

CONSERVATION & COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

GOAL 1: The City of North Port shall protect, conserve and enhance its natural, environmental and historic resources to ensure sustainable environmental quality for the future.

-Natural Communities and Wildlife-

Objective 1: Upon adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, the City will review all applicable ordinances which provide for the protection and enhancement of its critical water resources and biologically productive flora and fauna, and wildlife habitats and initiate the deletion, revision or adoption of ordinances, based upon supporting data and analysis, which shall include state and federal regulations and guidelines.

Policy 1.1: The City shall, through implementation of the Unified Land Development Code, require that for all future land use map change proposals, the applicant submit supporting data and analysis pertaining to rare, endangered and threatened species, and species of special concern. Prior to issuance of development permits, including land clearing, the applicant shall provide proof of compliance with appropriate state and federal regulations.

Policy 1.2: The City shall consult with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as applicable, prior to the issuance of a land use approval that would result in an adverse impact to any rare, endangered threatened species, and species of special concern, as shown on the Environmental Assessment for all proposed Future Land Use Map amendments and major development submittals.

Policy 1.3: The City shall make available conservation easements, transfer of development rights, and fee simple acquisition or other appropriate techniques for the protection of rare, endangered and threatened species, and species of special concern, when the City, through consultation with appropriate state and/or federal agencies, determines that an action will impact an environmentally significant site.

Policy 1.4: The City shall continue to coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the identification and monitoring of known Southern Bald Eagle nests and creation and implementation of nest protection plans for development proposals.

Policy 1.5: The City shall continue to cooperate with Desoto, Charlotte, and Sarasota Counties, the SWFRPC, and other local, regional, state, and federal agencies, as applicable, in order to conserve, appropriately use, or protect unique vegetative communities located within more than one of these local jurisdictions.

Policy 1.6: The City shall continue to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to identify occupied

Florida Scrub Jay areas in North Port, and will coordinate with USFWS to work with property owners who are affected by Florida Scrub Jay issues.

Policy 1.7: If determined necessary through coordination with the USFWS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the City shall consider developing a Scrub Jay Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) specific to the City of North Port, or may develop a North Port specific component to be included as part of the proposed Sarasota County HCP.

Policy 1.8: The City shall work with developers and land owners to preserve natural wetlands to the greatest extent possible in order to preserve wetland habitat vital to wading birds and wildlife, especially listed species, and to maintain natural surface water levels in wetland systems and associated habitat. Where appropriate and feasible, the City shall continue to support the acquisition of important wetland habitats/systems, and it is also preferred that mitigation for any wetlands that are taken due to development activity be located within the City of North Port or in mitigation banks adjacent to the City.

Policy 1.9: Per the revised State requirements regarding the protection of gopher tortoises, the City shall coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the USFWS, as applicable, to develop a program for protection of tortoises, protection of tortoise habitat, and mitigation for any takings.

Policy 1.10: The City shall coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the USFWS, the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND), and other local, state, and federal agencies, as applicable, to maintain and enhance manatee populations throughout the region. Coordination activities may include, but shall not be limited to, development review, enforcement of manatee protection zones, and public education.

Policy 1.11: The City shall amend its Land Development Regulations to include design components that enhance the movement of wildlife through the maintenance or creation of wildlife corridors and a network of habitat connectivity. Such corridors may include, but not be limited to, preservation of identified natural wildlife corridors such as the Myakkahatchee Creek greenway or similar systems, or may include components such as animal underpasses. This network will be coordinated in conjunction with similar efforts in Sarasota County and surrounding jurisdictions. Priority will be given in creating or enhancing connections that achieve greater net ecological benefit compared to maintaining existing isolated habitat fragments.

Policy 1.12: Consistent with Policy 9.20 in the Future Land Use Element, the City shall amend the Unified land development code as applicable, utilizing the site and development review process to encourage the use of “green” design practices in public and private developments.

Objective 2: The City shall strive to identify all sustainable native vegetative communities and conserve and maintain these communities as balanced, biologically productive ecosystems while allowing appropriate development.

