

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Melbourne is to establish goals, objectives, policies and general standards for the management of growth and the provision of services. This plan is intended to provide general guidelines for the establishment of more specific standards, ordinances, regulations, procedures, programs and other tools for the implementation of the policies contained in this plan.

This Comprehensive Plan is adopted under the authority and requirements of the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act of 1985, as amended, Chapter 163, Florida Statutes. A copy of the ordinance adopting the Comprehensive Plan is contained in the Appendix.

The City of Melbourne was created in November 1969 by the consolidation of the former cities of Eau Gallie and Melbourne. At that time, Melbourne became the largest city in Brevard County and continued as such until 1990 when the City of Palm Bay became the largest city. In 2008, the total area of the city was approximately 41 square miles

The city's comprehensive planning efforts formally began in 1966 when Eau Gallie and Melbourne undertook the preparation of Comprehensive Plans. These plans were completed, but were never adopted by either city. In 1973 and again in 1979 and 1980, updated Comprehensive Plans were completed and adopted by the City Council. Those approved in 1979 and 1980 met the requirements of the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act of 1975.

In 1985, the State of Florida adopted new legislation which greatly expanded the requirements of the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act of 1975.. It is the intent of this revision of the City of Melbourne's Comprehensive Plan to comply with the requirements of that legislation and all subsequent amendments.

In 2007-2008 the City prepared an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) to determine its progress in implementing the 1998 Comprehensive Plan. The EAR was adopted on January 8, 2008 and its recommendations are incorporated into this edition of the Melbourne Comprehensive Plan.

The current required elements which are included herein are: Future Land Use, Transportation, Housing, Infrastructure, Coastal Management, Conservation, Recreation and Open Space, Intergovernmental Coordination, Public School Facilities, and Capital Improvements.

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#### **Definitions**

*Activity center.* A designated portion of urbanized area, or planned urban area, characterized by intense activities and comprised of a concentration of land uses which could include employment, mixed residential, commercial, educational, cultural, and recreational activities.

*Act.* The Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act in Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

*Adjacent Concurrency Service Area* means a concurrency service area which is contiguous and touches the boundary of another concurrency service area along one side to the extent practicable, taking into account water bodies, and limited access interstate corridors.

*Affordable Housing.* Means housing for which monthly rents or monthly mortgage payments, including taxes, insurance, and utilities, do not exceed 30 percent of that amount which represents the percentage of the median adjusted gross annual income for the households or persons indicated in Section 420.0004, F.S. Affordable housing definitions that are prescribed by other affordable housing programs administered by either the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development or the State of Florida may be used by local governments if such programs are implemented by the local government to provide affordable housing

*Aquifer recharge.* (See surficial aquifer and water recharge.)

*Areawide.* A descriptive term applied in reference to a geographic area, generally including all or portions of two or more local governmental jurisdictions, but may also be applied to a portion of one local governmental jurisdiction if a large geographic area is encompassed.

*Arterial street.* A roadway providing service which is relatively continuous and of relatively high traffic volume, long trip length, and high operating speed. In addition, every United States numbered highway is an arterial road.

*Arterial principal (major).* A street that primarily provides traffic movement services, serving longer distance trips and traffic traveling through a given area. Vehicles on these facilities generally operate at higher speeds, and there is little direct access to abutting properties. Turning movements to and from these facilities occur primarily at roadway intersections.

*Arterial minor.* A street that serves medium to long distance trips and traffic traveling within a given area. Vehicles on this facility generally operate at high to moderate speeds, and there is little to moderate direct access permitted to abutting properties. Turning movements to and from these facilities occur primarily at roadway intersections and major traffic generator driveways.

*Best management practices.* Design, construction, operational or maintenance techniques which are accepted by research institutes, professional societies or regulatory agencies as the most advanced and effective for any given application. For example, Best Management Practices (also known as “BMPs”) have been developed for stormwater pollution control, agricultural activities, silvicultural management and construction practices.

*Bicycle and pedestrian ways.* Any road, path or way which is open to bicycle travel and traffic afoot, and excludes motor vehicles.

*Buffer.* An area or zone between two land uses which is intended to ameliorate, reduce or mitigate the adverse effects one may have on the other. Examples include the placement of office parks between industrial uses and nature preserves, or the preservation of a naturally vegetated upland zone around wetlands as a part of a development project.

*Capital budget.* The portion of the city's budget which reflects capital improvements scheduled for a fiscal year.

*Capital improvement.* Physical assets constructed or purchased to improve or replace a public facility and which are large scale and which exceed \$50,000.00. The cost of a capital improvement is generally non-recurring and may require multi-year financing.

*Coastal barriers.* Barrier islands, spits, peninsulas, or similar landforms which front on the Atlantic Ocean and which separate estuaries or harbors from the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

*Coastal dune.* A mound or ridge of loose sediments, usually sand-sized sediments, lying landward of the beach fronting on the Atlantic Ocean.

