

**CONSERVATION ELEMENT
Goal, Objectives and Policies**

**City of Avon Park Comprehensive Plan
Adopted December 26, 1990
Amended September 1992**

GOAL: **Conserve, protect and manage the natural resources of the City of Avon Park.**

Objective 1:

Avon Park shall continue to meet ambient air quality standards set by the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation. [9J-5.013(2)(b)(1)]

Policy 1.1: Avon Park will require future industrial activity to meet minimum pollution performance standards. [9J-5.013(2)(c)(1)]

Policy 1.2: By implementing the Recreation and Open Space Element, Avon Park encourages alternative transportation modes such as bicycling and walking to minimize the potential for automobile emission pollution. [9J-5.013(2)(c)]

Objective 2:

Through the establishment of minimum standards for the quality of stormwater runoff and limiting impervious surface coverage, the City of Avon Park shall ensure that future development does not degrade the quality of groundwater resources, and that future development allows for aquifer recharge. [9J-5.013(2)(b)(2)] [9J-5.013(2)(b)(2)]

Policy 2.1: By July 1, 1991, Avon Park shall cooperate and coordinate with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Department of Environmental Regulation and the Central Florida Regional Planning Council in the development of a public supply wellfield protection program regarding water wells and zones of contribution. The City Manager of Avon Park shall implement this program. [9J-5.013(2)(c)(1)]

Policy 2.2: By July 1, 1992, Avon Park shall, in cooperation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, implement a workable emergency water conservation plan. [9J-5.013 (2)(c)(4)]

Policy 2.3: To allow aquifer recharge, the City of Avon Park establishes the following guidelines for impervious surface coverage: impervious surfaces in single-family development up to two units per acre shall not exceed 20 percent of the development site; impervious surfaces in residential development between two and seven units per acre shall not exceed 30 percent of the development site; impervious surfaces in multi-family development of more than seven units per acre shall not exceed 50 percent of the development site; and impervious surfaces in other types of development, including commercial, industrial and public facilities, shall not exceed 80 percent of the development site. No reduction by new development and redevelopment within a "high recharge area" in the aquifer recharge quality or quantity (volumes and rates) and for Subsurface storage and flow to simulate pre-development conditions. If native vegetative or natural communities, as identified in Conservation Policy 3.4, exist on a proposed development site, preservation or protection criteria as established in Conservation Policies 3.4 through 3.7 shall take precedence over impervious surface criteria as established by this policy. Avon Park shall work with the Soil Conservation Service to monitor the impacts of development on the quantity of aquifer recharge and, in consultation with the Soil Conservation Service shall reevaluate impervious surface standards if the rate of aquifer recharge diminishes. All future development shall also be required to ensure that the quality of water that replenishes groundwater resources meets minimum standards as set forth by Chapter 17-25, F.A.C., Chapter 17-302, F.A.C., and Chapter 40D-4, F.A.C. [9J-5.013 (2)(c)(1)]

Objective 3:

By July 1, 1991, Avon Park will have adopted protective measures to adequately conserve and use minerals, soils and native vegetative communities. [9J-5.013(2)(b)(3)]

Policy 3.1: Within one year after plan submission, Avon Park shall implement land development regulations to ensure the protection of native vegetative communities from destruction by development activities. Regulations shall address the on-site and off-site preservation of native vegetative communities, and the utilization of native plant species for landscaping. [9J-5.013(2)(c)(3)] CRPP p. 196 (d)(1)

Policy 3.2: Should any natural reservations be identified in amendments or revisions to the Recreation and Open Space element of this plan, the Conservation Element shall likewise be amended or revised to provide protection to such designated areas. [9J-5.013(2)(c)(7)]

Policy 3.3: Upon Plan adoption, the City of Avon Park shall work with the Florida Game and

Freshwater Fish Commission, the Soil and Water Conservation District or other appropriate state, regional or local agencies to develop 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 development, and are intended to provide for: proper ground cover on construction sites; nonpoint source control; and proper land use and buffering standards. [9J-5.013(2)(c)(2)]

