CITY OF ARCADIA
FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT

GOAL 1: PROVIDE A FUTURE LAND USE PATTERN THAT PROTECTS NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENHANCES THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS OF ARCADIA THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF ORDERLY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT THAT ENSURES THE CHARACTER, MAGNITUDE, AND LOCATION OF ALL LAND USES FOSTERS A BALANCED NATURAL, PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT AND REDUCES GREEN HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Objective 1: The City of Arcadia shall discourage urban sprawl, promote economic development, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while encouraging energy efficiency by maximizing the use of existing public facilities and services, and by coordinating with DeSoto County to limit the extension of municipal facilities in the unincorporated County to those areas which are consistent with higher intensities of use as set forth in the DeSoto County Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 1.1: Land development regulations shall, at a minimum, address: land uses, zoning, the subdivision of land, stormwater drainage, periodic and seasonal flooding and signage.

Policy 1.2: The following land use classifications shall be depicted on the Future Land Use Map and shall be utilized to establish densities and intensities of development and to implement the Comprehensive Plan:

a. Low Density Residential;

b. Medium Density Residential;

c. High Density Residential;

d. Business;

e. Mixed Use Business;

f. Industrial;

g. Public Building and Grounds;

h. Recreation and Open Space;

i. Conservation;

j. Residential, Professional and Business Overlay District;

k. Public Schools.

Policy 1.3: The Low Density Residential designation shall meet Arcadia's housing demands for this range of density, promote efficient use of infrastructure, protect existing single family neighborhoods and promote compatible land uses. Single family detached housing units are permissible to a maximum density of 6 units per gross acre; and
schools are permitted in this classification. Development of areas designated as wetlands are restricted to only residential development at not more than 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres, and provided all requirements of Policy 3.1 of the Conservation Element are met.

**Policy 1.4:** The Medium Density Residential designation shall meet Arcadia's housing demand for this range of density and promote efficient use of existing infrastructure. Maximum density for Medium Density Residential is 14 units per gross acre. Schools are permitted in this classification. Development of areas designated as wetlands are restricted to only residential development at not more than 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres, and provided all requirements of Policy 3.1 of the Conservation Element are met.

**Policy 1.5:** The High Density Residential designation shall meet Arcadia's housing demand for this range of density and promote efficient use of existing infrastructure. Maximum density for High Density Residential is 30 units per gross acre. Schools are permitted in this classification.

**Policy 1.6:** The Business designation shall meet Arcadia's demand for retail goods and services, and shall promote efficient use of infrastructure. Arcadia shall direct commercial development to areas which are well integrated with transportation facilities and surrounding land uses. Residential uses, such as above-ground-floor apartments, are permissible, provided that they are compatible and appropriately integrated with the surrounding area. Schools are permitted in this classification. The floor area ratio in the Business designation shall not exceed 3.0.

**Policy 1.7:** The Mixed Use Business designation provides for residential and business uses. Development of Mixed Use Business districts shall be subject to the following guidelines:

a. Mixed Use Business districts shall be immediately adjacent to arterials or collectors, or provide a transition from a higher to a lesser density or intensity of use;

b. Land uses shall be appropriately buffered within the Mixed Use Business district, and the district shall be appropriately buffered from adjacent land uses;

c. Mixed Use Business district development shall require a site plan, including a compatibility analysis of adjacent uses;

d. Planned Unit Development and clustering are permissible techniques for the development of Mixed Use Business districts and are encouraged;

e. Subject to compatibility criteria and site plan review, all uses permitted in the Business Future Land Use category are permissible.

f. Business land uses shall not exceed 25 percent of the total site;
g. Residential development may not exceed 14 units per gross acre;

h. A minimum of 10 percent of the total site shall consist of open space and/or passive recreation uses.

i. Schools are permitted in this classification.

Policy 1.8: The Industrial designation shall be compatible with adjacent land uses, promote a variety of employment opportunities, facilitate a diversified economic base, and promote efficient use of infrastructure. The Industrial designation includes processing, manufacturing and warehousing activities. Schools are permitted in this classification. Traffic generated by such an establishment shall not over-burden the local or collector roadways. New industry shall be located in areas with existing industrial land uses and amenities. The floor area ratio in the Industrial designation shall not exceed 1.0.

