

## **A. LAND USE ELEMENT**

### **Goal A.1**

**To effectively manage growth and development by designating areas of anticipated future development which satisfy demand where feasible, in a cost-efficient and environmentally acceptable manner. Encourage and accommodate land uses which make St. Johns County a viable community. Create a sound economic base and offer diverse opportunities for a wide variety of living, working, shopping, and leisure activities, while minimizing adverse impact on the natural environment.**

### **Objective A.1.1 Environmental Conditions**

**The County shall designate future land uses based upon environmental conditions and constraints including but not limited to: vegetation, topography, soil conditions, wildlife, aquifer recharge areas, surface waters and drainage. The County shall coordinate with state and federal agencies responsible for environmental and natural resource protection to include sharing of environmental data and studies to support the designation of appropriate land uses.**

#### **Policies**

- A.1.1.1 The County shall protect estuaries by ensuring compliance with state and federal standards for stormwater runoff and wastewater discharge into Outstanding Florida Waters, Class II and III waters through coordination between the County development review process and state and federal permitting requirements.
- A.1.1.2 The County shall protect natural resources by working closely with various local, state, and federal agencies in collecting information, coordinating development permitting and reporting violations of laws and regulations which would have a negative impact on the environment.
- A.1.1.3 The County shall research and consistently with applicable law, shall apply for state and federal grants to purchase natural resources for conservation.

## Objective A.1.2

### Control of Urban Sprawl

**The County shall control urban sprawl, characterized by leapfrog development, strip development, and low density residential over a large area.**

#### Policies

- A.1.2.1 The County shall only issue development orders or development permits consistent with the provisions of the County Concurrency Management System, as provided in the Land Development Code.
- A.1.2.2 The County shall promote infill residential development, within the Development Areas as depicted on the Future Land Use Map, near existing facilities by offering a Variable Density Factor for residential developments that are served by central water and central sewer consistent with the Variable Density Factors established through Policy A1.11.1.
- A.1.2.3 New residential developments in the Agricultural-Intensive and Rural/Silviculture districts shall be clustered pursuant to the provisions of the Planned Rural Development land development regulations.
- A.1.2.4 New stand-alone Commercial development shall not be permitted in the Agricultural-Intensive or Rural/Silviculture districts, unless, directly related to or accessory to or supportive of agricultural activities or operations, or agribusiness opportunities allowed by specific zoning districts or as defined in Policy A.1.6.9 as further defined in the Land Development Code.
- A.1.2.5 All Comprehensive Plan amendments shall provide justification for the need for the proposed amendment and demonstrate how the proposed amendment discourages urban sprawl and not adversely impact natural resources. In evaluating proposed amendments, the County shall consider each of the following:
- (a) the extent to which the proposed amendment is contiguous to an existing Development Area which has developed in a manner providing a compact, contiguous development pattern with the proposed amendment;
  - (b) the extent to which population growth and development trends warrant an amendment , including an analysis of vested and approved but unbuilt development;
  - (c) the extent to which adequate infrastructure to accommodate the proposed amendment exists, or is programmed and funded through an adopted Capital Improvement Schedule, such as the County Capital Improvement Program, the Florida Department of Transportation Five-Year Work

Program, the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Transportation Improvement Program, or will be privately financed through a binding executed agreement, or will otherwise be provided at the time of development impacts as required by law;

- (d) the extent to which the amendment will result in an efficient use of public funds needed for the provision of new infrastructure and services related to it;
- (e) the extent to which the amendment will not result in a sprawl development pattern as determined by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, and will not discourage infilling of more appropriate areas available for development within existing Development Area Boundaries; and
- (f) the extent to which the amendment will result in a sustainable development pattern through a balance of land uses that is internally interrelated; demonstrates an efficient use of land; ensures compatible development adjacent to agriculture lands; protects environmental qualities and characteristics; provides interconnectivity of roadways; supports the use of non-automobile modes of transportation; and appropriately addresses the infrastructure needs of the community.
- (g) the extent to which the amendment results in positive market, economic and fiscal benefits of the area as demonstrated through a market demand analysis, economic impact analysis and fiscal impact analysis.

A.1.2.6 The extension or expansion of utilities and roads should promote compact, contiguous development patterns.

A.1.2.7 The County shall encourage urban and suburban growth in Development Areas where public facilities and services exist. Development Areas are those areas designated on the Future Land Use Map, which depict the overall future growth pattern of the County. Areas designated R/S and A-I are not Development Areas. Comprehensive Plan amendments to add development area shall be discouraged unless the applicant demonstrates the amendment provides economic development, job creation, preservation of the natural environment, or other public benefit.

A.1.2.8 The County shall encourage infill development. Infill development is development on a vacant parcel or parcels of land within Development Areas that are surrounded by an existing built area. Compatibility of the infill development shall be considered with the development review process. Infill development shall not be considered in R/S or A-I areas.

A.1.2.9 The County shall investigate the designation of an Urban Service Area (USA) or and Transportation Concurrency Exemption Area (TCEA), as allowed by Florida Statutes, in areas where found appropriate.

**Objective A.1.3**  
**Surrounding Land Use**

**The County shall locate land uses so they are compatible and complementary.**

**Policies**

- A.1.3.1 The County shall continue to implement its Land Development Code providing standards and procedures for adequate buffers between incompatible uses. To ensure adequate buffering between incompatible uses, the County shall review and update its standards and procedures as necessary to ensure adequate buffering between incompatible uses.
- A.1.3.2 The County shall continue to implement its Land Development Code providing design guidelines and standards for developments adjacent to major roadways. To ensure appropriate design guidelines, the County shall review and update its standards and procedures as necessary to ensure appropriate design guidelines.
- A.1.3.3 The County shall provide technical assistance and information to the private sector for the redevelopment of blighted areas.
- A.1.3.4 The County shall pursue available state and federal revenue sources in order to obtain funding to improve blighted areas.
- A.1.3.5 The County shall continue to investigate the availability of Federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) as applicable, funds for housing rehabilitation and demolition and replacement housing.
- A.1.3.6 The County shall continue to use the housing abatement program for the elimination of substandard housing as funding allows.
- A.1.3.7 Commercial development along SR A1A from the Duval/St. Johns County line south to Vilano Road shall be permitted only on land zoned to permit Commercial development consistent with the uses allowed by the applicable land use designation on the Future Land Use Map, or on lands designated for Commercial on the Future Land Use Map. Additional Commercial development on lands not zoned to permit Commercial development, or on lands not designated for Commercial on the Future Land Use Map, shall only be permitted with a Comprehensive Plan amendment to the Future Land Use Map and approved through the Planned Development land development regulations. In evaluating such Comprehensive Plan amendment, the County shall consider each of the following:
- (a) the proposed Commercial development is at a size and scale compatible with the surrounding area and will not cause adverse impacts to surrounding properties or the natural environment;

- (b) adequate public facilities exist to serve the intended Commercial development;
- (c) there is a demonstrated deficiency of other available lands designated Commercial to accommodate the proposed Commercial use, and the applicant has demonstrated that a need exists for the proposed Commercial development, based on the size, scale and population of the area being served;
- (d) the proposed development will promote compact commercial centers or districts rather than a strip commercial development pattern, characterized by continuous linear commercial frontage along the roadway; and
- (e) the amendment is consistent with Policy A.1.25 and the policies contained in Objective A.1.5 of this Plan.

A.1.3.8 Commercial development of land shall not be permitted within six hundred (600) feet of the centerline of those portions of SR 13/CR 13 designated as the William Bartram Scenic Highway, except as follows:

- (a) from the Julington Creek bridge to the intersection of SR 13 and SR 16 (Shands Bridge), Commercial development shall only be permitted on those parcels of land zoned to permit Commercial development, consistent with the uses allowed by the applicable land use designation on the Future Land Use Map, and
- (b) from the intersection of SR 13 and SR 16 (Shands Bridge) to SR 207, Commercial development shall only be permitted on:
  - (i) those parcels of land zoned to permit Commercial development consistent with the uses allowed by the applicable land use designation on the Future Land Use Map; or
  - (ii) those parcels of land which, through the Planned Development land development regulations, are zoned and permitted for Neighborhood Commercial or Rural Commercial uses pursuant to the Plan's requirements and are approved for Commercial uses through a Comprehensive Plan amendment to the Future Land Use Map.
- (c) a Community Commercial Center located at the intersection of SR 13 and Racetrack Rd.; and
- (d) on lands designated Commercial on the Future Land Use Map as of the date of adoption of this Plan Amendment.
- (e) a Community Center District (CCD) located within the RiverTown DRI, along the East and West side of SR 13 and will not exceed 1,600 feet of

roadway frontage.

A.1.3.9 Commercial development along SR A1A South from the St. Augustine City Limits to the Flagler County line shall be permitted only on land zoned to permit Commercial development consistent with the uses allowed by the applicable land use designation on the Future Land Use Map, or on lands designated for Commercial on the Future Land Use Map. Additional Commercial development on lands not zoned to permit Commercial development, or on lands not designated for Commercial on the Future Land Use Map, shall only be permitted with a Comprehensive Plan amendment to the Future Land Use Map and approved through the Planned Development land development regulations. In evaluating such Comprehensive Plan amendment, the County shall consider each of the following:

- (a) the proposed Commercial development is at a size and scale compatible with the surrounding area and will not cause adverse impacts to surrounding properties or the natural environment;
- (b) adequate public facilities exist to serve the intended Commercial development;
- (c) there is a demonstrated deficiency of other available lands designated Commercial to accommodate the proposed Commercial use, and the applicant has demonstrated that a need exists for the proposed Commercial development, based on the size, scale and population of the area being served;
- (d) the proposed development will promote compact commercial centers or districts rather than a strip commercial development pattern, characterized by continuous linear commercial frontage along the roadway; and
- (e) the amendment is consistent with the policies contained in Policy A.1.2.5 and the policies contained in Objective A.1.5 of this Plan.

A.1.3.10 Commercial development along S.R. 206 from the Community Commercial Center at U.S. 1 eastward to the Intracoastal Waterway shall be permitted only on land zoned to permit Commercial development consistent with the uses allowed by the applicable land use designation on the Future Land Use Map, or on lands designated for Commercial on the Future Land Use Map. Additional Commercial development on lands not zoned to permit Commercial development, or on lands not designated for Commercial on the Future Land Use Map, shall only be permitted with a Comprehensive Plan amendment to the Future Land Use Map and approved through the Planned Development land development regulations. In evaluating such Comprehensive Plan amendment, the County shall consider each of the following:

- a) the proposed Commercial development is at a size and scale compatible with the surrounding area and will not cause adverse impacts to

surrounding properties or the natural environment;

- b) adequate public facilities exist to serve the intended Commercial development;
- c) there is a demonstrated deficiency of other available lands designated Commercial to accommodate the proposed Commercial use, and the applicant has demonstrated that a need exists for the proposed Commercial development, based on the size, scale and population of the area being served; and
- d) the proposed development will promote compact commercial centers or districts rather than a strip commercial development pattern, characterized by continuous linear commercial frontage along the roadway.
- e) the amendment is consistent with the policies contained in Policy A.1.2.5 and the policies contained in Objective A.1.5 of this Plan.

A.1.3.11 When a Comprehensive Plan amendment, rezoning or development application is considered, the County shall ensure compatibility of adjacent and surrounding land uses. Land uses, include but are not limited to permitted uses, structures, and activities allowed within the land use category or implementing zoning district. Compatibility means a condition in which land uses can co-exist in relative proximity to each other in a stable fashion over time such that no use is unduly negatively impacted directly or indirectly by another use. Compatibility does not mean “the same as“. Compatibility refers to the sensitivity of development proposals in maintaining the character of existing development and environments. The compatibility of land uses is dependent on numerous characteristics which may impact adjacent or surrounding uses. These include, but are not limited to: type of use, density, intensity, height, general appearance and aesthetics, odors, noise, smoke, dust, vibration, traffic generation, sanitation, litter, drainage, fire risk, air quality, vegetation, topography, soil conditions, wildlife, aquifer recharge, surface waters, drainage, protection of Listed Species or Essential Habitat, maintenance of public infrastructure, availability of potable water, sanitary sewer and other necessary public services and nuisances.

In order to ensure compatibility with a Comprehensive Plan amendment, the County may require the submittal of a companion rezoning application, such as a PUD, Special Use request or other application showing development of the property. Amendments that result in unreasonable negative impacts and do not provide sufficient compatibility measures should not be approved.

A rezoning request may be approved only upon determination that the application and evidence presented establish that all the proposed permitted uses are compatible with conforming land uses located on adjacent properties.

The Board of County Commissioners shall utilize the following criteria as applicable in the consideration of all rezoning requests.

1. A rezoning request shall not be approved if the proposed permitted uses are determined to have an unreasonable incompatible impact on the contiguous and surrounding area in respect to sensory characteristics such as odor, noise, vibration, and lighting, as well as non-sensory characteristics such as pollution and traffic flow.
2. A rezoning request shall not be approved if the proposed traffic flow of the proposed permitted uses have an unreasonable impact on the contiguous and surrounding area, or if the proposed traffic has an unreasonable impact upon the projected wear and tear of any public roadway designed to carry lighter traffic than proposed with the rezoning, or if the proposed traffic results in an unreasonable danger to the safety of other traffic, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
3. A rezoning request shall not be approved if any of the proposed permitted uses or proposed activities results in a public nuisance.
4. A rezoning shall not be approved if it results in urban sprawl determined by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.
5. A rezoning shall not be approved if it unreasonably or unduly impacts the natural environment.
6. With respect to the foregoing, the following factors may be considered as mitigation in order to negate a possible incompatibility:
  - a. permitted uses, structures and activities allowed within the Future Land Use designation;
  - b. building location, dimension, height and floor area ratio;
  - c. location and extent of parking, access drives, loading areas, and service areas;
  - d. hours of operation, noise levels, and lighting;



- e. roads, setbacks, buffers, fences, walls, landscaping, parks and open spaces, wetlands, conservation areas, drainage ponds, lakes, and other similar characteristics.

**Objective A.1.4**  
**Historic & Archaeological Resources**

**The County shall ensure the protection of historic and archaeological resources through the implementation of the Land Development Code.**

**Policies**

- A.1.4.1 The County shall provide technical assistance to the private sector to preserve historic resources.
- A.1.4.2 The County shall continue to implement Land Development Code provisions that provide for the protection and conservation of historic resources.
- A.1.4.3 The County shall pursue the designation of those historic resources that may be nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.
- A.1.4.4 The County shall coordinate with the Division of Historical Resources to update the Master Site File Surveys as appropriate.
- A.1.4.5 All public and private development shall be reviewed for its impact upon designated historic and archaeological resources, as required by the County Land Development Code.
- A.1.4.6 If historic or archaeological artifacts are discovered while public or private development is underway, the property owner shall cease development activities for the minimum time necessary and cooperate with appropriate agencies to allow for evaluation of their historic significance.
- A.1.4.7 The County shall consider feasible incentive-based techniques for historic and archeological preservation such as transfer of development rights, tax abatement increase in density, and waivers to certain applicable zoning requirements (setbacks, lot coverage, parking and similar requirements).
- A.1.4.8 The County may consider the establishment of Historic Districts and Neighborhood Conservation Districts, where applicable based upon the historic qualities of the neighborhoods. Such District and specific overlay standards for such Districts shall be established in the Land Development Code.
- A.1.4.9 The County shall evaluate its tax exempt program periodically.

## **Objective A.1.5 Coastal Areas**

**The County shall ensure safe evacuation of coastal areas and shall coordinate coastal area population densities with appropriate regional hurricane plans, through the implementation of the Future Land Use Plan. The County shall limit increases in population density within the Coastal High Hazard Area.**

### **Policies**

- A.1.5.1 For the purposes of this Plan, the Coastal Area shall mean that portion of unincorporated St. Johns County lying easterly of the Intracoastal Waterway and the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) as defined in Florida Statutes.
- A.1.5.2 The Coastal High Hazard Area shall have the same meaning as in Chapter 163.3178(2) (h), Florida Statutes.
- A.1.5.3 Existing evacuation routes shall be mapped and physically posted. Special consideration for improvements to these transportation facilities shall be given within the County Capital Improvement Program and in the priorities for funding for the FDOT Five-Year Work Program and TPO Transportation Improvement Program.
- A.1.5.4 The County shall update its hurricane evacuation plan and disaster preparedness plan consistent with state and federal requirements and also shall re-evaluate its effectiveness immediately after a major disaster event to recommend appropriate improvements.
- A.1.5.5 The County shall update its hurricane guide as needed, showing: evacuation routes, hurricane hazards, safety procedures, shelters, and other pertinent information for its citizens.
- A.1.5.6 The County shall not approve Comprehensive Plan amendments that increase the residential density on the Future Land Use Map within the CHHA.
- A.1.5.7 The County shall prohibit new development of adult congregate living facilities, nursing homes for the aged, total care facilities, and similar developments within the CHHA.
- A.1.5.8 The County shall support programs of land acquisition in the Coastal Area for protection of natural resources and critical dune systems.
- A.1.5.9 Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan in the CHHA shall not be approved which will result in an increase in hurricane evacuation times, without mitigation of the adverse impact to evacuation times.

A.1.5.10 The County shall implement Policy A.1.11.8 and Objective E.1.3 and related policies to ensure public health, safety and welfare in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster.

**Objective A.1.6  
Agricultural and Silvicultural Areas**

**The County shall continue to implement its Land Development Code for the protection of agricultural and silvicultural lands; the identification of rural areas, including high quality environmental areas, such as creeks, oak hammocks, floodplains and wetlands; horse pastures, historic and cultural sites, such as old farm houses, barns, packing houses and similar structures and sites; and shared neighborhood open space and scenic view sheds; and shall encourage continued agricultural and silvicultural uses; and shall provide for the separation of urban and rural land uses through the implementation of the land use categories which designate such lands according to their agricultural or silvicultural use; and through the Planned Rural Development (PRD) controls provided in this Plan.**

**Policies**

A.1.6.1 The County shall maintain the Rural/Silviculture (R/S) and Agricultural-Intensive (A-I) as depicted on the Future Land Use Map.

Unless determined an Exempt Parcel, pursuant to Policy A.1.6.3, the minimum lot size for residential development within the R/S and A-I designations is as follows:

R/S	100 acres
A-I	39 acres

This Policy shall not be construed to prevent amendments of the Future Land Use Map to redesignate lands presently classified as R/S and A-I pursuant to the requirements of this Plan and applicable law.

A.1.6.2 Residential and related development of lands designated R/S and A-I shall be consistent with the following minimum requirements:

(a) The Planned Rural Development (PRD) development controls established by this Plan and implemented through the Land Development Code. The PRD shall maintain and preserve rural characteristics and uses, high quality environmental areas, historical and cultural sites, and scenic view sheds within the R/S and A-I designations. The PRD shall include such characteristics, areas and uses within permanent Reserve Areas included in the PRD. The County shall require low impact clustered development within PRDs. Reserve areas may provide for the creation and continuation of existing farm activities, equestrian activities, pasture lands, timber production, crop and sod production, and other similar activities deemed appropriate by the County. Additional development controls shall include:

- (1) Minimum open space requirements.

- (2) Density incentives to promote clustering of development. Clustering shall include development where residential dwelling units are placed in close proximity to each other, residential units may be attached, driveways and common areas may be shared by several residential dwelling units for the purpose of retaining and providing open space areas.
- (3) Optional provisions for Neighborhood Commercial and Rural Commercial uses if the PRD contains a minimum 100 dwelling units.
- (4) Minimum buffering requirements to provide for land use compatibility.
- (5) The Reserve Area shall be the focus for the PRD, shall generally be comprised of large parcels and include rural characteristics and uses, high quality environmental areas, historical and cultural sites, and scenic view sheds as applicable to the site. At a minimum, seventy (70) percent of the Reserve Area shall be held in common ownership or be retained by a single owner engaged in a bona fide agricultural or silvicultural business.

(b) The number of dwelling units approved by a PRD rezoning change through the land development regulations shall be 500 dwelling units per calendar year. Any of the 500 units not approved in a calendar year shall not be carried forward to the next year.

(c) Parcels submitted for Planned Rural Development review shall contain two distinct areas: “Development Area” which shall include that portion of the parcel which is proposed for development at the selected density, and “Reserve Area” which shall be designated in the Planned Rural Development as permanent open space. The Development Area plus Reserve Area shall constitute the “Total Parcel” submitted for Planned Rural Development review. The density of development for the Development Area, and the relative sizes of the Development Area and Reserve Area shall be determined as follows:

<b>RESERVE AREA PERCENT OF TOTAL PARCEL</b>	<b>MAXIMUM PERMITTED DENSITY OF DEVELOPMENT AREA</b>
80 Percent	1 Unit per 2.5 Acres of Development Area
85 Percent	1 Unit per 1.0 Acre of Development Area
90 Percent	1 Unit per 0.5 Acre of Development Area

The maximum total density permitted to be developed within the Development Area shall be calculated as follows:

Total Density = Acres of Development Area Multiplied by Maximum Permitted Density.

The development permitted within the Development Area may be located, following Planned Rural Development review and subject to Planned Rural Development regulations and requirements, anywhere within the Development Area. The Development Area shall be clustered and shall transition away from the boundary of the Reserve Area and where appropriate, the perimeter boundary of the PRD. The Development Area shall permit a broad range of housing types from single family detached dwellings to multi-family residential, subject only to the maximum density established for the Development Area.

The developer of the proposed Development Area is not required to own the Total Area submitted for Planned Rural Development in fee simple. It shall be sufficient, pursuant to Planned Rural Development regulations and requirements, that the developer of proposed Planned Rural Development have, at the time of the Planned Rural Development application, sufficient property rights to the Reserve Area to allow for their restriction as permanent open space upon issuance of Planned Rural Development approval. The types and nature of such property rights, and the nature of the evidence of such rights necessary for the purposes of the Planned Rural Development application, shall be determined with the PRD review.

- (d) Except for parcels which existed as to record on September 14, 1990, the minimum parcel size (Total Area) which may be submitted for Planned Rural Development approval shall be:
  - (1) Agricultural-Intensive (A-I) - 39 acres
  - (2) Rural/Silviculture (R/S) - 100 acres

For parcels which existed as to record on September 14, 1990, the minimum parcel size in either the Agricultural-Intensive or Rural/Silviculture areas is one-half the applicable minimum parcel size listed above.

- (e) The designated Development Area shall be compact and contiguous and shall not be scattered throughout the Total Parcel submitted for Planned Rural Development approval. . The Development Area may consist entirely of uplands. The Reserve Area shall not consist entirely of wetlands; acres of uplands within the Reserve Area shall be comparable and consistent to the uplands contained within the Development Area. Further, it is the intent that the Development Area and Reserve Area be

configured in such a manner as to permit the continued farming or silviculture use of the Reserve Area, to maintain and preserve rural characteristics, and to allow maximum open space to be maintained within the Reserve Area through clustering the residential units within the Development Area.

- (f) The Development Area shall be buffered from incompatible adjacent land uses, whether such incompatible uses are located within the PRD Reserve Area or outside the PRD boundary, by a minimum two hundred (200) feet buffer. The buffer area, as determined by Planned Rural Development regulations and requirements, may be included in the Reserve Area. The buffer may be used for purposes which are not incompatible with adjacent residential development, as described and depicted in the PRD.
- (g) Proposed PRDs greater than one hundred (100) dwelling units shall be permitted to include Neighborhood Commercial uses within the Development Area, subject to the requirements of the PRD regulations and requirements. In the event the proposed PRD elects to include Neighborhood Commercial development, the Development Area's maximum permitted density shall be calculated as follows:  
  

(Acres of Development Area Less Acres of Neighborhood  
Commercial Acreage) Multiplied by Maximum Permitted Density.
- (h) Primary ingress/egress from the Development Area to external roadways shall, pursuant to PRD regulations and requirements, shall be required to be improved in accordance with County standards, and centralized, in order to minimize the number of access points to external roadways. Access points from individual lots within the Development Area to external roadway shall be avoided. Roadways internal to the PRD shall be included inside of the Development Area.
- (i) Upon final approval of the PRD pursuant to the PRD regulations and requirements, a notice of the PRD approval and designation of the Reserve Area as open space shall be placed of record to advise potential future purchasers of the PRD requirements applicable to the property. In addition, pursuant to the PRD regulations and requirements, the notice shall inform potential purchasers of the location to obtain information concerning the requirements for changing the PRD status of the property. Open space within the Reserve Area is expected to be maintained in a conservation easement.
- (j) The County may modify the requirements of a previously approved Planned Rural Development to release a Reserve Parcel from its open space restrictions only by approval of an amendment to the Future Land



Use Map, in accordance with the requirements of this Plan and applicable law.

A.1.6.3 Parcels of land designated as R/S or A-I on the Future Land Use Map recorded as of September 14, 1990 that do not meet the acreage requirement for R/S or A-I, shall be considered Exempt Parcels. Each Exempt Parcel shall be permitted one dwelling unit. Applications for building permits for more than one dwelling unit on each such Exempt Parcel will be subject to PRD regulations and requirements, except as provided in Policy A.1.6.4.

A.1.6.4 Areas designated A-I and R/S on the Future Land Use Map shall be permitted the development of tracts of land as Family Farms and Lots. Applicants for building permits pursuant to the Family Farm and Lot provision shall not be required to submit PRD applications or be subject to PRD regulations and requirements. The Family Farm and Lot provision is restricted to the following conditions:

- (a) Owners of property designated A-I or R/S shall be permitted to construct or place a single-family residence on such property for use as the Owner's primary residence.
- (b) Members of the Owner's immediate family shall be permitted to construct or place a single-family residence(s) for use as their primary residence(s) on the same parcel or subpart thereof containing the Owner's primary residence, in accordance with County land development regulations. For the purposes of this provision, immediate family shall mean the Owner's parents, step-parents, adopted parent, spouse, siblings, children, step-children, adopted children, grandchildren, and the parents, step-parents, adopted parent, siblings, children, step-children, adopted children, or grandchildren of the Owner's spouse.
- (c) The Family Farm and Lot provision shall be limited to a one time use for each family member.
- (d) Applicants shall be subject to all other applicable County land development regulations and other applicable law.

A.1.6.5 The County shall continue to investigate and coordinate with the County Agricultural Extension Office and area farmers to determine methods to preserve land used for active farms and crop production. Such methods may include a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program, Rural Land Stewardship (RLS) program, tax rebates, farm subsidies agricultural trusts, voluntary agricultural districts and similar programs.

A.1.6.6 The County shall continue its planning efforts for the Southwest Planning District. The Southwest portion of the County, from CR 208 south to the Flagler County line, east to I-95 and west to the St. Johns River/Putman County line contains

large areas of active farm and crop land. The County shall continue to investigate programs to conserve and preserve this agricultural area from intense urban and suburban development.

A.1.6.7 The County shall strive to maintain a workable viable agricultural economy and promote agribusiness operations in appropriate locations.

A.1.6.8 The County shall assist as necessary the Agricultural Extension Office in working with the farm communities in providing agritourism and agribusiness activities and to transition from traditional St. Johns County crops to specialty crops, ornamentals, flowers and similar alternatives as applicable to St. Johns County.

A.1.6.9 The County shall allow agribusiness operations within R/S and A-I as designated on the Future land Use Map and further defined by the Land Development Code. Agribusiness is defined as operations associated with active farm activities, equestrian activities, pasture lands, timber production, crop and sod production operations and may include:

- vegetable and food processing plants used for cooking, dehydrating, bottling, refining, distilling, and other methods that change a naturally grown product into another consumer use
- storage, cold storage, warehouse and transportation facilities and buildings that house and transport naturally grown crops and processed products from naturally grown crops
- winery, fruit and vegetable stands, farmers markets, agricultural product fairs and festivals and similar commercial uses
- animal husbandry, feed operations and similar uses
- sale of feed, grains, tack, animal care products, farm tools, hardware and farm supplies; does not include the sale of large farm equipment such as tractors and combines
- bed and breakfast establishments as defined in the Land Development Code
- agri and eco tourism establishments as defined in the Land Development Code
- renewable energy operations, solar farms, wood and debris recycling facilities as related to alternative fuel production operations as defined by the Land Development Code

The County shall amend its Land Development Code to establish agribusiness

development standards, which include but are not limited to; the protection of the natural environment, the provision of safe and efficient traffic circulation, adequate parking, stormwater management, and similar development standards.

**Objective A.1.7**  
**Land Development Regulations**

**The County shall continue to implement its land development regulations which assure that development is consistent with the Plan. The County shall monitor, review and amend its Land Development Code as necessary from time to time to assure the County is complying with recent regulations and development trends.**

**Policies**

- A.1.7.1 The County shall monitor and review its Land Development Code on a regular basis and amend as necessary.
- A.1.7.2 The County shall encourage and provide recommendations to private developments for the inclusion of innovative landscape design through the County’s development review process.
- A.1.7.3 The County shall protect environmentally sensitive land, defined as areas of land or water which are determined necessary by the local government, based on locally determined criteria, to conserve or protect natural habitats and ecological systems, from the impacts of development through the implementation of the Land Development Code. The County shall continue to assist in programs that assure protection and conservation of environmentally sensitive lands for future generations.
- A.1.7.4 The County shall continue to investigate land development regulations, incentives and provisions to promote infill development in those areas which, consistent with the Plan, are appropriate for such development.
- A.1.7.5 The County shall continue to investigate land development regulations that promote compact development, discourage urban sprawl and support the efficient use of land and public facilities.
- A.1.7.6 The County shall consider identifying areas within the Development Area Boundaries appropriate for infilling and establishing incentives to encourage infill development of these areas.
- A.1.7.7 The County shall continue to enforce its land development regulations, which at a minimum, contains provisions for the following:
  - (a) protection of environmentally sensitive lands;
  - (b) safe and convenient on-site traffic circulation;
  - (c) provision of adequate on-site parking;

- (d) protection of wellheads;
- (e) regulation of subdivisions;
- (f) regulations for areas subject to seasonal and periodic flooding;
- (g) drainage and stormwater management; and
- (h) provision of open space and landscaping;
- (i) regulations of roads, water and sewer infrastructure.

**Objective A.1.8**  
**Land for Utility Facilities**

**The County shall require adequate provision of land for necessary utility facilities in future development or redevelopment areas.**

**Policies**

- A.1.8.1 All development orders or development permits for future development or redevelopment activities shall be conditioned on the provision of adequate land to accommodate needed utility facilities.
- A.1.8.2 Future utility facilities shall be located to promote the efficient provision of services, minimize the cost of construction and maintenance, and minimize the impact on the natural environment.
- A.1.8.3 Water and wastewater treatment facilities shall be allowed in the Future Land Use designations as provided in Policy A.1.11.1 and subject to standards and criteria contained in the County land development regulations. The design and construction of such facilities shall protect natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas and shall be adequately buffered from all non-compatible uses.

**Objective A.1.9**  
**Mixed-Use Development**

**The County shall provide a mixture of land uses within designated Mixed Use Districts to encourage large concentrated areas of commercial, office, light industrial, residential, recreation and cultural facilities at a scale which is capable of serving large segments of the County and region.**

**Policies**

A.1.9.1 All land uses, as provided for in the County Comprehensive Plan and County land development regulations, may be included within Mixed Use Districts as designated on the Future Land Use Map, except as provided in Policy A.1.9.8. The Mixed Use Districts are intended to provide for areas that have a mixture of land uses, including commercial, light industrial, office, and low, medium and high density residential development, and are supported by urban services (e.g. central water and sewer).

Residential densities within Mixed Use Districts shall be consistent with adjacent land uses and may transition from low to high density.

Mixed Use Districts may be permitted up to thirteen (13) units per net acre plus any applicable optional, wetland or affordable housing density bonuses. Densities shall be determined on a site specific basis considering design, compatibility, infrastructure, site characteristics and other similar considerations, which may limit density appropriate to the site.

Intensity of non-residential uses shall be limited to 75% Impervious Surface Ratio (ISR) and 70% Floor Area Ratio (FAR) as further governed by Policy A.1.11.3.

A.1.9.2 Mixed Use Districts are not intended to provide for linear strip commercial development, but rather to incorporate commercial, light industrial, office, and residential uses in a manner that promotes a diversity of residential and non-residential activities in a concentrated area. It is intended that the highest land use intensities occur at the center of the Mixed Use Districts with decreasing intensity of uses proceeding outward toward the adjacent land use designations. When not appropriate, development of the Mixed Use District shall ensure compatibility with the adjacent properties. Adequate buffering can be shown to alleviate incompatibilities and protect existing community character.

A.1.9.3 To encourage a mixture of land uses, development parcels within Mixed Use Districts equal to or greater than forty (40) upland acres in size shall be required to have at least 10% Open Space and at least two uses chosen from Commercial, Office, Industrial or Residential; Commercial, Office, Industrial and/or Residential uses may range from 10% to 90% of the upland portions of the project. Wetland areas may be used to meet 10% Open Space requirements. When

residential uses are provided, the project shall include parks, recreation and open space. Residential uses may not be appropriate in all mixed use projects.

While the County requires a mixture of uses on 40 acres or greater, the County recognizes not all development sites and projects may be appropriate for mixed use development, in such cases, the County may consider a single use project on 40 acres or greater. In such cases, the applicant must justify the single use project. Such justification may include but is not limited to, the existing surrounding area is comprised of an adequate mix of uses, the proposed project is designed to achieve economic development, minimum trip generation, street interconnectivity within and outside the project site, or the single use project enhances an existing streetscape or creates a vibrant individual streetscape.

- A.1.9.4 All new development within Mixed Use Districts on parcels equal to or greater than ten (10) acres in size shall be required to apply for development approval under the provisions of the Planned Development land development regulations.
- A.1.9.5 Applicants for new development within Mixed Use Districts on parcels equal to or greater than ten (10) acres shall demonstrate through a Master Development Plan how the development will achieve a well-balanced mixture of uses with pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular systems providing interconnectivity and ensuring accessibility within and between uses. The Master Development Plan shall provide for compatibility of uses both within the development and with adjacent land parcels, and shall provide a land use program with the highest intensity uses in the center of the Mixed Use District with decreasing intensity of uses proceeding outward toward the adjacent land use designations, where compatible and applicable.
- A.1.9.6 All new development within Mixed Use Districts shall be required to be served by central water and sewer services, except for residential development that is projected to generate fewer than four (4) Equivalent Residential Connections, or non-residential development that is projected to generate less than 500 gallons per day demand of potable water or sanitary sewer service. For the purposes of this policy, central water and sewer services shall mean water and wastewater treatment provided by public or private franchised utility systems. Developments not served by central water and sewer service shall connect to central utility service when it becomes available.
- A.1.9.7 Enhanced buffers may be required at the periphery of developments within Mixed Use Districts to provide for compatibility with adjacent uses and shall be determined during the review of proposed developments.
- A.1.9.8 Within Mixed Use Districts, heavy industrial uses shall be discouraged except within established industrial parks zoned to allow heavy industrial, and shall include enhanced buffering and screening to minimize adverse impacts to surrounding land uses.



- A.1.9.9 Within the Mixed Use Zoning Districts, Solid Waste and Correctional Facilities are generally discouraged, except in areas zoned to allow such facilities and shall be subject to compatibility standards as provided in Policy A.1.3.11 and shall include enhanced buffering and screening to minimize any adverse impacts to surrounding land uses.
- A.1.9.10 The County shall investigate a mixed use zoning district in its Land Development Code.
- A.1.9.11 The I-95/SR 206 Development Area is designated by the St. Johns River Water Management District as an area of the Floridan Aquifer recharge. In order to protect the aquifer recharge within this development area, all development shall be limited in size, intensity, and use through the following provisions:
- (a) Maximum Impervious Surface Ratio (ISR) for all land uses shall be 0.60;
  - (b) Maximum intensity of non-residential development shall be 10,000 square feet of ground floor area per acre (10 KSF/acre); and
  - (c) Solid waste facilities, large quantity hazardous waste generators, Heavy Industrial, and other similar uses shall be prohibited.

**Objective A.1.10**  
**Natural Resource Protection**

**The County shall continue to implement its land development regulations, providing for Optional Density Factors established in Policy A.1.11.1 which are intended to protect natural resources.**

**Policies**

- A.1.10.1      The County shall, pursuant to the Optional Density Factors and applicable land development regulations, offer a residential density bonus for protection of open space west of SR 13 and CR 13 under the provisions of the Optional Density Factor bonus system.
  
- A.1.10.2      The County, pursuant to the Optional Density Factors and applicable land development regulations, shall offer a residential density bonus for protection of uplands under the provisions of the Optional Density Factor bonus system.
  
- A.1.10.3      The County, pursuant to the Optional Density Factors and applicable land development regulations, shall offer a residential density bonus for protection of uplands adjacent to wetlands under the provisions of the Optional Density Factor bonus system.
  
- A.1.10.4      The County may consider a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program, Rural Land Stewardship (RLS) program or similar land preservation program to protect and preserve natural areas.

**Objective A.1.11**  
**Provision of Efficient, Compact Development**

**The County shall encourage an efficient and compact land use pattern providing moderate overall densities and adequate land uses to support balanced growth and economic development.**

**Policies**

A.1.11.1 The land use designations, as depicted on the Future Land Use Map, shall permit the following land uses:

(a) **Agricultural-Intensive** and **Rural / Silviculture** shall mean those lands designated on the Future Land Use Map which are primarily intended for agriculture, silviculture, and other uses typical of rural areas. Permitted uses shall include the following as defined and controlled by the County land development regulations:

- Agricultural;
- Cultural / Institutional;
- Mining and Extraction;
- Outdoor/Passive;
- Neighborhood Public Service;
- Solid Waste and Correctional Facilities;
- Public elementary, middle schools and high schools, if located within two (2) miles of an existing Residential or Mixed Use District land use designation on the Future Land Use Map, or any new public school which is replacing an existing school serving the rural areas of the County;
- Residential uses, as permitted and regulated through the County's Land Development Code LDC), including Planned Rural Developments (PRD) as specified in the LDC and as specified in policy A.1.6.2;
- Other uses ancillary to, or supportive of, agricultural or silviculture uses or activities, and single family residential structures which are utilized by the owners of the agricultural or silviculture lands (or family members of such owners) as their primary residence;

- Family Farms and Lots as defined in Policy A.1.6.4;
  - Agribusiness and agritourism activities as defined in Policy A.1.6.9 and the Land Development Code.
- (b) **Airport District** shall mean those lands occupied by the St. Augustine Airport and may include adjacent lands within the Airport's Master Plan as designated on the Future Land Use Map. Permitted uses shall include the following as defined and controlled by the County land development regulations:
- Agriculture
  - Neighborhood Business and Commercial;
  - General Business and Commercial;
  - High Intensity Commercial;
  - Highway Commercial
  - Light and Heavy Industrial:
  - Cultural/Institutional;
  - Office and Professional;
  - Neighborhood Public Service;
  - General Public Service;
  - Regional Business and Commercial;
  - Mining and Extraction
  - Residential uses on land zoned Residential Single Family or Multi-family not to exceed the density allowed by the existing zoning as defined by the Land Development Code subject to the Airport Overlay District requirements of the County land development regulations. In no case shall the density exceed 13 units per acre.
- (c) **Commercial** – Commercial uses shall be allowed within areas designated on the Future Land Use Map as Commercial consistent with and compatible to the surrounding area and on other Commercial land use designations as described below:

(d) **Neighborhood Commercial** shall mean low-intensity commercial uses intended to serve the immediate surrounding neighborhood. Permitted uses shall include the following as defined and controlled by the County land development regulations:

- Neighborhood Business and Commercial;
- Cultural/Institutional;
- Office and Professional;
- Neighborhood Public Service;
- Multi-family Residential Units, up to 13 units per acre. When neighborhood commercial uses are planned in a Residential Future Land Use designation, the density is limited by the Residential Future Land Use designation. Such development shall be reviewed through the Planned Development land development regulations, and when constructed with commercial uses, such as apartments located on the second floor of retail shops. Density shall be determined on a site specific basis considering design, compatibility, infrastructure, site characteristics and other similar considerations, which may limit density appropriate to the site. In West Augustine, Neighborhood and Community Commercial uses may be provided in Residential Land Use designations as permitted by zoning designation and Overlay District regulations.
- Residential as an Accessory Use, defined in the Land Development Code.

(e) **Community Commercial** shall mean commercial and office uses intended to serve the surrounding community with a larger market area than Neighborhood Commercial, but of a sub-regional nature. Permitted uses shall include the following as defined and controlled by the County land development regulations:

- Neighborhood Business and Commercial;
- General Business and Commercial;
- Cultural/Institutional;
- Office and Professional;
- Neighborhood Public Service;

- Mixed Use – Community Commercial
  - Multi-family Residential Units, up to 13 units per acre. When community commercial uses are planned in a Residential Future Land Use designation, the density is limited by the Residential Future Land Use designation. Such development shall be reviewed through the Planned Development land development regulations, and when constructed with commercial uses, such as apartments located on the second floor of retail shops. Density shall be determined on a site specific basis considering design, compatibility, infrastructure, site characteristics and other similar considerations, which may limit density appropriate to the site. In West Augustine, Neighborhood and Community Commercial uses may be provided in Residential Land Use designations as permitted by zoning designation and Overlay District regulations.
  - Residential as an Accessory Use, defined in the Land Development Code.
- (f) **Intensive Commercial** shall mean highway commercial or high-intensity commercial uses, along with large office, institutional, and tourist-oriented uses which are generally incompatible with residential uses. Permitted uses shall include the following as defined and controlled by the County land development regulations:
- Neighborhood Business and Commercial;
  - General Business and Commercial;
  - High Intensity Commercial;
  - Highway Commercial
  - Cultural/Institutional;
  - Office and Professional;
  - Neighborhood Public Service;
  - General Public Service;
  - Regional Business and Commercial;
  - Regional Cultural and Entertainment
  - Mixed Use – Intensive Commercial

- Multi-family Residential Units, up to 13 units per acre. When intensive commercial uses are planned in a Residential Future Land Use designation, the density is limited by the Residential Future Land Use designation. Such development shall be reviewed through the Planned Development land development regulations, and when constructed with commercial uses, such as apartments located on the second floor of retail shops. Density shall be determined on a site specific basis considering design, compatibility, infrastructure, site characteristics and other similar considerations, which may limit density appropriate to the site,
- Residential as an Accessory Use, defined in the Land Development Code.

(g) **Rural Commercial** shall mean commercial uses intended to serve rural communities and which are compatible with rural land use densities and intensities. Permitted uses shall include the following as defined and controlled by the County land development regulations:

- Rural Commercial (uses supportive of rural communities, including general stores; establishments for the retail sale of motor fuels, bait & tackle and general supplies; roadside stands; nurseries; fish camps with accessory lodging and restaurant facilities; bed and breakfast establishments; campgrounds; Recreational Vehicle parks; hunt clubs; saddle clubs; riding academies; boarding stables; shooting ranges, and other similar uses); and agricultural manufacturing establishments as defined in the County's Land Development Regulations;
- Neighborhood Business and Commercial;
- Cultural/Institutional
- Neighborhood Public Service
- Residential as may be allowed as an Accessory Use within the County land development regulations.

(h) **Business and Commerce Park** is a development that contains a mixture of retail, office, business and/or, light industrial buildings with supporting uses. Restaurants, showrooms and similar commercial retail are allowed on a scale to serve the Business and Commerce Park. Business and Commerce Parks shall have centralized traffic circulation, access, parking, utilities, drainage, open space, similar architectural and aesthetic designs and compatibility. Permitted uses shall include the following as defined and controlled by the County land development regulations:

- Neighborhood Business and Commercial;
- General Business and Commercial;
- High Intensity Commercial;
- Highway Commercial
- Light Industrial:
- Cultural/Institutional;
- Office and Professional;
- Neighborhood Public Service;
- General Public Service;
- Regional Business and Commercial;
- Regional Cultural and Entertainment.

(i) **Conservation** shall mean lands, wetlands and tidal marsh along with adjacent upland islands and other areas as designated on the Future Land Use Map. Due to their sensitive environmental qualities, only very low-intensity uses shall be permitted subject to all regulatory permitting requirements. Permitted uses shall include:

- Water related recreational uses, including but not limited to boat ramp facilities (excluding marinas and ports), shore access facilities, fish camps, or similar low-impact water oriented facilities, provided such uses shall be subject to all applicable federal, state, regional, and local permitting requirements, and such uses shall be designed and constructed pursuant to applicable land development regulations so as to minimize the impact on adjacent natural resources and such uses shall be subject to a maximum floor area ratio of 0.10 and a maximum impervious surface ratio of 0.10, and such uses shall maintain the following minimum percentages of the proposed development site as undisturbed open space:
  - (a) for proposed development sites less than (10) acres, minimum open space of 80% of the site;
  - (b) for proposed development sites containing ten (10) acres or



more, but less than fifty (50) acres, minimum open space of 85% of the site; and,

- (c) for proposed development sites containing fifty (50) acres or more, minimum open space of 90% of the site.
- Outdoor passive or resource-oriented uses, including preservation areas, nature centers, pedestrian trails, passive parks, picnic or scenic areas, environmental interpretative centers, wildlife preserves, primitive campgrounds, and similar low impact uses, provided such uses shall be subject to all applicable federal, state, regional, and local permitting requirements, and such uses shall be subject to a maximum floor area ratio of 0.10, and a maximum impervious surface ratio of 0.10, and such uses shall maintain the following minimum percentages of the proposed development site as undisturbed open space:
  - (a) for proposed development sites less than ten (10) acres, minimum open space of 80% of the site;
  - (b) for proposed development sites containing ten (10) acres or more, but less than fifty (50) acres, minimum open space of 85% of the site; and
  - (c) for proposed development sites containing fifty (50) acres or more, minimum open space of 90% of the site.
- Aquaculture, shell fishing, and other similar uses, subject to all permitting requirements.
- Residential development limited to one (1) unit per 100 acres.
- Existing development that was lawful prior to the adoption of the Plan. Any such existing development shall be treated as a legal non-conforming use pursuant to the Plan.
- (j) **Industrial** shall mean light and heavy industrial uses along with other uses complimentary or compatible to industrial activities. Permitted uses shall include the following as defined and controlled by the County land development regulations:
  - Light Industrial;
  - Heavy Industrial;
  - Mining and Extraction;

- Neighborhood Public Service;
- General Public Service;
- Solid Waste and Correctional Facilities; and
- Residential as may be allowed as an Accessory Use within the County land development regulations.