- Policy 3.4: Natural communities or native vegetative communities that shall be protected by land development regulations include the Longleaf Pine - Turkey Oak Hills natural community and the Sand Pine Scrub vegetative community. The developer of a proposed development site shall survey vegetative or natural communities present on the site. If a proposed development site is determined to contain a Longleaf Pine - Turkey Oaks Hill natural community or a Sand Pine Scrub vegetative community, a natural resource protection plan shall be prepared and be a part of the development application. The natural resource protection plan shall, at a minimum, meet the requirements for the preservation or protection of natural or vegetative communities as specified in Policies 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7 of this Conservation Element.
- Policy 3.5: When endangered plant or animal species, including Florida Panther, Florida bonamia, Pygmy fringetree, Snakeroot, Highlands scrub hypericum, Scrub blazing star, Scrub lupine, Sand spikemoss, Claspig warea or Carter's Mustard, exist within a Longleaf Pine - Turkey Oak Hills natural community or a Sand Pine Scrub vegetative community, the natural or vegetative community shall be preserved and protected on-site. Setback requirements, buffers, or conservation easements shall be employed to ensure the preservation and protection of endangered species.
- Policy 3.6: When threatened plant or animal species, including Southeastern kestrel, Red cockaded woodpecker, Blue-tailed mole skink, Eastern indigo snake, Short-tailed snake, Florida scrub jay, Florida sandhill crane, Sand Skink, Curtis milkweed, Paper-like nailwort, Scrub plum or Scrub palm, or when plant or animal species of special concern, including Florida mouse, Fox squirrel, Gopher tortoise, Gopher frog or Florida pine snake, exist within a Longleaf Pine - Turkey Oak Hills natural community or Sand Pine Scrub vegetative community, the natural or vegetative community shall be protected. Seventy-five percent of the natural or vegetative community shall remain undisturbed. Setback requirements, buffers, conservation easements, or clustering of development shall be employed to ensure the protection of endangered species or species of special concern.
- Policy 3.7: When a Longleaf Pine - Turkey Oak Hills natural community or Sand Pine Scrub vegetative community exists and does not contain plant or animal species

designated as endangered, threatened, or a species of special concern, the natural or vegetative or community shall be protected. Sixty percent of the natural or vegetative community shall remain undisturbed. Setback requirements, buffers, conservation easements or clustering of development shall be employed. If the natural resource protection plan provides evidence that protection of natural or vegetative communities is best served by off-site mitigation, such mitigation may be permitted. Such evidence shall include an assessment based on the size, location and viability of a natural or vegetative community. Off-site mitigation shall be in the form of the purchase and dedication of a site containing an equal or greater amount of a similar natural or vegetative community, or by a contribution to a City or County land bank.

Policy 3.8: Upon Plan adoption, the City of Avon Park shall provide for the designation and protection of specimen trees, including Longleaf pine, Turkey oak, Bluejack oak, Chapman oak, Myrtle oak, Sand live oak and Sand pine, and shall provide for the use of native vegetation in landscaping regulations applicable to vehicle parking areas and buffer zones.

Policy 3.9: Avon Park shall coordinate with Highlands County to establish a county-wide land bank for the purpose of protecting native vegetative communities. Avon Park supports the creation of a committee to advise the Board of County Commissioners on sites suitable for purchase or otherwise to be obtained to protect native vegetative communities, and recommends municipal representation on this committee. [9J-5.013(2)(c)(8)]

Objective 4:

By July 1, 1991, Avon Park shall provide measures in its land development regulations that conserve, appropriately use and protect wildlife, wildlife habitats, lakes, and beaches. [9J-5.013(2)(b)(4)]

Policy 4.1: Avon Park shall include in its land development regulations measures to ensure that where alteration of wetlands is necessary to allow for the reasonable use of the property, the developer will either restore the disturbed wetlands to their original status or create new wetlands to make up for the loss. [9J-5.013(2)(c)(6)]

Policy 4.2: Zoning, conservation easements, or other methods will be employed to protect habitats occupied by rare or endangered species. Cooperation with the Department of Environmental Regulation and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will assist in the determination of any such habitats in the City. [9J-5.013(2)(c)(5)]

Policy 4.3: Environmentally sensitive lands within the City shall be designated and protected through enforcement of land development regulations, in accordance with the goal and objectives of this element. [9J-5.013(2)(c)(9)]

Policy 4.4: Avon Park shall conserve, use and protect its lakes and beaches through enforcement of land development regulations, including zoning, site plan review, buffer zone, and stormwater treatment regulations. [9J-5.013(2)(c)(6)]

Objective 5:

Upon plan adoption, Avon Park shall protect its natural resources by improving the management of hazardous waste generated within its jurisdiction.

Policy 5.1: Avon Park shall assist Highlands County with its "Amnesty Days" program as an incentive to collect hazardous wastes generated in the City. Such assistance shall take the form of publicizing the County's Amnesty Days program and schedule to Avon Park residents. [9J-5.013(2)(c)(10)]

[RESERVED]