Policy 1.9: The Public Buildings and Grounds designation shall be accessible to all citizens, be compatible with adjacent land uses and the environment, and promote the efficient use of infrastructure. Compatible public land uses are permissible within all land use designations. The floor area ratio for public buildings shall not exceed 2.0. Schools are permitted in this classification.

Policy 1.10: The Recreation and Open Space designation provides for passive and active recreational and open space land uses. Residential, business or industrial uses are not permissible. Schools are permitted in this classification. Structures to serve recreation uses, including public structures such as information centers or existing meeting centers, are permissible provided that such structures do not detract from the intended designation as recreation or open space, and do not degrade natural resources on the site or in the area. This category also permits recreational vehicles (RVs) at a density up to 10 units per acre. However, RVs are prohibited in wetlands, but are allowed in the 100-year floodplain on a temporary campsite basis. As a result, tie downs and impervious surfaces of any kind are prohibited when associated with RV uses. This designation also recognizes the Peace River as an environmentally sensitive natural resource.

Policy 1.11: The Conservation designation shall protect natural resources. If appropriate, passive recreation uses are permissible in designated Conservation areas and provided that all requirements of Policy 3.1 of the Conservation Element are met. No development shall be permitted in areas designated as Conservation, except structures required to serve that designation. Such structures may include boardwalks, information areas, or other related structures. This designation also recognizes the Peace River as an environmentally sensitive natural resource.

Policy 1.12: A Residential, Professional and Business (Mixed Land Use) Overlay district shall be included in the Residential land use designations along Hickory and Magnolia Streets. The purpose of this Overlay district is to preserve and protect the historic
housing stock and character of this section of Arcadia, while recognizing the commercial value of these properties. Low intensity professional and retail establishments and above-ground-floor apartments are permissible within residential structures in the Residential, Professional and Business Overlay. Schools are permitted in this classification. Residential or Business uses in this Overlay district may not exceed the intensity or density of use as established in the underlying future land use category. The floor area ratio in this Overlay District shall not exceed 3.0.

**Policy 1.13:** Public schools are allowed in all land use classifications except the City of Arcadia’s classification of Conservation. This provision applies to lands contiguous to existing schools and is meant to accommodate expansion of existing schools, as well as development of lands for new schools. Further, the City hereby encourages the co-location of public facilities such as parks, libraries and community centers, with schools, when planning and reviewing a proposed site for new or expanded facilities, and shall adopt criteria for co-location in the Unified Land Development Code.

**Objective 2:** *Residential, business and industrial development shall be timed and staged in conjunction with available capacity of public facilities and services, and shall be coordinated with appropriate soil conditions and topography.*

**Policy 2.1:** Approval of development proposals will be conditioned on the availability of public facilities and services necessary to serve the proposed development and that the facilities meet the City's established level of service standards provided within all elements of the City of Arcadia Comprehensive Plan, including the level of service standards listed within the following elements:

a. Infrastructure Element  
b. Transportation Element  
c. Capital Improvements Element  
d. Public School Facilities Element

**Policy 2.2:** Development orders and permits shall be issued only when public facilities and services are available concurrent with the impacts of development at or above the City's adopted level of service standards. Public facilities and services which are necessary to serve a proposed development shall be authorized at the same time that the proposed land use is authorized.

**Policy 2.3:** Public facilities shall be located to maximize their efficiency and minimize the cost of their development and environmental impact.

**Policy 2.4:** Prior to issuance of a permit for development, the City shall require evidence that the proposed development is suitable for the proposed site relative to existing soil and topographic conditions.
Objective 3: Upon Plan adoption, Arcadia shall eliminate land uses that are inconsistent with the Future Land Use Map and the City's character.

Policy 3.1: Replacement or significant expansion of land uses which are inconsistent with the Future Land Use Map and Future Land Use Element shall be prohibited.

