
Future Land Use Element Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1: Ensure that the character and location of future land uses provides high economic and quality of life benefits to the Town's residents and business people while preserving the Town's natural resources, residential character and appropriate levels of public services.

Objective 1 – Coordination of land uses with topography and soils: Maintain existing development and achieve new development and redevelopment which is consistent with the goal above and which otherwise coordinates future land uses with the appropriate topography and soil conditions and the availability of facilities and services. This objective shall be measured by implementation of its supporting policies. [9J5.006 (3) (b) 1]

Policy 1.1 – The Town shall maintain, improve and strictly enforce provisions which are consistent with the Future Land Use Map, including the land uses and densities and intensities specified thereon and including the following:

Low Density Residential: up to 8 dwelling units per acre and not more than 30 feet in height. Permitted uses are single family residential use and parks and open space.

Moderate Low Density Residential: up to 17 dwelling units per acre and not more than 30 feet in height. The permitted uses are single family, duplex, and multi-family residential uses, public schools, places of public assembly, and parks and open spaces. This category is the buffer between Harding Avenue commercial uses and single family residential uses on west side of Abbott Avenue.

Moderate-High Density Residential: up to 79 residential dwelling units per acre or up to 108 hotel units per acre and not more than 40 feet in height. The permitted uses are single family, duplex, and multi-family residential uses, hotels, public schools, places of public assembly, and parks and open spaces.

High Density Residential/Tourist: up to 109 dwelling or hotel units per acre and not more than 120 feet in height. The permitted uses are single family, duplex, and multi-family residential uses, hotels, public schools, places of public assembly, and parks and open spaces.

Moderate Density Residential/Tourist: up to 58 residential dwelling units per acre or up to 108 hotel units per acre and not more than 40 feet in height. The permitted uses are single family, duplex, and multi-family residential uses, hotels, public schools, and parks and open space.

General Retail/Services: up to a floor area ratio of 3.0 and not more than 40 feet in height. The permitted uses are commercial uses (professional, retail, office and related parking).

Public Recreation: up to a floor area ratio of 0.05 and not more than 30 feet in height. The permitted uses are Town-owned public parks and state-owned beachfront east of the erosion control line and immediately adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean.

Private Recreation: up to a floor area ratio of 0.05 and not more than 30 feet in height. The permitted uses are privately owned open space and land between bulkhead and erosion control line (privately owned land).

Public Buildings and Grounds: up to a floor area ratio of 3.0 and not more than 40 feet in height. The permitted uses are Town-owned and publicly-owned land and facilities.

Parking: up to a floor area ratio of 3.0 and not more than 40 feet in height. The permitted use is parking.

Community Facilities: up to a floor area ratio of 3.0 and not more than 70 feet in height. The permitted use is Town-owned facilities for community use.

Policy 1.3 - The Town shall work towards the elimination of existing land uses which are inconsistent with the Town's development pattern and not compatible with the future land uses.

Policy 1.4 – Within one (1) year of the adoption of this element the Town shall adopt provisions governing subdivisions in the Code of Ordinances. Such provisions shall be consistent with this plan and with the applicable Florida statutory and administrative code guidelines and otherwise conform to the following standards. [9J-5.006 (3) (c) 1]

Subdivision regulations shall establish rules for platting and subdividing land consistent with the Future Land Use Map and other goals, objectives, and policies of this Comprehensive Plan. They shall establish a plat approval process consisting of preliminary and final plat approval. Final plat approval shall be required prior to construction of subdivision improvements. General and specific design standards shall be included to ensure: 1) appropriate continuity between new streets and existing street; 2) appropriate continuity between new and existing pedestrian accessways; 3) rights-of-way appropriate to traffic carrying characteristics, stormwater management needs, and other pertinent considerations; 4) that access to Collins Avenue and Harding Avenue is controlled and limited; 5) grades, alignments and other design characteristics in accord with the State of Florida *Manual of Uniform Minimum Standards for the Design, Construction and Maintenance of Streets and Highways* plus such additional highway engineering standards as the Town may determine are necessary from time to time; 6) appropriate configuration of blocks and lots; 7) adequate utility easements; 8) installation of certain utilities underground. The enumeration of specific features of the subdivision regulations contained herein shall be interpreted as establishing minimum guidelines for subdivision regulations, not as precluding additional or higher standards which may have a legitimate public purpose.