*Coastal high hazard areas . (CHHA),* is delineated as the evacuation zone for a Category 1 hurricane by the ECFRPC 1999 Hurricane Evacuation Study.

*Coastal planning area.* An area of the local government's choosing when preparing and implementing all requirements of the coastal management element (except those requirements relating to hurricane evacuation, hazard mitigation, water quality, water quantity, estuarine pollution, or estuarine environmental quality); however, this area must encompass all of the following where they occur within the local government's jurisdiction: water and submerged lands of oceanic water bodies or estuarine water bodies; shorelines adjacent to oceanic waters or estuaries; coastal barriers; living marine resources; marine wetlands; water-dependent facilities or water-related facilities on oceanic or estuarine waters; or public access facilities to oceanic beaches or estuarine shorelines; and all lands adjacent to such occurrences where development activities would impact the integrity or quality of the above. When preparing and implementing the hurricane evacuation or hazard mitigation requirements of the coastal management element, the coastal planning area shall be those portions of the local government's jurisdiction which lie in the hurricane vulnerability zone. When preparing and implementing the requirements of the coastal management element concerning water quality, water quantity, estuarine pollution, or estuarine environmental quality, the coastal planning area shall be all occurrences within the local government's jurisdiction of oceanic waters or estuarine waters

*Collector road and collector street.* Collector roads provide both land access and traffic circulation service within residential, commercial, and industrial areas. Their primary function is to move traffic from local roads and streets to the arterial highway system, while providing some direct access to abutting property. While not dominated by signalized intersection traffic control, these facilities do tend to have more frequent intersection control such as stop and yield signs.

*Commercial uses.* Activities within land areas which are predominantly connected with the sale, rental and distribution of products, or performance of services.

*Community park.* A community park is a park located near major streets or arterials. It is designed to serve the needs of several neighborhoods – which may be said to constitute a more defined community – and serves community residents within a radius of up to three miles, or a service population of over 5,000 and up to 10,000. Where possible, the community park should be located near or adjacent to a junior or senior high school.

The community park offers a wide range of program and facility opportunities for all community individuals and families. Just as the neighborhood park fulfills the recreational needs of the neighborhood, so the community park is designed to meet the recreational needs of an entire community. Typical facilities at a community park include ball fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic areas, multi-purpose courts, swimming pools, recreation buildings and sports fields. Additional recreation facilities may be included to meet a particular recreation demand in the community. Adequate off-street parking is essential. Two important elements of every community park are the use of landscaping and the provision

of passive recreation activity areas. Community parks often have on-site staff to manage the facilities. Community parks also may serve the function of neighborhood parks when located adjacent to residential areas. This is the most important type of park in the city.

*Cone of influence.* An area around one or more major waterwells the boundary of which is determined by a government agency based on groundwater travel or drawdown depth.

*Conservation uses.* Activities within land areas designated for the purpose of conserving or protecting natural resources or environmental quality and includes areas designated for such purposes as flood control, protection of quality or quantity of groundwater or surface water, floodplain management, fisheries management, or protection of vegetation communities or wildlife habitats.

*Consumptive use.* Withdrawal and use of water in such a way as to make the water unavailable for immediate reuse. The uses of potable water by humans is a consumptive use, since the result (wastewater) cannot be immediately reused. Use of water by powerplants usually is not a consumptive use since the water can be immediately recycled or returned to the source.

*Critical habitat.* Habitat which contains constituent elements essential to the survival or recovery of an endangered or threatened species and whose geographic extent has been defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

*Deepwater habitat.* Permanently flooded lands lying below the deepwater boundary of wetlands, including environments where surface water is permanent and often deep, so that water, rather than air, is the principal medium within which the dominant organisms live. As in wetlands, the dominant plants are hydrophytes; however, the substrates are considered non-soil because the water is too deep to support emergent vegetation.

*Desalinization.* The removal or reduction of the salt concentration in water to produce potable water. One of the most popular forms of desalinization is “reverse osmosis”.

*Detention.* The collection and temporary storage of stormwater in such a manner as to provide for control of peak runoff discharges and velocities to levels permitted by the appropriate water management district. Where detention is used as a method of controlling stormwater pollution, water is detained in such a manner as to provide for treatment through physical, chemical or biological processes, as well as whatever water quantity control is needed. “Detention” implies that a surface water outlet from the system exists except in the case of “detention with filtration”, in which stormwater is passed through a layer of suitable fine textured granular medium, such as porous soil, which may be used in conjunction with filter fabric and/or underdrain pipe. (See also, retention, diversion.)

*Development.* Shall be defined as set forth in Section 380.04, Florida Statutes.

*Development order.* Any order granting, denying, or granting with conditions, an application for a development permit.