Policy 3.2: Arcadia shall continue to coordinate with the Florida Department of Transportation to implement a program that mitigates future traffic congestion on U.S. 17 and S.R. 70. This program should address right-of-way needs, access management, routing schemes, parking requirements, traffic operations alternatives, facility design options, bicycle/pedestrian systems interaction and land use/transportation transitional problems.

Objective 4: Arcadia shall implement land development regulations that encourage compatibility between land uses.

Policy 4.1: Arcadia will require buffering between adjacent higher and lower intensity land uses. Arcadia's land development regulations shall include criteria and standards for buffering. Buffering includes the use of open space, landscaping and berms to mitigate any adverse impacts resulting from incompatible and unlike land uses.

Policy 4.2: Where the application of Policy 4.1 cannot adequately mitigate the incompatibility between proposed and existing land uses, the proposed use shall be disapproved.

Objective 5: Arcadia shall protect the quality of its neighborhoods through code enforcement, site plan reviews, and state or federally-assisted programs for the renewal and redevelopment of blighted areas.

Policy 5.1: Arcadia shall continue to employ available state and federal government programs which are aimed at the rehabilitation or demolition and replacement of substandard housing.

Policy 5.2: Arcadia shall continue to carry out site plan reviews, building inspections and code enforcement activities.

Policy 5.3: The City shall continue implementation of its property maintenance code.

Objective 6: Arcadia shall implement standards and programs that protect natural and historic resources. Natural resources shall be protected by the regulation of land use in proximity to public supply potable water wellfields and other
environmentally sensitive lands, such as flood plains and wetlands; by the management of stormwater runoff and drainage; and by the regulation of development activities which may be sources of air pollution.

Policy 6.1: The City of Arcadia shall cooperate with the Southwest Florida Water Management District to identify cones of influence, water recharge areas and develop a comprehensive wellhead protection program. The program shall include provisions to restrict incompatible uses and substances found on the Florida Substance list known to have adverse effects on water quality and quantity. Arcadia shall request funding assistance from the SWFWMD to accomplish this. However, as an interim measure between plan adoption and SWFWMD's potable waterwell cone of influence designation, Arcadia shall establish a 400 ft. radius from the base of a potable waterwell as a cone of influence. The first 200 foot radius shall be a zone of exclusion, where no development activities, with the exception of the lowest density residential land uses, will be permitted. Within the remainder of the wellhead protection area, the following will be prohibited: landfills; facilities for bulk storage, handling or processing of materials on the Florida substance list; activities that require the storage, use, handling, production or transportation of restricted substances, agricultural chemicals, petroleum products, hazardous toxic waste, medical waste, or similar substances; feed lots or other commercial animal facilities; wastewater treatment plants, percolation ponds or similar facilities; mines; and excavation of waterways or drainage facilities which intersect the water table.

Policy 6.2: The developer or owner of any development site shall manage stormwater run-off on-site. Post-development run-off rates must be consistent with the level of service standard established in the Sanitary Sewer, Solid Waste, Drainage, Potable Water and Natural Groundwater Aquifer Recharge Element.

Policy 6.3: New development shall be constructed so that the natural topographic features are not adversely altered so as to harm the drainage patterns of adjacent properties.

Policy 6.4: Criteria for local designation of sites or structures of historical or archeological significance will be included in the City's land development regulations. Local designation shall be by City Council, and shall require affirmative votes of four or more City Council members. Demolition or alteration of locally-designated sites or structures may be approved only by the affirmative vote of four or more City Council members. This procedure does not replace or diminish established procedures for the alteration or demolition of structures or sites in the City, but is an additional safeguard to protect structures and sites designated by City Council as historically or archaeologically significant.

Policy 6.5: Arcadia shall negotiate with land owners prior to the development review process to mitigate disturbances of, or to preserve, known historical resources.
Policy 6.6: Arcadia will verify the existence of environmentally sensitive lands within the City and will seek the cooperation of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in its verification effort. Lands identified as being environmentally sensitive will be so designated, and will be protected by zoning regulations, conservation easements or other means, in accordance with the goal and objectives of the Conservation Element.