Policy 1.5 – The Town shall maintain and enhance as necessary zoning code provisions governing signs including size, placement, and design in order to limit visual clutter.

Policy 1.6 – The Town shall maintain and enhance as necessary existing municipal code provisions regulating storm drainage and in particular regulations that govern floodplain protection and water management design standards. Such provisions shall be consistent with this plan, applicable standards promulgated by the South Florida Water Management District, the South Florida Regional Planning Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and with the applicable Florida statutory and administrative code guidelines.

Policy 1.9 – The Town shall participate in the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program. Through its building permit and development review process, the Town shall continue to review projects to determine and require conformance with FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program’s “50% Rule”.

Policy 1.10 – The Town shall maintain a concurrency management system which meets the requirements of 9J-5.0055. The concurrency management system shall specify that no development permit shall be issued unless the public facilities necessitated by a development (in order to meet level of service standards specified in the Transportation, Recreation and Open Space, Public School Facilities, and Infrastructure Policies) will be in place concurrent with the impacts of the development or the permit is conditional to assure that they will be in place.

Policy 1.11 – The Town shall maintain zoning code standards for new development and/or redevelopment that meet high standards for open space, landscaping, on-site circulation, parking and other performance standards.

Policy 1.12 – The Town shall consider the abundance, status and distribution of environmentally sensitive lands and endangered ecosystems when reviewing land use proposals and acquisitions.

Objective 2 – Protection of single family residential areas: Direct future growth and development so as to minimize the intrusion of incompatible land uses into single family residential areas. Achievement of this objective shall be quantified by the implementation of the following policies:

Policy 2.1 – The Town shall maintain a future land use map pattern and zoning pattern which keeps two-family and other incompatible uses out of single family residential areas.

Policy 2.2 – The Town shall maintain a future land use map pattern and other development regulations which provide effective buffers between single family residential areas and adjacent uses.

Policy 2.3 – The Town shall maintain a future land use map pattern and a traffic circulation pattern which directs through traffic to Collins Avenue and Harding Avenue (State Road A1A).

Policy 2.4 – The Town shall maintain and enhance zoning code standards that regulate massing and scale in order to maintain the historic character and protect the single family residential district.

Objective 3 – Redevelopment and renewal: Encourage the redevelopment and renewal of blighted areas. The Town shall coordinate public and private resources necessary to initiate needed improvements to prevent decline and/or redevelopment within currently defined redevelopment areas as well as areas that may in the future exhibit indications of blight or decline.

Policy 3.1 – The Town shall maintain, and improve where appropriate, zoning code regulations which permit the concentration of commercial uses in and around the established Harding Avenue business area.

Policy 3.2 – The Town shall maintain, and improve where appropriate, zoning regulations which permit residential complexes which provide a variety of housing unit sizes and types.

Policy 3.3 – The Town shall maintain, and improve where appropriate, zoning regulations which encourage and/or permit the assemblage of large lots at selected locations on Collins Avenue and Harding Avenue.

Policy 3.4 – The Town shall maintain, and improve where appropriate, zoning regulations which require landscape treatments to improve the appearance of at grade parking areas.

Policy 3.5 – The Town shall maintain, and improve where appropriate, zoning regulations which facilitate the use of plazas, recreational amenities, and abundant landscaping and other open space.

Policy 3.6 – The Town shall maintain a future land use map pattern and other development regulations which limit new tourist facilities to properties in the Moderate Density Residential/Tourist, Moderate-High Residential, and High Density Residential/Tourist land use categories.

