

BREVARD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

CHAPTER 1

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

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- B. Regulating subdivisions to address bicycle and pedestrian pathways; and
- C. Regulating land clearing and landscaping regulations to augment passive cooling by trees.

Policy 2.2

Brevard County shall continue to implement the Florida Energy Efficient Code for new construction and substantially rehabilitated structures.

Policy 2.3

Brevard County should continue to implement waste reduction, reuse, recycling and conversion of waste to energy as part of its waste management strategies.

Policy 2.4

Brevard County shall consider energy conservation in the development and implementation of County ordinances.

Policy 2.5

Brevard County should pursue transportation options that would decrease per capita energy consumption.

Policy 2.6

Brevard County should coordinate with the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, and the State to encourage development and use of energy efficient and renewable technologies to enhance economic development while conserving energy.

Surface Water

Objective 3

Improve the quality of surface waters within Brevard County and protect and enhance the natural functions of these waters.

Policy 3.1

Brevard County shall cooperate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to require small package treatment plants adjacent to surface waters to comply with existing federal, state, or regional rules and regulations, and to ensure that the necessary renovations to achieve compliance are completed in a timely manner.

Policy 3.2

Brevard County shall continue to prevent negative impacts of development in and adjacent to Class I waters by implementing and revising, as necessary, the Surface Water Protection Ordinance including the following minimum criteria:

Criteria:

- A. Maintain a two hundred (200) foot shoreline protection buffer from ordinary or mean high waterline.
- B. Acceptable uses within the shoreline protection buffer are passive recreation, hunting, fish and wildlife management, open space and nature trails, and similar uses.
- C. Require discharges of any substances into Class I waters to meet or exceed applicable receiving water quality standards.
- D. Prohibit dredging and filling, except for permitted utility crossings, publicly owned recreational projects which do not degrade water quality and necessary maintenance of existing projects.
- E. Regulate development and mining operations within the hydrologic basin of Class I waters. Prohibit mining operations within the 10-year floodplain of Class I waters.
- F. Prohibit alteration within the shoreline protection buffer unless it is in the public interest or does not adversely impact water quality and natural habitat.

Policy 3.3

Brevard County shall continue to make efforts to prevent negative impacts of development in and adjacent to the Indian River Lagoon and its tributaries designated as Class II waters, Aquatic Preserves and Outstanding Florida Waters by implementing and revising as necessary, the Surface Water Protection Ordinance, including the following minimum criteria:

Criteria:

- A. Maintain a fifty (50) foot shoreline protection buffer from the mean high water line or the safe upland line as determined by the FDEP Bureau of Survey and Mapping.
- B. No more than twenty (20) percent of the lot width or twenty-five (25) linear feet, whichever is greater, of any shoreline protection buffer of a project or parcel, or the offshore emergent vegetation associated with a project or parcel may be altered for reasonable access or for allowable development. Within the shoreline protection buffer, allowable development shall be limited to docks, boat ramps, pervious walkways, elevated walkways, and approved accessory uses, as set forth by the County land development regulations. Accessory uses shall be allowable only on existing bulkheaded lots utilizing required stormwater management techniques.

The remainder of the shoreline protection buffer shall be maintained in unaltered vegetation, except for noxious species, as permanent open space. This shall not preclude mitigation projects or the planting of native species. Provisions for the alteration and/or removal of non-native noxious vegetation shall be established by the Brevard County Natural Resources Management Division.

- C. For residential lots platted or established by deed on the official record books of Brevard County prior to September 8, 1988, an alternative to the fifty (50) foot shoreline protection buffer described above shall be available for those lots which have insufficient lot depth to construct a primary structure or pool with its associated decking and features. In the case where there is insufficient lot depth to construct a primary structure, this alternative shall allow the shoreline protection buffer to be reduced to twenty five (25) feet if additional measures are taken to preserve water quality and natural habitat within the adjacent surface water body. In the case where there is insufficient lot depth to construct a pool with its associated decking and features, an encroachment of up to 720 square feet within the shoreline protection buffer shall be available if additional measures are taken to preserve water quality and natural habitat within the adjacent surface water body. These additional measures should, at a minimum, be consistent with DEP 17-25 and 17.302 F.A.C. and may include but are not limited to the provision of a stormwater system which is capable of preventing the first inch of runoff from a 25 year, 24 hour storm from entering surface waters and revegetation with native shoreline vegetation. Within the shoreline protection buffer, development shall be limited to those activities outlined in 3.4 (B).
- D. Prohibit shoreline alteration other than that allowed for reasonable access or approved accessory uses, unless the alteration is in the public interest and does not adversely impact water quality, natural habitat and adjacent shoreline uses.
- E. Prohibit channelization, dredging and filling, and impoundment of natural waters of the State unless the activity is clearly in the public interest and does not adversely impact water quality, natural habitat and adjacent shoreline uses. Dredging shall not be permitted in or connected to Class II Waters, Outstanding Florida Waters (OFWs), Aquatic Preserves, areas that contain ten percent (10%) seagrass or more, and conditionally approved shellfish harvesting waters unless the activity is a federal navigation project, in the public interest, such as approved maintenance dredging of existing public or private navigational channels, or where dredging may improve water quality by removing accumulated silt or improving circulation, or for maintenance of existing structures and

utility structures and utility crossings, or for shoreline hardening as allowed by this element.

