

CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL 1: To conserve, protect, manage and restore the natural and environmental resources of the City by emphasizing stewardship and understanding that environmental issues transcend political and geographical boundaries.

OBJECTIVE 1.1: Conservation Designations

The City shall provide additional protection to particularly sensitive natural resources, habitats and ecosystems by establishing conservation designations, with specific uses, buffers and management protocol.

Policy 1.1.a: The City shall establish a conservation land use category for publicly or privately owned lands on which certain identifiable features, such as flowing surface water bodies, wetlands, flood plains, wellfield protection areas, unique geologic characteristics, and listed plant and wildlife habitat require enhanced oversight and regulatory protection. Land use regulations for designated conservation areas will consider the vulnerability of susceptible features and vary accordingly.

Policy 1.1.b: The City shall coordinate with the State to designate the portion of San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park within City limits as Conservation.

Policy 1.1.c: The City shall cooperate with external agencies responsible for managing specific conservation areas to ensure that development activities work to achieve protection and conservation strategies.

Policy 1.1.d: The City shall coordinate with federal, state and local government agencies to appropriately incorporate recreation, observation and learning opportunities afforded by conservation areas into the City's Recreation Program. Further, the Recreation Department may assist in public education and outreach efforts for designated lands

OBJECTIVE 1.2: Native Communities and Ecosystems

The City shall preserve and protect native communities and ecosystems, particularly those considered endangered or threatened.

- Policy 1.2.a: The City shall ensure that land use designations, development practices and regulations protect native communities and ecosystems, and environmentally sensitive lands.
- Policy 1.2.b: The City shall work with the County and/or other appropriate agencies to create an updated inventory of native communities, ecosystems, and environmentally sensitive lands. The inventory shall indicate threatened and endangered species, communities and ecosystems. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) may be used in the interim.
- Policy 1.2.c: The City shall facilitate the acquisition, protection and maintenance of environmentally sensitive lands through measures such as land banking, conservation easements, grants and matching funds, land donations, and local, state and federal land acquisition funds.
- Policy 1.2.d: The City shall coordinate with the City of Gainesville, the City of High Springs and Alachua County to ensure the protection of native communities and ecosystems that exist across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Policy 1.2.e: The City shall develop management plans for all City owned or managed natural areas. Management plans shall allow for uses that preserve the intrinsic characteristics of the natural area.
- Policy 1.2.f: The City shall cultivate partnerships with public and private entities, such as the Nature Conservancy and Alachua County Forever, to acquire, conserve, protect and manage environmentally sensitive lands and native communities and ecosystems.
- Policy 1.2.g: The City shall encourage the eradication of invasive exotic plant species, and whenever possible, recommend their replacement with native plant species alone, or in conjunction with other erosion control techniques. The City shall refer to the Pest Plant List provided by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council for guidance.
- Policy 1.2.h: The City shall work with the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program and incorporate the program's best management practices (BMPs) to promote sustainable landscaping practices.
- Policy 1.2.i: The City shall, as a condition of development, prohibit the planting of Pest Plant Species, and require perpetual maintenance of preserved and landscaped areas to eradicate invasive exotics.

Policy 1.2.j: The City shall require all new development to be oriented in a fashion that reduces habitat fragmentation and preserves the largest possible contiguous area of undisturbed habitat, to the extent practicable.

Policy 1.2.k: The City shall establish criteria for the removal of vegetation that is neither threatened nor endangered, distinguishing between native, non-invasive exotics, and invasive exotics.

Policy 1.2.l: The City shall protect regulated, heritage, and champion trees. The City may continue to participate in the Florida Champion Tree Program. Additionally the City will require tree removal permits to protect regulated, heritage, and champion trees from accidental removal and other development related disturbances.

OBJECTIVE 1.3: Listed Species

The City shall protect species listed by State and Federal agencies as endangered, threatened or of special concern, and their habitats.

Policy 1.3.a: The City shall ensure that its ordinances, regulations and policies protect listed species and their habitats.

Policy 1.3.b: The City shall utilize the development review process, land acquisition programs, environmental regulatory partnerships, stewardship programs and public education to protect listed species and their habitat, and prevent extinction of or reduction in populations of listed species.