(k) **Parks and Open Space** shall mean active and passive recreation areas, or lands permanently maintained as open space. Permitted uses shall include:

- Active and passive parks and recreational facilities, together with permitted accessory uses; and
- Public safety government facilities such as police, fire, and emergency medical facilities.
- Uses and activities allowed by an approved Federal, State, regional or local Management Plan governing activities allowed on such public lands.

(l) **Public** shall mean government owned grounds, buildings or facilities. Permitted uses shall include:

- All governmental uses or activities which are consistent with the Plan including police, fire, emergency medical facilities, public schools and government owned or leased buildings or facilities.

(m) **Residential** shall mean single-family or multi-family dwelling units appropriate to the residential densities as designated on the Future Land Use Map along with uses supportive or complimentary to residential. Permitted uses shall include the following as defined and controlled by the County land development regulations:

- Residential uses at the applicable density established by density zone as depicted on the Future Land Use Map and further defined below, together with permitted accessory uses. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to guarantee the achievement of the maximum density for any specific proposed development including the provision of any bonus or incentive that may be applicable pursuant to the Plan. The actual density achieved by a proposed development shall be established and controlled, within the maximums provided by this provision, through the application of applicable Plan policies and

implementing land development regulations, and concurrency management regulations. These additional controls may restrict the density of a proposed development to less than the maximum provided for in this provision. Density shall be determined on a site specific basis considering design, compatibility, infrastructure, site characteristics and other similar considerations, which may limit density appropriate to the site.

- Cultural/Institutional;
- Outdoor/Passive;
- Neighborhood Public Service;
- Public or private elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools;
- In Density Zone “A” and “B” designations, Neighborhood Commercial uses, approved pursuant to the Planned Development land development regulations may be appropriate on a size and scale compatible with the surrounding residential area, and further governed through Future Land Use Element Policies A.1.3.7, A.1.3.8, A.1.3.9, A.1.3.10, A.1.3.11 and A.1.11.2;
- In Density Zone “C” and “D” designations, Neighborhood Commercial and Community Commercial uses, approved pursuant to the Planned Development land development regulations may be appropriate on a size and scale compatible with the surrounding residential area, and further governed through Future Land Use Element Policies A.1.3.7, A.1.3.8, A.1.3.9, A.1.3.10, A.1.3.11 and A.1.11.2;
- In West Augustine, Neighborhood and Community Commercial uses may be provided in Residential Land Use designations as permitted by zoning designation and Overlay District regulations.
- In Density Zone “D” designation, hotels, motels and club facilities, together with ancillary commercial uses may be appropriate, when not incompatible with surrounding residential uses; and
- Agriculture uses, and agricultural support services and facilities may be appropriate when not incompatible with surrounding residential uses.

(1) Maximum Residential Density Zones for the Mainland Area are established as follows (units/acre):

<b>MAINLAND AREA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Base Density (per net acre)</b>	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.0
<b>Variable Density Factors</b>				
Planned Development Approval (PUD)	-	-	2.0	4.0
Central Water	-	-	1.0*	2.5*
Central Sewer	-	-	1.0*	2.5*
West Augustine Overlay District				4.0**
<b>Maximum Density (Base + Variable)</b>	1.0	2.0	6.0	13.0

*\*Required for Development Approval*

*\*\*In lieu of PUD Variable Density Factor*

- (2) Maximum Residential Density Zones for the Coastal Area are established as follows (units/acre):

<b>COASTAL AREA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Base Density (per net acre)</b>	0.4	2.0	2.0	4.0
<b>Variable Density Factors</b>				
Planned Development Approval (PUD)	-	-	-	2.0
Central Water	0.6	*	1.0*	1.0*
Central Sewer	-	*	1.0*	1.0*
<b>Maximum Density (Base + Variable)</b>	1.0	2.0	4.0	8.0

*\*Required for Development Approval*

- (3) Density permitted by the applicable Density Zones shall be allocated only to the net acreage proposed for development. Net acreage is defined as the total acreage of the site proposed for development less St. Johns River Water Management District or Florida Department of Environmental Protection jurisdictional wetlands, or lands designated Conservation contained within the site. Except as provided pursuant to the Optional Density Factors, wetlands shall not be assigned density.
- (4) All new development on parcels equal to or greater than ten (10) acres in size that requires a zoning change in the Density Zone “A”, “B”, “C”, or “D” designations shall be required to apply for development approval pursuant to the

County’s Planned Development land development regulations.

- (5) All new development in the Density Zone “C” or “D” designations shall be required to provide central water and sewer service for the proposed development except for residential development that is projected to generate less than four (4) Equivalent Residential Connections, or non-residential development that is projected to generate less than 500 gallons per day demand of potable water or sanitary sewer service.
- (6) All development within the Coastal Area shall connect to central sewer as provided by Florida Statutes and County Land Development Code.
- (7) Optional Density Factors shall be provided to encourage protection of natural resources. Application of these Optional Density Factors shall be as provided in the County land development regulations. Optional Density Factors are established as follows:

<b>OPTIONAL DENSITY FACTORS</b>	<b>Units/Acre</b>
Public Beach Access	2
Public Beach Parking	4
Dedication of Land for Public Benefit	2
Preservation of Open Space East of SR A1A	1
Preservation of Open Space West of SR 13	1
Preservation of Uplands Adjacent to Contiguous Wetlands	2
Dedication of Uplands Adjacent to State-Owned Navigable Waters for Public Benefit with Public Access and Parking	4
Mitigation of an Existing Non-conforming or Incompatible Land Use	2
Traditional Neighborhood Development or Green Development*	2
Wetlands Preservation	See Note 1
Affordable Housing	See Note 2

*\*Subject to approval through the Planned Development land development regulations*

**Notes:**

1. A density bonus shall be permitted equal to the lesser of: (a) ten percent (10%) of the wetland acreage preserved, or (b) ten percent (10%) of the upland acreage proposed for development, multiplied by the density permitted by the applicable residential density zone. The preservation of the wetland acreage, which is the basis for the calculation of the Wetland Preservation Factor, shall be by conservation easement, deed restriction, or other written evidence acceptable to the County.
2. For each unit of affordable housing provided within a development, one additional unit of market rate housing shall be permitted, up to a maximum overall density increase (including affordable units) of one (1) unit per net acre in Density Zone “A” and “B” designations, and two (2) units per net acre in Density Zone “C” and “D” designations.
3. Traditional Neighborhood and Green Development projects subject to approval through the Planned Development land development regulations. Green Development shall mean certified or designated developments by a Florida or nationally recognized organization acknowledged by St. Johns County.

(8) Site-Specific Limitations on Density/Intensity

- (a) The property known as the State Road 16 Property legally described in Ordinance 2006-48 (the “Ordinance”) is assigned a Residential B Future Land Use Designation under the Ordinance. The gross density of said property shall not exceed 54 residential dwelling units. Proposed changes to increase the allowed density of the subject property are subject to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, regarding large-scale amendments to comprehensive plans.
- (b) The property known as the Pacetti Property legally described in Ordinance 2006-53 (the “Ordinance”) is assigned a Residential D Future Land Use Designation under the Ordinance. The gross density of said property shall not exceed 224 residential units and 2,500 square feet of water dependent commercial use. Proposed changes to increase the allowed density of the subject property are subject to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, regarding large-scale amendments to

comprehensive plans.

- (c) The 145 acres of property located on the northeast and northwest corners of CR 210 and CR 223 as described in Ordinance No. 2005-26 (the “Ordinance”) is assigned an Intensive Commercial (IC) Future Land Use Map Designation. The development intensity of those 145 acres shall not exceed 10,000 square feet of development per acre. Proposed changes to increase the allowed development intensity of the 145 acres are subject to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida, regarding large-scale amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.
- (d) The Property known as H.E. Wolfe Trust, a 310+/-acre development, legally described below, is assigned a Residential C Future Land Use Map Designation and a Conservation Future Land Use Designation through Ordinance 2006-148. The gross density of said property shall not exceed 801 cumulative residential units and 181,603 square feet of non-residential use in perpetuity. Proposed changes to increase the allowed density of the subject property are subject to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, regarding large-scale amendments to comprehensive plans.
- (e) The property known as Wildcat/Turnbull, containing approximately 436.69 acres as legally described in Ordinance No. 2007-66, is assigned a Residential-B Future Land Use Map designation and is limited to a maximum of 813 dwelling units. Proposed changes to increase the allowed density of the subject property are subject to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, regarding large scale amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.
- (f) The property known as Bannon Lakes, a 580 +/- parcel, is being capped at a maximum of 999 residential units, 105,000 square feet of commercial space and 15,000 square feet of office space.

Conservation easements in favor of the St. Johns River Water Management District shall be established pursuant to Section 704.06, Florida Statutes, in order to preserve and maintain no fewer than one hundred-eighty (180) acres of wetlands along with adjacent

uplands. The easements shall be placed in the Public Records of St. Johns County, Florida prior to construction plan approval for any development upon the Subject Property.

- (g) The Cordova Palms DRI property legally described in Ordinance No. 2010-36 is assigned the future land use designations of Residential-C and Intensive Commercial (IC) as shown on the Future Land Use Map. Residential use on the Cordova Palms DRI property shall be limited to a maximum of 750 multi-family residential dwelling units, or some combination of single family and/or multi-family residential units that will have the same or less net impact as 750 residential units on those public facilities and services with an adopted level of service. The maximum floor area of development within the Intensive Commercial future land use designation shall be 0.75. Proposed changes to increase the allowed development density are subject to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, regarding large-scale amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.
  
- (h) The property known as the Lemberg South property legally described in Ordinance 2010-37 is assigned the future land use designations of Airport District and Industrial as shown on the Future Land Use Map. Development of the Lemberg South property shall comply with the following development standards:
  - (i) The following uses shall be permitted on the portion of the Lemberg South property designated as Airport District Land Use Category:
    - a. Agriculture
    - b. Cultural/Institutional
    - c. Neighborhood Business
    - d. General Business
    - e. High Intensity Commercial
    - f. Highway Commercial
    - g. Light Industrial
    - h. Neighborhood Public Service
    - i. General Public Service
    - j. Regional Business and Commercial;



- (ii) Heavy Industrial, Residential, and Solid Waste and Correctional Facilities Uses shall be prohibited within the Industrial and Airport District Land Use Categories of the Lemberg South property;
  - (iii) A minimum 100-foot wide natural vegetative buffer shall be provided between development within the Industrial Land Use Category and the adjacent Residential-B Land Use Category along the southeast boundary of the Lemberg South property.
  - (iv) The maximum floor area ratio of development within the Industrial Land Use Category shall be 0.22.
  - (v) The maximum floor area ratio of development within the Airport District Land Use Category shall be 0.22.
  - (vi) Proposed changes to increase the allowed development intensity are subject to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, regarding large-scale amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.
- (i) The property known as Sunshine 16 Parcel 4 legally described in Ordinance 2014-12 (the Ordinance) is assigned Residential C Future Land Use Designation under the Ordinance. The gross density of said property shall not exceed 52 residential dwelling units. Proposed changes to increase the allowed density of the subject property are subject to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, regarding large scale amendments to comprehensive plans.
- (j) A portion of the property known as St. Johns Marketplace legally described in Ordinance No. 2014-3 is assigned a future land use designation of Business and Commerce Park on the Future Land Use Map (the “Commerce Park Property”). Development of the Commerce Park Property shall comply with the following standards:
- (i) Pedestrian and vehicular connections shall be provided to create an interconnected vehicular, pedestrian, and bikeway network between parcels.
  - (ii) Centralized traffic circulation, utilities, parking, drainage, open space and similar infrastructure

shall be provided and may be shared throughout the Commerce Park Property.

- (iii) Cohesive design themes shall be included within the Commerce Park Property to ensure consistency and compatibility of the development and to enhance the viewshed of the Commerce Park Property along Interstate 95 and other major roadways. Such design themes shall at a minimum include building facades, landscaping, signage, parking-area design, and similar development techniques.
- (iv) When feasible, large parking fields shall be placed behind buildings to minimize views of large paved parking areas from major roadways. Where large parking fields are necessary and are in view of major roadways, enhanced landscaping including, but not limited to, additional canopy trees shall be incorporated into the parking lot designs.
- (v) Commerce Park Property shall be designed to avoid impacts to the wetland strand located in the center of the property.
- (k) The property known as Heritage Oaks at St Johns, legally described in Ordinance 2014-8 (the "Ordinance") assigned a Residential C Future Land Use designation under the Ordinance. The gross development of said property shall not exceed 99 residential dwelling units. Proposed changes to increase the allowed development of the subject property are subject to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, regarding large scale amendment of the Comprehensive Plan.
- (l) The property known as Bartram Park Planned Unit Development ("PUD"), containing approximately 582 acres as legally described in Ordinance No. 2014-16, is assigned a Residential B Future Land Use Map designation and is limited to a maximum of 616 dwelling units. Proposed changes to increase the allowed density of the Bartram Park PUD property are subject to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, regarding large-scale amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

- (m) The property known as Valencia Apartments legally described in Ordinance 2014-32 (the "Ordinance") is assigned a Residential D Future Land Use Designation under the Ordinance. The density of said property shall not exceed 288 multi-family residential dwelling units. Proposed changes to increase the allowed density of the subject property are subject to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, regarding large scale amendments to comprehensive plans.
- (n) The Property known as the Julington Lakes Planned Unit Development (PUD) ("Julington Lakes"), containing approximately 598.4 acres as legally described in Ordinance 2014-45 (the "Julington Lakes Ordinance"), is assigned a Residential-B Future Land Use Map designation and is limited to a maximum of 512 dwelling units. Proposed changes to increase the allowed density of the subject property are subject to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, regarding large-scale amendments to Comprehensive Plan.
- (o) The property known as Durbin Creek National The property known as Durbin Creek National (COMPAMD 2014-07), a 1,624 acre parcel (the "Property"), has existing Future Land Use Designations of Intensive Commercial and Rural/Silviculture pursuant to St. Johns County Ordinance *No.* 2000-68. The portions of the Durbin Creek National Property designated Intensive Commercial shall be developed with a mixture of Commercial/Shopping Center, Office, Hotel and Residential uses. The portion of the Property with a future land use designation of Rural/Silviculture is part of the 1,500-foot Durbin Creek corridor (measured 750 feet from the center line of Durbin Creek). The timber rights for this area will expire in 2025 and upon expiration, the Rural/Silviculture future land use area will become conservation area through a Comprehensive Plan Amendment, conservation easement or similar mechanism. The Property is included in the Durbin Creek National Urban Service Area boundary, as depicted on the St. Johns County Future Land Use Map, pursuant to Section 163.3164(50), Florida Statutes, and shall be exempt from development of regional impact review pursuant to Section 380.06(29)(c)(3), Florida Statutes.

The Property is also subject to a Development Agreement between Durbin Creek National, LLC and St. Johns County dated February 3, 2015, which Development Agreement sets forth details related to development of the Property and related transportation, school and parks/recreation mitigation. Because the Property contains predominantly commercial and office uses, scenic edges provided pursuant to Comprehensive Plan Policy A.2.1.4 may be 30 feet for non-residential uses adjacent to arterial and major collector roads and shall provide sufficient landscaping to enhance the aesthetic character along such roads, as described in Policy A.2.1.4.

- (n) **New Town** – as provided in Objective A.1.19 of this Comprehensive Plan.
- (o) **Town Center Mixed Use District** – as provided in Goal A.3 and Objectives 3.1 and 3.2 and related polices.
- (p) **Mixed Use District**
  - Neighborhood Business and Commercial;
  - General Business and Commercial;
  - High Intensity Commercial;
  - Highway Commercial
  - Light Industrial:
  - Heavy Industrial subject to Policy A.1.9.8
  - Agricultural uses when not incompatible with the surrounding area.
  - Solid Waste and Correctional Facilities when not incompatible with the surrounding area and subject to Policy A.1.9.9.
  - Cultural/Institutional;
  - Office and Professional;
  - Neighborhood Public Service;
  - General Public Service;

- Regional Business and Commercial;
- Regional Cultural and Entertainment.
- Residential up to 13 units per acre

A.1.11.2 Neighborhood and Community Commercial uses provided within Residential Land Use designations as depicted on the Future Land Use Map, and as provided in Future Land Use Element Policy A.1.11.1, may be permitted under the following conditions:

- (a) the development is approved through the Planned Development land development regulations if a rezoning of the property is required to allow Neighborhood or Community Commercial uses;
- (b) the commercial use is provided at a size and scale compatible with the surrounding residential area;
- (c) the proposed development will promote compact commercial centers or districts rather than a strip commercial development pattern, characterized by continuous linear commercial frontage along the roadway.
- (d) Notwithstanding A.1.11.2 (a) above, in West Augustine, Neighborhood and Community Commercial uses may be provided in Residential Land Use designations as permitted by zoning designation or Overlay District regulations.

A.1.11.3 In addition to all other applicable Plan policies and requirements, the intensity and bulk of the types development listed below shall, without limitation, be additionally controlled by the establishment of a maximum impervious surface area. Impervious surface area shall include, at a minimum, that portion of a proposed development site which is covered by buildings, pavement or other improvements through which water cannot penetrate. Impervious Surface Ratio (ISR) shall be as defined in the Land Development Code. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to guarantee the achievement of the maximum ISR for any specific proposed development including the provision of any bonus or incentive that may be applicable pursuant to the Plan. The actual ISR achieved by a proposed development shall be established and controlled, within the maximums provided by this provision, through the application of applicable Plan policies and implementing land development regulations, and concurrency management regulations. These additional controls may restrict the ISR of a proposed development to less than the maximum provided for in this provision. The Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is determined by the numerical value obtained by dividing the gross floor area of the building by the area of the lot on which the building is constructed. This determines the maximum building size allowed on a

specific lot. The FAR establishes the development characteristics on a particular lot. The maximum Impervious Surface Ratio (ISR) and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for the listed land use classifications shall be established as follows:

<b>LAND USE</b>	<b>Maximum ISR<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>FAR<sup>12</sup></b>
Residential <sup>6</sup> - Residential – A - Residential – B - Residential – C - Residential – D	0.70 0.70 0.70 0.70	50% <sup>10</sup> 50% <sup>10</sup> 50% <sup>10</sup> 50% <sup>10</sup>
Commercial - Neighborhood Commercial <sup>1</sup> - Community Commercial <sup>2</sup> - Intensive Commercial - Rural Commercial <sup>1</sup>	0.70 0.70 0.75 0.60	50% 50% 50% 50%
Industrial	0.75	70%
Mixed Use Districts <sup>3</sup>	0.75	70%
Town Center Mixed Use District	0.75	80%
Hotel, Motel, and Club Facilities Located in Residential “D” Density Zones	0.75	50%
Parks, Recreation and Open Space <sup>4</sup> - Active - Passive	0.50 0.20	20% 10%
Public Buildings, Facilities and Grounds and Non-Commercial Community Facilities <sup>5</sup>	0.70	70%
Agribusiness Operation <sup>7</sup>	0.60	50%
Business and Commerce Park <sup>8</sup>	0.75	70%
Rural/Silviculture (R/S) <sup>9</sup>	0.60	70%
Agricultural – Intensive (A-I) <sup>9</sup>	0.60	70%
Airport District (AD) <sup>11</sup>	0.70	70%

**Notes:**

1. In addition to the maximum ISR and FAR, these uses are also limited in intensity to a maximum of 10,000 square feet of floor area per acre (10 KSF/acre).
2. In addition to the maximum ISR and FAR, these uses are also limited in intensity to a maximum of 12,000 square feet of floor area per acre (12 KSF/acre).

3. In the event of a conflict between the maximum ISR and FAR for an individual land use classification and the maximum ISR and FAR established for Mixed Use Districts, the ISR and FAR for Mixed Use Districts shall control. The actual maximum ISR achieved by developments proposed within Mixed Use Districts shall be additionally subject to the Plan's applicable Mixed Use District policies, and controls established through the implementing land development regulations. Mixed Use Districts are further governed by Objective A.1.9 and related Policies.
4. Project types are varied, and range from large passive recreation open space to smaller urban type and water-oriented active recreational facilities. See also separate ISR and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) standards for recreation uses in Conservation areas.
5. In the event a lower ISR is established for the individual use or land use classification in which the public facility or use is located, then the lesser ISR shall control.
6. In addition to the Maximum ISR and FAR, residential developments in Residential - A and Residential – B, are subject to maximum lot coverage by all buildings at 0.25 unless the individual zoning district is less. Residential developments in Residential – C and Residential – D are subject to maximum lot coverage by all buildings at 0.35 unless the individual zoning district requires less. For Planned Developments, the above lot coverage standards shall apply to the overall development parcel; however, no maximum coverage on any individual residential lot by all buildings shall exceed 0.65 in any Residential Planned Developments.
7. Agribusiness operations are further governed through Policy A.1.6.9 of this Plan and the Land Development Code.
8. Business and Commerce Parks are further governed through Policy A.1.11.1 of this Plan and the Land Development Code.
9. Development in R/S and A-I is further governed through Objective A.1.6 and related Policies in this Plan and the Land Development Code.
10. Applies to Non-residential development.
11. Airport District uses are further governed through the Land Development Code.
12. See Policy A.3.2.6 for ISR and FAR established for preservation of Historic structures in the Vilano Beach Town Center Mixed Use District.

13. Deviations to allow development to exceed the ISR and FAR in the Vilano Beach Town Center Mixed Use District shall only be allowed where there are practical difficulties in meeting the requirements. Deviations shall be subject to a nonzoning variance or waiver review and approval in accordance with the provisions established in the Land Development Code.

A.1.11.4 All County land development regulations, including zoning, subdivision regulations, and Zoning Atlas shall be subordinate to the County Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map.

A.1.11.5 The exact boundaries of the land use designations on the Future Land Use Map may require interpretation in order to determine the appropriate land use designation of various parcels and lots. When necessary, the following criteria shall be used to establish the location of a specific boundary and to allow minor deviations, if not clearly delineated on the Future Land Use Map:

- (a) The closest parcel or lot line when a land use designation boundary splits a specific parcel or lot. This provision will carry additional weight if the portion of the split lot or parcel is precluded from development as defined by the Land Use Element. However, in no instance shall a boundary line be extended more than two hundred (200) feet to incorporate the entire parcel or lot. A specific boundary line may not be extended more than one time unless changed by a Comprehensive Plan amendment.
- (b) In the absence of a nearby parcel or lot line, any geographic, manmade, or environmental features which serve as natural boundaries (e.g. roads, canals, streams, wetlands, municipal boundary, or township, range, section lines). However, in no instance shall a boundary line be extended more than two hundred (200) feet. A specific boundary line may not be extended more than one time unless changed by a Comprehensive Plan amendment.
- (c) The landward boundary of tidal marsh designated Conservation shall be the mean high water line and shall also include those upland islands located waterward of the mean high water line of the tidal marsh. The exact landward boundary of other areas designated Conservation lands on the Future Land Use Map shall be determined by a field survey performed pursuant to applicable regulatory requirements.

A.1.11.6 The County recognizes that the Plan's Objectives and Policies sometime serve to support competing interests. Accordingly, in such instances, and in the absence of a mandatory prohibition of the activity at issue, it is the County's intent that the Plan be construed as a whole and that potentially competing Objectives and Policies be construed together so as to render a balanced interpretation of the Plan. It is the further intent that the County interpretation of the Plan, whether by County staff, the Planning & Zoning Agency, or the Board of County



Commissioners, shall be afforded appropriate deference. County interpretations of the Plan which balance potentially competing Objectives and Policies shall not be overturned in the absence of clear and convincing evidence that the County interpretation has misapplied the Plan construed as a whole.

A.1.11.7 In the event of a conflict between any of the Maps and the text of the Plan, the text of the Plan shall control.

A.1.11.8 Existing uses of land which, following adoption of the Plan, are not consistent with the Future Land Use Map designation of this Plan shall become non-conforming land uses under this Plan. Continued use or development of non-conforming uses shall be subject to the non-conforming use provisions of the St. Johns County land development regulations, except for the following:

(a) structures damaged by natural disaster, accidental fire or other disastrous force may be reconstructed within the pre-disaster footprint and within the same pre-disaster dwelling units, height and square footage, subject to compliance with current health and safety requirements established in the Land Development Code and the Building Code. Such request to reconstruct must be made within two years of the natural disaster, accidental fire or other disastrous force.

(b) existing non-conforming residential structures may be allowed to add patios, balconies, decks, and similar accessory uses up to a cumulative maximum 100 square feet; such addition shall not remove the nonconforming status of the structure and such addition shall be in compliance with the land development regulations and permitting requirements with respect to such issues as setbacks, lot coverage, etc.

A.1.11.9 The County shall continue to review and analyze traffic capacity and the extent of needed road network within the Northwest Sector. The County shall review and analyze funding mechanisms from new development and other sources. The County will also identify the strategies that it may employ to address the overall transportation needs of the area, including DRIs and such other sources as impact fees, infrastructure sales tax and the sources listed in Florida Statutes. The County will not be required to commit to any one approach for transportation funding.

**Objective A.1.12  
Dredged Spoil Disposal Sites**

**The County shall provide sufficient land for dredged spoil disposal and shall establish standards for new disposal sites consistent with the Plan.**

**Policies**

- A.1.12.1 The County shall consider standards for designation of dredged spoil disposal sites in the County land development regulations based on following site selection criteria:
- (a) sites should be located near waterways to be dredged;
  - (b) preferred sites should be areas that have been previously altered or disturbed containing non-native vegetation;
  - (c) sites should not abut residential land uses unless sites are sufficiently large to adequately buffer the residential areas;
  - (d) sites should not support Essential Habitat, Listed Species or contain historically significant resources;
  - (e) sites should not contain wetlands, unless the wetlands are degraded/non-functional, and the wetland impacts are mitigated
  - (f) sites shall be approved by all agencies that have jurisdiction over these facilities.
- A.1.12.2 The County shall coordinate with the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) for the future planning and locations of spoil disposal sites to ensure the availability of appropriate sites.

**Objective A.1.13  
Community and Neighborhood Creation and Preservation**

**The County shall protect or enhance existing communities and neighborhoods, and create new communities and neighborhoods that have a high quality of life, promote a sense of place, and are sustainable through strategies that provide civic, historical, recreational, and educational opportunities, and that support the diversification of the economic base and promote healthy social interrelationships.**

**Policies**

- A.1.13.1 The character of existing neighborhoods and surrounding areas shall be considered in the approval of land development proposals, as provided in Policy A.1.3.11.
- A.1.13.2 Land development proposals shall consider the provision of civic gathering places/sites (e.g. performing arts pavilions, open air plazas, markets, common areas, fountains) within proximity to communities and neighborhoods.
- A.1.13.3 Mixed Use Districts and Planned Developments shall provide criteria that supports the use of innovative land use patterns such as New Urbanism, Traditional Neighborhood Development, Sustainable Communities, and Smart Growth. Provisions shall be included for promotion of human scale, pedestrian-friendly streets, a variety of housing opportunities, interconnectivity of neighborhoods, underground utilities, passive and active recreation, town centers that include civic spaces, and greenways for recreation and the protection of environmental resources.
- A.1.13.4 The County shall promote the redevelopment of areas through the support of programs and grant applications (e.g. Main Street, Waterfront Redevelopment) for such redevelopment.
- A.1.13.5 The County shall partner with the Tourist Development Council, Chamber of Commerce and other applicable groups to promote the establishment of eco-cultural opportunities and provide incentives to preserve, restore or establish historic, cultural and environmental resources.

**Objective A.1.14**  
**Public School Location Planning and Siting**

**The County shall coordinate with the School District for the planning and siting of new public schools.**

**Policies**

- A.1.14.1 The County shall coordinate with the School District in the school site selection process to encourage the location of new schools within areas designated for development on the Future Land Use Map.
- A.1.14.2 The County shall collaborate with the School District on the siting of County facilities such as parks, libraries, and community centers near existing or planned public schools, to the extent feasible.
- A.1.14.3 New public schools shall be located within land use designations as provided in Policy A.1.11.1.
- A.1.14.4 Public schools should be sited so as to provide direct access from the County or State Collector or Arterial roadway system.
- A.1.14.5 The County shall coordinate with the School District to ensure that pedestrian and bicycle facilities are provided adjacent to school sites to allow safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- A.1.14.6 Elementary and middle schools should be located and planned so as to allow adjacent residential uses easy access to the school site through roadway, pedestrian, and bicycle connections.
- A.1.14.7 High schools should be located and planned so as to provide sufficient buffers to adjacent residential uses and ensure sufficient on-site parking and traffic controls to avoid disruptive traffic congestion.

**Objective A.1.15**  
**Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Review**

**The County shall have a mechanism for review and amendment of the Comprehensive Plan.**

**Policies**

- A.1.15.1 St. Johns County shall provide for the amendment of the Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 163, F.S. Applications to amend the Future Land Use Map may be submitted by the owner, or agent for the owner of property proposed for redesignation; by the County; by the Planning & Zoning Agency; or by the Board of County Commissioners. Applications to amend other portions of the Comprehensive Plan may be submitted by any interested party, by the County, by the Planning & Zoning Agency, or by the Board of County Commissioners. The County shall establish an appropriate fee for the review of the proposed amendments.
- A.1.15.2 Applications requesting amendment to the Comprehensive Plan or Future Land Use Map shall be evaluated based upon criteria which shall include, but not be limited to the following:
- (a) consistency with the Goals, Objectives and Policies of the St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan;
  - (b) consistency with the Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan;
  - (c) impacts on public facilities and services;
  - (d) environmental impacts; and,
  - (e) compatibility with surrounding areas.
  - (f) the need to modify land uses and development patterns within antiquated subdivisions.
- A.1.15.3 The County may amend the Comprehensive Plan according to applicable law.
- A.1.15.4 Pursuant to applicable law, the County shall evaluate the effectiveness of the Comprehensive Plan. As applicable, the County may prepare and consider adoption of amendments to the Plan as identified in the evaluation.

**Objective A.1.16**  
**Private Property Rights**

**The County shall adopt land development regulations that are consistent with the protection of private property rights and shall not take private property without just compensation.**

**Policies**

- A.1.16.1 St. Johns County shall regulate the use of land only for valid public purposes in a reasonable manner, in accordance with due process, and as allowed by law.
- A.1.16.2 Consistent with Chapter 125 and Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, St. Johns County shall give adequate public notice to landowners of any application to change the Future Land Use Map designation or zoning category of their land.
- A.1.16.3 The County shall ensure, in accordance with the applicable Florida Statutes, and consistent with applicable law, that nothing contained in this Plan including, but not limited to, the Future Land Use Map and the Land Use Element, shall be interpreted to limit or modify the rights of:
- (a) any person to complete development of any Development of Regional Impact which has received a final local development order approved pursuant to Chapter 380, Florida Statutes prior to the effective date of this Plan Amendment; or
  - (b) any person to complete a development which has been properly issued a final local development order and development has commenced and is continuing in good faith prior to the effective date of this Plan Amendment.
  - (c) any person to complete a development in accordance with vested rights for such completion under applicable Federal or State; constitutional, statutory, or common law.
- A.1.16.4 Any person may seek a County determination of vested rights to complete a development in accordance with previously effective laws, ordinances, or regulations; including but not limited to this Comprehensive Plan, using procedures set forth in the County Land Development Code.

**Objective A.1.17  
Public Participation**

**The County shall provide opportunity for public review and comment of all Comprehensive Plan amendments.**

**Policies**

- A.1.17.1 All Comprehensive Plan amendments and the Evaluation and Appraisal Report shall be available for public review in appropriate County buildings and on the County website prior to the Planning & Zoning Agency and Board of County Commission public hearings for their review. .
- A.1.17.2 The Planning & Zoning Agency and Board of County Commission will hold publicly advertised hearings on all Comprehensive Plan amendments to solicit public input. These hearings will be advertised in local newspapers of general circulation, as required by applicable law. The County may in addition advertise in a specific newspaper that serves the affected area.
- A.1.17.3 The County shall use its Neighborhood Bill Rights (NBR) process to encourage public participation.

**Objective A.1.18.  
Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs)**

**St. Johns County shall review and regulate Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs) pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 380, Florida Statutes, Chapter 28-24, Florida Administrative Code (FAC) Rule 9J-2 and applicable local ordinances.**

**Policies**

A.1.18.1. St. Johns County shall adopt Development of Regional Impact (DRIs) land use designations which depicts DRIs that were approved prior to the adoption of the 1990 Comprehensive Plan and the Future Land Use Map. Any existing DRI that adds a land use not approved in the original DRI shall constitute a land use amendment change.

A.1.18.2. The Caballos Del Mar DRI was approved prior to the adoption of the 1990 Comprehensive Plan with the following land uses:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Marina
- Golf Course
- Resort Village
- Community Support / Recreational
- Hotel

Adding a land use to the DRI shall require a Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

A.1.18.3. The Saint Johns DRI was approved prior to the adoption of the 1990 Comprehensive Plan with the following land uses:

- Residential
- Office
- Retail
- Industrial / Warehouse
- Golf Course
- Hotel Rooms
- PGA Hall of Fame

Adding a land use to the DRI shall require a Comprehensive Plan Amendment.



A.1.18.4. The Julington Creek DRI was approved prior to the adoption of the 1990 Comprehensive Plan with the following land uses:

- Residential
- Institutional
- Commercial
- Office
- Open Space

Adding a land use to the DRI shall require a Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

**Objective A.1.19**  
**New Town Development**

The New Town Future Land Use designation means a new urban activity center and community designated on the Future Land Use Map and located within a rural area or at the rural-urban fringe, clearly functionally distinct or geographically separated from existing urban areas and other new towns. New Towns shall be of sufficient size, population, and land use composition to support a variety of economic and social activities. New Towns shall include basic economic activities, major land use categories, and a centrally provided range of public facilities and services. New Towns shall be based on a master plan and provide a clear distinction between the New Town and surrounding land uses.

The New Town Future Land Use designation shall guide development into a series of clearly identified and distinct villages that together form a larger New Town. Within the New Town there is a clear hierarchy of development types utilizing neighborhoods as the basic development unit. Several neighborhoods and one or two village centers combine to form a village, and several villages form a New Town. A central village functions as the Town Center Village, and includes the main employment shopping, and cultural activities for the New Town. Villages shall have central focal points of higher densities and intensities that create an identity and a sense of place. The planned mix of uses of New Towns shall help to provide a positive fiscal impact for the County. New Towns shall offer a wide range of housing choices, including affordable housing.

The New Town Future Land Use category may be requested for any Development of Regional Impact that meets the policies set forth herein. The Board of County Commissioners may approve or deny any New Town on a project-by-project basis, after the New Town review.

**Policies**

A.1.19.1 **IN GENERAL.** The New Town Future Land Use designation means a new urban activity center and community designated on the Future Land Use Map and located within a rural area or at the rural-urban fringe, clearly functionally distinct or geographically separated from existing urban areas and other new towns. New Towns shall be of sufficient size, population, and land use composition to support a variety of economic and social activities. New Towns shall include basic economic activities, major land use categories, and a centrally provided range of public facilities and services. New Towns shall be based on a master plan and provide a clear distinction between the New Town and surrounding land uses.

New Towns shall be required to apply for development approval as a Development of Regional Impact and the County's Planned Development land development regulations and must submit a master internal circulation plan for approval. The master circulation plan shall depict the traffic circulation system

including the pedestrian, bicycle, and other non-automobile transportation networks. The traffic circulation system shall also include interconnectivity to the Town Center Village and interconnectivity to the villages, neighborhoods, and employment centers. Interconnectivity shall also be provided between the New Town and adjacent property. Interconnectivity principles are described in Policies A.1.19.8 and A.1.19.9.

Land uses within areas designated as New Town on the Future Land Use Map may include Rural/Silviculture, Commercial (including Neighborhood Commercial, Community Commercial, Intensive Commercial, and Rural Commercial), Conservation, Industrial, Mixed Use, Parks and Open Space, Public, and Residential. The New Town category is intended to provide for areas of commercial, light industrial, office, and varying residential density development supported by urban services, such as but not limited to the provision of central water and sewer which creates development that is compact, mixed use, human scale, and provides a balance of land uses to reduce automobile trips and increase livability.

The overall residential density within a New Town shall be between 3 and 8 units per net developable residential acre. Net developable residential lands include all lands that are not wetlands, conservation areas, golf courses, or reserved for nonresidential purposes.

A.1.19.2 **MINIMUM SIZE.** The New Town Land Use designation may be used throughout the County to encourage sustainable communities. The minimum size for a New Town shall be 2,500 acres. All applicable St. Johns County, regional, State, and Federal rules and regulations shall apply to New Town development.

A.1.19.3 **OVERALL MIX OF USES.** To encourage a mixture of land uses, the following mixed use goals are established for the total developable land area within the New Town category as designated on the Future Land Use Map. At least 35% of lands within a New Town development shall be reserved for Open Space/Conservation lands and shall preserve a connected system of environmentally sensitive and passive recreation areas that will form a greenway system. The greenway system will serve the additional goal of surrounding and defining villages and the Town Center Village. At least 15% of this open space component must be uplands. For purposes of New Town, open space/conservation is defined as undeveloped natural areas of land that is provided for public uses. Greenways, wetlands, and similar natural areas are open space/conservation. Open space/conservation does not include parks, golf courses, and other designated recreational lands.

**Table 1: New Town Land Uses (percentage of net developable acres)<sup>1</sup>**

Use	Minimum
Residential	40%
Workplace (retail, service, office, industrial.) <sup>2</sup>	5%

Notes: <sup>1</sup> Net developable acres would include all areas within villages and Town Centers, and would exclude Open Space/Conservation/Greenway lands.

**Table 2: Residential Uses (percentage of residential units)**

Use	Minimum
Residential Single-Family	50%
Residential Multi-Family	30%

A.1.19.4 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING.** New Towns shall provide for a wide range of housing choices, including but not limited to the provision of small lot subdivisions, garage and accessory apartments, which may be located throughout the New Town. Multi-family housing shall be provided within, the Town Center Village and village centers. New Towns shall provide affordable housing serving the needs of very-low, low and moderate income households. Affordable housing provisions shall be provided within the DRI Development Order or equivalent review process. The developer is encouraged to provide a minimum of 50 percent of the intended affordable housing within the New Town and 50 percent within a twenty minute drive time from the New Town. The developer may reduce the minimum by up to 30 percent by contributing to the County's affordable housing efforts. In no case, shall the affordable housing within the New Town be less than 20 percent of the intended affordable housing units.

A.1.19.5 **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION.** In considering whether a proposed amendment to the Future Land Use Map to designate an area as a New Town, the County shall consider the environmental characteristics of the proposed site and require that the Applicant provide data and analysis regarding potential environmental impacts, including, but not limited to impacts to wetlands, sub-surface waters, and surface waters and the presence of plant and animal species that are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as threatened, endangered, or as a species of special concern., Significant environmental characteristics will be incorporated into the New Town design, particularly into the greenway system. At least 35% of lands within a New Town development shall be reserved for Open Space/Conservation lands and shall preserve a connected system of environmentally sensitive and passive recreation areas that will form a greenway system. The greenway system will serve the additional goal of surrounding and defining villages and the Town Center Village. At least 15% of this open space

component must be uplands. Open Space/Conservation shall not include parks, golf courses, and recreation lands.

- A.1.19.6 **PROVISION OF LANDS.** At a minimum, New Towns shall provide land for libraries, fire stations, local government annexes, school sites and similar public uses and shall provide minimum park acreage equivalent to Comprehensive Plan LOS requirements. Principle civic uses shall be located within the Town Center Village. Elementary schools shall be located in village centers. Any provision of lands will be determined with the DRI review or equivalent review process.
- A.1.19.7 **FISCAL ANALYSIS.** As part of the Comprehensive Plan amendment, New Towns shall provide a cost -benefit analysis addressing the New Town's economic impact to the County.
- A.1.19.8 **COMMUNITY FORM.** New Towns shall develop within compact and well-defined villages. Villages shall be surrounded by greenways, golf courses, natural and manmade features that provide for edges and shall be designed with identifiable character. Elementary and middle schools, community and neighborhood parks shall be sized and located to define neighborhoods or a cluster of neighborhoods. Other public use places, such as libraries, civic centers, community clubs, museums, performing arts centers and similar uses shall be located adjacent to schools where feasible. Neighborhoods shall be compact, pedestrian friendly, environmentally friendly, and have a mix of housing types. Higher density housing and higher intensity non-residential uses shall be located within the Town Center Village. New Towns shall be designed to achieve a diverse housing and economic mix, including housing for very low, low and moderate incomes. Workplace/Employment Centers and Commercial uses shall be provided to encourage a job to housing balance and create a balance that shall sustain the economic health of the New Town. Transportation and mobility within the New Town shall be provided through a series of interconnected streets and provide access to the arterial and collector transportation system. Villages shall be interconnected with a street system including a pedestrian/bikeway system and shall provide access to the Town Center Village. A grid street pattern shall be used where feasible and where appropriate, considering environmental, buffering, and land use constraints. Interconnectivity to adjacent parcels of land outside of the New Town shall be provided. A pedestrian/bikeway system shall be provided throughout the New Town. Alleys may be included in the New Town and may serve a variety of purposes.
- A.1.19.9 **SPECIFIC USE STANDARDS.** The following standards shall be required based on the size and scale of the development. The specific design of the New Town shall be provided in the Planned Development Master Development Plan.

Retail - At a minimum, 50 square feet of retail space per dwelling unit designed to serve the development shall be provided in a Town Center Village and in village centers. Retail uses shall be located and designed to encourage alternate

transportation through urban design, such as sidewalks and related streetscaping. Retail uses within village centers shall be of limited scale and intensity to ensure compatibility with the low-intensity character of the predominantly residential villages.

Civic - At a minimum, 30 square feet of civic space per dwelling unit shall be required in Town Center Village of which up to 50 percent may be outdoor plazas, gardens, fountains, and similar outdoor gathering places. At a minimum, each Village shall provide 5 square feet of civic space per dwelling unit of which 50 percent may be outdoor plazas, gardens, fountains, and similar outdoor gathering places. Civic buildings include community centers, libraries, museums, auditoriums, government buildings and similar public places.

Workplace/Employment Center - At a minimum, 150 square feet of workplace space per dwelling unit designed to serve the development shall be provided in a Town Center Village and in village centers. Workplace can include office or industrial uses.

Greenways - Greenways shall be in the form of linear connected natural corridors that will serve jointly as a greenway system that bound and define villages. Greenways will serve as conservation areas for habitat preservation and also provide passive recreation areas for walking, bicycling, birding, and other low intensity recreation activities. Greenways shall include a variety of vegetative communities, significant environmental features and environmentally sensitive areas. The greenway system will serve the additional goal of surrounding and defining villages and the Town Center Village. At least 15% of this open space component must be uplands. Greenways shall be mapped on the DRI and Planned Development Master Development Plan and shall be deed-restricted to the Property Owners Association or Community Development District, or their successors, in the PUD.

Pedestrian/Bicycle System - A pedestrian/bicycle system consisting of sidewalks, bike paths, and/or trails shall link villages to each other and the Town Center Village. Bike paths and sidewalks will allow for safe non-automobile travel and a system of greenway trails will serve both recreation and pedestrian/bicycle travel needs of the residents.

Transit Design - Project design shall accommodate potential internal transit and links to external transit. Land shall be set aside for transit purposes. Future potential transit stops should be located in the Town Center Village, close to high density residential developments, and in or near the village centers.

Vehicular Interconnectivity - The street network shall be designed to provide connectivity between uses within villages and between villages. Connections of major streets to existing or planned streets outside villages shall be provided although this will occur on a more limited basis due to the need to limit impacts to

wetlands and/or greenways/greenbelts. Interconnections between villages shall be supplemented by pedestrian and bicycle paths. Within villages, the street network shall create a hierarchy of interconnected streets to allow access between neighborhoods.

Housing Density - In order to encourage walking, biking and other forms of non-vehicular transportation, New Towns shall provide for higher density in and around the Town Center and Village Centers. A minimum of sixty-six percent (66 %) of the residential dwelling units shall be located within one-half (1/2) mile of the Town Center Mixed Use Core and Village Centers.

Miscellaneous Design Guidelines - Basic standards shall apply to the New Town to ensure an attractive image and human-scale design principles, as represented by the following examples. The specific design of the New Town shall be provided in the Planned Development Master Development Plan.

- a) Sidewalks shall be required on both sides of all streets. A separate sidewalk, separated from the roadway by a landscape strip, may be used to satisfy this requirement for arterial roadways. Sidewalks are not required for cul-de-sacs with less than five residential lots.
- b) Bicycle lanes are required on both sides of collector and arterial roads. A separate bike path, separated from the roadway by a landscape strip, may be used to satisfy this requirement for arterial and major collector roadways.
- c) Street tree location shall be guided by a master tree plan. A master tree plan is required and shall be provided with the Planned Development.
- d) Varying lot sizes within blocks shall be allowed to encourage a variety of housing types. Similar housing design and front lot facades are discouraged within same street blocks.
- e) Specific design criteria shall be developed for lots with more than one structure, including garage apartments.
- f) The road network within villages should emphasize the use of two-lane neighborhood streets in a connected road pattern, rather than four-lane or wider arterials and streets. Neighborhood streets shall use traffic calming design standards to slow traffic to a reasonable speed that does not negatively affect neighborhood safety and viability. Such traffic calming design may include but is not limited to the installation of traffic circles, narrow travel lanes, the installation of sidewalks between trees and the streets, and the allowance of on-street parking.
- g) Collector roads linking villages shall be designed as parkways, with

landscaped medians and sides.