Policy 3.7 – The Town shall adopt, maintain, and improve where appropriate, zoning code regulations which help secure a high quality of environment, regarding livability, visual interest, identity and sense of place by implementing the recommendations as presented in the Town’s adopted Design Guidelines.

Policy 3.8 – By December 2010 the Town shall consider the financial feasibility of conducting a “Business District Expansion Study” to evaluate the expansion of the business district to the south along Harding Avenue, as identified in the November 2006 Charrette.

Policy 3.9 – By June 2011 the Town shall consider the financial feasibility of conducting a “Parking Trust Fund Study” to evaluate the area’s best suited for development, cost, funding techniques and sources, and timeline to construct parking garages within the business district, as identified in the November 2006 Charrette.

Policy 3.10 – By June 2011 the Town shall consider the financial feasibility of conducting a “Streetscape Masterplan Study” to evaluate the cost, funding techniques and sources, and timeline to complete the façade improvements, wayfinding and place-making techniques and pedestrian focused improvements.

Policy 3.11 – By December 2011 the Town shall consider the financial feasibility of a “Park Enhancement Study” to evaluate the development of under-utilized park land and Town-owned land including street-end parks east of Collins Avenue, as identified in the November 2006 Charrette.

Objective 4 – Elimination or reduction of uses which are inconsistent with community character: In general, encourage the elimination or reduction of uses which are inconsistent with the community's character and future land uses. In particular, achieve the elimination of all inconsistent land uses. This objective shall be measured by implementation of its supporting policies. [9J-5.006 (3) (b) 3]

Policy 4.1 – Inconsistent uses as referred to in Policy 1.3 are hereby defined as any uses which are located on a site where they would not be permitted by this comprehensive plan.

Policy 4.2 – The Town shall maintain and improve land development regulations which protect the rights of property owners to continue non-conforming uses, but which, at a minimum, provide for the termination of such rights upon the abandonment of a non-conforming use for an extended

period of time. Land development regulations which require the elimination of non-conforming uses after a period of amortization shall be consistent with this policy and this comprehensive plan in general.

Objective 5 – Ensure protection of natural resources: In general, ensure protection of natural resources. In particular, ensure that stormwater systems which discharge into surface water bodies do not degrade the ambient water quality, particularly the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve.

Policy 5.1–The Town shall monitor the Town's storm drainage system to determine what additional actions may be necessary to improve the storm drainage system. [9J-5.006 (3) (c) 4]

Policy 5.2 – The Town shall maintain and enforce a storm water management ordinance which requires that future development provide for onsite-storm water retention.. The enacted provisions shall be consistent with applicable standards promulgated by the South Florida Water Management District, the South Florida Regional Planning Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and/or other agencies with relevant jurisdiction and/or information. [9J-5.006 (3) (c) 4]

Policy 5.3 – The Town shall prohibit the deposit of solid waste or industrial waste including spent oils, gasoline by-products or greases accumulated at garages, filling stations and similar establishments that create a health or environmental hazard upon any vacant, occupied or unoccupied premises, parkway or park, and in any canal or waterway within the Town [9J5.013 (2) (c) 1 and 6]

Policy 5.4 – The Town shall cooperate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to provide effective and timely reviews of local development proposals for sites east of Collins Avenue, particularly with respect to the requirements of the State Coastal Construction Line.

Policy 5.5 – No new point source discharge of stormwaters into coastal waters shall be permitted.

Policy 5.6 – The Town shall seek the acquisition of property to provide increased permeable surface and other opportunities to control run-off into surface waters including coastal waters so as to protect aquatic vegetation. All publicly-owned property shall be graded and otherwise improved to ensure maximum protection of surface waters.

