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SIERRA CLUB



Suwannee • St. Johns Group _____

1701 SW 117 St.
Gainesville, Fl. 32607
Sept. 11, 2001

VIA FAX TRANSMITTAL

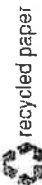
Dear City Commissioners:

Recently we received information that the city of Gainesville Planing staff had changed the draft of the city's Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Element. The change was to require a Comprehensive Plan Amendment before allowing a Traditional Neighborhood Design (TND) development in a low or medium density residential land use category. The Suwannee-St. John Sierra Club urges the commission to reverse this decision and allow TND's in all these land use categories. The TND design conforms to the Sierra Club policy of encouraging high density, quality, mixed-use development in urban areas that encourages pedestrian, bike and/or multimodal transit. We are concerned that requiring a developer to have to go through the additional cost of a comprehensive plan amendment will further discourage developers to take a chance on this already very restrictive ordinance. We should be making it easier for developers to do this, not harder!

Yours truly,

Kathleen Cantwell, MD
Chair
Suwannee-St. John Sierra Club

cc: COM
CI Mgr.
T. Sanders
R. Hilliard



SIERRA CLUB



#000882

9/24/01

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Gainesville, Fl. 32607
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C/Mgn.
T. Sanders
R. Hilliard



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1701 SW 117 St
Gainesville, Fl. 32607
September 20, 2001

VIA FAX TRANSMITTAL

Dear City Commissioners:

The following is the Suwannee-St John Sierra Club recommendations for the City of Gainesville wetlands policy. It was drawn up in collaboration with Francine Robinson, (Florida League of Conservation Voters), Paula Stahmer, (Greenspace Preservation Association) and Bonnie O'Brien, (Glen Springs Preservation Association). Thank you for giving us the opportunity to make recommendations.

Goal: All existing wetlands shall be preserved and protected from any alteration that diminishes or destroys function.

Policies:

1. Creation of new wetlands shall not be allowed as a substitute for the preservation of existing wetlands.
2. Wetlands damaged on or subsequent to the effective date of this policy shall be restored to their original state at the owner's expense, except as may be provided by #3 below.
3. Developmental activity shall not be authorized in wetlands or wetland buffers except when the City Commission shall determine by a majority vote that the applicant has met all of the following conditions:
 - i. The applicant has taken every responsible step to avoid adverse impact to the wetland and buffer; and
 - ii. The applicant has taken every responsible step to minimize adverse impact to the wetland and buffer; and
 - iii. Prior to development, the applicant has provided appropriate mitigation for adverse impact to the wetland and buffer; and

