

GOAL CON-1

Maintain the environmental character of Palm Bay through the conservation, appropriate use, and protection of the natural resources of the City.

Objective CON-1.1

Maintain existing **air quality** which meets and exceeds the minimum air quality levels established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Policy CON-1.1A. Promote alternative transportation modes such as carpooling, public transit, bicycling, and pedestrian paths through public information programs in brochures and newsletters.

Policy CON-1.1B. The City shall promote public awareness about mass transit, car-pooling,

bikeways, park-and-ride lots, and other alternative transportation modes as a means to reduce automobile emission pollution.

Policy CON-1.1C. The City shall maintain tree protection regulations to sustain natural vegetative filters for air pollution.

Objective CON-1.2

Protect the surface **water quality** of the canals, Turkey Creek, the Indian River, and other surface water bodies to meet or exceed state and federal water quality standards.

Policy CON-1.2A. Support the Melbourne Tillman Water Control District western diversion plan.

Policy CON-1.2B. Request that the Melbourne Tillman Water Control District find long-term solutions to canal bank erosion.

Policy CON-1.2C. Protect the remaining natural retention areas in the City.

Policy CON-1.2D. Strictly enforce the provisions of the Stormwater Management Ordinance.

Policy CON-1.2E. Strictly enforce the provisions of the Driveway/Swale Ordinance.

Policy CON-1.2F. Design, manage and operate the City's public facilities, including stormwater systems, to avoid detrimental impacts on, and where possible to improve, surface water quality.

Policy CON-1.2G. The City shall coordinate with the Department of Environmental Protection and the St. Johns River Water Management District on prohibiting the removal of native vegetation in the littoral zone of surface water bodies except when necessary to provide "reasonable access" (as defined in the Regional Plan) or in a government sanctioned aquatic plant control program.

Policy CON-1.2H. The City shall give technical advice to developers and landowners on the best ways to manage stormwater.

Policy CON-1.2I. The City shall develop land use criteria and performance standards to keep hazardous industrial materials out of ground and surface waters.

Policy CON-1.2J. Establish an overlay zone for areas prone to erosion and sedimentation.

Policy CON-1.2K. Explore all reasonable means of increasing stormwater storage capacity within the City to reduce untreated discharge into Turkey Creek and the Indian River.

Policy CON-1.2L. Continue to work with the Town of Malabar to control stormwater discharge into Turkey Creek.

Policy CON-1.2M. Continue to work with the Florida Department of Transportation to control the runoff from U.S. 1 that is causing erosion on the Indian River Bluff.

Objective CON-1.3

Maintain **groundwater quality** which meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards.

Policy CON-1.3A. The City shall monitor groundwater quality in cooperation with Brevard County, the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Policy CON-1.3B. Support the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council's program of developing a regional network of local hazardous waste collection stations by providing information to the public in newsletters and brochures.

Policy CON-1.3C. Continue the strict enforcement of the location of and the construction standards of gasoline/fuel tanks as listed in the Code of Ordinances.

Policy CON-1.3D. Require new development to connect to the central sanitary sewer system when it becomes available in conformance with City ordinance and state law.

Policy CON-1.3E. Continue to strictly enforce the provisions of the City's Wellhead Protection Ordinance.

Objective CON-1.4

Maintain the **quantity of groundwater** available.

Policy CON-1.4A. Support efforts to cap and plug free-flowing artesian wells.

Policy CON-1.4B. Adopt Land Development Regulations which limit the percentage of impervious surfaces in aquifer recharge areas.

Policy CON-1.4C. Continue to implement the water conservation programs of the City of Palm Bay Utility Department.

Policy CON-1.4D. The City will assist and support the St. Johns River Water Management District Water Conservation Plan through continued enforcement of the Water Shortage Emergency Ordinance.

Policy CON-1.4E. Promote cluster development away from the primary recharge areas.

Policy CON-1.4F. The City shall continue to implement a landscape ordinance that promotes conservation practices and the use of "Florida Friendly" landscaping.