*Development permit.* Includes any building permit, zoning permit, subdivision approval, rezoning, certification, special exception, variance, or any other official action of local government having the effect of permitting the development of land.

*Diversion.* With regard to stormwater management systems, refers to the separating of the “first flush” of

stormwater runoff (which contains the majority of stormwater pollutants) into a retention basin, while allowing the tailwater following the first flush to be discharged into surface waters or a detention basin, as appropriate. The diversion is accomplished through use of a specially designed baffle. (See also, detention, retention.)

*Drainage basin.* The area defined by topographic boundaries which contributes stormwater to a drainage system, estuarine waters, or oceanic waters, including all areas artificially added to the basin.

*Drinking water standards.* State drinking water standards appear in Chapter 17, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and in particular Section 17-22, F.A.C.

*Economic development.* Any business creation, expansion, relocation, or investment, which results in an addition to the economic activities of an area.

*Economic development enhancement program.* Any program that seeks to promote economic development.

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*Educational Facility means buildings, equipment, structures, and special educational use areas that are built, installed, or established to serve educational purposes.*

*Emergency water shortage plans.* Plans developed by Water Management Districts which detail the graded response to various levels of water shortage during drought conditions developed pursuant to Section 373.175, Florida Statutes.

*Endangered species.* Species in danger of extinction if the deleterious factors affecting their populations continue to operate, since their numbers have already declined to such a critically low level or their habitats have been so seriously reduced or degraded that without active assistance their survival in Florida is questionable. Includes those species listed as “endangered” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. (See also, “threatened species”, “species of special concern”.)

*Estuary (Estuarine System).* A semi-enclosed, naturally existing coastal body of water in which saltwater is naturally diluted by freshwater and which has an open connection with oceanic waters. “Estuaries” include bays, embayments, lagoons, sounds and tidal streams.

*Evacuation routes.* Routes designated by county civil defense authorities or the regional evacuation plan, for the movement of persons to safety in the event of a hurricane.

*Financial Feasibility:* Per Section 163.3180(15)(c), Florida Statutes, “A determination of financial feasibility shall be based upon currently available funding or funding sources that could reasonably be expected to become available over the planning period

*First flush.* The initial volume of stormwater runoff generated following the onset of rainfall which contains the majority of stormwater pollutants. For the purpose of stormwater regulations, the first flush is usually defined as the runoff generated by the first one inch of rainfall, or the first one-half inch of runoff. (See also, “detention”, “diversion”, and “retention”.)

*Five-Year Capital Facilities Work Plan (School Concurrency)* means the School Board’s annually

adopted financially feasible, five-year list of capital improvements which provide for student capacity to achieve and maintain the adopted level of service.

*Floodplains.* Areas inundated during a 100-year flood event, identified by the National Flood Insurance Program as an A, AE, AH, AO, or A99 zone or V and VE zone on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps, or identified by the U.S. Geologic Services, St. Johns River Water Management District, or local governments.

*Flood prone areas.* Areas which experience flooding in addition to the floodplains as described above.

Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) means the current edition, published by the Florida Department of Education, Office of Educational Facilities, listing all land and facilities owned or acquired under a long term (40 or more years) lease agreement by local school boards.

*Floridan aquifer.* The confined, artesian aquifer underlying the East Central Florida Region which serves as the principal supply of water for this region.

*Governing body.* The City of Melbourne.

*Greenway.* A natural corridor or area containing vegetation or natural ground and surface water conditions intended to be acquired for conservation and/or non-motorized mobility such as bicycling or pedestrian ways which generally provides connections between larger areas of open space such as conservation tracts, parks, and other activity centers. (Also see Habitat corridor and Wildlife corridor.)

*Greywater.* Wastewater obtained from domestic sinks and tubs, but excluding that part of the plumbing waste stream which includes human wastes (“blackwater”).

*Groundwater recharge areas.* (See recharge area and aquifer recharge.)

*Group home.* A single-family detached dwelling used for the treatment, care, rehabilitation or education of elderly persons, dependent children, physically disabled, developmentally disabled or non-dangerous mentally ill persons. It shall not include rooming or boarding homes, clubs, fraternities, sororities, monasteries or convents, hotels, residential treatment facilities, nursing homes, or emergency shelters.

*Habitat corridor.* A relatively natural connection between two parks, preserves or other managed areas. Habitat corridors may be terrestrial, aquatic, or both. They serve not only to permit the movement of individual organisms, but may also provide the biological connectivity necessary to thwart the random ecological, meteorological or genetic events which might otherwise doom populations of plants or animals isolated in a preserve, by allowing periodic outbreeding with external populations, or colonization of the preserve by new founders (especially after local extinctions within the preserve). (See also, wildlife corridor.)

*Hazardous waste.* Solid waste, or a combination of solid wastes, which, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness or may pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly transported, disposed of, stored, treated, or otherwise managed.

