

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

GOAL 1: The City of North Port shall provide a stormwater management system which protects real and personal properties, preserves natural resources, maintains recharge to the surficial aquifer, and maintains or improves the quality of surface water runoff.

Objective 1: The City will continue to implement procedures to ensure that at the time a development permit is issued, adequate surface water management facilities are available or will be available to serve the development within a reasonable time, as defined in the Concurrency Management System Ordinance of the Unified Land Development Code.

Policy 1.1: The following level of service standards are hereby adopted to adequately achieve management and storage of surface waters, and shall be used as the basis for determining the availability of facility capacity and the demand generated by a development:

Drainage System - Design Storm within the City of North Port:

- 10-year frequency, 5-day duration for existing ditch/canal systems constructed by the General Development Corporation.
- 25-year frequency, 24-hour duration pursuant to SWFWMD criteria for permitting new surface water management systems. Upon such time that SWFWMD revises their design storm standards the City shall amend the Comprehensive Plan and adopt those new standards within 6 months of the official action by SWFWMD.

Water Quality:

- Development activities (excluding currently platted single-family lots) shall not violate the water quality standards as set forth in Chapters 62-4, 62-302, 62-520, 62-522 and 62-550, Florida Administrative Code, including antidegradation provisions of paragraphs 62-4.242(1)(a) and (b), subsections 62-4.242(2) and (3), and Rule 62-302.300, Florida Administrative Code, as amended.

For Stormwater Management the following shall be met to satisfy Florida Statute 163.3180 (2) Concurrency Management: Consistent with public health and safety, stormwater management facilities, shall be in place and available to serve new development no later than the issuance by the local government of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent.

Policy 1.2: All improvements for expansion or increase in capacity of facilities shall be compatible with the adopted level of service standards for the facilities. The City shall discourage building in the 100-year floodplain or in areas affected by sea level rise by the year 2050.

Policy 1.3: The City shall meet the pollutant load reduction requirements mandated by the EPA/FDEP National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the conditions in the NPDES permit subsequent renewal.

Objective 2: The City and the Public Works Department will maintain a five-year schedule of capital improvement needs for public facilities, identify responsible parties and agencies, and identify time frames for completion. The schedule will be updated annually in conformance with the review process for the Capital Improvement Element (CIE) of this plan, and for consideration in the City's annual budget process to ensure economic feasibility.

Policy 2.1: Proposed capital improvement projects will be evaluated and ranked according to the following priority level guidelines:

Level One - whether the project is needed to protect public health and safety, to fulfill the City's commitment to provide facilities and services, or to preserve or achieve full use of existing facilities.

Level Two - whether the project increases efficiency of use of existing facilities, prevents or reduces future improvement costs, provides service to developed areas lacking full service or promotes in-fill development.

Level Three - whether the project represents a logical extension of facilities and services within a designated service area.

Level Four - projects shall be evaluated based upon a cost/benefit analysis, prior to implementation.

Level Five – whether the project is necessary to meet, maintain, or enhance levels-of-service.

Policy 2.2: Upon completion and adoption, the five-year Capital Improvement Program of the North Port Public Works Department shall be considered, within subsequent CIE updates, to maintain adopted levels of service and objectives and policies herein.

Objective 3: Based on the findings of the Ardaman and Associates Big Slough Study the City shall undertake the following policies:

Policy 3.1: The FEMA approved flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) which are based on the Ardaman and Associates Big Slough Watershed Study was adopted on September 13, 2016 by the City. The City shall by 2018, analyze the feasibility of prohibiting septic tank installation within the 100-year floodplain, as delineated by the revised FIRM map, and other potential disposal methods which may serve as desirable alternatives to septic tanks.

Policy 3.2: The stormwater improvements projects and best management practices (BMP's) that are identified in the Ardaman and Associates Big Slough Watershed Study, will be evaluated in the Big Slough Flood Reduction Study.

Policy 3.3: The City shall amend the Unified Land Development Code to provide for incentives and disincentives intended to reduce the desirability of septic tank installation within the 100-year floodplain or within areas projected to be affected by sea level rise by the year 2050.

Policy 3.4: The City shall encourage development activities which would not decrease the storage volume or cause adverse effect to the 100-year floodplain, utilizing the Ardaman and Associates Big Slough Watershed Study, as the best available information for development activities within the 100-year floodplain or in areas where sea level rise might be present by 2050. Further, the City has required, and shall continue requiring, in the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) that development activities follow all SWFWMD regulations and policies with respect to floodplain impact and compensation analysis.

Policy 3.5: The City shall continue to consider the implementation of additional early warning measures in order to better protect residents from potential floods and other natural disasters. Such measures would include, but not necessarily be limited to, the purchase of automated stream gauges, as well as other equipment and software.

Policy 3.6: Consistent with Federal and State requirements, the City shall comply with FEMA and SWFWMD standards regarding the 100-year floodplain.

Policy 3.7: The City will strive to offer the best available information on flood prone areas to the public in order to better protect property owners from flood damage.

Objective 4: Projected drainage improvements through the 5-year capital improvements planning period will be met by implementing the following policies:

Policy 4.1: The capital improvements identified in the Public Works Department Five-Year Plan will be programmed and completed consistent with the CIP to maintain the adopted level-of-service.