Policy 2.1: The City shall seek assistance from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FDEP, and other local, state, and federal environmental agencies in identifying sustainable flora and fauna habitats, including the protection and conservation of the natural functions of existing soils.

Policy 2.2: The City shall seek assistance from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FDEP, and other local, state, and federal environmental agencies in the protection and conservation of its fisheries, rivers, bays, lakes, floodplains, harbors, wetlands including estuarine marshes, freshwater beaches and shores, marine habitats, backyard wildlife habitats and boater awareness of manatees.

Policy 2.3: By 2020, the City shall conduct an inventory analysis of areas containing critical wildlife and upland habitat in conjunction with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and other stakeholders. This information shall be made available to the public and utilized by staff in the development review process.

Policy 2.4: The City shall continue to seek local, state, and federal funding sources in the protection, restoration, and management of critical environmental systems including uplands, wetlands, and habitats critical to identified listed species.

Objective 3: The City shall encourage the preservation of existing native vegetation, the creation of an urban forest, and the use of xeriscape methods for landscaping public and private development. Tree preservation activities and the planting of trees shall result in an overall, citywide, phased-in, tree canopy no later than build-out that ranges from 35% to 80% of the tree canopy that existed at the time of adoption of this Comprehensive Plan in 1997.

Policy 3.1: The City shall regularly review, and amend as applicable, the Land Development Regulations applying to tree protection and landscaping guidelines for development to promote the preservation and use of native and drought tolerant species in landscaping in order to reduce the depletion of the surficial aquifer.

Policy 3.2: The City will continue to review landscape/tree ordinances from other communities and, further, review tree protection/preservation initiatives that would benefit the City. Based upon these reviews, revisions to the tree protection and landscape code shall be implemented.

Policy 3.3: The Land Development Regulations shall continue to prohibit the planting of exotic noxious vegetation including, but not limited to: *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), and Australian Pine (*Casurina*) as listed by State authorities.

Policy 3.4: The City shall utilize the incentive program provided in the Unified Land Development Code for developers/builders to provide appropriate trees to the City when a lot is cleared for development and the developer/builder removes existing native trees. Further, the City shall be aggressive in its enforcement of violations to the tree and landscape code.

Policy 3.5: The City shall plant trees, on City property only, according to the following priorities:

1. In existing neighborhoods to replace dead or dying street trees.
2. In existing neighborhoods to complete or expand upon existing street tree patterns.
3. On park sites, open space areas, or other appropriate public areas to provide shaded picnic or pedestrian walkways.
4. In gateway areas, as defined in the Future Land Use Element. Upon adoption of this policy, the City shall prioritize this sub-policy by planting a maximum of 25% of developer/builder-provided trees to gateway areas for a two-year period.
5. On sites containing public buildings frequented by citizens such as City Hall, Multi-purpose building, etc.
6. Along arterial and collector roadways that traverse the City and along local roadways with a direct connection to an arterial or collector roadway where practicable.

Policy 3.6: Recognizing that factors, both natural and man induced, will result in the diminution of the City's natural forest/tree canopy as the City continues to grow, the City shall, through policies, regulations, and programs strive to develop an urban forest comprised of a mix of native forest land and planted trees which maintains or enhances the City's tree canopy to levels equivalent to 35% - 80% of the tree canopy that existed at the time of adoption of this Plan in 1997.

Policy 3.7: The City shall conduct a study to determine the approximate percentage of coverage offered by the City's tree canopy at the time of adoption of the 1997 Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 3.8: Management activities for all City-owned lands shall include, where appropriate and feasible, removal of exotic and invasive vegetation and re-planting with native vegetation.

Policy 3.9: Management activities for all City-owned outdoor recreation parks and facilities shall include, where appropriate and feasible, measures to restore and enhance degraded natural plant communities, habitat and natural hydrology.

Policy 3.10: The City shall encourage the preservation of existing native vegetation, the planting of native vegetation, particularly plant types that are highly water-absorbent, and the use of xeriscape methods for landscaping public and private development. Examples of plants and planting methods can be found in documents including but not limited to: *Florida Friendly Landscaping Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design* and the *University of Florida's Friendly Yards and Neighborhood Handbook*.

