

# Water Supply Sub-Element

## Review Draft- January 2011

Existing language in green font. New language in black.

**Goal 1: Ensure the provision of adequate water resources to meet the needs of all residents, visitors, and businesses in Winter Haven.**

*Objective 1.1: The City shall provide sufficient amounts of safe, high quality water to meet the needs of current and future users through the year ~~2020~~ 2025.*

**Policy 1.1.1:** The City shall maintain water sources capable of supplying a minimum of 147 gallons per person per day.

**Policy 1.1.2:** The City's current and future water needs shall be met from a variety of sources including groundwater, reclaimed water, and through conservation of existing water sources.

**Policy 1.1.3:** Sufficient sources of water shall be in place, or scheduled to be in place, to serve new development prior to the approval of development plans.

**Policy 1.1.4:** Population projections shall be periodically evaluated to verify whether actual growth has followed projected growth. When necessary, population projections shall be adjusted to reflect observed conditions.

**Policy 1.1.5:** Continually monitor water consumption trends to ensure the most efficient use of existing water sources and the timely development of new water sources.

*Objective 1.2: The City shall take direct actions to conserve existing potable water resources.*

**Policy 1.2.1:** Enforce Building Code Regulations requiring the use of water conservation fixtures in all new development.

**Policy 1.2.2:** Periodically undertake a systematic calibration of all major water meters as necessary to eliminate unaccounted water.

**Policy 1.2.3** Undertake a water meter replacement program to replace low registering water meters in use throughout the utility service area.

- Policy 1.2.4:** Adopt the water conservation plan approved by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).
- Policy 1.2.5:** Coordinate with SWFWMD to enforce water restrictions. Coordinate with Polk County for enforcement of water restrictions in the unincorporated portions of the utility service area.
- Policy 1.2.6:** Periodically evaluate water rate structures to ensure that rates encourage conservation of potable water resources.
- Policy 1.2.7:** To reduce the amount of unaccounted water, periodically evaluate and test the potable water distribution system for leaks.
- Policy 1.2.8:** Hold public education workshops, at a minimum twice yearly, to educate residents on methods to conserve water.
- Policy 1.2.9:** As funding permits, provide free water conservation kits to residents and businesses.

*Objective 1.3: The City shall identify and develop alternatives to traditional groundwater sources for the City's water needs.*

- Policy 1.3.1:** Require agricultural wells to be abandoned and plugged upon conversion to urban development. Upon agreement with SWFWMD, allow transfer of the Consumptive Use Permit to the City.
- Policy 1.3.2:** Continue to expand and require connection to the reclaimed water systems with the goal of providing up to ~~3.0~~ 1.0 million gallons daily to users by ~~2015~~ 2020.
- Policy 1.3.3:** Seek out and apply for grants to expand the reclaimed water reuse system into older neighborhoods.
- Policy 1.3.4:** Study the feasibility of using surface water sources as secondary, back-up water supplies.
- Policy 1.3.5:** Study the feasibility of utilizing lower quality groundwater from the Lower Floridian Aquifer to supplement non-domestic water needs.

*Objective 1.4: The City shall work with surrounding governments and SWFWMD to explore the development of regional water supply systems in order to meet future potable water needs.*

**Policy 1.4.1:** The 2006 SWFWMD Regional Water Supply Plan is hereby adopted by reference.

**Policy 1.4.2:** Continue involvement with the Heartland Water Alliance (HWA).

**Policy 1.4.3:** Maintain inter-local agreements with surrounding public utility systems to inter-connect water systems for use in emergencies or times of extraordinary water demand.

**Goal 2: Work towards reducing the amount of potable water used for irrigation and other non-domestic uses within the City.**

*Objective 2.1: The City shall reduce the amount of potable water used for irrigation by a minimum of ten percent (10%) by 2015.*

**Policy 2.1.1:** To reduce public demand for potable water, the City shall require the reuse of reclaimed wastewater within its utility service area.

**Policy 2.1.2:** The City shall develop and implement Land Development Regulations (LDRs) requiring all development within its utility service area to connect to the City's reclaimed water system and/or install dry lines and connect to the City's potable water system until such time as reuse is available to the development.

**Policy 2.1.3:** When available, utilize reclaimed wastewater for irrigation of all public grounds and landscaped highway medians within the City.

**Policy 2.1.4:** Require the use of Florida friendly landscaping for all developments subject to the City's Landscape Ordinance.

**Policy 2.1.5:** When possible discourage homeowners associations from enacting deed restrictions precluding the use of Florida friendly landscaping by homeowners.

**Policy 2.1.6:** Phase out and eliminate the use of potable water irrigation meters for residential utility customers by 2015.

**Policy 2.1.7:** To prevent cross contamination of potable water supplies, require all private irrigation wells to be permitted by the Building Division.

*Objective 2.2: The City shall work with large commercial and industrial water users to evaluate their water needs and sources.*

**Policy 2.2.1:** Require high use commercial and industrial water users to prepare water conservation plans.

**Policy 2.2.2:** Periodically offer water efficiency audits to all water users within the City.

**Goal 3: Reduce the impact of water usage on natural systems including area lakes, rivers, wetlands, and ground water systems.**

*Objective 3.1: Reduce, to the greatest extent possible, the effects of groundwater withdrawals on natural systems.*

**Policy 3.1.1:** Study area lakes to determine whether groundwater withdrawals are resulting in abnormal fluctuations in historic or established desirable lake levels.

**Policy 3.1.2:** When locating new public water supply wells, ensure that the well's cone of influence will not adversely affect any lake or major wetland system.

**Policy 3.1.3:** By 2013, undertake a study of existing well sites to determine the feasibility of decommissioning wells negatively impacting adjacent lakes or major wetland systems.

**Policy 3.1.4:** When developing new water sources, take into account the recommendations contained in the 2010 *Sustainable Water Resource Management Plan*.