Why Florida Needs Growth Management *More Than Ever*
1000 Friends of Florida

Florida’s leading nonprofit advocate of sustainable development

Working with citizens, community and state leaders, conservation and business groups

Building better communities

Saving special places
Growth in Florida: It’s Baaaack

More than 300,000 new residents in 2018
Florida’s water quality crisis: Blue-green algae, red tide
A disaster for the environment, the economy, and public health
How poorly managed growth amplifies water quality problems:

- Consumes open land critical for naturally cleansing, storing and recharging the water supply
- Depletes our water supply
- Adds to polluted runoff from roads, lawns, septic tanks, sewer systems
Sprawling development degrades quality of life

- Worsens traffic congestion
- Strains other public services – roads, water, sewer, schools, public safety, etc.
- Raises costs for taxpayers
- Reduces property values
1000 Friends’ Mission: Manage the Growth

Promote vibrant, walkable places to live, work and play with affordable housing and transportation options

Steer development away from Florida’s natural lands to protect and preserve our state’s environment:

- waterways and underground water supply
- fish and wildlife
- agricultural economy and heritage
- abundant recreational opportunities
- our rich and varied plant life, including ... our wildflowers!
Florida – Environment =
Poorly managed, out of control growth that degrades our environment, our economy, and our quality of life.
1000 Friends of Florida
Our Co-Founders
Our Policy Goals

Support compact, infill development in urban areas
Oppose new, sprawling development in rural areas without the infrastructure to support it

• Water and sewer service
• Police and fire protection
• Roads
• Schools
Poor Growth Management
Bad for Family Budgets, Businesses, the Economy

- Extending services to accommodate sprawl costs taxpayers more money
- Higher taxes are hard on family budgets, and they raise costs for businesses, too
- That’s bad for the economy
Our State & Local Strategy

Engagement with leaders
Legal advocacy
Public education
  • Working directly with citizens
  • Reaching out to the public through social media, webinars and workshops
  • Partnering with other groups to publish reports on the positive impact of good planning and environmental protection
Empowering Floridians who seek a more sustainable future

- Arm them with information
- Partner with them
- Represent them on issues with statewide impact in county commission chambers, courthouses and the state Capitol
- Reach out to citizens’ groups around the state
Keeping Florida special ...
Key milestones for growth management policy in Florida

- **1985:** Florida Legislature passes Growth Management Act
  - Establishes state review of local government comprehensive plans to ensure they meet statewide standards
- **1986:** Nathaniel Reed and John DeGrove found 1000 Friends of Florida to serve as watchdog for growth management
- **2011:** Gov. Scott and Legislature dismantle Department of Community Affairs, state’s growth management agency
  - Community planning act curtails state, regional authority over planning, land development
Impact of eliminating DCA

- **DCA review of comprehensive plan amendments from 2006 to 2011**
  - DCA objected: 1,501
  - DCA did not object: 1,384

- **DEO review of comprehensive plan amendments from 2012 to 2016**
  - DEO objected or commented: 113
  - DEO did not object or comment: 1,667
  - Expedited review: 1,562
  - State coordinated review: 218
Florida 2070 and Water 2070

Three partners: 1000 Friends, University of Florida, Florida Agriculture Department

One question: What is your vision for Florida’s future?
Using moderate projections, by 2070 Florida is expected to have 33.7 million residents, about 15 million more than it had in 2010.

This growth will have significant impacts on Florida’s lands, waters, roads and quality of life.
The status quo in 2010

In 2070 if we keep current patterns of development

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The status quo in 2010

In 2070 if we keep current patterns of development and water use

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The status quo in 2010

In 2070, continuing 2010 patterns of development

In 2070 with more compact development and land conservation
Florida water consumption associated with development and water use patterns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010 Baseline</th>
<th>2070 Trend</th>
<th>% Change Baseline Trend</th>
<th>2070 Alternative</th>
<th>% Change Baseline Alternative</th>
<th>% Change Trend Alternative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development Demand (GPD)</td>
<td>3,139,370,035</td>
<td>6,480,557,237</td>
<td>106%</td>
<td>4,704,530,221</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>Agriculture Demand (GPD)</td>
<td>2,129,941,436</td>
<td>1,614,305,600</td>
<td>-24%</td>
<td>2,150,253,570</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,269,311,481</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,094,962,839</strong></td>
<td><strong>54%</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,854,783,791</strong></td>
<td><strong>30%</strong></td>
<td><strong>-15%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
How to protect water, environment and quality of life