Policy 3.11: The City shall encourage the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods as an environmentally sound way to control pests.

Objective 4: The surface waters and groundwater resources of the City shall be protected to ensure that their biological, ecological, and hydrological functions are maintained, conserved, or improved.

Policy 4.1: All protected wetlands shall include upland buffers, pursuant to State and Federal requirements, adjacent to these wetlands for habitat diversity, edge enhancement, and the promotion of wildlife conservation.

Policy 4.2: The City shall continue the water quality monitoring and maintenance program for its canal system to ensure adequate protection of its potable water and recreational resources.

Policy 4.3: To maintain or enhance water quality in area waterways, the City shall review and amend the Unified Land Development Code as needed to require appropriate landscaping, including natural materials and amounts to be installed or retained, at the waterline of canals and waterways for new development.

Policy 4.4: Protection of wetland quality and function will be prioritized as follows:

- Avoidance of impacts
- Minimization of impacts
- Mitigation of impacts

Policy 4.5: The City shall continue to work closely, and coordinate with, the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Federal Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) in the enforcement of state regulations regarding mitigation of wetland degradation and/or destruction.

Policy 4.6: No issuance of land clearing or other development permits shall occur until all necessary SWFWMD Environmental Resource Permits have been presented to the City for review and acceptance.

Policy 4.7: Land use development activities in important groundwater recharge areas, individual wellheads, and well fields, when identified, shall be consistent with water resources protection. To better protect these areas the City, consistent with Policy 6.9 of the Potable Water Element, shall through ordinance develop a new section of the Unified Land Development Code to address wellhead protection. The section will identify inappropriate land uses and facilities and shall be consistent with State legislation.

Policy 4.8: The City of North Port will continue to coordinate with other governmental and private entities to protect water resources.

Policy 4.9: Consistent with City utility master planning initiatives, the City shall continue to expand its system of municipal potable water, sanitary sewer, and reclaimed water service in order to decrease the number of private water wells and septic systems that impact surface waters, aquifers, and the natural environment.

Policy 4.10: The City shall continue to enforce its earthmoving ordinance in order to conserve and protect the natural resources within the City of North Port, while also promoting opportunities for responsible development.

Policy 4.11: Consistent with Objective 7 of the Potable Water section of this Comprehensive Plan, the City shall continue to implement and enforce its water conservation code, and will modify restrictions whenever called upon by SWFWMD consistent with the SWFWMD Water Shortage Plan.

Objective 5: The City shall continue management and protection programs and procedures to preserve and enhance the Myakkahatchee Creek as a Class I potable water supply and natural resource amenity.

Policy 5.1: For those lots along the Myakkahatchee Creek where buy-back purchase or TDR programs may not be feasible, strict local ordinances will continue regulating stormwater runoff, the handling and storage of hazardous and special wastes, and native vegetation removal. Accordingly, the Future Land Use Map will continue to designate this area as Recreation/Open Space, which provides strict regulations to mitigate the impacts of future development. These ordinances and regulations will provide for incorporation of upland buffers adjacent to wetlands, identifying and remedying artesian wells, remedying any point sources of inadequately treated stormwater which may be identified, strict land development regulations, stringent regulations regarding sewage disposal methods appropriate to the area, and other restrictions as deemed appropriate. Lawfully existing commercial and recreational land uses may be considered for Working Waterfront designation after further recommendations by City Commission.

Policy 5.2: The City shall seek the assistance and advice of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and other appropriate agencies, in order to achieve the nomination and eventual purchase of lands bordering the Myakkahatchee Creek under the Save Our Rivers program, SWIM, Florida Forever, and other appropriate grant programs.

Policy 5.3: Consistent with the Myakkahatchee Creek Greenway Master Plan, protection and preservation of valuable plant and wildlife resources along the Myakkahatchee Creek shall remain a high priority.

Policy 5.4: In protection of the Myakkahatchee Creek as a Class 1 potable water supply source, the City shall continue efforts toward the completion of acquiring Tier 1 and 2 properties along each side of the creek and, further, shall support the acquisition of other environmentally significant properties within the watershed.