Policy 1.3.c: The City shall obtain data from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, to maintain a periodically updated inventory of listed species and habitats located within City limits or immediately adjacent to City limits. The City will use the Florida Natural Areas Inventory as a base inventory.

Policy 1.3.d: The City shall require prior to development approval, an inventory of listed species for all new developments in areas identified as known habitat for listed species. The inventory shall include detailed information regarding type, quantity, location and habitat requirements for any listed species identified. De minimus threshold for properties required to complete the inventory shall be established in the City's Land Development Regulations.

Policy 1.3.e: The City's land use designations shall provide for the protection of threatened and endangered species.



OBJECTIVE 1.4: Air Quality

The City shall institute the following measures to maintain air quality at the levels established in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Policy 1.4.a: The City shall, where possible, support the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in enforcing air quality standards.

Policy 1.4.b: The City shall provide notice to land owners to obtain an open burning permit from the State of Florida Division of Forestry for open burns within City limits. Educational materials should be available to residents and business regarding alternative disposal methods, such as mulching of yard waste and recycling of trash, which would be recommended as an alternative to burning.

Policy 1.4.c: The City shall promote the creation of golf cart, bicycle and pedestrian pathways to reduce automotive air quality impacts.

Policy 1.4.d: The City shall continue working toward expanded service in the regional transit system.

Policy 1.4.e: The City shall partner with private, public and non-profit entities to institute local shuttle bus service.

Policy 1.4.f: The City shall promote mixed use and compact development to promote pedestrian, golf cart and bicycle traffic and reduce automobile dependency.

Policy 1.4.g: The City shall participate in local mobile source related air quality programs such as the Clean Cities program.

Policy 1.4.h: The City shall investigate the use of alternative fuel vehicles and create related policies to reduce its fleet's automotive emissions. City vehicles should be properly maintained to increase fuel efficiency.

OBJECTIVE 1.5: Soils

The City shall protect soil resources through erosion and sedimentation control, by requiring proper design criteria on specific soils.

Policy 1.5.a: The City shall ensure soil protection and intervention measures are included in the development review process.

Policy 1.5.b: The City shall require land clearing for development to be phased with construction activity, and to adhere to techniques which minimize soil erosion, minimize removal of native and non-invasive trees and vegetation, and protect champion and designated heritage trees. After clearing, soils shall be stabilized in accordance with best management practices (BMPs) identified in “The Florida Stormwater, Erosion, and Sedimentation Control Inspector’s Manual”.

Policy 1.5.c: The City shall protect the natural topography of the City, including steep and seepage slopes, by requiring new development to include techniques to minimize negative impacts on the natural terrain. An emphasis will be placed on retaining the natural function of seepage slopes during development. Additionally, retention of existing native vegetation will be encouraged as one method of protecting slopes.

Policy 1.5.e: The City shall coordinate with appropriate Alachua County agencies, the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), the Florida Geological Survey (FGS), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Army Corps of Engineers to identify the best available soil erosion potentials, best management practices and technically sound erosion reduction techniques.

OBJECTIVE 1.6: Mineral Resources

The City shall ensure that extraction activities do not pose a threat to natural resources, protected habitats and ecosystems, and human health.

Policy 1.6.a: The City shall prohibit commercial mineral extraction in areas designated as conservation on the Future Land Use Map.

Policy 1.6.b: The City shall allow commercial mineral extraction only in specifically designated land uses in the Future Land Use Element (FLUE).

Policy 1.6.c: The City shall regulate and closely monitor commercial mineral extraction activities within areas where the aquifer is unconfined.

Policy 1.6.d: The City shall adhere to federal, state and local regulations regarding mining, reclamation and reuse land excavation and filling activities, and adopt reclamation and reuse standards that are consistent with those authorized by Chapter 378, Florida Statute, or subsequent provisions, and administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Bureau of Mine Regulation (BOMR).



Policy 1.6.e: The City shall consult with the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Geological Survey and the U.S. Geological Survey, to establish commercial mineral extraction standards that minimize impacts on air quality, surface vegetation, topography, surface and subsurface geological structures, and surface and subsurface hydrologic regimes.

OBJECTIVE 1.7: Geological Resources

The City shall identify, protect and conserve significant geological resources and their natural functions.

