II. Future Land Use

GOAL 1: FUTURE LAND USE MAP. To maintain and enforce a Future Land Use Map showing the proposed distribution, location, and extent of future land uses by type, density, and intensity in order to protect natural and man-made resources, provide essential services in a cost-effective manner, and discourage urban sprawl. (Ordinance No. 94-30)

OBJECTIVE 1.1: FUTURE URBAN AND SUBURBAN AREAS. Designate areas with varying intensities on the Future Land Use Map (Map 1) that provide for a full range of urban activities. These designations are based upon soil conditions, historic and developing growth patterns, and existing or future availability of public facilities and services. (Ordinance No. 17-13)

POLICY 1.1.1: The Future Land Use Map contained in this element is hereby adopted as the pattern for future development and substantial redevelopment within the unincorporated portion of Lee County. Map 16 and Table 1(b) are an integral part of the Future Land Use Map series (see Policies 1.7.6 and 2.2.2). They depict the extent of development through the year 2030. No development orders or extensions to development orders will be issued or approved by Lee County which would allow the Planning Community's acreage totals for residential, commercial or industrial uses established in Table 1(b) to be exceeded (see Policy 1.7.6). The cities of Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Sanibel, Bonita Springs and Town of Fort Myers Beach are depicted on these maps only to indicate the approximate intensities of development permitted under the comprehensive plans of those cities. Residential densities are described in the following policies and summarized in Table 1(a). (Ordinance No. 94-29, 98-09, 07-12, 07-13)

POLICY 1.1.2: The Intensive Development areas are located along major arterial roads in Fort Myers, North Fort Myers, East Fort Myers west of I-75, and South Fort Myers. By virtue of their location, the county's current development patterns, and the available and potential levels of public services, they are well suited to accommodate high densities and intensities. Planned mixed-use centers of high-density residential, commercial, limited light industrial (see Policy 7.1.6), and office uses are encouraged to be developed as described in Objective 11.1, where appropriate. As Lee County develops as a metropolitan complex, these centrally located urban nodes can offer a diversity of lifestyles, cosmopolitan shopping opportunities, and specialized professional services that benefit such a region. The standard density range is from eight dwelling units per acre (8 du/acre) to fourteen dwelling units per acre (14 du/acre). Maximum total density is twenty-two dwelling units per acre (22 du/acre). The maximum total density may be increased to thirty dwelling units per acre (30 du/acre) utilizing Greater Pine Island Transfer of Development Units. (Ordinance No. 94-30, 09-06, 10-10, 16-07)

POLICY 1.1.3: The Central Urban areas can best be characterized as the "urban core" of the county. These consist mostly of portions of the city of Fort Myers, the southerly portion of the city of Cape Coral, and other close-in areas near these cities; and also the central portions of the city of Bonita Springs, Iona/McGregor, Lehigh Acres, and North Fort Myers. This is the part of the county that is already most heavily settled and which has or will have the greatest range and highest levels of urban service—water, sewer, roads, schools, etc. Residential, commercial, public and quasi-public, and limited light industrial land uses (see Policy 7.1.6) will continue to predominate in the Central Urban area with future development in this category encouraged to be developed as a mixed-use, as described in Objective 11.1, where appropriate. This category has a standard density range from four dwelling units per acre (4 du/acre) to ten dwelling units per acre (10 du/acre) and a maximum total density of fifteen dwelling units per acre (15 du/acre). The
maximum total density may be increased to twenty dwelling units per acre (20 du/acre) utilizing Greater Pine Island Transfer of Development Units. (Ordinance No. 94-30, 02-02, 09-06, 16-07)

**POLICY 1.1.4:** The *Urban Community* areas are areas outside of Fort Myers and Cape Coral that are characterized by a mixture of relatively intense commercial and residential uses. Included among them, for example, are parts of Lehigh Acres, San Carlos Park, South Fort Myers, Iona/McGregor, Pine Island, and Gasparilla Island. Although the Urban Communities have a distinctly urban character, they should be developed at slightly lower densities. As the vacant portions of these communities are urbanized, they will need to maintain their existing bases of urban services and expand and strengthen them accordingly. As in the Central Urban area, predominant land uses in the Urban Communities will be residential, commercial, public and quasi-public, and limited light industry (see Policy 7.1.6) with future development in this category encouraged to be developed as a mixed-use, as described in Objective 11.1, where appropriate. Standard density ranges from one dwelling unit per acre (1 du/acre) to six dwelling units per acre (6 du/acre), with a maximum total density of ten dwelling units per acre (10 du/acre). The maximum total density may be increased to fifteen dwelling units per acre (15 du/acre) utilizing Greater Pine Island Transfer of Development Units. (Ordinance No. 94-30, 02-02, 09-06, 10-10, 10-33, 16-07)

**POLICY 1.1.5:** The *Suburban* future land use category will consist of predominantly residential areas that are either on the fringe of the Central Urban or Urban Community future land use categories or in areas where it is appropriate to protect existing or emerging residential neighborhoods. This category provides housing near the more urban areas but does not provide the full mix of land uses typical of urban areas. Industrial land uses are not permitted. This category has a standard density range from one dwelling unit per acre (1 du/acre) to six dwelling units per acre (6 du/acre). The maximum total density may only be increased to eight dwelling units per acre (8 du/acre) utilizing Greater Pine Island Transfer of Development Units except in areas that specifically prohibit bonus density. Other forms of bonus densities are not allowed. (Ordinance No. 94-30, 16-07, 17-13)

**POLICY 1.1.6:** The *Outlying Suburban* future land use category is characterized by its peripheral location in relation to established urban areas. In general, this category is rural in nature or contains existing low-density development. Some of the requisite infrastructure needed for higher density development is planned or in place. Industrial land uses are not permitted. The standard density range is from one dwelling unit per acre (1 du/acre) to three dwelling units per acre (3 du/acre). Bonus densities are not allowed. (Ordinance No. 91-19, 03-20, 07-09, 17-13)

**POLICY 1.1.7:** The *Industrial Development* future land use category plays an important role in strengthening the county’s economic base and will become increasingly important as the county grows in size and urban complexity. To a great extent these are the areas to which Lee County must look for expanded job opportunities, investments and production opportunities, and a balanced and sufficient tax base. These uses have special locational requirements that are more stringent than those for residential areas, including transportation needs (e.g., air, rail, highway); industrial levels of water, sewer, fire protection, and other urban services; and locations that are convenient for employees to reach. The Industrial Development future land use category is reserved mainly for industrial activities and selective land use mixtures. Appropriate land use mixtures include industrial, manufacturing, research, recreational uses and office complex (if specifically related to adjoining industrial uses) that constitute a growing part of Florida’s economic development sector. Retail, recreational and service uses are allowed as follows:

1. Retailing and/or wholesaling of products manufactured or directly related to that manufactured on the premises; or,