

Handout A: Quick Facts Sheet

Levy County 2050 Comprehensive Plan Update

Springs Protection: The 10mg/l Nitrogen Standard

The Rule: The draft plan requires that, in the new Springs Protection Zone, all new wastewater systems (such as septic tanks) must meet a nitrogen treatment standard of 10 milligrams per liter (10 mg/L).

In Simple Terms:

Think of nitrogen as "algae food." When nitrogen from traditional septic tanks or fertilizers seeps through our porous limestone (karst) soil, it ends up in our springs. This causes the thick green algae that smothers native eelgrass and ruins water clarity.

- **Why 10mg/l?** It is a high-performance standard. By requiring "advanced" or "performance-based" systems in sensitive areas, we ensure that the water returning to the ground is significantly cleaner, keeping Fanning and Manatee Springs blue for future generations.

Coastal Management: Protecting Our Shorelines

The Definition (CHHA): The **Coastal High Hazard Area** is the land most at risk during a storm. Specifically, it is the area that would be flooded by a Category 1 Hurricane storm surge.

Vulnerable Communities & Grants:

For the first time, the plan officially identifies **Gulf Hammock, Fowler's Bluff, Rosewood, and Sumner** as our most vulnerable populated areas with respect to sea-level rise and storm surges.

- **Why does this matter?** By officially naming these areas in our Comprehensive Plan, Levy County becomes much more competitive for State and Federal Mitigation Grants.
- **The Goal:** It allows us to apply for "Peril of Flood" funding to improve drainage, harden local infrastructure, and provide home-hardening education for residents in those specific communities without using only local tax dollars.

Recreation: Active Levy & The Canoe Trail

The Canoe Trail System:

The County is officially supporting the development of the **Big Bend Paddling Trail**.

This is a system of interconnected freshwater and saltwater trails using the **Suwannee, Wekiva, and Withlacoochee Rivers** and the Gulf of Mexico.

- **The Plan:** We are looking to coordinate with state agencies to create primitive "rest areas" or camping spots along these routes to boost eco-tourism.

Neighborhood Park Guidelines:

The plan sets a "Gold Standard" for our parks to ensure they don't get overcrowded as we grow.

- **The Ratio:** We aim for 2 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents.
 - **The Size:** A "Neighborhood Park" should be at least 5 acres in size.
 - **The Access:** New parks should be located so they are easily accessible by walking or bicycling, reducing the need for more parking lots and car traffic.
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