Policy 1.7.a: The City shall work with the Florida Geological Survey (FGS), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Suwannee River Water Management District, and the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, to identify and map significant geological resources, including karst features such as sinkholes, caves, and entire stream to sink basins. Significance of a feature should reflect its potential contribution to the area's network of natural resources.

Policy 1.7.b: The City may utilize FGS Florida Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment (FAVA) maps, in conjunction with site-specific data, when available, to determine karst related aquifer contamination potentials. The City may utilize the FAVA map created specifically for Alachua County.

Policy 1.7.c: The City shall prepare an emergency management plan to address the opening of a sinkhole when it poses a threat to public infrastructure, and the public's health, safety or welfare.

Policy 1.7.d: The City shall review the possibility of acquiring and managing, when feasible, unique geological features and their surrounding natural areas. If a subject feature is privately owned, the City shall encourage the owner to create a management plan in cooperation with the appropriate agencies, and investigate the possibility of acquiring and preserving the surrounding property.

Policy 1.7.e: The City shall utilize regulatory and stewardship techniques to ensure that stormwater, wastewater and landscaping practices do not negatively impact the structural integrity, hydrology, biodiversity and other natural functions of significant geologic resources.



OBJECTIVE 1.8: Hazardous Materials

The City shall protect the public and natural resources from contamination by hazardous materials and waste. The City shall require the safe handling, transportation, management, storage and disposal of hazardous waste and materials.

Policy 1.8.a: The City shall comply with the Alachua County Hazardous Materials Management Code.

Policy 1.8.b: The City shall coordinate with the City of High Springs, the City of Gainesville and Alachua County to ensure proper oversight of hazardous materials and waste facilities.

Policy 1.8.c: The City shall periodically obtain an updated inventory of hazardous materials and waste facilities from the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department.

Policy 1.8.d: The City shall provide notice to all hazardous waste collection sites to obtain federal, state and county permitting, as may be required by law. A copy of a site's Hazardous Materials Management Plan shall be submitted to the City.

Policy 1.8.e: The City shall prohibit the unauthorized disposal and burning of waste within the City.

OBJECTIVE 1.9: Agriculture and Silviculture

The City shall promote agricultural and silvicultural activities that protect, preserve, and enhance the natural resources of the City.

Policy 1.9.a: The City shall encourage all agriculture and silviculture ventures to adopt a stewardship approach. Agriculture and silviculture operations will be encouraged to participate in programs offered by the Suwannee River Partnership, and the U.S Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

Policy 1.9.b: The City shall encourage agriculture and silviculture operations to operate under the most applicable and recent best management practices (BMPs). The City shall rely on the following: the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Silviculture Best Management Practices; Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources in Florida.



Policy 1.9.c: The City shall promote farming incentive programs, such as the Suwannee River Partnership, which are based on agricultural and silvicultural BMPs.

OBJECTIVE 1.10: Wetlands

The City shall protect and preserve wetland values and functions from adverse, human caused, physical and hydrologic disturbances.

Policy 1.10.a: The City shall utilize statewide wetland delineation methodology in accordance with Florida Administrative Code and regulations adopted by the DEP and the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Policy 1.10.b: The City shall conserve wetlands by prohibiting, where the alternative of clustering all structures in the non-wetland portion of the site exists, any development or dredging and filling which would alter their natural functions. If no other alternative for development exists, the City shall allow only minimal residential development activity in those areas designated as wetlands within this Comprehensive Plan and that such development activity comply with the following densities and performance standards:

1. Residential dwelling units not more dense than 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres subject to the following minimum performance standards:
 - a. Residences and any support buildings must be built on pilings of sufficient height to exceed by 1 foot the highest recorded flood level in the wetland. If there is not flooding data available, residences and any support buildings must be built at least 2 feet above the highest seasonal water level.
 - b. Clearing or removal of native vegetation shall not exceed 1/2 acre per 5 acres, except that where a ratio of 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres is utilized, the clearing or removal of native vegetation shall not exceed a total of 1/4 acre per 5 acres. Exotic vegetation may be removed without regard to this limitation provided that, of the area cleared of exotic vegetation exceeds the applicable 1/2 acre or 1/4 acre limitation, or is replanted with native wetland vegetation.
 - c. No dredging or filling (except for pilings to support the residence and support buildings or poles providing utility services) shall be allowed, except that a walking path or driveway to the residence may use permeable fill if it is designed with a sufficient number and size of culverts to allow the natural flow of water to continue.

