

Natural Groundwater Recharge Areas Sub-Element (RCH)

Goal 4.0

Provide ~~for public facilities~~ the protection of the functions of natural groundwater recharge areas and natural drainage features in a manner which ensures the health, welfare and safety of the residents of Nassau County; promotes compact, efficient development; reduces urban sprawl; protects and conserves natural resources; and satisfies the requirements of sound fiscal planning.

OBJECTIVE 4.05A-RCH.01

~~Upon Plan adoption, the~~ The County shall provide protection to Natural Groundwater Recharge areas through implementing the following policies: commensurate with their significance to natural systems or their status as current or future sources of potable water.

Policy 4.05A.01 RCH.01.01

The County ~~Planning Director~~ shall coordinate with the St. Johns River Water Management District to ~~acquire area maps, which~~ define the location of significant groundwater recharge areas in the County. These recharge areas will be ~~noted on zoning maps-~~ displayed graphically on a map series within the Comprehensive Plan so that requests for rezoning or land use changes in these areas can be evaluated both in terms of need and potential impact to the aquifer.

Policy 4.05A.02 RCH.01.02

The County, in coordination with DEP and the St. Johns River Water Management District shall, ~~under the SWIM program,~~ identify all known point and non-point sources of pollution within the County. All permitted discharge sources shall be required to meet state Water Quality Standards. All discharges under state law not requiring a permit will be required to meet all applicable Best Management Practices.

Policy 4.05A.03 RCH.01.03

The County shall establish wellhead protection zones, consistent with Chapter 62-521.400, F.A.C., to prevent aquifer contamination within the wellhead cone of influence for potable water wellfields as defined in Rule 9J-5.003(94). ~~Upon plan adoption~~ In cases where the cones of influence have not been determined, the County shall designate an interim protection area of ~~500~~ 750 feet in radius as the well field protection zone ~~for each water well that serves a community water system which has at least fifteen (15) service connections or regularly serves at least twenty-five (25) of the same persons that are year-round residents,~~ until cones of influence can be determined. ~~The County will revise this policy within six months of the St. Johns Water Management District mapping the cones of influence.~~ Within the zone of protection, the following activities shall be prohibited:

1. Landfills;
2. Facilities for bulk storage, handling or processing of materials on the Florida Substance List;

Note: **HIGHLIGHTED TEXT** indicates changes made from Transmittal Draft of 5/10/2010 based upon the Objections, Recommendations, and Comments (ORC) Report issued by the Florida Dept. of Community Affairs (DCA) 7/13/2010

3. Activities that require the storage, use or transportation of restricted substances, petroleum products, hazardous toxic waste, medical waste. etc. Gasoline storage tanks associated with retail use which meet the standards of Rules 16-761, 17-762, and 17-767, F.A.C., and Chapter 376, F.S., concerning petroleum storage tanks may be permitted in this zone.
4. Feedlots or other commercial animal facilities;
5. Wastewater treatment plants, percolation ponds, and similar facilities;
6. Mines; and
7. Excavation of waterways or drainage facilities which intersect the water table.

For ~~community water system wells, as defined~~ potable water wellfields as defined above, the first 200 feet within the zone of protection will serve as a zone of exclusion. Within the 200-foot zone of exclusion, no activities may occur except existing residential uses, uses functionally related to the water supply system, open space, parks and playgrounds. No parking area; structures, or other impervious surfaces, other than those surfaces that are accessory to residential uses, will be allowed within this zone except for playing court, open-air shelters, and other similar recreation facilities. An exemption shall be allowed for one single family dwelling unit per parcel or lot that was created on or before June 1, 1993 per Rule (9J-5.006(3)(c)6.)