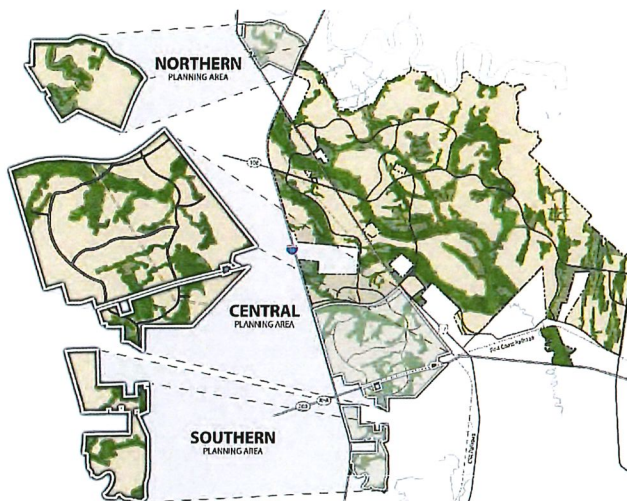


East Nassau Environmental Education Program

Overview

The East Nassau Community Planning Area (ENCPA) is a mixed use project comprised of approximately 24,000 acres in Nassau County, Florida. One of the goals of the ENCPA is to provide viable environmental communities that are sustained during and after development of the ENCPA in a Conservation and Habitat Network ("CHN") within the project. The CHN represents the overall network of environmentally sensitive, including regionally significant, natural resources and preserved areas that will be established as development within the ENCPA progresses. It will consist of natural waterbodies, wetlands, buffers and uplands that will not be converted to development uses, but will allow for a multitude of passive and nature-oriented recreational uses. At buildout of the ENCPA, the CHN will consist of a mosaic of wetlands, surface waters and uplands that will provide landscape connectivity and protection of significant natural resources within the project.

Consistent with the ENCPA Comprehensive Plan Policies and the East Nassau Employment Center Detailed Specific Area Plan ("DSAP"), an Environmental Education Program (the "Program") must be developed for the CHN. The purpose of the Program is to encourage the awareness and protection of the wildlife and natural habitats incorporated into the CHN by conserving natural areas, providing important habitat for indigenous wildlife, and providing a system of natural areas that facilitate the use, enjoyment and educational value of the property's natural ecosystems.



The elements of the Program will be implemented as development activities progress within the ENCPA. As development progresses, the Program will be expanded to reflect new opportunities. Each element will build on previous elements, ultimately producing a comprehensive environmental education program that achieves the goal of encouraging protection of the wildlife and natural habitats incorporated in the CHN. Consistent with ENCPA Comprehensive Plan Policy FL.13.07(A), the Program will be implanted in conjunction with one or more property owners association or other community association (or as directed by such association), environmental group or governmental agency. The Program shall be consistent with the ENCPA Comprehensive Plan policies, the Employment Center DSAP and future DSAPs and Preliminary Development Plans ("PDPs").

Elementary School Element

The first element of the Program will focus on the first major development within the ENCPA - the new Nassau County Elementary School. The school is a catalyst for the

overall ENCPA master development plan. The school is adjacent to existing wetland systems offering opportunities for wetland and wildlife education. The intent is to work with the school to identify and take advantage of these environmental education opportunities available on site.

Habitat Awareness

Another element of the Program is to enhance public awareness of the importance of the habitats in the ENCPA and inform residents of the natural flora and fauna. The enhancement of public awareness may be achieved with low impact nature trails and multi-use paths. Along these trails and pathways is proposed to be planned interpretative items such as signs and information kiosks which will



Image source: Sarasota County Government. www.scgov.net

provide students, residents and visitors information regarding the various wetland and upland habitats along with the wildlife that occur within them. The proposed large upland and wetland preserves will provide valuable outdoor classrooms for teaching students and children of all ages.