# CONSERVATION ELEMENT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**GOAL 1 ..... 2**

**Objective 1: Protection of Air Quality ..... 2**

**Objective 2: Conservation and Protection of Water Sources ..... 3**

**Objective 3: Conservation and Appropriate Use of Minerals, Soils, and Natural Vegetative Communities ..... 5**

**Objective 4: Conservation of Wildlife Habitat ..... 5**

**Objective 5: Management of Hazardous Wastes to Protect Natural Resources ..... 6**

**Objective 6: Protection and Conservation of Wetlands ..... 7**

**Objective 7: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction ..... 8**

**CONSERVATION ELEMENT**
**Goal, Objectives and Policies**

## CITY OF AUBURNDALE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

**GOAL 1:** **It shall be a goal of the City of Auburndale to provide a quality environment which is compatible with the development of the City, as well as to enhance, conserve, and appropriately manage the City's natural resources for existing and future residents.** [9J-5.013(2)(a)]

### Objective 1: Protection of Air Quality

The City of Auburndale shall meet or exceed the minimum air quality levels established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. [9J-5.013(2)(b)1]

*Measurable Targets*: Comparison of base line air quality information from 1999 and maintenance of standards throughout the planning period.

Policy 1.1: The City, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, will continue to ensure that air quality within the City's jurisdiction will meet the following standards, as adopted by the Florida Air and Water Pollution Control Act, Chapter 17-2, F.A.C., as amended from time to time:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ozone | less than .125 parts per million |
| Carbon monoxide | less than 35 parts per million (hourly average) |
| Lead | less than 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter |
| Oxides of nitrogen | less than 100 micrograms per cubic meter |
| Sulfur dioxide | less than 1300 micrograms per cubic meter 3 hour average |
| | less than 260 micrograms per cubic meter 24 hour average |
| | less than 60 micrograms per cubic meter annual average |
| Particulates | less than 150 micrograms per cubic meter 24 hour average |
| | less than 50 micrograms per cubic meter annual average |

Policy 1.2: The City shall obtain ambient air quality information from agencies that maintain air quality monitoring stations in Polk County and neighboring municipalities and establish conditions for the base year of 1999. Annually thereafter, comparisons to the base year shall be reported to the elected officials and actions recommended when air quality is found to be degraded from the baseline conditions.

**Objective 2: Conservation and Protection of Water Sources**

The City of Auburndale will take specific steps to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater sources within its jurisdiction. [9J-5.013(2)(b)2]

Measurable Targets: Collection and comparison of base line groundwater quality information from 1999 throughout the planning period; implementation of local water conservation programs; and reduction of adjusted gross per capita consumption of water from 160 gallons per capita day (gpcd) to a goal of 150 gpcd by December 31, 2013.

Policy 2.1: The City will continuously monitor the quality of groundwater at its potable water wells as a normal practice of treating and distributing the municipal water supply. [9J-5.013(2)(c)1]

Policy 2.2: The City shall adopt and strive with all means available to meet the conservation standards established by SWFWMD and its SWUCA for per capita, per day consumption, as follows:

By December 31, 2011: 160 GPD; and
By December 31, 2013: 150 GPD. (40D-2, F.A.C.)

The City will develop a set of conservation incentives to assist in meeting these conservation standards.

Policy 2.3 The City will continue the following water conservation measures and practices to achieve the conservation standards set forth in Policy 2.2 above:

a) The City shall require the use of low volume plumbing fixtures for all new construction, to be enforced as part of the City's building code and other appropriate permitting regulations. [9J-5.011(2)(c)3], also [553.14, F.S]

b) The City shall encourage the use of Xeriscape landscaping techniques for all new development.

c) The City shall improve the efficiency of operational methods to enhance water conservation, such as, pressure balancing, waste water reuse, storm water retention for irrigation, and coordination of inter-system connections through interlocal agreements. [9J-5.013(2)(c)4]

d) The City shall continue to conduct an annual audit of the municipal water system to determine areas that may be in need of repair and may be contributing to

increased water consumption through leaking pipes, and prioritize accordingly. [9J-5.011(2)(c)3]

e) The City shall evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of using inverted water rates to increase consumer water conservation and achieve its overall water conservation goals.

f) The City shall focus on the following additional conservation strategies:

- Require native vegetation;
- Incorporate advances in water conservation practices in building and land development codes;
- Continue use of concurrency management system to ensure water supply is in place prior to issuance of a building permit;
- Require use of reclaimed water where available;
- Maintain regulations that allow the City to enforce SWFWMD's lawn and landscape irrigation rules;
- Calibrate delivery meters annually and plan master meters semiannually;
- Require metering of service connections;
- Provide an educational outreach program that consists of the following or similar methods: messages with utility bills, periodic advertisements to homeowner association newsletters, public tours of water facilities, and information on the City's website; and
- Equip City-operated irrigation systems with rain sensors and/or soil moisture monitoring devices.