*Hazardous waste facility.* Any building, site, structure, or equipment at or by which hazardous waste is disposed of, stored, or treated.

*Hazardous waste management.* The systematic control of the collection, source, separation, storage, transportation, processing, treatment, recovery, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

*Hazardous waste transfer facility.* A facility for the temporary collection of hazardous waste prior to transport to a processing plant or to final disposal.

*Historic resources.* All areas, districts or sites containing properties listed on the Florida Master Site File, the National Register of Historic Places, or designated by a local government or potentially eligible for designation as historically, architecturally, or archaeologically significant.

*Hurricane shelter.* A structure designated by local officials or identified in plans as a place of safe refuge during a storm or hurricane.

*Hurricane Vulnerability Zone.* The areas delineated by the regional or local hurricane evacuation plan as requiring evacuation.

*Indian River Lagoon.* This Lagoon is the most diverse estuary in America, 152 miles in length and supported by a 2,300 square mile basin, with 4,315 species of animal and plant life, including 36 rare and endangered species.

*Industrial uses.* The activities within land areas predominantly connected with manufacturing, assembly, processing, or bulk storage of products.

*Infrastructure.* Those man-made structures which serve the common needs of the population, such as: Sewage disposal systems; potable water systems; potable water wells serving a system; solid waste disposal sites or retention areas; stormwater systems; utilities; piers; docks; wharves; breakwaters; bulkheads; seawalls; bulwarks; revetments; causeways; marinas; navigation channels; bridges; and roadways.

*Inter-district transfer (of water).* The transport of water, usually for the purpose of public water supply, from one surface water or groundwater basin to another. However, “interbasin transfer” may also refer to those instances wherein water is moved between basins for reasons other than public water supply, such as agricultural drainage canals.

*International Airport.* An FAA-certified air carrier (AC) airport having regularly scheduled instate, interstate, or international flights which serve the residents of more than one local governmental jurisdiction.

*Isolated wetlands.* Wetlands which do not have a direct surface water connection to waters of the state as defined in Section 403.031(12), Florida Statutes; essentially, those wetlands which are not subject to the permitting jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. (See also, “wetlands”.)

*Land.* The earth, water, and air, above, below, or on the surface, and includes any improvements or structures customarily regarded as land.

*Land development regulations.* Ordinances enacted by governing bodies for the regulation of any aspect of development and includes any local government zoning, rezoning, subdivision, building construction, vegetation/landscaping, stormwater management, or sign regulations or any other regulations controlling the development of land, except that this definition shall not apply in Section 163.3213, Florida Statutes.

*Land use.* The development that has occurred on the land, the development that is proposed by a developer on the land, or the use that is permitted or permissible on the land under an adopted Comprehensive Plan or element or portion thereof, land development regulations, or a land development code, as the context may indicate.

*Level of service.* An indicator of the extent or degree of service provided by or proposed to be provided by a facility based on the operational characteristics of the facility.

*Limited access facility.* A roadway especially designed for through traffic, and over, from, or to which owners or occupants of abutting land or other persons have no greater than a limited right or easement of access, and includes expressways, interstates and toll roads.

*Limnetic zone.* The open water area of a lake or pond which is too deep to support the growth of rooted submerged, emergent or floating-leaf aquatic macrophytes (i.e., wetland plant species). (See also, “wetlands”, “littoral zone”.)

*Littoral zone.* The interface between the open water area of a lake or pond and the surrounding uplands which will support the growth of submerged, emergent or floating-leaf aquatic macrophytes (i.e., wetland species of plants). (See also, “wetlands”, “limnetic zone”.)

*Local government.* Means and refers to the City of Melbourne.

*Local planning agency.* The Planning and Zoning Board agency designated by the city to prepare the Comprehensive Plan required by the Act.

*Local road.* Local roads provide for direct access and traffic circulation to abutting lands within residential, commercial, and industrial areas. These roadways have frequent access points and frequent intersection control such as stop signs. Trip length on local streets is short, feeding trips to collectors and arterials. There are two sub-categories of local streets. They include:

- a. *Major local.* This type of street serves commercial areas and higher density residential areas. Major local streets also may provide direct access for residential subdivisions to the collector and arterial roadway. Local streets with an average daily traffic of greater than six hundred trips constitute major local streets in residential subdivisions.
- b. *Minor local.* This type of local street provides access and circulation in residential areas and carries average daily traffic volumes of less than six hundred trips per day.

*Low and moderate income housing.* Rental or owner housing that is affordable to lower income families and households whose annual income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area.

*Major trip generators or attractors.* Concentrated areas of intense land use or activity that produce or attract a significant number of local trip ends, including but not being limited to developments of regional impact and similar types of development.

*Manufactured housing.* Any house constructed in compliance with the Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974.

