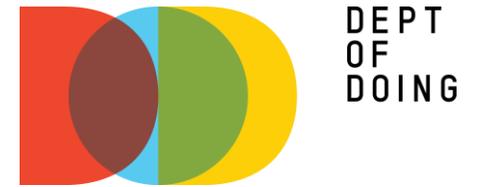


Consider participation in Alachua County Landscape Irrigation Ordinance

November 9, 2017



Presentation Overview

- Summary
- Background Information
- Options for Consideration

Summary of Issue

- The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners adopted an Irrigation Ordinance in 2015.
- The Ordinance was implemented in the unincorporated area in 2016.
- All municipalities in Alachua County have the option to opt-in to the Ordinance.



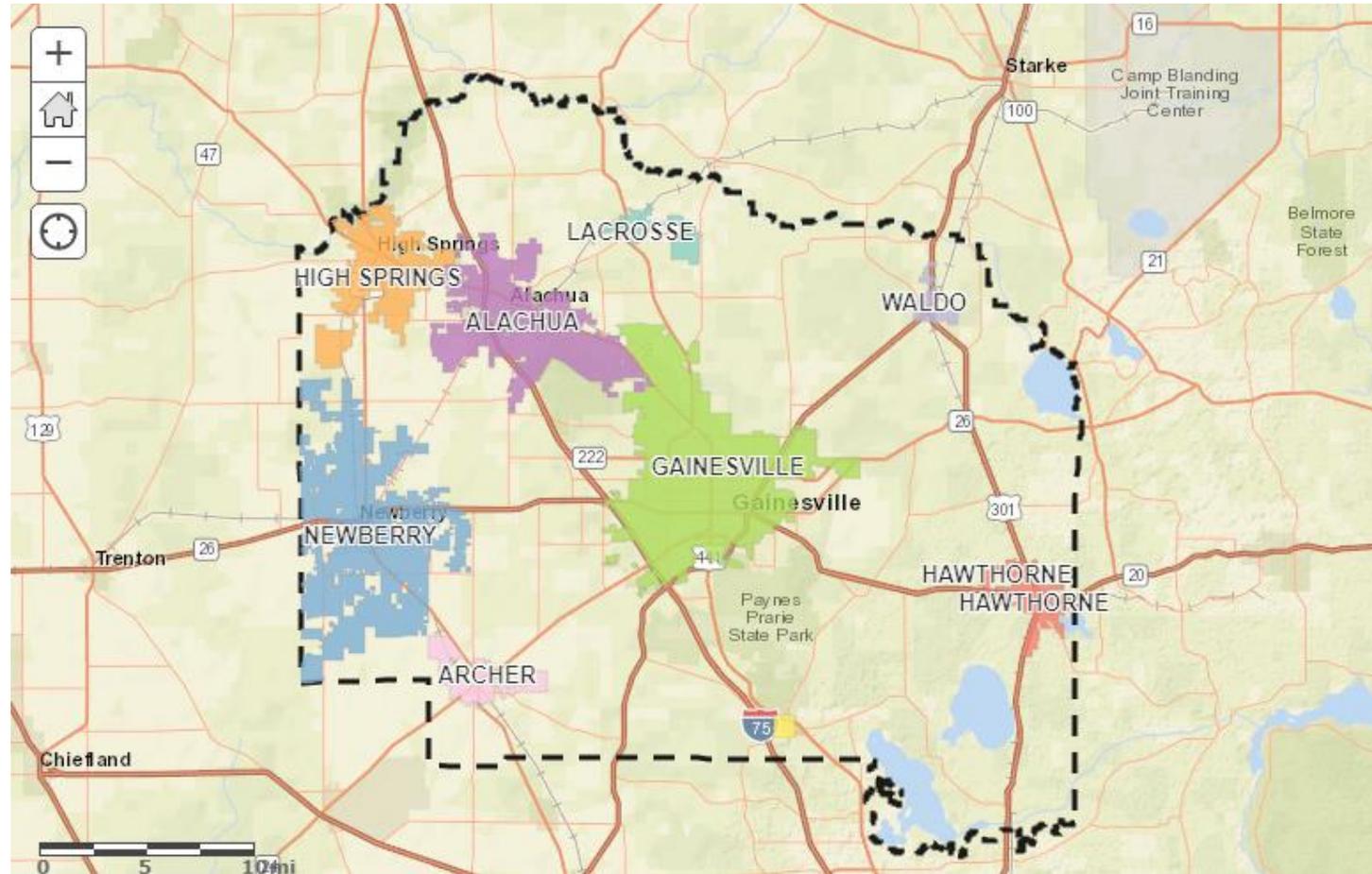
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Landscape Irrigation Design and Maintenance Standards Ordinance 2015-11



*A new code affecting all
new irrigation systems
in unincorporated
Alachua County*

Summary of Issue



No other municipalities in Alachua County have chosen to opt-in.

