

**CPA2008-25**  
**LEE COUNTY GREENWAYS**  
**MULTI-PURPOSE RECREATIONAL**  
**TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

**BoCC SPONSORED**  
**AMENDMENT**  
**TO THE**

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LEE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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**THE LEE PLAN**

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LPA Hearing Document  
for the  
April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Public Hearing

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Lee County Board of County Commissioners  
Sponsored Amendment and Staff Analysis

*Lee County Planning Division*  
*1500 Monroe Street*  
*P.O. Box 398*  
*Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398*  
*(239) 479-8585*

April 13, 2009  
LEE COUNTY

**DIVISION OF PLANNING  
STAFF REPORT FOR  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT  
CPA2008-25**

Text Amendment

Map Amendment

✓	<b>This Document Contains the Following Reviews:</b>
✓	<b>Staff Review</b>
✓	<b>Local Planning Agency Review and Recommendation</b>
	<b>Board of County Commissioners Hearing for Transmittal</b>
	<b>Staff Response to the DCA Objections, Recommendations, and Comments (ORC) Report</b>
	<b>Board of County Commissioners Hearing for Adoption</b>

STAFF REPORT PREPARATION DATE: April 13, 2009

**PART I - BACKGROUND AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**A. SUMMARY OF APPLICATION**

**1. APPLICANT:**

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REPRESENTED BY LEE COUNTY DIVISION OF PLANNING  
AND LEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

**2. REQUEST:**

Update Lee Plan Map 22, The Lee County Multi-Purpose Recreational Trails and Greenways Master Plan to include additional connector trails and blueways.

**B. STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND FINDINGS OF FACT SUMMARY**

**1. RECOMMENDATION:**

Planning staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners transmit the updated Greenways Master Plan Map.

**2. BASIS AND RECOMMENDED FINDINGS OF FACT:**

- The amendment proposes to add two sections of Connector trails.
- The amendment proposes to designate several additional streams and creeks as blueways.
- Increased blueways will increase potential water access points for canoes and kayaks.

- The additional connector trails will potentially allow greater access to a number of conservation areas.

## **C. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **1. History**

The Greenways Master Plan process began in September 2002 with a meeting between County Parks and Recreation staff and the National Parks Service. Parks and Recreation Staff have conducted many meetings with interested public groups such as bicycle and equestrian clubs, neighborhood organizations, and area businesses in order to determine the needs and desires of the public in regards to greenways and trails in Lee County. Parks and Recreation Staff have met with various governmental agencies in order to better align the proposed Greenways Master Plan with existing government trail efforts. In October 2003, the BoCC passed a resolution recognizing October as Greenways & Trails Month. The Greenways Master Plan was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on May 16, 2007 in conjunction with Lee Plan amendment CPA2005-11.

## **PART II - STAFF ANALYSIS**

### **A. STAFF DISCUSSION**

The proposed Map 22 uses a new graphic style to represent the greenway corridors. This is done to convey the fact that the possible alignments of proposed greenway trails are not precisely fixed. Within a broad corridor, a greenway may take various alignments in order to take advantage of local geography or other opportunities. Although a proposed greenway corridor appears to run along a road right of way, this is only generally the case. The actual alignment of the greenway, once determined, may run along the road right of way or may be some distance from the road.

One of the changes proposed on the new map is the addition of two stretches of Connector Trails. Connector trails are internal to Lee County. Connector trails connect to the larger system or to specific locations. This is in contrast to the main Greenways system that is intended to connect to trails outside of the county. Where feasible, connector trails within urban areas should be designed as transportation alternatives to motorized use. The first connector trail is in the Greenbriar Swamp area. It continues a connector trail that extends southwest from the Lee-Hendry Canal Trail to the Sunshine Trail, a connector trail running along Sunshine Boulevard North. The proposed connector corridor will potentially allow greater access to several conservation areas that lay between Lehigh Acres and the Caloosahatchee River. The second proposed connector trail lays approximately 2.5 miles south of SR 82 and runs roughly parallel to that road. It runs west from where the Captiva-Hendry-Collier Trail greenway corridor turns north away from a Florida Power and Light right of way. The proposed connector continues northwest along the power right of way before rejoining the Captiva-Hendry-Collier Trail greenway corridor at Daniels Parkway. The additional connector closes a loop in the Captiva-Hendry-Collier Trail greenway corridor.

Several additional blueways are also depicted on the proposed map. Blueways are publicly owned waterways with scenic and recreational qualities and are accessible by the public. Blueways are

typically used for kayaking and canoeing. Many of the proposed blueways are on creeks and streams that feed directly into the Caloosahatchee River. In the Alva Area, both Bedman Creek and Spanish Creek are now designated as blueways on the proposed Map 22. Further west on the north shore of the Caloosahatchee River, Trout Creek, Owl Creek and Otter Creek are also proposed to be designated as blueways. Just east of the Edison Bridge, on the north shore of the Caloosahatchee, Powell Creek and Marsh Point Creek are also proposed to be added as blueways to Map 22. At the mouth of the Caloosahatchee, Shell Creek on the south shore and Jewfish Creek on the north shore are included in this proposal. The last proposed additional blueway is the Underhill Creek blueway which extends from Pine Island to Cape Coral north of the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River.

**B. CONCLUSIONS**

The additional proposed connector trails will increase potential hiking and biking access to conservation areas in the eastern portion of Lee County. The new trails will also increase connectivity in the Greenways System. Adding more blueways will increase the potential number of water access points for kayaks and canoes and improve the overall accessibility of the county's waterways.

**C. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Planning staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners transmit this amendment that updates Lee Plan Map 22, the Lee County Greenways System Master Plan Map.

**PART III - LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY  
REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION**

DATE OF PUBLIC LPA HEARING: April 27, 2009

**A. LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY REVIEW**

**B. LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY RECOMMENDATION AND FINDINGS OF FACT  
SUMMARY**

**1. RECOMMENDATION:**

**2. BASIS AND RECOMMENDED FINDINGS OF FACT:**

**C. VOTE:**

**NOEL ANDRESS**

**CINDY BUTLER**

**CARIE CALL**

**JIM GREEN**

**MITCH HUTCHCRAFT**

**RONALD INGE**

**CARLA JOHNSTON**

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**PART IV - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HEARING FOR TRANSMITTAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

DATE OF TRANSMITTAL HEARING: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. BOARD REVIEW:**

**B. BOARD ACTION AND FINDINGS OF FACT SUMMARY:**

**1. BOARD ACTION:**

**2. BASIS AND RECOMMENDED FINDINGS OF FACT:**

**C. VOTE:**

<b>BRIAN BIGELOW</b>	_____
<b>TAMMARA HALL</b>	_____
<b>ROBERT P. JANES</b>	_____
<b>RAY JUDAH</b>	_____
<b>FRANK MANN</b>	_____

**PART V - DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OBJECTIONS,  
RECOMMENDATIONS, AND COMMENTS (ORC) REPORT**

DATE OF ORC REPORT: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. DCA OBJECTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS:**

**B. STAFF RESPONSE**

**PART VI - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

DATE OF ADOPTION HEARING: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. BOARD REVIEW:**

**B. BOARD ACTION AND FINDINGS OF FACT SUMMARY:**

**1. BOARD ACTION:**

**2. BASIS AND RECOMMENDED FINDINGS OF FACT:**

**C. VOTE:**

**BRIAN BIGELOW**

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**TAMMARA HALL**

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**ROBERT P. JANES**

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**RAY JUDAH**

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**FRANK MANN**

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