*Marina.* A place for docking pleasure boats or providing services to pleasure boats and the occupants thereof, including servicing and repair to boats, sale of fuel and supplies, and provision of food,

beverages, and entertainment as accessory uses. A yacht club shall be considered as a marina, but a hotel, motel, or similar use, where docking of boats and provision of services thereto, is incidental to other activities shall not be considered a marina, nor boat docks accessory to a multiple dwelling where no boat-related services are rendered.

*Marine habitat.* Areas where living marine resources naturally occur, such as mangroves, seagrass beds, algal beds, salt marshes, transitional wetlands, marine wetlands, rocky shore communities, hard bottom communities, oyster bars or flats, mud flats, coral reefs, worm reefs, artificial reefs, offshore springs, near shore mineral deposits, and offshore sand deposits. This definition includes, but is not necessarily limited to, those community types classified as “estuarine” or “marine” by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory.

*Mass transit.* Passenger services provided by public, private or nonprofit entities such as the following surface transit modes: Commuter rail, rail rapid transit, light rail transit, light guideway transit, express bus, and local fixed route bus.

*Minerals.* All solid minerals, including clay, gravel, phosphate rock, lime, shells, excluding live shellfish, stone, sand, heavy minerals, and any rare earths, which are contained in the soils or waters of the state.

*Mosquito impoundment.* A diked coastal wetland area used to impound water for the control of airborne arthropods, including mosquitoes. Impoundments usually have little or no hydrological connection with the estuary.

*Native vegetation.* Trees, shrubs, herbs, and other plants which are indigenous to the State of Florida, and were not introduced by man.

*Native wildlife.* Those animals, to include all species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates, which are indigenous to the State of Florida, and were not introduced by man.

*Natural community.* A naturally occurring ecological association of native plants and animals found in the State of Florida. Natural communities include, but are not necessarily limited to, those identified in the Florida Natural Areas Inventory list of natural community types. (See also “native vegetation”, “rare or endangered ecosystems”.)

*Natural drainage features.* The naturally occurring features of an area which accommodate the flow of stormwater, such as streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands. (Also see water course.)

*Newspaper of general circulation.* A newspaper published at least on a weekly basis and printed in the language most commonly spoken in the area within which it circulates, but does not include a newspaper intended primarily for members of a particular professional or occupational group, a newspaper whose primary function is to carry legal notices, or a newspaper that is given away primarily to distribute advertising.

*Nonpoint source pollution.* Any source of water pollution that is not a point source.

*Open spaces.* Undeveloped lands suitable for passive recreation or conservation uses.

*Paratransit.* Transit services, including ridesharing, car or van pools, demand responsive buses, and other public transit services, which are characterized by their nonscheduled, non-fixed route nature.

*Peacetime emergency plan.* The plans prepared by the Florida Division of Emergency Management,

county civil defense or county emergency management agency addressing weather-related natural hazards and manmade disasters except nuclear power plant accidents and war. The plan covers hazard mitigation, emergency preparedness, emergency response, emergency recovery.

*Person.* An individual, corporation, governmental agency, business trust, estate trust, partnership, association, two or more persons having a joint or common interest, or any other legal entity.

*Point source pollution.* Any source of water pollution that constitutes a discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture.

*Policy.* The way in which programs and activities are conducted to achieve an identified regional goal.

*Pollution.* The presence in the outdoor atmosphere, ground or water of any substances, contaminants, noise, or manmade or man-induced alteration of the chemical, physical, biological, or radiological integrity of air or water, in quantities or at levels which are or may be potentially harmful or injurious to human health or welfare, animal or plant life, or property or unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of life or property. Pollution includes, but is not necessarily limited to violations of Florida Department of Environmental Protection standards for air quality, water quality, and dredge and fill, as reflected in the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) [AIR] 62-204 through 62-297, F.A.C.;[WATER] 62-503 through 62-699, F.A.C.; and [DREDGE] 62-025 and 62-312 F.A.C.

*Potable water.* Water which is suitable for drinking. Implies that the water meets the criteria of Rules 17-3.071, 17-3.404, and/or 17-22, Florida Administrative Code.

*Potable water facilities.* A system of structures designed to collect, treat, or distribute potable water, and includes water wells, treatment plants, storage tanks, reservoirs, and distribution mains.

*Prime aquifer recharge areas.* The areas above thirty feet mean sea level with highly permeable soils, areas which have a potentiometric surface below the water table, or areas which are currently being utilized or have the potential to be utilized as a public water supply or are within five hundred feet of a public water supply well. (Also see aquifer recharge.)

*Public facilities and services.* Transportation systems or facilities, wastewater treatment systems or facilities, solid waste systems or facilities, drainage systems or facilities, potable water systems or facilities, educational systems or facilities, parks and recreation systems or facilities and public health systems or facilities. (See also, “regionally significant”.)