Policy 2.4: The City will restrict uses in the wellhead protection zone; wellheads and wellhead protection areas (cones of influence) shall be mapped on the Future Land Use Map. [9J-5.006(2)(c)1]

Policy 2.5: The City will meet at least annually with the SWFWMD, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, the City of Lake Alfred, the City of Lakeland, the Town of Polk City, and Polk County to develop measures or programs to protect and conserve water sources. Decisions to be reached shall include: coordination of land development regulations to ensure consistent and adequate protection; coordination of planning and development activities through reciprocal notification of proposed activities; coordination of planning areas; and agreement on utility service areas.

Policy 2.6: The City will participate with the Southwest Florida Water Management District during periods of drought, declared water shortages, or water shortage emergencies by adherence to the District's Water Shortage Plan, and to the guidelines outlined by the District. A local water shortage plan shall be developed and coordinated with Polk County for response to emergency water supply interruptions. Provisions for cooperative agreements with neighboring jurisdictions, back-up water supplies and storage facilities, and organized procedures for emergency response shall be included in the plan. [9J-5.013(2)(c)4]

Policy 2.7: Ten-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan

The City shall assess projected water needs and sources for at least a ten (10) year period by creating and maintaining a Water Supply Facilities Work Plan (WSFWP). The WSFWP shall maximize the efficient use of groundwater and, where possible and financially feasible, substitute alternative water sources for the use of groundwater.

Policy 2.8: Consideration of the Regional Water Supply Plan
The City shall demonstrate full consideration of the most current Southwest Florida Water Management District's Regional Water Supply Plan when proposing and/or amending the ten-year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan.

**Objective 3: Conservation and Appropriate Use of Minerals, Soils, and Natural Vegetative Communities**

The City of Auburndale shall protect, conserve and guide the appropriate use of native vegetative communities and mineral and soil resources within its jurisdiction. [9J-5.013(2)(b)3]

*Measurable Targets*: Acres of land with native vegetative communities annexed, identified and protected during the planning period.

Policy 3.1: The City shall include on Future Land Use Element Natural Resource Conditions Map Series any native vegetative communities that are identified; and shall classify them as "environmentally sensitive lands". Development shall be restricted and minimum setback criteria established and enforced.

Policy 3.2: The City shall include on the Future Land Use Element Natural Resource Conditions Map Series soils as mapped by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and shall promote the continuation of agricultural activities on lands that have a Polk County Greenbelt Exemption. Development shall be restricted to accessory agricultural use structures and one single family residence per five acres where an Agriculture land use is applied.

Policy 3.3: When reviewing new development and redevelopment proposals, the City will refer to the guidelines of the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to determine soil capability, suitability, and limitations.

Policy 3.4: The City, in coordination with Polk County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to conserve, appropriately use and protect unique vegetative communities located jointly within the City and the county. [9J-5.013(2)(c)8]

**Objective 4: Conservation of Wildlife Habitat**

The City of Auburndale will conserve, appropriately use and protect wildlife habitat within its jurisdiction, especially lake habitat within the City limits. [9J-5.013(2)(b)4]

*Measurable Targets*: Acres of wildlife habitat annexed, identified and protected during the planning period;

comparison of quality of City lakes in 1999 and annually throughout the planning period.

Policy 4.1: The City has designated the lakes within its jurisdiction as water resource amenities and wildlife habitat areas and declares them to be "environmentally sensitive lands". Lakes shall be included on the Future Land Use Element Natural Resource Conditions Map Series. The City will protect the lakes by restricting development activities, enforcing minimum setback requirements from the lakes, and restricting access to structures such as boat ramps, boardwalks, and other water dependent activities.

