



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 25-00300

Agenda Date: 4/22/2025

Agenda Item Name:

Transmittal Hearing – Z25-000006 Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Tree Protection and Open Space

Presenter:

Chris Dawson, Principal Planner, 352-374-5249

Description:

Transmittal Hearing to consider Application Z25-000006, a County-initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendment that proposes to implement Tree Protection Standards for Champion Trees and Landmark Live Oaks and revised Policies related to Open Space

Recommended Action:

Direct Staff to Transmit Application Z25-000006 to the State Land Planning Agency for review.

Prior Board Motions:

N/A

Fiscal Note:

There are no direct budgetary impacts to Alachua County. Advertising for this item is done on the County's website.

Strategic Guide:

Environment

Background:

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment would amend the list of Conservation Areas in the Conservation and Open Space Element to include Champion Trees and Landmark Live Oaks. In addition, new policies describing this Conservation resource are included in the amendment. Finally, updates to the Open Space policies are included to recognize the different type of protections that Champion Trees and Landmark Live Oaks will need compared to other Conservation areas, and to clarify criteria used to select Open Space. Some additional changes are proposed to reflect changes in the Future Land Use Element and to better reflect the intent to designate Conservation areas prior to selecting other Open Space.

The Planning Commission heard this item at its March 19, 2025 regular meeting and recommended that the Board transmit Staff's recommendation with the addition that the Board consider a landmark designation for trees other than live oaks.