Policy CON-1.4G. The City shall consider converting City properties from potable water irrigation to reuse irrigation, where feasible.

Policy CON-1.4H. The City shall consider establishing a public education program to inform the public on water conservation techniques.

Objective CON-1.5

The City shall protect its **natural resources** from the adverse impacts of development.

Policy CON-1.5A. The City shall continue to enforce land development regulations that require the preservation of existing vegetation over the provision of new plantings.

Policy CON-1.5B. The City shall emphasize the use of native vegetation in all development projects.

Policy CON-1.5C. The City shall consider enlisting knowledgeable groups (Native Plant Society, Audubon, Sierra Club, etc.) to identify areas/species of special concern and make the information available to the public.

Policy CON-1.5D. The City shall provide information to landowners and developers regarding the availability of volunteer groups to remove and replant native plants which would otherwise be destroyed by development.

Policy CON-1.5E. The City shall preserve and protect the natural open space areas identified in the Recreation and Open Space Element.

Policy CON-1.5F. The City shall continue enforcing its ordinance prohibiting land clearing without a permit from the City.

Policy CON-1.5G. The City shall protect the rare or endangered vegetative communities identified in this element by:

- (a) encouraging the clustering of dwelling units away from sensitive parts of each ecological community;
- (b) discouraging the fragmentation of large ecological community associations; and
- (c) requiring buffering of sensitive ecological areas.

Policy CON-1.5H. The City shall require developers to preserve habitats essential to endangered, threatened, or rare plants.

Policy CON-1.5I. The City shall continue to enforce the Tree Preservation Ordinance which prohibits the planting of Beefwood, Scaly-barked Beefwood, Australian Pine, Punk (Cajeput, Malaluca), Brazilian Pepper, Castor Bean, and Eucalyptus. Removal of these plants is encouraged since they displace native species.

Policy CON-1.5J. The City shall require that all developments locate the required open space in areas of native habitat, with a special emphasis on wetland and sand-pine communities.

Policy CON-1.5K. The City shall support programs that identify and protect critical habitat for endangered and threatened species by providing data and staff assistance.

Policy CON-1.5L. The City shall require private landowners to use good management practices to protect the most desirable habitats of endangered and threatened species.

Policy CON-1.5M. The City shall use conservation easements, transfer of development rights, fee simple acquisition, zoning, or a combination of techniques, to protect environmentally sensitive lands.

Policy CON-1.5N. Seek joint funding for the acquisition of natural areas for conservation.

Policy CON-1.5O. The City shall not allow City-owned conservation areas to be developed except with passive recreational facilities such as boardwalks, interpretive trails, and similar development.

Policy CON-1.5P. The City will cooperate with adjacent local governments, i.e., Brevard County, the Town of Malabar, and the City of Melbourne, to conserve, appropriately use, and protect environmentally sensitive areas that are located in more than one jurisdiction.

Objective CON-1.6

Protect and enhance populations of endangered and threatened species of **wildlife** and their critical habitat so there is no loss of such wildlife species in Palm Bay.

Policy CON-1.6A. The City shall continue requiring the conservation of habitats essential to endangered, threatened and rare species.

Policy CON-1.6B. The City shall use of conservation easements, transfer of development rights, fee simple acquisition, land development

regulations, or a combination of techniques to protect endangered, threatened or rare wildlife.

Policy CON-1.6C. The City will cooperate with adjacent local governments to protected critical wildlife habitat located in more than one jurisdiction.

Objective CON-1.7

Conserve **wetlands** in the City and protect them from physical and hydrologic alterations consistent with the regulations of the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Policy CON-1.7A. Request dedication or apply for grants to purchase wetland areas identified through the St. Johns River Water Management District Land Use Mapping Project. Priority shall be given to Turkey Creek and the Indian River and to other relatively undisturbed wetlands and wetlands facing development pressures.

Policy CON-1.7B. The City shall continue to require review and approval by the St. Johns River Water Management District for all wetlands.

Policy CON-1.7C. Review by the St. Johns River Water Management District shall continue to include analysis of types, values, functions, sizes,

condition and locations of wetlands consistent with the guidelines outlined in their Management and Storage of Surface Waters rules.