Policy 4.2: During the development review process, the City will utilize the services of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to identify and avoid adverse impacts on wildlife habitats by new development and redevelopment. [9J-5.013(2)(c)3]

Policy 4.3: The City shall continue to enforce its land development regulations to provide for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat within the City boundaries. Identified species of wildlife and their habitats shall be protected from activities that would adversely affect their survival, or the survival of any endangered or threatened wildlife or species of special concern which may occur within the City. These protective measures may include, but are not limited to:

a) Requiring a developer to either restore disturbed wetlands to their original status or create new wetlands to mitigate the loss;

b) Requiring clustering of dwelling units away from sensitive ecological communities;

c) Discouraging the fragmentation of large vegetative community associations;

d) Requiring buffering of sensitive ecological areas; and

e) Providing for conservation easements. [9J-5.013(2)(c)(5),(6)]

## Objective 5: Management of Hazardous Wastes to Protect Natural Resources

Throughout the planning period, the City of Auburndale will take actions to eliminate the improper handling, and disposal of hazardous wastes in order to protect natural resources within its jurisdiction. [9J-5.013(2)(c)10]

*Measurable Targets:* Documented participation in hazardous waste recycling and disposal programs.

Policy 5.1: The City shall continue to participate in a program to require the periodic, environmentally safe disposal of household, commercial and industrial hazardous wastes. The program may include, but not be limited to, the following measures:

a) Actively participate in the activities of the Local Emergency Planning Committee

(LEPC) to develop emergency response plans to handle accidents involving hazardous waste;

b) Promote the recycling of hazardous wastes by publicizing lists of approved recyclers; and

c) Participate in the County's Amnesty Days to collect hazardous wastes in the City. [9J-5.013(2)(c)10]

Policy 5.2: The City shall participate in programs that emphasize education, monitoring, inspections and proper disposal of small quantities of hazardous waste.

Policy 5.3: The City shall participate in programs that emphasize education, monitoring, inspections and proper disposal of hazardous medical waste.

**Objective 6: Protection and Conservation of Wetlands**

The City of Auburndale will protect and conserve wetlands and the natural function of wetlands, and shall direct incompatible uses away from wetlands. [9J-5.-013(3)]

*Measurable Targets*: Acres of land designated as flood plain, wetlands or sensitive lands and protected from development or development impacts during the planning period.

Policy 6.1: The City will ensure that new and proposed development complies with all applicable wetland regulations of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Southwest Florida Water Management District. Site review will not proceed until all applicable permits are obtained from either or both agencies.

Policy 6.2: The City will utilize the technical expertise and assistance of the Southwest Florida Water Management District when reviewing new developments and redevelopment projects adjoining the 100-year floodplain of the City's lakes; or when reviewing development of any other identified wetland.

Policy 6.3: The wetlands and 100-year floodplains of the City's lakes are designated as "environmentally sensitive lands" and shall be included on the Future Land Use Element Natural Resource Conditions Map Series. Their hydrologic functions and habitat characteristics shall be protected through the enforcement of land development regulations, including zoning, site plan review, buffer zones, minimum setback requirements, regulation and prohibition of certain uses, and stormwater treatment regulations.

Policy 6.4: The City will enforce its land development regulations to eliminate expansion of nonconforming uses and ultimately eliminate nonconforming uses that threaten wetlands and the function of wetlands.

**OBJECTIVE 7; Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction**

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions while protecting, conserving, and enhancing the ecological resources of the City, maintaining their quality and contribution to the quality of life and economic well-being of the City of Auburndale and its residents.

Policy 7.1: The City shall incorporate greenhouse gas reduction strategies and energy conservation into the Land Development Regulations to facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy 7.2: DEVELOPMENT
Low impact development and uses permitted within a future or currently existing Conservation Area shall be restricted to the following:

a. Impervious surfaces shall be limited to structures required for the care and maintenance of the Conservation Areas or public safety;
b. Development shall be limited to passive recreation facilities such as boardwalk or conservation related facilities such as monitoring facilities, educational trails or a park ranger/ caretaker residence. A residence for a park ranger or caretaker is permissible at one dwelling unit per twenty acres.
c. Environmentally non-damaging access points and trails;
d. Conservation and resource-based, non-motorized recreational uses which include:
    1. Non-motorized boating which does not require a paved boat ramp for access;
    2. Environmentally non-damaging access points and trails;
    3. Hiking, bicycling, nature observation, and fishing/hunting where permitted, and
    4. Overnight primitive tent camping where permitted.
e. The developer of land adjacent to areas designated with the Conservation land use shall bear the burden of proof in determining that proposed development will not adversely impact conservation resources.

Policy 7.3: Where feasible, conservation areas, parks, and other components of the City's open-space system shall be linked by bike paths, jogging trails, and/or pedestrian pathways to reduce traffic impacts and greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy 7.4: Wetland Best Management Practices
The City of Auburndale shall encourage, and as appropriate require, the use of Best Management Practices for wetlands based on the most current available publications. All activities within a Future Land Use of Conservation shall comply with applicable BMPs established by the appropriate state agencies.