Policy 6.7: Arcadia shall conserve, use and protect its wetlands through enforcement of zoning, site plan review, buffer zone, and stormwater treatment regulations. Arcadia shall require that, where alteration of wetlands is necessary to allow for reasonable use of property, the developer will either restore the disturbed wetlands to their original status or create new wetlands to make up for the loss.

Policy 6.8: Arcadia's land development regulations shall ensure that, at a minimum, proposed development activities that have the potential to contaminate water, soil and air quality meet all state and federal regulations pertinent to such proposed development, shall meet all local regulations and shall be appropriately buffered from surrounding land uses and natural resources.

Objective 7: Arcadia shall permit innovative development techniques such as planned unit developments, cluster developments, density bonuses, on-site traffic control, and limitations of driveway and road access to arterial and collector highways. The City's land development regulations shall set forth the process(es), conditions and criteria for utilizing such development techniques.

Policy 7.1: Arcadia shall include incentives, such as density bonuses, in its land development regulations to encourage the provision of affordable housing.

Policy 7.2: Arcadia shall require developers and property owners to provide open space and protect natural resources. To assist in the implementation of this policy, Arcadia shall provide for innovative techniques such as "cluster development" in its land development regulations.

Policy 7.3: Arcadia shall include in its land development regulations measures that control access to arterial and collector roadways. Shared access and frontage/back lot parallel access roads shall be required where feasible.

Policy 7.4: Arcadia shall include in its land development regulations minimum standards and criteria regulating on-site traffic flow and parking needs for motorized and non-motorized traffic.
Objective 8: Arcadia will ensure that suitable land is available for utility facilities to support proposed development.

Policy 8.1: The City's land development regulations shall require the set-aside, by dedication or easement, of land suitable to accommodate public utility facilities needed to service a proposed development.

Policy 8.2: Upon adoption of this Comprehensive Plan, public utilities needed to service existing and future land uses shall be permitted in all future land use classifications, provided the performance standards in the Power Plant Siting Act, the Transmission Line Siting Act, the Arcadia Comprehensive Plan, Arcadia's land development regulations, and any other applicable land development regulations are met.

Objective 9: The City shall protect its downtown core and increase downtown revitalization through the implementation of the adopted City of Arcadia Economic Diversification Strategic Plan.

Policy 9.1: Arcadia shall protect its investment and continue to invest in its downtown by continuing revitalization of the urban core through enforcement of the sign ordinance, beautification projects and incentive programs for the revitalization of the downtown area.

Policy 9.2: Arcadia shall promote infill development and redevelopment as an important mechanism to revitalize and sustain its urban core by maintaining the existing land use map, which clearly identifies vacant parcels.

Policy 9.3: By the year 2022, Arcadia shall explore the feasibility of a Community Redevelopment Area as a tool to promote revitalization in downtown.

Objective 10: The City of Arcadia will continue to promote an economically viable and sustainable development and redevelopment throughout the City and within the downtown area.

Policy 10.1: In order to provide a more walkable and patron-friendly downtown district, the City shall continue to work toward construction of a downtown parking garage.

Policy 10.2: By 2022, the City shall conduct parking and sidewalk studies to improve walkability and connectivity in the downtown core and its periphery.

Policy 10.3: By the year 2022, the City shall evaluate the need for wayfinding signage in the downtown area and in gateway areas of the city.

Policy 10.4: The City shall, through new development and redevelopment, promote the design of interconnected systems for vehicular and pedestrian travel and the location and
orientation of buildings and vehicular parking areas.

**Policy 10.5:** The City shall, through new development and redevelopment, promote the design attractive and useable public open spaces/common area through good architectural and landscape design.

**Policy 10.6:** The City shall continue coordination with the Arcadia Main Street program.

**Policy 10.7:** The City shall support business and business development expansion through partnerships among State, Regional, and local economic development organizations.

**Policy 10.8:** The City shall promote infill development and redevelopment through designation of appropriate land uses and densities on the future land use map series, and support of downtown revitalization, historic preservation, and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

**Objective 11:** *The City of Arcadia shall address dilapidated and/or neglected structures and the aesthetic quality of structures in downtown.*

**Policy 11.1:** The City shall continue to evaluate Code Enforcement policies and procedures to be implemented specific to the downtown area and citywide.