- d. Drain fields for septic tanks and gray water shall be located outside the wetland.
- e. Where a ratio of 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres is employed the following provisions shall also apply;
 - (1) Clustering of units shall be located in the perimeter areas of the wetlands; and
 - (2) A restrictive or conservation easement to preserve open space shall be established.

Or:

- 2. Residential dwelling units not more dense than 1 dwelling unit per 3 acres such to the following minimum performance standards:
 - a. Residences must be built on pilings of sufficient height to exceed by 1 foot the highest recorded flood level in the wetland. If there is no flooding data available, residences must be built at least 2 feet above the highest seasonal water level.
 - b. All support buildings and other support facilities shall be constructed outside the wetland.
 - c. Clearing or removal of vegetation shall not exceed 1/4 acre per 3 acres, except that where a ratio of 1 dwelling unit per 3 acres is employed, the clearing or removal of native vegetation shall not exceed a total of 1/8 acre per 3 acres. Exotic vegetation may be removed without regard to this limitation provided that, if the area is cleared of exotic vegetation exceeds the applicable 1/4 or 1/8 acre limitation, it is replanted with native wetland vegetation.
 - d. No driveways, paths or other construction requiring fill (other than pilings for the residence or poles for utilities) will be allowed within the wetland.
 - e. All residences shall be connected to a central sewage system owned and operated by the City.
 - f. Where a ratio of 1 dwelling unit per 3 acres is utilized, the following provisions shall also apply:

- (1) Clustering of units shall be located along the perimeter area of the wetland; and
- (2) A restrictive or conservation easement to preserve the open space shall be required.

Policy 1.10.c: The City shall review wetland mitigation and monitoring proposals to allow limited development activity in wetlands and wetland buffers. Applicants must provide documentation which indicates that the following steps have been taken: the applicant has attempted every reasonable measure to avoid adverse impacts; the applicant has taken every reasonable measure to minimize unavoidable adverse impacts; the applicant has provided adequate mitigation to compensate for wetland impacts. The property owner shall incur any and all expenses associated with wetland mitigation.

Policy 1.10.d: The City shall provide all wetland mitigation and monitoring proposals for review by the County, Suwannee River Water Management District and any other applicable agencies.

Policy 1.10.e: The City shall encourage the dedication of conservation easements to the State, County, water management district or private conservation trust, for wetland preservation.

Policy 1.10.f: The City shall encourage the creation, restoration and preservation of wetlands through partnerships with public and private entities.

Policy 1.10.g: The City shall require natural vegetative buffers around wetlands to protect the fragile ecosystems they sustain. Buffers, measured from the outer edge of the wetland, shall be created as established in the following table.

Resource Addressed	Required Buffer (feet)
Wetlands less than or equal to 0.5 acre that do not support federally and/or state regulated vertebrate wetland/aquatic dependent animal species.	50' average 35' minimum
Wetlands greater than 0.5 acre that do not support the animal species described above.	75' average 50' minimum
Areas where the animal species described above have been documented within 300 feet of a wetland.	100' average 75' minimum



Policy 1.10.h: As an alternative to Policy 1.10.g, where scientific data is available, specific buffering requirements may vary according to the nature of the individual wetland and the proposed land use, but in no case will the buffer be less than 35 feet. Buffering requirements will be based on the best available science regarding impacted ecosystems, listed species, wetland function, and hydrologic considerations.

OBJECTIVE 1.11: Open and Green Space

The City shall work to preserve native ecosystems and the natural aesthetic beauty and charm of Alachua by ensuring the provision of open spaces and green linkages throughout the City, designed for the enjoyment of the citizenry.

Policy 1.11.a: The City shall consider offering incentives to developers to include open green spaces beyond the minimum amount required in new developments. These open spaces may be either interior or on the perimeter of the development and may be used to serve passive recreational purposes. Ideally, open spaces may be linked throughout the City, providing greenways for pedestrian and bicycle travel.

Policy 1.11.b: The City shall work to acquire properties on the perimeter, adjacent to, or abutting designated conservation areas in order to create linked greenway corridors. The City will explore options, such as grant funding, conservation easements, and fee simple acquisition, for acquiring properties. Acquisition of properties that would aid in the survival of listed species populations shall be a priority to the City.