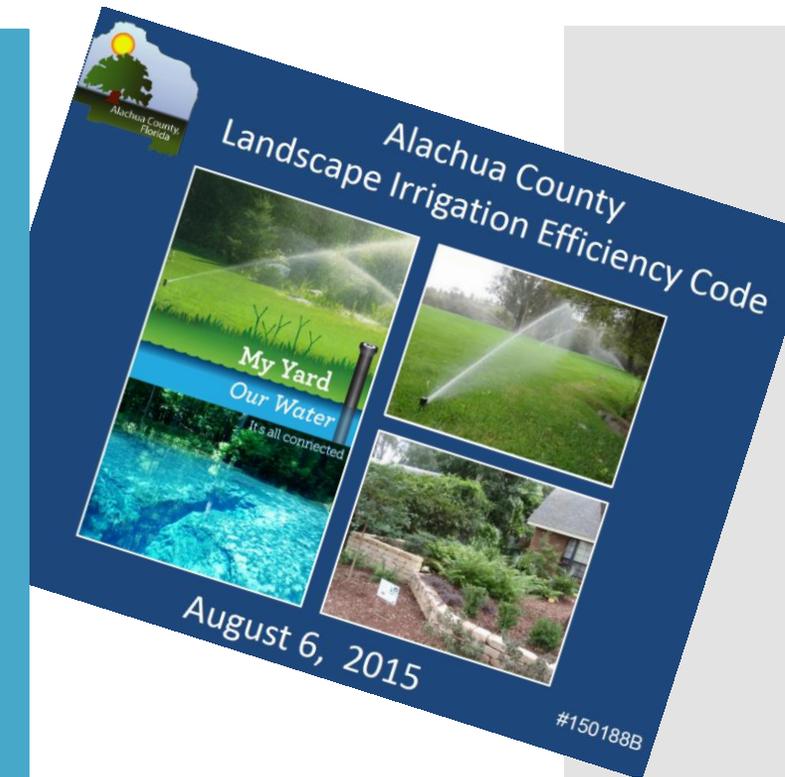
Summary of Issue

Intended take-away:

- Is the Ordinance working in the unincorporated area to save water?
- Will it work in the City of Gainesville to save water?

Background Information

- Applies to new residential and commercial
- Restricts the total irrigated area, high volume irrigation and certain sprinkler head types
- Requires site plan review and inspections

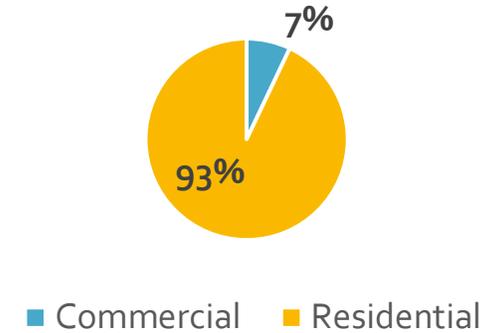


Background Information

Alachua County & Gainesville both issue more **residential** permits than **commercial**.

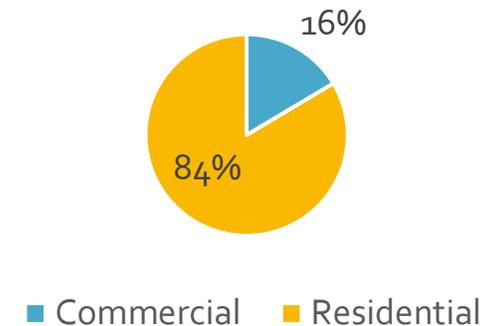
Alachua County

Percent of Commercial vs. Residential Permits Issued (2016 & 2017 YTD)



City of Gainesville

Percent of Commercial vs. Residential Permits Issued (2016 & 2017 YTD)



New single family lots landscaped under the Ordinance have more mulch, rock and plant-based materials.