**Policy 11.2:** The City shall continue implementation of its property maintenance code.

**Policy 11.3:** The City, in coordination with the Arcadia Main Street Program, shall continuously explore opportunities for façade improvement grants.

**Policy 11.4:** By 2020, the City shall work to establish a revitalization committee, with inclusion of local businesses, developers and residents, to further improvement efforts in the downtown.

**GOAL 2:** *CREATE A DIVERSE ECONOMY IN THE CITY OF ARCADIA BY OPTIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION, BETTER JOBS, AND REVENUE GROWTH.*

**Objective 1:** *The City of Arcadia shall work to organize and connect economic development activities that foster a business-friendly climate.*

**Policy 1.1:** The City shall work to increase collaboration with other local and regional economic development organizations by engaging stakeholders through related boards and committees.
Policy 1.2: The City shall assist in marketing the Main Street Program and the Chamber of Commerce and participate in the development of a marketing plan.

Policy 1.3: The City shall, in partnership with the development and business community, periodically review and propose amendments to the City’s Land Development Code, that focus on efficiency and effectiveness, including streamlining of application review procedures, to help promote new development and new businesses.

Policy 1.4: By 2020, the City shall work to strengthen business retention and expansion activities by investigating funding opportunities for local businesses and explore the concept of local business incubators to be established in underutilized City-owned spaces.

Objective 2: The City of Arcadia shall work to encourage commercial and business development along the US 17 and SR 70 corridors.

Policy 2.1: The City shall consider opportunities and engage property owners in discussions regarding future land use map and zoning amendments along the US 17 and SR 70 corridors that will support commercial and business development.

Policy 2.2: The City shall continually evaluate its Land Development Code and review and amend development standards and procedures that will provide incentives for new development and redevelopment.

Policy 2.3: The City shall continuously explore funding opportunities for capital infrastructure improvements and support the FDOT “Complete Streets” and “Context Classification” programs to improve roadway conditions serving properties along the US 17 and SR 70 corridors.

Policy 2.4: The City shall coordinate with FDOT and request traffic studies to review roadway conditions, access management, and safety conditions along US 17 and SR 70.

Objective 3: The City of Arcadia shall work to support future economic development activities to improve the quality of life in the city.

Policy 3.1: The City shall identify priority development sites based on location, available infrastructure, and marketability.

Policy 3.2: The City shall prioritize and seek grant funding opportunities for needed infrastructure improvements.

Policy 3.3: The City shall encourage growth of Targeted Industry Clusters by working to
provide necessary infrastructure to support the establishment of new industries and support the relocation of existing industries.

**Policy 3.4:** The City shall work with stakeholders and the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce to reform local policies and regulations to better attract targeted industries.

**Policy 3.5:** By 2020, the City shall amend the Land Development Code to encourage development of a mix of housing types to support the local workforce.

**Policy 3.6:** By 2021, the City shall identify and implement creative methods for incentivizing workforce housing through zoning and building codes.
The information on this map should be considered conceptual and subject to change. This map is not a survey.

Data Sources:
- City of Arcadia
- Desoto County Property Appraiser
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Historic Data: Bureau of Archaeological Research

Date Adopted: May 1, 2012

Historic Resources
- Historic Structures
- Historic Bridges
- Historic Districts

General Legend
- Routes
- Railways
- Parcels
- Water Bodies
- Arcadia Boundary

Path: D:\Projects\EARS2008\Maps\ARC\arcadia_historic.mxd Date: 10/2/2012
MAP 4 - CITY OF ARCADIA - WETLANDS MAP

DISCLAIMER:
The information on this map should be considered conceptual and subject to change. This map is not a survey.

Data Sources:
City of Arcadia
DeSoto County Property Appraiser
Florida Department of Transportation
Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Florida Water Management Districts

Date Adopted: May 1, 2012

Legend:
- Wetlands
- Arcadia Boundary
- Roads
- Railways
- Parcels

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