



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 25-00460

Agenda Date: 6/24/2025

Agenda Item Name:

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

Presenter:

Chris Dawson, Principal Planner, 352-374-5249

Description:

Public Hearing for Adoption of a Large Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment to modify Tree Protection and Open Space standards in the Conservation and Open Space Element

Recommended Action:

Adopt the Ordinance authorizing Application Z25-000006

Prior Board Motions:

April 22, 2025 – Transmit Application Z25-000006 to the State Land Planning Agency for Review

Fiscal Note:

There are no direct costs to the County to adopt the Ordinance. All advertising was done using the County's online advertising portal.

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

The Board of County Commissioners heard this item at its regular meeting on April 22, 2025. The Board voted to transmit the item to the State Land Planning agency for review and comment. Response letters were received from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Suwannee River Water Management District, the Florida Department of Transportation, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and FloridaCommerce. Not State agencies, nor any other local government, provided comments on the proposed Amendment.

Due to the fact that the proposed comprehensive plan amendment contains a variety of policies, on balance, it should not be considered more restrictive or burdensome.