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# Significant Ecological Communities Protection Strategy

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## Overlay District

- Problems
  - Report is not competent and substantial evidence for rezoning
  - Parcel aggregation is not addressed
  - Proving a subjective criterion does not exist is an unreasonable burden
  - Significant features on properties not ranked high or outstanding are missed
  - Does not address newly annexed parcels

## Recommendation

- 2 Tier Approach
  - Tier 1:
    - Parcels annexed into the COG limits that also occur within County strategic ecosystems
    - Require environmental assessment, management plan, and specific setbacks/buffers
    - Specific setbacks/buffers similar to the existing County regulations

## Recommendation

- Tier 2:
  - Parcels annexed into COG limits not within strategic ecosystems and parcels already occurring within COG limits
  - Normal review process, only if deemed necessary will an environmental assessment be required

## Recommendation

- Tier 1 requires assessment and management plan unless deemed unnecessary.
- Tier 2 does not require an assessment unless deemed necessary.
- Overlay District ordinance will become defunct and land development code revisions will replace it.

## Land Development Code

- Many significant environmental feature protections are currently missing
- Revisions will protect all significant features no matter what Tier the parcels are in
- Recommendation + Code Revisions = Clear Development Regulations/Process



## Land Development Code

- Revisions (Table 1)
  - Environmental assessment (as per recommendation)
  - Significant Plant and Wildlife Habitat
  - Listed Plant and Animal Species
  - Strategic Ecosystems (Tier 1)
  - High Aquifer Recharge Areas
  - Archaeological/Paleontological Resources
  - Significant Geological Features
  - Nature Park District
  - Management Plans (as per the recommendation)



## Impacts

- Additional staff time required for reviews
  - Worked into normal position duties

## Tier 1 Example

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Strategic Ecosystem

### Requirements:

- Environmental Assessment
- Management Plan
- Wetland Buffer
- Sinkhole Buffer
- Up to 49% Upland Set-Aside

Wetlands

A map showing a dark grey area representing a Strategic Ecosystem. Within this area, there are white regions representing wetlands, outlined with a thick black border. To the right of the wetlands, there are two circular features representing sinkholes, also outlined with a thick black border. The word "Wetlands" is written in the lower-left corner of the map area.

## Tier 2 Example

### Requirements:

- Wetland Buffer
- Sinkhole Buffer
- Nature Park District
- Listed Species
- Up to 25% Upland Set-Aside
- Environmental Assessment

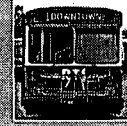
Nature Park

Wetlands

A map showing a dark grey area representing a Nature Park. Within this area, there are white regions representing wetlands, outlined with a thick black border. To the right of the wetlands, there are two circular features representing sinkholes, also outlined with a thick black border. In the center of the map, there are five small black stars representing listed species. The word "Wetlands" is written in the lower-left corner of the map area.

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**QUESTIONS?**