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**CITY OF ARCADIA  
CONSERVATION ELEMENT**

**GOAL:** CONSERVE, PROTECT AND MANAGE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA.

**Objective 1:** *Arcadia shall continue to meet acceptable ambient air quality standards set by the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation throughout the planning period.*

**Policy 1.1:** Arcadia will require future industrial activity to meet minimum air pollution performance standards.

**Policy 1.2:** Arcadia will encourage alternative transportation modes such as car-pooling or bicycling to minimize the potential for automobile emission pollution.

**Objective 2:** *Arcadia will conserve, appropriately use and protect the quality and quantity of surface and ground water throughout the planning period.*

**Policy 2.1:** 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 2.2:** Arcadia shall cooperate with property owners and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to coordinate land use permits with SWFWMD's consumptive use permits.

- Policy 2.3:** Arcadia shall cooperate with and support, an emergency water shortage plan developed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Arcadia shall notify local newspapers of the content of the plan, and, during times of water shortage emergency, shall inform the public of key points of the plan through inserts in billing statements issued by the Water Department.
- Policy 2.4:** Arcadia will monitor effluent discharge from the municipal wastewater plant to determine compliance/non-compliance with standards of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation. The City shall follow up on its monitoring program, as its fiscal resources permit, to eliminate point and non-point sources of pollution to the Peace River.
- Policy 2.5:** Arcadia shall conserve, use and protect the Peace River through enforcement of land development regulations, including zoning, site plan review, buffer zone, and stormwater treatment regulations.
- Policy 2.6:** Arcadia shall continue to implement a land development regulation which requires 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.
- Objective 3:** *Arcadia will conserve, appropriately use and protect mineral resources, soils and native vegetative communities throughout the planning period.*
- Policy 3.1:** The City shall require that all development proposals be accompanied by evidence that an inventory of wetlands; soils posing severe limitations to construction; unique habitat; endangered species of wildlife and plants; and areas prone to periodic flooding has been conducted. The City shall further require that the extent to which any development or redevelopment is proposed to be placed in/on, to disturb, or to alter the natural functions of any of these resources be identified. Such identification shall occur at a phase in the development review process that provides the opportunity for the City to review the proposed project to ensure that direct and irreversible impacts on the identified resources are minimized, or in the extreme, mitigated. Where mitigation is approved, wetlands shall be replaced with the same type and form that perform the same function as the wetland lost to development. Where development is determined to encroach upon a resource, the City shall require a specific management plan to be prepared by the developer, which results in no net loss of wetlands and which includes necessary modifications to the proposed development, specific setback and buffers, and clustering of development away from site resources, to ensure the protection, preservation or natural functions of the resource. Wetlands are restricted to only residential development at not more than 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres. The minimum setback shall be 25 feet and the average of all setbacks from the resource shall be 40

feet. Areas designated as buffers shall preserve all natural vegetative cover, except where drainage-ways and access paths are approved to cross the buffer. Buffers may be supplemented only with native trees, shrubs and ground covers. Final development orders shall be contingent upon implementation of every specific management plan, which plans shall be consistent with all natural resource protection policies of the Conservation Element of this Plan.

**Policy 3.2:** Should any natural reservations be identified in amendments or revisions to the Recreation and Open Space element of this plan, this Conservation Element shall likewise be amended or revised to provide protection to such designated areas.

**Policy 3.3:** Arcadia shall consider topographic, hydrologic, soil characteristics and vegetative cover factors in the site plan review process of proposed developments. Arcadia shall work with the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission and the Soil and Water Conservation District to use Best Management Practices for the protection of topographic, hydrologic, soil characteristics and vegetative cover factors in the site plan review process of proposed developments. Best Management Practices will be used during all phases of development. Best Management Practices are intended to provide for: proper ground cover on construction sites; nonpoint source control; and proper land use and buffering standards.

**Policy 3.4:** Arcadia shall establish, with DeSoto County, consistently worded and enforced regulations designed to conserve, appropriately use and protect unique vegetative communities located jointly within the boundaries of the City and the County.

**Policy 3.5:** Extraction of mineral resources within the City limits of Arcadia shall be prohibited.

**Objective 4:** *Arcadia will conserve, appropriately use and protect wildlife, wildlife habitat, fisheries, floodplains and marine habitat throughout the planning period.*

**Policy 4.1:** Arcadia shall conserve, appropriately use and protect wildlife and wildlife habitat occurring within the City's jurisdiction through enforcement of Policy 3.1 of the Conservation Element.

**Policy 4.2:** Zoning, conservation easements, or other methods will be employed to protect habitats occupied by endangered or threatened species. Cooperation with the Department of Environmental Regulation and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will assist in the determination of any such habitats in the City.

**Policy 4.3:** Arcadia shall conserve, use and protect its floodplains and the Peace River fishery through enforcement of land development regulations, including zoning, site plan review, buffer zone, and stormwater treatment regulations.

**Objective 5:** *Throughout the planning period, Arcadia shall meet its obligations under federal and state laws and regulations regarding the management of hazardous wastes produced in the City.*

**Policy 5.1:** Arcadia shall cooperate with DeSoto County's Amnesty Days program as an incentive to collect hazardous wastes generated in the City.

**Policy 5.2:** Arcadia shall cooperate with DeSoto County to ensure the proper disposal of household hazardous wastes generated in the City at the County's designated household hazardous waste collection center.

**OBJECTIVE 6:** *The City of Arcadia shall encourage the integration of public and private investments in green infrastructure (interconnected network of open spaces, and natural areas).*

**Policy 6.1:** The City shall seek all opportunities for public and private investment in acquiring and conserving an interconnected network of open spaces, natural areas, and agricultural lands. The network will provide for:

- a. Protection of natural resources and wildlife habitat;
- b. Habitat corridors through linked open spaces;
- c. Protection of historic and cultural resources;
- d. Recreational opportunities;
- e. Community health benefits;
- f. Economic development opportunities; and
- g. Multi-use trails connecting population centers to natural areas.

**Policy 6.2:** The City of Arcadia shall coordinate with DeSoto County to assure connectivity and public enjoyment of a green network by all City residents.

**Policy 6.2:** Neighborhoods and subdivisions shall incorporate measures to connect to or enhance the City's green infrastructure network.