Policy 5.7 – Consistent with public health and safety, sanitary sewer, solid waste, drainage, adequate water supplies, and potable water facilities shall be in place and available to serve new development no later than the issuance of a certificate of occupancy. Prior to approval of a building permit, the Town shall consult with the water supplier to determine whether adequate water supplies to serve the new development will be available no later than the anticipated date of issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

Policy 5.8 – Proposed future land use map amendments shall be supported with data and analysis from the adopted Town of Surfside 20-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan demonstrating that adequate water supplies and associated public facilities will be available to meet the projected growth demands.

Policy 5.9 – The Town shall ensure coordination between land use and future water supply planning with the adoption and implementation of the Surfside 20-Year Water Supply Facilities

Work Plan within 18 months of the adoption of the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan, or its update, as required by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

Policy 5.10 – The Town shall coordinate land uses and future land use changes with available and projected fiscal resources and a financially feasible schedule of capital improvements for water supply and facility projects.

Policy 5.11 – The Town shall adopt level of service standards to evaluate whether adequate potable water service will be available concurrent with development.

Policy 5.12 – Ensure the adopted Town of Surfside 20-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan is consistent with the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan and the Miami-Dade County 20-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan.

Policy 5.13 – The Town shall adopt by reference the 20-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan, dated November 26, 2008, containing projects and an implementation schedule. The Work Plan shall be updated, at a minimum, every five years.

Policy 5.14 – The Town shall provide for the protection of water quality in the traditional and new alternative water supply sources.

Policy 5.15 – No development order shall be issued unless the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) certifies that adequate potable water supply is available for new development. The Town shall provide monthly reports to WASD, as required, to track the amount of water to be allocated for new uses.

Policy 5.16 – WASD shall determine if adequate potable water supply is available for new development within the Town's service area.

Objective 6 – Protection of historic resources: The Town shall provide protection of historic resources. In particular, identify and conserve local structures and sites which are of historic significance.

Policy 6.1 – The Town shall provide for appropriate use and protection of known historic structures through the site plan review process.

Policy 6.2 – The Town shall explore the possibility of obtaining grants, funding assistance, and other financial resources in order to undertake a survey of structures by 2012 to determine if any structures merit historical recognition. Policy 6.3 – Prior to commencing any public construction or issuing any permits for private construction, not to include minor construction such as resurfacing of an existing street, construction of a residential fence and/or any other such improvement which will not disturb the archeological assets which lie well below the surface of these areas, within the areas identified as the Surfside Midden and the Surfside Mound, the Town shall notify Miami-Dade County's Historic Preservation Division.

Policy 6.4 – The Town shall coordinate historic resource protection activities, procedures and programs with applicable state and federal laws, policies and guidelines.

Objective 7 – Coordination of population with hurricane evacuation plans: Coordinate population densities with the applicable local or regional coastal evacuation plan [9J-5.006 (3) (b) 5] and coordinate future land uses by encouraging the elimination or reduction of land uses which are inconsistent with applicable interagency hazard mitigation report recommendations [9J-5.006 (3) (b) 6]. This objective shall be measured by implementation of its supporting policies. [9J5.006 (3) (b) 5 and 6]

Policy 7.1 – The Town Manager or designee shall annually assess the Town's existing and permitted population densities to determine if changes are significant enough to transmit such data to the Miami-Dade County Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to assist in their hurricane evacuation planning.

Policy 7.2 – The Town shall regulate all future development within its jurisdiction in accordance with the goals and objectives of the “The Local Mitigation Strategy for Miami-Dade County and its Municipalities, Departments and Private Sector Partners” (June 2008). The Town shall periodically review and revise the Future Land Use Map in light of future interagency hazard mitigation reports in order to reduce or eliminate uses which are inconsistent therewith.

Policy 7.3 – Enhance the efforts of the Miami-Dade County Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security by providing it with all relevant information.

Objective 8 – Discourage the proliferation of urban sprawl: The Town shall consider changes to the future land use plan based upon energy-efficient land use patterns and discourage the proliferation of urban sprawl. This objective shall be measured by implementation of its supporting policy. [9J-5.006 (3) (b) 8]

Policy 8.1 – The Town shall support and preserve the Town’s Future Land Use Map and existing land use pattern which provides for a walkable, compact layout of accessible shopping, entertainment, recreation, and employment opportunities for Town residents

Policy 8.2 – The Town shall support and preserve the Town’s existing diverse housing stock which includes both single family and multi-family housing options.