Policy 1.11.c: The City shall either create, or select and endorse a stewardship program, or a combination of programs, for owners of private property who would rather steward their land than contribute it, by sale or other means, for use as an open or green space. Preferably the stewardship program would incorporate principles of the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Backyard Conservation program, and the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Habitats program.

Policy 1.11.d: The City shall identify and make recommendations, where appropriate, for the purchase of environmentally sensitive lands. The City shall provide for protection of natural areas and open space through public acquisition.



Natural areas to be acquired shall provide for protection of lakes, creeks and groundwater, protection of habitat for listed animal and plant species and natural communities, and / or provision of new recreational opportunities such as hiking, bicycling, fishing, bird watching, picnicking or nature study. Public acquisitions should be pursued in partnership with Alachua County, the Suwannee River Water Management District, the Florida Communities Trust, non-profit organizations and private individuals.

Policy 1.11.e: The City shall seek to restore natural communities, restore natural hydrology and remove non-native vegetation in accordance with best management practices on public lands acquired for their natural resource value.

OBJECTIVE 1.12: Water Resources

The City shall protect and conserve the quantity and quality of water resources, not only for the benefit of residents of the City, but for all in North Florida who depend on the Floridan Aquifer for drinking water, and for the benefit of all connected springs, streams, and rivers which may be impacted by the City's land use and development practices.

Policy 1.12.a: The City shall recognize the interconnectivity of surface and ground water systems and shall work to minimize degradation of water resources, which extend beyond the City limits.

Policy 1.12.b: The City shall inventory flowing surface water bodies within the City, utilizing topographic maps, or obtain an established inventory from an appropriate government agency. The inventory utilized should not identify water bodies in isolation; water bodies should be identified relative to their watersheds and basins.

Policy 1.12.c: The City shall consider, through an interlocal agreement with the Florida DEP, SRWMD or other appropriate agency, the monitoring of surface water bodies within the City, identification of human and ecological health risks, point and non-point pollutant sources, the establishment of remediation protocol, identification of significant aquatic ecosystems and habitats, and the eradication of aquatic pest plant species.

Policy 1.12.d: The City shall require the following buffers for development along surface water bodies. Buffers shall be measured from the outer edge of the water body, and created as established in the following table.



Resource Addressed	Required Buffer (feet)
Surface waters less than or equal to 0.5 acre that do not support federally and/or state regulated vertebrate wetland/aquatic dependent animal species.	50' average 35' minimum
Surface waters greater than 0.5 acre that do not support the animal species described above.	75' average 50' minimum
Areas where the animal species described above have been documented within 300 feet of a surface water	100' average 75' minimum

Policy 1.12.e: The City shall protect the natural function of floodplains, recognizing the role of flood patterns in maintaining water quality and quantity. Flood plain regulations will be based on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM).

Policy 1.12.f: The City shall work with FEMA, SRWMD, DEP and the County to regulate development within special flood hazard areas susceptible to the one percent (1%) annual chance flood established by FEMA. The City will require development activity to occupy only the non-floodplain portion of a site when feasible; allow dredging and filling within floodplains only if it preserves the natural function of the floodplain and adequately provides for stormwater management; require the minimum floor elevation of any structure to be at least one foot above the established base flood elevation; and will prohibit the storage of hazardous materials or waste within the floodplain, and development activity that threatens to raise the base flood elevation.

Policy 1.12.g: The City shall restrict the siting of wastewater treatment plants and sprayfield areas in flood prone areas.

Policy 1.12.h: The City will attempt to work with groups influencing the water resources of the City.

Policy 1.12.i: The City shall restrict the use of chemical, biological and mechanical agents to control aquatic pest plants, animals, insects and fish to those that are consistent with state and federal regulations and are known to minimize impacts on water quality and surroundings.