- h) All project utilities shall be underground.
- i) An overall signage program shall be adopted. An overall signage program is required and shall be provided with the Planned Development.
- j) Access control measures shall include medians on collector roadways which limit left turns and limit curb cuts.
- k) Residential and non-residential developments shall be linked by streets, sidewalks, and in some cases by separate systems of pedestrian, bike, and/or golf cart paths.
- l) Alleys may be utilized throughout the New Town. Alleys may serve a variety of functions.
- m) On-street parking shall be allowed on local streets and within the Town Center Village and Village Centers. On-street parking shall be designed to promote traffic calming, pedestrian use, and shopping convenience, including but not limited parallel and angle parking.
- n) Sidewalks and bicycle paths shall be of sufficient width to accommodate multiple users.
- o) Elementary schools shall be accessed by local streets, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and shall be allowed in or adjacent to village centers and in the Town Center Village, provided that such local streets provide adequate access as is needed by the School District.

A.1.19.10 **TOWN CENTER VILLAGE.** The Town Center Village is intended to serve as the cultural, shopping, employment and civic center for the New Town, and shall include a mixture of office uses, and higher density residential uses surrounding a mixed-use core. The Town Center Village shall include a mixed-use retail core, as further described in Policy A.1.19.11. Allowable uses within the Town Center Village may consist of the following: Rural/Silviculture (on areas as yet to be developed), Neighborhood Commercial, Community Commercial, Intensive Commercial, Conservation, Industrial (except Heavy Industrial, Mining and Extraction, Solid Waste and Correctional Facilities), Public, and Residential. The mixed-use core shall have the characteristics of a downtown. The size of the Town Center Village shall be between 15 and 30% of a project's net developable lands. The following standards shall govern the Town Center Village:

**Table 3: Town Center Village Residential Use Mix (percentage of Units)**

Use	Minimum
Residential Single Family	10%



Residential Multi-Family	30%
--------------------------	-----

**Table 4: Town Center Village Nonresidential Use Mix (percentage of square feet)**

Use	Minimum
Retail/Personal Service	10%
Office	40%

Land Uses - The following Town Center Village land uses shall be allowed and shall be subject to design standards that will ensure ongoing market success as well as provide a human scale development design:

Traditional Neighborhoods - Traditional Neighborhoods shall be allowed within the Town Center Village as described herein. Traditional neighborhoods shall be designed with grid streets, street trees, sidewalks, uniform street, lighting, front porches, alleys, short blocks, architectural variety, and limitations on the appearance and location of garages. . Each development shall have an overall net residential density that is between 4 and 6 units per acre. Permitted uses include single-family detached residential, accessory apartments, guest houses, home occupations, home offices, and neighborhood parks. Multi-family structures and limited retail, service, and professional office are also allowed.

Multi-Family Uses. Multi-Family uses may include apartment, townhome, or condominium developments.

Nonresidential Uses. The Town Center Village generally serves as the employment center and multi-family housing area and surrounds the retail/civic Main Street. Permitted nonresidential uses include retail and service uses, light industrial uses, professional and corporate offices; civic/governmental uses; and community parks.

Town Center Village Standards - Basic standards shall apply to the Town Center Village as represented by the following examples:

a) Human-scale guidelines shall be adopted, including but not limited to:

Street trees along pedestrian pathways, sidewalks, and similar areas, in accordance with the Master Tree Plan.

Unified Town Center Village signage program. An overall signage program is required and shall be provided with the Planned Development.

Identification of appropriate maximum and minimum building and block dimensions for various situations, uses, and locations (not applicable to campus office uses).

- b) The primary stormwater treatment for the Town Center Village will consist of a master stormwater management system.
- c) Interconnectivity of pedestrian and vehicular routes throughout the Town Center Village to encourage multi-modal circulation.
- d) Flexible setbacks and performance standards shall be developed for specific uses and locations.
- e) Guidelines and performance standards shall encourage the use of shared facilities and infrastructure, including parking.

A.1.19.11

**TOWN CENTER VILLAGE MIXED-USE CORE.** Town Center Village Mixed-Use Core - The Town Center Village Mixed-Use Core is a pedestrian-oriented "Main Street" area of retail, service, office, residential, and civic uses. The following design standards will be applied to this area. The mixed-use core shall be a minimum size of 20 acres and not exceed a maximum size of 150 acres. The Town Center Village Mixed Use Core shall be arranged in a manner that emphasizes pedestrian-oriented design (with buildings fronting the sidewalk and street, short blocks, wide sidewalks, street furniture, and similar requirements). The following standards shall govern the Town Center Village Mixed-Use Core:

**Table 5: Town Center Village Mixed-Use Core Use Mix Table (percentage of net developable acres)**

Use	Minimum
Nonresidential	65%
Residential	10%

**Table 6: Town Center Village Mixed-Use Core Nonresidential Use Mix Table (percentage of square feet)**

Use	Minimum
Retail/Personal Service	40%
Office	20%

Town Center Village Mixed-Use Core Standards - Basic standards shall apply to the Town Center Village Mixed-use Core as represented by the following examples:

- a) The Town Center Village mixed-use core shall be laid out in the form of a gridiron to allow for dispersion of traffic and to promote walkability.
- b) Street furniture and hardscape will be used to encourage pedestrians.
- c) Overhangs, porches, awnings, arcades, and colonnades shall be

encouraged.

- d) Wide sidewalks will be required for main shopping streets.
- e) Main shopping streets will mainly be served by on-street parking. On-site parking for uses on main shopping streets will not be allowed unless it is in the rear of a building. Such parking areas should be accessed by local streets and/or rear alleys, not on-site driveways.
- f) Building entrances will be required for pedestrian access from adjacent sidewalks.
- g) Upper level residential units shall be encouraged with ground-level retail, office, and similar business activities.

A.1.19. 12 **VILLAGES.** Village identity shall be strengthened through a generally compact form, a distinctive name for each village, and clear village boundaries outlined by adjacent greenways. The following standards for Villages shall not apply to the Town Center Village, which is governed by Policy A.1.19.10. A village shall contain distinct neighborhoods that will each have a central neighborhood park, which shall be called the neighborhood commons. The maximum size for a village shall be 1000 acres. At least 10% of a village shall be retained in open space/conservation areas. The following residential types shall be allowed within villages:

Low Density Residential - Low-Density Residential uses shall be located outside of the Village Centers. Low-Density Residential developments shall have an overall net residential density that is between 1 and 2 units per acre. Permitted uses include single-family detached residential, accessory apartments, guest houses, golf courses, home occupations, home offices, and neighborhood parks.

Medium Density Residential - Medium Residential Uses may be located inside and outside of Village Centers. Medium Density Residential developments will have an overall net density that is between 2 and 6 units per acre. Permitted uses include single-family detached residential, accessory apartments, guest houses, small-scale multi-family uses, golf courses, home occupations, home offices, and neighborhood parks.

Traditional Neighborhoods - Traditional Neighborhoods shall be allowed in or adjacent to defined Village Centers as defined in Policy A.1.19.13. Traditional neighborhoods shall be designed with grid streets, street trees, sidewalks, uniform street lighting, front porches, alleys, short blocks, architectural variety, and limitations on the appearance and location of garages. Traditional Neighborhoods shall not be located in peripheral areas of the villages. Each development shall have an overall net residential density that is between 4 and 6 units per acre. Permitted uses include single-family detached residential, accessory apartments,

guest houses, home occupations, home offices, and neighborhood parks. Multi-family structures and limited retail, service, and professional office are allowed in conjunction with performance standards.

Parks - All dwelling units shall be within 1/4 mile of a park or greenway. No dwelling units may be more than 1/2 mile from a park. Each neighborhood shall have a central area with a neighborhood commons.

Accessory Apartments - Accessory apartments shall be allowed in all neighborhoods with guidelines that ensure uses are not intrusive, limited in size and scale, and are allowed only in conjunction with individual owner-occupied single-family dwellings.

Home Office and Home Occupation - Home-based businesses will allow and encourage residents to work out of their homes which may result in reduced peak travel demand. Standards for home office and home occupations shall be provided with the Planned Development. All home offices and home occupations shall be required to apply for an occupational license prior to operation of the home office or home occupation.

A.1.19.13 **VILLAGE CENTERS.** Village centers are mixed use districts within villages that serve the civic and limited shopping needs of a village. Limited intensity and human-scale retail, service, and office uses are allowed, as well as small-lot single-family detached residential homes and accessory apartments, guest houses; home occupations, home offices; multi-family uses; elementary schools; civic/governmental uses; and community parks. Up to two village centers shall be allowed in each village, located either in a central area or at the main entrance to the village. The maximum size for a village center shall be 75 acres. Depending upon the village population and proximity to the Town Center Village shopping and services, Village Centers shall have varying levels of intensity and density. All villages shall have community parks, civic spaces, and/or commons, including at least one community building that shall be constructed by the developer during the first two years of residential development within a village.

**Table 7: Village Center Use Mix Table (percentage of net developable acres)**

Use	Minimum
Nonresidential	45%
Residential	10%

A.1.19.14 **Comprehensive Plan Amendment.** For all developments processed as New Town Land Use amendment, the Comprehensive Plan amendment to designate the development as a New Town on the Future Land Use Map must be accompanied by a text amendment that establishes the allowable uses and mix of land uses for the approved New Town. For New Towns which are approved as a Development of Regional Impact under Chapter 380.06, Florida Statutes, the DRI

Application for Development Approval, sufficiency responses, and DRI Development Order for any New Town are recognized as the supporting data and analysis for the New Town land use designation on the Future land Use Map.

- A.1.19.15 **Nocatee Development of Regional Impact.** The Nocatee Development of Regional Impact complies with the provisions of Objective A.1.19 and its related policies through the DRI Development Order as a mixed use community that includes a mix of residential, retail, office, light industrial, hotels, churches, schools, civic and recreational uses. The allowable uses and mix of uses within the Nocatee Development of Regional Impact is as set forth in the Development of Regional Impact Development Order dated February 23, 2001, Resolution No. 2001-30 as may be modified by a Notice of Proposed Change pursuant to Section 380.06(19), Florida Statute.
- A.1.19.16 Amendments adopted on March 25, 2003 pursuant to the Mediation Settlement Agreement between St. Johns County and the Florida Wildlife Federation (Resolution No. 2001-212, adopted November 6, 2001) shall not apply to the Nocatee DRI as approved by Resolution No. 2001-30, dated February 23, 2001.

**Objective A.1.20**  
**Greenway, Blueway & Trails**

**The County shall consider its Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan as a guide when reviewing new development and in obtaining grant funds.**

**Policies**

- A.1.20.1 All new development shall use the St. Johns County Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan as a guide in the planning and design of the new development, in providing access and interconnectivity between adjacent lands and within the new development.
- A.1.20.2 All new development that lies within or adjacent to the trails depicted on the Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan shall be reviewed for internal and external connections.
- A.1.20.3 When acceptable to the property owners, the County may consider dual use of utility corridors for greenway, blueway and trail connections and crossings. Such utility corridors may include but not limited to drainage easements, stormwater retention areas, gas pipeline easements, private trail connectors, mitigation sites, buffers and/ easements (which are not required to remain undisturbed), scenic edges, development edges, water and sewer transmission lines easements; telephone, cable and fiber-optic communication easements; overhead electric transmission and distribution lines and existing road crossings.
- A.1.20.4 The County shall update the Greenway, Blueway & Trail Master Plan when determined necessary. The update shall at a minimum show development in and adjacent to the trails, connections, dual use connections, scenic edges, federal, state and locally publicly acquired parklands and conservation lands, mitigation sites and any other publicly owned lands that is utilized as greenways/blueways.
- A.1.20.5 St. Johns County shall coordinate with federal, state, regional and local governmental agencies on the greenway and blueways and trails planned in St. Johns County when these new greenways, blueways and trails are adjacent to or connect to such federal, state, regional owned lands or to adjacent local governments.
- A.1.20.6 The County may consider land development regulations, that include but not be limited to the use of incentives, such as but not limited to, density bonuses, transfer-of-development rights, impact fee credits, park and open space credits and tree credits for new developments that set-aside land within a greenway and blueway.

**Objective A.1.21**  
**Economic Development**

**The County shall enhance the economic diversity and prosperity of its citizens through economic development opportunities, expansion and diversification of the County’s Tax Base.**

**Policies**

- A.1.21.1 St. Johns County shall encourage recruitment of businesses and industries to enhance the County’s economic base. Emphasis will be placed on attracting businesses that create new high-wage opportunities for the citizens of St. Johns County.
- A.1.21.2 St. Johns County recognizes existing large and small businesses and industries are vital to the economy. Retention and expansion of existing businesses and industries is an important component for the overall diversification of the economic base. Retention and expansion of existing businesses and industries shall be an integral part of the County’s economic development program.
- A.1.21.3 St. Johns County recognizes Business and Commerce Parks, Mixed Use Areas and Industrial areas as economic assets to the community. The County shall place importance on large and small businesses that locate or expand within these areas.
- A.1.21.4 The County shall review its purchasing policies to provide maximum opportunity for increased participation by local and small businesses.
- A.1.21.5 St. Johns County shall initiate efforts and support efforts of other agencies to obtain grant monies (e.g. Community Development Block Grants) and other funds designed to assist local economic development projects.
- A.1.21.6 St. Johns County shall support and participate in, when appropriate, the efforts of the Northeast Florida Regional Council in the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).
- A.1.21.7 St. Johns County shall continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Council, Industrial Development Authority and other organizations to locate appropriate economic development uses in areas with adequate infrastructure.

**Objective A.1.22**  
**Energy Conservation**

**The County shall implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures to reduce energy consumption and promote energy conservation, carbon reduction, green building and economic development.**

**Policies**

- A.1.22.1 The County shall continue to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures to reduce energy consumption in the County's fleet management, operations, building construction and maintenance programs.
- A.1.22.2 The County shall promote energy saving techniques through the public information program established by Policy C.1.7.2. The County shall continue to enforce the Florida Energy Efficiency Code through the Development permit review and approval process.
- A.1.22.3 The County shall promote energy conservation by supporting alternative forms of transportation through the programs established in Policies F.1.1.1, B.1.5.3 and B.1.6.2.
- A.1.22.4 The County shall promote energy conservation by supporting alternative energy resources including biofuel, solar and wind and ensure that Land Development Regulations (LDRs) do not prohibit their use.
- A.1.22.5 The County shall encourage the research, development, demonstration and application of alternative energy resources, particularly renewable energy resources by allowing agribusiness renewable energy operations, solar farms, wood and debris recycling facilities as related to alternative fuel production operations consistent with Policy A.1.6.9 and by ensuring the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) do not prohibit the use of alternative energy resources, where appropriate.
- A.1.22.6 St Johns County public buildings shall be constructed with cost-effective efficiency construction standards and whenever feasible, shall meet or exceed standards set forth by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, the Green Building Initiative's Green Globes rating system, the Florida Green Building Coalition standards or a nationally or state recognized, high-performance green building rating system as approved by the Florida Department of Management Services.
- A.1.22.7 The County shall encourage that all private buildings constructed in the County be constructed to meet the United States Green Building Council (USGBC)



Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, the Green Building Initiative's Green Globes rating system, the Florida Green Building Coalition standards or a nationally or state recognized, high-performance green building rating system as approved by the Florida Department of Management Services.

- A.1.22.8 The County shall consider amendments to modify the Land Development Code establishing Low Impact Development standards.
- A.1.22.9 The County shall continue to ensure that its vehicle fleet is used efficiently and is energy efficient by analyzing work priorities, standardizing the size, type and number of vehicles as may be necessary to meet functional requirements and, where possible, rotate between high and low utilization and work areas to maximize vehicle life/cost per mile/reliability, energy conservation and reduction of harmful emissions.
- A.1.22.10 Upon its completion, St. Johns County will investigate the Florida Residential Retrofit program to determine applicability in the retrofitting of older homes in St. Johns County in order for these homes to become more energy efficient. The County may investigate a long term market-based program that offers a whole-house approach for reducing energy use.
- A.1.22.11 Consistent with the State's initiative to improve the sustainability of Florida's energy production and consumption patterns and to minimize the County's own carbon footprint, the County shall identify opportunities and funding for local implementation of renewable energy options that apply to the built environment, infrastructure, utilities and transportation sectors, using the Florida Green Building Council, Green Local Government Standard as a guide.

## **Goal A.2**

**To ensure that the Northwest Sector of St. Johns County will grow in the form of complete communities and neighborhoods within a framework of connected development edges and recreational trails, an orderly roadway and transportation circulation system, that will sustain and provide a high quality of life, protection of the natural environment, a sound economy, efficient movement of goods, services, and people and provide a healthy social and cultural environment for all residents. For the purpose of this Goal, the Northwest Sector shall be defined as the area of St. Johns County bounded by Duval County, the St. Johns River, CR 208, and Interstate 95.**

### **Vision Statement**

The Northwest Sector Overlay provides St. Johns County with a community planning approach to respond to regional growth trends that are creating a sprawl development pattern of single use and disconnected residential “bedroom” subdivision development within the Northwest Sector. The Northwest Sector Overlay allows St. Johns County to make development decisions in the context of complete and sustainable communities and to understand the impact of the growth trends on community patterns, community life cycles, the environment, economy and transportation networks.

Natural environmental features within the Northwest Sector and the goal to provide an interconnected transportation network guide the Northwest Sector Overlay vision. Environmental features will be incorporated into conservation areas, greenways, greenbelts, open space and recreation areas to create a development pattern that accommodates sustainable development while protecting the rural character held sacred by residents.

Proper design using the following goals, objectives and policies will allow a balance between development and the natural environment and adhere to the following Vision Principles:

- Creation of a development edges and recreational trails system that connect the associated uplands, wetlands, recreational areas, and greenbelt corridors.
- Provision of scenic edge along designated roadway corridors to maintain the rural character of existing and future roadways.
- Recognition of the need for compatibility between new and existing development within the Northwest Sector.
- Balance a variety of land uses and housing to reduce reliance on the regional roadway network.
- Improve jobs-to-housing balance within the Northwest Sector of St. Johns County.

- Provide commercial centers that include commercial, civic, cultural and recreational uses designed at a human scale and provide a sense of place.

**Objective A.2.1**  
**Northwest Sector Overlay**

**St. Johns County shall utilize the Northwest Sector Overlay in the Northwest Sector to realize the planning vision and promote a legacy of sustainable communities based on neighborhoods for all residents while assuring compatibility between the environment, new development, and existing residential areas.**

**Policies**

**A.2.1.1 Northwest Sector General Administrative**

- (a) The Northwest Sector shall be developed with neighborhoods and communities that are served by commercial support uses, schools, parks and open spaces and civic spaces.
- (b) The Northwest Sector shall be developed with an orderly compact planned interconnected transportation network with an interconnected network of scenic edges and development edges and recreational trail system. Commercial support uses may be developed in nodes along intersections of Major Collector or arterial roadways. Neighborhood Commercial uses may be located Minor Collector intersections within a nodal pattern. Strip commercial development is prohibited.
- (c) New development or rezoning, which increases the potential density and/or intensity of the sites within the Northwest Sector shall be submitted and reviewed pursuant to the planned development land development regulations, the Northwest Sector Overlay Map and the goals, objectives and policies contained herein.
- (d) Priority for mitigation of environmental impact within the Northwest Sector, shall be to enhance connectivity among connected wetlands, recreational areas and parks, scenic edges, development edges and recreational trails within the Northwest Sector. All wetland impacts and subsequent mitigation are subject to compliance with all applicable County, regional, State and Federal permitting requirements.
- (e) New development within the Northwest Sector shall use a community planning approach that requires public participation from residents and landowners within the proposed new development's defined community impact area.
- (f) New development within the Northwest Sector may be required to identify and reserve land or provide appropriate mitigation for the following public facilities and services, if it is determined that the proposed new development has an impact on the public facilities and services.

- (1) Right-of-way for limited access, arterial, major collector, and other roads as designated on the Northwest Sector Overlay Map.
- (2) Water and wastewater treatment facility sites.
- (3) Regional parks, community parks, and neighborhood parks.
- (4) School sites.
- (5) Police, emergency medical services and fire station sites.
- (6) Public library sites.
- (7) Right-of-way for bikeways and recreational trails.

Impact fee credits may be requested for the provision of the public facilities and services pursuant to the requirements established in the County Impact Fee Ordinances. In lieu of impact fee credits, the Board of County Commissioners may consider incentives in exchange for these public facilities lands. Such incentives may include but not limited to additional density, flexible setbacks or an accelerated timing and phasing of development.

- (g) The County may use other methods of acquiring Rights of Way for County roadways that may be allowed by law.
- (h) The County may require special studies if deemed necessary to sufficiently review the amendment.
- (i) Within the Northwest Sector, St. Johns County supports the protection of agricultural and silvicultural lands. The County shall investigate measures to protect these lands. Protection measures may include but are not limited to the transfer of development rights, State and Federal rural conservation programs, County acquisition of the land, and County subsidies to off-set loss of continued agriculture and silviculture activities.

#### **A.2.1.2 Northwest Sector Circulation**

- (a) The Northwest Sector Overlay Map generally depicts arterial and major collector roadways and other designated roadways.
- (b) These identified roadway corridor rights-of-way shall be protected from encroachment by development.
- (c) Specific roadway corridor rights-of-way shall be determined with an appropriate analysis similar to the Florida Department of Transportation

Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study process.

- (d) Arterial and major collector roads shall be designed to connect commercial support services to the regional transportation network.
- (e) Minor collector and local road networks shall provide multiple travel routes within each planned development and throughout the Northwest Sector. Connectivity shall be provided from neighborhoods to commercial support services. Where feasible, connectivity shall be provided between adjacent neighborhoods through roadways, pedestrian and bicycle paths.
- (f) Wildlife crossings, at a minimum, shall be provided at the general locations shown on the Northwest Sector Overlay Map. The design of the wildlife crossings shall be determined at permitting.
- (g) Local roads shall be designed and constructed with the proper lanes to accommodate traffic demand within the area. Major and Minor Collector roadways shall be designed and constructed with lanes needed to accommodate traffic throughout the Northwest Sector.
- (h) A roadway network that provides multiple alternate routes between residential communities and commercial services shall be the preferred design option.
- (i) Access management standards shall be used for arterial and major collector roadways that control the spacing of intersections, median openings and traffic signals.
- (j) Major collector and arterial roadways shall not divide neighborhoods. Connectivity shall be controlled to preserve natural systems, maintain neighborhood development edges and to direct the movement of traffic, bikes, and pedestrians.
- (k) SR 13 is recognized as the William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway shall be protected for its scenic and historic value to the Northwest area. New development shall comply with the scenic edge described in this Plan, in the event, the scenic edge is averaged or enhanced by performance standards, the edge shall not be reduced below the scenic highway buffers established in the Land Development Code, unless the Board of County Commissioners finds justification to allow a smaller buffer. The Board of County Commissioners may also find justification to protect scenic quality, tree canopy and scenic view sheds by requiring additional scenic highway buffer width as a project is reviewed.
- (l) To protect the quality of scenic highways, scenic edge standards may be

enhanced with xeriscape landscaping, berms, additional native tree plantings, and increased building setbacks on designated scenic highways.

- (m) Additional needed roadway capacity across the St. Johns River shall be provided at the existing Shands Bridge location.

### **A.2.1.3 Northwest Sector Development Edges and Recreational Trail System**

Development edges and recreational trail systems provide a foundation of the Northwest Overlay. Development edges that provide natural corridors, passive recreational opportunities such as trail systems, aesthetics, habitat protection and open space, maintain rural character and provide screening from roadways and adjacent development. Development edges and the recreational trail system serve the additional goal of providing edges for communities and neighborhoods. Development edges are further defined by the following:

- (a) Except in areas where a Scenic Edge is required, development edges shall be a minimum of 35 feet in width and located along the edge of the development boundary. Deviations to the 35 foot minimum development edge shall only be allowed where there are practical difficulties in the meeting the development edge requirement, due to exceptional shallowness or unusual shape of a specific piece of property, where connectivity to adjacent development makes a logical pattern or other extraordinary condition of such property. When a deviation is requested, an average 35 foot development edge shall be maintained along the edge of development boundary that maintains native vegetation and in sparse areas shall be revegetated with native plants. Deviations shall be subject to non-zoning variance or waiver review and approval in accordance with the provisions established in the Land Development Code. Additional buffer and screening requirements may be imposed as a condition of approval of the non-zoning variance or waiver to minimize the effect of the reduced development edge and ensure intent of the Northwest Sector. Except in the case where non-residential development abuts non-residential development, deviations to the development edge shall maintain a minimum of 20 feet.
- (b) Development edges and recreational trails shall be identified with the proposed development. Performance standards may be considered to allow flexibility and enhancement to assure rural character and providing for view corridors to parks, scenic areas, wetlands and permanently protected agricultural or silviculture areas. Performance standards may include but are not limited to, natural landscaping that limits the visual impacts of development, installation of pedestrian paths and trails, observation areas, natural areas and similar areas that provide for outdoor passive recreation.

- (c) Development edges and recreational trails shall serve as natural or landscaped edges that define project and community boundaries. Edges, where possible shall form interconnected trail systems, which connect communities and neighborhoods , historical sites, cultural sites, passive recreation areas, scenic areas, preservation areas, and conservation areas within the Northwest Sector.
- (d) Development edges and recreational trails may also include hiking and biking trails, nature study areas, nature trails, historic areas and structures, community gardens and passive parks. Stormwater ponds may be allowed within the development edge when the pond is designed as an amenity to the neighborhood and is permanently protected from development.
- (e) Development edges and recreational trails shall be interconnected to areas outside the Northwest Sector and surrounding neighborhoods, where feasible.
- (f) PRDs within the Northwest Sector Overlay shall not be permitted to amend the Reserve Area of the PRD for development purposes if incorporated into the development edge or recreational trail system.
- (g) New road construction or reconstruction of existing roads that are designated on the Northwest Sector Overlay Map shall provide for pedestrian trails, bike trails, upland wildlife and wetland crossings, as feasible or appropriate.
- (h) Ravines along the St. Johns River shall be protected through the use of innovative design approaches that ensure protection of the ravines.

**A.2.1.4 Northwest Sector Scenic Edges**

- (a) Scenic edges shall be provided to preserve the rural character and preserve and enhance scenic view sheds, such as, scenic vistas, the St. Johns River, natural areas, and agricultural areas within the Sector. The primary purpose of scenic edges is to screen development and designed in a way that creates a natural edge between development and the roadway through the use of existing natural vegetation and enhancement, where necessary, with a variety of native canopy trees, understory trees, bushes, shrubs, and ground cover. Scenic edges are also an integral part of the development edges and recreational trail system that provide trails, sidewalks, and cart paths. Recreational trails, sidewalks and cart paths may be incorporated into the scenic edge; however, the overall goal of rural character and visual screening shall be met.

Scenic edges shall be provided along all existing arterial and major collector roads depicted on the Northwest Sector Overlay Map, and any



newly proposed arterial or major collector road and shall provide for an average 75 feet in width located outside the road right-of-way. The specific width and extent of these scenic edges shall be determined and identified with the proposed development. The scenic edge shall be in addition to any required right-of-way dedication or reservation.

Within the Community Commercial Future Land Use Map designation located at SR 13 and Racetrack Road, within any commercially zoned property or the commercial component of a planned development (except along SR 13 where only Community Commercial Land Uses may qualify) or where the lot depth of a development parcel, or portion thereof, measured from the property line or reserved right-of-way is less than 500 feet, the scenic edge shall be allowed to be reduced to 30 feet through the application of performance standards that will provide sufficient landscaping to preserve or enhance the rural character along the roadway. These performance standards shall be incorporated into the Land Development Code, and may include but are not limited to, enhanced landscaping through the use of canopy trees, understory evergreen plants and low growing shrubs and hedges. Where little or no natural vegetation exists within the 30-foot scenic edge, enhanced landscaping shall be provided to achieve a tree canopy or opacity along the roadway similar to surrounding roadway edges. Fences with a combination of canopy trees and other landscape plants that result in a natural rural appearance may be allowed within the scenic edge as enhanced landscaping.

Deviations to allow development not addressed above to encroach within the required minimum 30-foot scenic edge shall only be allowed where there are practical difficulties in the meeting the scenic edge requirement, due to exceptional shallowness or unusual shape of a specific piece of property or other extraordinary condition of such property. Deviations shall be subject to non-zoning variance or waiver review and approval in accordance with the provisions established in the Land Development Code. Additional buffer and screening requirements may be imposed as a condition of approval of the non-zoning variance or waiver to minimize the effect of the reduced scenic edge and ensure intent of the Northwest Sector. In no case shall a deviation result in a scenic edge of less than 30 feet in depth unless the Board of County Commissioners finds justification to allow a smaller buffer.

To provide a 30-foot scenic edge, the applicant shall submit a landscape plan depicting existing vegetation proposed to be used and the enhanced landscape elements as described above.

Breaks in the scenic edge may be allowed in otherwise continuous edges to allow for access and associated entrance features including subdivision signage, and provide view corridors to, parks, scenic areas, and other

publicly accessible areas. Commercial properties located adjacent to the scenic edge shall be allowed to maintain visibility to commercial structures, signage and entrance features.

- (b) Where feasible, a coordinated pedestrian and bicycle system consisting of sidewalks, bike paths or trails and parks shall link Neighborhoods to each other as follows:
  - (1) Schools.
  - (2) Commercial services.
  - (3) Bike paths and sidewalks shall allow for safe non-automobile travel and be integrated into a system of trails to serve both recreation and pedestrian/bicycle travel needs of area residents.
  - (4) Sidewalks shall be required on at least one side of all new roads.
  - (5) Bike lanes shall be required on both sides of all arterial and major collector roadways unless an alternative path is provided.
  - (6) Trails and bikeways should connect to elementary schools. The County shall work with School District to locate elementary and middle schools in close proximity to neighborhoods to encourage walkability.

#### **A.2.1.5 Northwest Sector Blueways**

The St. Johns River is a scenic focal point of the Northwest Sector and is incorporated into the Blueway Plan. St. Johns County shall support the development of riverfront parks and canoe trails from Durbin Creek south along the St. Johns River to Picolata.

New development located along the St. Johns River shall reserve land for public access to the river, except where the County determines such access is not needed.

#### **A.2.1.6 Northwest Sector Greenways**

The Northwest Sector Vision Process identified the need for a Greenway system, including wetlands and uplands, to provide wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, natural corridors, aesthetics, and open space.

The County shall identify funding sources to purchase lands that fall within an identified greenway. As such potential greenway land and funding sources become available the County may purchase these systems or provide tax incentives, transfers of development rights, or perpetual conservation easement to protect them.

New development within the Northwest Sector may contribute land or funding sources to the County to facilitate the creation of the greenway. The Board of County Commissioners may consider incentives in exchange for these lands. Such incentives may include but not limited to additional density, flexible setbacks, transfer of development rights or an accelerated timing and phasing of development.

#### **A.2.1.7 Community Planning Public Participation**

Proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments, planned development applications, and DRI applications shall provide for community public participation. Following pre-application submittal with the County but prior to the Planning and Zoning Agency and Board of County Commissioners public hearings, new development within the Northwest Sector shall be planned with community public participation comprised of the County, the applicant, existing residents and landowners. Community shall be defined at the time of the pre-application review for the planned development based upon impacts that may occur to the surrounding area. The boundaries of the community shall be provided within the planned development application.

One or more public community workshops shall be conducted prior to development approval with the residents of the defined community within a public place accessible to the residents and the landowners of the defined community. Such workshops shall be held every six months or prior to the Planning and Zoning Agency hearings, whichever comes first. Property owners within the defined community, St. Johns County Planning Division, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, and special interest groups that may operate within the community shall be notified of the workshop in a manner as designated by the County. . A summary of the meeting shall be taken and submitted to St. Johns County prior to setting the application for hearing. A St. Johns County Planning staff employee shall attend the public workshop. The applicant shall pay all costs associated with the community public participation workshop.

The applicant shall present the proposed plan of development for public review, input and comment. The applicant shall present to those in attendance at the public workshop, the location and proposed density/intensity of the proposed development and its estimated impact upon the defined community, schools, parks, open spaces, and community commercial support uses and how these impacts are addressed through the proposed new development. Illustrative examples of preliminary design concepts shall be presented. The applicant shall provide how the new development is integrated into the defined community.

Public review, input and comment shall be documented in the workshop summary. All written comments shall be provided with the summary. The

summary shall include the name and address of all speakers and their comment.

#### **A.2.1.8 Northwest Sector Land Use Diversity**

An overall goal of the Northwest Sector is to achieve a diverse mixture of residential, retail, office uses and civic uses with appropriate open space and recreational opportunities. The County encourages a minimum ratio of one hundred and twelve (112) square feet of retail and office space and 30 square feet of civic space per dwelling unit as a general overall goal to achieve diversity throughout the Northwest Sector.

#### **A.2.1.9 Northwest Sector General Development Pattern**

- (a) Development shall respect existing development patterns and provide for compatibility, quality and integrity of existing neighborhoods. Screening between neighborhoods shall have a vegetation component. The use of opaque fencing, walls and similar privacy fencing around the perimeter of neighborhoods shall also provide natural vegetation along the outside.
- (b) Incompatibilities between existing neighborhoods shall be mitigated through architectural design, development edges and recreational trails, additional landscaping and similar types of screening. Proposed mitigation for neighborhood incompatibility shall be determined by the Board of County Commissioners. The burden of proof shall be upon the applicant to prove to the Board of County Commissioners that the proposed mitigation meets the intent of this policy.
- (c) Development shall identify and incorporate into its plans measures to protect rural character, archeological, cultural, and historic sites, when these sites are deemed to be significant by St. Johns County or the State of Florida.
- (d) Development shall avoid the creation of urban sprawl and strip development.
- (e) Development shall provide accessible open space in the form of squares, plazas, parks, greens and similar open space design. The extent, scale and size of these open space areas shall be submitted with the development plan. Where possible, areas used as open spaces shall consider the use of existing agricultural or rural silvicultural areas to help maintain the rural character of the sector.
- (f) Residential, commercial, retail, office and other non-residential uses shall be provided in compact centers. Strip development shall be prohibited. Commercial, retail, office and other non-residential uses shall be

interconnected with residential areas with vehicular, bike and pedestrian ways to assist in alleviating traffic congestion on other roadways.

- (g) When determined appropriate, development shall provide a mixture of housing types and price ranges to provide housing opportunities for all residents of the Northwest and benefit the area's economy.
- (h) Development shall provide a pedestrian friendly transportation system. Pedestrian sidewalks or bikeways shall be provided.
- (I) When determined appropriate, development shall provide the location and proposed density/intensity of development of each neighborhood, as well as the demand, location and size of schools, civic sites and parks in accordance with the requirements of these policies.
- (j) Development shall identify major, minor collector roadways and limited access arterial roadways. Interconnectivity within the development and with surrounding development shall be provided.
- (k) Development shall identify bikeways and pedestrian ways. Bikeway and pedestrian interconnectivity within the development and with the surrounding area shall be provided, if feasible.
- (l) Development shall identify the extent, type and location of natural features and vistas in the planned development.
- (m) Development shall identify existing land uses and prevalent development patterns within and surrounding the proposed development within the defined community.
- (n) Development shall identify development edges and recreational trails and other environmental features within and surrounding the proposed development within the defined community.
- (o) Development shall identify the developable land area within the development.
- (p) When determined appropriate, Development shall identify public facilities and services available to the area, available capacity and any deficiencies.
- (q) Development shall use underground utilities unless topography, drainage, or similar constraints cause underground utilities not to be feasible. This includes electric, water, sewer, cable, fiber optics, and phone lines that may be located in the development edges.

- (r) Development shall provide a statement of the community goals and objectives (Vision) consistent with the goals, objectives and policies of the Northwest Sector Overlay and provide how the proposed development meets the intent of the Vision.
- (s) Development shall identify the relationship to the surrounding defined community, neighborhoods, and commercial support areas.
- (t) When determined appropriate, the Development shall identify the proposed locations for right-of-ways and reserve right-of-way for roadways depicted on the Northwest Sector Overlay Map.
- (u) Development shall identify neighborhood support facilities that are projected to be needed to address the impacts of the proposed development, such as but not limited to, traffic circulation, water and wastewater treatment plants, solid waste transfer facilities, fire stations, emergency medical services, police stations, government buildings, libraries, civic/cultural places, public gathering places, parks, and schools.

**A.2.1.10 Northwest Sector Neighborhood Design**

- (a) The basic building block within the Northwest Sector is neighborhoods. Generally, neighborhoods are sized to include up to four hundred (400) dwelling units.
- (b) Neighborhoods shall include neighborhood support facilities and services.
- (c) Neighborhoods shall be planned and designed as follows:
  - (1) Except in areas where a Scenic Edge is required or a deviation is approved, each neighborhood shall provide a minimum 35-foot development edge. The development edge shall contain uplands.
  - (2) Each neighborhood shall have a centrally located civic space or public gathering place in the form of a square, green or common area to serve as a focal point of the neighborhood. These civic spaces shall be identifiable through the use of greens, parks, landscape features, and public art.
  - (3) The road network within a neighborhood shall emphasize the use of two-lane streets that connect to adjacent neighborhoods.
  - (4) Neighborhood streets shall use traffic calming design standards. Such traffic calming design may include but is not limited to the installation of traffic circles, narrow travel lanes, the installation of sidewalks, street trees, and the allowance of on-street parking.

- (5) Housing shall have direct access to sidewalks and shall be oriented to parks and public spaces, where applicable.
- (6) Housing shall have direct access to sidewalks and shall be oriented to parks and public spaces, where applicable.
- (7) A variety of block lengths shall be provided.
- (8) To encourage architectural variety, lot sizes shall be varied throughout each neighborhood.
- (9) Dwelling unit setbacks and lot location may also vary within block.
- (10) Repetitive housing design and front lot facades shall be discouraged.
- (11) Front porches, alleyways and detached garages may be allowed.
- (12) A mixture of single family residential detached dwelling units, multi-family residential dwelling units, duplexes, zero lot line detached and attached residential dwelling units shall be encouraged within neighborhoods.
- (13) Accessory uses, such as but not limited to guesthouses, garage apartments, and home offices may be allowed.
- (14) All utilities within developments shall be underground unless topography, drainage, or similar constraints cause underground utilities not to be feasible. This includes electric, water, sewer, cable, fiber optics, and phone lines that may be located in the scenic and development edges.
- (15) Low wattage street lighting shall be provided in a uniform manner throughout the Neighborhood.
- (16) Each Neighborhood shall have a Neighborhood park, a minimum of five (5) acres per 1,000 design population of the neighborhood, pro rata with a minimum of one acre. The park shall be designed with activities and facilities that serve the projected population of the neighborhood and to accommodate all age groups of the project's projected population.

#### **A.2.1.11 Community Support Uses**

- a) It is recognized that commercial areas, office areas, employment centers and

similar non-residential uses are needed to support the livability of the Northwest Sector. Commercial areas, office areas, employment centers and similar non-residential uses developed within the Northwest Sector shall be designed to provide a unique sense of place through architectural design and a mixture of compatible uses in a compact setting. These areas shall serve as commercial retail and service areas for the residents within the Northwest Sector. Such development shall be designed with respect to compliance with the general overall design concepts established in this Policy to promote a compact unified commercial business district. Strip commercial development is prohibited.

- b) Non-residential development design shall provide for a mix of land uses including, retail, office, personal and household service establishments, institutional uses, medical uses, public/civic facilities, cultural and social facilities, parks, playgrounds, community gardens, and other similar uses. When mixed, the projects shall include at least 10% Open Space and at least two uses chosen from Commercial, Office or Industrial; the mix of uses should fall within 10% to 90% of the remaining land within the project. The Impervious Surface Ratio (ISR) and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) shall be as provided in Policy A.1.11.3.
- c) Non-residential development shall be arranged in a manner that emphasizes human-scale, pedestrian-oriented design with buildings fronting the sidewalk and street, short blocks, wide sidewalks, street furniture and similar requirements.
- d) Non-residential development shall be oriented to serve the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods. Development parcels shall be accessed from collectors and internal streets not directly from an arterial roadway.
- e) Non-residential development shall be designed to accommodate future linkage with a regional transit system, if or when available with transit stops located so that they are easily accessible to commercial uses.
- f) Non-residential development design shall provide for parking in the following manner:
  - (1) On-street parking may be allowed on local streets.
  - (2) On-street parking shall be designed to promote traffic calming, pedestrian use, and shopping convenience, including but not limited to parallel and angle and reverse angle parking.
  - (3) Where feasible and appropriate, parking other than on-street parking shall be located in the rear or side of the commercial structures.
- g) Sidewalks and bicycle paths shall be of sufficient width to accommodate multiple users and commercial uses, such as, outdoor markets and cafes.



- h) Street trees shall be provided along pedestrian pathways, streets, sidewalks, and similar areas.

### Goal A.3

**Develop new, redevelop and revitalize blighted areas and existing inefficient development patterns that inadequately address the needs of residents to provide for the gradual transformation of these areas into sustainable, efficient, economically viable, attractive and self-contained patterns of development, as represented by traditional American towns and villages.**

The traditional American town or village provides one of the most efficient patterns of development, and a very high quality of life for its residents. The pattern of development exhibited within traditional American towns and villages represents a template for the evaluation and successful retrofit, revitalization, and improvement of blighted areas and for areas with inefficient development patterns. In its ideal form, the traditional American town or village, include the following characteristics:

- A well defined center and edge,
- A hierarchy of interconnected streets, providing for small block sizes,
- Streets designed as beautiful public space, suitable for both cars and people,
- A great diversity of housing types and affordability, providing a place for various household types that it takes to make a community,
- Places of work and shopping in close proximity to where people live,
- Well located civic uses, and a variety of open spaces, including: small “shouting distance” parks close to where people live, formal greens, squares and plazas, and under the best circumstances, country side at the edge.
- Design and architectural character that is at human pedestrian friendly scale and are consistent and compatible with the character of the neighborhoods they serve, and that build upon any existing historical, cultural, or natural features that help to create a sense of place.

Within the traditional American town or village, it is possible to have a high quality of life without the absolute necessity of owning a car, thereby addressing the needs of the elderly, children too young to drive, and those that may not be able to easily afford a car. Because of their compact mixed use characteristics it is possible to walk to work, to school, and to meet essential shopping needs. Further, as a direct result of their compactness traditionally planned towns and villages can easily be served by transit systems that interconnect one area with another, thus providing access to the opportunities afforded by a much larger community. Attention to the design of public space, and the mix of uses that occur within town centers, including civic anchors, markets, and frequently used services, encourage the congregation and social interaction of residents.

**Objective A.3.1  
Town Center Mixed Use**

**The creation of the Town Center Mixed Use District (TCMUD) Future Land Use designation, to assist in the redevelopment and revitalization of existing inefficient development patterns to create sustainable towns, villages and neighborhoods.**

The purpose of the Town Center Mixed Use District (TCMUD) land use designation is to provide for the redevelopment, revitalization and in some cases retrofit of existing developed areas into sustainable, efficient and self-contained forms of development. Efficient, sustainable and self-contained development may be represented by the traditional American towns and villages, which have a well defined mixed use center or mixed use “Main Street” Commercial District. The TCMUD is intended to provide services within close proximity to where people live, work, and play, strengthen the sense of community and place, and create complete communities.

The establishment of an attractive, recognizable, well defined and economically viable town or village center is critical to providing a community with an identity and sense of place. The town or village center provides community services frequently used by residents of the surrounding neighborhoods, including: neighborhood groceries, drugstores, bakeries, barber and beauty shops, book stores, banks, post office, medical offices, pubs and restaurants. Civic uses within the town center typically include community centers, play house, churches, and libraries.

Town centers also provide residential opportunities, in a denser and more compact format than might exist outside the center. Apartments above ground floor retail, live/work opportunities, town houses, condominiums, and apartment buildings are typical residential types within the town or village center. Streets connect the center to surrounding single family neighborhoods. Historically, the center has higher densities of residential than surrounding neighborhoods.

**Policies:**

**General**

**A.3.1.1** St. Johns County shall evaluate its existing patterns of development and identify opportunities to remediate existing blighted areas and inefficient development patterns by the provision of Town Center Mixed Use District (TCMUD) wherever there is a sufficient local market to support neighborhood retail and services, and where establishment of such centers would improve the quality of life and sense of community in surrounding neighborhoods, improve the economic viability of the area, facilitate needed redevelopment, and would reduce and shorten vehicle trip lengths and impacts on roadways.

**A.3.1.2** TCMUD shall only be established within existing Development Area boundaries, and for areas that conduct a community based visioning process that results in the acceptance of a Vision Plan by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners.

When TCMUD involve the retrofit or revitalization of portions of existing, established neighborhoods and communities, it is essential that the proposed plans

for the retrofit or revitalization have broad based community buy-in and support.

**A.3.1.3** Areas receiving a TCMUD land use designation shall not be required to be developed under the existing Planned Unit Development (PUD) requirements in Section 5.03.00 of the St. Johns County Land Development Code (LDC), providing they are determined to be consistent with all policies included under Objective A.3.1 and applicable LDC provisions.

**A.3.1.4** The TCMUD shall be designed as a traditional small town or village “Main Street”, or “Town Square”, or a combination of these two models. The “Main Street” or “Town Square” form of development requires buildings to be pulled up to wide sidewalks and the street. Where feasible and parking shall be provided on-street, behind buildings, or in parking garages hidden from view and lined by occupied space. Buildings facing the “Main Street” or “Town Square” shall have predominantly ground floor retail frontages, with office or residential uses above the ground floor. Buildings shall form a nearly continuous frontage along the street or square face, with few if any gaps between buildings thereby creating a street space that forms an outdoor public room that is at a scale attractive and comfortable for both people and cars.

#### **Size**

**A.3.1.5** TCMUD shall not be larger than 70 acres in size, unless it can be demonstrated that a larger area is necessary to meet the commercial and complimentary land use needs of residential populations that exist within 1/2 mile of the proposed district’s approximate center.

#### **Location**

**A.3.1.6** TCMUD shall be located at or very near the center of the residential neighborhoods they are intended to serve, and where feasible shall be interconnected to those neighborhoods by a network of walkable streets.

The TCMUD shall be conveniently close to where people live, and easy to access by walking as well as by automobile.

