

Policy 2.2.18: [L]

LAKE PROTECTION (*Rev. Effective 12/22/95; Revision Effective 7/26/06; Renumbered 3/14/07*)

This is a protection category that is specific to the well documented scientific concerns regarding the degradation and continuing pollution of Lake Jackson. The category is based on the lake basin boundary adjusted to include contributing watersheds but to exclude existing, more intensely developed areas south of Interstate 10. Consistent with the purpose of this category, Lake Protection densities and intensities shall be applied to undeveloped areas within the Lake Jackson drainage basin when such properties are developed. 

The Lake Protection category allows residential uses of one unit per two acres. An option to develop at a density of one unit per gross acre is available within the City as long as the resultant development clusters the units on 25% of the property and maintains the remaining 75% in natural open space. In the unincorporated portions of the Lake Protection category clustering is allowed on 40% of the site at a net density of two (2) units per acre on the developed portion of the property. The remaining 60% of the property must remain in natural open space. Minimum lot sizes under the cluster option are 1/2 acre. The cluster options are intended to preserve green space within this land use category and be designed to minimize non-point pollution from the site. Cluster of residential development in areas designated for Lake Protection land use shall be permitted only on those portions of parcels not located within the Lake Jackson Special Development Zone and lying below one hundred ten (110) feet NGVD, and for higher elevations not determined to be severely limited by environmental constraints. Such constraints may be determined by on-site environmental analysis, building or soil limitation ratings in the Leon County Soil Survey, or other natural resource inventory determined appropriate by the local government.

Industrial, office and commercial uses are prohibited in the Lake Protection category within the city limits. In the unincorporated areas of the Lake Protection category, minor office and minor commercial uses may be approved through the PUD process only if development retains its resultant stormwater on site. All industrial, commercial and office uses other than minor are prohibited in the unincorporated areas of the Lake Protection category as well. Urban services are intended for this category inside the Urban Service Area. Additional requirements based on scientific studies and deemed necessary to protect the lake from further degradation, as well as improve existing water quality, will be included in the land development code. Existing nonresidential uses within the Lake Protection land use category that meet all water quality standards required in the comprehensive plan by the time frames required in the plan, will be considered permitted uses.

Within the Lake Protection Category, stormwater for non-single family and non-vested uses shall be retained on-site.

¹ (Leon County) Any development affecting real property located in whole or in part within the Lake Protection Future Land Use Map category west of US 27 North for which an initial Planned Unit Development Concept or Final Development Plan was approved before January 1, 2005 shall be vested for all uses, intensities and densities set forth in the PUD Concept Plan Ordinance. Said PUD shall be entitled to rely on the closed basin exemption previously set forth in this section if the Commission determined prior to January 1, 2005 that the PUD met the requirements for such closed basin exceptions and that such determination has not been overturned by a court of competent jurisdiction at the time vested rights are sought under this provision. If a court of competent jurisdiction invalidates such a PUD due to reasons unrelated to whether the property met the requirements for the closed basin exemption, any new or modified PUD application relating to the same real property shall be vested for the uses, intensities and densities of the previously approved PUD. All development within said certified closed basins approved pursuant to this provision shall be approved through the PUD amendment process, except that in unincorporated Leon County a one-into-two residential lot split exemption shall be processed according to the established County procedures instead of the PUD process.