

## CONSERVATION ELEMENT

### GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

**GOAL E – THE CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH WILL PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND ENHANCE THE CITY'S NATURAL RESOURCES, ENCOURAGING THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND BEST LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.**

**OBJECTIVE E.1 - THE CITY WILL CONTINUE TO PROTECT, CONSERVE OR ENHANCE WILDLIFE HABITATS.**

**Policy E.1.1**

The City will continue to provide standards necessary to protect any identified areas which are habitats for species, both flora and fauna, classified as endangered, threatened or a species of special concern, by the Department of the Interior, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Policy E.1.2**

The City will continue to require the preparation and implementation of a habitat management plan as a prerequisite to the approval of any development proposed on a site containing areas designated as Conservation on the Future Land Use Map Series or on land designated by the FFWCC as habitat for threatened or endangered species.

**Policy E.1.3**

The City will continue to require that any lands included as part of a proposed development site which are to be preserved for use as habitat for flora and fauna classified as endangered, threatened or a species of special concern by the Department of the Interior, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be located adjacent to existing viable habitat, a significant wetland system, floodplain or a wildlife corridor.

**OBJECTIVE E.2 – THE CITY WILL PROTECT AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, PROVIDE FOR RESTORATION OF JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS.**

**Policy E.2.1**

The City will protect and conserve the natural functions of wetlands and water bodies. In furtherance of this policy, wetlands in the City of Fort Walton Beach will not be removed, altered, or destroyed, except as permitted, mitigated, or provided a *de minimus* exemption by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Northwest Florida Water Management District, and US Army Corps of Engineers. The definition and delineation methodology for wetlands will be that established pursuant to § 373.019(25) and § 373.421, F.S. Map 1-6 depicts wetland data obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2010), identifying potential jurisdictional wetlands; however, data is not field verified and final wetland delineation must be determined by an independent survey agreed to by the City.

**Policy E.2.2**

The City will continue to prohibit developments from channeling stormwater runoff directly into designated wetlands and water bodies.