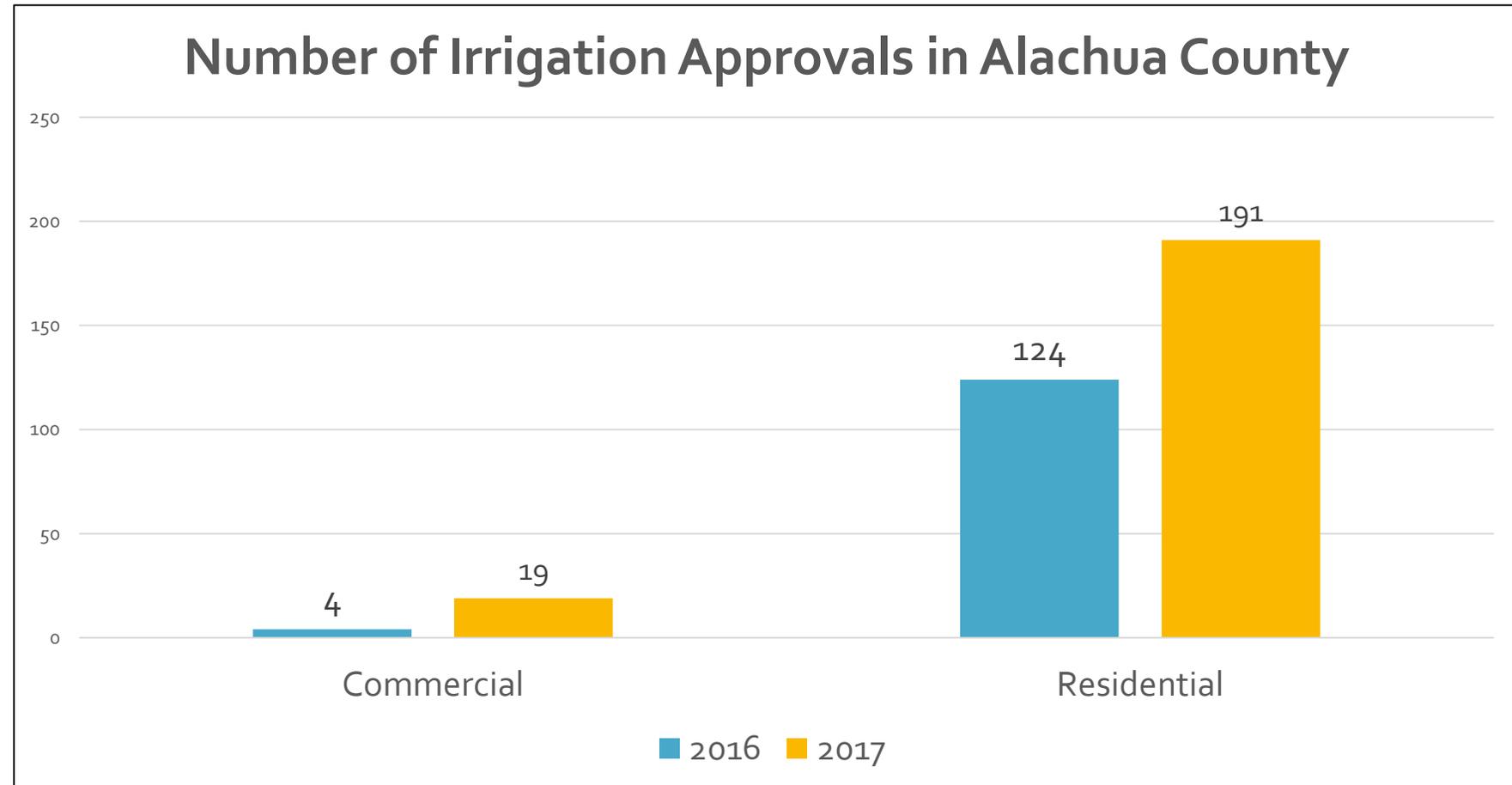


City of Gainesville, Westchester



Unincorporated area, Oakmont

Number of approvals in the unincorporated area



Cost



The cost of landscaping a residential property under the Ordinance will increase

Reclaimed Water



Reclaimed water connections in Oakmont Subdivision

New irrigation systems using reclaimed water have the same requirements as potable irrigation water systems.

Side yards

City of Gainesville,
Westchester



Sod in the side yard

Unincorporated area,
Oakmont



Mulch in the side yard

According to a superintendent in Oakmont, an unintended consequence of mulching side yards has been increased erosion and Asian cockroaches.

Is the Ordinance helping to save water?

- Using Florida Water Star estimated savings of 44,331 GPY per home at 203 homes = Alachua County estimates that almost 9 million gallons were saved during the first year
- Actual data on savings is expected to be calculated in the next few years

Would the Ordinance help to save water in Gainesville?

- Limited data available for analysis
- Field research in the Oakmont neighborhood showed very limited stakeholder support for the Ordinance

Options

- Opt-in; provide direction to staff on administration, enforcement and future modifications
- Choose not to opt-in
- Direct staff to draft a municipal ordinance to address irrigation systems.

Administration

If the City chooses to opt-in, who administers the program for the City?

- Fee collection
- Landscape sketch reviews
- Approvals
- Inspections
- Enforcement



**Alachua County Environmental
Protection Department**
408 W University Ave, Suite 106
Gainesville Florida
352-264-6800

If the City chooses to opt-in, who enforces the program for the City?

Enforcement



If the City chooses to opt-in, how does the City participate in future modifications to the Ordinance?

Future
modifications
to Ordinance



Recommendation

The General Policy Committee

- 1) hear the presentation;
- 2) consider options for moving forward; and
- 3) provide direction to staff.