Protect land on Florida Forever and Florida Greenways lists from development

Support funding for these programs

Create incentives and provide funding for landowners to conserve their agricultural property

Lessen environmental impact of new development through sound growth management policies
Cut your personal water use

Reduce water used for landscape irrigation

Use Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Use properly designed and operated sprinkler systems

Choose Florida Water Star properties

Follow Water Star guidelines in remodeling

Use Water-Sense appliances
Governments can help, too

Require Florida Friendly Landscaping™ and provide incentives to assist with compliance

Require permitted water users to monitor groundwater use

Partner with developers on conservation goals before approving development

Increase funding for conservation programs

Update the Florida Building Code to require water efficiency standards

Adopt registration and training standards for irrigation pros
Trouble in Paradise report

• Spotlighted six environmental challenges and four threatened critical resource areas
• Mailed to every candidate for state and federal office in Florida
• Signed by eight other conservation organizations
• Extensively covered in state media outlets
• Shared with hundreds of interested journalists, experts and ordinary citizens in a pair of webinars
• Helped set the table for environmental policy – especially water policy – to top the agenda when the Legislature convened in March
Governor’s Executive Order: “Achieving More Now for Florida’s Environment”

- Invest $2.5 billion over 4 years in Everglades restoration and water protection -- $1 billion increase
- Create Blue-Green Algae Task Force to identify priority projects, build on BMAPs, propose regulatory changes
- Launch septic tank conversion and remediation program with local match
- Direct water districts to put priority on fighting algae, nutrient pollution
- Oppose fracking, offshore drilling
- Appoint chief science officer to apply science to environmental policies
- Create offices for environmental accountability and transparency, resilience and coastal protection
Why growth management belongs on Tallahassee’s agenda

• As Florida grows, development pressures intensify, threatening quality of life elements like traffic and schools, and impacting land and water
• Policies to accommodate, manage growth will determine quality of communities, ecological health of our land and water
• Our quality of life and health of our environment will determine strength of our economy
• Quality of life, healthy environment, strong economy: bipartisan priorities

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To-do list for growth management at state level

• Re-establish department-level land management agency
• Restore ability of department, citizens to enforce growth management laws
• Focus on incentives, investment strategies to promote more compact urban development sensitive to existing communities
  • Mixed use development: homes, shops, schools and offices within close proximity
  • Range of housing choices to ensure affordability
  • Development designed for multiple transportation options: walking, biking, public transit
  • Respect community traditions, protect significant historic, natural resources
Florida needs a plan ...

- To guide the investment of state funds for infrastructure and conservation
- To identify lands on which urban development and redevelopment are appropriate and cost effective for the next 50 years
- To identify lands that must be protected from urban development to maintain agricultural use, water quality, wildlife diversity, recreational opportunities
- To direct state spending on infrastructure investments within urban areas to support economic growth and provide services where they are most needed
- To direct other state dollars on conservation investments to permanently protect land from development and preserve our environment and rural heritage
How local leaders can get
to a better future instead of waiting on Tallahassee

When new development occurs, ensure that it is compact, walkable, and located near existing development and infrastructure.

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What you can do for a better future for your community?

Go to public hearings on planning issues

Meet with elected officials and staff

Talk with your neighbors

Use Florida Friendly Landscaping™ and buy Water Star appliances

Limit irrigation, or better yet, skip it

Save water!
Support 1000 Friends of Florida!

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, we rely on the support of our members and donors

Please consider making a donation so we can continue to advocate for Florida’s environment, economy and quality of life

www.1000friendsofflorida.org/product/donate/