Objective 6: The City of North Port shall continue to enforce the City's wetland ordinance that conserves and protects the health, function and biological integrity of all remaining viable wetland systems as defined by State agencies in order to prevent the violation of State water quality standards; maintain freshwater storage capabilities; reduce damage to property and loss of life due to flooding; maintain the viability and diversity of native plants and animals and their habitats; and assure the continued conservation of irreplaceable natural resources.

Policy 6.1: No wetland alteration or removal shall be permitted, unless reasonable use of the property is dependent upon said alteration or removal. Appropriate, equitable and compensating mitigation or restoration shall be required for all wetland disturbances, pursuant to State and Federal guidelines. Consistent with Policy 1.8 and Policy 4.4 of this Element, the City shall work with developers to minimize the impacts of developments upon wetland systems. It is also preferred that mitigation for any wetlands that are taken due to development activity be located within the City of North Port or in mitigation banks adjacent to the City.

Policy 6.2: All necessary state and federal permit approvals shall be obtained prior to permitting an activity that impacts existing wetland areas. Prior to the next Evaluation and Appraisal Report, the City shall evaluate all applicable sections of the Unified Land Development Code to ensure that they are consistent with any revisions to applicable State or Federal wetland regulations.

Policy 6.3: In order to preserve and enhance the function of the 100-year floodplain and associated habitats, including wetlands, the City shall utilize the use of Transfer of Development Rights, or other techniques, and appropriate construction methods within the FEMA FIRM 100-year floodplain. Further, prior to the next Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) deadline, the City shall review applicable sections of the City's Unified Land Development Code to determine whether amendments will be necessary to strengthen the City's ability to protect the floodplain, and associated habitats.

Policy 6.4: The dredging or filling of the Myakkahatchee Creek shall be prohibited, except for that required for canal maintenance, public recreation, improvements to the drainage system, navigation in the tidal portion of the creek, or potable water supply requirements. Any such activities shall be coordinated with the appropriate local, state, or federal agencies.

Policy 6.5: The City, shall maintain compliance with the Wetlands Protection Ordinance to ensure provisions for development density/intensity in close proximity to jurisdictional wetland areas are followed. Such provisions shall be based on State and Federal wetland protection regulations. The City shall continue to require adherence to Southwest Florida Water Management District regulations, as well as other appropriate State, Federal, or County wetland enforcement agencies.

Objective 7: The City will continue to implement programs and procedures for the protection, preservation and conservation of coastal water resources and fresh water resources, including, but not limited to waterways and canals.

Policy 7.1: The City, which has representation on the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, shall continue to coordinate with this body by participating in its resource planning and management activities, as directed by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council. The City shall also attempt to take advantage of the resource protection activities and measures provided by the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) program

legislated by the State of Florida. The various elements of these programs will be considered for incorporation into the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 7.2: Recognizing that the City of North Port lies within the Charlotte Harbor drainage basin, the City will support, and where applicable, participate in the resource management activities directed by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program in their implementation of the regional Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) "Committing to Our Future" (2013).

Policy 7.3: The City shall maintain staff representation to the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program.

Policy 7.4: Development which affects the designated "Wild and Scenic Protection Zone" of the Myakka River shall meet standards which conform to, or are more stringent than, standards developed pursuant to Section 258.501, Florida Statutes, the "Myakka River Wild and Scenic Designation and Preservation Act," including standards found in the Myakka Wild and Scenic Management Plan as adopted and amended. All necessary "Myakka River Permits" shall be secured from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection prior to the approval of development by the City of North Port, as applicable.

Policy 7.5: The City shall abide by the 2007 "State-Local Agreement for Administering the Myakka River Wild and Scenic Protection Zone" between the City, FDEP, and FDCA regarding the administration of the Myakka River Wild and Scenic Protection Zone, as established in Section 258.501, Florida Statutes.

Policy 7.6: Consistent with protection of the Myakka Wild and Scenic River, shoreline hardening shall be prohibited on the Myakka River.

Policy 7.7: Support the efforts and consider recommendations from intergovernmental organizations concerning the Myakka River Watershed.