Policy 8.3 – The Town shall continue to allow home based businesses to the extent that impacts are compatible with a residential community.

Policy 8.4 – The Town shall ensure the comprehensive plan and zoning code do not prevent the construction of electric substations within the Town.

Policy 8.5 – The zoning code shall allow for use of alternate, renewable sources of energy including the use of solar panels.

Objective 9 – Drainage and sewer system land needs: Ensure the availability of suitable land for drainage and sanitary sewer system facilities needed to support planned infrastructure improvements. This objective shall be measured by implementation of its supporting policies. [9J5.006 (3) (b) 9]

Policy 9.1 – The Town shall maintain and improve code of ordinance provisions for sewer lift stations, stormwater lift stations and collection/infiltration mechanisms and other utility land requirements.

Policy 9.2 – The Town shall not vacate any road right-of-way without first obtaining an engineering opinion determining that the vacated right-of-way is not necessary to accommodate future storm and/or sanitary sewer facilities, all of which are expected to be needed in the future can be accommodated in such rights-of-way.

Objective 10 – Innovative development regulations: Encourage the use of innovative land development regulations. This objective shall be measured by implementation of its supporting policy. [9J-5.006 (3) (b) 10]

Policy 10.1 – Through its building permit and development review process, the Town shall encourage residents and developers to adhere to the design recommendations as set forth in the Town’s adopted design guidelines and the November 2006 Charrette.

Policy 10.2 – Within one (1) year of the adoption of this element, the Town shall review the zoning code’s current permitted uses to determine appropriate revisions, primarily in the Harding Avenue business district, or new categories.

Policy 10.3 – The Town shall utilize Best Practices planning research to review and modify zoning code regulations.

Policy 10.4 – The Town shall continue to monitor updates to sea level rise forecasts and take into consideration the most current data when making decisions regarding land use amendments, capital improvements, infrastructure or critical public facilities projects.

Policy 10.5 – The Town shall maintain land development regulations requiring the use of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.

Objective 11 – Greenhouse gas reduction strategies: The Town shall implement greenhouse gas reduction strategies.

Policy 11.1 – In accordance with Section 255.2575, F.S. the Town will construct all future municipal buildings to meet the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, the Green Building Initiative’s Green Globes rating system, the Florida Green Building Coalition standards, or a nationally recognized, high-performance green building rating system as approved by the Florida Department of Management Services.

Policy 11.2 – The Town shall maintain and improve adopted Design Guideline provisions which encourage the use of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, the Green Building Initiative’s Green Globes rating system, the Florida Green Building Coalition standards, or a nationally recognized, high-performance green building rating system for both residential and commercial properties. Within two (2) years of adoption of this element, the Town shall explore incentives for use of green building standards in new development and redevelopment.

Policy 11.3 – By December 2012 the Town shall consider the financial feasibility of conducting a “Pedestrian and Bicycle Network Study” to evaluate the cost, funding techniques and sources, and timeline to create a pedestrian and bicycle network that links the Town’s parks, recreational and natural amenities, and business district as identified in the November 2006 Charrette.

Policy 11.4 – Within two (2) years of the adoption of this element, bicycle parking facilities shall be provided at strategic beach access points and at public parks.

Policy 11.5 – The Town shall continue to support transit ready commercial and multi-family development along major transportation corridors.

Policy 11.6 – The Town shall continue to support the existing Miami-Dade County Transit bus routes that service the Town.

Policy 11.7 – The Town shall continue to support the weekly Surfside Farmer’s Market in order to encourage local agriculture.

Policy 11.8 – The Town shall continue to participate in Miami-Dade County’s curbside recycling program.