**A.3.1.7** The Town Center Mixed Use District shall be established on a main thoroughfare serving the surrounding neighborhoods, or at a location traditionally recognized as the town or village center.

## **Compatibility**

**A.3.1.8** The TCMUD should not be buffered or physically separated from the surrounding residential areas it serves. Compatibility with the surrounding areas shall be provided by good design, massing, screening and architectural techniques. Physical separation of the center from the areas it serves would increase the distance people would need to walk to access the district and would undermine a primary function of the district.

The variety of uses appropriate for inclusion within the TCMUD does not require physical separation from residential areas or buffering. The TCMUD includes residential uses and is made compatible with surrounding residential areas by careful attention to design. The successful TCMUD should be considered an aesthetically pleasing addition that increases the value of homes that are within easy walking distance.

Separation from surrounding residential areas may occur as a result of the provision of small parks or efforts to preserve important natural areas, but separation should be avoided to the greatest extent consistent with achieving other goals and objectives.

## **Architecture**

**A.3.1.9** TCMUD shall have a design and architectural character that is consistent and compatible with the character of the neighborhoods they serve, and that builds upon any existing historical, cultural, or natural features that create a sense of place.

### **Streets, Blocks, Sidewalks, and Alleyways**

**A.3.1.10** The TCMUD shall include a hierarchy of interconnected streets designed as well proportioned and aesthetically pleasing public spaces that accommodate both pedestrians and vehicles. The streets and alleyways provided shall provide for pedestrian and vehicle circulation within the District as well as between the District and surrounding neighborhoods. The network of streets and alleyways provided shall meet the following basic criteria:

- a. The District shall be well connected to the surrounding neighborhoods by multiple access points accommodating both vehicles and pedestrians.
- b. The hierarchy of new interconnected streets within the TCMUD should form blocks that predominantly have block faces between 300 and 500 feet. No new block face should ever exceed 750 feet.
- c. The hierarchy of streets and alleyways shall, when possible, provide a continuous network of vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle circulation.

- d. All streets shall be detailed with sidewalks, on-street parking, regularly placed street trees and pedestrian scaled lighting.
- e. Sidewalks shall be continuous within the District and shall have a minimum width of 8 feet in existing areas and 12 feet in new areas on mixed use streets, and a minimum width of 4 feet in existing areas and 5' in new areas on residential streets. Within areas intended to provide for sidewalk restaurant and café seating wider sidewalks are encouraged.
- f. Use of arcades or awning over sidewalks is encouraged within commercial areas.
- g. Alleyways, when possible, shall be provided to accommodate rear-loaded parking, municipal and utility services, and for the loading and unloading of goods.
- h. Streets shall be designed so that buildings facing the street are properly proportioned to the width of the street, forming a sense of enclosure and the feeling of an outdoor room. The proportion of building height to street width should fall within a range of 1:1 to 1:6 and should never be less than 1:6. Where building height to street width is less than 1:6, the sense of enclosure and spatial definition is lost.
- i. Buildings should be built to the front property line adjacent to sidewalks.

### Uses

**A.3.1.11** TCMUD shall include the mix of uses necessary to address the regular needs of surrounding residential areas, and provide places of work and shopping in close proximity to where people live.

The mix of uses that are proposed for a specific TCMUD will vary depending upon an analysis of the surrounding neighborhoods proposed to be served and the identified needs of the area.

Anticipated uses within all designated TCMUD's would include: retail shopping, entertainment opportunities, office, restaurants, service and professional uses, multifamily residential, open space in the form of a town green or square, and civic uses such as community centers, meeting halls, libraries, theatres, and churches.

**A.3.1.12** Retail and commercial uses permitted within the TCMUD shall be limited to those that: 1) can be provided on a walkable pedestrian scale, 2) provide for the regular daily needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhoods, eliminating vehicle trips or reducing the length of vehicle trips, 3) are compatible with residential areas, and 4) can be provided in a manner consistent with the Vision Document and Conceptual Master Design Plan developed during the public participation vision process, and implemented through the Land Development Code.

**A.3.1.13** All buildings constructed within TCMUD shall have a minimum ground floor to

ceiling height of 12 feet. Retail shall be a required ground floor use in areas designated as requiring ground floor retail in the regulatory plan for the TCMUD. In all other areas of the TCMUD, retail uses may be allowed on the ground floor, but not required.

Retail uses require higher ceilings than residential uses. A floor to floor height of 12 feet provides for the needs of small scale retail, including space for air ducts and equipment. A floor to ceiling height of 12 feet also accommodates residential uses and provides for the reuse of buildings over time as the needs of the district change. It is noted that within historic neighborhoods where high ceilings were provided within residential structures that formerly residential buildings have been converted to restaurants and shops over time as the needs of the community change.

**A.3.1.14** Office/Professional uses providing service to the surrounding neighborhoods shall be allowed throughout the TCMUD, above the ground floor, and as ground floor uses within mixed use office/residential buildings in those areas not required to have ground floor retail, providing the ground floor, floor to ceiling height is at least 12 feet.

**A.3.1.15** Residential densities within the TCMUD shall be no greater than 13 units per acre in the Mainland Area and no greater than 8 units per acre in the Coastal Area. Ideally the average residential density within a radius of .25 miles of the District center should average at least 6 units per acre, which provides for single family homes on large lots to be balanced by the provision of multifamily units to meet the objective average density.

Higher density within close proximity of businesses is needed to have viable Town Center. Higher densities support a larger the number of businesses and services for the residents in close proximity to where they live.

**A.3.1.16** Multifamily residential uses, including apartments , town/row houses, and condominiums shall be allowed throughout the TCMUD, above the ground floor retail. Buildings not required to have ground floor retail may be used as entirely residential. provided the ground floor, floor to ceiling height is at least 12 feet. Detached, single family housing shall be permitted within the TCMUD, but only in those areas designated for such use within the regulating plan.

**A.3.1.17** Uses other than retail, office, residential, open space and civic may only be included with TCMUD providing the use has been specifically included as allowable within the adopted regulatory plan for the subject area, and further, to the extent authorized by sections of the St. John’s County Land Development Code pertaining to the specific TCMUD.

Some uses, such as hotel and motel, may be appropriate within areas that have traditionally included such uses, but may not be appropriate in other locations.

Beyond the basic retail, office, residential mix, uses should be tailored to the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods they serve, and geared toward balancing deficiencies.

- A.3.1.18** Architectural features such as porches, courtyards, fountains and snippets, shall be encouraged and included in building design to the extent consistent with the intent of the Master Plan and Policy A.3.1.9.

### **Open Space/Civic Buildings**

- A.3.1.19** Provision for at least one public open space in the form of a well-defined public green, square, plaza, or pavilion shall be required within TCMUD.

- A.3.1.20** At least one prominently located building site, to be used exclusively for the construction of a multi - purpose civic building that allows for a range of community based activities, meeting place, holiday socials, in-door recreational activities, and of at least 5,000 sq. ft., shall be reserved within the TCMUD. Proposed building locations shall have a prominent location, such as the termination of a vista along an important street, or anchoring and facing the required public green, square, or plaza pursuant to Policy A.3.1.19 unless there is an existing civic structure located within a 1/2 mile radius connected to the TCMUD.

### **Parking**

- A.3.1.21** Parking provided within TCMUD shall conform to the following design criteria:
- a. Where feasible, all streets within the district shall provide the capability of on street parking,
  - b. All surface parking lots shall be located behind the primary building façade, and screened from street view with buildings, garden walls, and/or landscaping,
  - c. Parking structures shall be located to the interior of the block, and are to be screened on all sides facing a street by habitable uses on all floors,
  - d. Adjacent commercial properties shall be required to interconnect parking areas so that vehicles can move between lots without entering the street, and
  - e. Parking incentives shall be established in the TCMUD regulations, including, on-street shared parking credits and urban scale parking standards.

### **Vendors**

- A.3.1.22** Vendors may be allowed within the TCMUD.

### **Public Art**



**A.3.1.23** Public art shall be encouraged and promoted throughout the TCMUD, such as wall murals, and sculptures for cultural purposes and to promote a sense of place. Public art shall be reviewed and approved by the Design Review Board, if applicable.

#### **Outdoor Sales & Markets**

**A.3.1.24** Outdoor retail sales adjacent to retail uses are allowed on sidewalks. Appropriate permits are required. Outdoor markets may be allowed as provided in the Land Development Code.

#### **Signage**

**A.3.1.25** Pedestrian friendly signage on sidewalks will be encouraged. Signage shall comply with land development regulations and permitting requirements. Monument signage is prohibited unless designed of a size and scale suited for a pedestrian walkable place.

#### **Billboards**

**A.3.1.26** Billboards shall be prohibited in the TCMUD.

#### **Drive-through Facilities**

**A.3.1.27** Drive-through facilities shall be prohibited in the TCMUD unless provisions of Policy A.3.2.8 are met.

**Objective A.3.2**  
**Establishment of the Vilano Beach /Town Center Mixed Use District.**

The model for the creation of the Town Center Mixed Use land use designation is the Vilano Beach Town Center Project, a Waterfronts and Main Street Florida Community. This project began with a vision process accepted by the County and with technical and financial support from the Department of Community Affairs and other state, regional and federal agencies. This effort is recognized by the state as a model for sustainable growth and successful and proactive partnering between the community and government.

The Vilano Beach Town Center vision is to create a place that maintains the small beach town community character through the delicate balance of the old with the new. The Vilano Beach Town Center provides a mixture of residential and commercial uses that provides goods, services and places for a synergetic life style center for residents and visitors alike.

The Vilano Beach Town Center contains a Main Street that will be developed with a range of commercial uses, grocery store, drycleaners, hotels professional offices, restaurants, specialty retail, and art galleries. The second and third floor will allow for commercial uses however, it will also allow for residential uses to that support a Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) concept, for example, live work opportunities. Hotels and motels, including extended stay and Bed & Breakfast, is allowed but shall not exceed commercial or residential uses within the Town Center.

The Vilano Beach Town Center has terminus at the Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway. Structures and businesses shall be built and designed to promote the character of a beach community, to view the natural beauty of the area, i.e., scenic vistas of downtown St. Augustine, the Intracoastal and the Atlantic Ocean, sunrises and sunsets of the area and take advantage of coastal breezes.

The community civic pavilions, located at the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway are envisioned to be the hub for social and cultural activities for the surrounding community and visitors. These pavilions help make the area a lively and fun place to live and visit.

**Policies:**

- A.3.2.1 The Vilano Beach Town Center Mixed Use District shall be implemented through the St. Johns County Land Development Code by the following regulatory framework:
- a. A Regulatory Plan for the Vilano Beach Town Center Mixed Use District (a graphic document that maps the location of all streets and alleys, the building types to be accommodated, and the location of any public open space and required civic sites, and

- b. Development Regulations for the Vilano Beach Town Center Mixed Use District (defining the Building Types, and for each type: Building Placement, Building Uses, Architectural Standards, Building Preservation, Sign Standards, Parking and Loading Standards, and Landscape Standards).

A.3.2.2 The Vilano Beach Town Center Mixed Use District was developed pursuant to the objectives set forth in Goal A.3 the policies included under objective A.3.1. Per the regulatory framework laid out above, and the land area included within the district, the build-out of the Vilano Beach TCMUD will not exceed:

Retail Office	33%
Residential	33% or limited to 8 units per acre as averaged over the Vilano Beach Town Center Mixed Use District.
Hotel/Motel	30%
Civic	4%

A.3.2.3 The Vilano Beach Town Center Mixed Use District shall be exempt from the civic space requirement listed in Policy A.3.1.20.

A.3.2.4 Structures shall be built to preserve the Vilano Bridge view shed for aesthetic and economic purposes.

A.3.2.5 Economic Redevelopment Residential Units Exchange program shall allow exchange of residential unit rights between properties (sending and receiving properties) within the Vilano Beach Town Center Mixed Use District so long as any exchange of residential units results in an equal reduction of residential unit rights from a sending property located within the Vilano Beach Town Center Mixed Use District based on the boundary of the District as adopted in 2015 as shown on Exhibit 3.2.5.E below, and pursuant to implementing regulations of the County’s Land Development Code. In no case shall an exchange of residential units result in a maximum density on any receiving site exceeding 16 units/acre.

A.3.2.6 In an effort to promote the preservation of historic "landmark" structures that establish the unique historic character and "sense of place" in the Vilano Beach Town Center, property owners may consider the following options:

- (a) Incentives for owners who restore and preserve a qualified historic structure on the property. These incentives include:

1. Increase in the Floor Area Ratio of the buildable property from 0.80 to 1.5, excluding the floor area of the historic structure.
2. Increase in the Impervious Surface Ratio of the buildable property from 0.75 to 0.90, excluding the historic footprint.
3. Elimination of parking requirements for Commercial/Retail/Office uses, if buildable property is under 30,000 square feet.
4. A fifty percent (50%) reduction of parking requirements for Commercial/Retail/Office uses, if buildable property is over 30,000 square feet.

(b) Additional opportunities supporting the preservation and restoration of qualified historic structures include Historic Preservation Ad Valorem Tax exemptions for a 10-year period, the Economic Redevelopment Residential Units Exchange Option, and potential building code waivers.

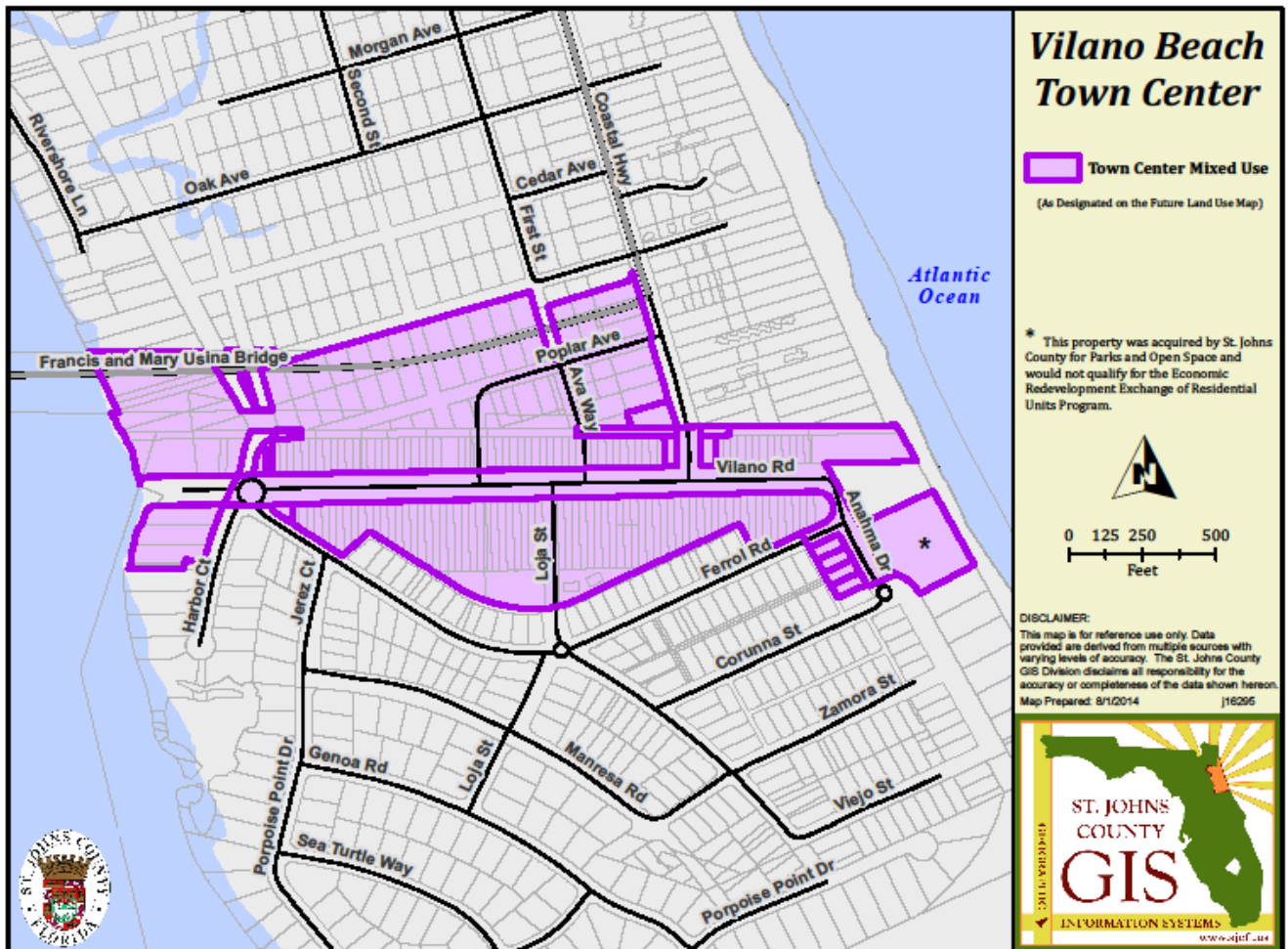
A.3.2.7 Vendors may be allowed pursuant to the Land Development Code.

A.3.2.8 Due to the fact that financial institutions are appropriate for the Vilano Beach Town Center Mixed Use District (VBTCMUD) and that modern financial institutions are typically built with a drive-in and drive-up facility, the County may approve drive-in facilities attached to neighborhood-serving financial institutions and such financial institutions with drive-in/drive-up facilities may only be located within the area of the VBTCMUD bounded by Vilano Road, Coastal Highway and Poplar Road. Prior to a drive-in and drive-up facility being permitted, the County shall amend the Land Development Code to include standards and procedures to implement this policy.

1. Drive-in and drive-up facilities may only be allowed as accessory to a neighborhood serving financial institution.
2. Based on the size and configuration of the block, its location within the VBTCMUD, the fact that this particular block already attracts significant vehicular traffic due to the size and use of the retail development, and the configuration of the buildings and parking currently thereon, which allow the site and design requirements, described below, and to preserve the Vilano Beach Town Center ideals, a drive-in and drive-up facility may only be located within the block of the VBTCMUD bounded by Vilano Road, Coastal Highway and Poplar Road.

3. The drive-in and drive-up windows may not be visible from Vilano Road or Coastal Highway. The drive-in and drive-up windows must be located in the rear of a building or the interior of a parking area, and shall be screened from view along public streets and adjacent property by using enhanced landscaping, roof-top coverage, walls, fences, canopies or other similar design elements.
4. The drive-in and drive-up windows must be located with access from an alley or the interior of a parking area.
5. The establishment containing such drive-in and drive-up window must be designed consistent with an urban pedestrian-oriented design concept and include the following elements:
  - (a) Locate the building's main entrance fronting on Poplar Avenue with direct route from the public sidewalk.
  - (b) Financial institutions shall have no more than three (3) drive-in lanes, one (1) of which may be a drive-up window.
  - (c) The stacking lanes shall not be located closer than 100 feet from Vilano Road. Stacking and drive-in or drive-up lanes shall be screened from view along public streets by using enhanced landscaping, screening, walls, fences, or other similar design elements, with only the driveway entrance/exit areas and corresponding line-of-sight areas being visible as needed.
6. If the financial institution vacates the building, and another one does not relocate on the site within one (1) year, the drive in or drive-up lanes must be removed or converted to a compatible use with the new commercial/retail use, e.g. patio, outdoor seating area, etc.
7. If developed, any such facility shall comply with the standards herein, as well as with any other applicable standards as may be provided by this Plan and the Land Development Code.

EXHIBIT 3.2.5.E



Amendments:  
Ordinance No. 2012-16 June 19, 2012;  
Ordinance No. 2014-3 January 21, 2014  
Ordinance No. 2015-13 February 17, 2015

## B. TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

### Goal B.1

The County shall provide countywide coordination and planning to achieve a balanced transportation system which consists of both public and private transportation networks and which provides for the safe and efficient movement of goods and people, including the transportation disadvantaged.

#### Objective B.1.1 Level of Service Standards

The County shall maintain Levels of Service standards based on data and analysis for all roadway segments within the major roadway network.

#### Policies

B.1.1.1 Peak Hour Level of Service Standards. The established level of service standards during the peak hours shall be set forth below and in Policy B.1.1.2 and Policy B.1.1.3. Roadway Level of Service shall be determined by acceptable methodologies.

#### Minimum Acceptable Level of Service Standards

Florida Intrastate Highway System: The Peak Hour Level of Service Standards for the Florida Intrastate Highway System shall be as set forth in Rule 14-94, Florida Administrative Code, as updated, except as modified by mutual agreement of the Florida Department of Transportation and St. Johns County. The least stringent standard available pursuant to any such modification is the established level of service.

#### All other roadways:

<u>Rural Area</u>	<u>C</u>
<u>Transitioning, Urban Area or Community</u>	<u>D</u>
<u>Urbanized Area</u>	<u>D</u>

Exceptions to the standards adopted herein, which represent an adequate level of service standard for each of the listed segments, shall apply as follows:

Roadway Segment		Level of Service
US 1	Wildwood Dr. to St. Aug. City Limits	E*
CR 214	Holmes Blvd. to US 1	E

11 <sup>th</sup> Street	SR A1A to A1A Beach Blvd.	C
16 <sup>th</sup> Street	SR A1A to A1A Beach Blvd.	C
A Street	SR A1A to A1A Beach Blvd.	C
Pope Road	SR A1A to A1A Beach Blvd.	C

\*Shall be evaluated at the time of six lane construction of this corridor to bring the LOS to adopted standard.

B.1.1.2 Constrained Roadway Segments. The inventory of roadway segments which cannot be expanded by two or more through lanes because of physical, environmental or policy constraints shall be follows:

Roadway	Segment
CR 214 (W. King St.)	Holmes Blvd. to US 1
SR A1A	Flagler Co. Line to SR 206
SR A1A	St. Augustine City Limits to Mickler Road
SR A1A	CR 210 (Palm Valley Road) to Duval Co. Line
SR 13	CR 16A to Roberts Road
Masters Dr./Palmer St.	CR 214 to SR 16
CR 210 (Palm Valley Rd.)	Mickler Rd. to SR A1A
CR 210A (Roscoe Blvd./Solana Rd.)	CR210 (Palm Valley Rd.) to SR A1A
International Golf Parkway	Within Twelve Mile Swamp

The level of service for constrained roadways shall be maintained. For roadways in the urbanized area, maintained means that any constrained facility will be allowed to operate at levels that do not exceed a ten percent increase in peak hour traffic volumes or a ten percent decrease in peak hour operating speeds, once the level of service for the constrained roadway is at or below the adopted level of service standards in Policy B.1.1.1. Constrained roadway segments for which maintained means a maximum increase of ten percent in peak hour traffic volumes or ten percent decrease in peak hour operating speeds are:

SR 13	Greenbriar Rd. to Roberts Rd.
CR 210 (Palm Valley Rd.)	Mickler Rd. to SR A1A
CR 210A (Roscoe Blvd.)	CR 210 to TPC Blvd.
SR A1A	CR 210 (Palm Valley Road) to Duval Co. Line

For St. Johns County roadways not in the urbanized area, maintained means that any constrained facility will be allowed to operate at levels that do not exceed a five percent increase in peak hour traffic volumes or a five percent decrease in peak hour operating speeds, once the level of service for the constrained roadway is at or below the adopted level of service standards in Policy B.1.1.1.



Constrained roadway segments for which maintained means a maximum increase of five percent in peak hour traffic volumes or a five percent decrease in peak hour operating speeds are:

CR 214 (W. King St.)	Holmes Blvd. to US 1
SR A1A	Flagler Co. Line to SR 206
SR A1A	St. Augustine City Limits to Mickler Road
SR 13	CR 16A to Greenbriar Rd.
Masters Dr./Palmer St.	CR 214 to SR 16
International Golf Pkwy.	Within Twelve Mile Swamp

B.1.1.3 Backlogged Facilities. The inventory of backlogged facilities is comprised of those roadways operating below the adopted level of service standard at the time of plan adoption and are not designated as constrained.

The adopted level of service standard of roadways designated as backlogged shall be maintained. Maintained in the rural area means that any backlogged facility will be allowed to operate at levels that do not exceed a five percent increase in peak hour traffic volumes or a five percent decrease in travel speed. Maintained in the urbanized area means that any backlogged facility will be allowed to operate at levels that do not exceed a ten percent increase in peak hour traffic volumes or a ten percent decrease in travel speed.

B.1.1.4 The County shall continue to enforce the provisions of the Concurrency Management System. The County shall review and revise the Concurrency Management System as needed.

B.1.1.5 The County shall continue to use the results of the C.R. 210 and North-South Arterial Corridor, now known as St. Johns Parkway studies in determining right-of-way acquisition needs in the Northwest Sector.

**Objective B.1.2**  
**Transportation Management Systems**

**St. Johns County shall continue to maintain a safe and efficient roadway network by implementing the concurrency management system and implementing maintenance and operations improvements through various programs.**

**Policies**

- B.1.2.1 Pavement Management System. The County shall continue to implement its pavement management system to insure that all paved roadways are maintained in safe condition for motorists and bicyclists.
- B.1.2.2 Traffic Operation Improvements. Traffic operation improvements such as traffic signals turn lanes, service roads, signing and pavement marking shall be undertaken when warranted to improvement the safety and efficiency of the existing roadway network.
- B.1.2.3 High Accident Locations. Accident records shall be investigated on a regular basis to determine necessary improvements to the roadway network which are warranted to relieve high accident conditions and to enhance the safety of motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- B.1.2.4 Bridge Maintenance System. The County shall continue to implement its bridge maintenance and rehabilitation system to ensure safe structural condition and compliance with all applicable FDOT standards.
- B.1.2.5. Land Development Traffic Assessments. To maintain an acceptable Level of Service (LOS) all major developments shall be required to complete a Land Development Traffic Assessment (“LTDA”) as part of the development review process as required by the Land Development Regulations (LDRs).
- B.1.2.6. Development Agreements. The County shall allow for the negotiation in development agreements of a proportionate share cost of the development for the construction of one or more capacity improvements on the Major Roadway Network necessary to serve the development. At the time a development order or permit is issued, the necessary facilities and services shall be subject to a binding executed agreement which requires the necessary facilities and services to service the new development to be in place or under construction no more than three years after the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the portion of development impacting one or more deficient roadway segments. The proportionate share payment shall be applied to the project cost of one or more capacity improvement projects in the developments impact area. The development agreement shall specifically require the payment of the proportionate share prior to the issuance of any building permits for the development. The proportionate share payment shall be calculated for all

roadways within the development’s impact area that are projected to be operating below the adopted level of service standard with development traffic as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcccl}
 \text{Proportionate} & & & & \text{Project Trips} \\
 \text{Share} & = & \text{Construction costs of} & & \text{Adopted LOS} \\
 & & \text{roadway improvements} & \times & \text{Improved Service} \\
 & & \text{to attain acceptable LOS} & & \text{Volume} \\
 & & & & \text{--} \\
 & & & & \text{Adopted LOS} \\
 & & & & \text{Existing Service} \\
 & & & & \text{Volume}
 \end{array}$$

In no instance shall the proportionate share payment be less than the transportation impact fee in existence at the time of the project development order. The proportionate share payment may be credited against payment of transportation impact fees.

**Objective B.1.3  
Transportation Improvement Plans**

**The County shall develop a future roadway network which is consistent with the Future Land Use Map, consistent with the Schedule of Capital Improvements and coordinated with the Federal, State regional and local transportation planning departments and agencies and with the plans of adjacent jurisdictions.**

**Policies**

- B.1.3.1 The County shall include transportation improvements on its Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements. .
- B.1.3.2 St. Johns County shall on an annual basis, evaluate, rank and add proposed roadway improvements as feasible to the Projected Roadway Improvement Needs and Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements and based on the following guidelines:
- (a) The project is needed to protect the public health and safety or fulfill the County's legal commitment to provide facilities and services.
  - (b) The project is needed to preserve or achieve full use of existing facilities; promote efficient use of existing facilities; or, prevent or reduce maintenance or improvement costs.
  - (c) The project is needed to provide service to developed areas lacking full service; or, promote in-fill development within existing urbanized areas.
  - (d) The project is needed to provide service to development areas consistent with the Future Land Use and Traffic Elements of the Plan or to provide service to areas which may be approved as amendments to the Land Use and Traffic Element of the Plan.
- B.1.3.3. Transportation Impact Fees. All future development shall be assessed equitably for the cost of roadway improvements to serve development areas pursuant to the provisions of the applicable impact fee ordinance. The County will review the adequacy of the impact fee schedule on a regular basis, not to exceed every five years. The County will continue to work with municipalities to develop interlocal agreements/joint planning agreements for implementation of impact fees within the municipalities.
- B.1.3.4. The County shall continue to implement its development review procedures ensuring that all development proposals are reviewed prior to receipt of construction approval to insure consistency with the objectives and policies of the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.

- B.1.3.5 The County shall continue to enforce its Land Development Code which control connections to roadways through access management strategies, that control strip development, encourage access control, encourage interconnectivity between developments and promote transit use.
- B.1.3.6 The County shall require all new or improved transportation facilities be constructed to County standards. The County requires transportation facilities be brought up to standard prior to development of unincorporated lands.
- B.1.3.7 The visual and functional characteristics of streets are important in the design of the community. The design principles are:
- Streets should be designed as public open space.
  - Streets should be designed to accommodate a mix of travel modes including vehicles, bicycles, transit and pedestrians.
  - Streets should be designed holistically, considering the pavement, curbing, bikeways, pedestrian ways, lighting, signs, front yard setback areas and building facades.

**Objective B.1.4  
Right of Way Protection**

**The County shall continue to implement its program for protection and acquisition of rights of way for the major roadway network to ensure continuity of the roadway network and to protect existing and future roadway network depicted in the Traffic Circulation Plan from development and other encroachments.**

**Policies**

- B.1.4.1 St. Johns County shall maintain its right-of-way permitting process to protect the existing rights-of-way from encroachment and detrimental construction activity.
- B.1.4.2 St. Johns County shall maintain its development review process to identify where proposed development may encroach on future right-of-way requirements. As permitted by applicable law, the County shall negotiate for dedication or reservation of necessary rights-of-way along major transportation corridors.
- B.1.4.3 St. Johns County shall establish minimum right-of-way requirements consistent with those adopted in Table B-15 of the Transportation Element for new roadway construction which will accommodate existing and future traffic demands.
- B.1.4.4 St. Johns County shall designate regional corridors consistent with the Traffic Circulation Plan where advanced acquisition of right-of-way or right-of-way preservation strategies established in a transportation corridor management plan may be desirable to protect future transportation corridors.
- B.1.4.5 St. Johns County shall continue to implement its Land Development Code to provide for, acquisition, reservation or preservation of right-of-way in advance of road construction.
- B.1.4.6 The County shall discourage any transfer of roadways to the County’s jurisdiction unless the roadways are improved to meet County established operation level of service, current design standards and are accompanied by a commensurate level of operating finding during the first three years of transfer.

**Objective B.1.5**  
**Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities**

**The County shall through coordination with FDOT and municipal governments as necessary, encourage, provide or require bicycle and pedestrian ways for the safe integration of bicycle and pedestrian movement on selected segments of the roadway network, within public facilities, commercial development, residential areas, recreational facilities and within other areas that allow access.**

**Policies**

- B.1.5.1 The County shall consider a Bicycle Facilities Route Map which shall designate those roadway facilities within the County for safe bicycle use.
- B.1.5.2 The County shall continue to implement its Land Development Code to provide for bicycle and pedestrian paths and sidewalks on all new collector roads and collector roads planned for improvement.
- B.1.5.3 **Bicycle Safety.** The County shall coordinate with and encourage the St. Johns County Board of Education to implement a curriculum of Traffic Safety & Education, which shall emphasize bicycle safety in all County elementary and middle schools; shall encourage compliance with and require the enforcement, of existing bicycle laws; and shall support programs which promote the use of helmets by cyclists.
- B.1.5.4 The County shall continue to implement standards, design and construct facilities and features, including wider paved roadway shoulders and roadway stabilization provisions, to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian use, where feasible.
- B.1.5.5 The County shall continue to implement its Land Development Code to accommodate bicycles for the following types of project:
  - (a) Construction, reconstruction and resurfacing projects on all County arterial and major collector roadway projects unless:
    - (1) It would be contrary to public safety;
    - (2) The costs would be excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use; or
    - (3) In areas where other available means or factors indicate the absence of need (such as existing bike paths).
  - (b) Construction, reconstruction and resurfacing projects on all arterial and major collector roadway projects performed by developers as a result of a negotiated development order to ensure that the provisions for bicycle

facilities are followed.

The County shall continue to coordinate these requirements with applicable municipal governments, FDOT and other applicable transportation agencies in establishing continuity in bike trails.

- B.1.5.6. The County shall provide for the maintenance of pedestrian and bicycle travel ways located on County facilities and cooperate with FDOT and adjacent local governments in efforts to develop a systematic pedestrian and bicycle travel way network within the County and between adjacent Counties.
- B.1.5.7 The County shall continue to enforce its land development regulations that require developments to provide bicycle paths and lanes, pedestrian travel ways, sidewalks and greenways in order to provide for alternative travel and recreational opportunities.
- B.1.5.8 The County shall consider alternatives to paved bike lanes and sidewalks on high speed highways, along scenic highways and in areas of extensive old growth tree canopy, along the Intracoastal Waterway, St. Johns River and narrow roadways that may lead to small communities. Alternatives shall provide similar bike and pedestrian travel that also protect the quality and character of the area.



**Objective B.1.6  
Transportation and Land Use**

**All residential, non-residential and planned unit developments shall provide a transportation circulation system which: provides safe access to the major roadway network; provides for proper design of local and collector streets within such development; and otherwise supports the objectives and policies of the Future Land Use and Transportation Elements of the Plan.**

**Policies**

- B.1.6.1      Mix of Uses. The County shall encourage mixed-use developments in designated development areas within the County to provide for an adequate mix of residential and non-residential uses.
  
- B.1.6.2      To reduce trip lengths, reduce the demand for vehicular travel and discourage urban sprawl, the County shall adopt and enforce land use policies, standards and regulations that increase the County’s retail and employment activities, promote high intensity mixed use developments which include the requirements for multi-family housing including affordable housing and provide convenient shopping adjacent to residential neighborhoods.
  
- B.1.6.3      The County shall adopt and enforce policies, standards and regulations that encourage reduced parking requirements, within mixed use centers and development corridors. The County shall, from time to time, evaluate and modify its land use policies, standards and regulations to establish parking ratio maximums for mixed use centers and development corridors.
  
- B.1.6.4.      Circulation within and between Developments. The County shall, where feasible, ensure that development includes internal automobile circulation, bicycle use, pedestrian movement, multi-purpose greenway trails, including paved and unpaved as appropriate, and other features to minimize the use of the major roadway network; and still make provisions for public road, public bikeway and pedestrian access to the adjoining properties.
  
- B.1.6.5.      Consistency with Transportation System. The roadway and circulation systems of proposed developments shall be developed in a manner consistent with the objectives, policies, and standards of the Future Land Use and Traffic Elements in this Plan, and the Future Traffic Circulation Map, consistent with site plan review requirements adopted in the County land development regulations.
  
- B.1.6.6.      The County shall continue to implement its access management standards and procedures adopted in County Land Development Code to ensure that development provides safe access to the major roadway network.
  
- B.1.6.7      The County shall utilize appropriate modeling data as available, to assist in developing transportation priorities and schedules to better establish a linkage

between future land use and transportation comprehensive plan decisions.

- B.1.6.8 St. Johns County shall evaluate residential development orders for impacts on evacuation routes and require mitigation for any project which utilizes 10% or more of the adopted level of service standard from the regional evacuation routes identified in the latest Regional Hurricane Study.
- B.1.6.9 The County shall give higher priority in the Capital Improvement Program to improvements to those roadways which function as evacuation routes as identified in the latest Regional Hurricane Study.
- B.1.6.10 The County shall require tree plantings, where practical, for both new and existing roads to provide screening, beauty, natural environment protection from roadway runoff , reduction in summer heat and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Existing trees, defined as Protected by the Land Development Code, shall be protected during road construction, improvement and maintenance, as required by the Land Development Code.
- B.1.6.11 The County shall support the aesthetic enhancement and environmental protection of existing and new roads by encouraging the use of native vegetation and maintaining natural ground cover, canopy and understory where new roads are constructed.
- B.1.6.12 The County shall require that infrastructure improvements, construction, and work within the right-of-way of designated scenic roads and highways shall be designed to protect the scenic character of the road.
- B.1.6.13 The County shall require the use, where feasible, of wildlife crossings or underpasses, designed to permit and encourage the movement of wildlife wherever a road, lane, path or bridge impacts such movement, especially on or over streams, ravines, wetlands, preservation areas and buffers. The crossings shall allow room for wildlife to pass without being interfered with, injured or threatened by vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Crossings and passes should be large enough that high waters do not impair the movement of wildlife.
- B.1.6.14 The County shall consider Significant Natural Communities as defined in the Land Development Code, Listed Species, wildlife habitat, planned and existing wildlife corridors, and environmentally sensitive areas in planning new roadway corridors to minimize the impacts of roadway construction, traffic flow and maintenance.
- B.1.6.15 By 2012, in conjunction with Policy E.2.2.8, the County shall study and prepare feasible construction design standards for wildlife crossings to be incorporated into the Land Development Code.

B.1.6.16 The County recognizes CR 13 as a scenic, environmental and cultural resource which includes along its boundary the St. Johns River, wetlands, segments of old growth trees with extensive canopy, and segments of established residential development. The County shall protect CR 13 as a unique roadway and seek reasonable alternatives to any project that would result in negative impacts to the quality of this scenic corridor; to the environmental quality of the St. Johns River and wetlands that border the roadway; or to the character and pedestrian safety of the existing residential segments that border the corridor. It is the intent of this policy that CR 13 be limited to two (2) through travel lanes in all areas other than within one half (1/2) mile of intersections experiencing measurable safety or congestion problems. The County recognizes there are portions of CR 13 where traffic safety improvements may be required. In such cases, the County shall specifically consider and minimize any adverse impacts to the scenic, environmental and cultural aspects of the corridor and balance these considerations with the need for traffic safety improvements. Any road improvement projects proposed along the CR 13 corridor will be presented to the affected communities by means of public meetings and notifications will be issued under the provisions of the Neighborhood Bill of Rights (NBR).

**Objective B.1.7**  
**Coordination With Other Transportation Agencies**

**The County shall continue to coordinate transportation activities with federal, state, regional, local agencies and local governments, having planning and implementation responsibilities for highway, mass transit, bicycle, multi-purpose greenways, multi-modal transportation alternatives, railroad, air, and other transit facilities by implementing actions specified in the corresponding policies.**

**Policies**

- B.1.7.1        The County shall maintain its representation on the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) to ensure transportation improvements and actions which are within the boundaries of the TPO are coordinated with the plans, programs and policies of the County. The County will work with the TPO in determining any extensions to the TPO boundaries as a result of the 2010 Census.
  
- B.1.7.2        The County as a member of the North Florida TPO Technical Advisory Committee shall provide technical assistance in the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The County shall review all updates of the Long Range Transportation Plan and consider amendments to the County Comprehensive Plan, as necessary, to ensure consistency with the TPO Long Range Plan and inform the TPO of any inconsistencies and work with the TPO staff in resolving inconsistencies. The Northeast Florida Regional Council conflict mediation process will be utilized for any inconsistencies which cannot be solved through negotiation.
  
- B.1.7.3        The County shall continue to work with the North Florida TPO and FDOT as necessary in developing future population and employment projections by Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) for use in transportation modeling.
  
- B.1.7.4.        St. Johns County shall coordinate the multi-purpose greenways with the appropriate federal, state, regional and local agencies, for future funding potential and future road work improvements utilizing the Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan as a guide.
  
- B.1.7.5        St. Johns County shall coordinate with the St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach District and the Florida Inland Navigation District to ensure adequate surface transportation access to waterways for recreational and commercial opportunities.

**Objective B.1.8  
Transportation Disadvantaged Services**

**Support continued operation of the County’s transportation disadvantaged services by coordinating and supporting the planning activities of the Northeast Florida Regional Council and the operating activities of the St. Johns County Council on Aging as the designated Community Transportation Coordinator in St. Johns County.**

**Policies**

B.1.8.1 As a member of the Local Coordinating Board, the County will participate in the Northeast Florida Regional Council’s annual evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator as well as the annual update of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. .

B.1.8.2 The County shall continue to support the St. Johns County Council on Aging, as the, local transportation disadvantaged Community Transportation Coordinator in obtaining state grant money by supporting the provision of local matching funds.

B.1.8.3 The County shall continue as the designated recipient of Federal Transit Administration funding to support the Community Transportation Coordinator in providing Transportation Disadvantaged services.

B.1.8.4 Minimum Level of Service Standards are established for transportation disadvantaged services provided within the County as follows:

Transportation Service	Minimum Level of Service
Disadvantaged Transit Service	95,000 one-way trips per year

**Objective B.1.9**  
**Public Transit Service**

**St. Johns County will develop public transportation services that address mobility needs of transit dependent customers and encourage the use of public transportation by all residents of St. Johns County and municipalities within.**

**Policies**

- B.1.9.1 The County shall work with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority on the results of the public transit study and its feasibility to St. Johns County and its municipalities and. to determine the extent to which public transit, paratransit, and ridesharing is feasible for the County.
- B.1.9.2 The County shall insure Future Land Use Maps support the development of public transit service.
- B.1.9.3 The County shall continue to cooperate with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority in examining the potential for public transit service within the northern half of the County.
- B.1.9.4 The County shall promote transit in new development by including provision of bus pullouts and paved areas for shelters, where applicable. These requirements shall be mandatory in Developments of Regional Impact. The County shall develop standards for public transit facilities in non-DRI developments.
- B.1.9.5 The County shall establish requirements for park and ride facilities in major developments that provide access to transit facilities.
- B.1.9.6 The County shall develop policies and standards that will provide access to public transit through the use of bicycle and pedestrian systems and park and ride lots.
- B.1.9.7 The County shall address the need to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access to commercial generators and attractors from transit facilities located on public access roads.
- B.1.9.8 St. Johns County shall continue to seek available funds authorized by Federal Transportation Acts as well as required matching funds to meet public transportation needs.
- B.1.9.9 The County shall conduct yearly surveys to evaluate and accommodate public transit needs.
- B.1.9.10 The County shall coordinate with FDOT and North Florida TPO to incorporate transit design and amenities when roadway improvements are made to state, county and local road segments.

- B.1.9.11 The County shall strive to improve transit routes by minimizing headways.
- B.1.9.12 The County shall develop a system and standards whereby the cost of providing transit service to large developments can be offset by developer's contributions.

**Objective B.1.10**  
**Transit Services Coordination**

**Coordinate transit plans and programs within St. Johns County.**

**Policies**

- B.1.10.1 The County shall work with the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council, the St. Johns County Council on Aging as the Community Transportation Coordinator, jurisdictions within the County, and neighboring jurisdictions, including the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, in coordinating any transit plans and programs.
- B.1.10.2 The County will continue to participate as a member of the Northeast Florida Mobility Coalition and participate in the development of the goals and objectives of the Northeast Florida Mobility Plan developed by the Coalition.
- B.1.10.3 St. Johns County will continue to participate as a member of the First Coast Intelligent Transportation System coalition and support the goals and objectives of the First Coast Regional Intelligent Systems master Plan.



**Objective B.1.11**  
**Implementation of Florida Aviation System Plan Recommendations**

**The St. Augustine Airport will continue to be a reliever airport for Jacksonville International Airport and the County will work within the Continuing Florida Aviation Systems Planning Process (CFASPP) in efforts to site a new regional airport to serve the St. Johns County, Clay County, and southern Duval County area.**

**Policies**

- B.1.11.1 Encourage improvements in existing runways and taxiways to assure safety and efficiency of operations, such as strengthening and widening pavements, and upgrading of navigational aids, as specified in the St. Augustine Airport Authority Master Plan.
  
- B.1.11.2 Assist in any feasibility study for another airport to serve the three county area of St. Johns, Clay, and Duval Counties.

**Objective B.1.12**  
**Airport Compatibility**

**The County shall ensure that all new development is consistent and compatible with the Airport District Future Land Use Map designation and the St. Augustine Airport through the implementation of the Land Development Code.**

**Policies**

- B.1.12.1      The County shall continue to implement the standards and procedures established in the Land Development Code to ensure that incompatible land uses shall be restricted from accident and noise zones surrounding the airport.
  
- B.1.12.2      Tall structures, such high-rise buildings and communication towers shall not be allowed within areas which are designated in accordance with existing and proposed flight patterns and airfield safety criteria.
  
- B.1.12.3      The County shall review updates to the St. Augustine Airport Master Plan and Noise studies as may be completed and shall, as necessary or appropriate amend the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code as applicable to be consistent with these documents to restrict future construction which is unsafe and incompatible with aviation activities.
  
- B.1.12.4      The County shall coordinate planning efforts for future aviation transportation consistent with State, regional, adjacent county and municipal transportation plans.

**Objective B.1.13**  
**Transportation Corridors**

**The County shall maintain the integrity of existing roadway and railway corridors for possible transportation or other linear uses, where possible and practical.**

**Policies**

- B.1.13.1      The County shall review all proposals to abandon existing transportation corridors to determine whether the corridor should be preserved for future transportation or utility purposes; and, where such preservation is appropriate, work with agencies as necessary to take action to protect and preserve the corridor, and establish it as a greenway, pedestrian trail or recreational bicycle trail.
  
- B.1.13.2      The County shall participate in the planning and support of future rail transit studies and programs to serve the County, if such activities are undertaken by Florida Department of Transportation, the Northeast Florida Regional Council, the North Florida TPO or the Jacksonville Transportation Authority through the provision of appropriate data, resources and staff assistance.
  
- B.1.13.3      The County shall cooperate with FDOT in the conversion of the abandoned right-of-ways for conversion to a recreational bicycle trails.

