



GOAL 113: COASTAL PLANNING AREAS. To conserve, maintain, and enhance the natural balance of ecological functions in the coastal planning area, with particular emphasis on the protection of beach and dune systems so as to retain their contribution to storm protection, natural resources, and economic development. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30)

OBJECTIVE 113.1: COASTAL PLANNING AREA IN GENERAL. Lee County will manage the coastal planning area to provide a balance among conservation of resources, public safety capabilities, and development. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22)

POLICY 113.1.1: Coastal areas with significant public value for water retention and purification, wildlife habitat, and primary productivity will be protected through the development permitting process and enforcement of appropriate codes and regulations. (Amended by Ordinance No. 00-22)

POLICY 113.1.2: All development within the coastal planning area must be compatible with protection of natural systems. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22) Conservation and Coastal Management VII-18 August 2007

POLICY 113.1.3: Construction of vehicular access to, and paved roads or commercial marinas on, undeveloped barrier islands is prohibited, as mandated by the Charlotte Harbor Management Plan. (See also Policy 106.1.2.) (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22)

POLICY 113.1.4: Undeveloped barrier islands will be maintained predominantly in their natural state. Public expenditures for infrastructure will be limited to public parks in such areas. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22)

POLICY 113.1.5: Lee County will protect and conserve the following environmentally sensitive coastal areas: wetlands, estuaries, mangrove stands, undeveloped barrier islands, beach and dune systems, aquatic preserves and wildlife refuges, undeveloped tidal creeks and inlets, critical wildlife habitats, benthic communities, and marine grass beds. (Amended by Ordinance No. 00-22)

POLICY 113.1.6: The county will gather and utilize available technical criteria and supporting

information necessary to guide the formulation of plans, ordinances, and regulations to insure that development in the coastal planning area is compatible with the continued or improved functioning of natural coastal systems. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22)

POLICY 113.1.7: Levels of service for facilities and services within the coastal planning area will be the same as those established for the remainder of the county (see Policy 95.1.3 for service level summaries). The county's Concurrency Management System will apply in full within the coastal planning area. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22)

OBJECTIVE 113.2: SHORELINE STABILIZING SYSTEMS. Lee County will continue to encourage the construction of environmentally compatible shoreline stabilizing systems where stabilizing systems are needed. (Amended by Ordinance No. 00-22)

POLICY 113.2.1: Construction of environmentally compatible shoreline stabilizing systems will be allowed along the active gulf beach where necessary for the protection of shorelines from erosion. (Amended by Ordinance No. 00-22)

POLICY 113.2.2: Vertical seawalls must not be constructed along natural waterways except where such a wall is the most reasonable alternative (using criteria established by ordinance), and vertical seawalls along artificial canals will not be permitted unless an adequate littoral zone consistent with the surrounding environment is provided. Seawalls in artificial canals where 50% of the canal or greater is sea-walled or for seawalls of less than 300 feet where both adjoining properties are sea-walled, will be exempt from this requirement. (Amended by Ordinance No. 00-22)

POLICY 113.2.3: The county will encourage planting of mangroves or placement of rip-rap in artificial and natural canal systems to replace existing seawalls in need of repair. (Amended by Ordinance No. 00-22)

POLICY 113.2.4: Build-back of vertical seawalls will not be permitted along natural water bodies if one or more of the following conditions exist:

- Build-back would cause excessive shoreline erosion or endanger shorelines of surrounding properties.
- Build-back would threaten wetland resources. Conservation and Coastal Management VII-19 August 2007
- Build-back would be a threat to public safety or block access to state-owned submerged lands.
- Build-back would be water-ward of the existing seawall alignment on adjacent shorelines.

OBJECTIVE 113.3: BEACH AND DUNE SYSTEMS. Lee County will continue to implement a beach preservation and management plan through the Lee County Coastal Advisory Council or successor agency. (Amended by Ordinance No. 98-09)

POLICY 113.3.1: The Division of Natural Resources Management, or successor agency, will be responsible for the beach and dune management program. This program will include:

1. Preparing beach and dune management plans, with priority to areas designated by the Florida

Department of Environmental Protection as critically eroded in the report entitled Critically Eroded Beaches in Florida (as updated April, 2006).

2. Coordinating with local municipalities and the Captiva Erosion Prevention District in preparing beach and dune management plans.
3. Collecting information on available sources of beach-quality sand for re-nourishment, concentrating on areas which will have minimal impacts on the county's aquatic resources.
4. Preparing re nourishment plans for eroding areas where public facilities and access exist, including areas designated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as critically eroded in the report entitled Critically Eroded Beaches in Florida (as updated April, 2006).
5. Recommending regulations and policies to restrict hardened coastal engineering structures such as groin fields and seawalls, protect eroding coastal areas and sand dunes, and discourage development of undeveloped coastal barriers.
6. Maintaining a central clearinghouse for information on beach and dune studies and recommendations by both public and private organizations.
7. Educating citizens and developers about the costs and benefits of beach and dune conservation approaches.
8. Preparing a sand conservation plan that emphasizes the importance of maintaining beach quality sand within the littoral system.
9. Continuing to participate in the Federal Shore Project as the local sponsor; it will also coordinate beach re-nourishment activities, as appropriate, for the Estero Island segment with the Town of Fort Myers Beach.
10. Pursuing all available sources of funding, to specifically include state and federal funding, for implementation of beach and dune projects.
11. Requiring the installation of dune vegetation as a component of all County funded re-nourishment projects.(Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 98-09, 00-22, 07-09) Conservation and Coastal Management VII-20 May 2009

POLICY 113.3.2: The costs of beach re-nourishment programs will be borne by the beneficiaries of those programs. Funding mechanisms for the re-nourishment may include but are not limited to the use of parks impact fees, public metered parking proceeds, tourist development taxes, Municipal Service Benefit Units (MSBUs), and beachfront property assessments, as long as the title to accreted lands remains public. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 98-09, 00-22)

POLICY 113.3.3: The county will support the re-nourishment of beaches through the use of environmentally responsible methods. (Amended by Ordinance No. 98-09, 00-22)

GOAL 114: WETLANDS. To maintain and enforce a regulatory program for development in wetlands that is cost-effective, complements federal and state permitting processes, and protects the fragile ecological characteristics of wetland systems. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30)