- Policy 1.12.j: The City shall consider instituting a water conservation program that includes best management practices (BMPs) such as xeriscaping, effluent reuse, and leak detection schedules for all City properties, facilities and infrastructure.
- Policy 1.12.k: The City may consult with the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department to ensure that City water resource practices are in compliance with all federal, state and local laws and regulations.
- Policy 1.12.l: The City's Public Services Department shall continue to review the domestic per capita water consumption and amend domestic per capita water consumption rates as necessary. The City should consult with the SRWMD and the DEP to determine sustainable consumption values.
- Policy 1.12.m: The City shall continue to maintain an emergency action plan to identify protocol for potable water emergencies. The plan shall identify responsible officials and associated functions, information dissemination techniques and availability of alternative resources.
- Policy 1.12.n: The City shall maintain a wellhead protection program to protect the public water supply. Under the program, new and existing wells will be inspected on a regular schedule, and abandoned wells will be closed and sealed; technical analysis will be used to determine the suitability of wellfield expansion or additions; and modifications and additions will be reviewed by the County and the SRWMD.
- Policy 1.12.o: The City shall prohibit the development or expansion of landfills, wastewater treatment plants, and commercial mining operations, within wellhead protection areas.
- Policy 1.12.p: The City shall coordinate with the SRWMD to review plans for new stormwater retention and detention basins, and to monitor existing basins.
- Policy 1.12.q: The City may utilize FGS FAVA maps to identify areas requiring additional monitoring and/or regulation in order to protect the City's ground water resources.
- Policy 1.12.r: The City shall protect groundwater resources by establishing maximum impervious surface requirements for new development and by providing incentives to developers for utilizing environmentally beneficial techniques and materials, such as pervious materials for parking lots, water reclamation practices, and high filtration landscape design.

The incentives should be based on best management practices for water resources protection recommended by the FDEP, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Policy 1.12.s: The City may work with the Alachua County Extension Service to create a sustainable landscaping and yard care program for development within the City. The objective of the program could be to create site elevation, soil, fertilization, irrigation, integrated pest management, stormwater runoff management and plant selection guidelines and best management practices for development within the City. The program may provide continued guidance for long-term yard care, supporting homeowners as they maintain their individual yards. The City may provide educational materials to the public regarding landscaping requirements and recommendations.

Policy 1.12.t: The City shall continue to utilize a utility billing system that encourages reduced consumption.

Policy 1.12.u: The City shall consider adopting an official water conservation policy to prevent drought related water shortages. These procedures should be consistent with applicable SRWMD policy, and should specify the City's role in water conservation and drought management. Prior to establishment of this policy, the City shall use "Waterwise Florida Landscapes: Landscaping to Promote Water Conservation Using the Principles of Xeriscape™".

Policy 1.12.v The City shall utilize the most current Water Supply Assessment prepared by the Suwannee River Water Management District to plan for the current and projected needs and sources for water resources.

OBJECTIVE 1.13: Energy Conservation

The City shall encourage and promote the conservation of energy resources to reduce negative impacts upon the environment.

Policy 1.13.a The City should promote and encourage energy efficient building techniques in new development and redevelopment which will result in less energy demand.

Policy 1.13.b The City shall require new development and redevelopment to provide pedestrian and/or multi-use pathways to encourage bicycling and walking, thereby reducing the consumption of fossil fuels.

Policy 1.13.c The City shall encourage energy conservation through the implementation of a net metering program which provides for the interconnection of customer-owned renewable generation systems to the City's electric system.

Policy 1.13.d The City should work to educate the public on energy conservation practices and incentive programs available to reduce energy consumption.

GOAL 2: Human Interactions and Impacts

To provide for positive interaction between residents and natural resources, while minimizing negative impacts to the environment.

OBJECTIVE 2.1:

The City shall conserve natural resources by educating the public about the impacts of humans on natural resources and the benefits of employing conservation and stewardship practices.

Policy 2.1.a: The City shall partner with the Alachua County School Board, Alachua County Environment Protection Department, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Suwannee River Water Management District, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services, Santa Fe College and other appropriate agencies to provide environmental education to residents of all ages.

Policy 2.1.b: The City shall provide developers with best management practices based on the best available science, to ensure that developers are informed of methods for minimizing environmental impacts.

Policy 2.1.c: The City should consider recognizing individuals, organizations, businesses and projects that embody environmental stewardship.

Policy 2.1.d: The City consider providing incentives for developers to enhance natural resources in their developments.

Policy 2.1.e: The City shall coordinate with the FDEP Division of Recreation and Parks, Alachua County, and private entities to provide opportunities for the public to interact with natural amenities.

Policy 2.1.f: The City shall recognize the global nature of environmental protection by providing the public with educational materials about emerging environmental concerns.