**Objective B.1.14**  
**Coordination of Aviation and Surface Transportation**

**The County shall coordinate aviation activities and plans to ensure that access to the St. Augustine Airport is integrated with surface transportation.**

**Policies**

- B.1.14.1      The County shall ensure that adequate surface transportation access to the Airport is maintained when providing priorities for development of the Florida Department of Transportation Five-Year Work Program updates, or other surface transit studies conducted by FDOT, the Northeast Florida Regional Council, the North Florida TPO or the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, through staff participation in any Technical Coordinating Committees and the provision of available data and resources.
  
- B.1.14.2      St. Johns County shall coordinate with the Airport Authority to establish formal communication and coordination of planning efforts.

## **C. HOUSING ELEMENT**

### **Goal C.1**

**Support the provision and maintenance of an adequate inventory of decent, safe and sanitary housing in a variety of types, sizes, and locations throughout the County at affordable costs to meet the needs of the current and future residents of the County.**

### **Objective C.1.1**

#### **Creation and Preservation of Affordable Workforce and Special Needs Housing**

**The County shall continue its housing implementation policies such as density bonuses, infill housing, and an expedited development review process for affordable workforce housing developments that provides for the development of sufficient housing in numbers, cost and type to support existing and projected population throughout the planning period 2010-2025.**

#### **Policies**

- C.1.1.1 St. Johns County shall continue to improve the supply of affordable workforce housing for very-low, low and moderate income households and special-needs households, and to implement neighborhood improvement initiatives. The activities initiated by the County include the following:
- (a) Applying for Community Development Block Grant funding under the Small Cities CDBG Program for housing rehabilitation, infrastructure, or public facilities;
  - (b) Applying for and administering rent supplement programs and other grants for very-low, low and moderate income households;
  - (c) Continuing the existing community redevelopment programs and initiating new redevelopment efforts where appropriate;
  - (d) Developing new and maintaining existing cooperative joint-venture relationships with the private sector, public agencies and non-profit organizations;
  - (e) Providing support to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee;
  - (f) Administering the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program and other housing programs that supply affordable workforce housing.

- C.1.1.2 Provide information, communication and technical assistance to the private sector through various media efforts, newspapers, and community and non-profit newsletters.
- C.1.1.3 The County shall continue its programs assisting participants involved in housing production by conducting workshop(s) with private and non-profit entities to seek partners for neighborhood improvement initiatives and density bonuses available for the provision of very-low, low and moderate and special-needs households as stipulated in the land development regulations.
- C.1.1.4 The County shall maintain its existing incentives for affordable workforce housing in the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code and investigate new incentives as necessary.
- C.1.1.5 The County shall review and revise, as necessary, its land development regulations and update criteria for the location of housing for the elderly and disabled (physically or mentally handicapped) and institutional housing within a community and neighborhood setting. Such location shall consider accessibility, convenience and infrastructure availability. Additionally, the County shall continue to investigate programs and grant funding for the elderly and for disabled persons.
- C.1.1.6 By 2013, the County shall update its Affordable Housing Needs Study and Migrant Workers Housing Report.
- C.1.1.7 The County shall consider amending its Land Development Code to allow migrant farm worker housing as an accessory use in the Rural/Silviculture (R/S) and Agricultural-Intensive (A-I) Future Land Use designations. The allowed density of the accessory migrant housing shall be based upon the number of acres being farmed.
- C.1.1.8 The County shall coordinate and work closely with the County Agricultural Extension Agent, farm owners, and non-profit organizations to provide housing for migrant farm workers. The County may form partnerships with agricultural business owners to provide for the housing needs of migrant farm workers and provide information regarding:
- (a) the availability of land with sufficient density and infrastructure to support farm worker housing developments; and
  - (b) available funding for the development of farm worker housing projects.
- C.1.1.9 The County shall investigate incentives for agricultural business owners who provide adequate housing for farm workers.
- C.1.1.10 The County shall encourage non-profit agencies and other support groups to plan

and coordinate efforts for affordable rental housing and other non-housing support services for farm workers and their families through workshop programs, which will provide the opportunity for the exchange of ideas and development of coordinating relationships.

- C.1.1.11 The County shall coordinate with the Northeast Florida Regional Council to assist in addressing the regional issue of migrant farm worker housing.
- C.1.1.12 The County shall continue to permit mobile homes and manufactured homes, in accordance with its land development regulations, as an alternative low cost housing option.
- C.1.1.13 The County shall continue to seek funds to provide financing opportunities for very-low, low and moderate income housing. The County shall continue its coordination with the banking and mortgage institutions to provide financing for construction and rehabilitation projects and to financially support non-profit housing developers to produce more rehabilitated units for very-low, low and moderate income residents.
- C.1.1.14 The County shall support economic solutions to affordable housing, such as establishing job training and job creation programs to assist very-low, low, and moderate income households. The County shall also investigate programs and grant funding for the development of such programs.
- C.1.1.15 The County may support transitional housing in acceptable locations with job opportunities, transportation alternatives, diverse housing types, commercial and medical opportunities for housing special need populations. The County shall also investigate programs and grant funding to support the development of transitional housing.
- C.1.1.16 The County shall support efforts of local social service non-profit organizations to develop programs which address homelessness within the County. The County shall continue to investigate federal and state funding sources.
- C.1.1.17 The County shall support the use of Planning Districts to focus housing resources to those districts with an immediate need for housing services. Emphasis shall be placed on those Planning Districts accommodating housing for special needs groups, including farm workers, the homeless, the elderly, and very-low and low income households.
- C.1.1.18 The County shall investigate mitigation strategies for affordable housing not limited to the following concepts and provisions:
  - (a) The construction of affordable housing units on sites located inside and/or outside the boundaries of DRIs, PUDs, and other types of proposed development;
  - (b) Payment to an affordable housing trust fund; or

(c) Other methods approved by the Board of County Commissioners and the Department of Community Affairs.

- C.1.1.19 The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and the County shall seek funding, to the extent feasible, for improvements within the boundaries of designated Community Redevelopment Areas.
- C.1.1.20 The County shall review its Land Development Code to determine if group housing, special care, transitional and similar temporary housing should be allowed in residential zoning districts without special use approval.
- C.1.1.21 In designated CRAs, urban infill areas and redevelopment areas, the County shall work with adjacent municipalities for the provision of central water and sewer and other applicable public facilities to accomplish the redevelopment efforts.
- C.1.1.22 In designated CRAs, urban infill areas and redevelopment areas, water and sewer facilities shall be provided by the applicable service provider, if capacity and transmission systems are within one-half (½) mile of the site.
- C.1.1.23 The County shall require the additional unit allowed by mathematically rounding up density be developed as affordable workforce housing, within the Vilano Beach Town Center CRA.
- C.1.1.24 The County shall investigate the use of inclusionary zoning and similar regulations for the provision of affordable workforce housing.



**Objective C.1.2**  
**Elimination of Substandard Housing**

**The County shall maintain its existing programs, investigate new programs and identify funding sources which will work toward the elimination of substandard housing and improve the aesthetic qualities of existing housing and encourage improvements that reduce energy and water consumption.**

**Policies**

- C.1.2.1 Continue the active enforcement of the Building Code, as may be amended which requires the application of minimum health, safety, and welfare standards to all new construction; reconstruction; historic preservation/renovation; housing rehabilitation/adaptive reuse, and/or the removal of unsafe, unsanitary substandard structures.
- C.1.2.2 In designated CRAs and urban infill areas, the County may provide increased code enforcement, to the extent financial feasible, to protect the safety of the residents, neighborhood character and the financial incentives invested in the CRA.
- C.1.2.3 Seek federal, state and local funding for the demolition or rehabilitation of substandard housing. Investigate programs such as the Small Cities CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program to address the rehabilitation of substandard housing units within the County and alternative housing initiatives such as lot recycling to address the demolition of substandard units.
- C.1.2.4 The County shall utilize the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and the Housing Finance Authority to provide input on housing and neighborhood improvement initiatives.
- C.1.2.5 The County shall continue to implement programs which promote conservation and rehabilitation of housing for very-low, low and moderate income households by:
- (a) Pursuing Federal, State and private resources to support neighborhood conservation and improvement;
  - (b) Stimulating increased investment in the production and maintenance of rental property for very-low, low and moderate income households by providing information and by offering, when available, County resources which will leverage financing for developers (such as deferring payment of utility connections and using SHIP funds and other funds for impact fees).
  - (c) Working cooperatively with neighborhood groups to develop strategies to promote comprehensive neighborhood revitalization.

### **Objective C.1.3**

#### **Adequate Areas for Very-Low, Low and Moderate Income Households, Mobile Homes, Manufactured Homes, Group Homes and Foster Care Facilities**

**The County, through its Future Land Use Map and its review of the County Land Development Code shall ensure that County zoning districts include areas for the location of housing for very-low, low and moderate income households, single family homes, mobile homes, manufactured homes, group homes and foster care facilities adequate to meet the needs for these housing types during the planning period.**

#### **Policies**

- C.1.3.1 The County shall assure freedom of choice in housing for its residents by designating a variety of residential densities on the Future Land Use Map (FLUM).
- C.1.3.2 The County shall support land use patterns that provide housing opportunities at varying densities in appropriate locations.
- C.1.3.3 The County shall maximize the use of FLUM designations to encourage urban infill that will assist in providing a variety of housing types to meet a range of housing needs to support the use of existing infrastructure and curtail sprawl.
- C.1.3.4 The County shall promote and support projects that provide a mix of housing to serve a range of income levels and integrating market rate housing with affordable workforce housing.
- C.1.3.5 The County shall continue to designate on its Future Land Use Map sufficient land area with adequate density to accommodate the projected 2025 population.
- C.1.3.6 The County shall continue to update its Land Development Code to ensure that a variety of lot sizes, densities and housing types are provided throughout the County, including single-family, multi-family, accessory dwelling units, manufactured and mobile homes.
- C.1.3.7 The County shall continue to enforce the Land Development Code to assure compatibility of land uses within established or planned residential areas.
- C.1.3.8 Residential development shall be coordinated with existing and planned community services and infrastructure. Through the Development Review process, the County shall encourage innovative land uses through the Land Development Code, such as clustered development, traditional neighborhood development compact development, energy efficient design, low impact design, and other sustainable development practices, strategies and techniques.
- C.1.3.9 Community facilities and infrastructure, whether provided by public or private

sources, shall be extended to developing areas concurrent with need and consistent with the Future Land Use Map and the adopted Level of Service standards.

- C.1.3.10 The County shall continue to utilize the Development Review process, Development of Regional Impact (DRI) review process, the Future Land Use Map amendment process and the rezoning and special use processes to assure that new proposed land uses are compatible with existing residential uses.
- C.1.3.11 The County shall review and revise, as necessary, the Planned Development (PUD and PRD) process to assure that it accommodates the development of very-low, low and moderate income housing.
- C.1.3.12 The County shall continue to support efforts by the State and Federal governments to assist seniors to Age in Place by promoting independent living initiatives and encourage the use of Universal Design standards.
- C.1.3.13 The County shall encourage developers and builders to use universal design to promote aging in place.
- C.1.3.14 The County shall coordinate with the Council on Aging and other applicable elderly social service agencies to disseminate information countywide on programs that benefit the elderly. Communication sources may include but are not limited to, the County website and information kiosks.
- C.1.3.15 The County shall encourage the use of Federal and State programs to provide incentive programs for elderly housing.
- C.1.3.16 The County shall provide for the creation and preservation of workforce affordable housing for all current and anticipated future residents ; including special needs, rural residents and farm workers by allowing affordable housing in all residential areas, rehabilitating existing units using SHIP funds, and other state or federal funding, such as, DEP, CDBG or EPA for infrastructure improvements and neighborhood revitalization and undertaking other measures to minimize the need for additional local services and avoid a concentration of affordable housing units in specific areas.
- C.1.3.17 The County shall continue to make available incentives for the construction and rehabilitation for housing of very-low, low and moderate income households including special needs groups.
- C.1.3.18 The County shall continue to support cooperative and partnership activities among local governments, the private sector, and non-profit organizations, to provide housing assistance to meet the needs of very-low, low, and moderate income households.
- C.1.3.19 The County shall coordinate with federal, state and other funding agencies very-

low and provide technical assistance and support to private applicants applying for these funds.

- C.1.3.20 The County shall maintain and enforce its adopted local fair housing ordinance to ensure equal housing opportunity in accordance with Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and the Florida Fair Housing Act, Chapter 760.020, F.S.
- C.1.3.21 The County shall encourage increased homeownership by providing down payment assistance to eligible very- low, low and moderate income households through the County SHIP program as well as other state and federal programs.
- C.1.3.22 The County shall require all applicants for down payment assistance to attend a home buyer’s educational workshop as a prerequisite to obtain assistance through the County Homeownership Program.
- C.1.3.23 The County shall work toward distributing very-low, low and moderate housing throughout the county to provide for a wide variety of neighborhood settings and to avoid undue concentration in any one neighborhood. The County shall also, encourage developers and non-profit organizations of housing for very-low and low income households to disperse such housing countywide.
- C.1.3.24 The County shall identify on the Future Land Use Map a variety of residential districts with sufficient densities for the location of very-low, low and moderate income housing in proximity to water and sewer facilities, job opportunities, transportation alternatives, diverse housing types, commercial and medical opportunities. The County shall review local and regional transportation networks when siting housing for these target groups.
- C.1.3.25 The St. Johns County Housing and Community Services Department shall present a report periodically to the Board of County Commissioners on the status of the County’s programs to provide housing for very-low, low and moderate income households and special-needs households, along with recommended programs to facilitate such housing throughout the county.
- C.1.3.26 The County shall continue to permit mobile homes and manufactured homes, in accordance with its land development regulations, as an alternative low cost housing option.
- C.1.3.27 The County shall continue to use non-discriminatory standards and criteria in addressing the location of group homes and foster care facilities in a variety of suitable residential zoning districts.
- C.1.3.28 The County shall provide demographic and technical information to private and non-profit organizations willing to develop group and foster care facilities for county residents.
- C.1.3.29 The County shall require group homes and foster care facilities to obtain appropriate permits and licenses from the State Department of Children and

Families in addition to those required by the Public Health Department. Also, group homes must meet the requirements of Chapter 419, F.S.

- C.1.3.30 The County shall coordinate the development of group homes, foster care facilities and residential care facilities with existing and planned community services and infrastructure.

**Objective C.1.4  
Historical Housing**

**The County shall continue to implement its existing Land Development Code regulations which further the identification and protection of historically significant structures and districts.**

**Policies**

- C.1.4.1 The County shall actively coordinate with the State Department, Division of Historical Resources, to further the identification and classification of historical/archaeological sites in the County. State Historic Preservation funding and other grants shall be actively pursued to assist in this effort.
- C.1.4.2 The County shall use its Historic Resource Review Board to review and document sites proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- C.1.4.3 The County shall promote the preservation, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of historically significant housing through technical assistance and the implementation of the Land Development Code, including the existing discretionary standards in the Building Code for historical buildings.
- C.1.4.4 The County shall provide technical assistance to property owners of historically significant housing in applying for and utilizing state and federal assistance programs. As requested, the County shall provide information to the St. Augustine Preservation Board or other historic preservation organizations to promote the preservation and reuse of historic structures.
- C.1.4.5 In areas where historical and cultural resources are identified, neighborhood improvement initiatives shall be scheduled in a manner that minimizes disruption and relocation of such resources.

**Objective C.1.5  
Existing Housing**

**The County shall review all existing codes and ordinances and adopt appropriate regulations which address conservation, rehabilitation or demolition of housing.**

**Policies**

- C.1.5.1 Review and where necessary, amend the County building, housing and health codes and standards relating to the care and maintenance of residential and neighborhood environments and facilities.
- C.1.5.2 Employ neighborhood improvement initiatives based upon comprehensive evaluation of future land uses for areas displaying a predominance of substandard housing units, conflicting land use patterns and lacking adequate infrastructure facilities. These initiatives should include the establishment of appropriate procedures for abatement through rehabilitation or demolition.
- C.1.5.3 The County shall work with community based organizations to inform and encourage households to rehabilitate their homes by utilizing the various state, federal and county programs available.

**Objective C.1.6  
Relocation Housing**

**The County shall provide for uniform and equitable treatment for persons and businesses displaced by state and local government programs consistent with Section 421.55, F.S.**

**Policies**

C.1.6.1      As part of neighborhood improvement initiatives, priority shall be given to providing opportunities for those living in an improved area to move back into the area at reasonable costs.



**Objective C.1.7**  
**Housing Implementation Programs**

**The County shall improve and maintain the quality and integrity of its residential communities. Strategies to achieve this include: encouraging the development of residential neighborhoods which are sustainable, which provide for networks of interconnected streets for both pedestrian and vehicular use, which address aesthetics, architecture, and urban design, and which discourage sprawl; coordinating with local law enforcement agencies to promote programs designed to improve the safety and security of neighborhoods; and encouraging the utilization of environmental design strategies to reduce the potential of crime in neighborhoods.**

**Policies**

- C.1.7.1 Through the continued implementation of the Plan goals, objectives and policies, along with the Land Development Code, the County shall meet the housing needs of current and future residents.
  
- C.1.7.2 The County shall, through its public information functions, make available educational materials which promote energy and water saving techniques in the construction, siting, landscaping, cooling, and heating of residential structures to homeowners and the construction industry.
  
- C.1.7.3 The County shall initiate interlocal agreements with adjacent local governments, as deemed necessary or appropriate, to address the affordable housing needs if the County determines that;
  - (a) Meeting the demand for affordable housing is not economically feasible due to unusually high property values; or
  - (b) Meeting the demand for affordable housing is not environmentally feasible due to the physical constraints of the coastal high hazard areas.

## **Objective C.1.8 Energy Efficiency Housing**

**The County shall implement cost effective measures to reduce energy and water consumption and promote energy conservation, carbon reduction, green building and economic development through its Housing initiatives.**

### **Policies**

- C.1.8.1 The County shall promote energy saving techniques through the public information program established by Policy C.1.7.2. The County shall continue to enforce the Florida Energy Efficiency Code through the development permit review and approval process.
- C.1.8.2 The County shall promote energy conservation by supporting compact neighborhood design with alternative transportation systems and through programs established in Objective A.1.11 and related policies, Objective B.1.5 and related policies and Policy B.1.6.2.
- C.1.8.3 St Johns County shall encourage all housing structures be constructed with cost-effective efficiency construction standards. Whenever feasible, housing should attempt to meet or exceed standards set forth by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, or other national or state recognized high-performance conservation building rating system as approved by the Florida Department of Management Services.
- C.1.8.4 By 2011 and in connection with Policy E.2.10.8, the County shall amend its Land Development Code to require all housing to be energy efficient in its design; use of energy and water efficient appliances and to be appropriately weatherized.
- C.1.8.5 Upon its completion, St. Johns County will investigate the Florida Residential Retrofit program to determine applicability in the retrofitting of older homes in St. Johns County in order for these homes to become more energy efficient. The County may investigate a long term market-based program that offers a whole-house approach for reducing energy use.
- C.1.8.6 The County shall promote water conservation by encouraging the use of water efficient devices and Florida Friendly Landscapes as recommended by the University of Florida/IFAS program, consistent with E.2.1.6.

## **D. INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT**

### **SANITARY SEWER SUB-ELEMENT**

#### **Goal D.1**

**St. Johns County shall maintain an efficient system of sanitary sewer disposal, which prevents the degradation of the existing resources, meets existing and projected demands, promotes orderly growth and development and protects the public health of the community.**

#### **Objective D.1.1**

##### **Growth Management- Concurrency Management**

**The County shall implement procedures which will coordinate the extension of sewer facilities or the increase in capacity of sewer facilities, in order to: meet future needs, to correct existing sewer facility deficiencies, and to promote compact urban growth. All system improvements for replacement, expansion, or increase in capacity of sewer facilities shall comply with the existing or newly adopted level of service standards for the facilities.**

#### **Policies**

- D.1.1.1 The County shall continue to encourage growth management practices within the Development Areas which promote contiguous, compact development through the availability of utility services.
- D.1.1.2 New public infrastructure shall continue to be planned and designed to be compatible with adjacent land uses, both existing and future and shall not promote development located in Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESLs).
- D.1.1.3 The County shall continue to direct development within the Development Area Boundaries as designated on the 2025 Future Land Use Map.
- D.1.1.4 New public infrastructure and public services shall continue to be constructed and expanded in an orderly manner, with costs shared as appropriate, on a proportionate basis, by those benefiting from the service.
- D.1.1.5 Both public and private sanitary sewer lines shall serve developments located within the Development Areas as identified by the 2025 Future Land Use Map. When it is necessary for sewer mains to be extended to connect one Development Area with another, the extension of such transmission lines shall not be construed as justification for development at intensities greater than is allowed in the Rural/Silviculture (R/S) or Agriculture-Intensive (A-I) or other existing adjacent land use areas as designated on the 2025 FLUM.

D.1.1.6 In an effort to promote orderly contiguous compact development, the County shall adopt regulations establishing criteria identifying the extent of where sanitary sewer utility service areas will be located. Such regulations shall define the extent of where centralized potable water and sanitary sewer utility services will be provided by St Johns County Utilities, and/or by municipalities, and/or by utilities certified by the Florida Public Service Commission and/or utilities certified by St. Johns County.

D.1.1.7 The extension of sanitary sewer services, beyond the Development Area Boundaries, shall be extended in a manner which prevents urban sprawl and leap frog development and is consistent with the adopted Utility Service Area ordinance. Such extensions must meet the following criteria:

- (a) Wastewater treatment capacity must be available;
- (b) The proposed extension is funded by the proposed development, or the project is adopted by the capital improvement schedule;
- (c) The extension is consistent with the approval of a large scale comprehensive land use amendment as specified in the Future Land Use Element policies A.1.2.5 and A.1.2.6.
- (d) The extension is of sufficient capacity to provide for the connection of adjacent systems.

Provisions for the extension of sanitary sewer services beyond the Development Area Boundaries may be waived in emergency situations, such as failure of package treatment plants or septic tank systems.

D.1.1.8 The development of growth management strategies shall continue to be coordinated between the County Growth Management Department and the appropriate utility department.

D.1.1.9 New public infrastructure within the Coastal Area shall be planned and constructed in a manner which minimizes the impact upon coastal marshes, wetlands and surface water. New infrastructure development within the Coastal Areas shall be subject to County Land Development Code.

D.1.1.10 Public expenditures within the Coastal High Hazard Areas (CHHA) shall be limited pursuant to Objective H.1.4 and supporting policies unless required for the health, safety or welfare of existing residents.

D.1.1.11 Sanitary sewer availability by itself shall not provide justification for

development approvals such as rezonings or Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

- D.1.1.12 Proposed developments in St. Johns County shall meet sanitary sewer concurrency management approvals as required by the Land Development Code.
- D.1.1.13 St. Johns County shall monitor total capacity and facility demand for each utility system in the county to assure that the adopted level of service (LOS) standards are maintained and the Concurrency Management System is up to date.
- D.1.1.14 The County shall discourage the discharge of any new or upgraded public or private sanitary sewer facility into the estuarine waters of the County.
- D.1.1.15 Coastal water and sewer development shall be subject to the County's Land Development Regulations, Utility Ordinance 97-63, Private Utility Ordinance 98-25 and the requirements established pursuant to Section 381.00655, F.S.
- D.1.1.16 The location of the County Utility's water and sewer lines can be obtained from the County's Utility Department upon request as allowed by Florida law.

**Objective D.1.2**  
**Level of Service Standards**

**The County shall adopt Level of Service (LOS) standards to measure the adequacy of sanitary sewer services and facilities.**

**Policies**

- D.1.2.1        The County shall continue to ensure that sanitary sewer facilities which serves new development meets or exceed the minimum level of service (LOS) as adopted in the Comprehensive Plan.
  
- D.1.2.2        The minimum Level of Service (LOS) standards for existing sanitary sewer facilities shall be established as 100 gallons per capita per day (GPCD).
  
- D.1.2.3        The level of service standards for sanitary sewer, are hereby adopted as set forth in Policy H.1.2.1, and shall be used as the basis for determining the availability of facility capacity for the purpose of issuing development orders and development permits.

**Objective D.1.3.  
Wastewater Systems**

**St. Johns County shall continue to discourage the use of wastewater systems that are package treatment plants; but when necessary, the county shall require the package wastewater treatment systems be constructed to run efficiently and effectively to prevent water degradation, and designed to meet advanced wastewater treatment(AWT) standards including use of treated effluent for use as reclaimed water irrigation.**

**Policies**

- D.1.3.1        The County shall continue to replace package treatment plants with regional sewer facilities when they become available.
  
- D.1.3.2        The County shall ensure that, prior to the issuance of a development order or permit, the applicant has demonstrated that the project complies with Federal, State and Local permit requirements for wastewater systems (package treatment plants).
  
- D.1.3.3        St. Johns County shall require wastewater disposal agreements whereby package treatment plants may be interconnected and replaced by regional treatment facilities in order to improve operating efficiencies. Such wastewater agreements shall state that at the time deemed appropriate by the county, the wastewater system shall be acquired by the county for operation and maintenance.
  
- D.1.3.4        Wastewater Systems (package treatment plants) shall be allowed within the Development Areas only as a temporary measure and shall be built according to applicable state or local standards. Once centralized sanitary sewer is available, the County shall require private wastewater systems, through a wastewater disposal agreement, to be decommissioned and connected to the centralized utility system.
  
- D.1.3.5        The County will continue to require, all new package treatment plants constructed in the County to construct their proposed facilities according to the St. Johns County Utility Department’s sanitary sewer facility construction standards with an overall goal of reaching Advanced Waste Treatment (AWT) standards for all plants. .

## **Objective D.1.4 Septic Tanks**

**The County shall continue to review the use of on-site sewage treatment disposal system (OSTDS) facilities to assure compliance with Federal, State, Regional, and County regulations, and install regional facilities in accordance with the Capital Improvements Element in order to reduce the number of septic tanks installed annually.**

### **Policies**

- D.1.4.1 Septic tanks, at a minimum, shall comply with established State standards, including suitable soil types and minimum lot sizes. The County shall continue to ensure compliance with established State standards through the St. Johns County Health Department review of applications for septic tanks.
- D.1.4.2 The County shall continue to apply the State established minimum setback for septic tank drain fields in areas adjacent to any stream, creek, pond or other open water body.
- D.1.4.3 Pursuant to applicable law, and as required by St. Johns County Land Development Code (LDC), residents using septic tank systems shall be required to tie into centralized sewer systems once that system becomes available in the area.
- D.1.4.4 On-site sewage disposal systems shall be prohibited within wetland systems.
- D.1.4.5 New developments above the St. Johns County Health Department's threshold(s) for septic tank use shall rely upon public or private sewer systems and wastewater treatment plants built to county/state specifications.
- D.1.4.6 In an effort to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens, the County shall require the use of advanced on-site treatment and disposal systems(OSTDS) for new development located within 100 feet of the surface waters along the Intracoastal Waterway and St. Johns River which is not served by centralized sewer service. The lot size and proximity to surface water for new developments shall be considered in the review of these systems.
- D.1.4.7 St Johns County shall continue to encourage the use of advanced on-site treatment and disposal systems(OSTDS) for new development on a parcel located within the Environmental Sensitive Lands (ESLs), as designated on the FLUM series, which does not have central sanitary sewer currently



available.

- D.1.4.8 The County shall, in coordination with the St. Johns County Health Department, establish public education programs on the proper use, inspection requirements, maintenance, and abandonment of septic tanks. The tank abandonment process shall be based on applicable state and local regulations.

**Objective D.1.5**  
**Surface Water and Groundwater Quality**

**St. Johns County shall take measures to protect the surface and ground water quantity and quality.**

**Policies**

- D.1.5.1 St. Johns County shall support, encourage and coordinate water quality monitoring by local, state and federal agencies which will identify and formulate plans to address point and non-point sources of surface water pollution.
- D.1.5.2 St. Johns County in coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) shall adopt standards and procedures which promote and regulate the Marine Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- D.1.5.3 Disposal of sludge shall be allowed only in areas which will not adversely impact groundwater resources, recharge areas or watersheds that drain into the surface water supplies.
- D.1.5.4 Land uses may be restricted if they adversely affect the quality and quantity of the water resources such as natural groundwater recharge areas, wellhead protection areas and surface waters.
- D.1.5.5 St. Johns County shall continue to implement the Stormwater Management Ordinance for the reduction and elimination of pollutant discharges to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.

**Objective D.1.6  
Water Conservation**

**The County shall coordinate with appropriate State, Regional and Federal agencies to address current and future water sources, water use, and water conservation.**

**Policies**

- D.1.6.1        The County shall continue to require all new golf course developments to be designed and constructed to accommodate reuse for irrigation on the golf course.
  
- D.1.6.2        The County through public outreach to its citizens shall publicize and promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) as suggested by the State of Florida and it's Water Management Districts that illustrate the importance of water conservation.
  
- D.1.6.3.        The County Utility through its rate structures will continue to promote and provide financial incentives that promote water conservation.
  
- D.1.6.4        The County will continue to promote "Florida-friendly landscaping" through its outreach programs.

**Objective D.1.7.  
System Expansion/ Improvements**

**The County shall implement procedures, which will coordinate the extension of sewer facilities, or the increase in capacity of sewer facilities, in order to meet future needs, to correct existing sewer facility deficiencies, and to promote compact urban growth. All system improvements for replacement, expansion, or increase in capacity of sewer facilities shall comply with the existing or newly adopted level of service standards for the facilities.**

**Policies**

- D.1.7.1 Annual summaries of facility capacity and demand information prepared by the Utility Department shall be used to evaluate the need for, timing and location of projects to extend or increase the capacity of existing facilities.
- D.1.7.2 The County’s Wastewater Master Plan shall be updated every five years at a minimum.
- D.1.7.3 Proposed Capital Improvements projects shall be evaluated and ranked according to the following three priority level guidelines:
- (a) Level One - whether the project is needed to protect public health, safety and welfare to fulfill the county’s legal commitment to provide facilities and services, or to preserve or achieve full use of existing facilities.
  - (b) Level Two - whether the project increases efficiency of use of existing facilities, prevents or reduces future improvement costs, provides service to developed areas lacking full service or promotes in-fill development.
  - (c) Level Three - whether the project represents a logical extension of facilities and services within the Development Area Boundaries.
- D.1.7.4 The County shall provide sanitary sewer service to areas where the lack of service is determined to be a public health threat. The cost for providing such a service shall be recovered through those connecting to the system and directly benefiting from the improvement.
- D.1.7.5 Major capital expenditures to finance the construction of centralized sanitary sewer facilities for St. Johns County Utilities shall be indicated in the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan and shall be updated annually if necessary, or at a minimum every five years.

- D.1.7.6 All improvements for replacement, expansion or increase in capacity of sewer facilities shall be compatible with the existing, or newly adopted, level of service standards for such facilities.
- D.1.7.7 In order to manage future growth within St. Johns County, the following measures shall be established to ensure the minimum level of service standards are met:
- (a) begin planning for expansion when a plant's average daily demand is projected to equal or exceed 50 % capacity.
  - (b) prepare plans and specifications for expansion when a plant's average daily demand is projected to equal or exceed 85% capacity.
  - (c) submit a complete construction permit application to the Department of Environmental Protection for expansion when a plant's average daily demand is projected to equal or exceed 90 % capacity.
- D.1.7.8 The County sanitary sewer system shall continue to operate as an enterprise system which is financially self-supporting.
- D.1.7.9 The County Utility Department shall fund sanitary sewer capital improvements and extensions through impact fees, developer's agreements, assessments and other appropriate fees and funding mechanisms.
- D.1.7.10 The County shall pursue federal, state and local funding sources available for the improvement and expansion of utilities.

## **D. INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT**

### **SOLID WASTE SUB-ELEMENT**

#### **Goal D.2**

**St. Johns County shall provide an efficient and environmentally sound solid and hazardous waste management system which protects public health and sanitation, promotes orderly growth within the County, and meets current and projected demand for the management and disposal of waste.**

#### **Objective D.2.1**

##### **Service Concurrent with Development**

**Provide solid waste disposal services and facilities to meet current needs and projected future demands as indicated in the Future Land Use Element, and to prevent adverse effects on the natural environment.**

##### **Policies**

- D.2.1.1 The County shall utilize the Tillman Ridge transfer station to accommodate up to 650 tons per day of solid waste and the Stratton Road transfer station to accommodate up to 1000 tons per day of solid waste, as permitted by FDEP.
- D.2.1.2 The minimum level of service (LOS) standards shall be established as four (4) pounds per person per day, and shall be used as the basis for determining the availability of facility capacity and the demand generated by new development, and for the purpose of issuing development orders and development permits.
- D.2.1.3 The St. Johns County Solid Waste Department shall receive an annual certified report from its contracted landfill documenting the existing available airspace.
- D.2.1.4 The County shall provide collection services at a frequency and level of convenience to protect the health and safety of the community.

**Objective D.2.2  
Environmental and Economic Feasibility**

**The County shall provide solid waste disposal in an environmentally sound and economical manner.**

**Policies**

- D.2.2.1        The County shall continue to utilize FDEP standards as a comprehensive landfill and/or transfer station siting methodology and the County’s Land Development Code to guide the future development of solid waste disposal facilities and ensure their location in environmentally suitable areas.
  
- D.2.2.2        The County shall achieve an integrated program of solid waste disposal through transferring solid waste material to a regional facility, recycling, and other technologies found to be suitable.
  
- D.2.2.3        Solid waste management facilities developed and operated by the County shall:
  - (a)        Comply with all federal, state and local environmental regulations;
  - (b)        Minimize adverse human and natural environmental impacts;
  - (c)        Minimize development and operation and maintenance costs;
  - (d)        Minimize environmental and economic risk; and
  - (e)        Meet all applicable health and safety standards.

**Objective D.2.3  
Hazardous Waste**

**The County shall ensure the safe collection, handling, and temporary storage of hazardous waste and those provisions needed to properly manage and dispose of hazardous wastes within St. Johns County through the planning time frame (2010 to 2025).**

**Policies**

- D.2.3.1        The County shall pursue public education programs to make the public aware of hazardous materials problems and techniques.
  
- D.2.3.2        Waste streams shall be monitored at landfill sites to prevent illegal dumping of hazardous waste.
  
- D.2.3.3        The County shall continue to require building permits to facilitate the tracking of hazardous waste.
  
- D.2.3.4        The County shall continue to investigate programs for the safe collection, handling and temporary storage of hazardous wastes generated by small quantity generators(SQGs) as defined by applicable Federal regulations. In addition, the County shall identify possible sites for the location of storage facilities for hazardous wastes generated by SQG's.
  
- D.2.3.5        The County shall continue to operate a service which allows residents to dispose of household hazardous waste at designated drop off locations.
  
- D.2.3.6        The County shall continue to perform regular inspections of small quantity hazardous waste generators in compliance with Florida Statutes.
  
- D.2.3.7        The County shall encourage the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to perform regular inspections of large quantity hazardous waste generators (LQG's) and private licensed waste handlers to ensure that bio-hazardous waste which is generated by medical establishments and handled by private firms is properly managed.



**Objective D.2.4**  
**Reduction of Waste Volume**

**The County shall continue to implement waste reduction and recycling programs to reduce the amount of solid waste entering the waste stream.**

**Policies**

- D.2.4.1        The recycling programs shall be continued countywide with a goal to reduce the amount of solid waste by 75 percent through 2020. The County shall continue to reduce the amount of solid waste through its Residential Recycling at Curbside Program and Commercial Recycling Ordinance.
  
- D.2.4.2        The County shall endeavor to expand its existing recycling programs to include commercial and industrial businesses.
  
- D.2.4.3        The County shall, within the existing budget, continue to develop and implement recycling programs designed to separate newspaper, glass, metal products and plastics.
  
- D.2.4.4        The County shall, through informational brochures and advertisements, develop and implement public education and awareness programs to inform residents and businesses of the need to recycle, reuse and compost.
  
- D.2.4.5        The County shall assist local schools in the development and implementation of information to inform students of the impact of recycling, hazardous waste management and waste disposal.
  
- D.2.4.6        The County shall continue to assist local companies that manage tires, construction and demolition debris and yard waste.
  
- D.2.4.7        By 2012, the County shall review and revise as appropriate purchasing practices to encourage the purchase of environmentally preferable, recycled, durable and less toxic goods.

**Objective D.2.5  
Funding**

**The County shall develop and maintain an adequate system of funding solid waste management services while supporting solid waste management objectives and maximizing the use of existing facilities.**

**Policies**

- D.2.5.1        The County shall cooperate with the Northeast Florida Regional Council, and other counties in the region, to investigate the feasibility of solid waste funding options.
  
- D.2.5.2        The County shall continue to pursue funding sources and public education programs to make the public aware of problems and techniques of waste disposal and recycling techniques.

## **D. INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT**

### **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SUB-ELEMENT**

#### **Goal D.3.**

**St. Johns County shall provide an efficient and environmentally sound system of Stormwater Management. This system shall increase the efficiency of the existing system, afford reasonable protection from flooding, and protect the quality of surface water and groundwater in St. Johns County.**

#### **Objective D.3.1**

##### **Surface Water Management**

**The County shall seek funding to implement the recommendations of the Countywide Master Drainage Study. This Master Drainage Study includes inventories of existing drainage facilities, geographic locations, land uses, operating entities, design capacities, existing capacity usage, general performance, impacts of the facilities on the natural environment, problems and opportunities for solutions to the deficiencies.**

#### **Policies**

- D.3.1.1        The County shall coordinate with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) in the identification of all drainage basins in the County to assure uniformity of basin designation.
  
- D.3.1.2        The County shall implement the recommendations of the Countywide Master Drainage Study by continuing to fund the Countywide Stormwater Model and establish the priorities as the drainage models for each sub-basin or quadrant are completed. Priorities should be based on the potential damage created by flooding, the water quality in the area to include nutrient removal criteria and the impacts to areas of special concern (e.g. OFW, Class II, etc.).
  
- D.3.1.3        The County shall continue to implement the Master Drainage Study, and shall take action to address deficiencies for the affected areas, by identifying appropriate implementation mechanisms and possible revenue sources. The County shall also continue to update its inventory of all private and public drainage facilities, easements and rights of way and shall continue to map these facilities as well as land uses, soil types and topographical information and continue to update maps which identify where major drainage problems have occurred and which drainage problems the County has corrected.

- D.3.1.4 There shall be no reduction in the flood storage capacity or the other natural functions and values of the floodplain in St. Johns County in areas designated as regulatory floodway as updated by FEMA Flood Insurance studies in St. Johns County. Encroachments shall be prohibited within designated regulatory floodway including, but not limited to, fill, new construction and development improvements, that would result in any increase in flood levels.
- D.3.1.5 The County shall regulate development within the flood prone areas to minimize flood storage capacity reduction, so that the post-development conditions does not exceed pre-development conditions and ensure that there will not be any adverse impacts either upstream or downstream which will afford protection of life and property within flood prone areas and/or floodplains.
- D.3.1.6 St. Johns County shall continue to coordinate with the SJRWMD and FDEP and participate in the ongoing programs of the Lower St. Johns River Surface Water Improvement Management (SWIM) program and the Northern Coastal Basins SWIM programs, and work with the SJRWMD on the long term ambient water quality monitoring program, establishing pollutant load reductions goals and monitoring freshwater inflow as well as the pollutant and nutrient goals identified in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) criteria.
- D.3.1.7 St. Johns County shall continue to coordinate with DEP and SJRWMD to utilize water quality data and other appropriate biological indicators to design water management practices that facilitate the maintenance and/or improvement of the existing water quality.
- D.3.1.8 St. Johns County shall continue to work with DEP and SJRWMD to develop management practices for water resources to mitigate urban and agriculture non-point sources of water degradation.
- D.3.1.9 The use, storage, transmission, or generation of hazardous substances, or substances which may artificially accelerate the eutrophication of the wetlands and water bodies, is prohibited within wetland systems.
- D.3.1.10 The County shall seek new funding sources to develop and implement best management practices for water resources identified as shellfish harvesting areas.
- D.3.1.11 The County shall work with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to educate and distribute information on the surface water resources in the

County.

- D.3.1.12 The County shall maintain compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act amendments. The County will continue with planning activities and implementation of the stormwater management program.

**Objective D.3.2  
Future Development**

**St. Johns County shall continue to update their Land Development Regulations which shall require the implementation of stormwater management procedures that ensure water quality and quantity is improved and that adequate facility capacity is available to serve future developments.**

**Policies**

- D.3.2.1 New development shall be required to construct adequate stormwater management facilities according to State, Regional and County standards.
- D.3.2.2 The County shall continue to manage and regulate development within the 100-year floodplain through enforcement of the County floodplain management regulations.
- D.3.2.3 The County shall require a vegetative buffer between contiguous wetlands and developed areas to protect the water quality of the drainage course as established in the County Land Development Regulations and Policy E.2.2.4 of the Comprehensive Plan.
- D.3.2.4 The County shall coordinate with the SJRWMD and FDEP to ensure that current roadway and drainage standards contained in the County's Land Development Code (LDC), are consistent with state law.
- D.3.2.5 The County shall establish a coordination mechanism between the Growth Management Department and Engineering Division to ensure that plans developed for drainage facilities are consistent with, and support, the Land Use Element.
- D.3.2.6 The County shall continue to determine the feasibility of requiring all stormwater management facilities with a surface area greater than one half (1/2) acre for irrigation and/or water reuse purposes.

- D.3.2.7 St. Johns County shall require that the drainage systems that are submitted for review be incorporated into the Countywide Stormwater Model to ensure that areas downstream or upstream of a proposed development have the capacity, or hydraulic gradient to accept the proposed developments discharge, or that the proposed development improves the downstream or upstream drainage system.
- D.3.2.8 The County shall require that the Stormwater Management facilities meet or exceed the adopted Level of Service Standards (LOS), and that capacity is available concurrent with the impacts of the development.
- D.3.2.9 The level of service standards for stormwater management are hereby adopted as set forth in Policy H.1.2.1, and shall be used as the basis for determining the availability of facility capacity for the purpose of issuing development orders and development permits.
- D.3.2.10 The County shall continue to coordinate review of subdivision approvals, rezonings and final development plans with the County Public Works Department.
- D.3.2.11 The Growth Management Department and Engineering Divisions shall coordinate their data gathering and analytic efforts in the preparation of the update of the Comprehensive Plan.
- D.3.2.12 As the master drainage study and model provided for Objective D.3.1. completes planning, design and environmental analyses for the sub-basins studied, findings shall be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for review and recommendation concerning consistency with, or needed amendment of, the Plan.
- D.3.2.13 St. Johns County shall encourage the incorporation of natural features into the construction of new stormwater management facilities which provide vegetation and buffers which promote wildlife habitat. In addition, St. Johns County shall coordinate with FDOT and SJRWMD to investigate additional requirements to enhance existing stormwater management facilities for wildlife habitat.

**Objective D.3.3.  
Maintenance**

**The County shall continue to utilize the Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) for all County Controlled drainage facilities.**

**Policies**

- D.3.3.1        The County shall utilize a CMMS to establish a schedule for all County maintained drainage facilities.
- D.3.3.2        The County shall utilize its CMMS to document and categorize drainage complaints. This inventory in conjunction with the Countywide Stormwater Model shall be utilized to prioritize drainage problem areas which need frequent maintenance or drainage facilities replacement or additional studies.
- D.3.3.3        The County shall adopt regulations to require routine maintenance of privately controlled drainage facilities in a manner consistent with maintenance criteria established for publicly maintained facilities.

Routine maintenance schedule (as prioritized from least to the most intense) shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- (a)    mowing the retention and detention areas and their respective drainage swales;
- (b)    limitation of trash or debris;
- (c)    cleaning out ditches, swales, pipes and structures;
- (d)    sedimentation and erosion prevention through re-grading or vegetating;
- (e)    dredging of ponds.



**Objective D.3.4  
Correction of Existing Problems**

**The County shall continue to utilize its CMMS and Countywide Stormwater Model to continue its program for the correction of existing stormwater management deficiencies and shall address anticipated future deficiencies and include corrections of these problems.**

**Policies**

- D.3.4.1 The County shall implement the Countywide Stormwater Model for analysis of facility improvements of the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program as funding becomes available.
- D.3.4.2 The County shall prioritize the correction of existing drainage problems beginning with those identified in this document and the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program. Priority should be given to those problems with the most severe problems.
- D.3.4.3 The program shall include a summary of drainage problems, recommendations for structural and non-structural actions for reducing drainage problems, a proposed schedule and budget for corrective actions.
- D.3.4.4 At a minimum, the program schedule shall be reviewed every two years. This program shall establish a mechanism for increasing the priority of projects, as private or public donation of lands or funds are made available which would significantly reduce the cost of implementing the project.
- D.3.4.5 All improvements for replacement, expansion of or increase in capacity for stormwater management facilities shall be compatible with the existing, or newly adopted, level of service standards for such facilities.
- D.3.4.6 The County will work in conjunction with the SJRWMD and other federal, state and regional agencies to require retrofit of stormwater treatment facilities in older developed watersheds that discharge into the St. Johns River, Intracoastal Waterway and their tributaries.

## **D. INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT**

### **POTABLE WATER SUB-ELEMENT**

#### **Goal D.4**

**St. Johns County shall maintain an efficient system of potable water supply and distribution, which prevents the degradation of the existing resources, meets existing and projected demands, promotes orderly growth and development and protects the public health of the community.**

#### **Objective D.4.1**

##### **Growth Management\Concurrency Management**

**The County shall implement procedures which will coordinate the extension of potable water facilities or the increase in capacity of potable water facilities, in order to: meet future needs, to correct existing potable water facility deficiencies, and to promote compact urban growth. All system improvements for replacement, expansion, or increase in capacity of potable water facilities shall comply with the existing or newly adopted level of service standards for the facilities.**

#### **Policies**

- D.4.1.1 The County shall encourage growth management practices within the Development Areas which promote contiguous, compact development through the availability of utility services.
- D.4.1.2 Both public and private potable water lines shall serve developments located within the Development Areas as identified by the 2025 Future Land Use Map (FLUM). When it is necessary for potable water lines to be extended to connect one Development Area with another, the extension of such transmission lines shall not be construed as justification for development at intensities greater than is allowed in the Rural/Silviculture (R/S) or Agriculture-Intensive (A-I) or other existing adjacent land use areas as designated on the 2025 FLUM.
- D.4.1.3 In an effort to promote orderly contiguous compact development, the County shall adopt regulations establishing criteria identifying the extent of where potable water utility service areas will be located. Such regulations shall define the extent of where centralized potable water and sanitary sewer utility services will be provided by St Johns County Utilities, or by municipalities, or by utilities certified by the Florida Public Service Commission or utilities certified by St. Johns County.
- D.4.1.4 The extension of potable water services, beyond the Development Area

Boundaries, shall be extended in a manner which prevents urban sprawl and leap frog development and is consistent with the adopted County Utility Service Area ordinance. Such extensions must meet the following criteria:

- (a) Potable water capacity must be available;
- (b) The proposed extension is funded by the proposed development, or the project is adopted by the capital improvement schedule;
- (c) The extension is consistent with the approval of a large scale comprehensive land use amendment as specified in the Future Land Use Element policies A.1.2.5. and A.1.2.6.

