus County shall continue efforts to preserve and protect ecological communities by seeking dedications via the development process, fees-in-lieu of dedications to purchase land, and active coordination with federal, state, local, and regional agencies and/or private organizations to purchase these lands.

Policy CON-1.21.2: Native Habitat Preservation Standards [FROM COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT]

Citrus County shall adopt standards requiring on-site preservation of native habitat implemented through the development review process.

Policy CON-1.21.3: Habitat Preservation Subdivision Standards [FROM COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT]

Citrus County shall not approve subdivisions unless all lots proposed for development contain upland areas large enough to support the proposed activity and all required buffers and preservation areas.

Policy CON-1.21.4: Native Vegetation Utilization [FROM COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT]

The Citrus County Land Development Code (LDC) shall contain requirements that native vegetation be utilized in required buffers, setbacks, and open spaces.

Policy CON-1.21.5: Code Protection for Wildlife [FROM COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT]

The Citrus County LDC and Enforcement Code shall protect wildlife; especially endangered, threatened and species of special concern.