Policy 7.8: Enforce the Myakka River Protection Zone regulations and all City regulations designed to protect the Myakka River and the wild and scenic nature of the River.

Policy 7.9: The City will support protection of the Myakka River corridor through the implementation of the City Myakka River Wild and Scenic protection requirements. Buffers for all development within the Myakka River protection zone shall be a minimum of 220 feet.

Objective 8: The City shall increase protection of the natural functions of the FEMA - FIRM 100-year floodplain through the establishment of revised land development regulations so that the flood-carrying and flood-storage capacity are maintained.

Policy 8.1: The City shall review and update appropriate flood damage prevention ordinances to ensure compatibility with all current state and federal water management regulatory controls, recommendations from the Big Slough Watershed Study, and

consistency with the policies of this Plan.

Policy 8.2: The City shall, as needed, review land development regulations affecting land development activities within designated "Conservation" areas, and designated "Recreation and Open Space" corridors on the Future Land Use Map for consistency with new and modified policies that are the result of City, State, or Federal studies, guidelines, or laws.

Policy 8.3: The City shall continue its participation in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System and will undertake those activities necessary to maintain or enhance its rating in order to provide increased awareness of flood protection, reduce damage from floods, and to provide reduced flood insurance premiums for residents of the City.

Policy 8.4: To protect public health, safety, and welfare and to mitigate property loss in the built environment, the City of North Port shall enforce:

1. The most recent Florida Building Code which provides for wind-resistant building construction;
2. The applicable flood-resistant construction requirements in the Florida Building Code; and
3. The applicable flood plain management regulations set forth in 44 C.F.R. part 60.

Objective 9: The City of North Port shall meet or exceed the minimum air quality levels established by the FDEP.

Policy 9.1: The City shall continue to cooperate with the County's air quality monitoring program.

Policy 9.2: Industrial land uses shall be located where they minimize the impact on current air quality standards.

Policy 9.3: The City shall reduce the potential for automobile emissions pollution by amending the Unified Land Development Code where appropriate and by reviewing the following:

- developments such as Activity Centers;
- require vegetative buffer strips, including street trees and native plants, between arterial and collector roadways and residential development; and
- promote alternative transportation modes such as car-pooling, public transit and bicycle and pedestrian paths.

Policy 9.4: The City shall encourage "green development" which reduces the overall impact to the natural and human environment, including air quality and methods to protect the water resources.

Objective 10: Consistent with the City's Archaeological Resource Protection Ordinance, the City shall take action to preserve and protect all significant historic and archaeological sites, as

they become known, located within the City of North Port. Such actions may include partnerships with other government agencies, colleges/universities, or private organizations.

Policy 10.1: Per the City's Unified Land Development Code, including the Archaeological Protection Ordinance, the City shall consider the utilization of transfer of development rights as a means of preserving those platted lots in the Archaic Indian Midden and the burial area in the associated slough located near Little Salt Spring, Atwater site, and other sites as they become known.

Policy 10.2: The City shall support establishing the extent of the Little Salt Spring Indian settlement by working with the known American Indian tribes and descendants of this settlement, Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources, Sarasota County and the University of Miami. Agreements between the City and owners of the platted properties in question shall allow for research in order to further scientific knowledge of the settlement area.

Policy 10.3: The City shall abide by and enforce its Archaeological Resource Protection Ordinance to protect significant archaeological and historic sites.

Policy 10.4: The City shall support the acquisition and preservation of historic or archaeologically sensitive sites. These actions may include partnerships with other government agencies, academic institutions, or private organizations.

Policy 10.5: The City shall continue to work with local, state, and federal agencies to identify and protect archaeological and historic assets associated with Warm Mineral Springs.

-Soils-

Objective 11: The City of North Port shall protect and maintain its soils as an integral part of the City's natural resources and economy.

Policy 11.1: To preserve and protect native soils, the City will continue to implement the erosion control guidelines stipulated in the City's Unified Land Development Code.

Policy 11.2: To preserve and protect native soils, the City shall encourage alternatives to the utilization of fill for flood protection of buildings including the construction of stem walls and piling supported structures.