Policy 4.2: The maintenance activities identified in the Public Works Department Five-Year Plan will be programmed and completed consistent with the CIP.

Policy 4.3: All requirements contained in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the EPA/FDEP for stormwater discharges will be implemented in accordance with the schedule contained in the permit.

Objective 5: Projected demands for the future will be met by undertaking the following drainage policies.

Policy 5.1: Drainage facilities will be maintained to assure their proper function to maintain adopted levels of service.

Policy 5.2: Where higher levels of service are requested within existing districts, the City shall consider the establishment of special assessments to meet demands. The purpose of the

special drainage assessments is to provide additional levels of service within the existing districts than is being provided for the City as a whole through district taxation.

Objective 6: As necessary, the City will continue to revise the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) to provide for the control of stormwater, the maintenance of stormwater facilities, and the recharge of the surficial aquifer.

Policy 6.1: The City's stormwater drainage regulations will be reviewed and revised, when necessary, to assure that they continue to meet or exceed SWFWMD requirements and to ensure that future development utilizes stormwater management systems compatible with applicable water management district regulations, and adopted level of service standards.

Policy 6.2: To avoid adverse health and safety issues, drainage facilities will be provided in new developments to control street flooding, to maintain hurricane evacuation routes, and to provide water quality treatment. The City will explore retrofitting methods to alleviate street flooding, to maintain evacuation routes and to provide water quality treatment in the existing built areas of the City.

Policy 6.3: The treatment of stormwater for water quality improvement will be provided in any drainage rework projects by the acquisition or grant of easement of available land, as may be necessary, for treatment and the design of swales or additional ponds for temporary storage of stormwater.

Policy 6.4: All facilities designed and constructed to provide stormwater management in the City will have maintenance easements. The easements will be provided around culverts, storm drains and other enclosed conduit drainage systems provided the City determines it is in its interest to accept the easements.

Objective 7: The City shall strive to protect aquifer recharge areas to protect surficial and groundwater recharge areas.

Policy 7.1: The City's Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) will continue to provide for conservation of open space to enhance recharge to the surficial aquifer. Furthermore, the City will explore initiatives to enhance aquifer recharge, including but not limited to:

- Use of Pervious Pavement
- Creation of Bio-retention swales
- Protection of existing conservation areas and creation of new conservation areas when the opportunity arises.

The ULDC will be amended as necessary to incorporate initiatives that further the intent of this policy.

Policy 7.2: The City of North Port Unified Land Development Code will be reviewed and revised as necessary to maintain or restore groundwater levels consistent with SWFWMD criteria.

Policy 7.3: The City has reviewed and revised the ULDC Dredge and Fill regulations consistent with adopted levels of service and applicable goals, objectives and policies and will continue to update as needed.

Policy 7.4: The City shall continue to encourage the implementation of low impact development or sustainable development in the revised Unified Land Development Code, with respect to stormwater management design as needed.

Objective 8: Intergovernmental coordination shall be increased to ensure acceptable construction and maintenance of primary, secondary and tertiary drainage systems.

Policy 8.1: As appropriate, the City will meet and enter into intergovernmental agreements, with local, state, and federal agencies to achieve regional aquifer recharge protection objectives.

Policy 8.2: The City shall continue to enter into or, as may be necessary, amend interlocal agreements with Charlotte County, Desoto County, and Sarasota County to effectively monitor, make needed improvements, and maintain identified interjurisdictional drainage facilities.

Policy 8.3: The City shall cooperate with other governmental agencies to examine regional solutions to regional drainage problems.

Policy 8.4: The City, in updating its drainage ordinances, will continue to meet with SWFWMD to ensure that the local regulatory framework is consistent with the planning objectives and regulations of the region.

Policy 8.5: The City shall continue to apply either separately or, as appropriate, jointly with other local governments and/or agencies, for grant funds available from state and federal agencies to obtain required financing for drainage projects.

Objective 9: The City shall continue and enhance ongoing public relations programs to better inform present and potential future residents concerning the realities of summer rainy season drainage conditions in Florida generally, and in the City of North Port in particular. The elements of such a program shall include, but not be limited to, the following: the development and distribution of informative brochures and other published information; increased coordination between City departments; and public meetings, including but not limited to annual pre-season informational meetings, to be held concurrently with hurricane awareness presentations and workshops.

Policy 9.1: The City will take all feasible measures necessary to improve upon its FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) Class 6 rating. The City will continue to educate the public concerning summer drainage conditions and help flood insurance policy holders qualify for the CRS discounts. Such measures will include, but not necessarily be limited to, conducting public workshops, including annual pre-season informational meetings to be held concurrently with hurricane awareness meetings.

Policy 9.2: The City will continue the development and distribution of information brochures and other published information in order to better educate the public concerning flood hazards and flood damage prevention.

Objective 10: The City will increase and improve upon its public education activities to solicit public participation in protecting the City's waterways from pollutants.

Policy 10.1: The City will continue to modify and enforce its 2007 Fertilizer Ordinance as needed to protect the City's waterways and commercial viability of its waterfronts. The City will continue to educate the public on the requirements of this ordinance and enforce any violations with warnings and fines.

Policy 10.2: The City will continue to develop, prepare and distribute brochures and other educational materials on how the public can assist in protecting the City's water resources from pollutants.