Provisions for the extension of potable water services beyond the Development Area Boundaries may be waived in emergency situations, such as failure of package treatment plants or potable water wells.

- D.4.1.5 New public infrastructure and public services shall be constructed and expanded in an orderly manner, with costs shared as appropriate, on a proportionate basis, by those benefiting from the service.
- D.4.1.6 New public infrastructure shall be planned and designed to be compatible with adjacent land uses, both existing and future and shall not promote development located in Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESLs).
- D.4.1.7 The County shall, through its Future Land Use Map and Comprehensive Planning activities, direct development to Development Areas, as designated on the 2025 Future Land Use Map, served by existing or planned regional water and sewer facilities.
- D.4.1.8 The development of growth management strategies shall be coordinated between the County Growth Management Department and the appropriate utility department.
- D.4.1.9 New public infrastructure within the Coastal Area shall be planned and constructed in a manner which minimizes the impact upon coastal marshes, wetlands and surface water. New infrastructure development within the Coastal Areas shall be subject to the Land Development Regulations and the requirements established pursuant to Objective E.1.7.
- D.4.1.10 Public expenditures within the Coastal High Hazard Areas (CHHA) shall be limited pursuant to Objective H.1.4. and supporting policies. .
- D.4.1.11 Water availability by itself shall not necessarily provide justification for development approval.

- D.4.1.12 Proposed developments in St. Johns County shall meet potable water concurrency management approvals as required by the Land Development Code (LDC):
- D.4.1.13 St. Johns County shall monitor total capacity and facility demand for each utility system in the County to assure that the adopted level of service (LOS) standards are maintained and the data is current within the Concurrency Management System.
- D.4.1.14 The County shall utilize information from the St. Johns River Water Management District's Water Supply Assessment and Water Supply Plan to develop and establish criteria for reviewing and approving new developments.
- D.4.1.15 The County Utility Department shall maintain the investor or community-owned water systems service area map with current legal property descriptions to identify the new service area locations.

**Objective D.4.2  
Level of Service Standards**

**The County shall adopt Level of Service (LOS) standards to measure the adequacy of potable water services and facilities.**

**Policies**

- D.4.2.1 The minimum level of service (LOS) standards for existing potable water treatment facilities shall be established as 130 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) for residential uses.
- D.4.2.2 The County shall establish and implement procedures which monitor the LOS for potable water facilities, pursuant to the procedures of the County’s Concurrency Management System.
- D.4.2.3 The County shall protect and conserve potable water resources and shall ensure that development orders or development permits are issued based upon the level of service established in Objective H.1.2 of the Capital Improvements Element.
- D.4.2.4 The potable water supply systems shall operate with a rated capacity which is no less than five percent above the historical maximum daily flow.
- D.4.2.5 The minimum operating pressures of each water supply system shall be as follows:

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Pressure</b>
Minimum	20 psi
Maximum Daily Demand with Fire Protection Demand Peak Hour Demand (average daily flow)	20 psi 40 psi
Normal operating conditions	40-80 psi

D.4.2.6 The County shall maintain minimum fire protection flows based on land uses as follows:

Land Use	Gallons Per Minute (gpm)
Single family	500
2 family homes & mobile homes	750
Multi-family, residential commercial and institutional	1,500

D.4.2.7 The County shall adopt Land Development Regulations (LDRs) to ensure potable water facilities serving new developments meet or exceed the minimum level of service (LOS).

**Objective D.4.3  
Potable Water Systems**

**St. Johns County shall continue to discourage the use of potable water systems that are package treatment facilities. However, when necessary the County shall require potable water systems be constructed to run efficiently and effectively and prevent groundwater degradation.**

**Policies**

- D.4.3.1 Potable Water Systems that are package treatment facilities shall be allowed within the Development Areas only as a temporary measure and shall be built according to FDEP's construction standards. Once centralized potable water is available, the County shall require private water systems, through a potable water disposal agreement, to be decommissioned and connected to the County's centralized utility system.
  
- D.4.3.2 St. Johns County shall require potable water agreements whereby potable water systems that are package treatment facilities shall be interconnected and replaced with regional treatment facilities better economics of scale in order to achieve improved operating efficiencies. Such potable water agreements shall state that at the time deemed appropriate by the County, the potable water systems shall be acquired by the County for operation and maintenance.
  
- D.4.3.3 The County shall ensure that, prior to the issuance of a development order or permit, the applicant has demonstrated that the project complies with federal, state and local permit requirements for potable water systems.

**Objective D.4.4**  
**Surface Water and Groundwater Quality**

**The County’s potable water system shall continue to meet the standards of Federal, State and Regional drinking water regulations. These standards shall help ensure drinking water quality.**

**Policies**

D.4.4.1 The County shall establish a mechanism to protect the SJRWMD designated Surficial and Floridan Aquifer Recharge Areas. The County will work with the SJRWMD to educate the public on major ground water issues of concern in the county.

D.4.4.2 Future public water supply well fields shall be located in areas where development and potential future contamination impacts are minimized.

D.4.4.3 The County shall continue to coordinate with the SJRWMD to establish criteria regarding water surface change, the change in water table elevation, and the potential areas for saltwater intrusion.

D.4.4.4 The County shall utilize water quality data and appropriate biological indicators to design water management practices that facilitate the maintenance or improvement of the existing water quality of the available resources to meet state water quality standards.

D.4.4.5 The County shall maximize the use of conservation measures before considering the use of alternative water supplies or interbasin transfer of water.

D.4.4.6 The County shall continue to implement the wellhead protection regulations in the Land Development Code which, include primary and secondary zones restrictions as specified below:

A. Prohibited Activities, Primary Zone, Surficial and Floridan Aquifer

The following activities are prohibited in the Primary Zones of Wellhead Resource Protection Areas:

1. The Primary Zone shall be a zone of exclusion for all Uses except existing residential Uses, Uses functionally related to the water supply system, open space, parks, and playgrounds. For the Surficial Aquifer only, no parking areas, Structures, or other impervious surfaces, other than those surfaces that are accessory to



existing residential Uses, will be permitted in this zone except for playing courts, open-air shelters, and other similar recreation facilities. An exemption shall be allowed for one single family dwelling unit per Parcel or Lot that may be within this zone of exclusion, provided that Parcel or Lot was created on or before the adoption of the St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan.

2. New sanitary landfills, including new phosphogypsum piles, and any other disposal of a solid waste, or solid waste transfer facility, as permitted under Rule 17-701.020, F.A.C.
3. New Industrial Land Use designations.
4. New Interim wastewater treatment plants, unless Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) standards and other regulatory requirements for Community Wastewater Treatment Plants are met.
5. New concentrated animal feeding operations as defined in Rule 17-670.200, F.A.C.
6. New dairy farm storage and treatment facilities, high intensity areas and land application areas as defined in Rule 17-670.200, F.A.C.
7. Discharge of stormwater into depressions with direct or demonstrated hydrologic connection to the Surficial Aquifer.
8. Any new land applications of sludge and septage.
9. New underground storage facilities.
10. Stormwater management ponds.
- B. Prohibited Activities, Secondary Zone, Surficial Aquifer (see Surficial Aquifer Recharge Objective D.5.4.
- C. Restricted Activities, Secondary Zone, Floridan Aquifer

The following activities are restricted in the Wellhead Resource Protection Areas (RPA), for the Secondary Zone, Floridan Aquifer: These activities may be allowed, subject to review and approval of a Special Use Permit. These activities may also require a Development Permit from the County in accordance with Part 9.01.00 of the Land Development Code.

1. Sludges

Existing sludge spreading activities in an RPA must be permitted by and meet the requirements of state and local environmental permitting agencies and this Part.

2. Septages

Existing septage spreading activities in an RPA must be permitted by and meet the requirements of state and local environmental permitting agencies and this Part.

3. Hazardous Wastes

Any new facility that uses, handles, stores, or generates hazardous wastes in an RPA above thirty (30) gallons in a liquid form, or six (6) pounds of solid, must be permitted by and meet the requirements of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and this Part.

4. New sanitary landfills, including new phosphogypsum piles, and any other disposal of a solid waste, or solid waste transfer facility, as permitted under Rule 17-701.020, F.A.C.

5. New concentrated animal feeding operations as defined in Rule 17-670.200, F.A.C.

6. New dairy farm storage and treatment facilities, high intensity areas and land application areas as defined in Rule 17-670.200, F.A.C.

7. New underground storage facilities.

**Objective D.4.5.  
Water Conservation**

**The County will continue to encourage reduction of per capita water use through the use of water conservation measures, Florida Friendly landscaping and other means.**

**Policies**

- D.4.5.1 The County shall continue to implement its Land Development Regulations to encourage all new development to be designed in accordance with the limitations of the natural environment, and require the conservation of water resources and the use of innovative land development techniques to decrease water use, consistent with Policy E.2.1.6.
- D.4.5.2 The County shall enforce the Building Construction Standards of the Florida Statutes Chapter 553, along with all other relevant building criteria (i.e. plumbing fixtures, retrofitting, and ultra-low water use fixtures) to require the use of water saving devices in new construction and specified reconstruction.
- D.4.5.3 The County shall take steps to promote and educate both the public and private sectors, concerning the use of native and drought resistant vegetation for landscaping in an effort to reduce outside irrigation, consistent with Policy E.2.1.6.
- D.4.5.4 The County shall continue to promote water supply and water conservation through coordination with the St. Johns River Water Management District and other entities.
- D.4.5.5 Free-flowing wells in the County shall be identified and plugged by the following measures:
- (a) The County's Health Department shall continue to work with the SJRWMD to identify abandoned free-flowing wells and to recommend measures to repair or plug the wells.
  - (b) The County shall require new developments to repair or plug all free flowing wells located within the boundaries of a proposed development as a condition to the development's approval.
  - (c) The County's Health Department shall continue to cooperate with the SJRWMD to implement the SJRWMD's free-flowing well abandonment program.

- D.4.5.6 The County shall coordinate with the SJRWMD in an effort to protect and conserve future potable water supplies. The County and the SJRWMD shall mutually agree upon policies which ensure that water quality and supplies meet existing and projected future demands.
- D.4.5.7 The County, in cooperation with the St. Johns County Cooperative Extension Services, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Division of Forestry, the Natural Resource Conservation Services, and the SJRWMD shall provide technical assistance to agriculture operations and other irrigation water users in the design of low-volume irrigation systems.

**Objective D.4.6**  
**System Expansion/Improvements**

**The County shall implement procedures, which will coordinate the extension of potable water facilities, or the increase in capacity of potable water facilities, in order to meet future needs, to correct existing potable water facility deficiencies, and to promote compact urban growth. All system improvements for replacement, expansion, or increase in capacity of potable water facilities shall comply with the existing or newly adopted level of service standards for the facilities.**

**Policies**

- D.4.6.1 Annual summaries of facility capacity and demand information prepared by the Utility Department shall be used to evaluate the need for, the timing and location of projects to extend or increase the capacity of existing facilities.
- D.4.6.2 The County’s Potable Water Master Plan shall be updated every five years at a minimum.
- D.4.6.3 Proposed Capital Improvements projects shall be evaluated and ranked according to the following three priority level guidelines:
- (a) Level One - whether the project is needed to protect public health, safety and welfare to fulfill the county’s legal commitment to provide facilities and services, or to preserve or achieve full use of existing facilities.
  - (b) Level Two - whether the project increases efficiency of use of existing facilities, prevents or reduces future improvement costs, provides service to developed areas lacking full service or promotes in-fill development.
  - (c) Level Three - whether the project represents a logical extension of facilities and services within the Development Area Boundaries.
- D.4.6.4 The County shall provide potable water service to areas where the lack of service is determined to be a public health threat. The cost for providing such a service shall be recovered through those connecting to the system and directly benefiting from the improvement.
- D.4.6.5 Major capital expenditures to finance the construction of centralized potable water facilities for St. Johns County Utilities shall be indicated in the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan and shall be updated annually if necessary, or at a minimum every five years.

- D.4.6.6 The level of service standards for potable water, are hereby adopted as set forth in Policy H.1.2.1, and shall be used as the basis for determining the availability of facility capacity for the purpose of issuing development orders and development permits.
- D.4.6.7 All improvements for replacement, expansion of potable water, or increase in capacity of potable water facilities shall be compatible with the existing, or newly adopted, level of service standards for such facilities.
- D.4.6.8 In order to manage the future growth within St. Johns County, steps to guarantee that the minimum level of service standards are met shall be as follows:
- (a) begin planning for expansion when a plant's average daily demand is projected to equal or exceed 50 % capacity.
  - (b) prepare plans and specifications for expansion when a plant's average daily demand is projected to equal or exceed 85 % capacity.
  - (c) submit a complete construction permit application to the Department of Environmental Protection for expansion when a plant's average daily demand is projected to equal or exceed 90 % capacity.
- D.4.6.9 The County potable water system shall continue to operate as an enterprise system which is financially self-supporting.
- D.4.6.10 The County Utility Department shall fund potable water capital improvements and extensions through impact fees, developer's agreements, assessments and other appropriate fees and funding mechanisms.
- D.4.6.11 The County shall pursue federal, state and local funding sources available for the improvement and expansion of utilities.

## **D. INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT**

### **NATURAL GROUNDWATER AQUIFER RECHARGE SUB-ELEMENT**

#### **Goal D.5.**

**It is the goal of St. Johns County to protect the function of natural groundwater Floridan and Surficial Aquifer Recharge Areas, to prevent the contamination of groundwater and to extend the life span of the County's aquifers through water conservation.**

#### **Objective D. 5.1. Protection of Water Quality**

**The water quality standards in St. Johns County shall be based upon the primary and secondary maximum contaminant levels as defined in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations.**

#### **Policies**

- D.5.1.1 The County shall, through stormwater permitting procedures, ensure that stormwater management structures are designed to provide maximum protection as is feasible to aquifer recharge areas in appropriate locations.
- D.5.1.2 The County shall continue to protect existing and future public water supply wells from contamination through the implementation of the Land Development Code (LDC).
- D.5.1.3 The County shall continue to prohibit the use of injection wells for the disposal of wastewater.
- D.5.1.4 The County shall continue to prohibit the location of septic systems within 200 feet of a public water supply well, unless otherwise permitted by FDEP or the St. Johns County Health Department (SJCHD).
- D.5.1.5 Future wellfields shall be located in areas where development and potential future contamination impacts are minimized.
- D.5.1.6 The County shall coordinate and establish criteria with the SJRWMD regarding water surface change, the change in water table elevation, and the potential areas for saltwater intrusion.
- D.5.1.7 The County shall coordinate with the SJRWMD in an effort to protect and conserve future potable water supplies and quality to meet the existing and

future demand.

- D.5.1.8 The County shall continue to coordinate with regional agencies to improve water quality in the region to meet existing and future population needs.



**Objective D.5.2**  
**Protect Floridan and Surficial Aquifer Recharge Areas**

**The County shall coordinate with the St. Johns River Water Management District to ensure the Floridan and Surficial Aquifers Recharge Areas are protected and managed to preserve the quantity and quality of groundwater. Such groundwater sources shall support the present and future County population, proposed economic development opportunities while protecting the County’s natural systems needs.**

**Policies**

- D.5.2.1        The County through its Land Development Regulations shall preserve and protect the SJRWMD designated Surficial and Floridan Aquifer Recharge Areas. The County will work with the SJRWMD to educate the public on major groundwater issues of concern in the county.
- D.5.2.2        The County shall adopt Land Development Regulations which limit the loss of recharge resulting from an increased amount of impervious surfaces in areas designated as recharge areas by the SJRWMD.
- D.5.2.3        The County shall develop and implement Land Development Regulations which incorporate stormwater protection standards for all new development within aquifer recharge areas.
- D.5.2.4        The County shall in cooperation with the SJRWMD, continue to educate and distribute information on groundwater resources within the County.
- D.5.2.5        The County shall protect open space which has been identified as a natural groundwater recharge area for the Floridan Aquifer.

**Objective D.5.3**  
**Preserve Surficial Aquifer's Water Quantity**

**The County shall coordinate with the SJRWMD to ensure availability of groundwater from the surficial aquifer. For the purpose of this Objective, water quantity will be based on data that is reflected in the St. Johns River Water Management District Water Supply Assessment and Water Supply Plan.**

**Policies**

- D.5.3.1 The County shall implement water conservation measures, as designated under Objective D.1.6, of the Sanitary Sewer Sub-element and Objective D.4.5 of the Potable Water Sub-element to protect the surficial aquifer from depletion.
- D.5.3.2 Free-flowing wells in the County shall be identified and plugged by the following measures:
- (a) The County's Health Department shall continue to work with the SJRWMD to identify free-flowing wells and to recommend measures to plug the wells.
  - (b) Through the Land Development Regulations, the County shall continue to require new developments to repair or plug all free flowing wells located within the boundaries of a proposed development as a condition to the development approval.
  - (c) The St. Johns County's Health Department shall continue to cooperate with the SJRWMD to implement the WMD's free-flowing well abandonment program.
- D.5.3.5 The County shall encourage the reuse of wastewater effluent for irrigation to prevent over pumping of the Floridan Aquifer. The County shall continue to require all new golf course developments to install reuse facilities.
- D.5.3.6 The County in cooperation with the St. Johns County Cooperative Extension Services, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Division of Forestry, the Natural Resource Conservation Services and the SJRWMD shall provide technical assistance to agriculture operations and other irrigation water users in the design of low-volume irrigation systems.

## **Objective D.5.4 Wellhead Protection**

**The County shall continue to protect the wellhead areas by continuing the application and enforcement of its existing Land Development Regulations. The County shall also coordinate with the St. Johns River Water Management District to ensure adequate recharge rates and water quality to support the present and future population, economic development opportunities, and natural system needs.**

### **Policies**

D.5.4.1 The County shall continue to implement the wellhead protection regulations in the Land Development Code which, include primary and secondary zones restrictions as specified below:

- (a) preservation of native vegetation
- (b) use of native drought tolerant plants
- (c) construction limitations within the 100 year floodplain, environmentally sensitive lands and SJRWMD designated surficial and Floridian aquifer recharge areas
- (d) implementation of water loss prevention

D.5.4.2 The County shall protect wellfield protection areas of public potable water by:

- (a) prohibiting the generation or manufacture of contaminants, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers or other hazardous waste within wellfield areas
- (b) prohibiting the installation or establishment of petroleum pipelines, underground storage tanks, or hazardous industrial uses within wellfield protection areas
- (c) prohibiting or restricting the storage or use of contaminants, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, hazardous waste, industrial uses within wellfield areas

**Objective D.5.5.  
Water Conservation**

**The County shall continue to implement its water conservation program and consider new techniques that decrease demand placed on groundwater resources.**

**Policies**

- D.5.5.1 The County's land development regulations shall encourage all new development to be designed in accordance with the limitations of the natural environment and require the conservation of water resources and the use of innovative land development techniques to decrease water use consistent with Policy E.2.1.6
- D.5.5.2 The County shall continue to implement a conservation rate structure which benefits users that conserve water.
- D.5.5.3 The County shall encourage and provide improved water management to accommodate present and future population and ecosystem needs.
- D.5.5.4 The County shall encourage low water use landscape for both domestic and commercial development.
- D.5.5.5 The St. Johns County Utility Department shall, in coordination with the SJRWMD, develop a water conservation public education program.
- D.5.5.6 The County shall require all large volume irrigation users, such as golf course developments, to reuse wastewater effluent for spray irrigation.
- D.5.5.7 The County shall continue to require that all developments which use treated wastewater effluent for irrigation construct and dedicate to the County, or the appropriate utility provider, all effluent lines needed.
- D.5.5.8 By 2015, the County shall develop reuse regulations which requires all new developments within reuse zones to include a reclaimed water irrigation system constructed to applicable standards. The reuse regulations shall define types and sizes of developments which are appropriate to be served by a reclaimed water irrigation system.

## **E. COASTAL/ CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT ELEMENT**

### **COASTAL**

#### **Goal E.1**

**The County shall manage, use, conserve, protect and enhance coastal resources, along with protecting human life from natural disasters.**

#### **Objective E.1.1 Public Beach Access**

**The County will maintain, improve and increase public beach and waterway access through acquisition and other land use controls.**

#### **Policies**

- E.1.1.1 As provided by the implementation regulations for the Optional Density Factors of the Future Land Use Element, the County will require the dedication of public access to beaches from developments located within the coastal area which receive the applicable density bonus.
- E.1.1.2 The County will not vacate or relocate existing easements, walkways and other access points to beaches, shores and waterways, without requiring the grant or dedication of equal or greater access points or easements as stated in the County's Beach Code, as amended.
- E.1.1.3 The County will promote increased access for public beaches and waterways through the implementation of Policy F.1.1.1 and through the implementation of regulations for the Optional Density Factors of the Future Land Use Element.
- E.1.1.4 Private landowners adjacent to public beach access points, including easements, will not be allowed to restrict public access to the beaches through such access points as stated in the County's Beach Code, as amended.
- E.1.1.5 The County shall continue to investigate and develop additional funding sources (e.g. user fees, parking fees, grants and other funding sources) for the purposes of funding beach and navigable waterway accesses, parking spaces, dune walkovers and other related facilities.
- E.1.1.6 St. Johns County shall encourage the construction and use of dune walkovers to protect dune vegetation and prevent pathways through the dune.
- E.1.1.7 Existing publicly owned ramp facilities shall be maintained and improved as necessary and economically feasible.

- E.1.1.8 St. Johns County shall continue to protect beaches, dunes, coastal vegetation and coastal wildlife from vehicular and pedestrian traffic by providing off-beach vehicular parking and dune walkovers.
- E.1.1.9 Off-beach vehicular parking areas shall be constructed with pervious surfaces (e.g. turf block, stone, crushed shell, etc.) which will allow water infiltration where feasible and appropriate.
- E.1.1.10 All walkways and other access points to beaches and shores shall be consistent with the St. Johns County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Incidental Take Permit (ITP).

**Objective E.1.2  
Dune Preservation**

**The County shall ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the County's coastal areas, dunes and beaches through:**

- (a) Coordination of County permitting activities with the activities of other regulating State and Federal agencies.**
- (b) Establishment or continued enforcement of construction standards for the coastal building zones.**
- (c) Establishment or continued implementation of procedures and Land Development Regulations including revisions to the County's Beach Code to protect the County's dune systems.**
- (d) Utilization of the State's approved dune walkover structures at all County-owned and maintained beaches to prevent impacts to native vegetation, wildlife and the dune systems.**

**Policies**

E.1.2.1 The County shall provide technical support and assistance to applicable State and Federal agencies in identifying and inventorying all beaches and dune systems, so that they may be protected, enhanced or renourished.

E.1.2.2 The County shall ensure the protection, enhancement or restoration of the County's dune systems through Land Development Regulations that provide for:

- (a) Coordination with DEP on applications for development seaward of the established Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL), in order to monitor and comment on DEP applications for variances to the CCCL requirements and to allow variances to County setback requirements where possible or appropriate to avoid or minimize development seaward of the CCCL.**
- (b) The County's use of beach ramp fees or tolls, consistent with applicable law, for dune restoration and enhancement programs such as, without limitation, the construction of dune walkovers, the use of native plant species, the establishment of a salt-tolerant revegetation program, and public education programs in cooperation with the Marine Extension Service and to further control beach access in order to prevent dune damage.**
- (c) Standards and enforcement mechanisms in the County Beach Code, as amended, to prevent destruction of dune vegetation.**

- (d) Continued enforcement of the County's requirements and prohibitions against uncontrolled vehicular beach access pursuant to the Habitat Conservation Plan and the County Beach Code, as amended.
- (e) Continued enforcement through the development permit review process of applicable Federal, State or Local coastal construction zone requirements.
- (f) Improvements to beach access and off-beach parking facilities as provided in Policy F.1.1.1.

E.1.2.3 No motorized vehicles will be allowed on dune systems except for emergency vehicles.

E.1.2.4 The County shall work with the appropriate State agencies and the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTMNERR) to increase public awareness of the economic value of the County's coastal resources, estuaries, marine resources and coastal wildlife.



**Objective E.1.3**  
**Post Disaster Planning, Coastal Area Redevelopment and Hurricane Preparedness**

**The County shall prepare post-disaster redevelopment plans which will reduce or eliminate the exposure of human life and public and private property to natural hazards. The County shall restrict or limit certain activities in the Coastal High Hazard Areas (CHHA) which is defined in Section 163.3178(2)(h), Florida Statutes.**

**Policies**

- E.1.3.1 County shall update its Hurricane Evacuation Plan and Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan every four years and shall re-evaluate their effectiveness immediately after a major disaster event to recommend and adopt appropriate modifications.
- E.1.3.2 The St. Johns County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan shall be used as the operational guide to prepare for the response to, and recover from, a tropical storm, hurricane or other emergency.
- E.1.3.3 The County shall update its hurricane guide showing evacuation routes, hurricane hazards, safety procedures, shelters and other pertinent information for its citizens.
- E.1.3.4 Disaster preparedness plans shall include accommodations for the handicapped and indigent, including transportation and sheltering.
- E.1.3.5 The County shall coordinate disaster preparedness plans with adjacent counties and municipalities.
- E.1.3.6 The County shall reduce the risks to human life and to public and private property from natural disasters through the following post-disaster redevelopment planning and implementation of hazard mitigation measures:
  - (a) Prioritize immediate repair and cleanup actions and permitting activities following a natural disaster.
    - (1) The County shall ensure that damage assessment occurs pursuant to the local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to collect initial storm damage data following a disaster and to present this data to the Board of County Commissioners for prioritization and coordination of essential activities.
    - (2) Priority activities shall include immediate repair and cleanup actions needed to protect the public health and safety including repairs to potable water, wastewater and power facilities; the removal of debris; the stabilization or removal of structures about to collapse; and, minimal repairs to make dwellings habitable.

- (3) Long term repairs and redevelopment activities shall be postponed until the priority short term activities have been completed.
- (b) The County through its interdepartmental, regional and state efforts will continue to investigate redevelopment strategies, including build back standards, within the CHHA. By 2012, the County shall, by adoption of Land Development Regulations, as necessary or appropriate, adopt policies to direct long-term redevelopment activities within storm damaged areas. The policies shall, at a minimum, address the following issues:
    - (1) A formal decision making process to evaluate options for damaged public facilities including abandonment, repair in place, relocation and reconstruction with structured modifications.
    - (2) Consider the need for Comprehensive Plan Amendments to effect hazard mitigation activities.
    - (3) Potential relocation of habitable structures which have incurred damage from a natural disaster event, where damage is greater than seventy-five (75%) percent of their assessed value, to new locations that are outside the CHHA, provided that sufficient land is available on the subject parcel for such relocation and property rights issues can be addressed.
    - (4) Utilization of improved construction site development practices during redevelopment, in a manner consistent with the land development regulations, to minimize the risk of recurrent damage.
  - (c) Minimization of the disturbance of natural shoreline resources which:
    - (1) Provide shoreline stabilization.
    - (2) Protect landward areas from the effects of storm events.
  - (d) Require that all project approvals within the CHHA meet certain criteria, performance standards and procedures, as adopted in the County's Land Development Regulations, including at a minimum:
    - (1) Where appropriate and consistent with applicable law, requirements for additional user fees or surcharges for CHHA infrastructure to ensure that additional costs of design, construction, maintenance or replacement of public infrastructure within the CHHA, not otherwise present in the areas outside the CHHA, are completely paid for by the projects within the CHHA, and not by the general public.

- (2) Special standards for the design and construction of all infrastructure within the CHHA to minimize risks of damage to such infrastructure, where increased risks of damage due to coastal flooding can be reasonably anticipated.
- (3) Consistent with applicable law, specific authorization for the use of special assessments within the CHHA to recoup expenditures for repair of damage to public or private infrastructure within a reasonable time frame, where storm related damage is incurred.
- (4) Required notification to residents and businesses located within the CHHA that specific standards or additional costs may be associated with locating within the CHHA.
- (5) Requirements for the development of hurricane evacuation plans for the proposed project, in coordination with the County's Emergency Management Division and requirements for the implementation of such planning by the developers of the project and their successors.

- E.1.3.7 New publicly funded buildings in St. Johns County should be designed to serve as evacuation shelters where feasible. Law enforcement, fire rescue and emergency medical buildings shall be designed to function as emergency shelters for their mission personnel and equipped with an emergency power supply.
- E.1.3.8 The County shall prohibit new development of adult congregate living facilities, nursing homes for the aged, total care facilities, hospitals, correctional facilities and similar developments within the CHHA.
- E.1.3.9 The County shall consider, and as necessary implement where appropriate, the recommendations of the St. Johns County Mitigation Strategy.
- E.1.3.10 The County shall not approve Comprehensive Plan Amendments that increase the residential density on the Future Land Use Map within the CHHA.
- E.1.3.11 St. Johns County will evaluate development orders for their impacts on traffic circulation, evacuation routes, on-site hurricane shelter provisions and proximity to off-site shelter facilities within the Storm Category Zone 1, 2 and 3.
- E.1.3.12 St. Johns County will coordinate with the School Board to make sure that future school facilities are located outside areas susceptible to hurricane or storm damage or areas prone to flooding or as consistent with Chapter 235 F.S. and Rule 6A-2 F.A.C. regarding flood plain and school building requirements.
- E.1.3.13 Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan in the Coastal High Hazard Area shall not be approved which will result in an increase in hurricane evacuation times,

without mitigation of the adverse impact to evacuation times.

- E.1.3.14 A proposed development in a hurricane evacuation zone which is anticipated to utilize ten percent (10%) or more of an identified hurricane evacuation route's level of service E hourly directional maximum service volume will be identified as having an adverse regional impact. The volume is based on the Florida Department of Transportation's Generalized Hour/Peak Direction Level of Service Maximum Volumes as presented in the Florida Highway Systems Manual. These adverse impacts shall be mitigated.
- E.1.3.15 Where shelter deficits exist, an adverse regional impact is a proposed development with anticipated public shelter space demand that will require 200 spaces or five percent (5%) of the shelter space capacity or where shelter deficits do not exist, an adverse regional impact is a proposed development with anticipated public shelter space demand that will cause a deficit of 200 spaces or more. These adverse impacts shall be mitigated.
- E.1.3.16 Consistent with the Northeast Florida Regional Council Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP), the County shall strongly encourage new mobile home and RV parks to have on site shelter facilities for their residents or plans for alternative off-site shelters. On-site shelter facilities may include public meeting buildings, community centers and recreational centers as long as designed to hurricane shelter standards.
- E.1.3.17 Consistent with the Northeast Florida Regional Council Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP), the County shall strongly encourage new apartment complexes and condominiums located outside of hurricane evacuation areas to provide on-site shelter space.
- E.1.3.18 The County will consider and update, as appropriate, hurricane related maps and information upon completion of the NOAA funded Northeast Florida Regional Council's Statewide Regional Evacuation Study.

**Objective E.1.4**  
**Water Dependent Uses and Marina Siting**

**The County will give priority to water dependent uses that maximize the protection and beneficial use of coastal natural resources.**

**Policies**

- E.1.4.1      The County shall continue to implement the Land Development Code regulations for Ports, and Marinas that have been established based on the County’s Water Dependent Uses and Marine Study of 2002, which considered land use compatibility, availability of upland support services, existing protective status or ownership, hurricane contingency planning, protection of water quality, water depth, environmental disruptions and mitigation actions, availability of public use and economic need and feasibility.

## **Objective E.1.5 Coastal Protection**

**The County shall cooperate with and provide technical support and assistance to the appropriate State and Federal agencies and it shall implement Policies in this Plan in order to protect, enhance and restore the environmental quality of the County's Coastal Area waterways and wildlife. Waters that flow into either the ocean or the estuary shall be protected through established conservation techniques identified in the County Land Development Regulations.**

### **Policies**

- E.1.5.1        The County shall coordinate and provide technical assistance to Federal and State agencies preparing applicable studies which will maintain and increase water quality based on established water body classification.
- E.1.5.2        The County shall monitor and when necessary coordinate, permitting activities with other regulatory agencies for projects which may impact the quality of the Coastal Area Waterways.
- E.1.5.3        The County shall protect or enhance Coastal Area water quality, for wildlife propagation, fishing, shell fishing, recreation, navigation and other related activities and shall improve Outstanding Florida Waters and Class II and Class III waters, as defined in Chapter 62-302, Florida Administrative Code, by:
- (a)        Requiring On-site Sewage Treatment and Disposal System (OSTDS) users to connect to public or private waste water systems pursuant to Policies D.1.4.3 and E.2.1.5.
  - (b)        Requiring new development to meet the standards and requirements of the County's Land Development Regulations pursuant to the requirements of Objective D.3.1 and supporting Policies.
  - (c)        The County shall use its Master Stormwater Management Study to evaluate the stormwater design capacity of stormwater management systems so run-off shall not degrade the coastal resources.
  - (d)        Prohibiting untreated direct discharge of stormwater runoff into Outstanding Florida Waters or Class II waters, as defined in Chapter 62-302, Florida Administrative Code, for all new development.
  - (e)        Designing stormwater systems to County, State and Federal standards.
  - (f)        Requiring new development to meet the standards and requirements of the County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL's) Land Development Regulations (LDRs) adopted pursuant to Policy E.2.2.4.

- (g) Requiring OSTDS to be inspected and permitted by the State Health Department as provided in Policy E.2.5.1.
- (h) Coordinating with DEP on the enforcement of waste water discharge standards into Outstanding Florida Waters, Class II and Class III waters, as defined in Chapter 62-302, Florida Administrative Code, pursuant to Policy A.1.1.1.
- (i) Continuing pursuit of agreements with private land owners for land application and other alternative means of wastewater reuse.
- (j) Encouraging new development to cluster in the Coastal Area through application of the County's Planned Development regulations and the Optional Density Factors established by the Future Land Use Element.

- E.1.5.4 The County shall coordinate with the applicable State and Federal agencies so that docks and piers will not obstruct or alter natural water flow or restrict navigation routes.
- E.1.5.5 Development orders shall be designed to protect the type, nature and function of floodplain, wetlands, waterways, inlets, estuaries and lakes by limiting encroachment, removal of native vegetation, wildlife, pollution discharge, dredge and fill, drainage, or other impacts associated with development.
- E.1.5.6 All new development shall be designed and constructed according to Federal, State and County specifications to minimize stormwater and pollutant discharge.
- E.1.5.7 The County shall continue to coordinate with the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTMNERR) and SJRWMD's Northern Coastal Basin (NCB) on the impact of development on water quality issues.
- E.1.5.8 St. Johns County shall support the SJRWMD's efforts to update and maintain current maps of submerged aquatic vegetation.
- E.1.5.9 St. Johns County shall permit the use of local funds for shoreline stabilization and beach renourishment projects. Priority shall be given to projects which demonstrate a high cost-benefit ratio with the least impact to the offshore reef, inshore area and beach and dune ecological communities.
- E.1.5.10 The County shall investigate alternatives to funding sources for projects in the Coastal Management Area to fund shoreline stabilization for the areas of critical erosion, improve and protect water quality, preservation of marine, estuarine and beach dune communities and manage coastal waterfront community revitalization, redevelopment and hazard mitigation.

**Objective E.1.6  
Dredge and Fill**

**Dredging and filling in the Coastal Areas shall be discouraged.**

**Policies**

- E.1.6.1 The construction of canals and man-made waterways shall not be considered for final approval by the County until all Federal and State permits have been acquired.
- E.1.6.2 All approved dredge and fill activities within the Coastal Area shall meet or exceed all applicable Federal, State and Local drainage and floodplain standards, and shall be conditioned so as to:
- (a) Minimize impacts on Environmentally Sensitive Lands and water quality.
  - (b) If applicable, allow for flushing of any newly constructed waterway to maintain water circulation patterns within estuaries and tributaries.
- E.1.6.3 By December 2013, the County shall consider standards for designation of dredged spoil disposal sites in the County's Land Development Regulations (LDRs) based on the following criteria:
- (a) Sites should be located near waterways to be dredged.
  - (b) Preferred sites should be areas that have been previously altered or disturbed containing non-native vegetation.
  - (c) Sites should not abut residential land uses unless sites are sufficiently large to adequately buffer the residential areas.
  - (d) Sites should not support Essential Habitat, listed species or certain historically significant sites.
  - (e) Sites should not contain wetlands, unless the wetlands are degraded/non-functional and the wetland impacts are mitigated.
  - (f) Sites shall be approved by all agencies that have jurisdiction over these facilities.
- E.1.6.4 Approved Best Management Practices (BMPs), published by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) shall be used before, during and after construction to reduce siltation and erosion.



**Objective E.1.7  
Infrastructure**

**Routing of new infrastructure and public services within the Coastal Area shall be designed to direct growth away from Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL) and the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) as defined in Section 163.3178(2)(h), Florida Statutes, and to limit public expenditures within the CHHA.**

**Policies**

- E.1.7.1 New public infrastructure shall be planned and designed to be compatible with adjacent land uses, both existing and future, and shall not promote development located in Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESLs).
- E.1.7.2 New public infrastructure and public services shall be constructed and expanded in an orderly manner, with costs shared as appropriate, on a proportionate basis, by those benefiting from the service.
- E.1.7.3 New roads, pipelines and other public infrastructure within the Coastal Area shall be planned and constructed in a manner that will minimize impact upon coastal marshes, wetland and surface water. New infrastructure development within the Coastal Area shall be subject to the Land Development Regulations and requirements established pursuant to Policy E.2.2.4.
- E.1.7.4 Consistent with applicable law, all new infrastructure, utilities and drainage improvements shall be constructed concurrently with the impacts of development, or in accordance with a phased plan approved by St. Johns County, all pursuant to the Concurrency Management System (CMS) established by Objective H.1.5 and supporting Policies.
- E.1.7.5 Public expenditures within the CHHA shall be limited pursuant to Objective H.1.4 and supporting Policies.
- E.1.7.6 Coastal utilities development and improvements shall be subject to the County Land Development Regulations and the St. Johns County Utility Ordinance, as amended.

**Objective E.1.8**  
**Protection of Coastal Historical /Archaeological Resources**

**The County shall provide for the protection, preservation and sensitive reuse of Coastal Area historic and archaeological resources.**

**Policies**

- E.1.8.1      The County shall continue to implement historic and archeological preservation Land Development Regulations (LDRs) and the Historic Resources Review Board shall provide for the identification, protection, preservation and maintenance of significant historic and archaeological resources, including those within the coastal zone. The Land Development Regulations (LDRs) address or establish criteria, standards or procedures:
- (a)      To provide protection for resources listed on the Florida Master Site File, the National Register of Historic Places or any existing or future local register of historic places.
  - (b)      Outline standards for the identification and evaluation of historic and archaeological resources.
  - (c)      Establish procedures for evaluating development proposals for their impact upon historic and archaeological resources.
  - (d)      Establish procedures to require that all public and private development and redevelopment proposals within the Coastal Area, including those for infrastructure, to be reviewed for their impact upon designated historic resources.
  - (e)      Establish procedures to require that all public and private development and redevelopment activities, including those for infrastructure, to cease for the minimum time necessary when historic or archaeological artifacts are discovered to allow for an evaluation of the find's historic significance.
- E.1.8.2      St. Johns County shall coordinate with the Division of Historic Resources to update the existing Master Site File Surveys, as appropriate.
- E.1.8.3      Utilize feasible, incentive-based techniques for the historic and archaeological preservation such as TDRs, tax abatement or waiving certain zoning requirements (setbacks, lot coverage and parking, etc.).

**Objective E.1.9  
Hurricane Evacuation Time**

**The County shall maintain hurricane evacuation times.**

**Policies**

- E.1.9.1        The County shall maintain the hurricane evacuation time of 16 hours for a category 5 storm event for an out-of-county hurricane evacuation.
  
- E.1.9.2        The County shall, continue to implement Land Development Regulations that assess the impact of new development and redevelopment on hurricane evacuation times.
  
- E.1.9.3        The County shall annually review evacuation route needs to assure that the necessary improvements are incorporated within the Capital Improvement Element, Transportation Element, and the FDOT five year work program.
  
- E.1.9.4        St. Johns County shall attempt to limit the density within the Coastal High Hazard Area, as allowed by law.
  
- E.1.9.5        The County will consider and update, as appropriate, hurricane related maps and information upon completion of the NOAA funded Northeast Florida Regional Council's Statewide Regional Evacuation Study.

## CONSERVATION

### Goal E.2

**The County shall conserve, utilize, preserve and protect the natural resources of the area, including air, water, wetlands, water wells, estuaries, water bodies, soils, minerals, vegetative communities, wildlife, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge areas and other natural and environmental resources, ensuring that resources are available for existing and future generations.**

#### **Objective E.2.1 Groundwater Protection/Conservation**

**The County shall coordinate with the SJRWMD to address current and future water use, traditional and alternative water supply sources and water conservation strategies while sustaining water quality, water quantity and the protection of wetland and aquatic systems.**

#### **Policies**

- E.2.1.1 The County shall address water supply and water conservation through coordination with the development of the St. Johns River Water Management District's Water Supply Assessment, Water Supply Plan and Water Shortage Plan.
- E.2.1.2 Free-flowing wells in the County shall be identified and plugged by the following measures:
- (a) The County's Health Department shall continue to work with the SJRWMD to identify free-flowing wells and to recommend measures to plug the wells.
  - (b) The County shall require new developments to identify, repair or plug all free flowing wells located within the boundaries of a proposed development as a condition to the development approval.
  - (c) Through an agreement with the SJRWMD, St. Johns County's Health Department will continue to implement the SJRWMD's free-flowing well abandonment program.
- E.2.1.3 By 2015, the County shall develop reuse regulations which requires all new developments within reuse zones to include a reclaimed water irrigation system constructed to applicable standards. The reuse regulations shall define types and sizes of developments which are appropriate to be served by a reclaimed water irrigation system.
- E.2.1.4 Future public water supply wellfields shall be located in areas where development and potential future contamination impacts are minimized.

- E.2.1.5 Pursuant to applicable law, users of On-site Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems shall be required to tie into public or private sewer systems once service becomes available in that area.
- E.2.1.6 The County shall continue to implement its LDRs that encourage all development to be designed in accordance with the limitations of the natural environment and require the conservation of water resources and use of innovative land development techniques to decrease water use. Water conservation standards shall include, but not limited, to the following:
- (a) Minimum preservation of at least five percent (5%) of existing native vegetation on site.
  - (b) Minimum of fifty percent (50%) xeriscaping or Florida Friendly landscaping. Plant materials shall be native species or hybrids/cultivars of native species.
  - (c) All plantings shall be selected based on the principles of Florida Friendly landscaping including planting the right plant in the right place and providing for efficient watering. Exempt from this requirement are golf courses, sports fields, Agriculture and Silviculture.
  - (d) High Volume irrigation shall be limited to no more than fifty percent (50%) of the total irrigated landscape area. All plantings shall be grouped according to similar water needs for efficient irrigation zones. Exempt from this requirement are golf courses, sports fields, Agriculture, Silviculture or systems using Reclaimed water.
  - (e) Construction limitations within the 100-year floodplain, Environmentally Sensitive Lands and SJRWMD designated significant Surficial and Floridan recharge areas.
  - (f) Limit the amount of impervious surface (such as parking areas) within SJRWMD's designated significant recharge areas.
  - (g) Reclaimed water for irrigation of golf courses and common areas where available.
  - (h) The County wastewater treatment facilities shall maximize to the greatest extent possible the creation and use of reclaimed wastewater.
  - (i) Encourage the use of or the retrofitting of plumbing fixtures that are water saving devices such as ultra-low flow fixtures.

(j) Implementation of water loss prevention programs.

E.2.1.7 By 2015, the County shall establish a mechanism to protect the SJRWMD's designated Surficial and Floridan Aquifer Recharge Areas. The County will work with the SJRWMD to educate the public on major ground water issues of concern in the County.

E.2.1.8 The County, in cooperation with the St. Johns County Cooperation Extension Service (SJCCES), Florida Department Agriculture and Consumer Services, Forestry Division (DOF), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and SJRWMD shall provide technical assistance to agriculture operations and other large irrigation water users in the design of low-volume irrigation systems.

## Objective E.2.2

### Native Forests, Floodplains, Wetlands, Upland Communities, and Surface Water

**The County shall protect native forests, floodplains, wetlands, upland communities and surface waters within the County from development impacts to provide for maintenance of environmental quality and wildlife habitats.**

#### Policies

E.2.2.1 The County shall continue to work with the St. Johns County Cooperative Extension Service (SJCCES), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Florida Department of Agriculture (FDACS), and the Division of Forestry (DOF) to develop and implement strategies such as, but not limited to, Best Management Practices (BMPs), conservation easements, tax incentives and federal and state grants (i.e. forest legacy, stewardship incentive program, farmland protection, wildlife habitat incentive program, etc.) in an effort to maintain agriculture and Silviculture activities as viable businesses in the County. In addition, the County shall protect natural resources and wildlife habitats by providing technical assistance Silviculture operations to implement the BMPs that are consistent with wildlife protection and stormwater GOPs.