*Public Transit.* Means passenger services provided by public, private or non-profit entities such as the following surface transit modes: commuter rail, rail rapid transit, light rail transit, light guideway transit, express bus, and local fixed route bus.

*Rare or endangered ecosystem.* A natural, native ecological community type which due to its limited distribution, small area, extent or rate of disappearance/modification is in danger of being lost as a viable component of the natural landscape. Includes those natural community types assigned State Element Ranks of S1 or S2, or which are identified by the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, Florida Department of Environmental Protection or East Central Florida Regional Planning Council as rare or endangered on the basis of quantitative habitat inventories. (See also, “natural community”.)

*Recharge or recharge area.* Shall mean and refer to aquifer recharge area.

*Recycling.* The reuse of liquid, gaseous, or solid waste in manufacturing, agriculture, power production, or other processes.

*Regional planning council.* The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, a governmental agency operating pursuant to Chapter 186, Florida Statutes.

*Regionally significant.* As defined in Rule 27E-4.02(8)(a)--(e), Florida Administrative Code, means:

1. A resource or facility whose area, extent or service delivery area lies within two or more local governmental jurisdictions.
2. A resource or facility whose uniqueness, function, benefit or importance identifies it as being of greater than local concern.
3. A resource or facility defined to be of greater than local concern or importance by state or federal legislative or administrative action.
4. A resource or facility whose proper or efficient management involves the participation or involvement of two or more governmental entities.
5. Facilities or resources identified as being of regional or state significance in an adopted state agency functional plan or state rule, or in the comprehensive regional policy plan or other rule of a regional planning council.

*Regional goal.* The long-term end toward which programs or activities are ultimately directed.

*Regional highway network or system.* Any roadway which meets the definition of being regionally significant (see also, “regionally significant”) and may include but not be limited to:

1. Interstates and other federal highways, including the Florida Intrastate Highway System per F.S. 338;
2. State highways, as components of the state highway system, including the Florida Intrastate Highway system per F.S. 338;
3. Highways that are components of an adopted metropolitan planning organization plan; and
4. Other highways or roadways:
  - a. Whose location or service area lies within two or more local governmental jurisdictions;
  - b. That provide access to regional activity centers, including developments of regional impact;
  - c. That link two or more state roads; or
  - d. That carry a significant amount of background and project traffic generated by a regional activity center.

*Regional park.* Regional or Urban district parks are large resource-based areas that serve one or more communities and are usually located within one hour's driving distance of the residents they serve. The facility should serve a population of at least 40,000 and preferably over 100,000 and should range in size from a minimum of 250 acres to as large as several thousand acres.

Because regional parks are generally designed for resource-based activities, location is dependent upon the availability of high-quality natural resources capable of being developed and used for outdoor recreation.

Typical facilities include water-based recreation sites, camping areas, hiking and nature trails, picnic areas and other facilities not requiring extensive development. Parking areas are necessary and should be designed to minimize adverse effects upon the natural environment.

*Regional water (supply) authority.* Authorities created by agreement between local governments for the purpose of developing, storing, and supplying water for county or municipal purposes.

*Residential uses.* Activities within land areas used predominantly for housing.

*Resource recovery.* The process by which materials, excluding those under control of the Atomic Energy Commission, which still have useful physical or chemical properties after serving a specific purpose, and are reused or recycled for the same or other purposes, including use as an energy source.

*Retention.* To prevent the discharge of a given volume of stormwater into surface waters through complete on-site storage. (See also, “detention”, “diversion”.)

*Retrofitting.* To improve or reconstruct an existing facility with the intent of bringing it into compliance (or, where that is not feasible, more nearly into compliance) with modern standards for such facilities. This term is most frequently used in reference to upgrading of wastewater treatment plants to more advanced treatment standards, or improvement of existing drainage systems to include stormwater pollutant control facilities where such facilities are either nonexistent or insufficient.

*Reuse (of water).* The practice of using water which is no longer fit for a particular use for a different application which can tolerate water of lesser quality. For example, capturing the “greywater” from sinks and tubs within homes and using it for lawn irrigation and car washing.

*Reverse osmosis.* A process of “desalinization” whereby water is forced, under pressure, through a semipermeable membrane, removing salt and producing potable water.

*Right-of-way.* Land in which the state, a county, or a municipality owns the fee simple title or has an easement dedicated or required for a transportation or utility use.

*Roadway functional classification.* The assignment of roads into categories according to the character of service they provide in relation to the total road network. Basic functional categories include limited access facilities, arterial roads, collector roads, and local roads, which may be subcategorized into principal, major or minor levels. Those levels may be further grouped into urban and rural categories.

*Saltwater intrusion.* The process by which saline water contaminates fresh groundwater supplies, making them unusable for use as drinking water. Intrusion may be “lateral”, from the ocean, or “vertical” from the relict seawater which underlies the Floridan aquifer.