-Public Awareness-

Objective 12: The City will continue programs to enhance public awareness of natural resources in order to better understand the importance of these resources and the need for their proper management and conservation. Methods for increasing public awareness may include, but not necessarily be limited to, public presentations, education programs, and publications.

Policy 12.1: The City shall develop education materials concerning sound environmental practices to be distributed to builders, developers and property owners.

Policy 12.2: The City will educate the public on the value of natural resources, especially threatened and endangered species through interpretive displays and trails at recreation sites and parks.

Policy 12.3: The City shall establish guidelines, recommendations, and incentives encouraging private landowners to use good management practices to protect the habitats of rare, endangered and threatened species and species of special concern, based on existing supporting data and analysis.

Policy 12.4: The City shall maintain, or create, partnerships with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies to provide educational materials, conduct public information workshops, speak with local service clubs, special interest groups, schools, and other stakeholders.

Policy 12.5: To promote “green development” within North Port, the City shall provide educational materials created in-house or by other applicable local, state, federal, or private agencies to increase the awareness of such practices to the general public and the development industry. The City shall also support presentations and workshops that accomplish this educational goal.

Policy 12.6: The City shall continue to develop educational materials and programming that will assist residents and visitors in gaining a better understanding of the City’s natural archaeological and historic assets.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

Goal 1: Lessen the impact of a destructive storm or other natural or man-induced event on human life, public facilities, private structures, infrastructure, and coastal natural resources in the City of North Port.

Objective 1: The City shall continue to require infrastructure necessary to meet its future land use demand for coastal infrastructure consistent with public safety, to maintain Levels of Service as described in the various elements of this Comprehensive Plan, while limiting impacts to natural and historic resources.

Policy 1.1: The City will continue to regulate development throughout the planning period to ensure that public facilities are provided concurrent with need and to maintain Levels of Service as described in the various elements of this Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 1.2: Man-made structures shall meet all applicable height and set-back requirements when constructed within the FEMA "A" zones or SLOSH Category 1 zones of the City of North Port. This policy shall continue to be reflected in the City's Building Code.

Policy 1.3: Public funds shall not be used for infrastructure or service expansion or improvements to areas designated as Coastal High-Hazard Areas (CHHA) or in the “A” Zone (as determined by the latest adopted FIRM Maps, unless such funds are necessary to provide:

1. Services necessary to ensure public access to public waterfront recreation/conservation areas;
2. Services that restore or enhance natural resources;
3. Services to existing subdivisions (structures approved for development prior to the adoption of this policy);
4. Services and/or facilities which are deemed necessary to maintain existing level-of-service standards;
5. Support to public and private land development specifically designed to minimize storm hazards as deemed necessary for such public facilities by the Land Development Regulations.
6. Adequate evacuation times in the event emergencies as specified in the *Florida Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program, Volume 4-9, Florida Division of Emergency Management and Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, 2015*; and/or
7. An overriding public interest to ensure public health, safety, and welfare such as essential life safety services.

This policy shall not apply to buildings and structures proposed within developments of regional impact for which master development orders have been adopted pursuant to Florida Statutes, prior to the date of adoption of this policy.

Policy 1.4: The City, through implementation of its Unified Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan, master planning processes, and support of local, state, or federal initiatives or agreements, shall limit impacts related to development or redevelopment activities which could have negative impacts upon wetlands, water quality, water quantity, wildlife habitat, living marine resources, shorelines, and historic resources within the coastal area.

Policy 1.5: The City shall continue to apply for grants, implement projects (such as the Myakkahatchee Creek initiative) and support local, state, or federal initiatives aimed at the restoration or enhancement of disturbed or degraded natural resources including shorelines, estuaries, wetlands, and drainage systems. The City shall also support programs aimed at mitigating future disruptions or degradations of significant natural systems in our region.

Policy 1.6: The City shall support initiatives such as the acquisition of lots and parcels along creeks, rivers, bays and harbors, which decrease the number of residents, and their associated impacts, living within FEMA designated “A” Zones and Category 1 SLOSH Zones located adjacent to the Myakkahatchee Creek and Myakka River.