- F. Prohibit discharges of any substances below ambient water quality standards.
- G. Within the shoreline protection buffer the maximum amount of impervious surface is thirty (30) percent.

Policy 3.4

Brevard County shall continue to prevent negative impacts of development in and adjacent to Class III waters (except Outstanding Florida Waters and Aquatic Preserves) along the St. Johns River and Indian River Lagoon and its tributaries by implementing and revising as necessary, the Surface Water Protection Ordinance including the following minimum criteria:

Criteria:

- A. A twenty five (25) foot shoreline protection buffer from the mean high water line or the safe upland line as determined by the FDEP Bureau of Survey and Mapping shall be established.
- B. No more than twenty (20) percent of the lot width or twenty-five (25) linear feet, whichever is greater, of any shoreline protection buffer of a project, parcel, or the offshore emergent vegetation associated with a project or parcel may be altered for a reasonable access or for allowable development. Within the shoreline protection buffer, allowable development shall include docks, boat ramps, pervious walkways, elevated walkways, and approved accessory uses, as set forth by the County land development regulations. Accessory uses shall be allowable only on existing bulkheaded lots utilizing required stormwater management techniques. The remainder of the shoreline protection buffer shall be maintained in unaltered vegetation, except for noxious species, as permanent open space. This shall not preclude mitigation projects or the planting of native species. Provisions for the alteration and/or removal of non-native, noxious vegetation shall be established by the Brevard County Office of Natural Resources.
- C. For residential lots platted or established by deed on the official record books of Brevard County prior to September 8, 1988, an alternative to the twenty five (25) foot shoreline protection buffer described above along Class III waters shall be available for those lots which have insufficient lot depth to construct a primary structure or pool with its associated decking and features. In the case where there is insufficient lot depth to construct a primary structure, this alternative shall allow the shoreline protection buffer to be reduced to fifteen (15) feet if additional measures are taken to

preserve water quality and natural habitat within the adjacent surface water body. In the case where there is insufficient lot depth to construct a pool with its associated decking and features, an encroachment of up to 720 square feet within the shoreline protection buffer shall be available if additional measures are taken to preserve water quality and natural habitat within the adjacent surface water body. These additional measures should, at a minimum, be consistent with DEP 17-25 and 17.302 F.A.C. and may include but are not limited to the provision of a stormwater system which is capable of preventing the first inch of runoff from a 25 year, 24 hour storm from entering the surface waters and revegetation with native shoreline vegetation. Within the shoreline protection buffer, development shall be limited to those activities outlined in this policy.

- D. Prohibit shoreline alteration other than that allowed for reasonable access or approved accessory uses, unless it is in the public interest; or prevents or repairs erosion; or does not adversely impact water quality, natural habitat and adjacent shoreline uses.
- E. Prohibit discharges of any substances below ambient water quality standards.

Policy 3.5

All dredging activities must be done with effective turbidity controls. Where turbidity screens or similar devices are used, they should be secured and regularly monitored to avoid manatee entrapment.

Policy 3.6

Vertical seawalls and bulkheads shall be prohibited along the Indian River Lagoon system, excluding man-made canals. Hardening of the estuarine shoreline shall be allowed only when erosion is causing a serious (significant) threat to life or property. Rip-rap material, pervious interlocking brick systems, filter mats and other similar stabilization methods combined with vegetation shall be used in lieu of vertical seawalls and bulkheads when hardening of the shoreline is approved.

Policy 3.7

New man-made canals connected to the Indian River Lagoon system are prohibited. The expansion (widening and/or deepening) of existing ditches, drainage right-of-ways, drainage easements and stormwater facilities connected to unless it is in the public interest, as defined in the glossary, and does not adversely impact-the Indian River Lagoon to accommodate boat traffic shall be prohibited unless the activity is an approved maintenance dredging on existing public navigational channels, private or public canals, or an existing marina's maintenance dredging.

Policy 3.8

Septic tanks and drain fields shall be set back at least one hundred (100) feet from the shoreline of the Indian River Lagoon. In those cases where there is insufficient lot depth, except where a variance has been granted by the state, the septic tank and drainfield shall be placed the maximum distance possible from the edge of the lagoon, a minimum of seventy-five (75) feet.

Policy 3.9

By 2002, Brevard County will undertake a spoil island assessment project to determine which islands are valuable bird rookery areas. These islands will then be designated as such, and protected during nesting season. Other islands will be designated as recreational areas. This study will be coordinated with any spoil island management plans designed and implemented by other agencies, such as the Florida Inland Navigational District.

Policy 3.10

Brevard County shall continue to work with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), FDEP, and Indian River Lagoon Program (IRLP) and other appropriate agencies in developing appropriate water quality standards for estuarine waters within the Indian River Lagoon.

Policy 3.11

Brevard County shall continue to support and implement its program for plugging free-flowing artesian wells, with highest priority being given to those adjacent to the Lagoon.

Policy 3.12

Brevard County should cooperate with the SJRWMD in the District's aquatic weed program for the St. Johns River.

Policy 3.13

Brevard County strongly supports the designation of the Indian River Lagoon from SR 405 north to the County line as an Aquatic Preserve.

Policy 3.14

The creation of new spoil islands should be discouraged. Existing spoil islands should be retained in public ownership and utilized as bird rookeries and recreational areas. In addition, restoration efforts such as wetland vegetation planting, upland vegetation planting, and refuse removal that could foster biological production, control erosion and enhance the habitat, aesthetic and recreational values of the island should be undertaken.