*School Capacity* means a school’s ability to house the maximum number of students permitted by the Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) inventory.

*School Capacity Determination* means an assessment of school capacity by the School District of a proposed residential development application that would require a Future Land Use Map amendment and/or rezoning.

*School Impact Analysis (SIA)* means a formal description of a residential project subject to school concurrency review provided by the developer for review by the School District.

*Seagrass bed.* The natural vegetative community which is formed by the presence of one or more of the following aquatic flowering plant species on the bed of an estuary: *Halodule wrightii*, *Thalassia testudinum*, *Halophila engelmannii* or *Syringodium filiforme*. Synonymous with the classification of the estuarine community identified as “grass bed” by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory.

*Seasonal employment.* Employment which does not last year-round, but which recurs at the same time each year.

*Sea turtle.* Those species of turtle which swim freely in the Atlantic Ocean and the estuaries of the region, including the Atlantic green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), the Atlantic loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the Atlantic hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), the Kemp’s Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*) and the Atlantic leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). With the exception of the Kemp’s Ridley turtle, all of these species may potentially nest on the Atlantic beaches of the region.

*Significant regional facility or resource.* See “regionally significant”.

*Solid waste.* Garbage, rubbish, refuse, or other discharge solid or semisolid materials resulting from domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, or governmental operations, but does not include solids or dissolved material in domestic sewage effluent or other significant pollutants in water resources such as silt, dissolved or suspended solids in industrial wastewater effluents, dissolved materials in irrigation return flows or other common water pollutants, or hazardous waste.

*Solid waste facilities.* Structures or systems designed for the collection, processing or disposal of solid wastes, and includes transfer stations, processing plants, recycling plants, and disposal systems.

*Solid waste processing plant.* A facility for incineration, resource recovery, or recycling of solid waste prior to its final disposal.

*Solid waste transfer station.* A facility for temporary collection of solid waste prior to transport to a processing plant or to final disposal.

*Species of special concern.* Species which are not “threatened” or “endangered” yet warrant special attention because they are: (1) Species that, although they are perhaps relatively abundant and widespread in the state, are especially vulnerable to certain types of exploitation or environmental changes and have experienced long-term population declines; or (2) species whose status in Florida has a potential impact on other endangered or threatened populations of same or other species, both within or outside the state. For example although the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) is relatively abundant, it has been listed as a Species of Special Concern (SSC) because its abundance may affect that of several endangered, threatened or SSC species (indigo snake, gopher frog, Florida mouse) which share its burrows in a commensal relationship. Species of special concern include those which are designated SSC by the FGFWFC or FDACS. (See also “endangered species”, “threatened species”.)

*State land planning agency.* The Florida Department of Community Affairs.

*Storage.* When used in conjunction with hazardous waste, means the containment or holding of a hazardous waste, either on a temporary basis or for a period of years, in such a manner as not to constitute disposal of such hazardous waste.

*Stormwater.* The flow of runoff water which results from a rainfall event.

*Stormwater detention facility.* A structure which collects and temporarily stores stormwater for the purpose of treatment through physical, chemical, or biological processes with subsequent gradual release of the stormwater.

*Stormwater management system facilities.* A system of manmade structures or natural resources designed or used to collect, convey, hold, divert or discharge stormwater, and includes stormwater sewers, canals, detention structures, retention structures, lakes, holding basins, wetlands and natural depressions.

*Stormwater retention facility.* A structure designed to collect and prevent the release of a given volume of stormwater by complete on-site storage.

*Structural controls.* Dams, weirs, locks, levees, canals, pumps, drainage wells or other artificial mechanisms or works designed to modify the stage and/or flow of surface waters. Includes, at minimum, those structures adopted as official “works of the district” by the governing boards of the WMDs.

*Structure.* Anything constructed, installed or portable, the use of which requires a location on a parcel of land. It includes a movable structure while it is located on land. Structures may be used for housing, business, commercial, agricultural or office purposes, either temporarily or permanently. “Structure” also includes sheds, garages, fences, billboards, swimming pools, and advertising signs.

*Submerged vegetation.* Plants which normally grow entirely underwater, and may or may not be anchored to a substrate by roots or holdfasts. Includes certain species of algae, aquatic mosses, aquatic ferns and aquatic flowering plants.

*Surficial aquifer.* An unconfined, non-artesian body of water stored in the soil. The top of the surficial aquifer may form the groundwater table. (Also see aquifer recharge and prime aquifer recharge area.)

*Threatened species.* Species that are likely to become endangered in the state within the foreseeable future if current trends continue, including: (1) Species in which most or all populations are decreasing because of over exploitation, habitat loss, or other factors; (2) species whose populations have already been heavily depleted by deleterious conditions and which, while not actually endangered, are nevertheless in a critical state; and (3) species which may still be relatively abundant but are being subjected to serious adverse pressures throughout their range. Includes those species listed as “threatened” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. (See also, “endangered species”, “species of special concern”.)