Policy 1.7: Consistent with Policies 7.4 and 7.5 in the “Conservation” section of this Comprehensive Plan, the City shall abide by its “State – Local Agreement for Administering the Myakka River Wild and Scenic Protection Zone” with FDEP and FDCA regarding the “Wild and Scenic” Myakka River, and shall coordinate development proposals of any type

that would have an impact upon the shoreline, the River, and the plant and wildlife that are dependent upon the River with all applicable agencies.

Policy 1.8: The City shall designate the “Coastal High-Hazard Area” (CHHA) as the area below the storm surge line of a Category 1 hurricane, as established by a Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) computer model. The CHHA shall be depicted on the City’s Future Land Use Map Series, Maps 2-3 and 2-4, and are hereby adopted as the City’s CHHA designation maps.

Objective 2: The City shall continue to utilize, and amend when necessary, land development regulations which establish standards for types, sizes, densities, and intensities of all land use categories, minimize development within the established “Coastal High Hazard Area,” aid in the provision of emergency shelters for current and future residents, and enhance the City and regional hurricane evacuation network, consistent with the County and Regional Hurricane Evacuation Plans

Policy 2.1: The City will continue to provide staff support and assistance to aid the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, Sarasota and Charlotte Counties, and other appropriate local governments and agencies, in the identification of public and private shelter, including rental space, for all City residents, consistent with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's Hurricane Evacuation Plan.

Policy 2.2: The City will participate in all transportation planning efforts to ensure that minimum evacuation times can be maintained during an evacuation on the City's evacuation routes consistent with the Southwest Florida Regional Strategic Plan.

Policy 2.3: The City shall continue to work with the Sarasota-Manatee MPO, the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, FDOT, and other applicable local, state, and federal agencies to seek funding for additional capacity to be added to the Sumter Boulevard, Toledo Blade Boulevard, and River Road Hurricane Evacuation Routes in order to decrease evacuation times for residents and visitors if the region is threatened by tropical systems, or other forms of disaster.

Policy 2.4: The City will continue to participate in erosion-prevention and flood-prevention programs for those areas along the City's evacuation routes where erosion and flooding are potential problems.

Policy 2.5: The City shall continue to cooperate with local, state and regional agencies, including the School Board of Sarasota County, to ensure that safe shelter is available for the City's at-risk populace.

Policy 2.6: Consistent with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's Hurricane Evacuation Plan the City shall continue to fulfill its assigned role as specified within the Sarasota County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and its policies regarding hurricane evacuation and sheltering.

Policy 2.7: The City will continue to meet and coordinate with Charlotte and Sarasota County Emergency Management and local Red Cross officials, as well as other local, state, and federal agencies as applicable, for the purpose of identifying and designating additional public and private structures, both inside and outside the City, as hurricane evacuation shelters, consistent with the Regional Hurricane Evacuation Plan.

Policy 2.8: The City will encourage new developments to provide for the shelter needs of their residents or employees.

Objective 3: In order to limit public expenditures that may be construed as subsidizing development and post-disaster redevelopment in coastal high-hazard areas, the City of North Port will continue to regulate the number and type of structures subject to damage in FEMA "A" Zones, or the designated Coastal High Hazard Area. Post-disaster redevelopment plans shall take into consideration the need to limit densities within these zones in order to protect life, property, and limit future public infrastructure needs in those areas, with the exception of the provision of passive recreational access to the water.

Policy 3.1: The City will continue to promote the relocation of repeatedly-damaged structures in FEMA "A" zones, or the designated Coastal High Hazard Area, to safe locations.

Policy 3.2: The City will continue to enforce FEMA, DEP, and local setback and height requirements for the safety of structures, especially those located along the Myakkahatchee Creek, and other similar waterbodies which are in FEMA "A" zones or the designated "Coastal High Hazard Area." Further, the City shall make all efforts to discourage further development, or redevelopment, in such areas, with the exception of providing passive recreational access to these areas.