Policy CON-1.7D. The administrative site plan review process will continue to direct land uses which are incompatible with the protection of wetlands and wetland functions away from such wetland areas.

Policy CON-1.7E. Where wetland impact does occur, mitigation shall be required consistent with the requirements of the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Objective CON-1.8

Objective CON-1.9 Continue to enforce the **Mining** Ordinance to protect the City's air quality, groundwater and surface water quality, and quality of life.

Policy CON-1.8A. Buffers shall be required between mining activities and adjacent existing and future land uses to minimize the impact of the mining to the surrounding land uses.

Policy CON-1.8B. A reclamation plan shall be approved by the City before mining activities are permitted.

Policy CON-1.8C. Mining activities shall only be permitted through conditional use approval.

Objective CON-1.9

Reduce the rate of **soil erosion** in the City.

Policy CON-1.9A. The City shall assist the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in those activities directed at minimizing soil erosion by distributing information to the public in brochures and newsletters.

Policy CON-1.9B. The City shall continue enforcing standards to prevent soil erosion, and to require onsite stabilization for exposed soils.

Objective CON-1.10

Protect the 100-year **floodplain** so that flood carrying and flood storage capacities are maintained.

Policy CON-1.10A. The City shall continue to enforce the Floodplain Management Ordinance.

Policy CON-1.10B. The City shall continue to control development in the 100-year floodplain utilizing the following criteria:

- (a) Prohibit encroachment by new construction, including fill, within any designated floodway.
- (b) Protection of human life and health shall be maximized.
- (c) Prevent the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert flood waters or which may increase flood hazards to other lands.

- (d) Determine the availability of alternative locations, not subject to flooding, for any proposed use and the necessity and importance of the facility.
- (e) The safety and access to the property in times of flood for emergency vehicles.
- (f) The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise and sediment transport of the flood waters.

Policy CON-1.1A. Policy CON-1.12A Building in the floodplain must be consistent with the requirements of the Federal Flood Insurance Program.

Objective CON-1.11

Adopt programs which will reduce the per capita consumption of **energy resources** within the City.

Policy CON-1.11A. The City will promote the use of energy efficient building practices by:

- (a) Adopting and making available to all City residents and developers technical assistance, training and marketing

documents about energy efficient building practices,

- (b) Adopting a Green Building Incentive Program to establish standards and guidelines for energy efficient building practices, including from the Energy

Efficiency chapter of the Florida Building Code,

- (c) Implementing the residential rehabilitation energy retrofit standard for the City's housing rehabilitation programs, and
- (d) Providing an expedited permitting program for energy efficient construction projects consistent with the Green Building Incentive Program adopted by the City.

Policy CON-1.11B. The City will continue to implement standards and policies to preserve conservation areas, open spaces, parks, forested

areas, treed roadways and similar areas that promote the natural sequestering of carbon dioxide and reduce the heat island effects within the City as identified in the Green Development Incentive Program adopted by the City.

Policy CON-1.11C. Maintain the Green Local Government Standard (Silver Level) certification through the Florida Green Building Coalition.

Policy CON-1.11D. Maintain the ISO 14001 certification for both the water and wastewater treatment facilities Environmental Management System standard known locally as the Greenway program designation.

Objective CON-1.12

Maintain an environmental **information** program.

Policy CON-1.12A. Expand the educational use of the Turkey Creek Sanctuary through informational brochures, articles in local newspapers, and similar methods.

Policy CON-1.12B. Produce and distribute an educational pamphlet (print and online) describing the City's natural resources and the means whereby each resident can contribute towards preserving these natural resources.

Policy CON-1.12C. The City shall assist in coordinating local environmental education efforts between the Marine Resources Council, the Melbourne Tillman Water Control District, and the Brevard County Soil and Water Conservation District/U.S. Soil Conservation Service by providing meeting facilities and data to these groups when requested.

Policy CON-1.12D. Develop educational kiosks in conservation areas.