E.2.2.2 The commercial harvesting of trees shall follow the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Best Management Practices (1993), as amended and updated including, but not limited to, providing no harvesting zones within 150 feet of the banks of the St. Johns River and the Intracoastal Waterway, or within 75 feet of the banks of the streams and creeks listed below, whichever is more restrictive.

(a) 75 foot Buffer

- (1) Julington / Durbin Creek
- (2) Cunningham Creek
- (3) Trout Creek
- (4) Six Mile Creek
- (5) Toco Creek
- (6) McCullough Creek
- (7) Moccasin Creek
- (8) Deep Creek
- (9) Pellicer Creek
- (10) Cracker Branch
- (11) Moses Creek
- (12) Moultrie Creek
- (13) Pablo/Cabbage Creek
- (14) Sampson Creek
- (15) Orange Grove Branch/Kendall Creek
- (16) Petty Branch

- (17) Turnbull Creek
- (18) Town Branch
- (19) Sixteen Mile Creek
- (20) Paines Branch
- (21) West Run/Cracker Branch
- (22) Smith Creek
- (23) Deep Creek
- (24) Stokes Creek
- (25) East Creek
- (26) San Julian Creek

(b) 150 foot Buffer

- (1) St. Johns River
- (2) Intracoastal Waterway

E.2.2.3 In order to protect the functional viability and productivity of forested wetland systems as natural resources, silviculture activities within forested wetlands:

- (a) Shall not significantly alter overall wetland community characteristics (i.e. hydrology, topography, plant species diversity, wetland forest composition, canopy cover or average forest age structure).
- (b) Shall not result in the conversion of historical forested wetlands into either upland systems or other types of wetland systems, except pursuant to restorative silviculture activities.
- (c) Shall comply with the ACOE's, DEP's, SJRWMD's, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Division of Forestry's Best Management Practices.

E.2.2.4 The County shall protect Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESLs) through the continued implementation of Land Development Regulations (LDRs) which address the alternative types of protection for each type of Environmentally Sensitive Land and, at a minimum, address the following issues:

- (a) For Wetlands, Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW), and Estuaries:
  - (1) Maintain buffers between the wetlands/OFW/ estuaries and upland development as stated in the County's Land Development Regulations (LDRs) and as follows:
    - (a) A minimum natural vegetative upland buffer of twenty-five (25) feet shall be required and maintained between the developed areas and the contiguous wetlands to protect the water quality of the wetlands, except where buffer



averaging may allow less than the required minimum of twenty-five (25) feet in certain locations while achieving a greater buffer width or where a variance is granted. Except where a variance is granted, no buffer shall be reduced to less than ten (10) feet except in circumstances where an unavoidable wetland impact occurs such as but not limited to a road crossing. Such upland buffer shall be measured from the jurisdictional wetland line as determined by the SJRWMD and FDEP.

(b) A minimum of a fifty (50) feet natural vegetative upland buffer shall be required and maintained between the development areas and the St. Johns, Matanzas, Guana and Tolomato Rivers and their associated tributaries, streams and other interconnecting water bodies, except where buffer averaging may allow less than the required minimum of fifty (50) feet in certain locations while achieving a greater buffer width or where a variance is granted. Except where a variance is granted, no buffer shall be reduced to less than twenty-five (25) feet except in circumstances where an unavoidable wetland impact occurs such as but not limited to a road crossing. Such upland buffer shall be measured from the jurisdictional wetland line as determined by the SJRWMD and DEP.

(2) Continue to coordinate with DEP and SJRWMD on the status of the water quality data in all the County's major rivers, especially areas which abut designated shellfish harvesting areas. If the SJRWMD water quality data reveals the need for more stringent stormwater regulations or other water quality standards, the County will work with DEP and the SJRWMD in the development of these regulations.

(b) For Coastal Resources and Beach and Dune Resources:

(1) Coordinate the consistency with Federal and State regulations and requirements applicable to the coastal resources.

(2) Coordinate the consistency with DEP regulations and requirements applicable to the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL).

(3) Prevent development activity which would negatively impact the beach and dune system or the coastal resources, unless such activity is required to protect public health and safety.

(c) Listed Species Habitat:

- (1) Establish criteria that will be utilized in the development review process for the identification of potential habitat areas by proposed developments.
- (2) Establish criteria for those areas of the County with a high probability of listed species habitat for additional review or habitat identification procedures.
- (3) Establish standards and procedures for the protection or acquisition of specific habitat areas which have been identified as necessary for the support of an existing listed species population.

E.2.2.5 The Environmentally Sensitive Lands Map shall be updated by December 2010. The Map shall include wetlands, estuaries, Outstanding Florida Waters (OFWs), Class II waters, Aquatic Preserves, the National Estuary Research Reserve, Conservation lands, submerged aquatic vegetation, environmentally managed land in public ownership, mitigation banks and Coastal resources.

E.2.2.6 Environmental surveys shall be required for all development. By December 2012, the County shall develop and adopt in the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) standards for environmental surveys. At a minimum, the focus of these surveys shall be, jurisdictional wetland boundaries, existing vegetative communities, the presence and location of existing wildlife habitat, rookeries, listed species, Significant Natural Communities Habitat, historical and archaeological locations and potential wildlife corridors.

E.2.2.7 The County shall provide technical support and assistance to State and Federal agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) in their inventory, assessment and mapping of existing fish and wildlife habitat, significant upland communities and wildlife corridors.

E.2.2.8 By December 2012, the County shall develop and adopt guidelines and standards for the protection of wildlife corridors such as, but not limited to, wildlife crossings and open space preservation.

E.2.2.9 The County shall continue to implement guidelines and standards for the preservation and conservation of wetlands through various land development techniques including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) The County shall protect wetlands, uplands and their associated wildlife habitats through the implementation of the Planned Development (PUD and PRD) land development regulations by requiring twenty five (25%)

percent preservation of open space. These preservation areas will be designed to complement the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) wildlife and habitat data and the Florida Ecological Greenways Network so that these areas can be interconnected with adjacent ecological areas.

- (b) The County shall protect wetlands, uplands and their associated wildlife habitats through the implementation of natural vegetative upland buffers, the preservation of Significant Natural Communities Habitat and the protection of Listed Species within St. Johns County as provided in the County Land Development Regulations.
- (c) In recognition of the many natural functions and values of estuarine wetlands and the need to protect these resources from incompatible land uses, all estuarine wetland habitats shall be deemed as Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESLs) as designated on the County Comprehensive Plan Map series.
- (d) Wetlands and natural functions of the wetlands shall be protected and conserved through the planning process which considers the type, value, function, size, condition and location of the wetlands.
- (e) Consistent with the Recreation and Open Space Element, the County will participate in various land acquisition programs to acquire important undeveloped estuarine wetlands. The land acquisition consideration will be based on the Recreation and Open Space Policies F.1.3.2. through F.1.3.5.

E.2.2.10 Illegal development in wetland areas shall be reported. Consistent with applicable law, it will be required that these areas shall be restored or mitigated.

E.2.2.11 The County shall implement Land Development Regulation standards and procedures, as provided in Objective D.3.1 and supporting policies, to ensure that stormwater management systems protect the hydrologic conditions of wetlands.

E.2.2.12 The County shall preserve and conserve uplands through various land development techniques as follows:

- (a) St. Johns County shall require a buffer zone adjacent to the wetlands and open water habitats on all new development sites as specified in the LDRs and policy E.2.2.4.
- (b) The County shall recognize the following vegetative natural communities as Significant Natural Communities Habitat. Due to the rarity of these vegetative communities, a minimum of ten (10%) percent of the total acreage of the Significant Natural Communities Habitat (excluding bona

vide Agriculture or Silviculture operations) shall be preserved and maintained by the development.

- (1) Beach Dune
- (2) Coastal Grasslands/Coastal Strand
- (3) Xeric Hammock
- (4) Maritime Hammock
- (5) Sandhill
- (6) Scrub

E.2.2.13 The County GIS computer mapping inventory shall coordinate with the State and Federal agencies on new available vegetative and wildlife data and update the County database as appropriate.

E.2.2.14 The County shall require the preservation of native vegetative communities and removal of exotic vegetation on County owned land to the maximum extent feasible.

E.2.2.15 The County shall continue to encourage cluster type developments in order to preserve large contiguous areas through implementation of the development review process.

E.2.2.16 By 2013, the County shall consider adoption of an Environmentally Sensitive Overlay Zone (ESOZ) for ecologically sensitive areas.

The ESOZ shall establish standards and procedures to address the following:

- (a) Protection of the County's shellfish harvesting areas and Outstanding Florida Waters.
- (b) Protection of surface water quality.
- (c) Protection of flood storage and floodplain capacity.
- (d) Protection of wetland dependent wildlife, listed species and unique vegetative communities.
- (e) Protection of environmental scenic views and vistas.
- (f) Provisions for development mitigation, revegetation, buffering and

setback measures within the ESOZ.

- (g) Provisions for building and development practices and techniques which protect the integrity of the ESOZ.

- E.2.2.17 The County shall continue to investigate Outstanding Florida Water designation(s) for major stream systems within the County, particularly the Julington/Durbin and Six Mile Creek systems.
- E.2.2.18 Dredge and fill activities shall be reviewed and permitted by the appropriate regulatory agencies to assure that environmental impacts are minimized, and that the requirements of the County Land Development Regulations (LDRs) are met before final approval is granted.
- E.2.2.19 St. Johns County, in coordination with DEP, shall encourage all new and existing Marinas or boatyards to participate in the DEPs Clean Marina Program or the Clean Boatyard Program.
- E.2.2.20 The County shall work with the appropriate Federal and State agencies in locating shellfish harvesting area signs at appropriate locations along the Intracoastal Waterway.
- E.2.2.21 The County shall implement the County Greenway, Blueway and Trails Master Plan to protect and enhance the natural, cultural and historical resources of the County while providing interconnecting accessways between public conservation and park lands. The established Greenways/Blueways/Trails shall be coordinated with the surrounding counties and municipalities.
- E.2.2.22 The County shall coordinate with the surrounding counties on protecting native vegetative communities, estuaries, surface waters, marine resources, wildlife habitats, wildlife corridors and reduce exposure to natural hazards that cross jurisdictional boundaries.
- E.2.2.23 The County shall support the Matanzas River Special Basin designation and Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) designation by the SJRWMD and DEP for the protection of the Matanzas River. If the Special Basin designation and OFW designations are approved by the state agencies then the County will review the Land Development Regulations for compliance with the potential state requirements for the Matanzas Basin.

### **Objective E.2.3 Surface Water Quality**

**The surface waters of St. Johns County shall be protected to ensure that their quality is maintained. Waters that enter the estuaries and the ocean shall be improved, at a minimum, to the standards established by Chapter 62-302, F.A.C. and the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251.**

#### **Policies**

- E.2.3.1 St. Johns County shall support and encourage continued water quality monitoring by local, state and federal agencies that will identify and formulate plans to address point and non-point sources of surface water pollution.
- E.2.3.2 St. Johns County shall continue to coordinate with governmental agencies on the St. Johns River Surface Water Improvement (SWIM) program, the Northern Coastal Basin SWIM Program, the GTMNERR Management Plan, Pellicer Creek Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, Guana River Marsh Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, the Natural Resources of Regional Significance (NRRS), the St. Johns River American Heritage River designation and any future Management Plan, Habitat Conservation Plan, Manatee Protection Management Plan and Estuarine Sanctuary Plan to ensure that the County resource protection measures are implemented in conjunction with the existing resource protection plans.
- E.2.3.3 St. Johns County shall enhance or restore the degraded natural areas on County owned properties through the removal of non-native vegetation, revegetating, shoreline or dune restoration or the restoration of the natural hydrology, where feasible.
- E.2.3.4 The County shall develop native vegetative restoration plans for park sites within the County. All plans will include the removal of non-native vegetative plant materials, i.e. Brazilian pepper, Chinese tallow, Australian pine and air potato. The non-native vegetative plant materials shall be replaced with the appropriate native species.
- E.2.3.5 There shall be no reduction in the flood storage capacity or the other natural functions and values of the floodplain in St. Johns County by regulating development in areas designated as regulatory floodway as updated by FEMA Flood Insurance Studies in St. Johns County. Encroachments shall be prohibited within designated regulatory floodway including, but not limited to, fill, new construction, development improvements, that would result in any increase in flood levels.
- E.2.3.6 The County shall regulate development within the flood prone areas to minimize flood storage capacity reduction and to afford protection to life and property within the floodplain.

- E.2.3.7 Land uses should be restricted if they adversely affect the quality and quantity of the water resources such as natural groundwater recharge areas, wellhead protection areas and surface waters.
- E.2.3.8 The County shall seek new funding sources to implement the Best Management Practices for water resources identified as shellfish harvesting areas.
- E.2.3.9 The County shall work with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to educate and distribute information on the surface water resources in the County.

**Objective E.2.4  
Scenic Highway Designations**

**St. Johns County shall continue to support local, state and federal Scenic Highway designations which promote community pride, provide a positive community self image, provide a pleasant driving experience, preserves and protects unique scenic, historical, archaeological, cultural, recreational, aesthetic and environmentally significant resources.**

**Policies**

- E.2.4.1 The William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway is designated as a State Scenic Highway and shall be protected through the adoption of new Land Development Regulations (LDRs) and the implementation of development controls as established in Future Land Use Policy A.1.3.8.
- E.2.4.2 By 2015, St. Johns County and William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway Corridor Management Council (CMC) members shall complete Overlay District regulations that at a minimum, establish architectural, landscaping, buffer, screening, including retention of existing tree canopy, lighting and as necessary additional setback requirements for this state designated Scenic Highway.
- E.2.4.3 State Road A1A from the St. Johns/Duval county line to the St. Johns/Flagler county line is designated as a St. Johns County Scenic Roadway, a state designated Scenic Highway and a National Scenic Byway. The preservation of it's picturesque historic architecture, scenic land, and water vistas shall be protected through the implementation of development controls as established in Future Land Use Policy A.1.3.7 and A.1.3.9.
- E.2.4.4 By 2013, the County shall consider Land Development Regulations (LDRs) for the preservation of Old Brick Road in St. Johns County which is designated as a state Heritage Scenic Highway.
- E.2.4.5 By 2013, the County shall consider Land Development Regulations (LDRs) for the preservation of the portion of International Golf Parkway which is designated as a St. Johns County Scenic Roadway.
- E.2.4.6 By December 2015, the County shall develop a procedure for recognizing and nominating eligible local roads as Scenic Roadways.



**Objective E.2.5  
Wastewater**

**Protect the water resources of the County from contamination through the use of centralized water and sewer systems.**

**Policies**

- E.2.5.1 New On-site Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS) will continue to be inspected and approved by the County Health Department. OSTDS, including their associated drain fields, will be located as far landward as feasible on the waterfront properties so as to reduce or prevent unnecessary nutrient and pathogen loading into the surface waters.
- E.2.5.2 OSTDS shall, at a minimum, continue to be subject to state standards, as provided in Objective D.1.4 and supporting Policies.
- E.2.5.3 OSTDS shall be prohibited within wetland areas.
- E.2.5.4 Pursuant to applicable law, users of OSTDS shall be required to tie into public or private sewer systems once service becomes available in that area.
- E.2.5.5 New developments above the St. Johns County Health Department's thresholds for OSTDS use shall rely upon public or private sewer systems and wastewater treatment plants built to county and state specifications.
- E.2.5.6 The County shall discourage the discharge of any new or upgraded public or private sanitary sewer facility into the estuarine waters of the County.

**Objective E.2.6  
Stormwater**

**The County shall protect and appropriately use estuarine and fresh water systems.**

**Policies**

- E.2.6.1 The County Land Development Regulations (LDRs) shall be reviewed and amended as necessary, based upon the findings of the St. Johns County Master Drainage Study, as provided for in Objective D.3.1, and its supporting Policies.
- E.2.6.2 St. Johns County shall continue to coordinate with the SJRWMD and participate in the ongoing programs of the St. Johns River Surface Water Improvement Management (SWIM) program and the Northern Coastal Basins programs and work with the SJRWMD on the long term ambient water quality monitoring program, establishing pollutant load reductions goals and monitoring freshwater inflow.
- E.2.6.3 The use, storage, transmission, or generation of hazardous substances, or substances which may artificially accelerate the eutrophication of the wetlands and water bodies, is prohibited within the wetland systems.
- E.2.6.4 St. Johns County shall continue to coordinate with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and participate in ongoing programs recommended by the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuary Research Reserve (GTMNERR).
- E.2.6.5 The County shall seek new funding sources to implement the best management practices for the protection of water resources identified as shellfish harvesting areas.
- E.2.6.6 St. Johns County shall continue to work with DEP and SJRWMD to develop management practices for water resources to mitigate urban and non-point sources of water degradation.
- E.2.6.7 St. Johns County shall continue to implement the Stormwater Management Ordinance for the reduction and elimination of pollutant discharges to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).
- E.2.6.8 Storm water ponds should be designed, wherever feasible, to use natural vegetation to create wildlife habitat and passive recreation areas consistent with Policy D.3.2.13.

**Objective E.2.7**  
**Acquisition and Protection**

**The County shall provide technical assistance to other governmental agencies and the private sector in the identification, acquisition, preservation or protection of areas identified for their ecological significance.**

**Policies**

- E.2.7.1 The County shall use the Environmentally Sensitive Lands map, as necessary or appropriate, to identify areas for protection or acquisition. Priority areas shall be areas that provide the highest habitat and wildlife benefit.
- E.2.7.2 The County shall encourage and pursue the acquisition of ecologically significant land through existing state acquisition programs or through local acquisition programs to be funded through grants, bond issues, land trust funds or other appropriate local funding mechanisms.
- E.2.7.3 In addition to pursuing acquisition of ecologically significant land, the County shall continue to protect such areas through application and enforcement of the Land Development Regulations (LDRs).
- E.2.7.4 The County shall identify areas within the Development Area Boundaries appropriate for infilling and establish incentives to encourage the development of these areas.
- E.2.7.5 In selecting future park sites for public acquisition the County shall give full consideration to acquiring new lands according to the Recreation and Open Space Element's Policies F.1.3.2, F.1.3.3, F.1.3.4 and F.1.3.5.
- E.2.7.6 The County shall continue to review its land acquisition selection criteria on a regular basis and shall update these criteria, as deemed appropriate. Land acquisition and preservation shall be focused on lands that provide the greatest amount of habitat and wildlife benefit.

**Objective E.2.8**  
**Listed Species**

**The County shall protect habitats and populations of listed species.**

**Policies**

- E.2.8.1 The County shall work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and other appropriate governmental agencies in the implementation of the St. Johns County Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) (2005).
- E.2.8.2 Marinas and ports shall not be located in or immediately adjacent to FWC designated manatee sanctuaries.
- E.2.8.3 The County shall work with FWC to monitor applications for Marina construction permits filed with applicable state agencies and shall comment on such applications during the permit review process to ensure that local knowledge of manatee foraging areas is appropriately addressed during such review.
- E.2.8.4 All species of sea turtles nesting on the beaches of St. Johns County shall be protected from human interference including, but not limited to, beach renourishment, beach front lighting, coastal construction, armoring, erosion control structures, mechanical beach cleaning and unregulated vehicular traffic which could harm sea turtles and their nesting sites during nesting season.
- E.2.8.5 The County shall protect sea turtles by implementing the St. Johns County Habitat Conservation Plan and through coordination with the DEP, FWC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the enforcement and protection of sea turtles during their nesting times.
- E.2.8.6 The County shall protect Anastasia Island Beach Mouse (AIBM) by implementing the St. Johns County Habitat Conservation Plan and through coordination with the DEP, FWC and FWS on the enforcement and protection of AIBM habitat.
- E.2.8.7 Development of vacant lands adjacent to Outstanding Florida Waters, Aquatic Preserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries, State Preserves, Sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserve and Wildlife Management areas shall be designed to a scale and intensity which is consistent with the existing adjacent uses pursuant to the adopted Land Development Regulations (LDRs) and shall be required, at a minimum, to meet all applicable Federal, State and Local drainage and water quality standards.
- E.2.8.8 By 2014, the County shall seek support and technical assistance from state agencies (such as DEP, SJRWMD and FWC) to develop a wildlife corridor plan

linking public lands of appropriate size to maintain species viability and diversity.

- E.2.8.9 The County shall work with the FWC to educate the public on the value of wildlife, native vegetative communities and other natural resources through the creation of information flyers, brochures, interpretive displays and the development of trails at appropriate County park sites.
- E.2.8.10 The County shall coordinate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agricultural Extension Service and others, to provide suggestions and guidance to the agricultural and silviculture communities on methods for incorporating wildlife corridors in the management of their lands.
- E.2.8.11 The County shall protect listed species and critical habitats and both shall be evaluated on a site development basis. For developments on property known to support listed species of plants or animals, the developer shall be required to notify the appropriate Federal, State and Regional agencies and the County and must comply with the appropriate guidelines and laws that protect listed species.
- E.2.8.12 The County shall protect bald eagles through the continued implementation of Land Development Regulations (LDRs) that include bald eagle protection zones.
- E.2.8.13 Recognizing that submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) protects water quality by stabilizing sediments, absorbing nutrients and providing essential habitats for many species of wildlife, the County shall consider regulations to protect SAV by 2010.

**Objective E.2.9**  
**Air Quality**

**Air quality in St. Johns County shall be suitable to safeguard human health and prevent damage to the natural environment. This shall be accomplished by meeting or exceeding air quality standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).**

**Policies**

- E.2.9.1        The County shall coordinate with DEP to evaluate the need for additional air quality monitoring stations.
  
- E.2.9.2        New and existing industries which require air quality permits from EPA or DEP shall be required to receive those permit(s) prior to receiving County development approval.
  
- E.2.9.3        The County shall continue to require applicants for Development approval to investigate and incorporate methods to reduce vehicle traffic such as bikeways, pedestrian ways, public transportation, and other means.
  
- E.2.9.4        The County shall coordinate with the State Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry to ensure that appropriate fire prevention methods are implemented for the burning of land clearing debris within the Rural/Silviculture areas.

**Objective E.2.10  
Energy Conservation**

**The County shall implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures to reduce energy consumption and promote energy conservation, carbon reduction, green building and economic development.**

**Policies**

- E.2.10.1 The County shall continue to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures to reduce energy consumption in the County's fleet management, operations, building construction and maintenance programs.
- E.2.10.2 The County shall promote energy saving techniques through the public information program established by Policy C.1.7.2. The County shall continue to enforce the Florida Energy Efficiency Code through the Development permit review and approval process.
- E.2.10.3 The County shall promote energy conservation by supporting alternative forms of transportation through the programs established in Objective B.1.5 and Policies B.1.62 and F.1.1.1.
- E.2.10.4 The County shall promote energy conservation by supporting alternative energy resources including biofuel, solar and wind and by ensuring that Land Development Regulations (LDRs) do not prohibit their use.
- E.2.10.5 The County shall encourage the research, development, demonstration and application of alternative energy resources, particularly renewable energy resources by allowing agribusiness renewable energy operations, solar farms, wood and debris recycling facilities as related to alternative fuel production operations consistent with Policy A.1.6.9 and by ensuring that Land Development Regulations (LDRs) do not prohibit the use of alternative energy resources, where appropriate.
- E.2.10.6 St Johns County public buildings shall be constructed with cost-effective efficiency construction standards and whenever feasible, shall meet or exceed standards set forth by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, the Green Building Initiative's Green Globes rating system, the Florida Green Building Coalition standards or a nationally or state recognized, high-performance green building rating system as approved by the Florida Department of Management Services.
- E.2.10.7 The County shall encourage that all private buildings constructed in the County be constructed to meet the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, the Green Building Initiative's Green Globes rating system, the Florida Green

Building Coalition standards or a nationally or state recognized, high-performance green building rating system as approved by the Florida Department of Management Services.

- E .2.10.8 By 2011, the County shall modify the Land Development Code establishing Low Impact Development standards.
- E.2.10.9 By 2011, the County shall ensure that its vehicle fleet is used efficiently and is energy efficient by analyzing work priorities, standardizing the size, type and number of vehicles as may be necessary to meet functional requirements and, where possible, rotate between high and low utilization and work areas to maximize vehicle life/cost per mile/reliability, energy conservation and reduction of harmful emissions.
- E.2.10.10 Upon its completion, St. Johns County will investigate the Florida Residential Retrofit program to determine applicability in the retrofitting of older homes in St. Johns County in order for these homes to become more energy efficient. The County may investigate a long term market-based program that offers a whole-house approach for reducing energy use.
- E.2.10.11 Consistent with the State's initiative to improve the sustainability of Florida's energy production and consumption patterns and to minimize the County's own carbon footprint, the County shall identify opportunities and funding for local implementation of renewable energy options that apply to the built environment, infrastructure, utilities and transportation sectors, using the Florida Green Building Council, Green Local Government Standard as a guide.



**Objective E.2.11**  
**Agriculture/ Silviculture Soils**

**Agricultural and silviculture soils in St. Johns County shall be protected and conserved as an essential natural resource which is an integral part of the County's economy. This will be implemented through the County's Land Development Regulations (LDRs)..**

**Policies**

- E.2.11.1      The County will continue to protect Agricultural lands through the agriculture exemption or "green belt" property tax assessments.
  
- E.2.11.2      The County shall work with local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices to develop methods of soil conservation and educate the agricultural community about soil conservation and erosion control practices including implementing appropriate Best Management Practices and erosion control strategies.
  
- E.2.11.3      The County shall protect Agricultural and Silviculture areas through their designation on the Future Land Use Map and through the development and application of Planned Rural Development Land Development Regulations.

**Objective E.2.12**  
**Mining and Excavation Activities**

**Mining and excavation activities in the County shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes the detrimental effects to the groundwater, surface water, wildlife and wildlife habitats, the surrounding land use values and the health, safety and welfare of the general public in addition to the appropriate use and protection of minerals.**

**Policies**

- E.2.12.1 By 2011, the County shall review and update, as appropriate, Land Development Regulations (LDRs) for excavation activities. At a minimum, the LDRs shall address the regulation of excavation activities including, appropriate use, size, roadway use and maintenance, and any appropriate exemptions.
- E.2.12.2 Commercial mining and excavation activities shall be prohibited within the Conservation areas designated on the Future Land Use Map.
- E.2.12.3 Excavations for fish ponds, aquaculture or pisciculture activities shall be in conformance with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Aquaculture Best Management Practices, January 2005, as amended, and the County LDRs.

## F. RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

### Goal F.1

The development of a system of parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces to meet the health, safety, and welfare needs of the County citizens and visitors.

#### Objective F.1.1

##### Park, Beach, and Waterway Access

The County shall improve public access to County parks, beaches, and waterways (rivers and their tributaries, creeks and/or branches) by providing: improved beach parking by constructing the necessary facilities for: (a) the US 1 /Intracoastal Waterway corridor between the City of St. Augustine limits and CR 210; (b) the St. Johns River and its tributaries; and (c) all other County rivers and creeks.

#### Policies

- F.1.1.1. The County shall improve physical access to parks and recreational sites by:
- (a) All new oceanfront development except Single Family and Two Family Dwellings on existing platted or legally documented lots of record prior to this amendment, with ocean frontage shall be evaluated on providing at least one public beach access for every 750 feet of ocean frontage. Public off-beach pervious (e.g. turf block, stone and similar materials) parking will be required at each public beach access at 5 spaces per beach access.
  - (b) Advocating the addition of bike lanes to State and County Roads.
  - (c) Requiring new development to provide walk/bike paths to connect its open space and recreational sites to residential areas.
  - (d) Developing a bike path plan which prioritizes the development of bike paths which link neighborhoods to schools and parks and uses the Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan as a guide.
  - (e) Providing adequate parking at beach and waterway access points or providing off-beach parking located where vehicle and pedestrian traffic identifies that there is a need to increase these facilities.
  - (f) Researching and applying for grants and other available funding to acquire and construct parking and access at chosen points
- F.1.1.2 All new development except Single Family and Two Family Dwellings on existing platted or legally documented lots of record prior to this amendment,

with frontage along the St. Johns River and Intracoastal Waterway shall be evaluated on providing at least one public access for every 750 feet of such frontage. The type of Public Access provided shall be determined based on site and environmental conditions and may include access suitable for the construction of a public boat ramp, dock, fishing pier or wildlife viewing area with parking.

- F.1.1.3. The County shall provide recreational opportunities, parking and accessibility to facilities for the handicapped and elderly.
- F.1.1.4. The County shall not vacate existing easements, walkways, and other access points to beaches and waterways without equivalent or greater mitigation.
- F.1.1.5. The County shall protect the accessibility of public beach access points and easements by:
  - (a) Identifying public beach access with signage or other mechanisms which identifies dune walkovers as public access. All constructed public dune walkovers shall be posted.
  - (b) Continuing to develop dune walkovers where the County owns beach access at one (1) dune walkover per year.
  - (c) Continuing to pursue additional beach access funding sources.
  - (d) Encouraging new development to provide beach parking at a ratio of three (3) parking spaces for every 100 square feet of dune walkover.
- F.1.1.6 The County shall protect its public beaches by pursuing additional funding sources to assist funding for future beach renourishment projects.
- F.1.1.7 St. Johns County shall require the design of beach access and parking areas to be constructed so that it enhances and protects the waterways adjacent to lands within St. Johns County. Such parking areas shall be designed to include (but not be limited to) existing trees and use of pervious (e.g. turf block, stone and similar materials ) parking where ever feasible.
- F.1.1.8 On and off beach parking areas shall be paved with pervious surfaces (e.g. turf block, stone, and similar materials) which allow infiltration.
- F.1.1.9 The County shall continue to work with DEP Bureau of Protective Species in the design and construction of beach access and parking areas to ensure that sea turtle habitat and Anastasia Island Beach Mouse habitat is adequately protected during and after construction.

**Objective F.1.2.**  
**Coordination of Public and Private Recreation and Open Space Facilities**

**The County shall coordinate the provision of needed parks and recreation facilities through both public and private sources, which will at a minimum assure consistency with the LOS standards established in F.1.3.1.**

**Policies**

- F.1.2.1. The County shall strive to maintain the existing interlocal agreements with St. Augustine, St. Augustine Beach and the Town of Hastings concerning the mutual use and support of recreational facilities.
- F.1.2.2. The County shall continue working with the School Board to provide recreational programs and facilities.
- F.1.2.3. The County shall continue to seek citizen advice for the development of recreational opportunities and facilities.
- F.1.2.4. The County shall continue to coordinate with the Tourist Development Council to provide tourist related recreational opportunities.
- F.1.2.5. The County shall continue to pursue Federal, State, regional, local and private funding sources for the acquisition and development of parks and open space areas.
- F.1.2.6. The County shall coordinate and support future park acquisitions with Federal, State, regional, local and private programs.
- F.1.2.7. The County will use its Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan and coordinate future land acquisitions for greenways, blueways and trails with the State Office of Greenways and Trails.

**Objective F.1. 3.**  
**Provision of Recreation and Open Space to meet County Growth**

**The County shall provide for the park needs of the County population through the year 2025.**

**Policies**

F.1.3.1. The County minimum level of service (LOS) standard for the provision of parks and open space as follows:

<b>Facility/Park</b>	<b>Level of Service Standard</b>	<b>Typical Facilities and Service Area*</b>
Neighborhood Park	2 acres/1000 population	Playground equipment; open play fields; benches; walking paths; natural passive areas and landscaped areas; pool; generally no parking, lighting and restrooms; located interior of neighborhoods and generally intended to serve the walking population within ½ to 2 miles of the site; generally requires minimum 1-2 acres depending upon the facilities being provided
Community Park	3 acres/1000 population	Open play fields; multi-purpose fields; playground equipment; walking paths; natural passive areas; pool; community building and restrooms; generally not lighted except in specific locations such as community building; limited parking facilities; generally located on collector roadways; may be located adjacent to schools; generally requires 3-15 acres depending upon facilities being provided
District Park	3 acres/1000 population	Mixed use park with active and passive uses; walking paths; natural passive areas; open play fields; multi-purpose fields; playground equipment; pool; community building and restrooms; regulation soccer, football, baseball, fields, gymnasium; special event areas; generally lighted; parking facilities; staff office building; generally located on collector and arterial roadways; generally requires 25-100 acres depending upon facilities being provided
Regional Park	20 acres/1000 population	State parks; large open space areas; walking paths; natural passive areas; historical structures, commemorative structures; nature trails; picnic areas; camping, hiking and nature study; bicycle riding and equestrian trials; swimming; fishing; specific areas may be lighted; parking; community building; staff office building; located on local and collector roadways

\* Service areas are generalized allowing for greater flexibility in park location and allows for market and demographic changes; however, neighborhood parks should be accessible to walking residents within neighborhoods. Community parks should be designed to serve a cluster of neighborhoods and be located within walking distance when feasible. Facilities are typical; while each park requires at least one facility not all facilities are required in each park.

- F.1.3.2. In selecting future park sites for public acquisition the County shall consider serving the population in the high growth areas and Development Areas depicted on the Future Land Use Map.
- F.1.3.3 In selecting park sites for site improvements, the County shall consider those Planning Districts which require immediate construction, maintenance or rehabilitation of existing facilities.
- F.1.3.4 In selecting future park sites for public acquisition, the County shall consider acquisitions that support Federal, State, regional, local, private programs, and recommendations made by the Land Acquisition Management Program (LAMP) Board, North Florida Land Trust, citizen visioning groups, and Scenic Corridor Advocacy Groups (e.g. Scenic and Historic A1A and William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway ).
- F.1.3.5 St. Johns County will utilize the Master Park and Recreation Plan to identify park and recreational facility deficiencies and correct these deficiencies by establishing funding programs, development exactions, on-site dedication, fee-in-lieu preservation or other appropriate methods.
- F.1.3.6. The County shall identify existing and the future LOS needs based on the four designated Planning Districts and using the Master Park and Recreation Plan. Park and Recreation Master Plan,
- F.1.3.7. Recreational impact fees shall continue to be utilized as an additional funding source for new parks and recreation facilities.
- F.1.3.8. Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs), Planned Developments (PUDs), PRDs) and other developments shall provide neighborhood-sized parks and playing fields within the development for their residents that meet the County LOS standard.
- F.1.3.9. DRIs, and PUDs which have met the required neighborhood park LOS requirements within their development, may dedicate other parks and open space requirements generated by the development through dedication to the County, private ownership, fee-in-lieu of payment for off-site acquisitions consistent with the master plan according to the adopted level of service standard. The choice of development of facilities, dedication or impact fee payment shall be negotiated.
- F.1.3.10. The County shall develop existing parks based on the generated needs by Planning District, according to the level of service standards adopted and as recommended by Master Park and Recreation Plan.
- F.1.3.11. The County shall work with other public agencies for the development of compatible multi-use programs for the public lands within the County.

- F.1.3.12. The County shall continue to annually budget for land acquisition and for the construction of public recreation facilities.
- F.1.3.13. The County shall consider the use of bonds, local infrastructure taxes and other alternative funding sources as revenue for recreation and open space.
- F.1.3.14. The County shall provide recreational opportunities, parking and accessibility to facilities for the handicapped and elderly.
- F.1.3.15. The County shall consider the use of wetlands and conservation areas for passive recreational and open space areas, provided these sites have been determined to not endanger public health, safety, and welfare.
- F.1.3.16. Public recreational and park sites shall not be diverted to other uses except in cases of overriding public need and when other equivalent sites are supplied.



**Objective F.1.4.  
Provision of Open Space**

**Through the planning and development process, the County shall coordinate the provision of needed open space through both public and private sources, which shall at a minimum assure consistency with the LOS standards established in F.1.3.1.**

**Policies**

- F.1.4.1. The County shall continue to support the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands which can be set aside as open space and passive recreation areas, through Federal, State, regional, local, and private programs
  
- F.1.4.2. The County shall continue to pursue Federal, State, regional, local, and private grant sources for the acquisition and development of recreational sites and open space.

**Objective F.1.5**  
**Correction and Improvement of Existing Recreation and Open Space**

**The County shall correct or improve existing deficiencies in parks and recreation facilities.**

**Policies**

F.1.5.1. The County shall prioritize capital improvement expenditures in accordance with the following criteria:

- (a) completion of projects underway
- (b) correct existing deficiencies and rehabilitating facilities
- (c) address future needs

## **G. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT**

### **Goal G. 1.**

**Effective Intergovernmental Coordination programs which aid in the provisions of services and management of growth between the County, municipalities, regional, state, and federal entities.**

#### **Objective G.1.1**

##### **Coordination and Review Procedures of All Local Plans**

The County shall continue to coordinate and review procedures of the County Comprehensive Plan with the plans of the School Board, municipalities within the County, independent authorities, Duval, Flagler, Clay and Putnam Counties, and regulatory agencies.

#### **Policies**

- G.1.1.1 The County shall continue its participation in the information-sharing activities at meetings, as necessary. The County shall continue to coordinate on the formal responsibilities of the School Board, municipalities, independent authorities, Flagler, Duval, Clay and Putnam Counties, and the State regulatory agencies plans with the County's Comprehensive Plan.
- G.1.1.2 The County shall continue to follow procedures for the purpose of municipal annexations, municipal incorporation, and joint infrastructure service areas. If any revisions to procedures are needed and if an agreement cannot be reached to the mutual satisfaction of all parties, the County shall initiate the formation of a committee for the purpose of plan coordination, or implement a dispute resolution process pursuant to Policy G.1.4.
- G.1.1.3 The County shall continue to meet with the School Board in scheduled joint workshop sessions on a quarterly basis to provide opportunities to discuss issues of mutual concern. In addition, the Boards will evaluate mutually agreed upon criteria in their review of development plans, selection of school sites and construction of schools.
- G.1.1.4 The County shall maintain its membership on the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) and Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) and other active multi-regional and multi-jurisdictional bodies.
- G.1.1.5 The County shall review the County's Comprehensive Plan and Plan amendments for consistency with the State Comprehensive Plan and the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.
- G.1.1.6 St. Johns County shall continue to formally notify adjacent local governments of

formal meetings/workshops held during the early project planning stages of site identification for annexations, land use amendments, and Locally Undesirable Land Uses (LULUs). LULUs located within two miles of an adjacent local government's boundaries shall notify the surrounding governments of this proposal. If an agreement on these issues is not reached to the mutual satisfaction of all involved parties, the County shall implement a dispute resolution process pursuant to Objective G.1.4.

- G.1.1.7 St. Johns County shall coordinate with adjacent governments and jurisdictional agencies for the management of joint beaches, shorelines and waterbodies.
- G.1.1.8 The County shall coordinate intergovernmental planning efforts with the St. Augustine - St. Johns County Airport Authority on the Airport Master Plan, as required by 163.3177, (6) (a) on compatibility of uses with adjacent lands, and other applicable agencies directed towards improving mass transit and transportation.
- G.1.1.9 St. Johns County shall coordinate with the St. Augustine - St. Johns County Airport Authority on changes to the *St. Augustine Airport Master Plan Update* and the *FAA Part 150 Noise Study*, and shall recommend proposed changes to the Airport Overlay District.
- G.1.1.10 St. Johns County shall continue to maintain an inventory and have available comprehensive plans from adjacent local governments.

**Objective G.1.2**  
**Intergovernmental Review of Proposed Development**

**The County shall continue to maintain coordination mechanisms that address the impacts by County development proposed in the County's Comprehensive Plan upon the environment, traffic circulation, public facilities, and drainage in municipalities in the County, and adjacent jurisdictions, Duval, Flagler, Clay, and Putnam Counties, the Region, and the State. The County shall continue to provide a reciprocal coordination between the County, County municipalities, and adjacent counties to review the impacts of development and other planning issues.**

**Policies**

- G.1.2.1      The County shall continue to review the County Comprehensive Plan, Plan amendments, Developments of Regional Impacts (DRIs), and development plans for relationships and impacts on the comprehensive plans of the adjacent local governments: Duval, Flagler, Clay and Putnam Counties, and the municipalities of Hastings, St. Augustine, St. Augustine Beach and require notification of affected jurisdictions of proposed development.
  
- G.1.2.2      St. Johns County shall continue to disseminate information on developments in St. Johns County that may impact upon adjacent local governments, state agencies and federal agencies, as applicable.
  
- G.1.2.3      St. Johns County shall continue to review adjacent local governments Comprehensive Plan amendments, proposed annexations, land use changes, DRIs, and development plans for review for relationships and impacts on St. Johns County. In addition, the County shall encourage the establishment of interlocal agreements between local governments to share information, to notify the County of proposed development, and to address planning issues, where determined necessary.

**Objective G.1.3**  
**Level of Service Standards for Public Facilities**

**The County shall continue to coordinate with those state, regional and local entities responsible for operating and maintaining any public facility, in order to establish Level of Service (LOS) Standards for such facilities.**

**Policies**

- G.1.3.1 The County shall utilize the NFTPO, and meetings with the FDOT, state environmental permitting agencies, regional authorities, adjacent counties and municipalities, and any local entity having responsibilities in providing facilities and services concurrent with the impacts of development, to exchange information and coordinate adopted levels of service standards.
- G.1.3.2 The County shall review and recommend to the Board of County Commissioners, that public facilities and applicable private facilities are available at the adopted level of service as provided in the County's Concurrency Management system.
- G.1.3.3 The St. Johns County shall continue to maintain information on Level of Service standards.

**Objective G.1.4**  
**Local, Formal Dispute Resolution Process**

**The County shall use a formal dispute resolution process for intergovernmental disputes.**

**Policies**

- G.1.4.1      The County shall initiate a formal dispute resolution process to resolve local conflicts between neighboring jurisdictions in a timely manner. Such local dispute resolution process will be executed in the form of an interlocal or other formal agreement between the County and the municipalities in the County, and adjacent counties.
  
- G.1.4.2      The County shall use the Northeast Florida Regional Council’s informal dispute resolution process when intergovernmental disputes and or inter-jurisdictional incompatibilities are identified, as required Florida Statutes.

**Objective G.1.5**  
**Joint Planning Between Local Governments**

**The County shall continue to identify and coordinate on planning topics of concern between local governments that would benefit from joint planning efforts and initiate coordination when determined necessary.**

**Policies**

- G.1.5.1. The County shall coordinate planning activities required by its Comprehensive Plan with the plans and activities of other governmental entities.
- G.1.5.2 The County shall continue its intergovernmental responsibilities related to municipalities and adjacent counties by refining and creating additional procedures and interlocal agreements, where necessary.
- G.1.5.3 The County shall continue to coordinate with the municipalities in the County and the adjacent counties to identify and consider the following areas of mutual concern:
  - (a) Improved communication between the County and other local, regional and state agencies;
  - (b) Local and regional resources, including but not limited to environmental issues and affordable housing;
  - (c) Consistency between the County Comprehensive Plan, the Comprehensive Plans of municipalities within the County, the plans of adjacent counties, the plans of the school district, and the plans of other units of local government providing services but not having regulatory authority over the use of land;
  - (d) Activities having extra-jurisdictional impact;
  - (e) Concurrency management systems and level of service standards;
  - (f) Expected impacts;
  - (g) Notification of affected jurisdictions;
  - (h) Measures to mitigate impacts;
  - (I) A dispute resolution process as required by Florida Statutes.



- G.1.5.4 The County shall utilize the review and comment procedures established by the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC), and the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA), for Comprehensive Plans and Plan Amendment proposals of other local governments in order to ensure consistency between the County's Comprehensive Plan and the local Comprehensive Plans of municipalities and Clay, Duval, Flagler and Putnam Counties.
- G.1.5.5 The County shall review proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments and Evaluation and Appraisal Reports submitted by adjacent counties and municipalities.
- G.1.5.6 The County shall continue to coordinate with the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) to provide coordination between St. Johns County planning activities and the planning activities of the municipalities within the County and the counties of Clay, Duval, Flagler and Putnam.
- G.1.5.7 The County shall promote joint meetings between the Board of County Commissioners and elected officials of other jurisdictions, as needed.
- G.1.5.8 The County staff shall coordinate with the staffs of municipalities and adjacent counties to identify inconsistencies and conflicts between the County's Comprehensive Plan and each local plan, as necessary.
- G.1.5.9 The County shall continue to coordinate with private water and sewer franchises to obtain the location of private water and sewer lines within their service areas.
- G.1.5.10 The County shall initiate and facilitate joint planning area agreements with municipalities prior to municipal annexations and incorporations, when necessary.

**Objective G.1.6**  
**Extra-Jurisdictional Impacts from Non-DRI Projects**

**The County shall continue to coordinate with municipalities and adjacent counties to address the extra jurisdictional impacts of Non-DRI projects to meet and ensure adequate facilities and services are available to support existing and proposed development through the County Concurrency Management System. Policies**

- G.1.6.1      The County shall continue to implement its Concurrency Management System to ensure the availability of public facilities and services needed to support development concurrent with the impact of such development in the unincorporated areas.
  
- G.1.6.2      St. Johns County shall continue to inform adjacent local governments of a proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, including the Future Land Use Map and Zoning Maps when the proposal is located approximately one mile from the jurisdictional boundary of a neighboring jurisdiction. The County shall inform adjacent local governments of proposed changes beyond the one-mile distance from a jurisdictional boundary when those proposed changes are deemed to have impacts on adjacent local governments.
  
- G.1.6.3      The County will continue to request that adjacent local governments inform the County of proposed amendments to their Comprehensive Plans, including the Future Land Use Map and the Zoning Maps when such proposals are located approximately one mile from the jurisdictional boundary of St. Johns County.