Policy 3.3: In the event a hurricane strikes, the recovery effort will be accelerated by the immediate distribution of free emergency permits by the appropriate authority for repair and clean up of damage to private and public structures and utilities, to the extent such situations are still marginally usable without such repair.

Policy 3.4: The City will develop and maintain policies on requirements for rebuilding structures that sustain damage after a natural or manmade disaster to current flood mitigation standards and building codes. An existing structure is considered substantially damaged if damage from any origin is sustained and the cost exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before it was damaged.

Policy 3.5: The City shall continue to utilize its Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for emergency management procedures for the periods before, during, and after natural or man-induced disasters impact or threaten the City.

Policy 3.6: Coordinate research and planning efforts between the City, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, and other appropriate agencies in order to update

pertinent sections of the City Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, the Sarasota County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, and the Sarasota County Unified Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS), as applicable, to develop a post-hurricane disaster plan that addresses long term repair and redevelopment activities.

Policy 3.7: Consistent with SARA Title III, North Port Fire Rescue and the City Police Department, in conjunction with the Sarasota County Fire Department, shall continue to cooperate in the preparation of an inventory of hazardous materials generators in the City of North Port, or in unincorporated areas where the City Fire and Police Departments have responsibility. This shall be inclusive of areas both within and outside of the “coastal zone.”

Policy 3.8: For those portions of the City within the Category 1 hurricane zone, the City will investigate limiting the types of development that may occur and requiring Best Management Practices for structural design elements that lessen potential damage to structures and allow freer flow of water, such as elevation of structures on stilts, stem-wall construction and location of parking areas on the ground floor of commercial buildings.

Policy 3.9: Discourage the intensification of land uses within Hurricane Evacuation Zones A and B (Map 5-9, Conservation and Coastal Zone Management Element).

Objective 4: The City will educate the public about the dangers associated with tropical systems, floods, fires, and other natural or man-made disasters and emergencies.

Policy 4.1: The City shall continue its programs to educate the public regarding disasters, disaster preparedness, disaster response, and post-disaster redevelopment and assistance. Such programs include, but are not limited to, public presentations, television and radio programs or advertisements, and publications.

Policy 4.2: The City shall continue to coordinate with other local, state, and federal governments and other public or private agencies, as applicable, to coordinate public education regarding emergency preparedness.

Objective 5: In coordination with Sarasota County and adjacent jurisdictions, the City of North Port shall factor in the impacts of sea level rise in relation to the location and design of existing infrastructure, the location and design of new city-maintained infrastructure and facilities, and in the evaluation of proposed development projects within the City.

Policy 5.1 By 2022 The City will evaluate its existing public facilities and create a report that identifies and provides mitigation recommendations for properties owned and maintained by the City that may be impacted by sea level rise by 2050. The evaluation will be based on the Intermediate High Sea Level Rise scenario for Charlotte Harbor, as shown on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Sea Level Rise Viewer.

Policy 5.2: As part of this report, areas within the City that may be impacted by sea level rise by 2050 shall be identified and development on these sites shall be minimized unless mitigation measures are taken by the property owner to ensure the future viability of the site.

Policy 5.3: The City will identify public investments and infrastructure at risk to sea level rise and other climate impacts. At least every five (5) years, the City will assess the vulnerability to public facilities and services, including but not limited to: water and wastewater facilities, roads, bridges, governmental buildings, medical facilities, and other assets plus the remainder of at risk areas.

Policy 5.4: The City will develop and implement adaptation strategies for areas vulnerable to tidal flooding, storm surge, stormwater runoff, salt water intrusion, and other impacts exacerbated by sea level rise with the intent to increase the City's comprehensive adaptability and resiliency capacities.

Policy 5.5: The City will pursue public and private funding sources for development and implementation of the City's comprehensive adaptability and resiliency strategies by, but not limited to:

- a. Federal and State grants and technical expertise assistance
- b. Local Stormwater Utility Fees and Capital Improvement Plan prioritization
- c. Public/Private Partnerships
- d. Other sources

Policy 5.6: When appropriate, the City shall participate and coordinate with governmental, non-governmental, and other appropriate agencies proposed application requests for funding adaption implementation projects.