
Sec. 406.04. Resources assessment requirements.

All applications for proposals with potential adverse impact to natural or historic resources, including but not limited to applications for land use change, zoning change, and development plan approval, shall include an assessment of natural and historic resource information. The assessment shall be complete at or before the preliminary development review stage where applicable. The assessment shall be prepared by person(s) qualified in the appropriate fields of study, conducted according to professionally accepted standards, and based on data that is considered to be recent with respect to the resource. Names, qualifications, and resumes of all personnel involved in the assessment, and their roles with respect to the assessment, shall be attached, if not already on file with the County.

- (a) *Methodology.* The assessment shall use and report professionally accepted scientific methodology specific to each natural and historic resource onsite, in order to assess the actual and potential presence of natural and historic resources. The assessment shall include background research and analysis of available existing data, as well as ground-truthing. Field surveys shall be conducted during the seasons, times of day, and field conditions under which each natural and historic resource characteristic would most likely be observed, otherwise presence will be presumed.
- (b) *Minimum contents.* The assessment shall include site-specific identification, mapping, and analysis of each natural and historic resource or characteristic present on the site, and background research and analysis with aerial map review and fence line ground-truthing of resources adjacent to the site (same or contiguous tax parcels). At a minimum, the following shall also be provided:
 - (1) Cover letter and/or executive summary, including written explanation of the need and intent of the project, description of construction or alteration methodologies, and signed statement as to the likely presence of regulated natural or historic resources.
 - (2) Maps drawn to scale, including a north arrow and scale showing the following:
 - a. Location of project site in relation to major roads or other readily identifiable landmarks, showing parcel boundaries with dimensions.
 - b. Existing roads, structures, wells, utilities, and other existing conditions and noteworthy features.
 - c. Identification of all regulated natural and historic resources, labeled by resource type.
 - d. General vegetation characteristics and quality.
 - e. General soil types.
 - f. Proposed location of protected conservation resources and Open Space.
 - g. Potential connections to existing green space, Open Space, trails, and adjacent preservation or conservation resources.
 - (3) Data and analysis that includes assessment and evaluation of the following:
 - a. Existing quality and characteristics of regulated natural or historic resources.
 - b. Impact of the proposal on each individual natural resource and on the ecosystems in which they function.
 - c. Proposed measures to protect natural resources, or to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on natural resources.
 - d. Methods of stormwater pollution prevention.

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- (c) *Additional information.* Additional data and analysis may be required as appropriate to the complexity of the proposed activity and types of natural or historic resources identified. Such information may include but is not limited to:
- (1) Copies of historical and recent aerial photographs, topographic, and other resource maps reviewed.
 - (2) Land use and land cover classifications per Florida Land Use Classification Code or Water management district systems.
 - (3) Wetlands, surface waters, or 100-year floodplains identified by the National Wetlands Inventory, United States Geological Survey, Water Management Districts, or Federal Emergency Management Association.
 - (4) Wildlife corridors, biodiversity hot spots, strategic habitat conservation areas, or element occurrences identified by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Department of Natural Resources, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.
 - (5) Field surveys that provide for actual and potential presence of plant and animal species, including indicators (sightings, signs, tracks, trails, rests, evidence of feeding, etc.), population estimates, and occupied habitat boundaries.
 - (6) Inventories of natural or historic resources within an expanded planning parcel that includes additional lands under common ownership or control, or additional lands within a designated resource planning area.
 - (7) Detailed assessment beyond project boundaries which are necessary to understand the scope of impact of proposed activities on areas not included in a proposal involving only a portion of a parent tract.
 - (8) A mitigation and monitoring plan.
 - (9) A resource management plan.
- (d) *Use of assessment.* The County shall review and evaluate the natural and historic resources assessment to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and this ULDC and to identify appropriate site designs and strategies that maintain and protect the functions and values of natural and historic resources.

(Ord. No. 05-10, § 2, 12-8-05; Ord. No. 2020-09, § 2(Exh. A), 3-10-20; Ord. No. 2020-25, § 2(Exh. A), 11-10-20)