*Transportation disadvantaged.* Those individuals who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation, and are therefore dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities.

*Traffic Analysis Zones.* A spatial unit smaller than and consistent with the Census tract; used to summarize socioeconomic information for neighborhoods and commercial areas within the region (Brevard MPO area); the zones are sectioned off by adjacent roadway facilities or natural features and generally consist of similar land use types.

*Transportation Systems Management.* Transportation design and development options which provide

alternatives to capital extensive capacity improvement. Such alternatives include transit, turn lanes, signal improvements, pedestrian and bicycle improvements, etc.

*Treatment.* When used in connection with hazardous waste, means any method, technique or process, including neutralization, designed to change the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of any hazardous waste so as to neutralize it or render it non-hazardous, safe for transport, amenable to recovery, amenable to storage or disposal, or reduced in volume or concentration. The term includes any activity or processing designed to change the physical form or chemical composition of hazardous waste so as to render it non-hazardous.

*Vegetative communities.* Ecological communities, such as coastal strands, oak hammocks, and cypress swamps, which are classified based on the presence of certain soils, vegetation and animals. Vegetative communities in the East Central Florida region may include, but are not necessarily limited to, those identified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory Community List for East Central Florida.

*Viable.* With respect to a natural vegetative community or ecosystem, means that the community: (1) Possesses the flora characteristic of the community type; (2) that there are no non-native species among the dominant plants which comprise the community; (3) alterations or modifications to the community, other than the fact of isolation, have not been so extreme as to eliminate or severely diminish the value of the community as a fish and/or wildlife habitat; and (4) the community, under the proper conditions or management (e.g., occasional controlled burning) is capable of maintaining a stable existence as a community type.

*Water-dependent natural ecosystems.* Those ecosystems or natural vegetative communities whose continued stable existence depends upon a hydrological regime which limits the ecosystem's distribution to areas associated with surface water or high groundwater table conditions, including those community types listed as palustrine, lacustrine, riverine, marine and estuarine by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory.

*Water-dependent uses.* Activities which can be carried out only on, in or adjacent to water areas because the use requires access to the water body for waterborne transportation, including ports or marinas, recreation, electrical-generating facilities, or water supply.

*Water-related uses.* Activities which are not directly dependent upon access to a water body, but which provide goods and services that are directly associated with water-dependent or waterway uses.

*Watershed.* See “drainage basin”.

*Water course.* Any natural or artificial channel, ditch, canal, stream, river, creek, waterway or wetland through which water flows in a definite direction, either continuously or intermittently, and which has a definite channel, bed, banks, or other discernible boundary. (Also see Natural Drainage Feature.)

*Water recharge.* The process by which water which falls on the land surface percolates into the soil and is stored in an underground aquifer. Recharge may be to a surficial aquifer, or (under special conditions) to the artesian Floridan aquifer. (See also, Aquifer Recharge.)

*Water recharge areas.* Land or water areas through which groundwater is replenished.

*Water reclamation.* Similar to “water reuse” but implies that some form of processing and/or

decontamination is required before the water can be used. For example, wastewater can be treated to advanced standards and then reused for irrigation. Even greywater may need some processing to reduce health risks associated with its use.

*Water reuse.* The recovery of water after its application for one use (which requires relatively high quality), and diverting it to another use which requires water of lesser quality. A farm on which high-quality groundwater is used for irrigation, but tailwater collected from runoff is pumped back on the land to supplement the groundwater withdrawal, is an example of direct reuse. Some reuse applications may require prior treatment of the “waste” water, such as in the use of greywater. (See also, “water reclamation”.)

*Water wells.* Wells excavated, drilled, dug, or driven for the supply of industrial, agricultural or potable water for general public consumption.

*Wetlands.* Lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land is covered by shallow water. For the purposes of this classification, wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: (1) At least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes (i.e., wetland indicator plant species); (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil (as indicated by Soil Conservation Service soils classifications); and (3) the substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year. (See also, “isolated wetlands”.)

*Wildlife corridor.* A special case of “habitat corridor”, in which the primary purpose of the biological connection between preserves is to allow the movement of individual animals in their search for food or mates. Such connections are not necessarily “roadways for animals”, but may instead serve to allow long-term cross-breeding between scattered population, or allow colonization of habitat which is unutilized by a particular species. However, in the case of large animals with large home-range requirements (e.g., black bear, Florida panther), the corridors may provide connections between areas that would in themselves be too small to provide suitable habitat, but together satisfy the species’ requirements. The terms “habitat corridor” and “wildlife corridor” are usually used interchangeably and meant to be synonymous, since “wildlife corridor” connections for specific species of large wildlife will also provide the functions implicit in “habitat corridors”.