**Objective G.1.7**  
**Improve Communication**

**The County shall improve communication, coordination and cooperation among the various governments, authorities and agencies.**

**Policies**

- G.1.7.1 Implementation of the County Comprehensive Plan shall involve communication, coordination and cooperation between the County and municipalities, adjacent counties, and those authorities and agencies providing facilities and services.
- G.1.7.2 The County shall use its website to identify programs, statutes and rules, location, contacts, and special committees on relevant issues for use by the County.
- G.1.7.3 The County shall continue to actively participate on the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC).
- G.1.7.4 The County shall participate and use the NEFRC's Dispute Resolution Program, when needed.
- G.1.7.5 The County shall ensure consistency between new school construction and related public facilities.
- G.1.7.6 Upon application for initial staff review of plan amendments, actions affecting municipal boundaries, zoning, subdivision, site plan review processes, and special use requests located approximately one mile from any jurisdictional boundary, the County shall notify applicable municipalities and counties and then provide each with the opportunity to provide input regarding the planning or zoning changes. The municipalities and adjacent counties shall be requested to reciprocate by notifying the County on such changes requested within their jurisdiction, and by providing the County with an opportunity to provide input regarding those changes.
- G.1.7.7 The County shall ensure that amendments to its Comprehensive Plan are consistent with the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan*; the *State Comprehensive Plan* (Chapter 187, F.S.); the *Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act* (Chapter 163, F.S.); and the *Minimum Criteria for Review of Local Government Comprehensive Plans and Plan Amendments and Determination of Compliance* (Florida Administrative Code, Rule 9J-5).
- G.1.7.8 The County shall request that all annexations by municipalities be consistent with the provisions of Florida Statutes. In addition, County staff shall attend appropriate public meetings concerning potential annexations, if needed.

**Objective G.1.8  
Dredged Spoil Disposal Sites**

**The County shall continue to coordinate with appropriate federal and state agencies and the public in identifying dredged spoil disposal sites, and shall develop a resolution process to address conflicts regarding dredged spoil disposal sites.**

**Policies**

- G.1.8.1 By December 2013, the County shall consider standards for designation of dredged spoil disposal sites in the County’s Land Development regulations based on the following criteria:
- (a) Sites should be located near waterways to be dredged.
  - (b) Preferred sites should be areas that have been previously altered or disturbed containing non-vegetative material.
  - (c) Sites should not abut residential land uses unless sites are sufficiently large to adequately buffer the residential areas.
  - (d) Sites should not support Essential Habitat, Listed species or contain historically significant resources.
  - (e) Sites should not contain wetlands, unless the wetlands are degraded/non-functional, and the wetland impacts are mitigated.
  - (f) Sites shall be approved by all agencies that have jurisdiction over these facilities.
- G.1.8.2 The County shall coordinate with the Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND), and other federal and state agencies on the location of dredged spoil disposal sites to ensure availability of appropriate sites.
- G.1.8.3 The County shall locate dredged spoil disposal sites on the *Future Land Use Map* series.
- G.1.8.4 Any conflicts between St. Johns County and a public agency seeking a dredged spoil disposal site that cannot be resolved locally will be resolved through the dispute resolution process established pursuant to Objective G.1.4.

**Objective G.1.9**  
**Growth Management/Environmental Coordination**

**The County shall continue to maintain and implement existing Growth Management/Environmental Coordination Mechanisms, and establish others, as necessary.**

**Policies**

- G.1.9.1 The County shall continue to utilize the LAMP Conservation Board to oversee a *Land Acquisition and Management Program* for the unincorporated County and participating municipalities.
- G.1.9.2 The County shall coordinate future land acquisitions for greenways with the Office of Greenways and Trails and other appropriate state or federal agencies.
- G.1.9.3 The County shall support and pursue the acquisition of ecologically significant lands that can be set aside as open space, through local, state and federal acquisition programs funded through grants, bonds, land trust funds or other appropriate funding mechanisms.
- G.1.9.4 The County shall work with other public agencies for the development of compatible multi-use programs for the public lands within the County.
- G.1.9.5 The County shall coordinate with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), to ensure that adequate water supplies will meet existing and projected future demands by adopting policies which both agencies can mutually agreed upon.
- G.1.9.6 St. Johns County, in coordination with DEP, shall encourage all new and existing Marinas or boatyards to participate in the DEPs Clean Marina Program or the Clean Boatyard Program.
- G.1.9.7 The County shall work with the appropriate Federal and State agencies in locating shellfish harvesting area signs at appropriate locations along the Intracoastal Waterway
- G.1.9.8 St. Johns County shall support and encourage continued water quality monitoring by local, state and federal agencies that will identify and formulate plans to address point and non-point sources of surface water pollution.
- G.1.9.9 The County shall promote water conservation coordination with the St. Johns River Water Management District’s Water Assessment Plan, Water Supply Plan and Water Shortage Plan, as enumerated in Conservation Policy E.2.1.1.
- G.1.9.10 The County, in cooperation with the St. Johns County Cooperative Extension Service, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Forestry

Division (DOF), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), shall provide technical assistance to agriculture operations and other large irrigation water users in the design of low-volume irrigation systems and similar water conservation and quality measures.

- G.1.9.11 St. Johns County shall coordinate with the School Board to ensure that future school facilities are located outside areas susceptible to hurricane and/or storm damage and/or areas prone to flooding, or as consistent with Florida Statutes ., regarding flood plain and school building requirements.
- G.1.9.12 The County shall work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and other appropriate governmental agencies in the implementation of the St. Johns County Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) (2005).
- G.1.9.13 The County shall protect sea turtles by implementing the St. Johns County Habitat Conservation Plan and through coordination with the DEP, FWC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the enforcement and protection of sea turtles during their nesting times.
- G.1.9.14 The County shall provide technical support and assistance to State and Federal agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) in their inventory, assessment and mapping of existing fish and wildlife habitat, significant upland communities and wildlife corridors, as provided in Conservation Policy E.2.2.7.
- G.1.9.15 The County shall continue to implement the County Greenway, Blueway and Trails Master Plan to protect and enhance the natural, cultural and historical resources of the County while providing interconnecting accessways between public conservation and park lands. The established Greenways/Blueways/Trails shall be coordinated with the surrounding counties and municipalities.
- G.1.9.16 The County shall provide technical support and assistance to applicable State and Federal agencies in identifying and inventorying all beaches and dune systems, so that they may be protected, enhanced or renourished.
- G.1.9.17 St. Johns County shall continue to coordinate with governmental agencies on the St. Johns River Surface Water Improvement (SWIM) program, the Northern Coastal Basin SWIM Program, the GTMNERR Management Plan, Pellicer Creek Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, Guana River Marsh Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, the Natural Resources of Regional Significance (NRRS), the St. Johns River American Heritage River designation and any future Management Plan, Habitat Conservation Plan, Manatee Protection Management Plan and

Estuarine Sanctuary Plan to ensure that the County resource protection measures are implemented in conjunction with the existing resource protection plans.

- G.1.9.18 Recognizing that submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) protects water quality by stabilizing sediments, absorbing nutrients and providing essential habitats for many species of wildlife, the County shall consider regulations to protect SAV by 2010.
- G.1.9.19 The County shall coordinate with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, to ensure that appropriate fire prevention methods are implemented for the burning of land clearing debris within the Rural/Silviculture areas.
- G.1.9.20 The County shall continue to coordinate with the St. Johns County Cooperative Extension Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Division of Forestry), and the Land Acquisition Management Program (LAMP)/Environmental Advisory Board to develop and implement strategies such as, but not limited to, Best Management Practices (BMPs), conservation easements, tax incentives and federal and state grants (i.e., forest legacy, stewardship incentive program, farmland protection, wildlife habitat incentive program, etc.) in an effort to maintain agriculture and silviculture activities as viable businesses in the County. In addition, the County shall protect natural resources and wildlife habitats.
- G.1.9.21 The County shall continue to implement Land Development Regulations which address alternative types of protection for each type of Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL), and which include the intergovernmental coordination processes provided in Conservation Policy E.2.2.4.
- G.1.9.22 The County shall participate in an education program, in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agricultural Extension Service, and others, to provide suggestions and guidance to the agricultural and silviculture communities on methods for incorporating wildlife corridors in the management of their lands.
- G.1.9.23 The County shall coordinate with appropriate agencies to implement the objectives and policies of the *Coastal/Conservation Element* and the *Recreation and Open Space Element*.

**Objective G.1.10  
Improvements to Coastal and Waterfront Areas**

**The County shall continue to establish agreements or other mechanisms to obtain grant resources for planning activities to improve coastal and waterfront areas including, but not limited to boat ramps, beach parking, dune cross overs, public access signage, beach renourishment and waterfront redevelopment.**

**Policies**

- G.1.10.1 The County shall continue to improve physical access to parks and recreational sites by researching and applying for grants and other available funding to acquire and construct parking and access at chosen locations.
- G.1.10.2 The County shall continue to protect the accessibility of public beach access points and easements by pursuing additional beach accessway funding sources.
- G.1.10.3 The County shall continue to protect its public beaches by pursuing additional funding sources to assist funding for future beach renourishment projects.
- G.1.10.4 The County shall continue to investigate and develop additional funding sources (e.g. user fees, parking fees, grants and other funding sources) for the purposes of funding beach and navigable waterway accesses, parking spaces, dune walkovers and other related facilities.
- G.1.10.5 The County shall ensure the protection, enhancement or restoration of the County’s dune systems through LDRs as specified in Policy E.1.2.2. These procedures or regulations shall provide for continued enforcement of Federal, State or Local coastal construction zone requirements, and the County’s use of beach ramp fees or tolls, consistent with applicable law, for dune restoration and enhancement programs, which prevent further dune damage by controlling beach access.
- G.1.10.6 St. Johns County shall permit the use of local funds for shoreline stabilization and beach renourishment projects. Priority shall be given to projects which demonstrate a high cost-benefit ratio with the least impact to the offshore reef, inshore area and beach and dune ecological communities.
- G.1.10.7 The County shall investigate alternatives to funding sources for projects in the Coastal Management Area to fund shoreline stabilization for the areas of critical erosion, improve and protect water quality, preservation of marine, estuarine and beach dune communities and manage coastal waterfront community revitalization, redevelopment and hazard mitigation.
- G.1.10.8 The County shall seek new funding sources to implement the “Best Management



- Practices” for water resources identified as shellfish harvesting areas.
- G.1.10.9 The County shall encourage and pursue the acquisition of ecologically significant lands through state or local acquisition programs.
- G.1.10.10 The County shall continue to pursue funding sources for improvements along waterfronts.

**G.1.11  
Affordable Housing**

**The County shall continue to initiate intergovernmental coordination programs and policies which will eliminate substandard housing, protect historically significant structures and districts, and foster the development and maintenance of safe and secure neighborhoods with sufficient housing in numbers, costs and types to support existing and projected population throughout the planning timeframe.**

**Policies**

- G.1.11.1 St. Johns County shall continue to improve the supply of affordable housing for very-low, low and moderate income households, workforce and special-needs households, and to implement redevelopment programs and neighborhood improvement initiatives. The activities initiated by the County include applying for various funding programs (for housing rehabilitation, infrastructure, public facilities, rent supplement, etc.); developing cooperative, joint-venture relationships (with the private sector, public agencies and non-profit agencies); providing support to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee(AHAC); administering the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program Housing and Finance Authority and other housing programs that supply affordable/workforce housing; and administering the existing and/or consider new Community Redevelopment Agencies.(CRA's)
- G.1.11.2 The County shall coordinate with the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC), to assist the County in addressing the regional issue of migrant farm worker housing.
- G.1.11.3 The County shall seek federal, state and local funding for the demolition or rehabilitation of substandard housing.
- G.1.11.4 The County shall utilize the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee to provide input on housing and neighborhood improvement initiatives.
- G.1.11.5 The County shall develop and implement programs which promote conservation and rehabilitation of housing for very-low, low and moderate income households by pursuing federal, state and private resources to support neighborhood conservation and improvement, and by working cooperatively with neighborhood groups to develop strategies designed to promote comprehensive neighborhood revitalization.
- G.1.11.6 The County shall continue to support cooperative and partnership activities among local governments, the private sector, and non-profit organizations, such as the St. Johns Housing Partnership and the Emergency Shelter and Homeless Coalition, Housing Finance Authority, to provide housing assistance to meet the

needs of very-low, low and moderate income households.

- G.1.11.7 The County shall continue to coordinate with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), to identify federal, state and other sources of funding, such as Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program funds earmarked for very-low, low and moderate income housing, and provide technical assistance and support to private applicants applying for these funds.
- G.1.11.8 The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee shall review housing activities for very-low, low and moderate-income households and workforce and special need households. The County shall also encourage coordination between the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and appropriate County Departments to develop a local profile of housing needs for these target groups.
- G.1.11.9 A report shall be presented periodically to the Board of County Commissioners by the St. Johns County Housing and Community Services Department on the status of the County's programs to provide housing for very-low, low and moderate income households, workforce and special needs households, along with recommended programs that should be instituted to facilitate implementation of the Housing Element.
- G.1.11.10 The County shall continue to coordinate the development of group homes, foster care facilities and residential care facilities with existing and planned community services and infrastructure.
- G.1.11.11 The County shall continue to coordinate with the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, to further identify and classify historical/archaeological sites in the County. State Historic Preservation funding and other grants shall be actively pursued to assist in this effort.
- G.1.11.12 The County shall continue to provide technical assistance to property owners on historically significant housing in applying for and utilizing state and federal assistance programs. In addition, the County shall provide information to the St. Johns County Historic Resource Board and St. Augustine Preservation Board or other historic preservation organizations to promote the preservation and reuse of historic resources.
- G.1.11.13 The County shall to continue to work with community based organizations to inform and encourage households to rehabilitate their homes by utilizing the County's SHIP Program.
- G.1.11.14 The County shall ensure that reasonably located, standard housing at affordable costs is available to persons displaced through public action prior to their displacement.

G.1.11.15 The County shall coordinate with local law enforcement agencies to promote programs designed to improve the safety and security of neighborhoods.

G.1.11.16 The County shall initiate interlocal agreements with adjacent local governments, as deemed necessary or appropriate, to address the County's affordable and/or workforce housing needs if the County determines that:

- (a) Meeting the demand for affordable and or workforce housing is not economically feasible due to unusually high property values; or
- (b) Meeting the demand for affordable housing is not environmentally feasible due to the physical constraints of the Coastal High Hazard Areas.

**Objective G.1.12**  
**Responsible Infrastructure Improvements**

**The County shall continue to implement intergovernmental coordination programs and policies which contribute to the improvement and expansion of public facilities and services, while protecting, managing and conserving the natural groundwater resources of the County.**

**Policies**

- G.1.12.1 The County shall continue to coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), and other applicable agencies to implement the objectives and policies contained in the Infrastructure Element.
- G.1.12.2 In an effort to promote orderly contiguous compact development, the County shall define the extent of where centralized potable water and sanitary sewer utility services will be provided by the various service providers.
- G.1.12.3 The County shall ensure that, prior to the issuance of a development order or permit, the applicant has demonstrated that the project complies with the Federal, State and Local permit requirements for wastewater systems (package treatment plants).
- G.1.12.4 The County shall continue to establish public education programs on the proper use, inspection requirements, maintenance, and abandonment of septic tanks. The abandonment process shall be based on applicable state and local regulations.
- G.1.12.5 St. Johns County shall support, encourage and coordinate the water quality monitoring by local, state and federal agencies which will identify and formulate plans to address point and non-point sources of surface water pollution.
- G.1.12.6 St. Johns County in coordination with DEP shall encourage all new and existing Marinas or boatyards to participate in the DEPs Clean Marina Program or the Clean Boatyard Program.
- G.1.12.7 The County shall continue to pursue federal, state and local funding sources available for the improvement and expansion of utilities.
- G.1.12.8 The County shall continue to seek new funding sources to implement the Best Management Practices (BMP) for water resources identified as shellfish harvesting areas.
- G.1.12.9 The County shall encourage the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to perform regular inspections of large quantity hazardous waste generators (LQGs) and private licensed waste handlers to ensure that bio-hazardous waste

which is generated by medical establishments and handled by private firms is properly managed.

- G.1.12.10 The County shall cooperate with the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council, and other counties in the region, to investigate solid waste funding options.
- G.1.12.11 The County shall coordinate with the DEP and the SJRWMD to identify all drainage basins in the County to assure uniformity of basin designation.
- G.1.12.12 St. Johns County shall continue to coordinate with the SJRWMD in the ongoing programs of the St. Johns River Surface Water Improvement Management (SWIM) Program, and the Northern Coastal Basins (SWIM) program, and to work with the SJRWMD on the long term ambient water quality monitoring program.
- G.1.12.13 St. Johns County shall continue to coordinate with the DEP and SJRWMD to participate in the programs recommended by the Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Reserve (GTM NER) Task Force.
- G.1.12.14 St. Johns County shall continue to coordinate with the DEP and the SJRWMD to utilize water quality data and other appropriate biological indicators to design water management practices that facilitate the maintenance and/or improvement of the existing water quality.
- G.1.12.15 St. Johns County shall continue to coordinate with the DEP and the SJRWMD to develop management practices for water resources to mitigate urban and agricultural non-point sources of water degradation.
- G.1.12.16 The County shall continue to work with the SJRWMD, the DEP, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to educate and distribute information on the surface water resources in the County.
- G.1.12.17 The County shall continue to implement its LDC to protect the SJRWMD Designated Surficial and Floridan Aquifer Recharge Areas. The County will work with the SJRWMD to educate the public on major groundwater issues of concern in the county.
- G.1.12.18 St. Johns County shall request, as needed, the SJRWMD to establish maximum well depths by rule for St. Johns County, in order to protect water supplies from the upconing of salt water. The County shall coordinate with the SJRWMD on their recommended rule changes.
- G.1.12.19 The County shall coordinate with the SJRWMD to establish criteria regarding the

water surface change, the change in water table elevation, and the potential areas for saltwater intrusion.

G.1.12.20 The County Health Department shall continue to work with the SJRWMD to identify abandoned free-flowing wells and to recommend measures to repair or plug the wells.

G.1.12.21 The County, in cooperation with other agencies, shall provide technical assistance to agriculture operations and other irrigation water users in the design of low-volume irrigation systems.

**Goal G.2**  
**Coordinate and maintain a high quality education system**

**St. Johns County shall collaborate and coordinate with the St. Johns County School District (School District) and other local government entities to ensure high quality public school facilities which meet the needs of St. Johns County's existing and future population.**

**Objective G.2.1**  
**Coordination and Consistency**

The County shall establish coordination and review procedures to ensure consistency of the County Comprehensive Plan with the plans of the School District, County and municipalities within the County.

**Policies**

- G 2.1.1 Pursuant to the St. Johns Interlocal Agreement the County shall continue to meet with the School District in joint workshop sessions on a quarterly basis to provide opportunities to discuss issues of mutual concern. In addition, the District will monitor, evaluate and find mechanisms to improve upon, mutually agreed upon criteria in their review of development plans, selection of school sites and construction of schools.
- G. 2.1.2 In implementing the goals and criteria described in Section 14 of the Interlocal Agreement, the County and the School District shall coordinate and base their plans upon consistent projections of the amount, type and distribution of population growth and student enrollment. Countywide five-year population and student enrollment projections shall be revised annually and be provided early in the year at a staff working group meeting, as required by the Interlocal Agreement.
- G.2.1.3 Pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement, on a regular basis, and at a minimum annually, the County shall provide the School District with information on growth and development trends within their respective jurisdictions.
- G.2.1.4 At the time of adoption of the Public School Facilities Element, each local government within St. Johns County shall develop a report of projects not subject to school concurrency.



**Objective G.2. 2**  
**Public School Facility Siting and Availability**

The County shall coordinate with the School District on the planning and siting of new public schools to ensure school facilities are coordinated with necessary services and infrastructure and are compatible and consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

**Policies**

- G.2.2.1 The future land uses which shall permit schools will be as follows: Agricultural Intensive, Rural / Silviculture, Public, Residential and Mixed Use District.
- G.2.2.2 The County and School District will jointly determine the need for and timing of on-site and off-site improvements necessary to support each new school or the proposed renovation, expansion or closure of an existing school, and will enter into a written agreement as to the timing, location, and the party or parties responsible for constructing, operating and maintaining the required improvements.
- G.2.2.3 The County shall coordinate with the School District to ensure that future school facilities are located outside areas susceptible to hurricane and/or storm damage and/or areas prone to flooding, or as consistent with Chapter 1013, F.S. and Rule 6A2, F.A.C., regarding flood plain and school building requirements.
- G.2.2.4 The County shall protect schools from the intrusion of incompatible land uses by providing the School District representatives the opportunity to participate in the review process for all proposed developments adjacent to schools.

**Objective G.2.3**  
**Enhance Community Design**

The County shall enhance community and neighborhood design through effective school facility design and siting standards and encourage the siting of school facilities so they serve as community focal points and so that they are compatible with surrounding land uses.

**Policies**

G.2.3.1      The County shall collaborate with the School District on the siting of County facilities such as parks, libraries, and community centers near existing or planned public schools, to the extent feasible.

The County will look for opportunities to collocate and share use of County facilities when preparing updates to the Comprehensive plan’s schedule of capital improvements and when planning and designing new or renovating existing, community facilities.

G.2.3.2      The County will have the lead responsibility for providing sidewalks along the frontage of preexisting development within the two mile distance, in order to ensure continuous pedestrian access to public schools. Priority will be given to cases of hazardous walking conditions pursuant to Section 1006.23, Florida Statutes. Specific provisions for constructing such facilities will be included in the Capital Budget adopted each fiscal year.

G.2.3.3      When applicable, the County will continue to coordinate efforts with the St. Johns County School District to build new school facilities, and facility rehabilitation and expansions designed to serve as and provide emergency shelters as required by Section 1013.372, Florida Statutes.

**Objective G.2.4**  
**Coordinate Land Use with School Capacity**

It is the objective of St. Johns County to coordinate petitions for changes to future land use, zoning, and developments of regional impact for residential development with adequate school capacity.

This objective will be accomplished recognizing the School District's statutory and constitutional responsibility to provide a uniform system of free and adequate public schools, and the County's authority for land use, including the authority to approve or deny petitions for comprehensive plan amendments, rezonings or final subdivision and site plans that generate students and impact the St. Johns County school system.

Policies

- G.2.4.1        The County will take into consideration the School District comments and findings on the availability of adequate school capacity in the evaluation of comprehensive plan amendment, and other land use decisions including developments of regional impact, as provided for in s. 163.3177(6) (a), F.S.
  
- G.2.4.2:        Amendments to the Future Land Use Map will be coordinated with the School District and the Public School Facilities Planning Maps.

## H. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT

### Goal H.1

The Board of County Commissioners shall ensure the orderly and efficient provision of the following facilities or services: sanitary sewer, potable water, solid waste, drainage, transportation, educational facilities, recreation / open space, police services, fire rescue services, and public buildings.

### Objective H.1.1

Capital facilities to address deficiencies, if any, to accommodate desired future growth, and to maintain adopted level of service standards, shall be provided or constructed as indicated in the Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements contained in the Capital Improvements Element.

#### Policies

- H.1.1.1 Capital facilities or improvements in the context of the Comprehensive Plan shall be defined as those public facilities or improvements to physical assets that are limited to a one time expenditure of at least \$25,000 (including land) that correct or improve level of service deficiencies or expand capacity to serve existing or projected needs identified in one or more of the Elements of this Plan.
- H.1.1.2 The County shall maintain an inventory of all deficient capital facilities, as well as an inventory of projected capital improvements requirements to satisfy deficiencies and meet projected demands.
- H.1.1.3. St Johns County Capital Improvement Element (CIE) and Capital Improvement Schedule (CIS) shall be updated as required by Florida Statutes. Funding not provided by the county (i.e., from a developer, other governmental agency or funding pursuant to referendum) for the proposed capital improvements must be guaranteed in the form of Developers Agreement or an Inter-local Agreement.
- H.1.1.4. St. Johns County shall coordinate with the Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Improvement Program and other governmental agencies prior to the adoption of the Capital Improvement Schedule.
- H.1.1. 5 Consistently with the criteria of Policy H.1.3.1, obsolete or worn-out public facilities will be replaced or repaired to maintain the adopted LOS standards.
- H.1.1. 6 Through inter-local agreements, the County shall replace and /or consolidate public facilities and services in order to establish and maintain the most efficient and cost effective level of service.
- H.1.1. 7 Within currently designated private franchise service areas the County shall support

and encourage provision of utility services through publicly regulated regional systems.

## Objective H.1.2

**The County shall adopt Level of Service (LOS) standards to measure the adequacy of public facilities and services.**

H.1.2.1 The LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) standards which the County shall ensure are provided for a new development, and which the County shall strive to meet where existing deficiencies are noted, shall be in accordance with the following criteria:

<u>PUBLIC FACILITY CATEGORY</u>	<u>LOS STANDARD</u>
(a) Sanitary Sewer	The minimum LOS for existing sanitary sewer facilities shall be established as 100 Gallons Per Capita Per Day (GCPD)
(b) Potable Water	The minimum LOS for existing central potable water facilities shall be established as 130 Gallons Per Capita Per Day (GCPD)
(c) Solid Waste	4 Pounds Per Capita Per Day (PCPD)
(d) Drainage Facilities	10 year frequency, 24 hour duration
(e) Parks and Open Space	
Neighborhood Park	2 acres per 1,000 residents
Community Park	3 acres per 1,000 residents
District Park	3 acres per 1,000 residents
Regional Park/Open Space	20 acres per 1,000 residents

(f) Transportation

Florida Intrastate Highway System

The Peak Hour Level of Service Standards for the Florida Intrastate Highway System shall be as set forth in Rule 14-94, Florida Administrative Code, as updated, except as modified by mutual agreement of the Florida Department of Transportation and St Johns County. The least stringent standard available pursuant to any such modification is the established level of service.

All other roadways:

Rural Area	C
Transitioning Urban Area or Community	D
Urbanized Areas	D

Exceptions to the standards adopted herein, which represent an adequate level of service standard for each of the listed segments, shall apply as follows:

Roadway Segment		Level of Service
US 1	Wildwood Dr. to St. Aug. City Limits	E
CR 214	Holmes Blvd. to US 1	E
11 <sup>th</sup> Street	SR A1A to A1A Beach Blvd.	C
16 <sup>th</sup> Street	SR A1A to A1A Beach Blvd.	C
A Street	SR A1A to A1A Beach Blvd	C
Pope Road	SR A1A to A1A Beach Blvd	C

(g) Mass Transit

Transportation Disadvantaged Service      95,000 one-way trips / year  
Educational Facilities

- (h) The County shall ensure existing deficiencies and future needs are addressed consistent with the adopted level of service standards for public schools.

Consistent with the Inter-local Agreement, the uniform, district wide level of service standards are initially set as 100% of the Permanent Florida Inventory of School House (FISH) Capacity based on the utilization rate as established by the State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF), effective August 2005.

Leased Relocatables shall be utilized to maintain the LOS on a temporary basis when construction to increase capacity is planned and in process. The temporary capacity provided by Relocatables shall not exceed 20% of the Permanent FISH capacity and shall be used for a period not to exceed five years. Relocatables may also be used to accommodate special education programs as required by law.

It is the intent of the School District that new schools be designed and constructed based on the following design capacities:

New Elementary (K-5)	Design Capacity of 700
New Middle (6-8)	Design Capacity of 1000
New K-8 (for Middle School Phase-in)	Design Capacity of 1000
New High (9-12)	Design Capacity of 1500

The LOS for the above facilities – sanitary sewer, potable water, solid waste, drainage, open space / recreation, transportation, mass transit and educational facilities – shall be implemented through the County Concurrency Management System ("CMS") and, shall be required to be met prior to the issuance of a development order or development permit.

The following additional LOS, established for other public facilities or services, shall be implemented through impact fee ordinances, shall not be implemented through the CMS, and shall not be required to be met prior to the County's issuance of development orders or development permits.

PUBLIC FACILITY OR SERVICE	LOS
Police Services	As established by the applicable impact fee ordinance, and its supportive methodology
Fire Services	As established by the applicable impact fee ordinance, and its supportive methodology.



Public Buildings

As established by the applicable impact fee ordinance, and its supportive methodology.

- H.1.2.2 The County shall continually review the established LOS standards on the basis of consistency with local comprehensive planning activities, cost feasibility and effectiveness, relative magnitude and term of need, intergovernmental commitments, the ability to take advantage of capital improvements of the federal, state and regional agencies, as well as overall budget impacts.
- H.1.2.3 The County shall coordinate with the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (North Florida TPO), the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council, and the Florida Department of Transportation in order to adequately address capacity problems on roads in St. Johns County.
- H.1.2.4. The School District, in coordination with the County, shall annually update the Total Revenue Summary and Project Schedules Tables reflecting the School District's financially feasible Work Program, to ensure maintenance of a financially feasible capital improvements program and to ensure level of service standards will continue to be achieved and maintained during the five year planning period.

### Objective H.1.3

**The County shall establish a system to prioritize the scheduling of capital improvements.**

#### **Policies**

H.1.3.1 The scheduling of capital improvements in the capital improvement element shall be predicated on the following criteria to ensure ranking of the improvements in the appropriate order of their need:

(a) Priority A

- (1) Capital projects currently underway for which the county is fully committed, or which are so urgently needed that their implementation cannot be delayed.
- (2) Expansion of existing public facilities for which revenue bonds have been issued.
- (3) Capital improvements needed to protect public health and safety.

(b) Priority B

- (1) Capital improvements needed to correct existing deficiencies.
- (2) Capital improvements needed to replace or repair obsolete or worn-out facilities in order to maintain adopted LOS standards.

(c) Priority C

- (1) Capital improvements that will increase efficient use of existing public facilities.
- (2) Capital improvements that will promote redevelopment and/or in-fill development.

(d) Priority D

- (1) Capital improvements that represent a logical extension of public facilities to accommodate projected new development.
- (2) Capital improvements needed to serve developments that were approved prior to the adoption of this Plan.

H.1.3.2 The county shall continually review the local capital improvement prioritizing criteria, established by Policy H.1.3.1, on the basis of: consistency with local

comprehensive planning activities; cost feasibility and effectiveness; relative magnitude and term of need; intergovernmental commitments; the ability to take advantage of capital improvements of federal, state and regional agencies, as well as overall budget impacts.

## Objective H.1.4

**The County shall limit public capital investment that subsidizes development in coastal high-hazard areas to those improvements included in the Coastal/Conservation Element, and to those expenditures necessary for health and safety, hurricane evacuation, and which will facilitate the use of the natural open areas and recreation areas.**

### Policies

- H.1.4.1 The County shall limit public expenditures that subsidize development where ever possible in the coastal high hazard areas CHHA; but, where such public expenditures are found to be necessary, the county shall assess the appropriateness of public capital improvements in the CHHA as identified in the Coastal /Conservation Element of this Plan.
- H.1.4.2 The County shall request and support state expenditures necessary to address or improve capacity deficiencies on roads or bridges necessary to support the effective Hurricane Evacuation Plan for the County, particularly in those areas, or with respect to those facilities, which are experiencing level of service deficiencies.

## Objective H.1.5

**The County shall maintain a Concurrency Management System ("CMS") as part of the County's land development regulations which shall ensure that the impacts resulting from the County's issuance of development orders or development permits shall not result in a reduction in a level of service for affected public facilities below the applicable level of service standards established in Policy H.1.2.1 of this Plan.**

### Policies

H.1.5.1 The County shall maintain a CMS as part of its land development regulations. The CMS shall incorporate provisions which shall require that the level of service standards ("LOS") for only the following public facilities shall be required to be met prior to the issuance of a development order or development permit:

- transportation
- sanitary sewer
- solid waste
- drainage
- potable water
- parks and recreation; ~~and~~
- mass transit, if applicable; and
- educational facilities

The CMS shall not require that the LOS for the following public facilities or services to be met prior to the issuance of a development order or development permit:

- police services
- fire services
- emergency medical services; and
- public buildings facilities.

H.1.5.2 The county shall continue to implement its CMS as adopted in the Land Development Code (LDC).

H.1.5.3 St. Johns County Land Development Code – CMS has been established to ensure the availability of applicable public facilities concurrently with the impacts of development:

(a) CATEGORY I CRITERIA: For sanitary sewer, potable water, solid waste, drainage, and educational facilities, at a minimum, a proposed project shall meet the following standards to satisfy the concurrency requirements:

- (1) A development order or permit is issued subject to the condition that, at the time of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent, the necessary facilities and services are in

place and available to serve the proposed development; or

- (2) At the time the development order or permit is issued, the necessary facilities and services are guaranteed in an enforceable development agreement, as presently provided in Section 163.3220, F.S. or as provided in future updates, or an agreement or development order issued under the present provisions of Chapter 380, F.S. or as provided in future updates, to be in place and available to serve the proposed project at the time of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent. (Section 163.3180 (2)(a), F.S.)

(b) CATEGORY II CRITERIA: For parks and open space, at a minimum, a proposed project shall meet the following standards to satisfy the concurrency requirement:

- (1) At the time the development order or permit is issued, the necessary facilities and services are in place or under actual construction; or
- (2) A development order or permit is issued subject to the condition that, at the time of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent, the acreage for the necessary facilities and services to serve the proposed project is dedicated or acquired by the County, or funds in the amount of the developer's fair share are committed; and
  - (i) A development order or permit is issued subject to the conditions that the necessary facilities and services needed to serve the proposed project are scheduled to be in place or under actual construction not more than one year after the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent as provided in the Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements; or
  - (ii) At the time the development order or permit is issued, the necessary facilities and services are the subject of a binding executed agreement which requires the necessary facilities and services to serve the proposed project to be in place or under actual construction not more than one year after the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent; or
  - (iii) At the time the development order or permit is issued, the necessary facilities and services are guaranteed in an enforceable development agreement, as presently provided in Section 163.3220, F.S. or as provided in future updates, or an

agreement or development order issued under the present provisions of Chapter 380, F.S. or as provided in future updates, to be in place or under actual construction not more than one year after issuance of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent.

(c) CATEGORY III CRITERIA: For transportation facilities (roads and mass transit designated in the adopted St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan), at a minimum, a proposed project shall meet the following standards to satisfy the concurrency requirement, except as otherwise provided in subsections (d) and (e) of this Policy:

(1.) At the time a development order or permit is issued, the necessary facilities and services are in place or under construction; or

(2.) A development order or permit is issued subject to the conditions that the necessary facilities and services needed to serve the new development are scheduled to be in place or under actual construction not more than three years after issuance of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent as provided in the County's Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements. The Schedule of Capital Improvements may recognize and include transportation projects included in the first three years of the applicable, adopted Florida Department of Transportation five-year work program. The Capital Improvements Element must include the following policies:

(i) The estimated date of commencement of actual construction and the estimated date of project completion.

A provision that a plan amendment is required to eliminate, defer, or delay construction of any road or mass transit facility or service which is needed to maintain the adopted level of service standard and which is listed in the five-year schedule of capital improvements; or

(3) At the time a development order or permit is issued, the necessary facilities and services are the subject of a binding executed agreement which requires the necessary facilities and services to serve the new development to be in place or under actual construction no more than three years after the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent; or

(4) At the time a development order or permit is issued, the necessary facilities and services are guaranteed in an enforceable development agreement, as presently provided in Section 163.3220, F.S. or as provided in future updates, to be in place or under actual construction not more than three years after issuance of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent; and

(1) One of the following criteria is met:

- (i) The proposed development is located within a Development Area designated on the Mainland Map or the Coastal Maps; or
- (ii) The proposed development is located in an area in which central water and sewer services are presently available to serve, and will serve, the proposed development; or
- (iii) Central water and sewer service will be provided to the proposed development pursuant to a binding written agreement or an enforceable development agreement.

In order to implement this policy, the Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements shall, if modified, substantially retain its present format, including both beginning and ending dates and anticipated sources of funding for the individual capital improvements listed. In addition, the Five Year schedule: shall remain financially feasible; shall include facilities necessary to maintain the adopted level(s) of service to serve new development proposed to be permitted; shall include public facilities necessary to eliminate that portion of existing level of service deficiency (ies) which have been given priority pursuant to the Plan as reflected by inclusion in the Schedule; and, shall be based on currently available revenue sources.

- (5) For the purpose of issuing a development order or permit, a proposed urban redevelopment project located within a defined and mapped Existing Urban Service Area as established in the local government comprehensive plan pursuant to Section 163.3164(29), F.S., shall not be subject to the concurrency requirements of Rule 9J-5.0055(3)(c)1.- 4. for up to 110 percent of the transportation impact generated by the previously existing development. For the purposes of this provision, a previously existing development is the actual previous built use that was occupied and active within a time period established in the local government comprehensive plan. (Section 163.3180 (8), F.S.)

(d) **CATEGORY IV CRITERIA:** The County shall only issue a concurrency approval for a subdivision plat or site plan for residential development where:

- a. The School District's findings indicate adequate school facilities will be in place or under actual construction in the affected concurrency service area (CSA) within three (3) years after the issuance of the subdivision plat or site plan for each level of school;
- b. Adequate school facilities are available in an adjacent CSA or under actual construction within three (3) years and the impacts of



development shall be shifted to that area. If capacity exists in more than one CSA or school within a CSA, the School District shall determine where the impact shall be shifted; or

- c. The developer executes a legally binding commitment to provide mitigation proportionate to the demand for public school facilities to be created by the actual development of the property subject to the final plat or site plan, as provided in Policies ---.
- d. In the event that there is not sufficient capacity in the affected concurrency service area or an adjacent concurrency service area, the developer shall also have the option to delay approval to a date when capacity and level of service can be assured.

H.1.5.4 For sanitary sewer, potable water, solid waste, and drainage the CMS shall require, at a minimum, that one of the Category I Criteria shall be met prior to the issuance of the development order or development permit.

H.1.5.5 For parks or recreation facilities, the CMS shall require, at a minimum, that one of the Category II Criteria shall be met prior to the issuance of the development order or development permit.

H.1.5.6 The County may allow a landowner to proceed with development of a specific parcel of land notwithstanding a failure of the development to satisfy transportation concurrency, when all the following factors are shown to exist:

- (a) The County's adopted Comprehensive Plan is in compliance; and
- (b) The proposed development would be consistent with the future land use designation for the specific property and with pertinent portions of the adopted County Comprehensive Plan; and
- (c) The County has adopted into its Comprehensive Plan a process for assessing, receiving, and applying a proportional fair share of the cost of providing the transportation facilities necessary to serve the proposed development through a binding commitment. The assessment shall bear a direct relationship to the transportation impact that is generated by the proposed development; and
- (d) Transportation facilities adequate to serve the proposed development are included in a financially feasible capital improvement schedule and have been relied upon as provided for in Policy H.1.5.6, and the local government has not implemented the necessary transportation improvements as required by the schedule.

H.1.5.7 A plan amendment, pursuant to applicable law, shall be required to eliminate, or delay the construction of, any road, or mass transit, facility or service listed in the

Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements which is necessary to maintain adopted levels of service.

- H.1.5.8 The County shall implement monitoring system(s) which shall: (a) at least annually continue to update the available capacity for transportation, sanitary sewer, potable water, solid waste, drainage, parks and open space, mass transit (if applicable) and educational facilities; and (b) at least annually update the County's compliance with the scheduling contained in the Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements. In addition, the monitoring system(s) may update the available capacity for police, fire, emergency medical and public building facilities.
- H.1.5.9 St. Johns County hereby adopts by reference the 2009 -10 through 2013-14 District Facilities Work Plan approved by the St. Johns County School Board on December 8, 2009. By December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the public school facilities program shall annually update the Work Plan, reflecting the School District's financially feasible Work Plan, to ensure maintenance of a financially feasible capital improvements program and to ensure level of service standards will continue to be achieved and maintained during the five year planning period. Each year the capital improvements plan will be evaluated to ensure that it meets these standards.

## Objective H.1.6

**Consistently with applicable law, the County shall require that future development pay a proportionate cost of facility improvements needed as a result of that development in order to maintain adopted LOS standards.**

### Policies

- H.1.6.1 The County shall require the performance bonding of project-related utility or traffic circulation improvements necessary to accommodate the development of vacant parcels or substantial redevelopment of existing properties.
- H.1.6.2 The County shall establish a procedure for determining on a site by site basis the preference for actual construction of adjacent off-site road improvements in lieu of impact fee payments.
- H.1.6.3 Consistently with applicable law, the County shall continue to assess impact fees for the following public facilities or services: transportation, parks and open space, educational facilities, police services, fire rescue services, and public buildings.
- H.1.6.4 Consistently with applicable law, the County shall continue to require mandatory dedications as a condition of plat approval.
- H.1.6.5 The County shall ensure that future development pays a proportionate share of the costs of capital facility capacity needed to accommodate new development and to assist in maintaining adopted level of service standards, via impact fees and other legally available and appropriate methods in development conditions.
- H.1.6.6 The Bartram Park Development of Regional Impact, a multi-use development meeting the criteria of Chapter 163.3180(12) Florida Statutes, is authorized by the County to utilize the standards and guidelines set forth in the Statute to satisfy the County's transportation concurrency requirements by payment of a proportionate share contribution. The Bartram Park Development of Regional Impact proportionate share contribution is as stated in the Bartram Park Development of Regional Impact Development Order; Special Condition No. 24 entitled Racetrack Road. (See Ordinance 2000-53)
- H.1.6.7 The Nocatee Development of Regional Impact, a multi-use development meeting the criteria of Chapter 163.3180(12) Florida Statutes, is authorized by the County to utilize the standards and guidelines set forth in the Statute to satisfy the County's transportation concurrency requirements by payment of a proportionate share contribution is as stated in the Nocatee Development of Regional Impact Development Order, Special Condition No. 25 entitled Transportation Resource Impacts. (See Ordinance No. 2001-18)

- H.1.6.8 The World Commerce Center Development of Regional Impact, a multi-use development meeting the criteria of Chapter 163.3180(12), Florida Statutes, is authorized by the County to utilize the standards and guidelines set forth in the Statute to satisfy the County's transportation concurrency requirements by payment of a proportionate share contribution is as stated in the World Commerce Center Development of Regional Impact Development Order, Special Condition 23, entitled Transportation Resource Impacts. (See Ordinance No. 2003-71)
- H.1.6.9 The Aberdeen Development of Regional Impact, a multi-use development meeting the criteria of Chapter 163.3180(12), Florida Statutes, is authorized by the County to utilize the standards and guidelines set forth in the Statute to satisfy the County's transportation concurrency requirements by payment of a proportionate share contribution is as stated in the Aberdeen Development of Regional Impact Development Order, Special Condition 23, entitled Transportation Resource Impacts. (See Ordinance No. 2003-33)
- H.1.6.10 The Durbin Crossing Development of Regional Impact, a multi-use development meeting the criteria of Chapter 163.3180 (12), Florida Statutes, is authorized by the County to utilize the standards and guidelines set forth in the Statute to satisfy the County's transportation concurrency requirements by payment of a proportionate share contribution is as stated in the Durbin Crossing Development of Regional Impact Development Order, Special Condition 23, entitled Transportation Resource Impacts. (See Ordinance No. 2003-32)
- H.1.6.11 The RiverTown Development of Regional Impact, a multi-use development meeting the criteria of Chapter 163.3180 (12) Florida Statutes, is authorized by the County to utilize the standards and guidelines set forth in the Statute to satisfy the County's transportation concurrency requirements by payment of a proportionate share contribution is as stated in the RiverTown Development of Regional Impact Development Order, Special Condition 22, entitled Transportation. (See Ordinance No. 2004-14)
- H.1.6.12 The St. Augustine Centre Development of Regional Impact (DRI), a multi-use development meeting the criteria of Chapter 163.3180(12), Florida Statutes, is authorized by the County to utilize the standards and guidelines set forth in the Statute to satisfy the County's transportation concurrency requirements by payment of a proportionate share contribution as stated in the St. Augustine Centre Development of Regional Impact special conditions for transportation.

- H.1.6.13 The Twin Creeks Development of Regional Impact, a multi-use development meeting the criteria of Chapter 163.3180 (12) Florida Statutes, is authorized by the County to utilize the standards and guidelines set forth in the Statute to satisfy the County's transportation concurrency requirements by payment of a proportionate share contribution is as stated in the Twin Creeks Development of Regional Impact Development Order, Special Condition 25, entitled Transportation. (See Ordinance No. 2005-67)
- H.1.6.14 The Marshall Creek Development of Regional Impact, a multi-use development meeting the criteria of Chapter 163.3180 (12) Florida Statutes, is authorized by the County to utilize the standards and guidelines set forth in the Statute to satisfy the County's transportation concurrency requirements by payment of a proportionate share contribution is as stated in the Marshall Creek Development of Regional Impact Development Order, Special Condition 25, entitled Transportation. (See Ordinance No. 2005-77)
- H.1.6.15 The SilverLeaf Development of Regional Impact, a multi-use development meeting the criteria of Chapter 163.3180 (12) Florida Statutes, is authorized by the County to utilize the standards and guidelines set forth in the Statute to satisfy the County's transportation concurrency requirements by the payment of a proportionate share contribution is as stated in the SilverLeaf Development of Regional Impact Development Order, Special Condition 24, entitled Transportation. (See Ordinance No. 2006-30).

## Objective H.1.7

**The county shall manage its fiscal resources to ensure the provision of needed capital improvements for previously issued development orders and for future development and redevelopment orders.**

### Policies

- H.1.7.1 In providing capital improvements, the county shall limit the maximum ratio of outstanding indebtedness to no more than 10 percent (10%) of the property tax base.
- H.1.7.2 The County shall consider a range of revenue estimates and project cost projections based on varying assumptions with regard to the local property tax base, shared tax revenues, inflation, contingency costs and the level and sources of shared project funding commitment by other jurisdictions.
- H.1.7.3 The Budget Director shall prepare annual estimates of anticipated proceeds from the state revenue sharing sources.
- H.1.7.4 The County shall adopt guidelines which set apportionment criteria for transportation generated revenues relative to operations, maintenance and a capital improvement after debt service has been met.
- H.1.7.5 The County shall continue to adopt a 5-year capital improvement program and annual capital budget as part of its budgeting process.
- H.1.7.6 The County shall make expenditures for capital improvements consistently with other Plan elements, and with the capital spending priorities established in Policy H.1.3.1.

## **Objective H.1.8**

**Future development in St. Johns County shall pay its fair share cost of new infrastructure.**

### **Policies**

- H.1.8.1 St. Johns County may assess impact fees on new development to cover the fair share costs of capital improvements needed in accordance with adopted infrastructure levels of service.
- H.1.8.2 Impact fees shall be used to fund anticipated capital improvement needs resulting from new development and shall not be used to fund existing deficiencies or to provide maintenance or existing facilities.